Orebeck Benefice Calendar: December 2026

	Tues	
2	Wed	5 pm Compline is said at Marlesford
3	Thurs	
4	Fri	
5	Sat	
6	Sun	2nd Sunday of Advent
7	Mon	
8	Tues	
9	Wed	5 pm Compline is said at Marlesford
10	Thurs	
11	Fri	
12	Sat	
13	Sun	3rd Sunday of Advent
14	Mon	
15	Tues	
16	Wed	5 pm Compline is said at Marlesford
17	Thurs	
18	Fri	
19	Sat	4 pm Nativity Play at Marlesford
20	Sun	4th Sunday of Advent
21	Mon	
22	Tue	
23	Wed	6 pm Candlelit Carols at Hacheston
24	Thurs	Christmas Eve
25	Fri	Christmas Day
26	Sat	
27	Sun	1st Sunday of Christmas
28	Mon	
29	Tue	
30	Wed	5 pm Compline is said at Marlesford
31	Thurs	

Next Benefice Service: 11 am on 3rd January 2027 at Parham

Sunday 6 Dec	11.00 am	Benefice Holy Communion at Marlesford with Dean Joe
	5.00 pm	Christingle Service at Brandeston
	Readings	Isaiah 40: 1-11 2 Peter 3: 8-15a Mark 1: 1-8

Sunday 13 Dec	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Easton
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Kettleburgh
	4.00 pm	Evening Prayer	Parham
	Readings	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11, 1 Thess 5: 16-24, John 1: 6-8, 19-28	

Sunday 20 Dec	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Brandeston
	6.00 pm	Candlelit Carols	Easton
	6.00 pm	Candlelit Carols	Campsea Ashe
	Readings	2 Samuel 7: 1-11,16. Romans 16: 25-27. Luke 1: 26-38	

Christmas Eve	10.00 am	Nativity	Easton
	4.00 pm	Candlelit Carols	Marlesford
	4.30 pm	Candlelit Carols	Kettleburgh
	11.00 pm	Midnight Mass	Brandeston
	Readings	Isaiah 9: 2-7. Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)	

Christmas Day	10.00 am	Christmas Day service with carols at Parham
	Readings	Isaiah 52: 7-10. John 1: 1-14

Sunday 27 Dec	11.00 am	Benefice Holy Communion	Campsea Ashe
	Readings	Isaiah 61:10 - 62: 3, Galatians 4: 4-7, Luke 2: 15-21	

Continued from page 1: One day soon, Jesus is coming back for a 2nd time, not as a baby but as a righteous and powerful ruler of his Kingdom. And for all who are brave enough to hope in him there will be no disappointment.





Eleven Wild Explorers met at Marlesford during October to make nest boxes. Richard, Carol and Jackie came along to help.



The Orbeck Benefice serves the East Suffolk villages of Brandeston, Campsea Ashe, Easton, Hacheston, Marlesford, Kettleburgh and Parham.

The Orbeck Benefice News (OBN) is emailed monthly to all who request it.
To be added to the distribution list, contact peter.marett@hotmail.co.uk

We conform to data protection regulations so your email address will not be visible to others. Printed copies are available in each church building. Items for inclusion should be emailed to Peter no later than the 20th of each month.

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Website: www.orebeck.org

Orebeck Benefice News

December 2026

'All are welcome to attend our Christmas Services. May we take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year'.

From Rev. Emma

We are now in the last month of the year - I know, how did we get here so quickly? We will soon be in the thick of winter, and the shortest day is fast approaching. It is a natural time to look back over the past year and reflect on what has been: Did this year turn out as planned? Have I achieved my goals? Have all my expectations been met? Chances are it was a pretty mixed bag but hopefully not too many big disappointments. Disappointment is such a damaging emotion.

With Christmas on the horizon, I'm reminded of my childhood self - how my expectations of what might be wrapped up under the Christmas tree often led to disappointment! Eventually I learnt not to have such expectations - as someone once very wisely said: "Happiness is found in the absence of expectation and a continuous focus on appreciation."

Most of us have learnt, I'm sure, that thinking the next government or the next prime minister will turn things around for our country, is a futile expectation.

Thinking that the coming year may usher in better times may be a vain hope: a little more cash in our pockets perhaps, or the end of wars? But hope is a powerful medicine, and the loss of hope is dangerous for the wellbeing of society as a whole.

Hope is not the same as expectation. Expectations can be unhealthy. They are rigid and often unrealistic. You've heard the expression we use as a guard against disappointment: 'expect the worst, hope for the best', but hope is more than a sticking plaster. Hope is inspired by our imaginations and dreams without losing sight of reality. Failed expectations fill us with a sense of loss, disappointment fills us with anger, but hope fills us with life.
And the message of Christmas is that there is hope. God has promised that things WILL get sorted and that is a reality that should bring a 'continuous focus on appreciation'. It is more than just 'hoping for the best'.

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