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Campsea Ashe	St John the Baptist	Glenys Fear	01728 747177
Hacheston	All Saints	John Bradfield	01728 724481

Benefice website: www.orebeck.org

Contacting Rev. Ann

Rev'd Ann serves on a 0.6 basis, and her normal working days are Saturday to Wednesday morning inclusive.

Outside of those times please leave an answerphone message or email which she will attend to as soon as possible, or in an emergency please contact one of the Benefice Elders or Churchwardens.

Orebeck Benefice News (OBN) will be emailed monthly to all who request it, and printed copies will be available at each church.

To be added to the mailing list please contact:
peter.marett@hotmail.co.uk

Please send items for inclusion by the 20th of each month to: peter.marett@hotmail.co.uk

February
2025

Orebeck Benefice News



From Rev'd Ann:

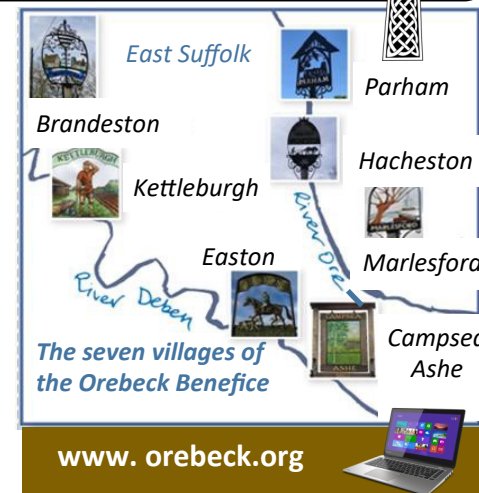


Two weeks ago, I attended an event at a large church in London, where the historian, Tom Holland, and rock musician, Nick Cave, were talking about faith to a packed auditorium of over 800 people.

Both men have come to faith through very personal experiences and spoke with refreshing honesty and without reference to any dogmas or the usual language of mainstream Christianity.

Tom Holland found himself in very dangerous territory on a visit to Iraq and came across an intact icon of the Angel Gabriel and Mary in a shelled outbuilding. As a historian of the ancient world, he adopted the mindset of ancient people who were open to the supernatural operating in the material world and reported the sensation of being brushed by the wings of the angel. Why shouldn't such experiences be real for people in this century, he asked.

Nick Cave has always had a real interest in the Christian religion, and the Bible especially, but his faith really developed into something that is profound and personal after the tragic death of his teenage son.



He spoke very movingly of a healing moment for himself and his wife in a small church near where they live, at the hands of a 'little old lady', and of how, when he now attends church, the liturgy both holds and envelops him but also allows his imagination and spirit to fly.

As I sat listening to these two very engaging speakers and looked at the rapt attention that they both received from their audience, I was heartened to recognise that God was working here. It is a relief to know that He does not wait for people who may think they are qualified or suitable to speak about faith. God uses whoever is at hand - whoever is open to his redeeming grace working in the world.

Continued....

Benefice Calendar: February 2025			Sunday 2nd February
1	Sat		11 am Benefice Holy Communion for Candlemas at Campsea Ashe
2	Sun	Candlemas	
3	Mon	2.30 pm <i>This Christian Life</i> course at Hacheston Village Hall	
4	Tue		
5	Wed	5pm Compline at Marlesford	
6	Thu		
7	Fri		
8	Sat		
9	Sun	4th Sunday before Lent	Sunday 9th February Easton 11 am Morning Worship Parham 11 am Holy Communion Marlesford 6.00 pm Evening Prayer
10	Mon		
11	Tue		
12	Wed	5pm Compline at Marlesford	
13	Thu		
14	Fri		
15	Sat		
16	Sun	3rd Sunday before Lent	Sunday 16th February 11 am Benefice all age service for St Valentine at Hacheston .
17	Mon		
18	Tue		
19	Wed	5pm Compline at Marlesford	



A big thank you to everyone involved in the Christmas carol singing in Parham: to the singers, to Dan with his trumpet and to all the people who gave so generously. A jolly time was had by all and we were able to send £200 to the East Anglia Children's Hospice. Jane

Christian Book Circle meets at 7pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month at The Station House in Campsea Ashe to discuss a Christian book or video suggested by the group. We're a mixed bunch from a variety of denominations and enjoy learning from each other. The café will be closed so bring your own refreshments. All are welcome.



Benefice Calendar: February 2025			Sunday 23rd February
20	Thu		Benefice Big Breakfast at Hacheston VH 9 to 11 am
21	Fri		
22	Sat		
23	Sun	2nd Sunday before Lent	Brandeston: 9.30 am Holy Communion Easton: 11 am Holy Communion Kettleburgh: 6.00 pm Evening Prayer. Parham: : 6.00 pm Evening Prayer.
24	Mon		
25	Tue		
26	Wed	5pm Compline at Marlesford	Wed 7.00 pm Christian Book Circle at the Station House, Campsea Ashe
27	Thu		
28	Fri		
1	Sat	March	
2	Sun	Sunday before Lent	Sunday 2nd March 11 am Benefice service at Easton .

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And that evening was full of grace. Both speakers conveyed a sense of wonder but also spoke with humility about their experiences. And both agreed that people of faith should not be embarrassed. If you are a believer, they said, then be a believer and don't ever apologise for it.

This got me thinking about how we can sometimes be unnecessarily reticent about speaking of our faith to those outside the church. It seems there is a growing interest in faith, in spirituality and religion and we cannot afford to hang back. We don't need to be dogmatic, argumentative or holier than thou, we just need to be authentic and speak with humility from our own experience.

As I said, God uses whoever is available and is open to his grace, so let us be just that. Who knows what will happen?

Go well,
Ann

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..

1 Peter 3:15 NIV