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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



Orebeck Benefice News

March 2025



From Rev'd Ann:

Somehow it's March already, and this means the season of Lent begins. On the first Friday of Lent, the International Day of Prayer is celebrated. In my experience such days have been uplifting and thoughtful.



However, there is always a question in the back of my mind – what exactly do we pray for? I always think that prayer is best when we are praying for others, only because when we pray for ourselves, we often end up with a shopping list and then react badly when the things on our list are not granted!

Why do some people appear to have their prayer requests answered and others not? I admit that I do ask God for the granting of what I want and the extinction of what I fear, but neither of those things generally happen. So how does this prayer thing work?

Well, I certainly don't believe that just because God is good I will be provided with what's lovely and protected from what's ugly. Nor do I believe that what happens by chance is a reward or a punishment.

Even though the following violates our innate sense of justice, the fact is: sometimes good things happen to bad people and bad things happen to good people. And when it does, we scan the scene for blame, because humans



love patterns and will make things up. We blame God or blame ourselves or blame others so that we can pretend that we could have had control over the uncontrollable. Because the alternative is terrifying: things just happen.

But does that stop me praying? No. I pray because I have fears and longings and concerns and complaints that are best not left unexpressed. And sometimes I need to show gratitude. So I hold these up to God and I believe that He somehow catches them and will not let a single one land un-held in His divine knowing. God was, is, and will be, so is already present in the future I am fearing, already loving me through the grief I may feel, and already present to comfort and sustain me.

Continued...

Benefice Calendar: March 2025			Sunday 2nd March
1	Sat		11 am Benefice Holy Communion at Easton
2	Sun	Sunday before Lent	
3	Mon		
4	Tue		
5	Wed	Ash Wednesday: 10am Holy Communion with Ashing at Marlesford	
6	Thu		
7	Fri	International Day of Prayer	
8	Sat		
9	Sun	1st Sunday of Lent	Sunday 9th March 11am Benefice Morning Worship with Baptism at Kettleburgh 4.30 pm Evensong at Campsea Ashe 6pm Holy Communion at Parham
10	Mon	2.30 pm Lent Course Hacheston VH	
11	Tue		
12	Wed	5pm Compline at Marlesford	
13	Thu		
14	Fri		
15	Sat		
16	Sun	2nd Sunday of Lent	Sunday 16th March 10 am Benefice Holy Communion at Marlesford
17	Mon	2.30 pm Lent Course Hacheston Village Hall	
18	Tue		
19	Wed	5pm Compline at Marlesford	



3pm Visit to St Edmundsbury Cathedral



Lent Course

Beginning on Monday 10th March for six weeks, we will be running a Lent Course.

As per last year, the sessions will run from 2.30 – 4.00 pm on Monday afternoons at Hacheston Village Hall. Refreshments will, of course, be provided.

Last year, when we looked at Mark's Gospel, you were able to hear an entire Gospel read aloud. This year, over a period of six sessions, you can hear the whole Gospel of John. There is no expectation other than you come along, listen and afterwards share some reflections if you wish. Some historical and theological background will be provided each week, but the only thing you need to do is listen to the gospel in its entirety and walk with Christ through his ministry to his death and resurrection.

Benefice Calendar: March 2025			Sunday 23rd March
20	Thu		
21	Fri		
22	Sat		
23	Sun	3rd Sunday of Lent	Brandeston: 9.30 am Morning Worship Campsea Ashe: 11 am Holy Communion Easton: 11 am Morning Worship. Parham: 11 am Morning Worship Kettleburgh: 6.00 pm Evening Prayer.
24	Mon	2.30 pm Lent Course Hacheston VH	
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		
29	Sat		
30	Sun	Mothering Sunday	Sunday 30th March 10 am Benefice service for Mothering Sunday with Holy Communion at Parham .
31	Mon	2.30 pm Lent Course Hacheston VH	

Benefice **Big Breakfast** at **Hacheston VH** 9 to 11 am

Sunday 6th April

11 am Benefice Service at **Brandeston**.

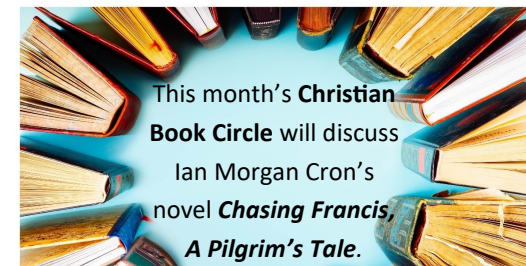
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God abides all around me even in times of collapse, in times of boredom, in times of selfishness, when I forget to be grateful. I know this to be true even when I do not "feel" it.

It is always better to pray than not. Just don't expect to get what you *want*. You will, however, get what you *need* and no matter what you ask for, you will always get God's presence.

Go well,

Ann



This month's **Christian Book Circle** will discuss Ian Morgan Cron's novel ***Chasing Francis, A Pilgrim's Tale***.

Wednesday 26th March 7pm at The Station House, Campsea Ashe
All Welcome

Confirmation:

Are you thinking about Confirmation, or just curious about what it involves? We have two candidates in the Benefice who are looking to be confirmed, and we will be starting some preparation classes after Easter. If you would like to join us, then please get in touch with Rev'd Ann.