

Orebeck Benefice: Pastoral Contacts		
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Orebeck Benefice: Churchwardens			
Brandeston	All Saints	Mary Baker	01728 685807
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Campsea Ashe	St John the Baptist	Glenys Fear	01728 747170
Hacheston	All Saints	John Bradfield	01728 724480

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 midday. 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



From Rev'd Ann:

Why does life hurt so much?

This is a question I was asked recently, and it is always one I dread along with 'Why do bad things happen to good people' and 'why does God allow suffering?'



I struggle with exactly how to answer, not because there are so many griefs and losses to choose from but because I know life hurts but I do not, in fact, know why. I've yet to come across an explanation that does not, to my own ear, sound cruel, facile, or delusional. And, the more I think about it, the more I would advise you to avoid anyone who tells you they do have an explanation, for they are more than likely trying to sell you something.

The fact is that life just hurts. No one gets out of here unscathed. And maybe there is no satisfying "why" to be found no matter how much we grope around for one. But there is some wisdom available to us, and it has helped me. Firstly, some hurts are optional; not all of them, but some. Some of our hurts are most definitely self-inflicted.

The other thing I would say, and I am not sure everyone would agree with me, but if nothing hurt in life, I think we'd all be quite boring and a lot less compassionate. I suspect that a lot of art wouldn't be made and that many of us would not have a sense of humour or a clear perspective.

We are still in the season of Easter when we are reminded that resurrection can only come



after crucifixion. In other words, we would not know joy if we also didn't know pain. Jesus set that precedent and taught us that life and death are two sides of the same coin, as are joy and pain.

Our experience of being hurt can also sharpen our awareness of small kindnesses and little mercies, and that love, when offered, is all the more precious and worthy of cherishing because our hearts have known its opposite. Maybe the ugliness of life allows the beauty to be seen MORE clearly and not less.

This is not an answer to why life hurts, but we get through it because we have a Saviour who has been there before us and knows exactly how we feel. He can help us to bear it and somehow see the light within it.

Go well, Ann

Benefice Calendar: May 2025		
1	Thu	
2	Fri	
3	Sat	
4	Sun	3rd Sunday of Easter
5	Mon	
6	Tue	
7	Wed	5 pm Compline at Marlesford
8	Thu	
9	Fri	
10	Sat	
11	Sun	4th Sunday of Easter
12	Mon	4 pm Monday Prayers at Hacheston
13	Tue	
14	Wed	5 pm Compline at Marlesford
15	Thu	
16	Fri	
17	Sat	
18	Sun	5th Sunday of Easter
19	Mon	4 pm Monday Prayers at Hacheston
20	Tue	

Sunday 4th May 11 am Benefice Service at **Hacheston** with the commissioning of John Adams as an Elder and the recommissioning of our other Elders. Followed by bring and share lunch at Hacheston VH.

Sunday 11th May
Brandeston: 9.30 am Holy Communion
Easton: 11 am Morning Worship
Campsea Ashe: 11 am Service of Remembrance for VE 80 Day.
Parham: 6 pm Holy Communion

Sunday 18th May
 10.30 am Benefice Holy Communion at **Kettleburgh**



This year's HOLIDAY CLUB at Brandeston Village Hall will take place from Tuesday 5th to Thursday 7th August. All Primary age children are welcome, including visitors. Further details to follow.
 For more information please contact:

Mary Baker 01728 685807
 marybaker555@hotmail.co.uk

Jackie Clark 01728 723623
 jwc51@btinternet.com

Benefice Calendar: May 2025		
21	Wed	5 pm Compline at Marlesford
22	Thu	
23	Fri	
24	Sat	
25	Sun	Rogation Sunday
26	Mon	
27	Tue	
28	Wed	5 pm Compline at Marlesford
29	Thu	Wed 7.00 pm Book Circle, Station Ho, Campsea. Ashe
30	Fri	
31	Sat	

Sunday 25th May
Campsea Ashe: 11 am Benefice Holy Communion
Marlesford: 3 pm Prayers & Tea
Parham: 6 pm Evening Prayer

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

Sunday 1st June

11 am Benefice Holy Communion at **Brandeston**.

Open Garden Ashe Park
Campsea Ashe
Sunday 8th June



Refreshments are being provided in support of the church tower fund.

Each day
 is a gift
 to be
 opened
 with Prayer.