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<p>Rev'd Ann serves on a 0.6 basis, working Saturdays to Wednesday mornings. Outside of those days please leave a message or email which she will attend to as soon as possible. In an emergency, please contact an Elder or Church Warden.</p> <p>The Orebeck Benefice News (OBN) will be emailed monthly to all who request it, and printed copies are available in each church building. To be added to the mailing list please email <a href="mailto:peter.marett@hotmail.co.uk">peter.marett@hotmail.co.uk</a>. Data protection regulations are applied.</p> <p>Items for inclusion should be emailed to Peter by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.</p>			

Website: [www.orebeck.org](http://www.orebeck.org)

Happy New Year!

## Orebeck Benefice News

January 2026



First of all – a Happy New Year to you all.

### Wise Men Still Seek Him



From Rev. Ann

January can be a dark and dispiriting month, but I love it because in the church it is the season of Epiphany and we begin it by celebrating the coming of the wise men to Bethlehem, paying homage to the Christ-child and offering him their gifts.

These travellers from afar are not named by Matthew, but it is likely that they were priests, followers of Zoroaster, a Persian prophet. Maybe they earned the title **wise men** because of their skills in interpreting dreams and understanding astrology.

I wonder who are the wise men and women of today? Who do we look to for wisdom? We have so much information available to us these days, but does this make us any wiser?

Like the Jews, the wise men were anticipating the birth of the true Saviour. As they followed the star westwards, they made for the obvious place to find a Messiah - King Herod's seat of power in Jerusalem. This is where their worldly wisdom failed.

However, once they received wisdom from above they found the Christ-child in more humble surroundings, and the Holy Spirit allowed them to see that this baby was someone of supreme significance—it took more than their worldly wisdom to recognise this and to offer him gifts fit for a king.

I am sure that something would have changed within them, a new wisdom perhaps, opened for them by their encounter with the Christ-child.

This Epiphany let us consider the wisdom of these wise men and, like them, realise that we too have been called to take a different route in answer to a higher wisdom, and not to rely too heavily on our worldly perspectives.

May our New Year's resolution be to ask God for true wisdom, and to use that to live in a new way, learning that what truly matters can only come from Wisdom itself – the Holy Spirit. *Cont.*

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

## Orebeck Benefice Calendar January 2026

January 2026		
1	Thu	
2	Fri	
3	Sat	
4	Sun	Epiphany
5	Mon	4 pm Prayers at Brandeston
6	Tue	
7	Wed	5 pm Compline at Marlesford
8	Thu	
9	Fri	
10	Sat	
11	Sun	Baptism of Christ
12	Mon	4 pm Prayers at Brandeston
13	Tue	
14	Wed	5 pm Compline at Marlesford.
15	Thu	
16	Fri	
17	Sat	
18	Sun	Epiphany 2
19	Mon	4 pm Prayers at Brandeston
20	Tue	
21	Wed	5 pm Compline at Marlesford.
22	Thu	
23	Fri	
24	Sat	
25	Sun	Epiphany 3 / Plough Sunday
26	Mon	4 pm Prayers at Brandeston
27	Tue	
28	Wed	5 pm Compline at Marlesford. 7 pm Book Circle at Campsea Ashe
29	Thu	
30	Fri	
31	Sat	9 am to 11 am Benefice Big Breakfast



### Sunday 4th January 2026

11 am Benefice Holy Communion at **Brandeston**

### Sunday 11th January 2026

9.30 am Holy Communion at **Brandeston**.  
11 am Morning worship at **Campsea Ashe**  
4 pm Evening Prayer at **Parham**

### Sunday 18th January 2026

9.30 am Holy Communion at **Marlesford**  
11 am Morning Worship at **Kettleburgh**  
5 pm Evening worship at **Brandeston**

### Sunday 25th January 2026

9.30 am Holy Communion at **Easton**  
11 am Morning Worship at **Parham**  
4 pm Evening Prayer at **Kettleburgh**

**Sunday 1st Feb 2026: 11 am Benefice service for Candlemass at Campsea Ashe**

### Benefice Big Breakfast : Sat 31st January

Hacheston Village Hall 9.00 am to 11.00 am  
There's no such a thing as a free lunch—but there is a free breakfast! (just donate if you're able)



A free Full English, with coffee and convivial conversation.

**All are welcome**

*Continued from page 1:*

So, let's take time at the beginning of this new year to pray, to listen and to hope. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to lead us, knowing that we have the hope of Christ, the Word made flesh, within us.

May this New Year be one of hope and grace for us all.

Go well.

Ann

### Christian Book Circle



Friendly, interdenominational book club discussing Christian books and videos - meets at 7 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Station House. Text 07976 047164 for details.

All welcome.