



# Orebeck Benefice News

June 2024

Orebeck Benefice: Pastoral Contacts		
PRIEST-IN-CHARGE	Rev'd. Ann Kember mobile annkember58@gmail.com	01473 791505 07369 240252
LAY READER	Martin Crane	07824 835493
ELDERS	Mary Baker	01728 685807
	Jackie Clark	01728 723623
	Jane Woodbury-Eggins	0 1728 746667
	John Bradfield	01728 724481
	Carol Cooke	01728 747625
	Jane Slade	01728 723707
ORGANIST	Graeme Hall	01728 746371
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Lesley Bensley email: lesleybensley@gmail.com		07901 882464

**Contacting Rev. Ann**  
Rev'd Ann serves on a 0.5 basis, and her normal working days are Saturday to Tuesday inclusive. Outside of those days 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: Churchwardens			
Brandeston	All Saints	Mary Baker	01728 685807
		Chris McArthur	01473 737553
Kettleburgh	St Andrews	John Bater	01728 723532
		Persephone Booth	01728 723502
Easton	All Saints	Jane Woodbury-Eggins	01728 746667
Parham	St Mary's	John Bradfield	01728 724481
		John Adams	07789 746910
Marlesford	St Andrews	Lord Marlesford	01728 746730
Campsea Ashe	St John the Baptist	Glenys Fear	01728 747177
Hacheston	All Saints		

**Orebeck Benefice News**  
The Benefice News will be emailed monthly to all who request it, and print copies will be available at each church. Please send items for inclusion by the 20th of each month to peter.marett@hotmail.co.uk. To be placed on the mailing list, please contact Rev'd Ann.



### From Rev'd Ann:

The Church of England has just announced that church attendance is growing slowly but is nowhere near what it was before Covid. We are all concerned about the decline in church numbers and the difficulties of keeping small rural churches going, especially in the face of indifference from some in our local communities and pressure from the hierarchy of the church to grow numerically.

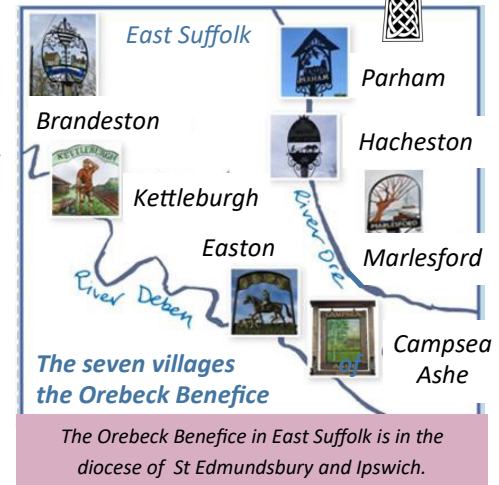
However, I came across this wonderful piece by an American pastor and it seems to sum up how I feel about our churches and the importance of cherishing what we already have and counting our blessings:

*"I don't want my church to be small. It just is. I want my church to grow numerically. But it's not. I follow all the how-to lists to get it to grow. But they don't work.*

*I'm told to pray more. So I do. Plan better. So I do. But my church is still small. How about this: Let's do small church well. Really well.*

*Stop worrying about filling more seats, and be the best church family we can be with who and what we have right now. In our obsession with becoming a bigger church, sometimes we forget the importance of being a better church. Right now. At this current size.*

*Numerical growth is great. It should be cele-*



*brated. But it shouldn't be the only thing we celebrate. So let's stop worrying about getting bigger. Let's get better.*

*We need to stop idealizing the glory days of our church's past. But let's not make the equal, but opposite mistake of obsessing over what people are looking for in a church today, either. What people need from church hasn't changed. They need Jesus. In us.*

*Let's discover what God has in mind for our local congregation right here, right now. Maybe if we let go of what we're not called to be, we can start to see who we are called to be."*

Food for thought.....

Go well.  
Ann



there I Am in the midst

Benefice Calendar: June 2024	
	Mon
	Tue
	Wed
	Thu
	Fri
1	Sat
2	Sun
3	Mon
4	Tue
5	Wed
6	Thu
7	Fri
8	Sat
9	Sun
10	Mon
11	Tue
12	Wed
13	Thu
14	Fri
15	Sat

**Saturday 1st June 2pm at All Saints Hacheston Celebration and Thanksgiving for the life of Helen Brookes.**  
Everyone who knew Helen is welcome to the service and tea in the village hall afterwards.

**Sunday 2nd June**  
10 am Benefice Holy Communion at **Kettleburgh**

**Sunday 9th June**  
9.30 am Holy Communion at **Brandeston**  
11.00 am Morning worship at **Easton**  
11.00 am Morning Prayer at **Parham with Hacheston.**  
6.30 pm Evening Prayer at **Marlesford.**

**Sunday 9th June 10.30 - 17.00 National Garden Scheme**  
**Ashe Park Open Garden Campsea Ashe**  
[www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/ashe-park-ip13](http://www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/ashe-park-ip13)  
**Adults £7 Children Free**  
**Refreshments sold in aid of St John the Baptist Church Tower**

Benefice Calendar: June 2024	
16	Sun
17	Mon
18	Tue
19	Wed
20	Thu
21	Fri
22	Sat
23	Sun
24	Mon
25	Tue
26	Wed
27	Thu
28	Fri
29	Sat
30	Sun

**Sunday 16th June**  
9.30 am Holy Communion at **Marlesford**  
11.00 am Holy Communion at **Kettleburgh**  
6.00 pm Evening Prayer at **Parham**

**Wednesday 19th June at 6.30 pm**  
Taize service at Letheringham Church

**Sunday 23rd June**  
9.30 am Holy Communion at **Campsea Ashe**  
9.30 am Morning Worship at **Brandeston.**  
11.00 am Holy Communion at **Hacheston**  
6.30 pm Evening Prayer at **Kettleburgh**

**Sunday 30th June**  
11.00 am **Benefice Holy Communion at Parham,** followed by bring and share lunch at Parham Village Hall.

**Sunday 23rd June 11.00 - 17.00**  
**Easton Open Gardens**  
**Adults £5 Children free**  
**Tickets and guide from Easton Primary School.**

Next Benefice service will be at 10.00 am on 7 July at **Easton**

**\*Monday 17th June 2.30 pm to 4 pm**  
Reading of the Book of Ruth at Hacheston Village Hall.



Just a reminder: **Campsea Ashe Christian Book Circle** meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Station House between 7pm and 9pm. (Bring a flask as the café is closed in the evening). We are a mixed bunch drawn from various denominational streams with a few explorers thrown in for good measure. All are welcome.

Email [peter.marett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peter.marett@hotmail.co.uk) to find out the latest book for discussion.



\*Meet Rev'd. Ann for coffee at The Station House, **Campsea Ashe** on the **third Tuesday** of every month between 10.30 am and noon. This month's occasion is on Tuesday 18th June. Parking is available at the station or at Clark & Simpson's auction centre. There may also be space at the village hall car park opposite the station.