

# NEWS for the PEWS

The Weekly Newsletter for the Earsham Benefice

We warmly welcome you to our church today.

If you are a visitor or newcomer to our church, please sit anywhere, enjoy the worship and stay for coffee which is usually after the service.

Our Benefice vision is for people to come to faith in Christ and for us all to grow in faith and discipleship so that together we offer whole-hearted worship to Christ.

We serve the communities of

Alburgh, Broome, Denton, Ditchingham, Earsham & Hedenham

[www.earshambenefice.org.uk](http://www.earshambenefice.org.uk)



**THIS WEEK: Palm Sunday**



**29<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**RED**

**Hedenham 10.00am ~ Benefice Holy Communion Service**

*Guest speaker: Reverend Richard Lamey (Diocese Director of Mission and Ministry)*

**Philippians 2 v5-11**

**Matthew 31 v1-6**

**Triumphal Entry**

## The Collect

**Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK: Easter Day**

**5<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**WHITE**

**Alburgh 10.00am ~ Holy Communion Service**

**Broome 10.00am ~ Holy Communion Service**

**Denton 9.30am ~ Family Holy Communion Service**

**Ditchingham 6.15am Sunrise Service ~ 10.00am Holy Communion Service**

**Earsham 10.30am ~ Fresh Expressions Café Service**

**Hedenham 11.00am ~ Holy Communion Service**

**Jeremiah 31 v1-6**

**John 20 v1-18**

**Easter**

**FOLLOWING WEEK: Easter 2**

**12<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**WHITE**

**Alburgh 10.00am ~ Holy Communion Service**

**Broome 10.00am ~ Morning Prayer**

**Denton 9.30am ~ Service at Chapel**

**Earsham 9.00am/10.30am ~ Holy Communion/Fresh Expressions Café Service**

**Acts 2 v22-32**

**John 20 v19-31**

**Jesus appears**

March to May 2026 Service Rota  
can now be downloaded from the Benefice Website

## Stories of Faith

Talking about the difference God has made in our lives is not only useful, it is deeply exciting. Stories are fascinating.

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This Lent we would like to invite you to come and share your stories of faith. Each week we shall explore a different question which empowers us to share our stories of faith.

**Dates: Sunday, 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th March**

**Time: 4pm—5pm**

**Location: The Rectory**

Lent Course 2026

This year the Diocese Lent appeal is asking Benefices to raise £400 to send a clergy child in Papua New Guinea to school for the year. As a clergy family this is a cause close to our hearts. We have teamed up with our Benefice Schools to help reach our target £400 and wondered if you could help as well!

We are asking all who can to fill up a Smartie tube with any spare coins during lent to donate to the appeal. These can then be brought along to the Benefice service on the 29<sup>th</sup> March or dropped off at the benefice office by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## The Bishop's Lent Appeal

2026

Please do support this appeal if you can. We would be very grateful.  
Thank you, Chris and Caroline

## FRIDAY 03RD APRIL 2026



## WALK OF WITNESS

You are invited to join us for our annual Good Friday Pilgrimage.

We start at Alburgh church and visit each church in the Earsham Benefice for a short 5 minute service.

The total distance is about 14-16 miles but most only do part of the day so only walk part of the walk.

### Part 1: Suitable for Buggies

Alburgh Church - 9am  
St Mary's Church, Denton - 9:40am  
Denton Chapel (URC) - 10:20am  
(Followed by tea and cakes)

### Part 2: The long bit from Denton

Hedenham Church - 1pm  
(lunch from 12:30 - bring your own picnic)

### Part 3: Cross Country

Ditchingham Church - 2pm  
Broome Church - 2:55pm  
(Cakes in Broome Village Hall @ 3:20)

### Part 4: The Final Stretch

Earsham Church - 5:00pm  
(Followed by a Fish and Chip Supper)

ALL WELCOME

Times relate to service time in each church

## Echoes of Old and New

Prophets of old, their words so clear,

Spoke of this day, drawing near.

“Behold your king, Zion, comes to thee,”

On a colt, the foal, for all to see.

Echoes of old, in the present resound,

As palms were placed on the holy ground.

A bridge between prophecies and today,

Showing us the truth, the light, the way.

Old meets new, in a dance divine,

A tapestry woven, by design.

For in this tale, of joy and glee,

Lies the heart of history.

# ANNUAL VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS FOR 2026

## Time scale of preparation for APCMs

### 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026

**Election of Churchwardens** notice to be displayed in the Church

**Notice of APCM** to be displayed in the church

**Election of PCC** notice to be displayed in the church

**Notice to Parishioners** to be displayed in the Porch

**Accounts and update of Electoral Roll** needs approving by PCC (*can be after a service*)  
on or before **12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

### Before 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026

- **Revised Electoral Roll** to be displayed in the churches for at least 14 days
- **Accounts** displayed
- **Agenda** for APCM to be available to congregations via News for the Pews- **12<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

### VESTRY MEETINGS (Election of Churchwardens) IN EACH CHURCH

Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	9.30am	Denton
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	10.00am	Ditchingham
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	6.00pm	Hedenham
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026	10.00am	Broome, Alburgh
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	9.00am	Earsham

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.30pm at Ditchingham Primary Academy**

*Accounts and statements signed by Chairman to be displayed in the churches for 14 days after APCM*

*Notice of election results to be displayed for 14 days after APCM*



easter

**Maundy Thursday (02nd) Reflective Communion Service - 5pm in Earsham Church**

**Good Friday Pilgrimage (03rd) – start at 9am Alburgh Church via Denton, Hedenham, Ditchingham & Broome churches to finish at Earsham Church 5pm.**

**Sunrise Service Easter Sunday (05th) at the Top of Ditchingham Church Tower 6:10am followed by bacon or cheese rolls and strong coffee!**

**Easter Sunday Communion in All Saints, Alburgh - 10 am**

**Easter Sunday Communion in St Michael's, Broome - 10 am**

**Easter Sunday Communion Service in St Mary's Denton- 9:30 am**

**Easter Sunday Cafe Style Service in All Saints Church Rooms, Earsham 10:30 am**

**Easter Sunday Communion in St Mary's, Ditchingham - 10 am**

**Easter Sunday Communion in St Peter's, Hedenham - 11 am**

**All Welcome — visit [www.earshambenefice.org.uk](http://www.earshambenefice.org.uk) to find out more.**

## Benefice Contact Details

**Rector: The Reverend Christopher Hutton** (Usual Day off Mondays)

Email: chrishutton@hotmail.com

01986 895423

**Benefice Administrator / Rector's PA:** Mrs Sally Thomson (Tuesday & Friday - 10am – 2.00pm)

01986 894494

Benefice Office, The Rectory, School Road, Earsham, Bungay, NR35 2TF email: [office@earshambenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@earshambenefice.org.uk)

### Retired Priests/Ministers

The Revd. Reg Kirkpatrick

email: revregkirk@gmail.com

01986 893645

The Revd. Sue Cramp

email: suecramp@outlook.com

07747 734058

The Revd. Barry Cramp

email: barrylcramp@outlook.com

07419 176024

The Revd. Kenneth Thom (URC)

email: kennethrthom@btinternet.com

01986 511032

### Assisting Members

Chris Whipps (Lay Minister)

01986 788360

Diana Smith (Retired Lay Minister)

01986 897052

Phil & Chris Edwards (P.T.O Lay Ministers)

07951 922280

Lucy Hildreth (AWA Alburgh)

01986 788408

Gill Hipwell (AWA Denton)

01986 788188

Jo Somerfield (Prayer)

01986 895617

### Schools Chaplain

Caroline Hutton

01986 895423

**Denton: Local Ecumenical Partnership** part of the Waveney Valley Ecumenical Partnership

The Rev'd Bruno Boldrini

UNAVAILABLE

## Dates for the Diary

**30.03.26: Committal at WMP Crematorium 12noon + Service at Alburgh 1.30pm: Jeffrey Bennett CH/KD/WDB**

**02.04.26: Earsham ~ Maundy Thursday Service ~ 5.00pm**

**03.04.26: Good Friday Pilgrimage ~ 9.00am start Alburgh Church**

**28.04.26: Benefice APCM: 7.30pm: Ditchingham School**

## EFEBs (Earsham Fresh Expression Bible Study)

A mostly weekly Bible Study on a **Wednesday 10am-11.30am** in Earsham Church Rooms.

All Welcome to join. Contact Phil or Chris Edwards for more info.

## Benefice Prayer Meeting

Do join us for our weekly prayer meeting at **6pm** every **Friday**, in the Earsham Church Rooms for 30 minutes.

If you feel uncomfortable praying out loud, you do not have to but can sit and pray in silence.

Contact Jo for more information. **Please note: No Prayer Meeting on Good Friday 3.4.26**

## Keeping in Touch

If you miss picking up the News for the Pews in Church, the latest copy can be downloaded each week from [www.earshambenefice.org.uk](http://www.earshambenefice.org.uk). For up-to-date information like us on Facebook – search Earsham Benefice or look out for the regular Benefice e-mails. If you don't receive these please e-mail the office with your details.

If you are running an event, please e-mail the Office so that it can be included in the N4P.

## Safeguarding

Within the Earsham Benefice we take safeguarding very seriously. If you have a concern about the safety of someone or the actions of a person working with children or vulnerable adults, please speak out and stay safe.

Our Named Safeguarding Officer is Sally Thomson, and she can be contacted on 01986 894494