



## Welcome to the Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

### Weekly notice sheet



**Sunday 4th January — 2nd Sunday of Christmas**

**10am** All Together Holy Communion Service at  
at St Giles and All Saints Church, Orsett

*At a Communion Service if you require gluten free wafers please let the minister know when you go forward to receive.*

*If you attend a service because you wish to apply for a place for your child at a church school which requires a letter or Supplementary Information Form, please make sure, each time you attend, you sign the **red attendance book** which is available at the back of church.*

*If you attend a service to gain a Qualifying Connection in order to be married at any of the three churches, please make sure, each time you attend, you sign the **purple attendance book** which will be available at the back of church.*

**Today's Collect** - Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Post Communion** - Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### A New Year message from the Bishop of Chelmsford

The Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, the Bishop of Chelmsford, has written a New Year message for 2026

It was a joy to meet Pope Leo in Rome in November of last year. The occasion was the declaration of Cardinal Newman as a Doctor of The Church, made all the more meaningful in the Jubilee Year, themed "Pilgrims of Hope". It seems to me that as we stand on the threshold of a New Year, we are called to travel this path of Hope together.

It's always a temptation to be drawn towards despair. A febrile political environment, the diminished standing of the Church, even our own weariness can lead us to forget that we are called to be people of Hope.

Those whose Hope is in the Word made Flesh - the message that's been proclaimed in churches throughout our Diocese this Christmas period and because of which we can journey confidently into a new year.

And Hope abounds not just when all is well, not just in life's joys and successes. In his November message for World Day of the Poor, the Pope urges us to recognise those experiencing poverty as "witnesses to a strong and steadfast hope, precisely because they embody it in the midst of uncertainty, poverty, instability and marginalisation". That is not how a secular society usually measures Hope. Christian Hope has nothing to do with whether a successful outcome can be predicted but everything to do with the conviction of things not seen and the determination to travel well in times of uncertainty, for our Hope is in the one who renews all things.

In my Persian childhood we celebrated New Year on 21 March - a time of new life bursting forth at the Spring Equinox. Joyful though that remembrance is, I've also come to see the blessing of the western tradition - of the New Year coming at a time of darkness and even a certain bleakness. Every morning in the small chapel at Bishops court I see the words of St. John engraved on the stain glass window: Light Shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Now that is Hope, and that is what I wish for you, your loved ones and your communities.

May you have a happy and Hope-filled 2026.

+Guli Chelmsford

#### Happy January birthdays

Codie B, Dolcie B, Sophia C, Stan C, Daniel E,  
Harry H, Edward L, Belle M, Skye R,  
Ben R, Henry S, Eric C, Beau H and Alex Y

Margaret C, Lisa A, Robin C, Tony W, Carol N,  
Mike T and Sandra B



**Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus in the Church and community**

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# Your how-to-guide and tally chart



**Big Garden  
Birdwatch**

**23–25 January 2026**

## Taking part is as easy as 1, 2, 3

- 1 **Count the birds you see in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park for one hour between 23 and 25 January 2026.**  
Use the tally boxes on the next page to count and record the birds you spot. Transfer your count to the results form. This chart shows some birds you might see. You may see others, if so record those on the results form too. Where only one bird is shown on the ID Chart, both male and female birds look similar but are not always identical.
- 2 **Following these simple rules makes it easy to count the birds you see.**  
Only include birds that land, not those flying over. Count the highest number of each species you see at any one time, otherwise you could count the same bird twice. For example, if you saw a group of eight Starlings but then towards the end of your hour you saw six together, record '8' as your final Starling count.
- 3 **Go online and tell us what you saw at [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch)**  
Submitting online is quick and easy and it means we can spend more on saving nature as it reduces our costs. Whatever you saw – even if nothing at all – please tell us. The more results we have, the better the picture will be of how garden birds are faring.  
If you are unable to submit your results online, please complete and send us the print-from-home form.

## Helping you make your Big Garden Birdwatch count

### Get involved on our social channels

Throughout the Big Garden Birdwatch long weekend, you can join in the conversation on our social channels. See what other nature lovers are spotting across the UK and you can upload pics and comments about your Birdwatch. Go to #BigGardenBirdWatch

### Get ID tips and expert advice

You'll find lots of advice on identifying birds by sight and sound, as well as expert insights into garden wildlife at [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch)

The RSPB is a registered charity in England and Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037654.  
Illustrations by Mike Langman (rspb-images.com) BCBW-26

## Diary Dates

### Services

- **Next Sunday's services, 11th January**
  - ◊ **8.45am** CW Holy Communion Service at Bulphan Church
  - ◊ **10am** Family Service at Bulphan Church

### Advance notice

- Tuesday 20th January, Prayer Group, 8pm at the Woolmarket, Horndon-on-the-hill
- Saturday 10th January, Baptism Preparation meeting, 12noon at Horndon Church
- Tuesday 13th January, Holy Communion Service, 2pm at the Whitecroft

*Dates for  
your  
diary.....*

## Eco Pause for Thought

Feed the locals

Bruised or overly-soft fruit can be left out for badgers, foxes and birds. Cut fruit in half and leave on grass or spike on a tree branch. If cats or dogs are nearby avoid grapes and dried fruit as these can cause them harm.



**Thurrock Foodbank** The Parish has three collection boxes as listed below:

**Horndon:** 1, Lion Cottages, High Rd, **Orsett:** 1 Prince Charles Avenue **Bulphan:** Bulphan Stores

**Shortages this week are:** tinned meats (curry, stew, spaghetti bolognese etc), long life milk, tinned soups, condiments, cereals and tinned potatoes.

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## Prayers

### Prayer Diary

- THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS (OR EPIPHANY) Father God, the star that led the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Saviour was born. Today we live in a world that is still covered by darkness, and still needing to make that journey to the stable door. May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us; that we might be the means through which others can encounter Jesus Christ. Amen
- Pray for: The Church of the Province of Central Africa
- Prayers for the rest of the week can be found here-: [www.chelmsford.anglican.org/publications/wepray](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/publications/wepray)

### Parish prayer diary

*Horndon* Bill R, Diane M, Jane L, Chris D, Peter B, Jean K, Moira B, Jan C, David St P.  
*Orsett* Jane R, Sid R  
*Bulphan* Ron P, Tony C, Anita J  
*Other* Everyone in care homes and those who receive communion at home.



### Prayers for the recently bereaved

*Horndon* The family and friends of Mervyn Davies, Alan Nicholls, Gerry Toop, Nick Tressider  
*Orsett* The family and friends of Gwen Brown, David Battershall, Stephen Smeeth  
*Bulphan* The family and friends of Debbie Benjafield-Metcalf

**Please let a church warden or Revd Max know of people who are unwell or in need of pastoral support.**

### Online Prayers

- If you would like to listen to daily prayers, you can download at APP for your phone or tablet at <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>
- Daily Hope, a free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers can be found on 0800 8048044

**Individual Private Prayer** The following churches are open for private prayer—10am to noon

*Bulphan Church* Monday and Thursday *Free refreshments are available on*  
*Horndon-on-the-Hill Church* Tuesday and Saturday *Monday, Tuesday and Saturday.*

### Bible Readings for this week

	Principal Service	
<b>Sunday</b>	Isaiah 60.1–6 Psalm 72.10–15	Ephesians 3.1–12 Matthew 2.1–12

	Morning prayer	Night prayer		Morning prayer	Night prayer
<b>Mon</b>	Psalm 8 Ruth 3 Colossians 3.12–4.1	Psalm 96 Isaiah 61 John 2.1–12	<b>Tues</b>	Psalm 89.1–37 Ruth 4.1–17 Colossians 4.2–end	Psalm 87 Isaiah 62 John 2.13–end
<b>Weds</b>	Psalm 147.1–12 Jeremiah 23.1–8 Matthew 20.1–16	Psalm 118 Isaiah 63.7–end 1 John 3	<b>Thurs</b>	Psalm 46 Jeremiah 30.1–17 Matthew 20.17–28	Psalm 45 Isaiah 64 1 John 4.7–end
<b>Fri</b>	Psalm 148 Jeremiah 30.18–31.9 Matthew 20.29–end	Psalm 67 Isaiah 65.1–16 1 John 5.1–12	<b>Sat</b>	Psalm 149 Jeremiah 31.10–17 Matthew 23.1–12	Psalm 36 Isaiah 61 Titus 2.11–14; 3.4–7

### Contact details

Permission to Officiate: **Revd Max Blake** Telephone: 07716 969772 email: [m.blake@hobnob.org.uk](mailto:m.blake@hobnob.org.uk)— **day off is Saturday**

#### Churchwardens

#### Horndon

**Sonia Ward** 01375 674212  
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**Bev Macrae** 01375 673327  
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#### Orsett

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#### Bulphan

**Frank Woollard** 01375 891034  
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**Alastair Macrae** 01375 673327  
[Alastairmacrae51@gmail.com](mailto:Alastairmacrae51@gmail.com)

Baptism enquiries for the Parish: Christine Mortimer email: [c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk](mailto:c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk)

Wedding enquiries for the Parish: Lynda Robertson email: [l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk](mailto:l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk)

Parish website: [www.hobnob.org.uk](http://www.hobnob.org.uk) Find us on Facebook @hobnobchurches

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