



Great Totham Parish

MAGAZINE

Sent to every Home by St. Peters Church

February 2019



National Marriage Week

7th—14th February

Join us for a Service of Celebration

At 10am on Sunday, 10th February

At St Peter's Church, Great Totham

We warmly invite you to come along to celebrate your marriage, or that of your parents.

All welcome.

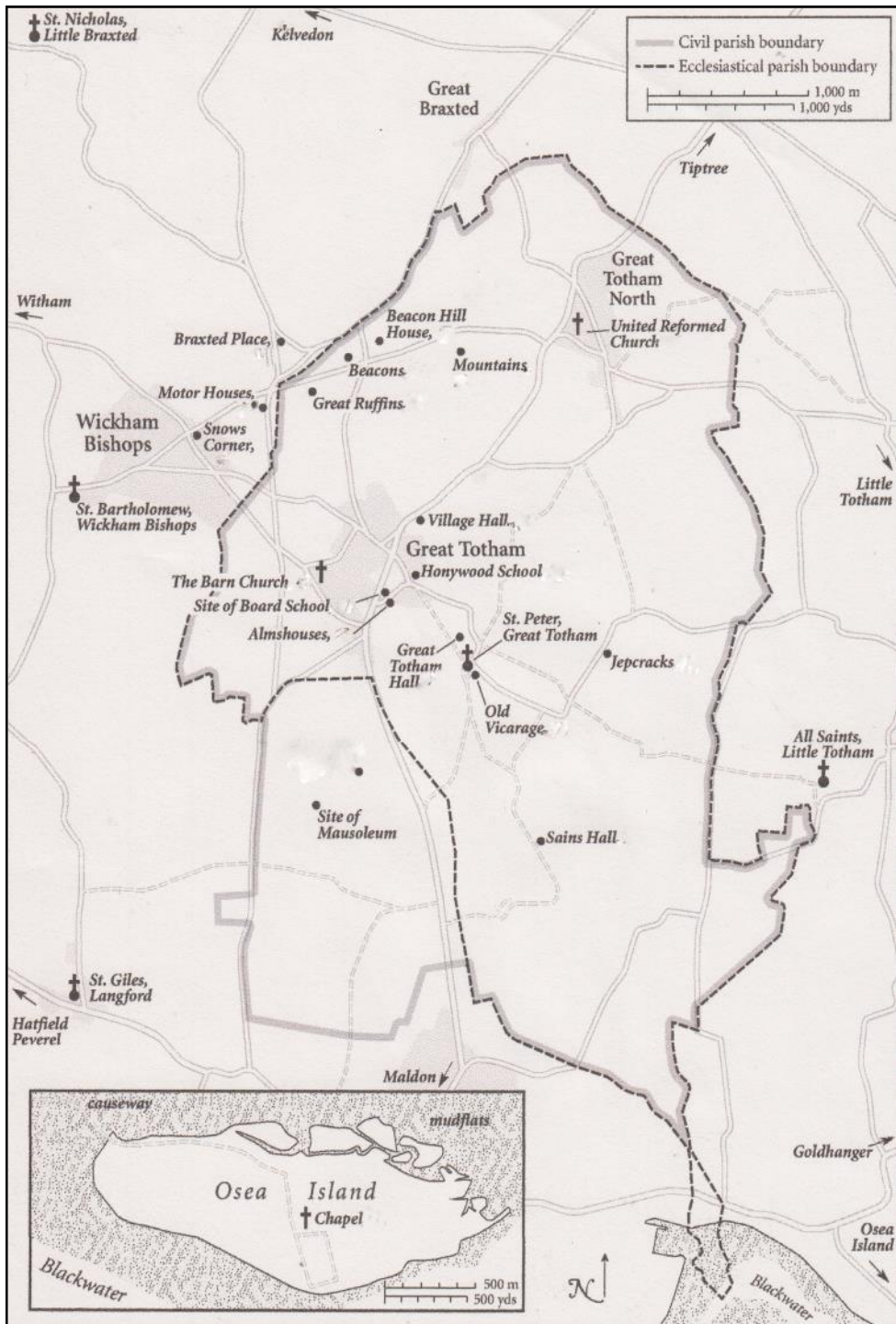


Inside This Edition

* Christmas photos

* Children's activities





Sunday (see page 10 for details)
 8am Holy Communion (Prayerbook)
 or Morning Prayer

10am Parish Communion
 or Service of the Word
 (with Sunday Club for children)

6pm Evensong

Services and other Church Activities



Choir Practice
 Mondays 10.30 am
Senior Citizens Lunch Club
 Tuesdays in the Honywood Hall 11am
Study & Discussion
 Wednesdays 10.30am at Honywood Hall

Thursday
 10.30am Edward Bear Club (Toddler
 Service, followed by coffee and play)
Mother's Union
 4th Friday of each month, 1.45pm

Bell-ringing Practice
 Fridays at 7.45 pm

Parish Contacts:
 During the Interregnum
 for all church matters please
 contact:

Associate Priest
 Rev'd Sue Godsmark : 01621 891513
 Email : suegodsmark@aol.com

If you are unable to contact the Associate Priest
 please speak to the Churchwardens

Churchwardens
 Isobel Doubleday : 01621 891329
 Karen Tarpey : 01621 892122

Baptism Co-ordinator
 Janet Gleghorn : 01621 892746

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Website:
www.essexinfo.net/st-peter-s-church-great-totham



Church News

Children's Nativity Play



Church News



Messy Church—Follow the Star

After a very busy time making all sorts of Star and King (Wise Men) crafts (including yummy ginger bread cookies), the children listened and joined in with the story of the Wise Men (Kings) journeying to visit the baby Jesus. This was followed by a shared meal, then, time to gather together all the wonderful things the children had made before saying goodbye.

Why not come and join us next time, Sunday, 3rd February, 4pm - 5.30pm at St Bartholomew's Church, Wickham Bishops.

For more information contact Sandra Smith on 01621 893153 or Isobel Doubleday on 01621 891329.



Candlemas

The Christian festival of Candlemas commemorates the purification of Mary after giving birth, as well as the presentation of Jesus in the temple.

Luke's Gospel says that Jesus was met by Anna and Simeon, who held the baby Jesus and called him a Light to the World.



The festival is called Candlemas because it was the day that all the Church's candles for the year were blessed. On Candlemas night many people place lighted candles in their windows at home.

Like some other Christian festivals, Candlemas has elements of Paganism. In pre-Christian times, it was known as the festival of light and marked the mid point of winter, half way between the winter solstice (shortest day) and the spring equinox. Some people lit candles to scare away evil spirits on the dark winter nights. They believed that Candlemas predicted the weather for the rest of the winter.

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright
Winter will have another fight.
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,
Winter won't come again.

Another tradition says that any decorations not taken down by Twelfth Night should be left up until Candlemas Day and then taken down.

Church News

Church Registers

Baptisms

1st September Olivia Daisy Wenham and Sophie April Wenham
Both of Great Totham

Wedding

30th November Martin Ronald William Petrie and Lucy Jane
Bourne both of Heybridge

Funerals

21st November Peggy Midwood of Great Totham
27th November Marion Joyce Nicolson Of Colchester
28th November James Guy of Great Totham
17th December Juliet Mary Kyffin of Great Totham

In your prayers at home this month, please include:

Our 'Friendship Church' - Bragernes Kirke, Drammen, Norway.

Adam, Mary, Keith, Daphne, Roger, Pauline, Pat, Kimberley, Roger, Sylvia,
Jackie, Dennis, Geoff, Laura, David, Janet, Lucy & Joe.

for healing and support.

Photographs

On many occasions, photographs are taken of adults and children for the parish magazine to record the life and work of the church in Great Totham. If at any time you would prefer that a photograph was neither kept nor used, please indicate this to the photographer who will delete the image.

If you are considering baptism for yourself or your children, confirmation, weddings, funeral arrangements, Holy Communion at home, or you would just like a visit, please get in touch with **Rev'd Sue Godsmark** or one of the **Churchwardens** (see page 3 for contact details).

Church News

St Nicholas Fayre Raffle Winners

1st	Hamper	Barbara Warner
2nd	Turkey Voucher	J Chamberlain
3rd	Perrywood Voucher	Smith
4th	Prince of Wales Voucher	Jim Wilkinson
5 th	Hamper of chutney	Malcolm Pook
6th	Wine	Jane La Roche
7th	Wine and glass	Christine Walker
8th	Gardeners hand treatment	Alan Grange
9th	Burts Bees hand cars	Smith
10th	Blanket	M Gutsell
11th	Skincare	M Gutsell
12 th	L'Occitane Soap	L Bennett Smith
13 th	Robin and Christmas joke book	Fellows
14th	Wine rack	Mary Ashby



Mothers Union Raffle

<u>Ticket No.</u>	<u>Prize</u>	<u>Winner</u>
1 st 252	Food Hamper	Mrs. S. Sullivan
2 nd 250	Red Wine	Linda
3 rd 07	Chocolate Biscuits	Mrs. K. Armstrong

Church News

St Peters Church Buildings and Grounds News

Churchyard



Following a survey of memorials in the churchyard, work was put in hand to repair and make safe gravestones. Some headstones were laid down and other box tombs were extensively restored by expert stonemason Rob Wilks. The delaminating Rev'd Speed memorial on the Old Vicarage wall has been supplemented by a cast bronze plaque to preserve the inscription.

A bug "hotel" has been erected by children from the Church Holiday Clubs which helps them to understand the importance of insects to the environment.

Churchyard management continues thanks to the valuable work carried out by volunteers and sponsors. Specialist tree management is contracted. To help us to recycle our green waste a large bin is now being rented for the purpose.

Following the major restoration work on the lychgate it is planned to have the missing swing gates in place to complete the project during 2019.

Church

Recent visitors to the church will notice the much improved kitchen and disabled toilet facilities. Further disabled access improvements will be possible in the future depending on funding availability.

Important work to secure the wooden north frame of the bell tower is complete. In hand are repairs to some of our stained glass and leaded light windows. Some of the glass is pre-Reformation and therefore of historical importance. We are fortunate that this work is made possible through the generous support of Friends Of St Peter's and Great Totham Community Choir.

The extensive work to replace cemented walls with lime mortar is ongoing (East & South external)

The Honywood

Our well-used little Victorian hall building is soon to have a fresh coat of paint and new flooring, and again we are grateful for generous gifts to make this work possible.

Maintaining historical buildings is a costly, rewarding and time consuming business. Both church and community see the importance of securing these precious resources for future generations.

Paul Smith - On behalf of St. Peter's Church Great Totham P.C.C.

Church News

Services at St Peter's Church

February

Sunday, 3rd February	8am	Holy Communion
Fifth Sunday before Lent	10am	Morning Service of the Word
	6pm	Evensong
Sunday, 10th February	8am	Morning Prayer
Fourth Sunday before Lent	10am	Family Communion
	6pm	Evensong
Sunday, 17th February	8am	Morning Prayer
Third Sunday before Lent	10am	Family Communion
	6pm	Evensong
Sunday, 24th February	8am	Morning Prayer
Second Sunday before Lent	10am	Morning Service of the Word
	6pm	Evensong

200+ Club Draw Winners

November

- 1st Prize — John Stebbing
- 2nd Prize — Sue Godsmark
- 3rd Prize — Paul Smith

December

- 1st Prize — Pauline Stebbing
- 2nd Prize — Roger Clark
- 3rd Prize — Gill Butcher

If you would like to join the scheme, whose proceeds benefit the church, please contact Roger Allen on 892334.

**OPEN GARDENS
2019**



Yes - it's that time again - well for the planning stages at least!

To all those keen gardeners out there, we give advance notice that the proposed date for our next Open Gardens event is the weekend of the **18th/19th May 2019**. This is earlier than usual, in order to avoid nearby events and school holidays etc. However, it does give everyone the opportunity to showcase different plants, flowers and shrubs which are at their best in May.

Last year was in itself a challenge in the gardening world with the long hot and very dry summer causing plants to respond in a very different manner. Who knows what this year will bring but "Come on Gardeners" - please rise to the challenge and plan to open your garden for us. It is usually an enjoyable event for everyone involved, with the chance to chat to visitors and welcome them to your very own patch.

Don't be shy - all sizes and types of garden are interesting and enjoyable to the visitor who takes home a memory of a happy day.

Please help by contacting Daphne on 893195 or Jenny on 891164 - we shall be very pleased to hear from you.

Daphne Taplin



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Church News



Peggy Midwood

Peggy Midwood, a long-standing resident of Great Totham, died in November at the grand age of 95. Peggy was a warm and friendly lady who was involved in many aspects of village life.

She was a Parish Councillor for 24 years until May 2007 and was Chairman for 3 of those years. In 1994 she was awarded the honour of being one of the first Parish Yeomen in recognition of her outstanding voluntary service to the community, which included being a governor of the local primary school.

She was also a committed member of St. Peter's Church, regularly walking to services with her friend and neighbour, Margaret Clark. In fact her last attendance there was on Easter Sunday last year when she was brought in by a carer from Totham Lodge. She sat smiling, obviously enjoying the service, the friends, the music and the flowers around her.

She was a talented lady who enjoyed painting and music and she had a particular love of drama which she expressed as an enthusiastic member of the local Dramatic Society.

Peggy was also very involved with the WI at local and county level, where she was County Chairman in the 1980's and a member of the County Arts Committee. She was a founder member of Great Totham Evening WI in 1964 and its President for a time. Her interest and enthusiasm for these activities remained throughout her life and she will be greatly missed.



Daphne Taplin

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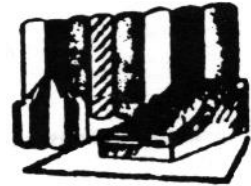
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Church News

Text for the Week: February

3rd February

You are a tower of refuge to the poor, O Lord, a tower of refuge to the needy in distress. You are a refuge from the storm and a shelter from the heat

Isaiah 25:4

10th February

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families.

Psalms 68:5-6

17th February

We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

24th February

Whoever mistreats the poor insults their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God.

Proverbs 14:31

Bible Readings for February

3rd February

Ezek. 43. 27-44. 4

Fifth Sunday before Lent

1 Cor. Ch 13

(Gospel) Luke 2. 22-40

10th February

Isa. 6. 1-8

Fourth Sunday before Lent

1 Cor. 15. 1-11

(Gospel) Luke 5. 1-11

17th February

Jer. 17. 5-10

Third Sunday before Lent

1 Cor. 15. 12-20

(Gospel) Luke 6. 17-26

24th February

Ps. 65

Second Sunday before Lent

Rev. Ch 4

(Gospel) Luke 8. 22-25

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Church News

News from the Belfry

I mentioned in the November News from the Belfry that Cliff Ellams was recruited to bell ringing as part of the Ringing Remembers Campaign. I must apologise to Mandy and Peter Mickelsen and to Henry and Jessica Evans who were also recruited as part of this campaign. They all rang before the Service on Remembrance Sunday. The photograph is of our five new recruits.



Vicki Chapman, a bell ringer at Chelmsford Cathedral, was the Ringing Remembers Project Coordinator. She stated that an initial target of recruiting 1400 bell ringers was set to replace those ringers who sadly lost their lives in World War 1. In fact 1800 new ringers were recruited as part of this nationwide campaign which was an astonishing response but of course could include people who may have decided not to continue with ringing.

There were nineteen ringers on Remembrance Sunday, fifteen from Great Totham and we welcomed four visitors. It was fortunate that we starting ringing 45 minutes prior to the service, instead of the normal 30 minutes as it gave us all the opportunity to have a turn at ringing. For some ringers it was their first experience of ringing on half-muffled bells.

After the service the muffles were removed in preparation for ringing at 12.30 along with other towers nationwide. The band comprised 15 Great Totham ringers and a former member of the band.

Congratulations to Henry Evans and Valerie Massie who were elected members of the Essex Association of Change Ringers at the South East District Meeting held at Terling on Saturday 5th January. The Great Totham band now comprises sixteen EACR ringers and a non-ringing life member.

If you are interested in learning to ring the bells at St. Peter's please contact our Tower Captain, Janice Spalding, on 01621 892197, come along to our Friday practice at 19.45 hours or visit <http://greattothambellringers.org.uk>

Andrew Hood

Church News

mothers
union

www.themothersunion.org



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Branch Leader:
Christine Walker
01621 892431

On 10th December, we went to the Advent Service at All Saints Church, Terling. The service, led by Rev'd Stephen Northfield, our Deanery Chaplain, was very enjoyable, giving me the first feelings that Christmas was almost here.

We followed this with our Christmas meeting on the 14th when we enjoyed a bring and share lunch, and exchanged cards and 'secret santa' presents. There were also trees to decorate and parcels to wrap, etc. etc.

Our meeting this month will be on Friday, 22nd at 1.45pm in the Honeywood Hall, Hall Road (opposite St Peter's Walk), beginning with our service and a talk, followed by light refreshments. You are very welcome to join us.

Christine Walker

National Marriage Week

We celebrate National Marriage Week this year between 7th and 14th February.

On Sunday 10th February, the Sunday nearest St. Valentine's Day, we focus our worship on marriage. You are all invited to the 10am service at St. Peter's Church on Sunday 10th February to celebrate your marriage, or that of your parents.

It is a service for all; single people, those widowed and those divorced will not feel out of place.

Christine Walker

Lent 2019

Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, 6th March, and finishes on Easter Saturday, 20th April.

The March magazine will contain more Information about this important event in the church calendar.

Christine Walker

Beacon Hill Churches Together

On Tuesday 12th February, starting at 7pm, we will be holding a Charity Evening at St. Bartholomew's Church, Wickham Bishops for Home-Start, which is our charity this year. Home-Start supports families with young children. There will be a bring and share finger buffet, followed by a talk about their work from a representative of Home-Start. Soft drinks will be provided.

We do hope you are able to come and join us.

Christine Walker



Home-Start is one of the leading family support charities in the UK, helping families with young children deal with the challenges they face, as well as supporting parents as they learn to cope, improve their confidence and build better lives for their children.

Across the UK, 13,500 home-visiting volunteers support around 28,000 families and 60,000 children. Families struggling with post-natal depression, isolation, physical health problems, bereavement and many other issues receive the support of a volunteer who will spend around two hours a week in a family's home supporting them in the ways they need.

The five years between birth and school are vital for a child's development. Children who are raised in a stable, loving, family environment are more likely to have a positive and healthy future. Home-Start works because volunteers are parents who understand how hard it can be. They work alongside parents, in their own homes, to help them cope with the stresses and strains of life and make sure they have the skills, confidence and strength they need to nurture their children.

Home-Start started in 1973, founded by Margaret Harrison, who believed that supporting a family was best done in their home where it can be shaped to the needs of the family.

For more information on the work of Home-Start, visit www.home-start.org.uk

St. Valentine's Day – who and why

There are many stories and legends relating to St. Valentine and how we have come to celebrate a specific day. Of course, in the UK, St. Valentine's Day is not a public holiday but merely an observance. We can trace the origins of St. Valentine's Day back to Roman times. In the third century, Emperor Claudius II Gothicus or Claudius the Cruel ruled Rome and is noted for his love of war and abusing his people! He got involved in so many wars that recruiting men for his armies was becoming increasingly more difficult. However Claudius the Cruel actually reckoned the real reason was because his men didn't want to leave their loved ones or families.

To overcome this, Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome. This naturally upset an awful lot of people but Claudius ruled with an iron fist and there was no-one to stand up to him. However there was one Christian priest, Valentine, who decided to stand up for love and he started to secretly marry soldiers before they left for war. In AD 269, Claudius discovered what was happening and threw Valentine into prison to await the death penalty.

Whilst in prison, Valentine fell in love with the jailer's daughter who was blind. On the eve of his execution, he wrote a sonnet to the girl but had to use ink squeezed from violets as that was all he could get hold of. Of course, legend then gets a little fanciful as it is said that the words enabled the blind girl to be able to see again. Mind you, Valentine was still clubbed to death the next day! Valentine was eventually granted sainthood and the Catholic Church decided to hold a feast in his honour. Why February 14th? Well that day was chosen as it was believed it is the date that birds (especially love birds) begin mating.

The above is only one story behind St. Valentine's Day. Valentine was also said to really be a temple priest who was beheaded in around AD496 by Pope Gelasius I who referred to him and his acts as being "known only to God". It is also claimed that St. Valentine was actually the Bishop of Terni. But, in true QI fashion, there are around 12 St. Valentines and there was even a Pope Valentine. As well as being associated with love and romance, St. Valentine is also the patron saint of beekeepers and epilepsy. He was also often called upon to watch over those suffering from the plague and fainting and also travellers (along with St. Christopher).

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Village News

/continued from previous page

If you delve deeper into the story of St. Valentine's Day, you will find that no records exist of actual romantic celebrations on Valentine's Day before a poem written by Geoffrey Chaucer in 1375. His poem called "Parliament of Foules" is the first instance linking the tradition of courtly love with the celebration of St. Valentine's feast day. The poem also refers to February 14th saying:

For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day
Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate

Whatever the derivation, in the UK we now spend up to £500m every year on Valentine's Day gifts, with men spending around £40 each year. This is just over twice as much as that spent by women. In the UK, more than 25 million cards are sent each year, although a survey in the past two years indicates that about 52% of the UK adult population has no intention of buying a gift and about 48% said that they wouldn't even bother with a card.

Chris Bingham

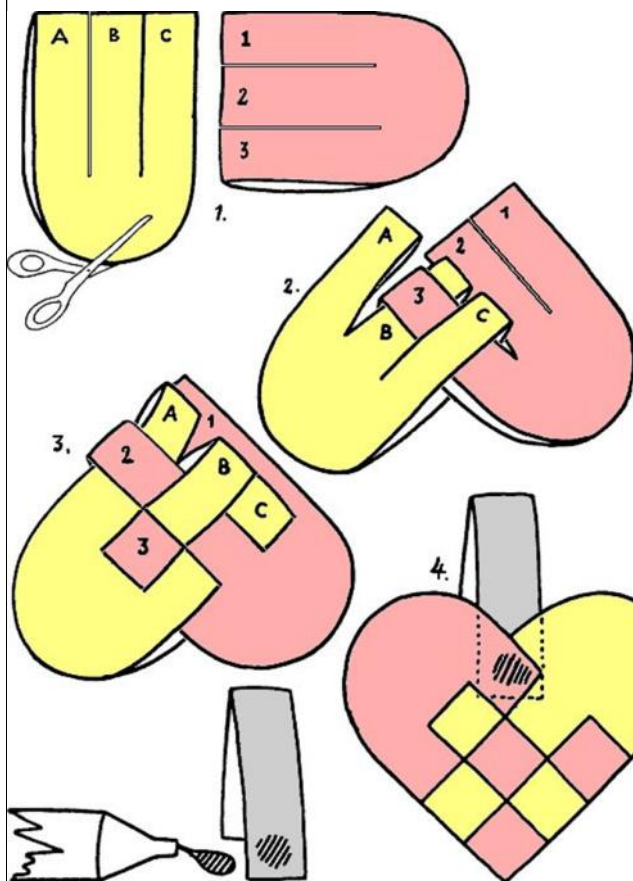
Where in the Parish?

What is through the arched windows?



Answer on page 38

How to make a paper heart basket



You will need two colours of paper or thin card, scissors and glue.

Step 1. Cut two different colour oblongs of paper then fold them in half. Then trim one end of each into a rounded shape. Using the folded edge make two equal straight cuts remembering not to go all the way to the rounded ends.

Step 2 - 3 using the folded end weave into each other following the shown procedure: 3 goes through A - B goes through 3 - and 3 goes through C. For the next leg do the opposite: A goes through 2 - 2 goes through B - C goes through 2. and so on the last one can be tricky, but bend and roll the paper as you like, and it will work.

It is not important whether you start doing an 'into' or an 'over' as long as you alternate them. You can go on experimenting with hearts with lots of legs.

Step 4. Carefully glue the folded handle onto the insides, making sure you don't stick it all together. Think of it as an open bag or basket.

Sourced by June Eaton

Children at Church



**Sunday Club
Advent Sunday, 2nd December**

**Lighting the candles
on Christmas morning**



**Pick and Mix Service
Sunday 30th December**



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Great Totham Parish Council

Great Totham Parish Council Meeting held at Great Totham Village Hall on. 14th January 2019

The January meeting was attended by Cllrs Mrs Adams, Atkinson, Delderfield, Gregan, Heaviside, Keyes and Marshall. There were no members of the public present

Those who enjoy walking the footpath between Kelvedon Road and Goat Lodge Road should soon see an improvement in its condition. Following information received from a resident, the Public Rights of Way Officer was contacted and overgrown areas or those subject to encroaching side growth are to be cut back. It is possible remedial work may ultimately be necessary to level the path.

Concerns were also brought to the attention of Councillors regarding questionable behaviour in the Jubilee Recreation Ground. The Clerk provided a detailed overview of the Council's actions and responsibilities, and members agreed that the behaviour described should be reported to the police. As part of the 'Coffee with Cops' initiative a meeting is scheduled for February 5th in Little Braxted between 10 and 11am (The Bakery, Homefield House, Witham Road CM83ET) and anyone with concerns regarding police matters is encouraged to attend

A comprehensive update was received from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Results of the questionnaire indicated a strong correlation with those of the earlier Parish Council survey and it was reiterated that the 44% turnout was a solid foundation upon which to build. The main tasks now are to identify issues and gather evidence. Anyone interested in the MDC: Green Infrastructure Strategy, which could have a bearing on the Village Plan, can learn more at policy@maldon.gov.uk.

The Clerk presented the itemised draft estimates for 2019/20. Matters of finance always generate great debate but it is pleasing there will be no increase in the village precept, the charge for a Band D household continuing at £15.36. Details are, as always, available for scrutiny.

Councillor Atkinson reported the 'floor' of the roundabout at Totham North Recreation Ground would be removed for refurbishment. The seat at the corner of Braxted Lane was also in need of repair and it was agreed the seating area near the beacon would be improved. After much discussion and, again, further to concerns raised by a resident it was decided the informal entrance to the Jubilee Recreation Ground in School Road should be fenced off. The official entrance has always been on the B1022 side and has been upgraded to provide much safer access to all users.

Continued on P39



Wickham Bishops Woodlands

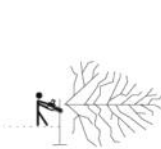


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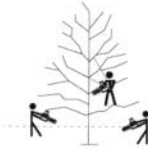
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Sunday Club Go To Panto..... (Oh no they didn't!! Oh yes they did!!)

On Saturday, 5th January, Maisie, Evelyn, India, Isabel, Pippa, Robyn, Tammy, Freddie and Jessica went to watch 'Mother Goose' performed by the Wickham Bishops Drama Club.



Accompanied by some grown-ups, they all watched intently (munching on some sweets) as the story unfolded. Mother Goose went from rags to riches thanks to

the golden eggs laid by Priscilla the goose. However, money doesn't always buy happiness and Mother Goose found that out the hard way!

The Sunday Club gang enjoyed clapping the goodies and boing the baddies! We all chanted 'Don't be silly, Silly Billy' each time Mother Goose's rather silly son came on stage and we joined in with one of the songs; 'Never Say Boo To A Goose'! It was a happy ending as Mother Goose and her daughter Jill had a joint wedding and all the villagers of Goosingham celebrated!

Rosie Pollock

Village News

Royal British Legion – Village Poppy Collection

On behalf of the Royal British Legion I would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all the poppy collectors for venturing out in the November weather. Our small village has raised the amazing sum of £3,355.12.

I would like to thank all the residents of Great Totham for their generosity. A special mention must go to Great Totham Primary School for the staggering collection of £569.65.

Once again thank you to my 'counting friends' Pat, Carol, John and Robert for the day spent sorting and counting.

A special mention also to Carol for delivering and collecting Totham South's poppy trays. This makes my job so much easier and I couldn't do it without her.

If anyone feels they would like to volunteer to collect in Great Totham South or North this year, I would be very happy to hear from you.

Linda Keyes
Poppy Appeal Organizer (Great Totham)
01621 891388

Great Totham Gardening Club

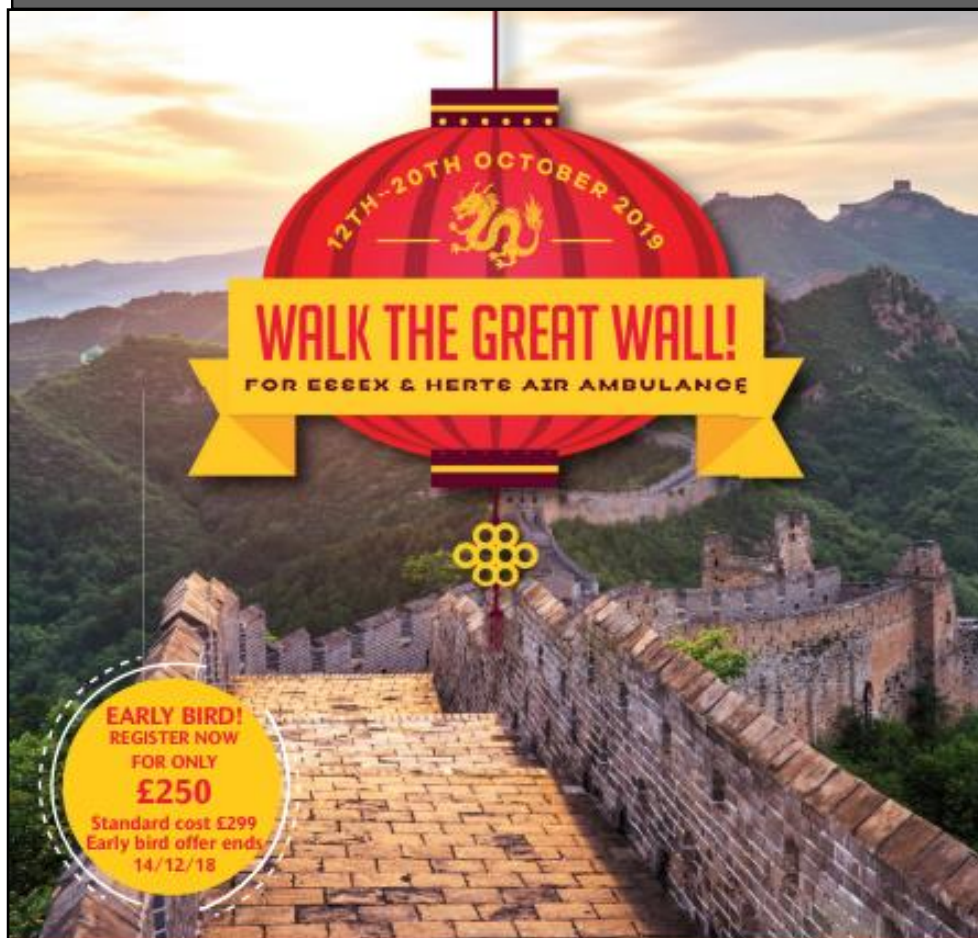
Our craft evening on 3rd December was very popular when Roslyn Aston taught us 'bottle craft' with us all managing to make a lovely picture in a bottle which lights up, which we were all very pleased with.

Our Christmas Social followed on 15th December with a super bring and share supper, quizzes, games of bingo and the Christmas raffle.

We do not meet in January but hope to see you on Monday, 4th February in the Village Hall when Norman Wright will be suggesting 'Good Days Out' just in time for Spring! The Spud Bucket Challenge will also commence when Norman will be supplying buckets and seed potatoes for members to grow until the Autumn Show.

On Saturday, 16th March we have our Fish and Chip supper in the Village Hall, 6.30pm for 7pm. If you would like to come please 'phone Ken Cooper on 890818 so your meal can be ordered.

Christine Walker



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Thank You!

To all in Great Totham who completed our Survey. 533 Forms returned from 1200 (44%) is a great result.

We now have the views of 1031 Totham Residents and you have given us plenty to think about.

Here are a few of the key things which you told us mattered to you:

The views and green spaces are most important to you.

Concern about the impact of development on the character of the village.

You don't want large housing developments on the edge of the village.

The look of Great Totham and the buildings in it is important.

You are concerned by the amount of traffic and the speed it goes through the village.

Our task now is to start work on a Neighbourhood Plan based on what you have told us is important for Great Totham.

Thanks again

**Great Totham Neighbourhood Plan Steering
Group**


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Village News

Contacting the Police

In an emergency dial 999. For non-emergencies dial 101 extension 412335 / 01245 491491

Send non-emergency police related information/intelligence to your North Blackwater Neighbourhood Policing Team at:

<http://www.essex.police.uk/> or text 07624 80010

Maldon Police

0300 333 4444 or 101

Maldon District Council Offices

Princes Road

Maldon

Monday—Thursday:

9am—5pm

Friday:

8.30am—4.30pm

Great Totham Neighbourhood Watch

Visit Maldon District Neighbourhood Watch website for up to date local crime reports, non-urgent news and links to the police and national NHW websites: <http://www.maldondistrictnhw.co.uk/index.htm>

For Totham Hill Green, phone Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Ian Barratt, on 891949. Email: ianpb3@gmail.com

For local crime reports, visit <https://www.police.uk/essex/28/crime/>

Wickham Bishops Flower Club

We hope our members and friends had a wonderful Christmas and wish you all health and happiness in 2019.

We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday, 26th February, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall for our Annual Meeting followed by light refreshments. We then have a floral Demonstration by Pamela Cantellow called 'Bric-A-Brac'.

Christine Walker

Where in the Parish Answer
The Village Hall

Village News

Continued from P29

Great Totham Parish Council

Two requests were received from Wickham Bishops., one regarding the placing of large advertising banners on the greens. Bearing in mind road safety issues and the problem of possible proliferation, it was not considered something we would wish to encourage but the Drama Group would be welcome to advertise events on the appropriate notice boards. The Clerk of the Parish Council wrote to suggest Great Totham residents might wish to respond to Essex County Council's library survey which can be found at www.essex.gov.uk/libraries-consultation.

Your views are also invited on the Fire and Rescue Plan2019-2024. You can access the survey at www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/fire-rescue-plan-2019-2024-public-survey.

The Community Protection Team continues to monitor traffic movements and speed around the village, moving cars on and applying fixed penalty notices as necessary. Our Speedwatch members have reported a welcome decrease in the number of speeding motorists but inappropriate and inconsiderate parking in the Walden House Road lay-by has become a cause for concern..

Finally, an advance notification: The **Village Clean Up Day** will take place on **Sunday 7th April**. Please put the date in your diary. More detailed information will be available in next month's magazine.

The February Parish Council Meeting will take place on 11th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Vicky Heaviside

Wickham Bishops Drama Club Advert.

“Oh no it isn't – Oh yes it is!”

The Pantomime season is finally over and what a blast we have had. Since September our cast and crew have been very busy rehearsing, painting, building and sewing (91 costumes in total to be precise!) for our pantomime Mother Goose. Opening night was soon upon us and the village hall was aflutter with excitement and nerves. Although a small crowd, Thursday's audience were great for opening night and Mother Goose got off to a fantastic start! From then on, the nights all rolled into one from everyone getting involved with the usual 'pantomisms' of “He's behind you” and “Oh yes it is” as well as cheers for the goodies, boos for the baddies and laughs for the comedy characters. Great fun was had by all and a huge thank you to everyone who was involved on and off the stage. A special mention must go out to Michelle Bacon who is not only the chair of the club, she also took on the almighty task of Director so on behalf of the Wickham Bishops Drama Club I would just like to say a huge thank you to Michelle for all her hard work.

J.S.

Village News

Wickham Bishops WI

Where has that year gone? We concluded our year with our Christmas Lunch and Party on 6th December. Rev.Hilary and two guests from Heybridge W.I. joined us for a beautiful lunch organised by some of our committee and a number of very willing helpers. This was followed by our entertainment from Air Raid Jive, who not only demonstrated a number of dances from the 1940's, but also had every member on their feet to the Lambeth Walk and a rendition of We'll Meet Again. This was followed by the war time songs, with all our members waving Union Jacks or shaking tambourines and maracas. What a wonderful afternoon.

Our meeting in January was a Members Meeting, when we have A Good as New Sale, a short talk from the CAB on Scams and time for discussion.

Our walking group meet across the road from Wickham Bishops Hall on Mondays 09:30 and the walks around the village last approx 1 hour. Friday afternoon at the church hall our craft group meet 2 - 4pm.

Our meetings are held on Thursdays in the Church Hall, St Bartholomew's Church 2pm-4pm, we always welcome members, visitors and guests. For more information please contact our secretary Sharon O'Connell on 01621 891631.

Sharon O'Connell


Future Events

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16 March | Gardening Club Fish & Chip Supper Village Hall
6.30pm for 7pm |
| 19 March | PCC Meeting 7.30pm Honywood |
| 6 April | Gardening Club Spring Show Village Hall 2.30pm |
| 28 April | St. Peter's Church Annual Meeting following 10am Service |
| 11 May | Great Totham Primary School Sponsored Walk |
| 18/19 May | St. Peter's Church Open Gardens |

With thanks to Kimberly Howard for providing art for the covers and imaging.

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Great Totham Nursery invite you to their fundraising **Bingo** event

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£5 per person

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Village News



CONTACT THE ELDERLY

Contact the Elderly is a national charity dedicated to tackling loneliness and isolation among older people. The charity is planning a tea party group between Witham, Tiptree and the surrounding villages due to demand, where older guests will meet one Sunday afternoon each month for tea, cake and companionship. The charity is urgently appealing for volunteers who could spare a few

hours each month to drive one or two older guests to their tea, or host the group once or twice a year – and enjoy a cuppa themselves!

The charity aims to relieve the acute loneliness of isolated older people, aged 75 and above, who live alone and struggle to get out. Each older guest is collected from their home by a volunteer driver and taken to a volunteer host's home, where they meet with a small group for tea, chat and friendship. The group is warmly welcomed by a different host each month, but the drivers remain the same which means that over the months and years, acquaintances turn into friends and loneliness is replaced by companionship.



Contact the Elderly's Development Officer, Chloe Brown, said: "Activities for people aged 75 and above are normally limited to weekdays, so Sunday can be a particularly long and difficult day. Our tea parties are sometimes the only social outing our guests have in a month, so they can make a real difference. However, there's a shortage of volunteers in the area. Anyone who can spare a couple of hours one Sunday a month, has a driving licence, a car and a capacity for drinking tea, is eligible! We are also looking for coordinators to help with the running of the groups. It's not a big commitment, and our volunteers genuinely get as much out of the experience as our older guests, so I'm calling for anyone who is interested in giving something back to their community to please get in touch with me as soon as possible."

Residents in these areas, who are interested in volunteering for Contact the Elderly as a tea party host, driver or group coordinator, or who know of people who would benefit from attending, can contact Chloe Brown chloe.brown@contact-the-elderly.org.uk 0207 240 0630 or Freephone 0800 716543 or apply online at www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk/volunteer

News from Great Totham Primary School

www.greattotham.essex.sch.uk



School News

Happy New Year! As 2019 begins, here is the last of the school's news from 2018.

The day 'The Two Johns' came

In November, John Woodley and John Staines from EST E-safety training came in to speak to all children from Y1 to Y6. They spoke to the children about their knowledge of the online world and how they can keep themselves safe from the dangers on the online world, while still having fun and learning.



During the evening we were thrilled to see 115 parents come and hear the message they had to share: **be the one your child goes to when they need help.**

If you would like to know more how to 'get on the Internet Express' with your child, please visit their website <https://www.esafetytraining.org/>. Their website has very useful links to a variety of organisations concerned with online safety.

Gold Sports Games Award

We are incredibly proud that our silver sports games award has now changed to a lovely new **gold** one (it is proudly displayed in the school hall and you can see the award at the bottom of the website pages).

Congratulations to all of our children for participating in so many sports events, clubs and sharing extra-curricular achievements.

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 11th May 2019 – Sponsored Walk

Friday 12th July 2019 – 5.00 – 8.00pm - Summer Fete

Please contact the school office for further details

Great Totham WI

At our monthly meeting in December we welcomed two members from Wickham St Paul WI who introduced us and our guests to New Age Kurling. After a short demonstration, and with their encouragement, we were put into teams to try out this new pastime with varied degrees of success!



Our meeting in January took the form of a social evening where we enjoyed a glass of mulled wine and a piece of Lesley's delicious Christmas cake. We tried our best to answer questions and recognise places in a quiz about Great Totham and identify chocolate bars from a small fragment of the wrapper. We also played a couple of games of Bingo where the hall fell silent as members concentrated on getting a 'full house'!

We also looked at the various resolutions that WIs over the country have suggested should be put to the National Annual Meeting in June. This year they included improving plant biosecurity, planting more trees to improve the natural landscape and a call against the decline of local bus services together with topics on aspects of women's physical and mental health.

Next month we welcome Marion Pettet to talk about 'Ballet - A Peek Behind the Scenes'.

Visitors are welcome at our meetings, held on the second Thursday of the month at Great Totham Village Hall. Information is on the website www.greattothamwi.weebly.com or email greattothamwi@btinternet.com

Sue Pulford

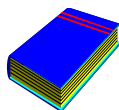
Village Diary

February

- 3 Prayer Hour 10am Honywood
- 5 Magazine Committee meeting 7.45pm 17, Goat Lodge Road
- 7 National Marriage Week begins
- 9 Coffee morning URC 10am-11.30am
- 10 World Marriage Day Service 10am St. Peter's Church
- 11 Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm.
- 12 Churches Together Charity Evening 7pm St. Bartholomews Church
Bring & Share supper with Speaker from Home Start
- 14 St. Valentine's Day
Barn Church Coffee morning 10am-12noon
WI 8pm Village Hall 'A Peek Behind The Scenes' Marion Pettet
(Chelmsford Ballet Company)
- 22 Mothers' Union 1.45pm Honywood
- 23 Coffee morning 10am-12noon Honywood
- 26 Flower Club 7.30pm Village Hall AGM followed by Pamela
Cantellow – 'Bric-A-Brac'

Rotas	Church Flowers	Church Cleaning
3rd February	Karin Mann	Mr and Mrs Barclay
10th February	Pat Eaton	-
17th February	Mary Owers	Mr and Mrs Kemsley
24th February	Jane la Roche	-
Church Kitchen Cleaning February:		Jenny Barclay

Wickham Bishops Library



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COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES (See page 3 for church activities)

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers		www.girlguiding.org.uk	
Scouts, Cubs, Beavers at Prances	Brenda Heal	bjheal@btinternet.com	
Great Totham Cricket Club Colts	Paul Marks	07709 793958	
Nursery Group Village Hall	Tracey Bezant	07960 947931	
Edward Bear Club (Toddler Group)	St Peter's Church	Sue Godsmark	891513
Gardening Club	Village Hall	Fred Steptoe	891808
W.I. GT Evening 2nd Thurs. 8pm	Village Hall	Sue Pulford	892063
GT & WB last Thurs. 2pm	St.B Church Hall	Di Mellor	892247
St Peter's Lunch Club Tues.	Honywood Hall	Sheila Allen	892334
Day Centre Weds.	URC	Jean Johnstone	892293
Modern Sequence Dance	Weds. 7.45pm	Village Hall	788669
Carpet Bowls Tue & Thur 7.30pm	Village Hall	Jean Cloughton	892286
Tollesbury Table Tennis Club	T'bury Parish Rms	Paul Freeman	862510
	mobile 07855 204505, email: freemans21@hotmail.com		
Maldon Croquet Club	Forrester Park	Jean Healey	843643
		(jeanahealey@sky.com)	
Wickham Bishops Drama Club	Roger Lyons	www.wickhambishopsdrama.co.uk	
Great Totham Community Choir	Colin Heaviside	heavicol@aol.com	893067
Knit & Natter, Friday Mornings,	Sandra Smith (Honywood Hall)		893153

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Honywood Hall Hire		Karin Mann	891215
St Peter's Church Extension Hire		Rev'd Godsmark	891513
Village Hall hire	Sue Pulford		892063
URC hall hire	Janet Davies		819419
St Peter's—Interment of Ashes and Iron Crosses		Chris Munton	891817
Great Totham Parish Council	Clerk: Clive Potter		891474
District Councillors	John Keyes		891388
	David Sismey		07879 435430
County Councillor	Rodney Bass		891343
Great Totham Primary School			891091
Maldon District Council			854477
Maldon Citizens Advice Bureau			875774
Police Community Support Officer			101
NERIL information line for mental health		0845 0900 909 every day from 6pm to 2am	
Water			01245 491234
Electricity			0845 6014516
Drugs Helpline (free)			0800 77 66 00
Childline Helpline for children			0800 1111 (free)
NSPCC 24 hr helpline for children			0800 800 500 (free)
The Samaritans	08457 90 90 90		01245 357357
Disabled Information Advisory Line			01245 287177
Church of England, St. Peter's	Rev'd Sue Godsmark		891513
Totham Barn Free Evangelical Church	Elder Bob Bell		893085
United Reformed Church	Vacant		
Wickham Bishops Church	Rev'd Hilary Le Sève		892867
Maldon Methodist Church Office	Rev'd Clifford Newman		853423
Maldon Roman Catholic Church	Parish Priest - Fr. Mark Reilly		852259
Society of Friends (Quakers)	Clerk to the meeting - Sue Smith		854056
Salvation Army			853942
Christian Growth Centre (CGC), Maldon	Rob & Jeannie Saggs Pastors		855855



EDWARD
BEAR
CLUB



We meet each week on Thursday at 10.30am
in the Church and extension.

Babies and children up to the age of 5 are welcome with their
parents, grandparents or carers.

We begin in Church by ringing a bell before a short service
followed by the children choosing songs and instruments.

We then move into the extension for coffee/squash and
biscuits, crafts and plenty of play.

We look forward to welcoming you and your children.

Great Totham Parish Magazine is published by The Parish Church to help everyone feel part of the community, recognising people's achievements and the value of community activity, and to encourage support of local businesses. Please contribute by sending us your good news, suggestions and details of any events and advertisements for the March Edition by 3rd February

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