



Great Totham Parish Magazine

sent to every home in Great Totham
December 2019 - January 2020

Christmas Services at St Peter's Church

Sunday 15th December

10am Children's Nativity Play

Sunday 22nd December

6pm Nine Lessons and Carols
followed by refreshments

Christmas Eve

3pm & 5pm Christingle Services

11.45pm Midnight Mass

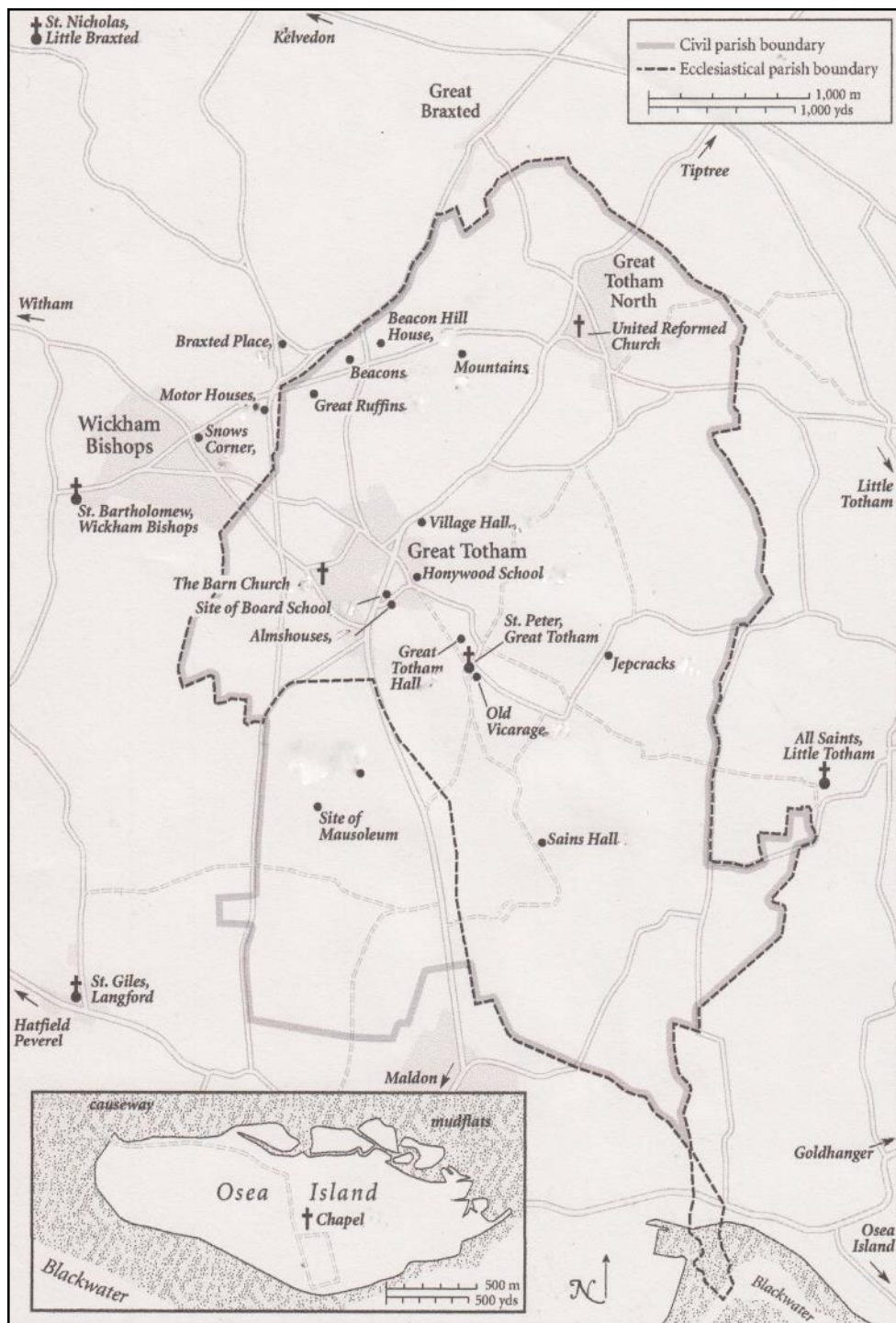
Christmas Day

10am Family Communion Service



Inside this Edition

Remembrance Sunday
Christmas News



Services and other Church 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



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

Baptisms

For enquiries about baptisms, please contact Rev'd
 Sue Godsmark.

Magazine:

Enquiries : Helen Mutton : 01621 891067
 Adverts : Pauline Stebbing : 01621 892059
 Email : parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk

Website:

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6657

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



Church News



The Assistant Priest, Sue Godsmark and the church wardens, Isobel Doubleday and Karen Tarpey would like to wish all our readers a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Our services are advertised throughout the magazine and we look forward to greeting you at one of them.

Church Funnies!

Feeling thankful and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.

God expects spiritual fruit, not religious nuts!

Prayer - the ultimate wireless connection!



Church News

Church Registers

Baptism

20th October, 10am Erin Evelyn Abbott of Great Totham
(pictured with family members)



20th October, 2pm Ruben Stephen Daniel Rayner of Great Totham
27th October, 2pm Alfie George Mann of Great Totham

Wedding

19th October Alexandra Louise Priestley and Philip Anthony Spalding

Funeral

6th November Lloyd Chapman of Great Totham

Halloween Holiday Club



On Tuesday, 29th October, 19 children arrived at 10am, along with their lunch, wellies and coats on one of the bright sunny days. After attempting to make a Christmas wreath around a paper plate, they were soon designing faces on their pumpkins and getting very sticky removing seeds from inside to allow faces to be carved. Halloween masks, woodland animal suncatchers and Halloween window decorations were made and a joint Firework/Bonfire poster was painted.

After biscuits and squash the children set off to explore South Wood. Lunch was consumed in record time, just long enough for them all to guess how many chocolate pumpkins were in the jar. Then the afternoon activities began, with apple bobbing, icing cakes, fake tattoos and table-top games.

A grateful thank you to our two helpers making this day possible.

Christine Walker

Church News

Gladvent, Sadvent, Advent

Reasons to be glad for Advent are numerous. To buy and receive presents, to get together with friends and family. To treat ourselves to favourite food and drink. To enjoy a welcome break from work.

To be sad for Advent can be due to the stress of getting the right presents, meeting expectations of those coming to spend Christmas with us. If we live alone, our sense of loneliness can be heightened. Financial pressures only add to our unease that perhaps we haven't found a balanced way to celebrate Christmas. So what about Advent, what's it really about?

Advent means literally "arrival" and, in this context, the arrival of a very special person indeed. The very One who created us comes to us as a helpless baby born in a stable. Perhaps this year we might find that by putting Jesus at the centre of our Christmas celebrations we find a real joy and peace in our hearts.

When we were young, we naturally looked forward to receiving our Christmas presents. I was lucky enough to have numerous aunts and uncles and even friends of my parents who were honorary ones. So loads of presents in my pillowcase. As time goes by we enjoy giving presents rather more than receiving them. Life teaches us to be content and count our blessings.

Remember the reason for the season!

Paul Smith

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).

200+ Club Draw Winners

October

- 1st Prize - Geoff Harwood
- 2nd Prize - Lindsay Wingate
- 3rd Prize - Phil Page

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

Church News

All Souls Day

All Souls Day is a service dedicated to the commemoration of the departed (for the people we have loved). Some churches celebrate this day on All Saints Day on 1st November, however, at St Peter's Church, we have traditionally used the Sunday nearest to 2nd November, which is All Souls Day.

We invite the families and friends of loved ones they no longer see to mark the day which, this year, was on Sunday, 3rd November at the usual time of 3.30pm. On a table at the front of the church, Rev'd Sue Godsmark had prepared a large cross, upon which people could place a candle. It is a moving gesture, accompanied by music played by our organist, David Grove. The names of our loved ones are read out, which is comforting. The people who attend the service find this a peaceful time, surrounded by a supportive church. The afternoon finished with refreshments in the church extension, which were enjoyed by all the people who attended the service.

Karin Mann

Coffee Morning

Our October coffee morning took place during half term on the morning of the Rugby World Cup semi-final match when England played New Zealand. I didn't want to open up for the Coffee Morning, however, as people arrived, we got to hear the news and scores and learnt that we were through to the final. By now we all know it was South Africa who became the World Champions....

Thanks to all who came on that drizzly morning. The coffee pot was in constant use and Roger was on "bacon butties" duty as Nick was away. Thanks also to all the helpers; we enjoyed a couple of hours chatting and catching up since last month.

Our next coffee morning is on Saturday, 30th November, 10am to 12 noon. Looking forward to seeing you, why not call in.

Sheila Allen

In your prayers at home this month, please include:

Our 'Friendship Church' - Bragernes Kirke, Drammen, Norway;
Bob, David, Adam, Mary, Keith, Brian, Roger, Pat, Roger, Sylvia, Dennis, Laura, Mike, David and Noah.

Candle in Memory of a Loved One

**Sponsor a candle for the Christmas Midnight Mass
Service at St Peter's Church.**

**Your Loved One's Name will be displayed in the
church for all the Christmas Services.**

Minimum donation £1 per name please.

**Please print your Loved One's Name below in block
capitals with one name per line.**

Total Donation	Gift Aid Yes or No?
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Address	
Telephone/email	

Please return the form by 15th December 2019 to Sue Morgan at
31 Hall Road, The Honeywood letter box, or pass to David Barclay.
Please make cheques payable to St Peter's Church Great Totham

Church News

Decorating St. Peter's Church for Christmas

We will be decorating St. Peter's for Christmas from 9am on Saturday, 14th December and you are very welcome to join us. If you are able to provide seasonal greenery, holly, ivy or fir, this would be very much appreciated.

Christine Walker



Christmas Services at St. Peter's Church

Sunday, 15th December
10am Children's Nativity Play

Sunday, 22nd December
6pm Nine Lessons and Carols
followed by refreshments

Christmas Eve
3pm and 5pm Christingle Services
11.45pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
10am Family Communion Service



Beacon Hill Churches Together

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, St. Peter's, Great Totham, St Bartholomew's, Wickham Bishops, Great Totham URC and the Barn Church meet together for morning worship. On Sunday, 19th January, the United Service will be held at St. Bartholomew's Church Hall at 10.30am, followed by light refreshments. The collection from this service will be used to buy 'It's Your Move' books, to be presented to young people leaving Great Totham School next summer. We look forward to seeing you then; please note there will be no 10am service at St. Peter's on that day.

Essex Dementia Care has been chosen as our 2020 Charity and the first fundraising event will be a Bring and Share Lunch at 11.30am on Thursday, 12th March at the Barn Church, Prince of Wales Road. There will also be a Bring and Buy stall, as well as a speaker from the charity. Please put this date in your diary and come along to support this very relevant charity.

Lent meetings to follow the York Course 'Jesus Christ Superstar' will be held in March at St. Peter's and St. Bartholomew's on Wednesday mornings.

Christine Walker

Church News

Services at St Peter's Church

December

Sunday, 1st December	8am	Holy Communion
The First Sunday of Advent	10am	Morning Service of the Word
	6pm	Evensong
Sunday, 8th December	8am	Morning Prayer
The Second Sunday of Advent	10am	Family Communion
	6pm	Evensong
Sunday, 15th December	8am	Morning Prayer
The Third Sunday of Advent	10am	Family Communion and Nativity Play
	6pm	Evensong
Sunday, 22nd December	8am	Morning Prayer
The Fourth Sunday of Advent	10am	Family Communion
	6pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
Tuesday, 24th December	3pm	Christingle
	5pm	Christingle
Christmas Eve	11.45pm	Midnight Mass
Wednesday, 25th December	10am	Family Communion
Christmas Day		
Sunday, 29th December	8am	Morning Prayer
The First Sunday of Christmas	10am	Morning Service of the Word (Pick and Mix) No Evensong

For details of January services please contact Rev'd Sue Godsmark or one of the Churchwardens

Photographs

On many occasions, photographs are taken of adults and children for the Parish Magazine, Church Website and Church Facebook page 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.

Church News

News from the Belfry

During the past year, we have been asked to ring at a number of weddings. Vanessa, one of our ringers, is our wedding co-ordinator and she is responsible for finding a band of ringers. With six bells, at least six ringers are required. If they cannot be sourced from our St. Peter's band, then she will approach All Saints Inworth, St. Mary Tollesbury and St. Peter Goldhanger, with whom we have close ties. The bells are rung up in readiness a few hours before the wedding service. The ringers enter the church whilst the registers are being signed and then commence ringing as the bride and groom leave the church. After 10 to 15 minutes, there is a pause whilst the band has a break or changes ringers. Ringing ends when the guests have left the churchyard and the bells are then rung down.

When a bell ringer marries, it is tradition that the bells are rung before as well as after the wedding service. Over 12 years ago, when I was a bell ringer at Tollesbury, two members of the band married. I will always remember ringing after the service, as the bride did not immediately leave the church, but walked into the ringing chamber and grabbed a rope. We stopped ringing so she could join us.

On Saturday, 19th October, Philip, a bell ringer at All Saints Inworth, regular visitor to our Friday practice, and the youngest son of our Tower Captain Janice and her husband David, married Alex. The St. Peter's band comprised of Bernard, Cliff, David Kemsley, Duncan, Sandra, Valerie and Vanessa. On this occasion, Jim and Yvonne, bell ringers from Inworth, and George a former EACR ringer, joined them. The groom and his mother also joined the band to ring before the service. With the exception of Philip and Janice, the band of ringers ringing after the wedding service remained the same.

Our last practice night this year is on 20th December and is followed by ringing on Sunday, 22nd, the two Christingle Services and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, and the Christmas Day Family Communion Service.

On behalf of all the St. Peter's bell ringers may I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Ever fancied ringing the bells at St. Peter's? If so please contact our Tower Captain, Janice Spalding, on 01621 892197, come along to our Friday practice at 19.45 hours or visit the website:

<http://greattothambellringers.org.uk/>

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Church News

Remembrance Sunday

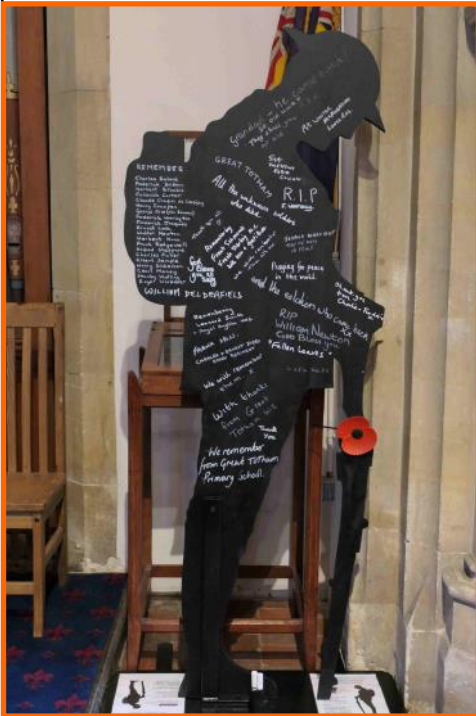
St. Peter's looked beautiful adorned with red poppies everywhere for the service led by Robert Tarpey on a bright sunny morning.

Members of Great Totham Parish Council took part in the moving service with the Role of Honour of those from the village killed in the First and Second World Wars being read out by Clive Potter. The lessons were read by Parish Councillors, John Keyes and Christine Adams. Frank Delderfield laid a wreath in the memorial window.



In Sunday Club, the children iced fairy cakes with a lovely red poppy, which were much enjoyed at coffee-time after the service.

Christine Walker



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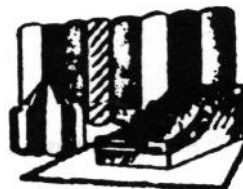
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Church News

Text for the Week: December

1st December

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed.

Proverbs 31:8

8th December

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Isaiah 52:7

15th December

In those days and at that time I will make righteous branch sprout from David's line; He will do what is just and right in the land.

Jeremiah 33:15

22nd December

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:2

29th December

Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Luke 2:19

Bible Readings for December

1st December

First Sunday of Advent

(Gospel) Isa. 2. 1-5
Rom. 13. 11-end
Matt. 24. 36-44

8th December

Second Sunday of Advent

(Gospel) Isa. 11. 1-10
Rom. 15. 4-13
Matt. 3. 1-12

15th December

Third Sunday of Advent

(Gospel) Isa. 35. 1-10
James 5. 7-10
Matt. 11. 2-11

22nd December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

(Gospel) Isa. 7. 10-16
Rom. 1. 1-7
Matt. 1. 18-end

24th December

Christmas Eve

(Gospel) Isa. 52. 7-10
Heb. 1. 1-4, (5-12)
John 1. 1-14

25th December

Christmas Day

(Gospel) Isa. 52. 7-10
Heb. 1. 1-4, (5-12)
John 1. 1-14

29th December

First Sunday of Christmas

(Gospel) Isa. 63. 7-9
Heb. 2. 10-end
Matt. 2. 13-end

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Church News

Text for the Week: January 2020

5th January

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

12th January

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself.

Luke 10:27

19th January

Jesus prayed for his disciples that 'they may be one so that the world may believe'.

John 17:21

26th January

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

2 Corinthians 13:11

Bible Readings for January 2020

5th January
Epiphany

Ps. 147. 13-end
Eph. 1. 3-14
(Gospel) John 1. (1-9) 10-18

12th January
First Sunday after Epiphany

Isa. 42. 1-9
Acts 10. 34-43
(Gospel) Matt. 3. 13-end

19th January
Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isa. 49. 1-7
1 Cor. 1. 1-9
(Gospel) John 1. 29-42

26th January
Third Sunday after Epiphany

Ps. 27. 1, 4-12
1 Cor. 1. 10-18
(Gospel) Matt. 4. 12-23

Great Totham Parish Council Meetings 19th August, 23rd September and 21st October

Those familiar with children's literature may recall 'A Series of Unfortunate Events' by Lemony Snicket. While not being able to claim all events to be 'unfortunate', I have recently been overtaken by circumstances beyond my control and have thus been less efficient in bringing tidings of village matters. However, members of the Parish Council have continued to work on behalf of all our residents; the Parish Clerk has minutes of all meetings. With regard to planning matters, Maldon District Council has, in accordance with Regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning Act, revoked five supplementary planning documents. Further information is available at www.maldon.gov.uk/spd

The August meeting was attended by Cllrs. Mrs Adams, Delderfield, Gable, Gregan, Mrs. Heaviside and Keyes. The September meeting was attended by Cllrs. Atkinson, Bass, Gable, Gregan, Mrs Heaviside, and Marshall. District Councillor Siddall was also present. The October meeting was attended by Cllrs Gable, Gregan, Mrs Heaviside and Keyes.

In August, a communication was received from County Councillor Mark Durham suggesting Parish surgeries may provide greater communication between residents and Councillors. Members felt that current provision works satisfactorily and, indeed, Cllr Siddall has already arranged surgeries at Tom's Farm Shop. Residents are also welcome to approach members directly.

The Neighbourhood Plan Open Weekend was very successful; a steady stream of residents contributed comments and suggestions which will greatly assist preparation of the Plan. Offers of assistance with the distribution of the Housing Needs Survey were also received (many have already been returned); the closing date is 6th December.

It is always pleasing to report 'a job well done' and it was noted grass cutting had been carried out very efficiently this year (it is even nicer when residents contribute unpaid service to the village). In August, the lock on the gate to Totham North Recreation Ground was vandalised; this was reported to the police and has since been repaired by Mr Cotier, who replaced the mechanism with one supplied free of charge by Tom's Farm Shop. The roundabout was refurbished by Cllr Marshall. Thank you gentlemen!

However, not everyone is as public spirited. Vandalism at the Jubilee Recreation Ground has also been reported to the police, and vehicles are still being left in the Bull Green lay-by for hours, inconveniencing other residents. Speeding, a concern highlighted in the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire, is on-going and the Speedwatch Team would welcome additional volunteers. Training is given and, with more members, an individual's contribution would not be too onerous. Please contact Cllr Atkinson if you are able to help.

Village News

/continued from previous page

An application has been submitted to the Highways Panel requesting the restoration of the walkable verge that runs adjacent to the B1022, between Beckingham Road and the Village Hall. This is a vital link between the northern and southern settlements and certain sections are in urgent need of repair. Cllr Siddall is pursuing the issues of the Five Corners junction and the possibility of a 20mph speed limit in Walden House Road. Success in any of these ventures may impact upon the Wickham Bishops initiative regarding sustainable modes of travel to school, although a popular rural school with a wide catchment area will inevitably generate access issues.

Several people asked if I would mention hedges. It has been a good growing season and greenery, often laced with brambles, is overhanging pavements and footpaths and requires pruning. Somewhat perversely, some of the new hedging along Bull Green has not thrived but, traditional hazel hedging is available to be planted in due season - courtesy of the squirrel who lives in my garden!

In October, a request was received from Great Totham Nursery in respect of a banner to publicise their services. General advertising is not considered appropriate, however the Council is pleased to support local organisations and suggested the banner could be displayed at the Village Hall for a set time at the beginning of each term. Residents are reminded that both the Hall and the United Reformed Church at Totham North will be used as polling stations on Thursday 12th December. May I just add for the benefit of WI members (or anyone wishing to join us!), our venue for the evening will be The Barn Church.

The Maldon District Heritage Winter Talks are to take place at The Friends Meeting House, Butt Lane, Maldon CM9 7HD, the first being 'Maldon's Waterfront: its culture and conservation', which included 'heritage-led regeneration'. In this light, it seems rather ironic that, having just this year celebrated 70 years of friendly encouragement to generations of sailors, Maldon Yacht Club has been told its lease will not be renewed! The remaining four talks will explore the historical aspects of St Giles Hospital, Tilbury Fort, the construction and repair of traditional timber-framed buildings and Maldon on the Map. Further information is available from the Conservation Officer on 01621 854477 or tim.howson@maldon.gov.uk

Great Totham also offers opportunities for people to meet together, both socially and in support of the village. The recent Remembrance Day Service at St Peter's Church was, as usual, very moving and, with Christmas approaching, there will be celebrations within the various clubs, a market and a range of services hosted by our three Churches; Christingles, Nine lessons and Carols and Midnight Mass, which are open to all. You may care to join members of the Parish Council on Monday, December 16th at 7.30pm – also open to all!

Vicky Heaviside

Children's Page

Family Christmas Quiz

The following initial letter represent titles from the world of music.



1. T H and T I
2. W in the A
3. I D O a W C
4. F the S
5. W a C is B
6. I W it C be C E D
7. The F N
8. A in a M
9. W T K of O A
10. W W Y a M C



These initial letters represent Christmas Traditions



11. 4 S in A
12. 24 D to O in an A C
13. A S T B in the C P
14. C S
15. F T with T L



Answers on page 33

Sourced by June Eaton

Children's Nativity Play

Our Nativity Play will take place during the 10am Service on Sunday, 15th December at St. Peter's Church. If your children would like to take part they need to arrive by 9.30am to get dressed. We have all the costumes for the main parts and lots for lambs and angels.

We look forward to seeing you, even if your children do not want to dress up.



Christine Walker

Children's Colouring Page

St. Stephen

(died 36 BC, Jerusalem; feast day 26 December),



St Stephen was a Christian deacon in Jerusalem and the first Christian martyr, whose apology before the Sanhedrin points to a distinct strand of belief in early Christianity. His defence of his faith before the rabbinic court enraged his Jewish audience, and he was taken out of the city and stoned to death. His final words, a prayer of forgiveness for his attackers, echo those of Jesus on the cross. Stephen is the patron saint of deacons and stonemasons. St. Stephens day is 26th December.

Sourced by June Eaton.

The Day After Christmas

As opposed to “the night before Christmas”, the day after has 2 names (or 3 in Ireland). We are familiar with Good King Wenceslas looking out on the Feast of Stephen but less familiar with that name relating to the day after Christmas.

The Feast of Stephen or St Stephen's Day is a Christian saint's day celebrated on 26 December to commemorate St Stephen who was the first Christian martyr. Not much is known about Stephen's early life but it is known that he was one of Jesus' disciples. He was seen as someone having a strong mind and strong faith and was deemed to be “full of the Holy Spirit”. However whilst he worked among people offering help and performing “wonders”, it is not known when or how he actually became a disciple.

Following Jesus' death, many people looked on the 12 apostles for help but, being only 12 in number, they were overwhelmed by requests for help so it would appear that they enlisted disciples to help deal with the sheer numbers. These disciples numbered 7 in total and were seen as men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and full of wisdom. The chosen disciples were Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicholas.

Stephen preached the teachings of Jesus and helped many convert to Christianity. However, as we know, not everyone was in tune with Christian teachings. This is laid out in the Bible in Acts 6:9 which reveals that the synagogue of the Libertines and the Cyrenians and the Alexandrians and people from Cilicia and Asia disputed with Stephen and his teachings. Now there is nothing new about fake news, and back then this was employed by people lying about Stephen. These lies became so convincing that they were taken as true and people started believing them. This led to anger and Stephen was brought before a council called the Sanhedrin. Here false witnesses testified against him.

Stephen was stoic in the face of the accusations and defended himself (in Acts 7:1-53). His final statement was “Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God”. Apparently this did not go down well with people and they grabbed hold of Stephen, dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death. This meant he became the first Christian martyr.

Many countries now celebrate 26 December as St Stephen's Day. In Ireland, it is also called the Day of the Wren following a story involving the chirping of a wren which gave away the hiding place of St Stephen on one occasion. Unfortunately for the wren, it was also captured and stoned to death!

/continued on next page

Village News

continued from previous page

The day after Christmas also has a secular name – **Boxing Day**. Now this is not recognition of the growing influence of on-line shopping and the hundreds of cardboard boxes that get hauled around the country nor is it a celebration of some famous punch-up! It is in fact recognition of the 'Christmas Box' and the day on which servants traditionally used to receive one from their masters. This is the most accepted definition of the name but it could also refer to charity boxes which were placed in churches on Christmas Day and opened up for distribution to the poor the next day – Boxing Day. One other thought relates to the sealed box taken on board sailing ships. This box contained money but was only opened (by a priest) on the day after Christmas if the voyage had been a success. The contents were then also given to the poor.

Chris Bingham

Great Totham Community Choir at Christmas

Choirs are having a bit of a revival at the moment as folk realise the sheer pleasure of singing with others on a regular basis. Our own Great Totham Community Choir has a great mix of age groups and we sing anything and everything from a wide range of musical genres. It is not necessary to be able to read music or perform solos or be auditioned. We have a wonderful group of local people who all get on together, and on some choir evenings there is more noise during the tea break than when we are singing.

If you've always fancied giving it a go, but are not sure whether you're good enough, join the clan! Most of us started that way with no background in singing. We are not a church choir, we do not sing on Sundays and there are no fees involved, but we are fortunate to have the backing of St Peter's Church which kindly provides us with lots of support and our warm rehearsal room. However, for the past few years we have joined with the congregation at St Peter's to lead the service of Nine Lessons and Carols and this year is no exception. Why not come along yourself at 6pm on Sunday, 22nd December and join in. Bring granny, bring the kids. It's a great opportunity for young and old to sing all the well-known carols, accompanied by the organ, the hand bells and the tower bells, and help to start the Christmas festivities. There is always a good spread of delicious food after the service and a chance to meet those in our choir should you be interested in having a chat. Put it in your diary now.

Nine Lessons and Carols, 6pm Sunday, 22nd December, St Peters Church, Great Totham.

Great Totham Community choir meets Wednesdays 7.30pm in St Peter's church extension.

Colin Heaviside

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Message from the District Councillor

The District Council over the past year has gone through a major transformation and the first phase of this has just been completed. As part of the transformation of services, you can now access services online. To register or access go to: Maldon.gov.uk and click on the "mymaldon" button at the top right hand corner of the page.

The Council also sought your views so that we can shape the future delivery of services and residents were surveyed during October and November. The results of the survey will be analysed and reported to Councillors as part of performance reporting and District insight.

I look forward to meeting more residents in the next 12 months, and to help in anyway that I can.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

www.facebook.com/tothammatters/

*Kind regards
Councillor Richard Siddall*

Halloween Thanks

We had quite a few "trick or treaters" to our door on 31st October and we are very pleased to report that every single child said "thank you".

*Peter and Linda Goodman
Staplers Heath*

Answers to the Christmas Quiz on page 22

1. The Holly and The Ivy
2. Walking in the Air
3. I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas
4. Frosty the Snowman
5. When a Child is Born
6. I Wish it Could be Christmas Every Day
7. The First Noel
8. Away in a Manger
9. We Three Kings of Orient Are
10. We Wish You a Merry Christmas
11. 4 Sundays in Advent
12. 24 Doors to Open in an Advent Calendar
13. A Silver Threepenny Bit in the Christmas Pudding
- 14 Christmas Stocking
15. Fir Tree with Twinkling Lights



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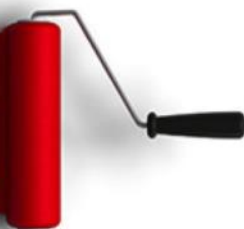


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Village News

Great Totham WI

Our November meeting took the form of a 'Dabble Day, where ladies brought in items of craft to demonstrate to their fellow members. These ranged from beautiful scrap books to knitted and crocheted pieces, many with a Christmas theme. There were opportunities to try printing and origami and, for some, colouring intricate patterns and trying not to go over the lines proved very therapeutic! It also gave us a longer opportunity to chat to each other over a cup of tea and a piece of cake.



In addition to the crafts we held a mini mart where jams and chutneys, Christmas presents and cards were all available for sale.



Visitors are always welcome at our meetings, held on the second Thursday of the month at 8pm, usually in Great Totham Village Hall. However, in December, our meeting evening falls on the same date as the General Election so we are 'decamping' to the Barn Church in Prince of Wales Road for our Christmas party and entertainment.

For our January meeting we shall be back at the Village Hall, when our speaker will be local Artist and Sculptor - John Doubleday.

For further details, visit our website www.greattothamwi.weebly.com or email greattothamwi@gmail.com.

Sue Pulford

Village News



Newspaper Delivery



The One Stop Shop in Wickham Bishops is looking into the feasibility of delivering daily newspapers and magazines to residents in Great Totham (South and North). They will need a very high response for this to become a regular service. If you are interested in having a local home delivery of your newspapers, please contact the One Stop shop on 01621 893678.

June Eaton



Cardiac Risk in the Young

A defibrillator has been fitted at Great Totham Village Hall for village emergencies, donated from The Charlotte Adams Memorial Fund.

Charlotte, who died aged 23 from an undiagnosed heart condition in November 2014, spent many happy times in the Village Hall for nursery and parties and it seems fitting to place one there in her name. With support of friends and family 'Charlie's Angels', The Charlotte Adams Memorial Fund has raised over £60,000 and has recently purchased two defibrillators, the second being for her former school, Great Totham Primary. Charlotte's mother, Kate Bome, has worked at the school for almost 22 years, and has tirelessly raised funds in memory of her daughter in the last five years. Kate has recently been nominated by her school colleagues for the Inspirational Adult Award at the Chelmsford for You Awards, which could result in her switching on the Christmas lights in Chelmsford this year.

Regular heart screening sessions are paid from the fund via Cardiac Risk in the Young. 14 – 35 year olds are screened for cardiac abnormalities; a simple ECG could find an unknown problem such as muscle disorders or electrical faults of the heart. Sometimes an individual, like Charlotte, may have a cardiac abnormality without any symptoms. Every week in the UK at least 12 apparently fit and healthy young people aged 35 and under die from undiagnosed heart conditions.



For more information visit:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charlotteadams22

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Great Totham Neighbourhood Plan Housing Needs Survey



Remember to return your Housing Needs Survey by the closing date of 6th December. The survey outcomes will give us detailed information on



what type of homes might be needed in the village over the coming years. Your answers will be treated in strictest confidence and processed by a Housing Enabler at the Rural Community Council for Essex, who will present a summary report to the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

Your personal invitation to Forrester Park's upcoming exciting events!

Say goodbye to 2019 in style with a fantastic New Years' Eve Bash! 31st December 2019 - a spectacular evening from start to finish for only £48.95 per person. Arrive to champagne cocktails and canapes, indulge in a gourmet dressed buffet followed by delicious desserts before partying the year away to a New Year's Eve disco. Plus, help yourself to a luxury sharing cheeseboard in the evening. Doors open at 7pm; Dinner from 7.30pm and Carriages at 1am – dress code is Black Tie.

Consider yourself the genius of your group? Put your brain where your mouth is and join Forrester Park at their next Quiz Night on Friday, 17th January 2020. A fabulous evening of fun, food and quizzing for all the family. £10 a ticket which includes supper (served from 6.30pm) with the quiz kicking off at 7.30pm.

For those working hard over Christmas, Forrester Park is putting on a special Party Night on 26th January 2020 so no one can miss out on a good old Christmas knees up! With a sumptuous three-course festive meal followed by dancing all night long it's a night NOT to be missed! Plus, at only £26.95 per person it's also incredible value for money. Doors open at 6pm and Dinner is served from 7.45pm.

Annie Forrester-Muir




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Village News

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Maldon	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/>

Future Events

3 Feb	Prayer Hour 10am Honeywood Hall
13 Feb	WI 8pm Village Hall A Craft Evening with Brenda Steele 'Easter Bunnies'
25 Feb	Flower Club 7.30pm V/Hall AGM followed by Wendy Munnion 'And The Winner Is...'
2 Mar	Prayer Hour 10am Honeywood Hall
12 Mar	Essex Dementia Care Charity Lunch The Barn Church 11.30am
17 Mar	PCC 7.30pm Honeywood
21 Mar	Gardening Club 6.30pm Village Hall Fish and Chip Supper
24 Mar	Flower Club 7.30pm Village Hall Janice Swan 'Designs for All Occasions'
4 Apr	Gardening Club Spring Show Village Hall 2.30pm
19 Apr	St. Peter's Church Annual Meeting after 10am Service

Village and Church News

Village Diary December

- 1 First Sunday in Advent
- 2 Prayer Hour 10am Honywood
- Gardening Club DIY Christmas Plate 7.45pm Village Hall Lyn Aston
- 4 Advent Course 'Tenants of the Kingdom'
St. Nicholas' Village Hall Tolleshunt Major 2.30pm-4pm
- 6 Great Totham Primary School Christmas Market 4.30pm
- 7 Decorating St. Peter's Church Extension from 10am
- Drama Club Box Office opens at Village Hall 10am-11am
- 11 'Tenants of the Kingdom' 2.30-4pm Village Hall Tolleshunt Major
- 12 WI 8pm Barn Church – Steve Galler – Entertainer
- 14 Decorating St. Peter's for Christmas from 9am
- Coffee morning URC 10am-11.30am
- Gardening Club Christmas Social 6.30pm for 7pm Village Hall
- 15 Children's Nativity Play St. Peter's Church 10am
- 16 Great Totham Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
- 17 Lunch Club Christmas Meal St. Peter's Church Extension
- 18 'Tenants of the Kingdom' 2.30-4pm Village Hall Tolleshunt Major
- 20 Knit and Natter Party and Quiz Honywood Hall
- MU Christmas Bring and Share lunch 'Hawthorns' 1pm
- 22 Nine Lessons and Carols St. Peter's Church 6pm
- 24 Christingle Services St. Peter's Church 3pm and 5pm
- Midnight Mass St. Peter's 11.45pm
- 25 Christmas Family Communion Service 10am St. Peter's Church
- 26 Boxing Day Bank Holiday – St. Stephen
- 29 Morning Service of the Word 10am St. Peter's Church



On Friday 20th December, we have our Christmas bring and share lunch at 'Hawthorns', Beacon Hill, from 12.30pm, when we all bring a wrapped present for a Secret Santa.

Then on 25th January, we will start the New Year with a winter warmer Bread and Soup lunch in Honywood Hall at 12.30pm.

All very welcome.

Christine Walker

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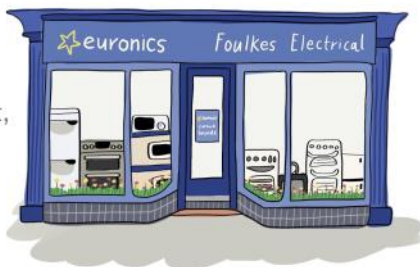
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Wickham Bishops WI

Our October meeting was called Dabble Day, which is an opportunity to try something new or just chill and have a chat with friends.

A demonstration of festive flower arranging by Christine was a very popular table, as was the felt flower craft work table instructed by Emma. Other attractions were a very fine crochet lace tutorial, paperback book folding and, for those not feeling the crafting bug, a games table and skittles! All stopped for tea and gorgeous cake baked by Rachel and Joyce before saying goodbye. I believe fun was had by all in this most relaxed meeting of the year.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Party; we have booked Peartree Pantry for our festivities.

Next year's itinerary is currently being arranged and I will let you know of our upcoming events as soon as they are finalised.

We have a craft group called Patcher that meets every Friday from 2-4pm at St Bartholomew's Church Hall. Originally this was predominantly a patchwork group, but is slowly being taken over by knitters! There is a wealth of knowledge on most things crafty, so why not bring along your unfinished project and join us for a friendly afternoon chat and cup of tea.

We also have a walking group that meets at 9.30am on Monday morning opposite the Village Hall in Church Road for a walk around the village.

For more information about WB WI please call our secretary Sharon on 01621 891631.

Jayne Kneale

Published by the PCC of St Peter's Church, Great Totham

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School News

Year 2 - Butterflies



We have been learning about butterflies and that the lifecycle goes round and round. We released some butterflies. They were painted ladies. We saw them change from a caterpillar to butterflies. It was very cool seeing it.

By Natasha 2P

Year 1 - Toy Museum

Year 1 enjoyed a wonderful day with a visit from the Toy Museum. The children were given the opportunity to learn about and explore toys from the past. In the afternoon the children made some of the toys that were investigated in the morning. Both children and adults had an enjoyable day. Thank you to all the adult helpers that gave up their time to help out. What a great way to kick start our new topic!

Cross Country

Our first sporting event of the year was on 8th October, when our cross country competitors arrived at St Francis Primary School Field in Maldon. The afternoon started in warm sunshine, however, after the Year 3 and 4 groups raced, the black clouds loomed overhead. It took us by surprise, as many of us came unprepared for what was to come. The year 5 and 6 race was shortened because of the heavy rain but the children's resilience came into force. Even the spectators were in good spirits although soaked through! The certificates did not survive – of which we received many, but we were able to reprint them! Three children achieved 1st place, five children 2nd place and 3rd place was awarded to two children! They all deserved a medal for their determination and high spirit, especially considering the awful weather!

Year 6 Football Tournament

Shrub End Sports Ground in Colchester was the destination for the Year 6 Football Tournament. We won four matches and drew one, which means we are through to the finals on in November where 8 teams will compete for the trophy.



Tag Rugby Tournament

Maldon Rugby Club hosted a whole day of tag rugby for the local schools. During the morning, Year 3 and 4 played and in the afternoon it was the turn of Year 5 and 6. It was an enjoyable day for all involved with Year 5/6 taking joint second place. Thank you to Stuart Pearson (our rugby coach) for organising the event.



New intake 2020-2021

If your child is due to start school in September 2020, we are offering tours of the school; please contact the school office on 01621 891091 or via email admin@greattotham.essex.sch.uk to book.

At the time of writing, there are two available dates still available (9.15am on 10th and 18th December). Please see the school's website for an up-to-date list of date availability. We look forward to meeting you!

Dates for the Diary

Friday 6th December 2019:

Christmas Market (4:30pm)

Saturday 16th May 2020:

Sponsored Walk (10am start)

Friday 10th July 2020:

Summer Fete (5-8pm)

Please contact the school office for further details

Village Diary January 2020

- 1 New Year's Day Bank Holiday
- 6 Epiphany
Prayer Hour 10am Honywood
- 7 Lunch Club Honywood 11am
- 9 Barn Church Coffee morning 10am-12noon
'Aladdin' Wickham Bishops V/Hall 7pm for 7.30pm
GT WI Village Hall 8pm John Doubleday ' Paintings and Sculpture'
- 10 'Aladdin' Wickham Bishops V/Hall 7pm for 7.30pm
- 11 Coffee morning URC 10am-11.30am
'Aladdin' Wickham Bishops V/Hall 1.30pm for 2pm and 7pm for 7.30pm
- 13 BHCT Committee meeting URC 10.30am
Great Totham Parish Council meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
- 14 PCC Meeting Honywood 7.30pm
- 19 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 10.30am
St. Bartholomew's Church Hall
- 23 WB WI 2pm Wickham Bishops St. Bartholomew's Church Hall
- 24 MU 1pm Honywood Winter Warmer Bread and Soup lunch
- 25 Coffee morning 10am Honywood



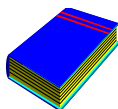
Covers created by
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Rotas	Church Flowers	Church Cleaning
1st December	Sally Dingley	-
8th December	Mary Owers	Mr and Mrs Kemsley
15th December	Decorate for Christmas	-
22nd December	Christmas	Mrs Walker and Anja Schmalfluss
29th December	Christmas	-
5th January	Daphne Taplin	Mr and Mrs Stebbing
12th January	Sue Keyes	-
19th January	Jane La Roche	Mrs Potter and Mrs Thake
26th January	Vanessa Ellams	-

Church Kitchen Cleaning December: Jenny Barclay; January: Rita Patten

Wickham Bishops Library



Monday 2pm-6pm
Wednesday 2pm-6pm
Saturday 9am-1pm

Telephone: 0333 013 2706

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
	Richard Siddall	07979 853947 /	890809
County Councillor Mark Durham	01245 227249	mobile: 07850	967239
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. James Joseph		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

Children's Nativity Play

For pre- and primary school age children

10am, Sunday, 15th December - Please arrive by 9.30am

St Peter's Church, Great Totham

Costumes provided

All welcome



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 February edition by: 3rd January.

Email: parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk

Disk & Paper: 17 Goat Lodge Road, Great Totham CM9 8BU.

Printed by Colt Press Ltd. Witham, Essex