



# Magazine

sent to every home in Great Totham  
March 2020

## Mothersing Sunday

### Family Service

10am Sunday 22nd March 2020

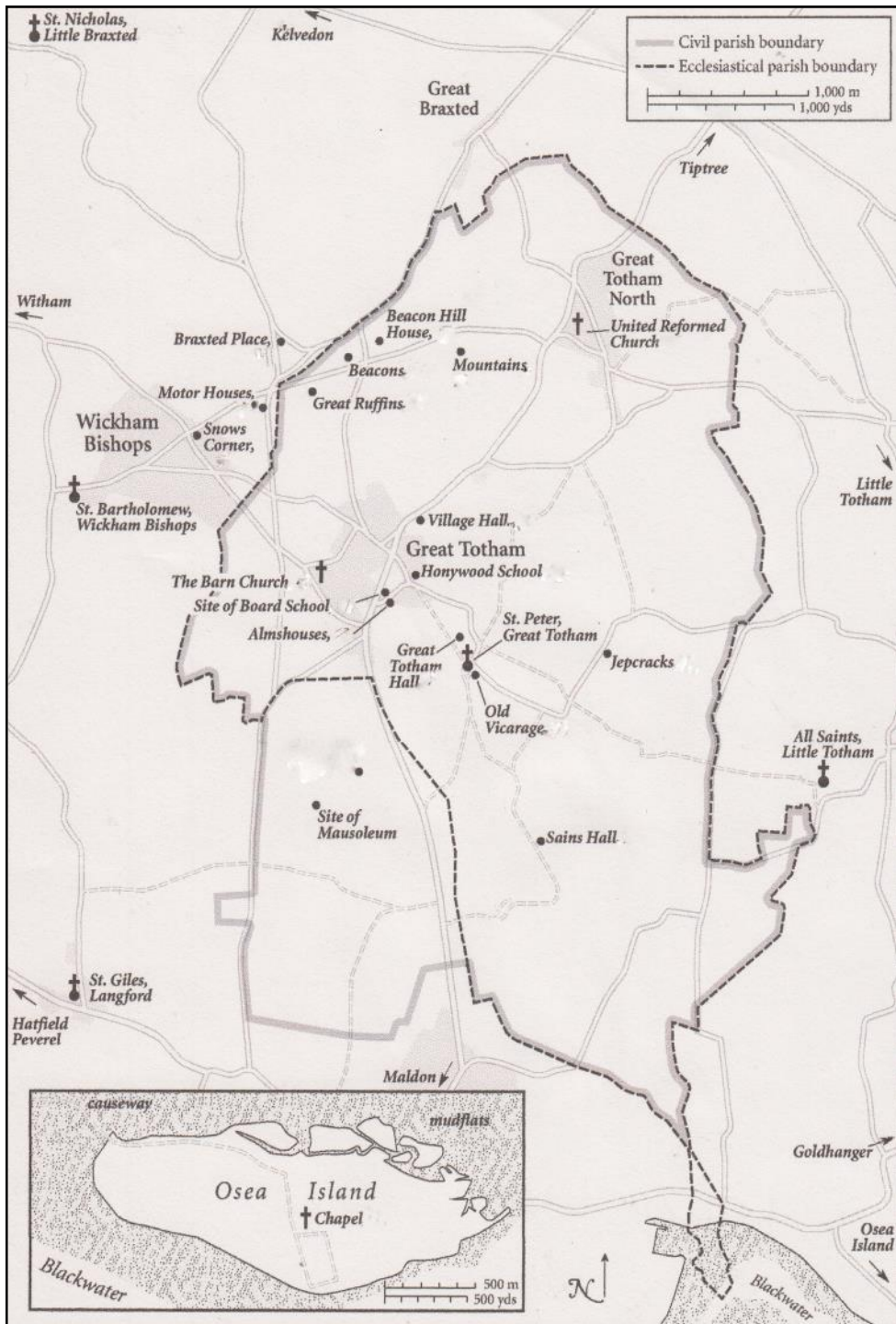
St. Peter's Church, Great Totham



You and your family are warmly invited to our Mothersing Sunday Service. Posies of flowers will be distributed for children to give to their mothers. All are invited to bring their baptism candles to the service.

**Inside this Edition**

Friends of St Peter's Church  
Looking forward to the Flower Festival



# Services and other Church Activities

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(see page 10 for details)</b>
8am	Holy Communion (Prayerbook) or Morning Prayer
10am	Parish Communion or Service of the Word (with Sunday Club for children)
6pm	Evensong



## **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**

4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Website:**

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6657](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6657)



# Church News

**Rev'd Sue Godsmark writes:**

## **Confirmation at St Peter's Church**

We are very pleased to announce that Roger, Bishop of Colchester will be holding a confirmation service at St Peter's Church, Great Totham during the evening of Wednesday, 20th May.

Confirmation is a special ceremony in which you become a full member of the Church of England; after this, you are invited to receive the Sacrament on a regular basis. Adults sometimes have their baptism and confirmation on the same day.

I will be holding some Confirmation preparation sessions beforehand, to give you more knowledge about the Christian faith and traditions; these are likely to start during March, and dates / times will be agreed with all the candidates.

As it's quite rare that confirmation services are held in your local parish church these days, it is likely that there will not be another one at St. Peter's for a considerable number of years, so we are really excited that we will be able to welcome Bishop Roger to our church here in Great Totham.

If you would like more details on confirmation in general or are interested in being confirmed in May, please do contact me, either by telephoning 01621 891513 or by email: [suegodsmark@aol.com](mailto:suegodsmark@aol.com)

*Rev'd Sue*



**Sunday Club  
Fun**



# Church News

## Church Registers

### Baptisms

9th February      2pm                      William James Frost of Great Totham

Our first baptism of 2020, witnessed by all his family and friends, was that of William James Frost of Great Totham, held at 2pm on Sunday, 2nd February, just as storm Ciara was giving Great Totham her worst.



### *In your prayers at home this month, please include:*

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

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

## Edward Bear

Just before Christmas, we had a party at Edward Bear for the pre-school children. They all tucked into sandwiches, sausage rolls, crisps and cakes. While they ate, a sack of presents was left for the children by a secret elf! The little ones loved opening their gifts.



The Edward Bear group runs every Thursday morning from 10.30am-12pm at St Peter's Church in Great Totham. We usually continue during the school holidays, therefore older siblings are also welcome to join the fun! We have a Facebook page (Edward Bear Club - Great Totham) or more details can be found on the St Peter's website.

*Rosie Pollock*



# Church News



## Messy Church

4pm to 6pm, first Sunday of the month  
at St Bartholomew's, Wickham Bishops.



Come and join the fun. Crafts, stories and food.





## St Peter's Church Great Totham



### Flower Festival 2020

Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May

#### 'Children's Literature'

May 2020 is national "Share a Story" month and St. Peter's Parish Church is proud to announce that this year's flower festival theme is "**Children's Literature**". Once again, it is time to enjoy this bi-annual event and we look forward to everyone in the community joining in to make the Flower Festival a great success. As in previous years, there will be a full programme of music, activities, refreshments and many more attractions for visitors to enjoy, along with all the wonderful flower arrangements that will be displayed inside the church.

"Children's Literature" may be interpreted as anything from fairy tales to the latest storybook. There is plenty of material to choose from; let your memories inspire you. It could be from tales around the world or one your mother told you; the list of possibilities is endless!

We also hope that the children who come along will be inspired to seek out and read books which they do not already know or re-read a favourite.

Please contribute in any of the following ways:-

- \* Supply your own floral creation.
- \* Make a donation and let our flower arrangers create your display for you.
- \* Help with event preparation or with activities during the event.
- \* Or simply make a donation to St Peter's Church, Great Totham.

Complete the reply form and post it or drop it in to:-

Flower Festival 2020, The Honynood, 29 Hall Road, Great Totham CM9 8NN

For further information, contact Rev'd Sue Godsmark or one of the Churchwardens (see page 3 for contact details).





**St Peter's Church  
Great Totham**



**Flower Festival 2020  
Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
'Children's Literature'  
Reply Form**

**Please respond by 3rd April to:-**

**Flower Festival 2020, The Honeywood, 29 Hall Road, Great Totham CM9 8NN**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would be interested in contributing to this year's Flower Festival in one or more of the following ways:

1. Nominating a person of my/our choosing to create a flower display and supplying the flowers/foliage at one of the designated sites in the church.

Chosen book: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Donating money to buy and arrange flowers for us.

Suggested book: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Donating money to the Festival organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Please let us know of any other ideas or how you might be able to help:

\_\_\_\_\_

## *Church News*

### **March Services at St Peter's Church**

<b>Sunday, 1st March</b>	8am	Holy Communion
<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>	10am	Morning Service of the Word
	6pm	Evensong
<b>Sunday, 8th March</b>	8am	Morning Prayer
<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>	10am	Family Communion
	6pm	Evensong
<b>Sunday, 15th March</b>	8am	Morning Prayer
<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	10am	Family Communion
	6pm	Evensong
<b>Sunday, 22nd March</b>	8am	Morning Prayer
<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	10am	Morning Service of the Word
<b>Mothering Sunday</b>	6pm	Evensong
<b>Sunday, 29th March</b>	8am	Morning Prayer
<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	10am	Morning Service of the Word
		Pick and Mix
	6pm	Evensong

### **Mothering Sunday Family Service**

**10am**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**

**St. Peter's Church, Great Totham**

You and your family are warmly invited to our Mothering Sunday Service. Posies of flowers will be distributed for children to give to their mothers. All are invited to bring their baptism candles to the service.

### **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

# Mothers' UNION

On Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, we have a Deanery meeting at St. Nicholas' Church, Witham, in the Church Hall. The meeting commences at 1pm, however we can take a packed lunch from 12.15pm for a time of fellowship; soup and drinks will be available.

We will be making the posies for Mothering Sunday during our March meeting on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> and on 4<sup>th</sup> April, we have our Hot Cross Bun Coffee morning; we do hope you can come along.

*Christine Walker*



### Making Posies for Mothering Sunday

Come and join us on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1.45pm to 3pm at The Honywood, Hall Road. As many hands make flowers bloom, and we will make more than 100 posies, we look forward to seeing you then. Drinks and biscuits will be provided.

*June Eaton*



Come and join us for our

**Hot Cross Bun Morning**

**Saturday, 4th April**

**10am - 12 noon**

**The Honywood, Hall Road**

We will be serving teas, coffees and of course hot cross buns.

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As we have switched the magazine to colour throughout, we are now able to offer both our loyal, long-standing advertisers, together with new customers, full colour adverts at no additional cost.

See page 18 for prices

For more details

contact Pauline Stebbing:



01621 892059

email:

parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk

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## *Church News*

### **Beacon Hill Churches Together**

The United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held at St. Bartholomew's Church on 19<sup>th</sup> January. We met at 10.30am for coffee and social time until St. Bart's choir and congregation returned from a Service at St. Nicholas', Little Braxted, celebrating the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. At 11am, Rev'd Hilary welcomed everyone and their Praise Group led the service. The collection from this service will be used to buy "It's your Move" books to be presented to Year 6 leavers from Great Totham Primary School in July.

Our next event on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March is the charity lunch for Essex Dementia Care, starting with coffee at 10.30am at the Barn Church, Prince of Wales Road. Kelly Bleasdale will speak before we all enjoy a bring and share lunch. We would particularly like to hear from people who are living with dementia themselves or supporting those who are living with dementia.

*Christine Walker*

### **National Marriage Week**

We celebrated National Marriage Week with a service of thanksgiving on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, which was attended by people of all ages, both married and single. During the service, the congregation was given the



opportunity to renew their marriage vows and listened to a short talk by Rev'd Sue, which included an extract from the marriage service as well as readings of the day. After the service, we enjoyed sharing a delicious homemade cake, together with coffee, tea and chat.

*Helen Mutton*

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# Church News

## Text for the Week: March

### 1st March

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

*Psalm 63:1*

### 8th March

The woman to be admired and praised is the woman who lives in the fear-of-God. Give her everything she deserves! Festoon her life with praises!

*Proverbs 31:30*

### 15th March

He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plough shares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

*Isaiah 2:4*

### 22nd March

He tends his flock like a shepherd: he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

*Isaiah 40:11*

### 29th March

The Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

*Isaiah 30:18*

## Bible Readings: March

1st March	Ps. 32
First Sunday of Lent	Rom. 5. 12-19
	(Gospel) Matt. 4. 1-11
8th March	Ps. 121
Second Sunday of Lent	Rom. 4. 1-5, 13-17
	(Gospel) John 3. 1-17
15th March	Exod. 17. 1-7
Third Sunday of Lent	Rom. 5. 1-11
	(Gospel) John 4. 5-42
22nd March	1 Sam. 1. 20-end
Fourth Sunday of Lent	Col. 3. 12-17
Mothering Sunday	(Gospel) Luke 2. 33-35
29th March	Ezek. 37. 1-14
Fifth Sunday of Lent	Rom. 8. 6-11
	(Gospel) John 11. 1-45

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

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# Church News



You are invited to  
**St Peter's Church  
Easter Holiday Club**



**For 5-11 year olds**

**10am to 3pm**

**Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**St. Peter's Church, Great Totham**

## **Crafts—Games—Nature Walk—Easter Egg Hunt**

Please bring a packed lunch (drinks provided) a carrier bag, wellies and a coat for a walk through South Wood.

A donation of £4 towards costs would be welcomed.

Please note places are dependent on the number of helpers.

.....  
I/We would like to come to the Easter Holiday Club on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April at St. Peter's Church.

**Name:** .....

**Date of Birth:** .....

**Address:** .....

**'Phone No:** .....

**'Phone Contact No whilst at the Club:** .....

**Parent's/Carer's Signature:** .....

**Can you help? \*Yes / No (\*Delete as applicable)**

**\*10am -12noon**

**\*12noon – 3pm**

**\*both**

**To secure a place, please return this form to Laurel Cottage, 10 Walden House Road, or the post box in the porch at Honeywood Hall, Hall Road, by 1<sup>st</sup> April.**

# Church News

## News from the Belfry

I was sitting eating my breakfast listening to the Sunday Morning Worship programme on Essex Radio when I picked up a news item relating to the bell at Shrewsbury Cathedral. Intrigued, I investigated further to see that the Sunday Times, published on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, led with the headline: "Technology sounds death knell for bell-ringers".

The bell at Shrewsbury Catholic Cathedral was commissioned by Victorian architect Edward Welby Pugin. The bell was cast in 1856 and installed in the same year, but has not rung since 1973 when the bell-wheel became detached from its headstock, which stopped it from swinging and the clapper became immovable. Following a month long project, the bell has now been cleaned, repaired and restored by bell founders John Taylor of Loughborough, who cast the original bell. It has also been fitted with an automated ringing system which allows the bell to be tolled from a programmable key fob by Cathedral staff and clergy. In addition to the automated ringing system, a rope has also been attached so the bell may be tolled manually. Simon Adams of John Taylor quoted in the Sunday Times: "It is becoming fashionable to go electric because you can't always find someone to pull the rope."

I find it unbelievable that the market town of Shrewsbury with a population of about 23 times that of Great Totham cannot muster a small band of volunteers willing to toll a single bell! We are perhaps fortunate at St. Peter's to have a band of 14 ringers. It may be fashionable to go electric, however, in this ever increasing technological age, let us hope that the tradition of manually ringing church bells may long continue.

Our post Christmas lunch was on 26<sup>th</sup> January and once again was held at Forrester Park, who did us proud. 30 guests, including ringing friends from Tollesbury, Tolleshunt D'arcy, Maldon and Danbury, enjoyed a delicious lunch.

Our congratulations go to David Kemsley who rang the tenor at All Saints, Inworth to a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This was David's first quarter peal.

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

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

*Andrew Hood*

# Church News

## Lent

St Peter's Church Lent meetings start on Wednesday, 11th March at Honywood Hall, Hall Road, 10.30am–12 noon.

Contact Paul Smith for more details on 01621 893153 or email: [pwsmith@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:pwsmith@mypostoffice.co.uk)

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written by David Wilbourne

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*Church Times reviewer*

## Church News

### 'All Age' Party at St Peter's

On Saturday 25th January, we hosted an 'all age' party at St Peter's in the church extension.

Around 50 people joined us for games, fun and food for two hours, brightening up a gloomy winter afternoon! The children kicked off the proceedings with "musical chairs". My youngest daughter Georgie (aged three), was determined not to be out of the game, so every time a chair was removed, she simply put it back again, much to the amusement of the spectators! There was also "pass the parcel" and "stick the bow tie on Edward Bear"!

For the grown ups and older children, some skill and concentration was required to play "pass the polo", using a straw! A giant bar of Dairy Milk also provided entertainment; a player needed to roll six on a dice and rapidly dress up in a scarf, hat and gloves to then cut up (and



hopefully eat) the chocolate with a knife and fork. This was not an easy task and, meanwhile, the dice continued to be rolled! We were also introduced to the "bus stop" game and, just before tea, everyone went in search of coloured pieces of wool hidden around the church. A delicious selection of party food was then devoured!

Many thanks to everyone who helped and contributed towards the party. As soon as it was over, people were asking when the next one will be, so, watch this space!!

*Rosie Pollock*

## *Church News*

### 'All Age' Party at St Peter's



### **200+ Club Draw Winners**

#### **January**

1st Prize: Vicky Heaviside

2nd Prize: Glynis Potter

3rd Prize: Brian Gleghorn

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

### **Coffee Morning**

If you haven't tried our coffee, cake and bacon butties, why not come along on the fourth Saturday in the month, 10am - 12 noon on Saturday, 28th March. A warm welcome awaits you.

*Sheila Allen*

# Village News

## March - A Month of (Special) Days

As with most months, many national days are observed in March, although March seems to have more than most. Of course, the month starts with St. David's Day on the 1<sup>st</sup>. He was a Welsh bishop based in Mynyw during the 6<sup>th</sup> century. He became the patron saint of Wales in the 12<sup>th</sup> century on the occasion of his canonisation by Pope Callixtus II. The date of March 1<sup>st</sup> commemorates the date of St David's death in 589AD.

However the first day in March is also National Fruit Compote Day, National Peanut Butter Lover's Day and National Pig Day. Naturally these 3 'food' days are observed in the US. Moving on, we have World Wildlife Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> March which was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013 set to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants. In 2020, World Wildlife Day will have the theme of 'Sustaining all life on Earth'. For the more studious, World Book Day is celebrated on 5 March. This was designated by UNESCO and is a celebration of reading observed in over 100 countries.

Women's rights celebrating women's achievements takes place every year on 8 March. This emanated from the first Women's Day organized by the Socialist Party of America back on 28 February, 1909 and expanded by the German revolutionary Clara Zetkin in 1910 (don't worry men International Men's Day is on 19 November!).

Whilst I mentioned food-related national days earlier on, we have Pi Day on 14 March although this has nothing to do with food! As most people know, Pi is a mathematical constant which determines the ratio of the circumference of a circle or its diameter and also the area of a circle to the radius. As a fraction, it is defined as  $22/7$ . The curious thing about this fraction is that the numbers beyond the decimal point never have a repeating sequence or repetition of numbers. This continues infinitely and has been calculated to over one trillion digits beyond its decimal point. For those with less patience just 3.14 is usually sufficient.

March also incorporates another patron saint's day, St Patrick, on 17 March. He is the patron saint of Ireland. He was a 5<sup>th</sup> century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland and St Patrick's Day was made an official Christian feast day in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Celebrations include attending parades and ceilidhs, wearing shamrocks and green clothing and plenty of drinking of Irish beer and whiskey.

In 2020, the official start of Spring is on 20 March which also happens to coincide with World Frog Day. Frogs are seen as important in keeping the ecosystem well-balanced so should be looked after. Again it has already been

*/continued on next page*



# Village News

*/continued from previous page*

mentioned that March is quite a literary month with World Book Day on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Well there is also World Poetry Day on 21 March. This is another day adopted by UNESCO and was inaugurated in 1999 with the aim of supporting linguistic diversity through poetic expression. Continuing with the literary theme we have Tolkien Reading Day on 25 March organised by The Tolkien Society. This has been in place since 2003 aimed at promoting the life and works of JRR Tolkien by reading favourite passages. The date is fixed as the date of the down fall of Sauron and the fall of Barad-Dur in the books.

We have missed out Mothering Sunday which will be held on 22 March this year but this is well-known. These are just some of the national days celebrated in the UK and other areas. Other world days in March include World Sleep Day (13 March); International Day of Happiness (20 March) and World Water Day (22 March). Of course, the US has many more national days of interest in the month including national Old Stuff Day (2 March); National I Want You to Be Happy Day and National Mulled Wine Day (both on 3 March!); National Frozen Food Day (6 March); National Meatball Day (9 March); National Everything You Think Is Wrong Day (so don't go making decisions on 15 March); although this is closely followed by National Everything You Do Is Right Day (16 March).

*Chris Bingham*

## Betty and Merlin Have A Date

New Years Day came, a fine bright morning; off we go for a walk around



the sea wall and along the canal bank. To begin with, Betty and Merlin were on a mission, sniffing all the doggy news, and getting excited out in the fresh air.



Before we left for home, a few of us dog walkers had a cuppa at The Old Ship Pub; once we arrived, Betty and Merlin slept the afternoon away.

*Lyndsey Phillips*

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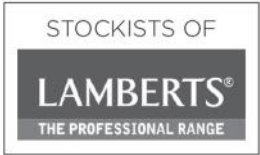
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# Village News



MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Message from the District Councillor



You may have read the publicity about the Council's proposals for the wharf charges at the Hythe for barge operators and owners. To me, barges and Maldon are completely linked. If you think of Maldon, you think barges. They are a crucial part of the town's history and heritage. They are a tremendous tourist attraction and bring visitors and resources to the district.

When the item was discussed at the Strategy and Resources Committee, I ensured that a reasoned argument was put and that we needed to support the barges and their owners. A motion to increase the fees by 10% for this year only was then created. The next step is for us to meet with the barge owners to discuss and agree how we work with them on the charges in future years. We cannot lose our unique maritime heritage and what they mean to Maldon.

As a result of the findings from the Great Totham Neighbourhood Plan, the issues of getting a bus to Broomfield Hospital were raised. With the help of the Neighbourhood Plan team, who did some great investigation, we identified the Dengie Dart bus service. This is a combination of bus and taxi services and operates across the south of the district, with the aim of getting people to the hospital. We have explored it further and it looks like there is the potential to introduce something similar in the north of the district. This would be extremely useful in places like Braxted, Little Totham and Tolleshunt Major, where there are no bus services at all.

We need to ensure that the most rural parts of the north of district have good infrastructure.

The next District Council Surgery will be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 11am, at the Forget Me Not Tea Room, Tom's Farm Shop.

[www.facebook.com/tothammatters/](http://www.facebook.com/tothammatters/)

*Kind regards  
Councillor Richard Siddall*



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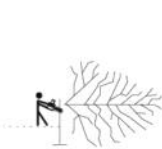


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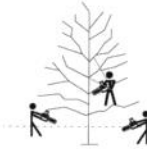
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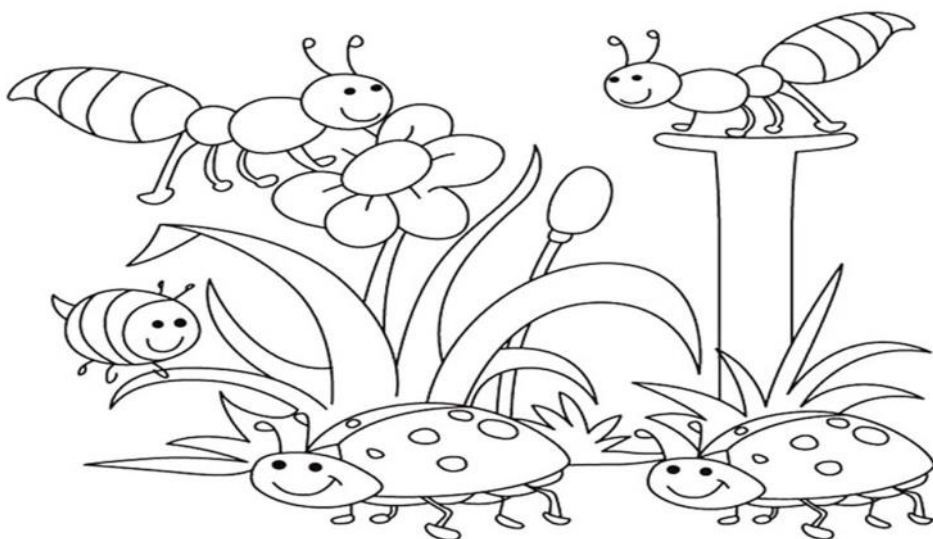


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Please be aware that we may be working or operating machinery. If we are unable to answer your call immediately, please bear with us and do leave a message – we will return your call as soon as possible!

## Children's Page

### A Picture to Colour



### Try this Quiz

- 1 Who had an encounter with the three bears?
- 2 What is the name of Winnie the Pooh's donkey friend?
- 3 Who was created by Gepetto the woodcarver?
- 4 Who is the bear in The Jungle Book?
- 5 What kind of creature was defeated by the Three Billy Goats Gruff?
- 6 Who stole Christmas in a Dr Seuss book?
- 7 Who were all the King's horses and men unable to put together again?
- 8 Who is the druid in the Asterix books?
- 9 What is the name of the Lion in The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe?
- 10 Who has written the prize-winning book The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish?
- 11 What is the name of the recreated theatre from Shakespeare's time in London?

Answers on page 45

## Village News

### Great Totham Parish Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January

The January meeting was attended by Cllrs. Mrs Adams, Atkinson, Delderfield, Gable, Gegan, Mrs. Heaviside, Keyes and Marshall. No members of the public were present.

I thought it would be appropriate to begin with an advanced notification. The Parish Clean Up Day will take place on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April. The gathering points are The Compasses, Totham North and The Village Hall, Totham South. If you arrive by 2.30pm, high-viz jackets, litter pickers and sacks will await you and provision will be made to dispose of any litter you find. However, many people like to choose their own time and, whether on that day or at any time during the day, or indeed throughout the year, your contribution to the upkeep of the village is appreciated.

Sadly, what is not appreciated is the number of motorists continuing to speed through the village, particularly along the B1022 where 45 offenders were captured in December by the Tru Cam patrol. This was in addition to those recorded by the Speedwatch team, whose members are currently exploring possibilities for improving signage in the hope the situation can be improved. It may be, of course, that people breaking the speed limit are only 'passing through', however, I suspect it is also 'locals' travelling too fast who are cutting up verges around the village. There is ample room to access and exit the Village Hall car park but, recently, the soil has been churned up on either side. The corner of Totham Hill Green has also been ruined again, which is very dispiriting for those who tend it. One of the public spirited volunteers, an erstwhile driver for Stan's Coaches, regularly drove large vehicles along Totham Hill Green and into Beckingham Road without the need to leave the carriageway!

Councillor Atkinson and Councillor Marshall have been busy undertaking maintenance around the village and will continue to be so. Three seats need attention, and hawthorn and hazel shrubs will be planted to thicken the 'new' hedge on Bull green. It was noted that the green had not been secured after recent grass cutting and this will be attended to. At Totham North, the phone box is seriously in need of refurbishment, for which quotes have been sought; Parish notice boards will also be renovated.

Subsequent to the last meeting, Councillors received notification of a new textile recycling scheme. It is stressed that this is not in competition

*/continued on next page*



# Village News

/continued from previous page

with donations currently made to charity shops, but a complementary system provided for those who are unable to deliver items themselves. Maldon District Council, in partnership with Essex Textiles, is to provide a clothing and textile kerbside collection, and this began in February. Blue recycling sacks have been distributed to every household and donations will be collected on your scheduled recycling day. Further information may be obtained by visiting [www.essextextiles.co.uk](http://www.essextextiles.co.uk), and direct contact with Essex Textiles made by phoning 0800 787 9071 or e-mailing [info@essextextiles.co.uk](mailto:info@essextextiles.co.uk).

The annual Halifax Quality of Life research, which analyses local authorities across England, Scotland and Wales based on 26 different factors homebuyers may consider when choosing a place to live, has declared Maldon to be the fifth most desirable area. MDC replied, 'Our District is defined by the Rivers Crouch and Blackwater, which make up the dynamic Saltmarsh Coast and have influenced the area's development for thousands of years: quaint villages and historic towns steeped in timeless heritage all full of exciting surprises'. Just a personal comment, of course, but I hope the 'timeless heritage' and 'quaint villages' are not overwhelmed by too many 'exciting surprises'!

Ending on a cheerful note, the precept this year is to remain at £15.60 for a Band D property.

The March (Annual) meeting is at 7.30pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup>.

*Vicky Heaviside*

## **CNA YUO RAED TIHS? OLN Y 55% OF PLEPOE CAN**

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*Anon—sourced by Paul Smith*

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# Village News

## Great Totham Gardening Club

We look forward to seeing you on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March in the Village Hall at 7.45pm when Chris Mead will explain all about honey bees and what gardeners can do to assist them. The Spud Bucket Challenge will also commence, when Norman will be supplying buckets and seed potatoes for you to grow until the Autumn Show.



On Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

The Spring Show is fast approaching on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm in the Village Hall; entries close at 7pm on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April. These should be sent to:

\* Mr. S. Hyam, 1 Staplers Heath; or Mrs. L. Warr, 28 Chapel Road.

There are Divisions for Flowers, Floral Art, Amateur Photography, Cookery, Vegetables, Arts and Crafts and Children's classes up to 14 years.

Please come and view the entries if you are not exhibiting; there will be homemade refreshments throughout the afternoon and we look forward to seeing you.

*Christine Walker*

## Wickham Bishops Flower Club



We look forward to seeing members and friends at 7.30pm in Great Totham Village Hall on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> when Janice Swan will be with us with her 'Designs For All Occasions' demonstration.

Don't forget your Flower of the Month for our charity competition now that flowers are appearing in our gardens.

*Christine Walker*

## British Summer Time

Remember to put your clocks and watches forward one hour when you go to bed on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, as British Summer Time begins on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March.



  
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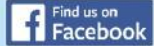
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# Village News

## Contacting the Police

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

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Maldon Police 0300 333 4444 or 101

Maldon District Council Offices

Princes Road Monday—Thursday: 9am—5pm

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](mailto:ianpb3@gmail.com)

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

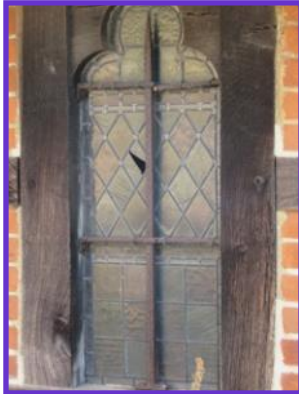
## Future Events

- 4 Apr Gardening Club Spring Show Village Hall 2.30pm
- 5 Apr Palm Sunday Service St. Peter's 10am
- 9 Apr Eucharist of the Last Supper 7.30pm St. Peter's Church
- 10 Apr Stations of the Cross 2pm St. Peter's Church
- 12 Apr Dawn Eucharist 6.30am Family Communion 10am  
St. Peter's Church
- 14 Apr Easter Holiday Club St. Peter's 10am to 3pm
- 19 Apr St. Peter's Church Annual Meeting after 10am Service
- 21 Apr Gardening Club 7.45pm Village Hall Lou Nicholls  
Gardening at Ulting Wick
- 2/3 May Flower Festival St. Peter's Church 'Children's Books' theme
- 27 Jun Summer Fete

## Church News

### Church Windows

Following recent repairs, here are “before” and “after” images of one of the two porch windows in St Peter’s Church. There were several broken and cracked panes in both and the wrought iron grilles were also repaired and repainted.



In addition, the high level north aisle window was repaired. Although it is impossible to see the difference, it was in danger of falling out and contained a fragment of pre-Reformation glass which was rescued and incorporated into the repair.



It can be seen with binoculars if you stand on tiptoe at the organ end of the north aisle!

*Paul Smith*

### Women’s World Day of Prayer

This year the service which is to be held on Friday, 6th March has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe with the theme “Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk”. These yearly services are very interesting, learning about the conditions in different countries, and you will be made very welcome at the Methodist Church in Guithavon Street, Witham, starting at 1.30pm.

*Christine Walker*

# Village News

## Great Totham WI

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

It was a hive, or should I say a warren, of activity at our February meeting, as Brenda Steele, aided by fellow members Kath Welsh and Tina Finch, instructed us in the construction of Easter Bunnies.

We had been asked to come armed with a knitted square, some extra wool, a needle, scissors and a ruler or tape measure. Written instructions were provided on each table and our efforts began.



Amongst much laughter, our rabbits began to take shape, some more successfully than others!

Brenda had thoughtfully provided us with the material to stuff our creations and also ready-made pompom tails, crocheted flowers and ribbon to tie around their necks.



Everyone agreed that the evening had been a great success and I am sure we will try our hand at other craft activities in the near future.

In March we are looking forward to a homemade Chocolate Demonstration by The Chapel Chocolate House

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings, held on the second Thursday of the month at Great Totham Village Hall. Email [greattothamwi@gmail.com](mailto:greattothamwi@gmail.com) for more information, or visit the website [www.greattothamwi.weebly.com](http://www.greattothamwi.weebly.com)

*Sue Pulford*



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**Visit our website: [www.tothamlodge.com](http://www.tothamlodge.com)**

**Email: [tothamlodge@btconnect.com](mailto:tothamlodge@btconnect.com)**



# Village News



*Join the Friends of St Peter's, Great Totham  
Help preserve the beauty of the building and  
care for the rich diversity of wildlife in the  
churchyard*

## Membership 2020

I would like to renew my membership \_\_\_\_\_  
I would like to become a Friend of St Peter's \_\_\_\_\_

Individual membership	£10.00 pa	_____
Family membership	£20.00 pa	_____
Corporate membership	£50.00 pa	_____
Individual Life membership	£100.00 pa	_____
Donation		_____

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Phone..... Email.....

**In accordance with data protection legislation, your data will be stored securely and used solely in conjunction with your membership of the charity. At no time will your details be divulged to a third party. Please sign below to consent to these conditions.**

Signature ..... Date .....

**In order for us to be able to treat your membership fee and all qualifying gifts of money as Gift Aid (at no cost to you), please sign below.**

### Gift Aid declaration:

I/we want Friends of St. Peter's, Great Totham to treat all donations I make from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as gift Aid donation.

Signature ..... Date .....

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount in Income Tax and/or Capital Gain Tax for each tax year that you reclaim on my gifts for that tax year.

I will notify you if I no longer pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax you reclaim on my donations.

### Please return this form and subscription to the Membership Secretary:

Colin Heaviside, 12, Totham Hill Green, Great Totham, CM9 8DX Tel: 01621 893067  
Membership fees can be paid in cash or by cheque payable to The Friends of St Peter's Church.

# Village News

## Friends of Saint Peter's Church

Once again we offer heartfelt thanks to the Friends of St Peter's Church for their continuing support. Through their generosity, we have been able to make a sizeable donation towards the essential specialist work of restoring some of the stained glass windows. In the south porch, six broken quarries were mended, and the metal bars cleared of rust and painted. Windows in the north aisle were re-leaded and the 16<sup>th</sup> century glass quatrefoil tracery light in the Annunciation window reinstated in its manganese bronze frame with lead tape edging. An equal contribution to the cost was made by Great Totham Community Choir to whom we also offer thanks.

Saint Peter's has continued to engage with residents through weekly services and activities. The Christmas services were joyous occasions and well attended, as were the Summer Fete and the Christmas Fayre. Plans are currently underway for the Flower Festival which will take place on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

To renew your membership or become a new Friend of St Peter's Church, please complete the application form opposite and return to the Membership Secretary. By doing so, you will be confirming your consent to the society holding and using your contact details solely for the purposes of the charity. Information is never divulged to a third party.

*Vicky Heaviside  
Secretary*



## Great Totham Neighbourhood Plan Housing Needs Survey



The Neighbourhood Plan has until now been about gathering information and the views of village residents. We have used this to produce draft papers on the issues you told us were important to you. Our professional consultant will now put our work into the format required of a plan. He has commented favourably on the content and the level of local involvement to date.

When the final version is complete, the Parish Council will formally adopt the plan and move to a formal public consultation process where the village will be able to read the draft plan and comment on it before an independent Examiner is appointed to undertake a formal review.

*Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group*

## Village News



# Strictly Air Ambulance



**A SPECTACULAR EVENING OF  
DANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT**

RAISING FUNDS FOR ESSEX & HERTS AIR AMBULANCE



With celebrity judges <<

**PASHA KOVALEV  
& CHLOE HEWITT**

and hosted by BBC TV and Radio Presenter  
**DAVID WHITELEY**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March | Five Lakes  
Resort, Maldon, CM9 8HX

Standard tickets: £27.50 | Concession: £25

Get your tickets now at:  
[ehaat.org/strictly-air-ambulance](http://ehaat.org/strictly-air-ambulance)



Charity Number: 1108989



Essex & Herts  
**Air Ambulance**

Your local life-saving charity

# The Village Hall

## Gardening Club



The Gardening Club also uses the facilities at the Hall for 6 months of the year. We hold 2 shows, one in Spring and another in Autumn with other meetings during the gardening season from March to December.

We have a variety of guest speakers, starting the year at 8 p.m. on the 16th March with “Adventures in Beekeeping” with Chris Mead. Also in March we have a Fish & Chip Supper at 6.30 for 7 p.m on the 21st.

April sees us busy with the Spring Show on the 4th April. Entries are judged at 11 a.m. and the show opens at 2.30 p.m. The Schedule of classes is available at the Post Office and there are many varied topics such as photography, cookery and sections for children’s entries.

Everyone, young and not so young, beginners and the more experienced are welcome to attend our meetings. Come and join us —

**Gardening is good for us - and the environment!**

## Wickham Bishops WI



Our craft group (Patcher) meets every Friday 2-4pm at St Bartholomew’s Church Hall. Learn something new, bring along your unfinished project and join us for a friendly afternoon chat and cup of tea. Alternatively, join our village walking group at 9.30am on Monday mornings opposite the Village Hall in Church Road.

For more information about WB WI, call secretary, Sharon, on 01621 891631. *Jayne Kneale*

## Answers to the children’s quiz

- |               |                 |                  |            |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| 1. Goldilocks | 2. Eeyore       | 3. Pinocchio     | 4. Baloo   |
| 5. A Troll    | 6. The Grinch   | 7. Humpty Dumpty | 8. Getafix |
| 9. Aslan      | 10. Neil Gaiman | 11. The Globe    |            |

## March Village Diary

- 1st St. David's Day – First Day of Lent  
 2nd Prayer Hour 10am Honeywood  
 6th Women's World Day of Prayer Service Methodist Church, Guithavon Street, Witham, 1.30pm  
 9th Great Totham Parish Council Annual Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm  
 11th Lent Group 10.30am Honeywood  
 12th BHCT Essex Dementia Care Charity Bring & Share lunch 10.30am The Barn Church, Prince of Wales Road, Great Totham  
 WI Village Hall 8pm 'Homemade Chocolate Demonstration' The Chocolate House  
 14th Coffee morning URC 10am-1130am  
 16th MU Deanery Meeting St. Nicholas Church Hall, Witham 12.15pm for 1pm  
 Great Totham Gardening Club 7.45pm Village Hall – Chris Mead talking about Bee Keeping and how we can help in our gardens  
 17th PCC Meeting 7.30pm Honeywood  
 20th MU making posies for Mothering Sunday 1.45pm Honeywood  
 21st Gardening Club Fish & Chip Supper Village Hall 6.30pm for 7pm  
 22nd Mothering Sunday Service 10am St. Peter's Church  
 24th Flower Club 7.30pm Village Hall – Janice Swan  
 'Designs for all Occasions'  
 26th WI 2pm Wickham Bishops St. Bartholomew's Church Hall  
 28th Coffee morning Honeywood 10am-12noon  
 Clocks forward 1 hour tonight



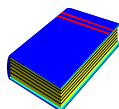
Covers created by  
 Purple Rabbit Designer



Rotas	Church Flowers	Church Cleaning
1st March	Lent	Mr and Mrs Campbell
8th March	Lent	Mr and Mrs Kemsley
15th March	Lent	-
22nd March	Lent	Jenny Barclay and Anja Schmalfluss
29th March	Lent	-

**Church Kitchen Cleaning March:** 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		<a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk">www.girlguiding.org.uk</a>	
Scouts, Cubs, Beavers at Prances	Brenda Heal	<a href="mailto:bjheal@btinternet.com">bjheal@btinternet.com</a>	
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
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: <a href="mailto:freemans21@hotmail.com">freemans21@hotmail.com</a>		
Maldon Croquet Club	Forrester Park	Philippa Hardy-King	892387
Wickham Bishops Drama Club	Roger Lyons	<a href="http://www.wickhambishopsdrama.co.uk">www.wickhambishopsdrama.co.uk</a>	
Great Totham Community Choir	Colin Heaviside	<a href="mailto:heavicol@aol.com">heavicol@aol.com</a>	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		Karin Mann	891215
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
Water			01245 491234
Electricity			0845 6014516
Frank (Drugs Helpline) (free)			0300 1236600
Childline Helpline for children			0800 1111 (free)
Neril (help for mental health)			0845 0900 909
NSPCC 24 hr helpline for children			0800 800 500 (free)
The Samaritans			116 123
DIAL UK (Disability Information & Advice Line)			<a href="http://www.dialuk.info">www.dialuk.info</a>
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



# Mothers' Union Hot Cross Bun Coffee Morning

10am - 12 noon

Saturday, 4th April

The Honywood, Hall Road, Great Totham

Easter themed raffle

Do join us for a warm welcome and good company

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 April edition by: 3rd March.

Email: [parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk)

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

Printed by Colt Press Ltd. Witham, Essex