



# Magazine

sent to every home in Great Totham

April 2020

## Easter Services

at St. Peter's Church

Due to the coronavirus outbreak all church services have been suspended for the time being.

Please refer to the church website for further information.

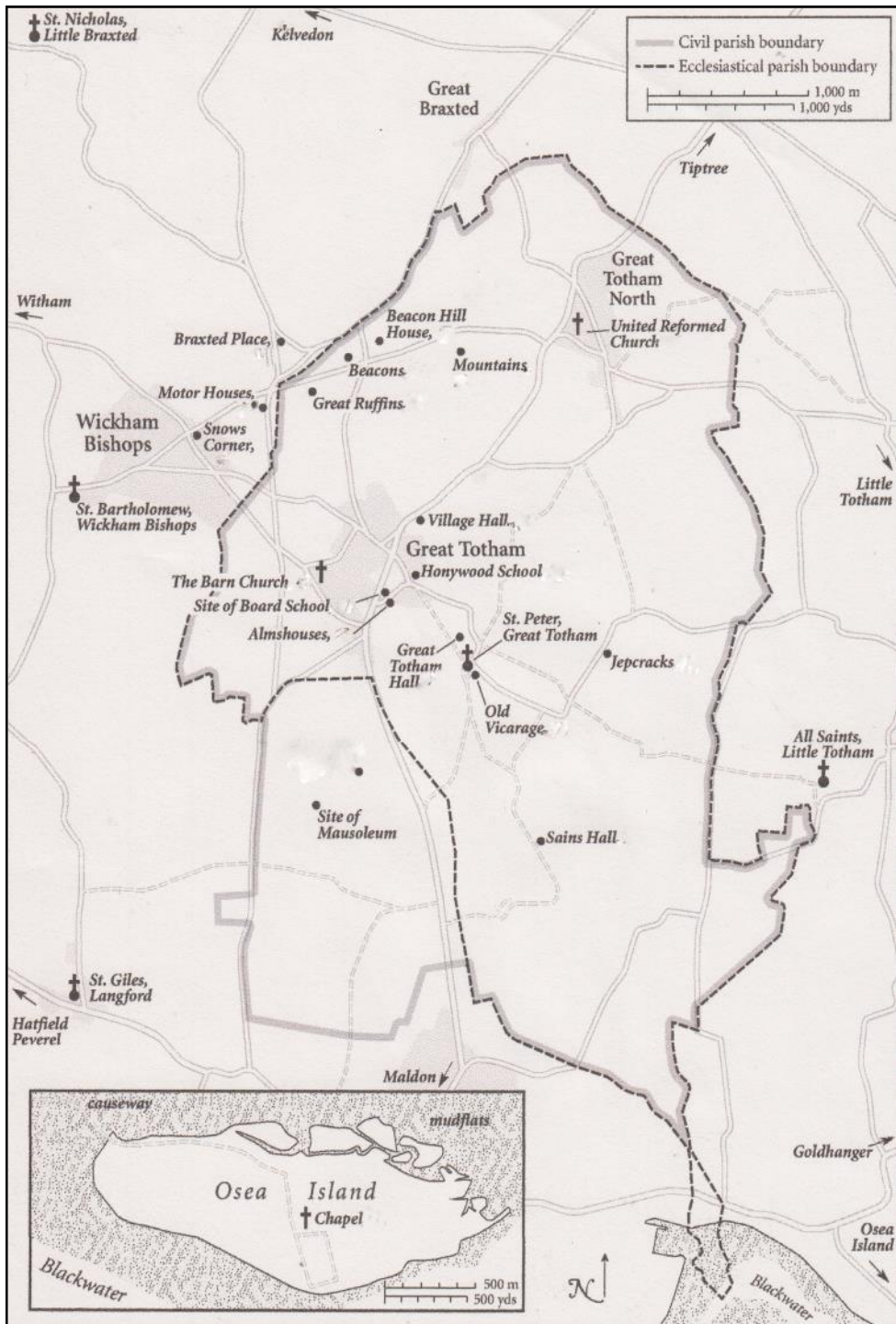
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6657/>

Everyone Welcome



Inside this Edition

Pancake Day Fun  
Easter Buns and Bunnies



# 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

### Meet Rev'd Tracey Harvey

Hi, my name is Rev'd Tracey Harvey. I am currently the Curate at Coggeshall, Marks Hall, Stisted, Pattiswick, Bradwell and Cressing (living in Coggeshall). Some of you may remember me from the three month placement I did during October to December last year, in Great Totham, Little Totham, Goldhanger and the North Blackwater Parishes. I am thrilled to be returning in June to join you all permanently as your Priest in Charge.



I originate from Southend-on-Sea and lived in and around Southend all my life until I moved to Coggeshall when I was ordained. Prior to being ordained, I worked for the Civil Service for 10 years

at Southend Jobcentre and, before that, did various jobs in either admin or retail.

I am a widow, having lost my husband in January 2019. We were not blessed with children, however, I do have two "fur babies" in the form of my cocker Spaniels, Bella and Meg. You will no doubt get to meet them when I move to Tolleshunt D'Arcy and start enjoying the lovely walks around the parishes.

If I haven't already met you, do come and say hello! I'm really excited to see where God is going to lead us in the future. God bless.

*Rev'd Tracey*

### ***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.

# Church News

## Coronavirus

The Church of England has published information on how it is responding to the coronavirus situation, drawing on best practice advice from Public Health England and the NHS. Visit the website for the most up-to-date details:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

At the time of writing, adjustments are also being made to Holy Communion and other services, events, pastoral visits and community activities at St Peter's. This includes setting up a telephone support service for those self-isolating. In addition, forthcoming events may be cancelled or postponed, and decisions will be made as the situation develops.

Please visit the website for the most up to date guidance:



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

<https://www.facebook.com/StPetersChurchGreatTotham/>

Alternatively, contact Rev'd Sue Godsmark or one of the churchwardens for general information, details of the telephone support service (see page 3 for contact details) or event organisers for specific information.



## Church Registers

### Funeral

27 February

Mary Rowley Bradley

of Great Totham

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

## Pancake day FUN



The forecast for Shrove Tuesday was for rain. There was a big puddle and lots of mud on the front area at the Honeywood Hall where races were due to take place. So, in hope rather than expectation, we prepared for the event. Some drops of rain fell, smudging the sign Rachel had put up, however, the sun broke through as some hardy people arrived to brave the cold.

So many children came that races had to be set up in teams and relays. The grass was slippery and muddy and, as space was limited, rubber circles were used as stepping stones. The children readily adapted to this concept; even though it was more challenging to the younger ones, they joined in and encouraged one another. The pancake races using cut-out cardboard pancakes had to be abandoned as the “pancakes” flew away in the arctic breeze, so these were substituted for bean bags, which flipped very well. Shallow bowls were used as there were not enough frying pans!



## Church News

/continued from page 6



To warm up, we bundled into the Honywood to colour and draw on the cardboard pancakes. I had only prepared 20 and there were 30 children, but some were just babes in arms, so thankfully, no-one seemed to mind. I had planned other games, however, by this time the tempting aroma of freshly cooked pancakes filled the air. So the mission began to distribute chef John's homemade, light, fluffy pancakes with crispy edges, drizzled with hand squeezed lemon juice and a light dusting of sugar by sous chef Mary. Both children and adults devoured the fresh pancakes and also enjoyed decorating some bought ones with "squirty" cream, maple syrup and various toppings. Who knew that marshmallow or biscoff spread existed?

Whilst munching and having teas and coffees, the adults and some children filled in the quiz. Most knew that Lent lasted for 47 days or 40 fasting days (Sundays aren't fast days). Some also had 1445 as the first pancake race in Olney, Buckinghamshire. The story goes that a woman heard the bell ring and, realising she was late, ran to church still holding a frying pan containing a pancake. Another story says that pancakes were taken to the bell ringers to bribe them to ring sooner and signal the beginning of the day early so that the enjoyment could start. In the chaos I neglected to give out the answers to the quizzes, but expect a quick search on the web would reveal them!



Everyone had a cupcake to take home and some children were awarded certificates for taking part in the games. A big thank you to all the children for joining in with the games and to everyone who brought them along.

We run a Sunday Club during church services at St Peter's, so please feel free to come along, all are welcome.

*Vanessa Ellams*



## Church News

### **Mary Rowley Bradley** **15 April 1934—22 January 2020**



My sister, Mary, who died recently, started her working life helping my father and mother on their smallholding, where we had pigs, chickens, geese, and ducks. She then went to evening classes to learn shorthand and typing, reaching 100 words a minute. This led to her to being employed as a solicitor's clerk at Crick and Freemans in Maldon, where she worked until she retired.

Mary was a member of the Old Time Dancing Club for many years and it is here that she met her future husband, Arthur Bradley. She was also a member of the Mothers' Union here at Great Totham.

Both my sisters Elizabeth and Mary, and myself, were all born at "The Cottage" in Chapel Road. When we were children, all sleeping in the same room, one night when all was quiet, Mary hurled a lettuce across the room, earth as well, which caused great laughter. Mayhem really. Our parents were not amused.

Back in October 1987, the night of the hurricane, which Roger, Anna and myself slept through, Mary knocked on our front door at 7 o'clock in the morning. As I opened the door, there stood Mary, boots, coat and scarf on. As she came in, a whole lot of leaves blew in with her. From that day to this, it is always referred to as hurricane Mary.

We have lived all our lives in Chapel Road, however, during the last few years, Mary was in Elmcroft Care Home, where she was looked after and cared for very well. Thank you to all the staff for the excellent care and attention Mary received from you all. I would also like to thank Reverend Sue Godsmark for her weekly visits to Mary at the home, which I am sure made her feel she was still part of her church here at St. Peter's.

Mary went into hospital on Christmas Eve and was there for four weeks. Roger and I visited her every other day and it was very sad to see her deteriorating on every visit. She was in a lot of pain and discomfort at times, and now is free of all that and at peace.

Roger and I would like to thank Rev'd Sue Godsmark for her help and kindness to us at this sad time, and for taking the service for Mary.

*Rebekah*



## Church News



Assuming this goes ahead, we look forward to welcoming you to The Honeywood, Hall Road, on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> April for our annual Hot Cross Bun Coffee morning, with Easter in mind, from 10am to 12noon.

*Christine Walker*

### **World Day of Prayer**

The service this year was prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe, which means 'House of Stones'. The World Day of Prayer is celebrated all over Zimbabwe by many Christians in organisations, Churches, universities and schools. It is a land-locked country south east Africa about twice the size of the UK, bordered by South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique. There are two large rivers, Zambesi in the north and Limpopo in the south.

The service began with the leaders entering as Zimbabwean music was played. Leader 1 walked with a Bible to the altar open at John 5:2-9. Leader 2 brought a sisal mat and laid it on the altar and Leader 3 guided 3 girls to light 3 candles – representing love [red], peace [white] and reconciliation [yellow]. After prayers of Praise and Confession we sang 'For the healing of the nations' and then listened to a letter from the women of Zimbabwe. The service continued with the Bible reading from John 5 with a meditation of the story of a man who had been sick for 38 years and Jesus asking him "Do you want to be made well?" Jesus gives the man a chance saying "Rise! Take your mat and walk." We sang "Make me a channel of your peace" and prayers of thanksgiving and intercession followed. "The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended" was the closing hymn and we were all presented with a sisal plait, that can be used as a bookmark, as a symbol of the service and our commitments of love, peace and reconciliation.

Refreshments were then served in the adjoining room. Next year the service will be prepared by Vanuatu with the theme 'Build on a Strong Foundation'.

*Christine Walker*

## Church News

### April Services at St Peter's Church

<b>Sunday, 5th April</b>	8am	Holy Communion
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	10am	Morning Service of the Word
	6pm	Evensong
<b>Thursday, 9th April</b>	7.30pm	Eucharist of the Last Supper
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>		followed by Prayer Watch
<b>Friday, 10th April</b>	2pm	Stations of the Cross
<b>Good Friday</b>		
<b>Sunday, 12th April</b>	6.30am	Dawn Eucharist
<b>Easter Day</b>	8am	Morning Prayer
	10am	Family Communion
	6pm	Evensong
<b>Sunday, 19th April</b>	8am	Morning Prayer
<b>The Second Sunday of</b>	10am	Family Communion and AGM
<b>Easter</b>	6pm	Evensong
<b>Sunday, 26th April</b>	8am	Morning Prayer
<b>The Third Sunday of</b>	10am	Morning Service of the Word
<b>Easter</b>	6pm	Evensong

### Easter

Rev'd Sue Godsmark, the Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council wish you all a very happy Easter.

We would be delighted to see you at one of our services. For more details, please contact Rev'd Sue, Isobel Doubleday, Karen Tarpey or any member of the congregation.

*Christine Walker*



### 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

### Decorating St. Peter's for Easter

The period of Lent has meant a time without any flowers decorating our church. To celebrate the rising of the Lord on Easter Day, we would like to have a wonderful display throughout.



Please come along to help decorate St. Peter's on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> April from 9am onwards. You are all very welcome.

*Christine Walker*





### Easter Lilies

If you would like to commemorate a loved one at Easter, you are invited to make a donation towards the cost of lilies to decorate St. Peter's church.

Donations can be given to Sue Keyes, or one of the Churchwardens, Isobel Doubleday or Karen Tarpey.

*Christine Walker*

 **Hot Cross Bun Morning**   
**Saturday, 4th April**  
**10am - 12 noon**  
**The Honywood, Hall Road**

Tea, Coffee, Hot Cross Buns, Easter Raffle  
Cakes, jams, marmalades for sale

**Please note that, at the time of writing, we are unsure whether this event will go ahead. Phone June Eaton on 891315 for more information, or visit the church website (details on page 3).**

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## *Church News*

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

St Peter's Annual Parochial Church Meeting is planned to take place in church immediately after the 10am service on Sunday, 19 April.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect people to offices including the two churchwardens and deputy churchwardens, the Parochial Church Council (PCC), sides-people and Deanery Synod representatives. In addition, the latest Electoral Roll will be presented, together with the Annual Report and Accounts for approval and summaries of church activities during the year.

If you are a regular church member, please ensure your name is on the Electoral Roll so that you may nominate and vote church members into office.

However, all are welcome and if you have registered and are prepared to stand for one of the elected positions, even better.

Please check the website to ensure the event is going ahead before attending.

*Rev'd Sue Godsmark and Churchwardens*

### **Coffee Morning**

Our coffee morning is normally held on the fourth Saturday in the month, 10am—12 noon. However, at the time of writing, we are unsure if this event will take place in April. Please therefore visit the website for the most up to date information:

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

*Sheila Allen*

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

#### **February**

1st Prize: Rebekah Clark

2nd Prize: David Kemsley

3rd Prize: Janet Morley

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

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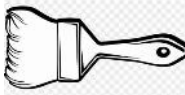


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# Church News

## Text for the Week: April

### 5th April Palm Sunday

Rejoice greatly, Daughter of Zion!  
Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!  
See, your king comes to you,  
righteous and victorious, lowly and  
riding on a donkey, on a colt, the  
foal of a donkey.

*Zechariah 9:9*

### 12th April Easter Sunday

Praise be to the God and Father of  
our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great  
mercy he has given us new birth  
into a living hope through the  
resurrection of Jesus Christ from  
the dead.

*1 Peter 1:3*

### 19th April

Be strong and courageous. Do  
not be discouraged, for the Lord  
your God will be with you wherever  
you go.

*Joshua 1:9*

### 26th April

Like the Holy One who called you,  
be holy yourselves in all your  
conduct (be set apart from the  
world by your godly character and  
moral courage); because it is  
written, 'You shall be holy (set  
apart), for I am holy'.

*1 Peter 1:15-16*

## Bible Readings: April

5th April  
Palm Sunday

Isa. 50. 4-9  
Phil. 2. 5-11  
(Gospel) Matt. 27. 11-54

12th April  
Easter Day

Ps. 118. 1-2, 14-24  
Acts. 10. 34-43  
(Gospel) John 20. 1-18

19th April  
The second Sunday of Easter

Acts. 2-14a, 22-32  
1 Pet. 1. 3-9  
(Gospel) John 20. 19-end

26th April  
The third Sunday of Easter

Zeph. 3. 14-end  
Acts. 2. 14a, 36-41  
(Gospel) Luke 24. 13-35

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# Church News



## Messy Church



The theme in March was Falling and Breaking. This is based on Acts of the Apostles chapter 20:7-12, the story of Eutychus, who fell asleep on a window ledge and fell to the ground while listening to St Paul.

There were oil lamps in the room so we created lamps and lanterns, followed by making flat bread as, in the story, they also had communion. We later ate the bread with wonderful Turkish food.

*Sandra Smith*



**4pm to 6pm, first Sunday of the month  
at St Bartholomew's, Wickham Bishops.  
Come and join the fun. Crafts, stories and food.**

*(Check details before attending)*

# Church News

## News from the Belfry

Last month I wrote about how technology can now automatically ring church bells. It is therefore refreshing that the village of Starcross in Devon uses its church bells to warn villagers of imminent flooding in the event of a failure of the current communication system.

The village of Starcross is situated on the banks of the River Exe about a mile upstream from Exmouth. The Great Western Railway beyond Exeter passes through the village and then follows the Devon coast to Teignmouth before heading inland to Newton Abbot. On 5th February 2014, a section of the sea wall at Dawlish collapsed, due to high winds and tides and left the railway track to Cornwall suspended in mid air. It is therefore possible that Starcross is liable to flood.

St. Paul's Church, Starcross has two bells. The smaller was cast in 1776 and is older than the church. The larger bell was cast by T Mears of London, possibly in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Over the years the smallest bell, rung to call villagers to church, became unsafe and was no longer rung. Likewise the heavier bell which chimed the hour seized up, causing the hammer to remain resting on the bell after it had been struck.

With an Environment Agency Grant, restoration of the bells and fittings started on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and was completed in February 2019. A Blessing and Commissioning of the bells and clock face took place on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019. In the event of the Environment Agency's electronic warning and other forms of communication failing, an SOS will be manually rung on the bells of St. Paul's. For more interesting information visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/church-bells-to-be-back-up-warning-for-flooding-in-starcross>



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*



# *The Village Hall*

## DEFIBRILLATOR

**A Defibrillator machine has been installed on the outside of the Village Hall.**

**This has been donated in memory of a cherished family member. If you are in the position of needing to use one, please do not worry about not having any training, as the Ambulance Service will talk you through the procedure while you are on the telephone.**

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## FLOWER CLUB



**WELCOME** to Wickham Bishops Flower Club - We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the Month at 7.30 p.m. in Great Totham Village Hall. We usually have a demonstrator who creates some varied and interesting designs, which are raffled at the end of the evening. You don't need to have any knowledge or skill at flower arranging - just enjoy the flowers and the friendship. However, many people have been surprised at how much they have learned just by watching! We also have "workshops", which are totally non-competitive and which al-

ways prove popular. As a Club we are sometimes invited to take part in flower festivals (see photo above) which are enjoyable. Again, anyone can help even if you only want to sweep up, or fetch and carry - most useful!

We are fortunate to have the use of a very comfortable hall, with plenty of parking.

You are all very welcome, men and women, with the chance to make new friends, so why not give it a try?

Wendy Blagrove, Chairman  
(Tel: 01621-892035)

## Essex High Sheriff's Year

Great Totham resident, Jim Bettley, has spent the last 12 months undertaking the role of High Sheriff of Essex. This is an ill-defined post, with the only specific job seeming to be responsibility for proclaiming the new monarch. Fortunately, at the time of writing, Jim had not been required to undertake that task.

I caught up with Jim to talk about the highlights of his year.

### **What has been most rewarding about being High Sheriff?**

You could ask what is the point of the High Sheriff; if the role didn't exist, would anyone notice? The world would still carry on, but it would be a duller place. For me, the highlight has been meeting all sorts of people and understanding the jobs they do; most people don't get this opportunity.

The headline role of the High Sheriff is to support the judiciary and all those concerned with law and order in the county. I've been hugely privileged to meet many Crown Court judges, be present during sentencing (on one occasion for murder), and they have been kind enough to talk to me before and afterwards to explain the process. On other occasions, I have attended family, magistrates' and coroner's courts, as well as going out with the Police during both day and night.

I've visited staff and volunteers who work at some of the county's 10,000 community and voluntary organisations, covering an extraordinary range, focussing on the 200 or so concerned with community safety, law and order. These included organisations tackling homelessness, abuse or drug/alcohol dependency, those working with ex-offenders and young people at danger of offending or those providing alternative education for children excluded from school. For example, in February I visited SOS Rape Crisis in Southend, who help victims of rape and sexual abuse. Their dedication and professional expertise are truly impressive; similarly 57 West, a drop-in centre run by the Baptist Church, who provide lunch for homeless people four or five days a week. I've heard that some High Sheriffs become a little depressed by this heightened awareness of so many issues, but through my role as a magistrate most of these problems were familiar to me, and I have been heartened to discover so much good work going on to make things better. Lucy has joined me on many of these visits and her experience of working with Citizens Advice has been invaluable in helping me to understand the contribution made by the voluntary sector to our communities.

### **What do voluntary organisations gain from the High Sheriff's visits?**

Staff and volunteers do appreciate getting acknowledgement of their work and it's been an opportunity for me to say thank you. As the year has gone on, I

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# Village News

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have gained more experience, which has been helpful in putting people from different organisations in touch with each other. Those working in the voluntary sector can feel that they are working in a bubble, busy focussing on their own geographical area, without realising that others are doing similar work elsewhere. I have also been able to suggest sources of funding, including the High Sheriffs' Fund, part of the Essex Community Foundation (ECF), which awards grants of up to £5,000. Most awards are around £1,500; however, these can often be topped up with funds from other sources

in the ECF. There is also some prestige attached to receiving a High Sheriffs' Award and it's another form of public acknowledgement.



## **What events have stood out for you?**

There have been many, however, I was very moved by two events held in Chelmsford Prison, the Travellers' Forum and Christmas carol service. Lucy and I went to 12 carol services in all. 11 were "normal"; this one was exceptional because of both the venue and those taking part. We also attended a Holocaust Commemoration Day in Colchester synagogue, which was a totally new experience, and Durga Puja, a Hindu festival celebrated in Writtle Christian Centre as they don't have their own temple. We were made to feel extremely welcome at both. Going out with the Police was also extraordinary; Lucy and I went out on a Marine Unit cruiser from Burnham-on-Sea to the Thames estuary, and another day I was in a police car during an emergency response which took us halfway across the county.

There have also been lots of fun things! Dressing up for civic services and other events which are part of the life of the county, supporting the military on Remembrance Sunday and other commemorations, as well as supporting the Lord Lieutenant on royal visits (three or four so far and more to come) and ceremonial occasions such as presentations of the BEM and Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The event I found scariest was talking to juniors and infants at a primary school in Colchester: what would I say to them? Fortunately, they knew about Toy Story's Sheriff Woody, as well as the Sheriff of Nottingham, so I was able to relate my role to them!

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# Village News

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## **What do you plan to do when you complete your term of office on 6<sup>th</sup> April?**

I shall continue to take an interest in the three topics that I have highlighted during my year as High Sheriff. The first is the campaign against litter; I have organised a weekend mass litter pick with the Scouts at the end of March. I'm also interested in Travellers and how the various authorities work with them, as I don't like the way they are treated by many sectors of our community. Overall, I've found that those who deal with Travellers on a regular basis, for example, local authority officers, the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit, and the Police, have a realistic attitude and treat them as individuals. My third area of interest is women offenders and how they get on when they are caught up in the criminal justice system. There are good reasons for not treating them in the same way as men and I'm interested in exploring ways to keep them out of prison if convicted, as this is so damaging for dependent children.

I'll also go back to being a magistrate and pick up on other things I was doing before. The year has been fascinating; although it has sometimes felt something of a total upheaval, I wanted to put everything into it and make the most of the year.

*Jim Bettley was talking to Helen Mutton*

## **Buns and Bunnies**

We know that Easter is a highly significant time in the Christian calendar, but there are also several other traditions attached to Easter. Here we consider buns and bunnies! By buns, the reference is clearly to the hot cross bun. These are traditionally eaten on Good Friday and mark the end of Lent. Whilst it is common to think that the cross on top of the spiced, glazed bun represents the crucifixion, this was not the origin. Anglo-Saxons ate buns adorned with a cross in honour of Eostre who was a goddess of spring or light. This is probably where the word Easter came from. The cross was also used to represent the rebirth of the world after winter.

Apparently, it wasn't only the Saxons who ate buns at this time. Druids, Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans all ate similar "sacred cakes" marked with varying items such the image of deer or ox horns in honour of Diana, goddess of the hunt. Crosses were also used to divide the cakes or buns into quarters to signify the four quarters of the moon. The Romans often left these buns in sanctuaries built at crossroads for fugitives and hunters.



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## Village News

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It is thought that early Christians adopted the use of the spiced bun by replacing the pagan meaning with a Christian one, ie, the cross representing the crucifixion and also the resurrection. However, it was only in Tudor times that spiced buns became permanently linked to Christian celebrations. During the reign of Elizabeth I, the Clerk of Markets in London issued a decree forbidding the sale of spiced buns except at burials, Christmas and on Good Friday (not a practice maintained today by supermarkets, who seem to start selling them in December!) Note the term 'spiced bun', since the first recorded reference to 'hot cross bun' was as late as the early 1700s in 'Poor Robin's Almanac'.



As is often the case, religious meanings are twisted into more superstitious meanings. In the 1820s, there was a widow who baked hot cross buns for her sailor son who was expected to come home from sea on Good Friday. But he never arrived and it is thought that he must have died at sea. His mother, though, never gave up hope for his return and continued to bake hot cross buns for him every year. This sounds reasonable, but not really when it was discovered that, when she died, every bun from every year was found hanging in her kitchen. This was in the East End of London where 'The Widow's Son' pub was built on the site of her cottage. Here, every Good Friday was marked by a tradition for members of the Royal Navy to come into the pub and place a new hot cross bun into a net hung above the bar. The legend is that buns baked on Good Friday never spoil! Unfortunately the pub closed in 2016 and the ceremony that year was carried out at The Queen's Head in Limehouse.

As well as buns, Easter is also associated with bunnies! This also originally came from pagan times when celebrations around the vernal equinox were prevalent. This is the time of spring renewal, but it wasn't until the 1600s that rabbits or bunnies started to be associated with this time. It was first mentioned in German writings that an animal called "Oschter Haws" or Easter hare was believed to lay a nest of colourful eggs for children who were good. This story was then brought to America by German immigrants in the 1700s. Children then started making nests for the Oschter Haws to leave coloured eggs for them. Of course, these eggs eventually became made out of chocolate and the nests were replaced by baskets. In the 1800s, back in Germany, pastries were being made representing the hare or bunny which were also exported and were changed into chocolate figures.

Of course, rabbits don't lay eggs, so surely it should have been an Easter Chicken. Well, yes, but the tradition originates back in pagan times when rabbits and hares represented fertility and rebirth, and somehow spring time and spring holidays got mixed up with fertility and rebirth and egg-laying rabbits replaced chickens.

*Chris Bingham*

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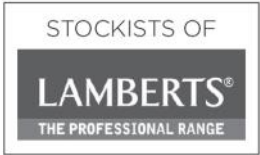
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# Village News



MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Message from the District Councillor



The Bradwell B Project, which aims to build a new nuclear power station at Bradwell-on-Sea, has announced that it will start its first stage public consultation on its early plans in March. The consultation will open on Wednesday, 4th March and run for 12 weeks until 27th May.

The consultation will be a first chance for residents, community groups and businesses to get a detailed understanding of the new nuclear power station proposals, including what Bradwell B would look like, and the associated developments that will be necessary during the construction. For the duration of the consultation, people will be able to see, and comment on, the proposals online at [bradwellb.co.uk](http://bradwellb.co.uk).

There is also a public consultation on air pollution within Maldon; to complete a survey visit:

[https://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/20099/pollution/9148/air\\_quality](https://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/20099/pollution/9148/air_quality)

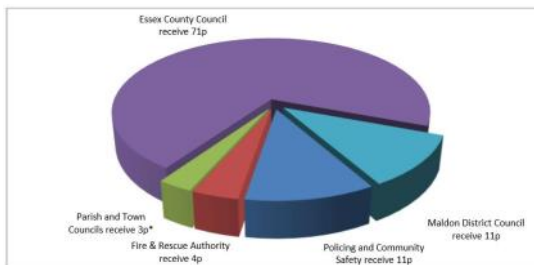
I will continue to push for Highway and infrastructure improvements across the ward and will update you as soon as I obtain any further information.

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

*Kind regards  
Councillor Richard Siddall*

## Where does your Council Tax go?

Maldon District Council collects your Council Tax and then shares it with Essex County Council, Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Fire and Rescue Authority for both Fire and Police services and the Parish and Town councils. You can see from this chart how much is paid to the various organisations for each £1 you pay.







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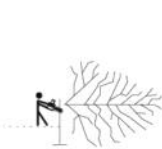


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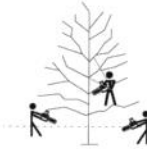
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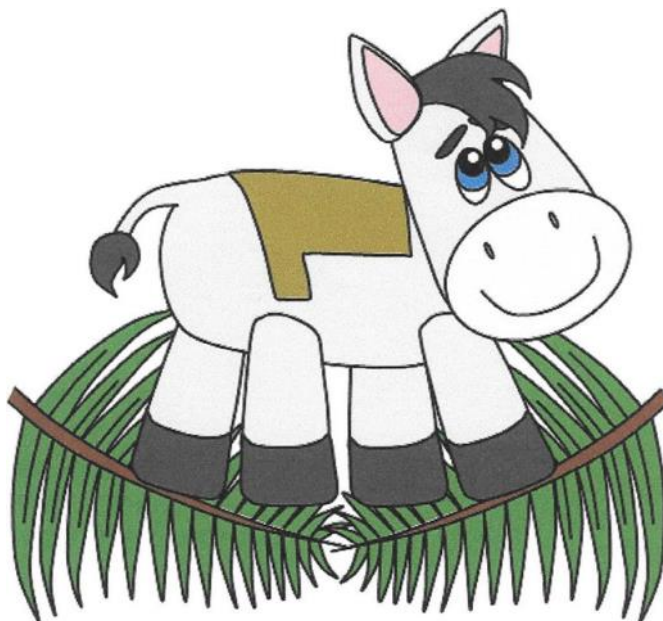
## Children's Page

### People Wave Palms to Jesus

S	D	A	N	Y	C	O	W	Q	D	R	S	I	B	C	V
B	E	M	R	X	O	M	R	E	E	D	K	M	R	A	A
Y	R	H	F	A	A	C	F	G	S	J	O	O	L	N	Y
J	T	G	C	H	T	G	J	L	S	Q	W	N	N	A	R
Z	H	N	J	N	S	I	G	V	E	D	U	A	K	E	P
X	V	I	L	L	A	G	E	T	L	W	S	U	S	E	J
M	E	L	A	S	U	R	E	J	B	O	Q	P	M	H	Y
T	C	N	V	J	U	E	B	Z	H	B	Q	D	V	P	C

Find these words:

- Blessed
- Branches
- Coats
- Crowd
- Donkey
- Hosanna
- Jerusalem
- Jesus
- Palms
- Village



# Village News

## **Great Totham Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February**

The February meeting was attended by Cllrs. Mrs Adams, Atkinson, Delderfield, Gegan, Mrs. Heaviside and Keyes. Two members of the public were present and spoke with regard to a planning application.

The Local Council Quality Award Scheme was discussed and, since Great Totham Parish Council has in place most of the provisions to achieve foundation level, it was agreed that the Clerk and Council Members pursue the matter over the next months. It was also noted that Essex Association of Local Councils had invited the registration of important topics for discussion at the National Association of Local Councils Lobby Day. Great Totham members voiced concerns about the number of Maldon District Council planning decisions overturned on appeal and it was agreed to raise the question as to whether there was a weakness in the appeal system that should be investigated.

Councillor Siddall was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report updating members with regard to the ongoing discussions with the Maldon barge owners, stressing the need to balance the importance of the barges to the waterfront and the need for the district to be economically viable.

Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had met with the Navigus consultant who complimented the team on the thoroughness of the investigations. The Clerk had requested wildlife data from the Wildlife Trust for use in the plan and the results of the Housing Needs Survey were also to be added. A first draft will now be presented for consideration by the Parish Council.

Councillor Atkinson has completed replacing the shrubs in the hedge near the lay-by at Bull Green, (one of which has already been deliberately removed) and agreed a scheme of remedial work for the stand of trees opposite the Jubilee Recreation Ground. Possible locations for additional tree planting have been identified, the WI expressing interest in planting trees in the vicinity of the Village Hall. Quotes have been received for the refurbishment of the telephone box on the green at Totham North and materials have been obtained from Tom's Farm Shop to enable Councillor Marshall to repair the bench at the Cricket Ground.

For some time members have been voicing concerns about the vehicle activated speed signs at Totham South. As a parish council we do not have the authority to directly change the signs but, under the Local government Act 1972, we could make a contribution to the provision of new ones. In the meantime, please watch your speed through the village. Councillor Atkinson and his team, who are always on the look-out for more Speedwatch volunteers, have reported yet another 38 drivers.

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# Village News

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From 1<sup>st</sup> April, the concession offered by the County Council on its Park and Ride services in Chelmsford and Colchester to holders of older people's bus passes will change from free travel after 9.00am on weekdays and at all times at weekends and public holidays to a £1.50 day fare when showing a pass. People with disability passes will pay £1 50 before 9.00am but retain free travel after that time. The decision was a disappointment to those who completed a questionnaire in an attempt to save the free service for all older bus pass holders. It was also reported that the First bus company was withdrawing the 20.07 Maldon to Colchester bus and the 21.10 Colchester to Maldon bus from the 75 route on Sundays and holidays because they do not meet the viability criteria.

The St Peter's Church biennial Flower Festival will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of May and, again, the talented Frances Whybrow has agreed to provide the Council display. This year's theme is Children's Literature and, as well as the customary stalls, refreshments and a full programme of music, will this year be visited by Nick Butterworth, the creator of Percy the Park Keeper. Another village event, fast approaching, is the VE Day celebration. The beacon is usually lit on such occasions but we would like to hear from anyone who has plans for other celebrations, a street party for example. Or perhaps someone would like to organise an event - please let us know.

You probably know the expression 'Many hands make light work'. Please remember this on April 5<sup>th</sup> when the annual Clean Up Day will take place. Gathering points will again be The Village Hall, Totham South and The Compasses, Totham North at 2.30pm. Hi-viz jackets, litter pickers and sacks will be provided. All are welcome!

The April meeting is at 7.30pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Vicky Heaviside*

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

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# Village News

## Great Totham Gardening Club

The Spring Show on 4th April opens at 2.30pm, with divisions for Flowers, Floral Art, Amateur Photography, Cookery, Vegetables, Arts and Crafts and Children's classes up to 14 years.



Entries close for our Spring Show at 7pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April for the Show on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April. 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.

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

Our final assembly, before the serious gardening commences, will be on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April in the Village Hall at 7.45pm when Lou Nicholls will talk to us about Gardening at Ulting Wick. We look forward to seeing you.

*Christine Walker*



THE BELL INN



## What's On – April/May 2020

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April (Good Friday) – Bistro @ The Bell – Fish Supper evening (booking advised)  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Monday) – Live Music with Flyblow 76 (2-4pm)  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Karaoke with Sammy (from 8pm)

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Feering Village May Fayre (At the pub there will be a dog show, BBQ and live music in the afternoon. On the village playing fields there will be many fun events and stalls for all ages.)

The Bell Inn is available for private events e.g. christenings & wakes.

We are open Tuesday to Sunday. We serve food every day (12-2pm Tues to Saturday and 6-9pm in the evening). Our renowned Sunday roast is served 12pm to 3.30pm.

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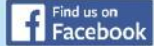
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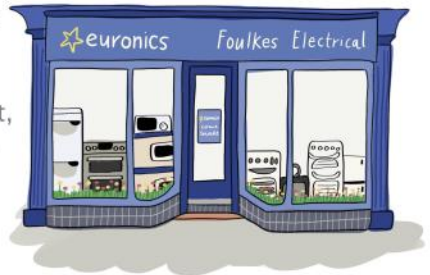
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# Village News

## Contacting the Police

**In an emergency dial 999.**

**For non-emergencies dial 101 extension 412335 / 01245 491491**

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

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

Maldon Police 0300 333 4444 or 101

Maldon District Council Offices

Princes Road 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

2/3 May	Flower Festival St. Peter's Church 'Children's Books'
12 May	PCC Meeting 7.30pm Honeywood
16 May	Great Totham School Sponsored Walk 10am start
25 May	Bank Holiday Monday
13 June	Great Totham School Summer Ball
21 June	Father's Day
27 June	St. Peter's Summer Fete V/Hall & Cricket Field
10 July	Great Totham School Summer Fete
19 July	United Service Great Totham V/Hall 10.30am
23 July	Fun Day @ Little Mountains Farm
5 Sept	Gardening Club Autumn Show V/Hall 2.30pm

# **THE GREAT TOTHAM SPRING CLEAN UP**



**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm**

**Join us at The Village Hall, Totham South  
or The Compasses, Totham North where  
litter pickers, sacks and hi-viz jackets will  
be available.**

**Many hands make light work!**



# Village News

## Great Totham WI

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

At our March meeting we welcomed Chocolatier Sarah Knights and her colleague Lisa McKecknie from the Chapel Chocolate House.

After attending a course on chocolate making twelve years ago Sarah decided to set up her own business and has expanded this over the last few years, now making and selling her chocolates from premises behind Poplar Nursery in Colchester.

She also sells to local hotels and farm shops and runs workshops, demonstrations and courses.



Sarah explained the methods of tempering chocolate and enlisted the help of one of our members to mix the chocolate. She emphasised the importance of having the chocolate at the correct temperature. Using the mixed chocolate, she demonstrated the various consistencies of the chocolate and showed us how to fill the moulds.

She then passed round various samples of chocolate from the very dark to milk chocolate. Our opinions differed about which ones we found the most appetising. We were also given a sample of her strawberry and basil chocolate which she has entered for a competition.

After the meeting we were given the opportunity to purchase some of her wide variety of products which include truffles, pralines, bars and lollies. A mouth-watering evening which we all enjoyed.

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



## The Willie Almshouse Charity

# Affordable Housing in Great Totham

Applications are invited for a vacancy at the Willie Almshouses in School Road, Great Totham.

The accommodation comprises a living room, bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. The 'rent' will be £102.42 per week inclusive of water charges.

Residents are responsible for all other utility charges and Council Tax.

Applicants should be residents of Great Totham and in need of housing.  
There is no age restriction.

***We do not keep a waiting list, so previous applicants should apply again.***

**Application forms are available from the Clerk to the Charity:**

**Michael Siggs, PO Box 993, Colchester, CO3 3TQ**

**Tel: 01206 765138**

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

***The closing date for applications is 14th April 2020***

*Registered charity number: 233731*



# Village News

## Wickham Bishops Flower Club

Our Annual Meeting was held in the Village Hall on 25<sup>th</sup> February. In her chairman's report, Wendy felt it had been an enjoyable year, with talented flower arrangers and two successful workshops. However, our Accounts showed a loss. Everyone on the Committee agreed to carry on in the anticipation that things will improve and Frances Wybrow kindly agreed to join the committee.

After refreshments, Wendy introduced Wendy Munnion with her demonstration 'And The Winner Is...' In no time at all, the stage was decorated with her amazing arrangements, including two on a penny farthing.



Our meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April will be our spring workshop when we will attempt our own arrangement of 'A Spring Basket'. If you wish to join in please bring your own suitable bunch of flowers; we will provide the oasis and dish. We look forward to seeing members, friends and visitors in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Christine Walker*



## Great Totham Neighbourhood Plan

### Housing Needs Survey



The Parish Council and Steering Group have now received the final report, so thank you to everyone who took the time and trouble to complete it. Members of the Steering Group have held a follow up meeting with the Rural Community Council for Essex (RCCE) to examine the findings and look at what you've all told us.

Although we are undertaking more work on this, one clear message that we can feed back to you is that **if you have a housing need**, it is important that you get your name on the Housing Register at Maldon District Council. Visit the website for more details:

[https://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/20054/housing/9616/first\\_steps](https://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/20054/housing/9616/first_steps)

*Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group*

# Village News

## News from Great Totham Primary School

[www.greattotham.essex.sch.uk](http://www.greattotham.essex.sch.uk)



### School News

#### Year 6 - Life in Ancient Greece Day

Year 6 had the opportunity to experience a day in the life of Athenian citizens, during the battle of Marathon. In the morning, Year 6 children did a variety of activities; pot making, mosaic making, charm making and had an opportunity to become a Greek doctor, using herbs to make cures for a range of common illnesses. During the



afternoon, the children separated into groups and practised a range of plays and dances for an afternoon at the theatre. Rather delightfully, they were also able to sample a range of Greek foods, served by a host of slaves. The day was interesting and a great learning opportunity. Thank you to all the parents who helped by providing costumes and those who gave up their time on the day. *By Jake B and Lauren*



#### World Book Day 2020

On Thursday 5th March the whole school celebrated World Book Day. The children and staff made a fantastic effort with their costumes and enjoyed discussing their favourite books. Each class took part in a variety of book themed activities

throughout the day.

#### Tag Rugby Tournament

Maldon Rugby Club hosted a tournament for local schools. We gained muddy hands and knees and a first place! Well done team!



# Village News

## Netball Friendly

We welcomed Woodham Walter Primary School to GTPS to play a friendly game of High 5 Netball. We had fun and we hope to have more friendly matches with them in the future.



## Dates for the Diary

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – Sponsored Walk (10am start)

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Summer Ball

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – Summer Fete (5-8pm)

*Please contact the school office for further details*

## Wickham Bishops WI



Our January meeting was held on our usual day of the last Thursday of the month and was partly club business and a short talk by the Fire Service. Muhammad was a very entertaining speaker who really made you think of the obvious, but much needed, topic of home safety. He advised that a free home check was available to all and would include the installation of smoke alarms, also free of charge. This is a policy that has saved many lives.

We had a talk by Andrew Wiltshire called Humorous Hassle at our February meeting. I will tell you all about it next time!

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 our secretary, Sharon, on 01621 891631.

*Jayne Kneale*



## April Village Diary

- 2 Entries close @ 7pm for Gardening Club Spring Show
- 4 MU Hot Cross Bun Coffee morning Honywood 10am-12noon  
Great Totham Gardening Club Spring Show V/Hall 2.30pm
- 5 Palm Sunday Service St. Peter's Church 10am  
Parish Clean Up Day 2.30pm from Compasses or Village Hall
- 6 Prayer Hour 10am Honywood
- 9 Eucharist of the Last Supper 7.30pm St. Peter's Church  
WI AGM 8pm Village Hall
- 10 Stations of the Cross 2pm St. Peter's Church
- 11 Decorate St. Peter's Church for Easter from 9am  
Coffee morning URC 10am-11.30am
- 12 Easter Day Services St. Peter's -Dawn Eucharist 6.30am -Morning  
Prayer 8am - Family Communion 10am
- 14 Easter Holiday Club 10am-3pm St. Peter's Church
- 19 St. Peter's Church AGM following 10am Family Communion
- 20 BHCT Committee Meeting URC 10.30am
- 21 Gardening Club 7.45pm V/Hall Gardening at Ulting Wick
- 22 -Lou Nicholls
- 23 St. George's Day
- 24 Mothers Union 1.45pm Honywood
- 25 Coffee morning 10am-12noon Honywood
- 28 Flower Club Workshop 'A Spring Basket ' 7.30pm Village Hall

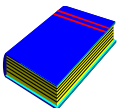


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Rotas	Church Flowers	Church Cleaning
5th April	Lent	Mr and Mrs Stebbing
12th April	Easter	-
19th April	Anita Lorkin	Mrs Potter and Mrs Thake
26th April	Sue Morgan	-
<b>Church Kitchen Cleaning April:</b>		Jenny Walling

### Wickham Bishops Library



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



## 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)
Maldon District Health / Wellbeing advice		<a href="mailto:emily.fallon@maldon.gov.uk">emily.fallon@maldon.gov.uk</a>	
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



St Peter's Church

# Flower Festival 2020

Saturday, 2nd and Sunday, 3rd May

Children's Literature

Floral displays

Sale of books, plants, cakes and other produce

**POSTPONED**

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 May edition by: 3rd April.

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

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