



# Magazine

sent to every home in Great Totham  
April 2021

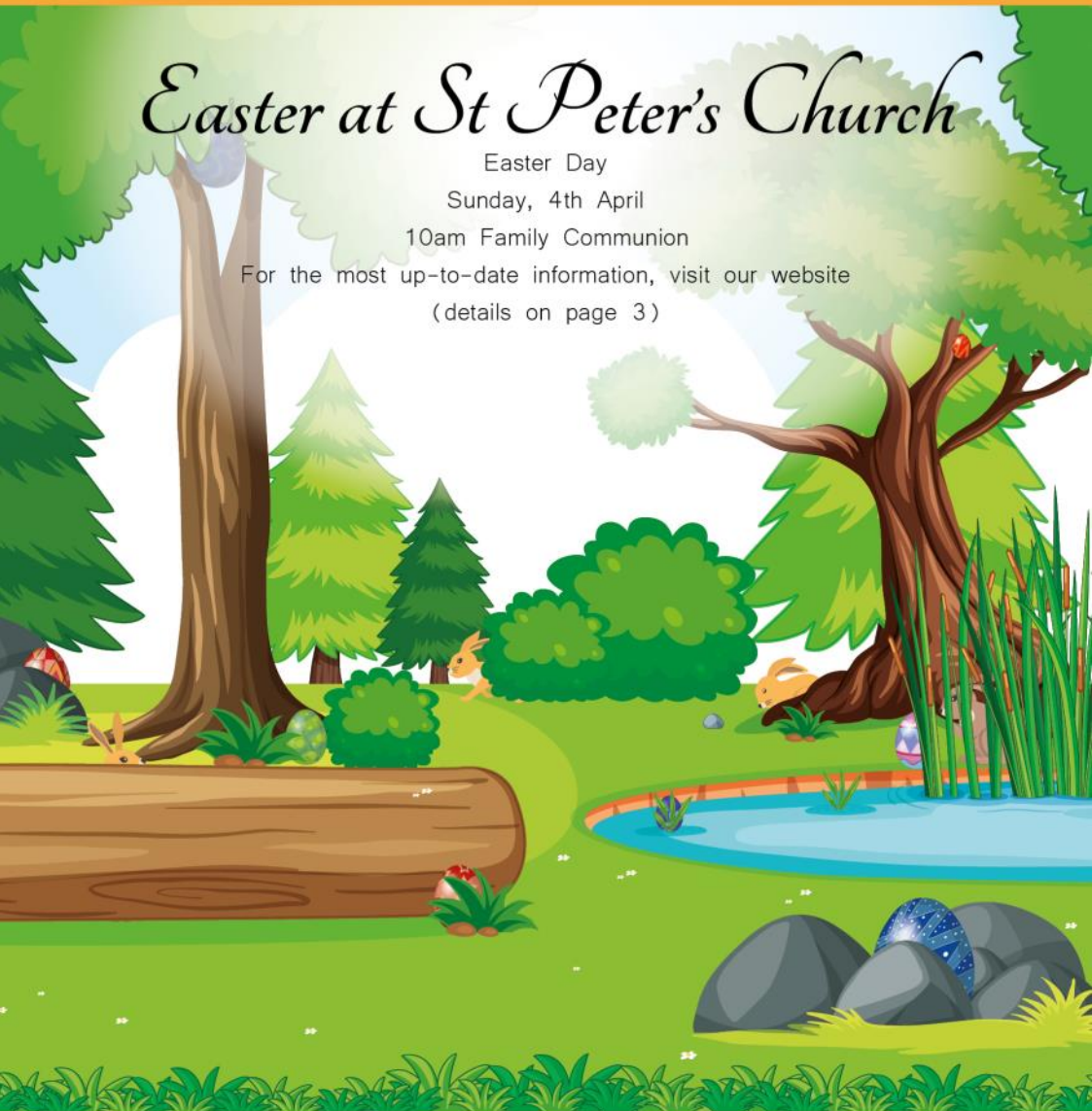
## *Easter at St Peter's Church*

Easter Day

Sunday, 4th April

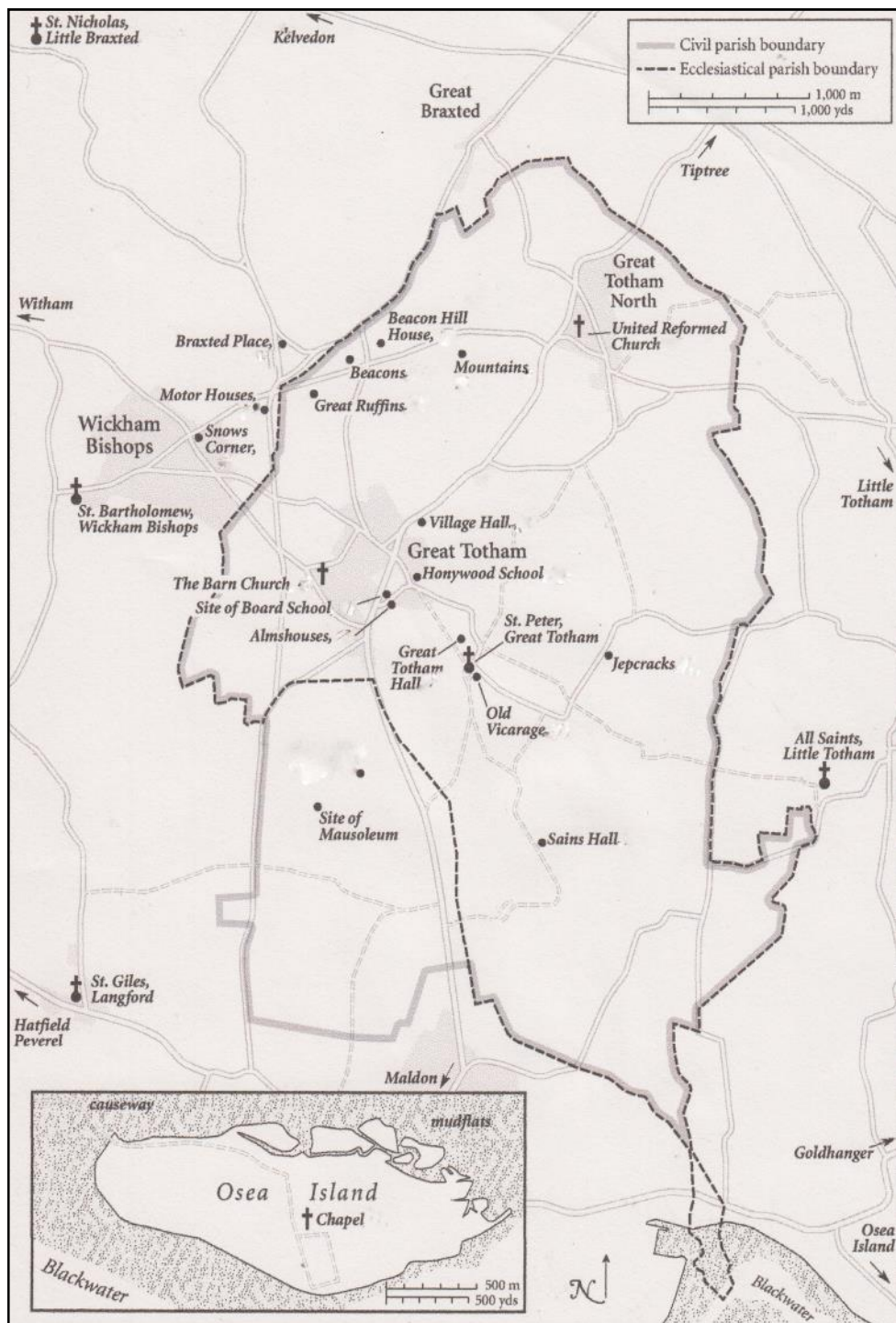
10am Family Communion

For the most up-to-date information, visit our website  
(details on page 3)



**Inside this Edition**

Looking forward to Easter  
News from Citizens Advice



# *St Peter's Church Contact Details*



Blackwater  
Benefice



Blackwater  
Benefice

## **Parish Contacts:**

### **Priest in Charge**

Rev. Tracey Caswell

07742 999633

Email: revtlcaswell@gmail.com



### **Associate Priest**

Rev. Sue Godsmark

01621 891513

Email : suegodsmark@aol.com



If you are unable to contact the Priest or Associate Priest please speak to the Churchwarden:

### **Churchwarden**

Karen Tarpey: 01621 892122

### **Services**

Details of planned services and online worship can be found on pages 6 and 7

### **Baptisms**

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

### **Magazine:**

Enquiries: Helen Mutton: 01621 891067

Adverts: Pauline Stebbing: 01621 892059

Email: parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk

### **Website:**

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





## The Rev'd Tracey Caswell writes:



I'd like to tell you a story.....

It was late one night, in the middle of winter. A farmer, about to turn in for the night, looked out of the window of his cosy farmhouse. Snow lay thick on the ground and more was falling. The wind howled around the farm buildings, swirling the snow into a furious dance. The light from the window spilled out onto the scene, making the snowflakes flicker as they fell, turning the farmyard into a glittering white carpet.

A cold draught creeping round the edge of the window pane made him shiver. A log crackled on the fire and he was grateful for its warmth. "It's a cold night out there boy" he said to the old sheepdog stretched out on the hearth rug. The dog thumped his tail in response and yawned.

The farmer was about to close the curtains and head off to bed, when something caught his eye. A silhouette, rather like a furry caterpillar, stretched out along the branch of a tree. What on earth is that? he thought. As he strained his eyes to make out what the shape could be, he noticed it move slightly, wriggle and he realised it was a row of tiny sparrows, huddled together in a long line, with their heads tucked under their wings, and their feathers fluffed up in a vain attempt to keep warm. Every so often one would shudder and shift as a gust of wind ruffled its feathers or the snow started to build up on its back.

Poor little things thought the farmer. They must be frozen. It's a wonder they're still alive. If they stay there, they'll be dead by the morning. Filled with compassion for these small helpless creatures, the farmer wondered what he could do to help them.

He began to mull over different possibilities in his head. I suppose I could put some food down, but I guess they won't come down to eat in the dark and it's snowing so hard it will have covered it within five minutes. I could put a tarpaulin up over the branch, but they won't stay there while I do that, and even if they come back it will probably flap around in this wind and scare them off again.

Then the farmer had a bright idea – if I open the door of the barn they might fly in there and roost in the rafters. So he put on his coat and his boots and picked up a torch and went out into the night to open the barn door. He hooked the door back and returned to the house where he watched from the kitchen door. Nothing happened. The farmer waited and waited, but the snow kept falling and the birds stayed huddled on the branch.

So the farmer tried to think of another way. I know, I'll put some food in the barn and maybe leave a trail across the snow. If I put the light on in the barn, they'll

*/continued on next page*



## Church News

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be able to see it. So out he went into the cold and the wind and the swirling snow and he switched on the light, scattered some handfuls of grain on the barn floor and walked towards the tree dropping a trail behind him. The sparrows looked up uncertainly as they heard him crunching across the snow towards them, but when he stopped and turned towards the farmhouse, they judged that the danger had passed and they tucked their heads back under their wings.

This is ridiculous, thought the farmer. They're going to die. Maybe if I creep up behind them and wave my arms I might be able to shoosh them in the right direction. If one goes in and finds the food the others will follow. It's a long shot, but there's just a chance.

The farmer crept round behind the birds; trying to walk as quietly as possible, he got quite close, but as soon as he raised his arms above his head the birds flew off.

The farmer's compassion for the sparrows and his frustration at not being able to help them boiled over into anger. He started to shout at the birds "What's the matter with you, you stupid birds? Don't you know you're going to die? I want to help you, why won't you let me?"

At the sound of his shouts a couple of birds flew into the barn. "That's it, yes, stay there, you'll be safe" cried the farmer overjoyed.....but then the birds flew out again and went back to sit on the branch.

The farmer hid his face in his hands and wept. He wept tears of frustration and tears of sadness. He realised there was nothing more he could do. If only I could become a sparrow, just for a day, then I could show them the way to life he thought. But I can't and by tomorrow they'll all be dead.

This story is a good analogy for the story of God's love throughout the Bible. Right from the start in the Garden of Eden God loves the people he has created. All he wants is to have a relationship with them. He wants to care for them, keep them safe, and dwell with them in harmony. He wants to welcome them into his kingdom. But try as he might he cannot get through to them.

Through the whole of the Old Testament we see God reaching out to his people and his people turning away – deliberately avoiding him, misunderstanding him, not doing what he asks them to do, flying off in fear like the birds in the story. God tries everything he can think of to bring the people back into his loving arms, but every plan he lays fails. Some do follow him, but then they fall away again. Returning to their old life like the birds returning to their branch. Sometimes it seems as if God has finally found a way to get through to them – he raises up great leaders like Moses and David, he sends prophets like Elijah and Isai-ah, but nothing really works. Leaders let him down, the words of the prophets

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# Church News

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fall on deaf ears. The people continue to go their own way and do their own thing.

So finally, God realises that there is only one thing left that he can do and that is to come down to earth himself. To become human, to live as a human, and to speak directly into people's lives. So he comes in the person of his son, Jesus.

As Saint Paul told the Colossian Christians "For in him, (that is Jesus), all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross."

By coming in human form, though he was divine, Jesus lived as one of us, he experienced life as one of us, he became a "sparrow" for our sakes, experiencing for himself all the joy and pain of life. He showed us the way from death to life. Just as the farmer holds open the door of the barn, Jesus holds open the door to eternity.

*Rev'd Tracey*

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

(check the website for any last minute changes)

1st April Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	Service of Reflection followed by vigil
4th April Easter Sunday	10am 6pm	Family Communion Evensong (by Zoom)
11th April Second Sunday of Easter	8am 10am 6pm	Morning Prayer Family Communion Evensong (by Zoom)
18th April Third Sunday of Easter	8am 10am 6pm	Morning Prayer APCM Evensong (by Zoom)
25th April Fourth Sunday of Easter	8am 10am 6pm	Morning Prayer Morning Service of the Word Evensong (by Zoom)

## Church News



### Online Worship at St Peter's Church



Rev. Tracey and others within the Blackwater Benefice are regularly broadcasting 'Morning Prayer' at 10am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays on our Facebook page. Follow

the link from our website under the heading 'Morning Prayer for Today':

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

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

Sunday Eucharist is available on 'YouTube' using the link on our website or direct using the 'URL' (*Uniform Resource Locator or Web address.*):



[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuMHtbsdz2Enbj0TdEmE3-g/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuMHtbsdz2Enbj0TdEmE3-g/videos)  
videos

Visit the website or Facebook page for up to date information on resumption of services, or contact Rev Sue (891513), Karin Mann (891215) or Karen Tarpey (892122).

For details of Evensong by Zoom contact Rev Sue.

North Blackwater Parishes have produced pages specifically for young children, found by downloading their page on our website.

In addition, the Church of England is providing a 'Daily Hope' line which offers music, prayers and reflections, as well as full worship services, at the end of a telephone line. This may be found at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/daily-hope-phone-line>



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. Tracey Caswell**, **Rev. Sue Godsmark** or the **Churchwarden** (see page 3 for contact details).

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

Our 'Friendship Church' - Bragernes Kirke, Drammen, Norway.  
Adam, Keith, Mick, John, Pat, Sylvia and Dennis.

# Church News

## Contact details

For anyone self-isolating, we would love you to chat to us between 4pm - 8pm:

Bob Tarpey	01621 892122 (after 6 o'clock)
Sheila Allen	01621 892334
Isobel Doubleday	01621 891329 (try at any reasonable time)
Mary Owers	01621 892885
Paul Smith	01621 893153
Sandra Smith	01621 893153
Janet Gleghorn	01621 892746
Philippa Hardy-King	01621 892387
Martyn Hardy-King	01621 892387
Janice Spalding	01621 892197
Sue Keyes	01621 891220
Vanessa Ellams	01621 893148
June Eaton	01621 891315
Karin Mann	01621 891215
Nick Scholey	01621 891172
Rev'd Sue Godsmark	01621 891513 (try at any reasonable time)

## Happy Easter

Rev'd Tracey, Rev'd Sue and Karen Tarpey, Churchwarden, together with the PCC, wish you all a very happy Easter and look forward to the time when we can resume "normal service". Stay safe and well in the meantime.

## Church Clock Rescued!



Following the report in last month's magazine about the demise of our lovely and practical mechanical timepiece, the family of Patricia ("Pat") Newton have very kindly given a most generous donation for its repair.

Pat sadly passed away in December 2019 and loved clocks, especially the church one with its very familiar and rather comforting "tick tock".

It was made by John Smith & Sons of Derby and installed in 1884. The significant repairs are being carried out by Chimes Of Colchester.

*Paul Smith*



## Church News



Sorry we had to miss out on Pancake Day races this year, it was a flipping shame!

It was reported in The Times newspaper that the Church Bishops were focusing on more important things. A priest asked on Twitter whether it was acceptable for someone who was ill on Shrove Tuesday and couldn't eat pancakes at the time to tuck in now. She got the reply from the Bishop of Manchester, who said it was fine to lapse once during Lent. "To keep discipline completely is to court the sin of pride", he said.

Praised by the Archbishop of York, our very own Stephen Cottrell, recently "promoted" from Bishop of Chelmsford, for his leadership in the area of pancakes, Manchester generously replied that his boss still retains "oversight of Yorkshire Puddings".

For the Episcopacy, it seems things can only get batter! (groan).

*Paul Smith*

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

#### **February**

1st Prize: Joan Rotheram  
2nd Prize: John Lucas  
3rd Prize: Patricia Miller

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

## News from the Belfry

Firstly apologies to those expecting an article in the March edition of the magazine. We are still unable to ring the bells at St Peter's; however, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has advised us that it might be possible to recommence socially distanced ringing in mid May.



In a previous article I wrote about the former curfew bell situated at Scripps Farm. Curfew bells were popular in medieval times and were sounded to advise town and city dwellers to douse their fires and retire for the night. One of the most famous curfew bells can be found at the Tower of London. The Tower, officially Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress, is an historic castle on the north bank of the River Thames in London. Its buildings and grounds served historically as a royal palace, a political prison, place of execution, an arsenal, royal mint, menagerie and a public records office.

Well over two million people visit the Tower every year. The Tower is open under normal circumstances all year round, with the exception of four days over the Christmas period.

The Bell Tower is situated immediately adjoining the Queen's House. The Tower was constructed to reinforce the defensive wall of the inner bailey and was built during the late 12th century, making it the second oldest tower after the Norman White Tower, and may have been built on the orders of King Richard the Lionheart (1189-99). The Bell Tower derives its name from the small wooden turret adjoining the wall of the tower and contains the curfew bell. It was used to inform prisoners given the liberty of the Tower that it was time to return to their quarters. Today it is sounded at 5.45pm each day, to warn stray visitors that the Tower is about to close. The bell is rung from ground level. A few feet off the ground is a small box, which is unlocked by the ringer, who then pulls the sally to ring the bell.

The curfew bell is also rung at 9pm every night, about an hour before the ancient Ceremony of the Keys begins. A Yeoman Warder (or Beefeater) accompanied by guards, all in traditional dress, start a lantern-lit nightly inspection of the Tower of London by locking the gates until morning. They are saluted by sentries at each gate as they do their rounds, and are challenged to announce who they represent (currently Queen Elizabeth's Keys) by the sentry at the Bloody Tower archway. The bell used to have a more macabre role as it was also rung to signal executions at the Tower.

*Andrew and Catherine Hood*

# Church News



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

Colin Heavyside, 12, Totham Hill Green, Great Totham, CM9 8DX  
Tel: 01621 893067

Membership fees can be paid in cash or by bank transfer to The Friends of St Peter's Church Account Number 03166198, Sort Code 20-97-40.  
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*We would prefer not to receive cheques this year due to difficulties experienced with posting them.*

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Pauline Stebbing

 892059

# Church News

## Text for the Week: April

**4th April**

As Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4

**11th April**

I am not concerned with great matters or with subjects too difficult for me. Instead, I am content and at peace. As a child lies quietly in its mother's arms, so my heart is quiet within me.

Psalms 131:1-2

**18th April**

The Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you; to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

**25th April**

God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

1 Corinthians 12:18-20

## Bible Readings: April

**1st April**

**Maundy Thursday**

Exod. 12. 1-4, 11-14

1 Cor. 11. 23-26

(Gospel) John 13. 1-17, 31-35

**4th April**

**Easter Day**

Acts 10. 34-43

1 Cor. 15. 1-11

(Gospel) John 20. 1-18

**11th April**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4. 32-35

1 John 1. 1-22

(Gospel) John 20. 19-end

**18th April**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 3. 12-19

1 John 3. 1-7

(Gospel) Luke 24. 36-48

**25th April**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4. 5-12

1 John 3. 16-end

(Gospel) John 10. 11-18

## 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.



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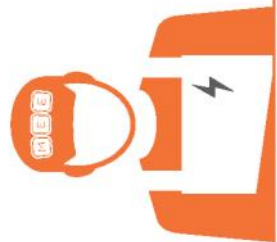
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## *Church News*

### **Repair of Footbridge At St Peter's Church, Great Totham**



Pictured is Jeff Field of Little London Farm Joinery at Little Totham. Jeff was asked to provide his expertise to strengthen the oak bridge handrails which had become loose upon the brick base. The repair uses oak diagonal braces fixed to thick deep posts which are sunk into the ground where the force of the load can be absorbed. This solution provides an extremely rigid, safe structure. Dowelled mortice and tenon joints are used throughout the new work. The surrounding vegetation was cleared for the work, so once this has regrown and the new work

has weathered, the whole will blend nicely together.

Jeff had also rebuilt the Lych Gate and provided strengthening repairs to the timbers in the bell tower. He is also repairing the white picket fence along the boundary with Church Road.

The bridge was made in 1997 to provide access to the churchyard extension and was built in memory of the Sayer family who are buried in the churchyard. Percy Charles Sayer was a local builder and Tower Captain of the bells at St. Peter's from 1907 until his death in 1961. There is a memorial plaque to him on the right hand side of the church west window.

Dennis Butcher of Hall Road, Great Totham constructed the original supporting brickwork, when the project was under the guidance of the then incumbent Revd. Michael Hatchett.

*Paul Smith*



## Yoga Classes

The next 5-week course will commence 6 April 2021, with classes being held on Zoom

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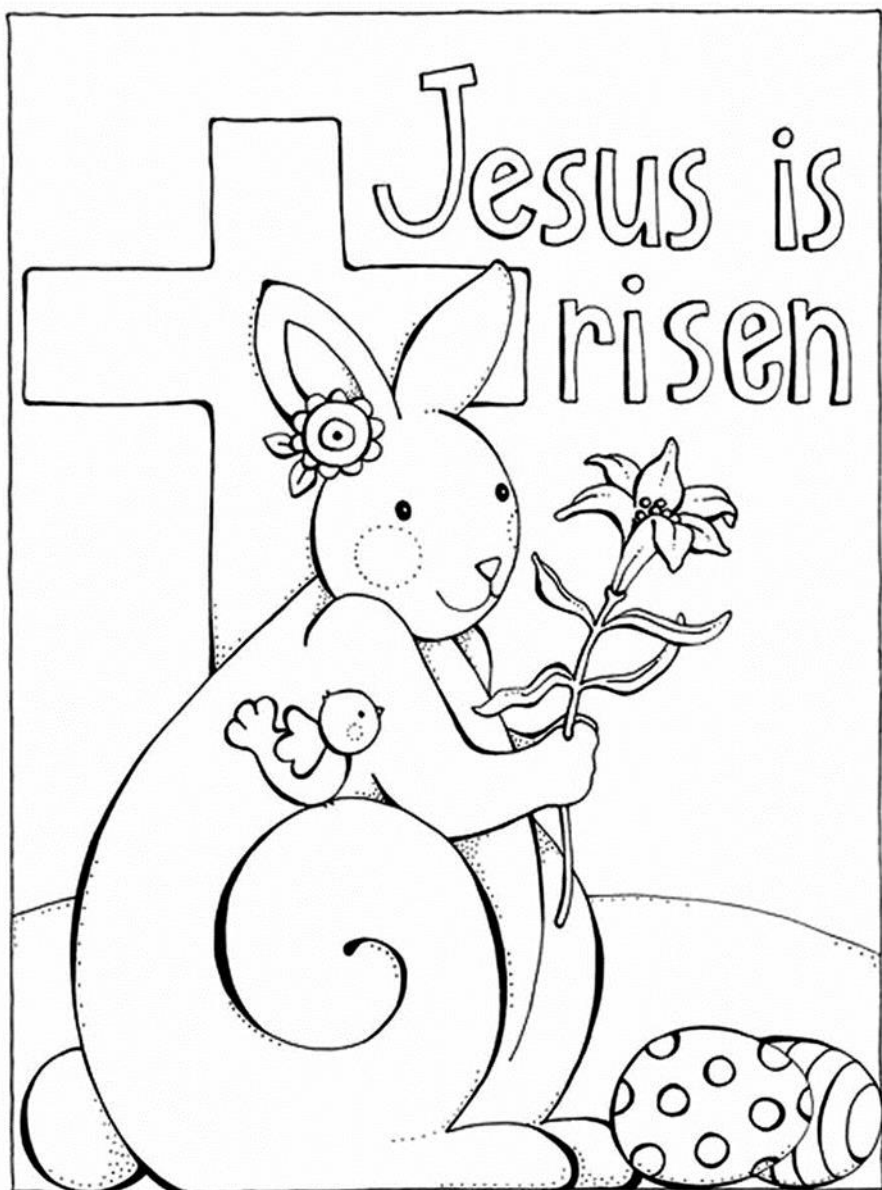
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## *Children's Colouring Page*



*Sourced by June Eaton*

## Christian Liturgical Colours

The use of colours to differentiate liturgical seasons became a common practice in the Western church in about the fourth century. At first, usages varied considerably, but by the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Pope Innocent III systematised the use of five colours: Violet, Black, White, Red and Green. The exact shade depended on what dyes were available at the time.

The Lutheran and Anglican churches that emerged from the Reformation retained the traditional colours, but they disappeared entirely (along with most other ritual) from the worship of the Reformed churches. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Ecumenical Liturgical Movement added Blue and Gold, colours which had been used before the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

The pattern of colour usage varies from place to place, and any directions given in official liturgical books such as Common Worship are intended solely as a guide to those churches which wish to follow them.

The colours emerged out of the fact that people like variety, and the origin of colours are rooted in the meaning of an individual season. For people who go to church Sunday after Sunday, or day after day, the changing colours are a reminder that there's change in the church and the colours enrich our worship of God in a dignified way. The choice is not random or simply decorative; it has a specific meaning as the faithful move through the liturgical year or honour a special occasion or sacrament.

### White/Gold

The colour of rejoicing and purity is used for Christmas/Epiphany and Eastertide.

### Red

The colour of blood, of fire and of kingship, is used during Holy Week and of the festivals of martyrs, as well on the Feast of Pentecost. It may also be used in the period before Advent between the feasts of All Saints and Christ the King.

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# Church News

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## **Purple** (symbolizing the mitigation of black)






The colour of dignity and penitence is used during the seasons of Advent and Lent. Rose (a mitigation of purple), which symbolises joy and happiness, is used on the third Sunday in Advent. As an alternative during Lent, unbleached linen is used, recalling the sackcloth associated with repentance in the Old Testament.

## **Green**

The colour of growth, is used at all other times.

## **Black**

Is sometimes used on Good Friday, but some churches are simply bare at this time instead of using colours of symbolism.

PURPLE	RED	ROSE/PINK	GREEN	WHITE/GOLD
				
<b>Penance Preparation</b>	<b>Sacrifice</b>	<b>Anticipation</b>	<b>Hope, Life &amp; Growth</b>	<b>Joy &amp; Purity</b>
Used during Advent and Lent	Used during Passion Sunday, Good Friday, Pentecost and the feast of the Apostles and martyrs	Used on the third Sunday in Advent and the fourth Sunday during Lent	Used throughout Ordinary Time	Used during Easter & Christmas seasons and feasts of the Blessed Mother, angels and saints who weren't martyred

Different colours are used during the year for the vestments of ministers, the frontals and the hangings at the pulpit and lectern as reminders of the emotional focus of the seasons.

Briefly, the colours express emotions and ideas in Christian worship, art, architecture and design that are associated with each of the seasons of the liturgical year.

*Karin Mann*

# *Village News*

## **Online Community Support Events**

Local charity Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) are working with Moat Foundation to support people in the community at risk of social isolation and loneliness to connect with people virtually.

We are hosting a community signposting event on 6<sup>th</sup> April for anyone living in the Maldon district who would like to find out about local social groups and support services. In addition, we are offering digital support to anyone interested in holding a group Zoom session with friends and family, but who may need some help to do this.

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07711 438513 OR AMY MELTON ON 07458 300900**



# Village News

/continued from previous page

We have started up two Zoom social groups recently and we have people from various villages in the district coming along, so we are keen to get some more of these started up. There is no cost to anyone attending or needing support.

Amy Melton  
Rural Community Council of Essex  
[www.essexrcc.org.uk](http://www.essexrcc.org.uk)

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## Village News

### The Eyes Have It!

A cat staring into the dull headlights of a car one foggy night in 1933 helped to save many lives and make the inventor a lot of money. Born in Boothtown near Halifax in West Yorkshire, the 43-year-old Percy Shaw realised that he had been inadvertently using the moonlight reflected in tramlines in the nearby suburb of Ambler Thorn, Bradford to navigate by. The problem was that these tramlines were removed for repair, making travelling more difficult. The story goes that he was starting to veer offline in the fog when he noticed two pinpoint reflections and used these to straighten his path! These were the reflections of his car lights in the eyes of a cat which was sitting on a fence by the side of the road.

I tend to believe a slightly alternative story, which states that Percy Shaw was driving along Queensbury Road (part of the A647) which had a very steep drop down one side from the Old Dolphin pub in Clayton Heights towards his home in Halifax. He was starting to veer towards this steep drop when he saw his headlights reflected in the eyes of a cat sitting on a fence watching him. He was then able to straighten up and get home safely. We don't know whether he went to the pub first!

It really doesn't matter which story is true, but it did lead Percy to think about how to improve road safety since, at the time, there had been an increasing number of traffic accidents at night. Thinking about this and remembering the incident with the staring cat, he hit upon the idea of reflection to guide vehicles. After many tries, he had finally devised a form of reflecting road stud and, on 3 April 1934, took out two patents on his invention. On 15 March 1935, he formed a company called Reflecting Roadstuds Ltd in Halifax with £500 of capital. The name Catseye is the trademark and the company still exists as an independent entity based in Boothtown, Halifax to this day.

The original invention was made using two pairs of retroreflecting lenses (one pair facing forward and the other pair facing in the opposite direction) set in a white rubber dome mounted in a cast iron block. The clever thing about the design is that the rubber dome is flexible so when a vehicle passes over the top, it depresses it into the cast iron block. Along the front of each lens is an immovable rubber wiper which cleans the lens as it becomes depressed, utilising rainwater which gathers in the iron housing. Later developments have used a single lens and have been made in different colours for use as lane dividers and for road margins.

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# Village News

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Percy Shaw was not the first person to use retroreflecting lenses as these had been invented six years before by Richard Hollins Murray, an accountant from Herefordshire, for use in advertising signs. Use of the catseye was established when it won a competition in 1937 set by the Ministry of Transport to find a road reflector. The idea though had

a difficult start, with not many orders but, with the advent of World War 2 and the demands of the blackout and use of shuttered headlights, orders rocketed, making the company over £1 million a year – a lot of money in the 1940s! After the war, with backing from a Ministry of Transport committee led by James Callaghan and Sir Hugh Young, the use of catseyes was extended nationally and its success led to demand globally.

There have not been too many negative issues with catseyes, although there has been concern that they could harm people with epilepsy, and there has even been one recorded death by catseye! This was when a catseye became loose in 1999 and a vehicle hit it, sending it flying through another car's windscreen, killing the driver! However, this was a rare incident which has not damaged the reputation of the invention as an aid to navigation. Over the years, the design has been improved and a recent change has been the use of an LED device in the catseye, enabling it to stay bright permanently.

Percy Shaw became a little eccentric in his later years, deciding to remove all the carpets, curtains and most of the furniture from his house, but keeping four televisions permanently on, with each one separately tuned to BBC1, BBC2 and ITV. These were black and white sets, but had the sound turned off. The fourth set was tuned to BBC2 in colour. This was so that when his friends came round, they could watch any channel they liked without arguing and still chat without the television intruding! His only luxury was his Rolls-Royce Phantom. For his invention, Percy Shaw was awarded the OBE for services to exports in 1965 and died in 1976 at the age of 86.

*Chris Bingham*

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# *Children's Page*

## **Easter Trivia Quiz**

1. In which country did the Easter Bunny originate?
2. Which celebration immediately preceded Easter?
3. Which plant has come to symbolise Jesus' resurrection?
4. What is the Friday before Easter usually called?
5. What kind of crown did the Romans give Jesus?
6. What does tradition of the Easter Egg symbolise?
7. What was written above Jesus' head on the cross?
8. What is usually eaten on Good Friday?
9. How many days does Lent last for?
10. What came first, Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection or the Last Supper?



*Sourced by June Eaton*



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# *Village News*

## Great Totham in March



# Village News



## Great Totham Parish Council Report March



Despite Mother Nature's best efforts to compress all four seasons into one month, it is clear from the number of people I have met on permitted walks that March has been welcomed in the village. The Rangers have been sprucing up the road signs, hedgerows are sprouting and spring flowers flourishing in gardens. We even have a lone crocus growing in the gutter! As the Parish Council footpath representative, I am delighted that new residents have been enquiring about the provision and so many people have been walking the paths. In common with other rural areas, some of the routes are along the lanes and, since we have yet again been unable to organise a Clean Up Day, the work of those who take a litter picker on their walk is greatly appreciated.

In the absence of questions from the public, traditionally part of council meetings when they take place in the village hall, having socially distanced chats in the lane has been very pleasurable. I have met one of the public spirited people (and his well-behaved dog) who spends time clearing up after other people's dogs. I have been told of a yellow ribbon scheme that enables local dog owners to flag up that their pet is rather timid and minimise conflict with other more exuberant pets. I have also discovered that few people think a drift of snowdrops is improved by the fly tipping of a storage heater!

Following the return to school of our children, we have been informed that families and households with primary, secondary or college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week at home to minimise the risk of spreading coronavirus. Tests can be ordered and collected from local sites or administered through workplace testing programmes.

We have also been notified of the appointment of a Tri-Service Rural Community Officer who will work with the Fire and Rescue Service, the Police and the East of England Ambulance Trust towards the shared goal of making Essex safer, particularly in rural communities. Further information can be obtained on [facebook.com/TriserviceRuralCommunityOfficer](https://facebook.com/TriserviceRuralCommunityOfficer). Maldon Police have expressed appreciation for the work of local groups and all who, particularly during the past year, have 'stood up for their communities'. They hope to

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# Village News

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reinstate 'Coffee with Cops' in the near future. Updates can be found on Facebook – Essex Police-Maldon District or Twitter -@EP Maldon.

Many people have spent the past year offering their services to those in need, and now Essex Libraries Services is looking for volunteers to support the roll out of the Reading Friends Scheme. Developed with funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, Reading Friends tackles loneliness by bringing people together to read, chat and share stories. Contact would initially be via phone or virtually but, as restrictions lift, it is planned to undertake face to face sessions in libraries. You will need good communication and people skills but a vast knowledge of literature is not necessary.

Should you already be involved in charitable activities, you might wish to visit the National Association of Local Councils at [www.nalc.gov.uk](http://www.nalc.gov.uk) where you can find details of grants, many appropriate to rural areas, available to organisations. Ranging from supporting elderly people to refurbishing sports provision, there are funds available from such groups as the National Lottery, the Prince's Countryside Fund and the Community Action Fund, which may be particularly useful to those who have recently had their fundraising curtailed.

Judging by the number of delivery vehicles visiting the village, it occurred to me that those who have been recommended to shield have been well supported over the past months. Ironically, this thought coincided with a week when my groceries were delivered to a neighbour, the milkman neglected to leave my 'pinta', a courier company lost a parcel and the refuse collectors once again used my emptied bins to barricade my drive! On the upside, both my neighbours and I received gifts and apologies from the supermarket, the milkman made a special journey to deliver milk on a day he does not normally visit and my parcel mysteriously reappeared. I haven't yet heard from the refuse collectors, but let's hope they are back to normal by the time I am actually allowed to drive my car!

*Vicky Heaviside*



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# Village News

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## 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/>

## Easter Trivia Quiz Answers

- |                    |            |                     |                |
|--------------------|------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. Germany         | 2. Lent    | 3. Lily             | 4. Good Friday |
| 5. Crown of Thorns | 6. Rebirth | 7. King of the Jews |                |
| 8. Hot Cross Buns  | 9. 40 days | 10. The Last Supper |                |

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# Village News



MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Message from the District Councillor



### March News

I am continuing to progress for actions on the roads across the Great Totham ward. I am hoping that this year we will see those schemes that have been approved or agreed to start to be implemented. Whilst the funding for road improvements in the Maldon area has increased, I would like to see that funding being used on some of the crucial issues in the villages, I will be taking a very active role in ensuring that happens.

The council is helping to promote the campaign to shop local and that is something we all need to do to support the local economy as we come out of lockdown. There is also a new policy for the council to ensure where possible it buys from local suppliers. If you have a product or business that you feel would benefit the authority, please make sure you provide the council with your details.

The council is also developing new strategies, part of that is ensuring that the council operates in a sustainable manner.

Please contact me at any time, either by phoning 01621 890809 or email: [cllr.richard.siddall@maldon.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.richard.siddall@maldon.gov.uk)

Stay safe and well.

*Richard*

## Essex & Herts Air Ambulance appeal

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) is looking for people to help raise £30,000. Each year EHAAT treats approximately 60 people in need of a potentially life-saving blood transfusion at the scene of an incident. On average it costs EHAAT around £500 to help each patient in need of blood, so it is appealing for 60 people to donate £500 each to keep flying blood to those who need it most.



To find out more about EHAAT's Blood on Board Appeal visit [ehaat.org/bloodappeal](http://ehaat.org/bloodappeal)

# Village News



## Great Totham Evening WI



The WI have recently held a coffee morning and an afternoon tea for those members who have the technology to take part. Scones, cream and jam were evident in many of their homes in the latter event and obviously greatly enjoyed.

Our March meeting took the form of our AGM, held on Zoom.

Next month on 8<sup>th</sup> April, we will be holding another Zoom meeting, when our speaker will be Eve Regelous with a talk entitled 'I Blame It On The Beatles'. The meeting begins at 8pm. We hope we can soon start thinking about meeting 'in the flesh', but for now it has to be virtual.

If you would like any more information about the group, you can find us on our website [www.greattothamwi.weebly.com](http://www.greattothamwi.weebly.com) or, alternatively, email [greattothamwi@gmail.com](mailto:greattothamwi@gmail.com).

*Sue Pulford*



## Great Totham Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

We'd like to give you a short update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan.

We have now compiled a document that contains all of the comments, both positive and negative, that we received as part of the consultation. In addition to local residents, we received comments from a wide range of organisations such as Historic England, Sport England, neighbouring Parish Councils, Essex County Council, Anglian Water and national and local developers.

All the feedback will be added to a consultation paper which includes a detailed explanation of all the events, surveys and discussions we have had with you to get to where we are now. We are hoping to have the draft Plan and Village Design Statement completed before the end of March, for review by Maldon District Council.

*Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group*



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# *Totham Lodge*

## **HOME FOR THE ELDERLY**

**Broad Street Green Road, Great Totham, Maldon, Essex CM9 8NU**

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





**At Maldon & District Citizens Advice, we can help you find a way forward, by giving free, confidential advice in all subject areas.**

## Debt

It is important to get help straight away if you are in debt, or worried about money. Don't ignore your bills or letters about money you owe.

There are things you can do if you are struggling to pay your bills because of Coronavirus.

You might be able to claim benefits or get more money on your current benefits if:

- you have Coronavirus, or you are following guidance to stay at home;
- you have lost your job or you are self-employed and can't get work;
- you can't work because your workplace has closed.

It is also worth speaking to the organisations you owe money to – they might be able to help by letting you pay smaller amounts or take a break.

## Case Study

**I've fallen behind on my bills and the debts are building up. I don't know where to start?**

You've already taken a great first step by asking for help, and it is important to know you don't need to face this alone. You can contact Maldon and District Citizens Advice for help.

In the meantime, here are four steps you can take to get started:

### 1. **Work out how much you owe**

Make a list of whom you owe money to and add up how much you need to pay each month. If you don't have your most recent statements, contact your creditor to find out what you owe. Some creditors will have special arrangements for people with Covid-related arrears.

### 2. **Prioritise your debts**

Your rent or mortgage, energy and council tax are called priority debts as there can be serious consequences if you don't pay them. Separate these

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# Village News

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and work out how much you owe. Again, you can ask the companies or council what support might be available during the pandemic.

## **3. Work out how much you can pay**

Create a budget by adding up your essential living costs, such as food and housing, and taking these away from your income. The Citizens Advice budgeting tool can help. Any money you have spare can be put towards your debts, starting with the priority debts first. If you have any money left after paying priority debts, but not enough to make your usual payments on other debts, consider getting advice on the best way for you to start getting on top of them. Or contact your creditors and offer them what you can afford to pay.

## **4. If you can't pay your debts**

If you've got little or no money spare to pay your priority debts seek advice from Maldon and District Citizens Advice straight away. If you're struggling to pay for basics like food, seek help immediately to see what support might be available to you. If you can't pay off other debts, such as credit cards and loans, it would also be worth contacting Maldon and District Citizens Advice.

We know it can feel very daunting to deal with debt, but having a plan really helps and our team will be here to help you each step of the way.

Our website has a great deal of relevant information including:

### **Citizens Advice Budgeting Tool:**

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/budgeting/budgeting/work-out-your-budget](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/budgeting/budgeting/work-out-your-budget)

### **Getting Help with Debt:**

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/help-with-debt](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/help-with-debt)

### **If You Can't Pay Your Bills Because of Coronavirus:**

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/if-you-cant-pay-your-bills-because-of-coronavirus](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/if-you-cant-pay-your-bills-because-of-coronavirus)

### **Please contact us for advice on any subject by:**

**ringing 01621 875774 – leave a message and an adviser will return your call that day**

**or emailing [bureau@maldoncab.cabnet.org.uk](mailto:bureau@maldoncab.cabnet.org.uk)**

*Sally Babbage*

# Village News

## Rainbows

1<sup>st</sup> Beacon Hill Rainbows is under 'new management'! Mal Stepney and myself have taken over the running of this unit in Great Totham. Although we cannot currently meet face to face, we are keeping in touch with the girls via Zoom. Girlguiding confirmed that meetings can resume in April so we are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back!



Mal has been in Girlguiding for about 35 years and I have been a leader for 11 years so between us, we have many years of experience and make a great team!

We meet on a Monday evening from 5.30-6.30pm at St Peter's Church. Rainbows is for girls age 5-7 and is a fantastic way for them to make new friends and learn new skills!

If you think your daughter would like to join our unit, please log onto GO to make an enquiry and we will be in touch!

*Rosie Pollock*



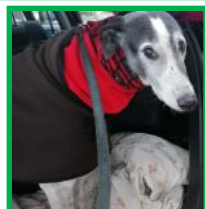
## Sweethearts Merlin and Betty

Valentine's approaching,  
Love is in the air.  
What will sweethearts have in  
store?

With loving gifts they share.  
Parcels opened,  
So much fun.

Cleo the Caterpillar  
And a Snood for her man.  
Plus treats galore,

Lady and The Tramp cards  
They both chose,  
I was exceptionally cold on their walk,  
But their Love is  
GOLD.



*By Lyndsey Phillips*

# Village News

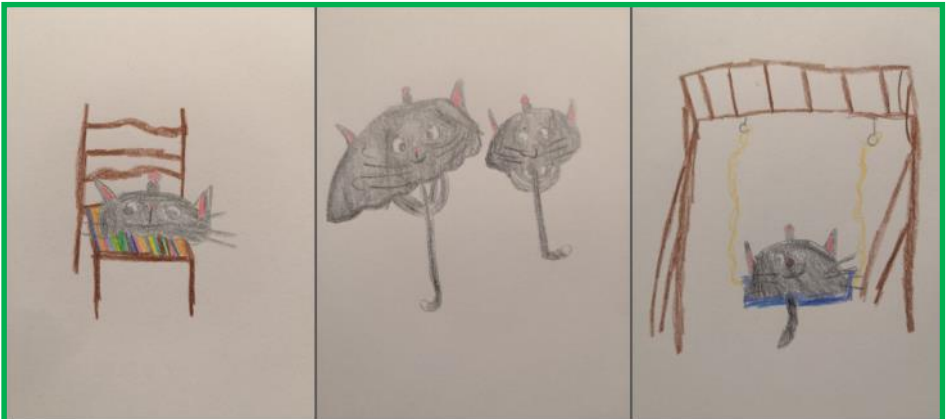
## National Umbrella Month competition

Thank you to two of our local artists, Elizabeth, aged 11, who sent in her 'Koala Umbrella' poster and Vanessa, aged 9, with her three posters 'Cat Umbrella'.



Both of these entries have given us something to smile about during March with its rain, winds and sunshine. We have decided to give both entrants an Easter egg for their superb efforts.

*June Eaton*



# Village News

## Village Diary

1st April	Maundy Thursday
2nd April	Good Friday
4th April	Easter Sunday and Service
5th April	Easter Monday Bank Holiday
18th April	St. Peter's Church Annual Meeting
23rd April	St. George's Day

## Magazine Delivery

Thank you to our distributors and deliverers (too many to mention here) for doing a sterling job in getting the magazine to doorsteps.

However, we would particularly like to thank Cliff who has distributed to deliverers in Totham South for many years and has now handed over this responsibility to Elspeth, Jenny and Cheryl. We are also pleased to have several more deliverers on board to assist, including when people are away or unwell, following our recent Facebook advert. Thank you all!

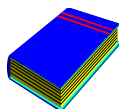
*Helen Mutton*



Covers created by  
Purple Rabbit Designer



Rotas	Church Flowers	Church Cleaning
4 April 11 April 18 April 25 April	Easter Daphne Taplin Vanessa Ellams Chris Kemsley	Jenny Barclay / Anja Schmalfuss - Mr and Mrs Stebbing -
Church Kitchen Cleaning April:		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		<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 and 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

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.

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# Can you find:

8 Rabbits  
12 Easter Eggs

