



Great Totham Parish Magazine

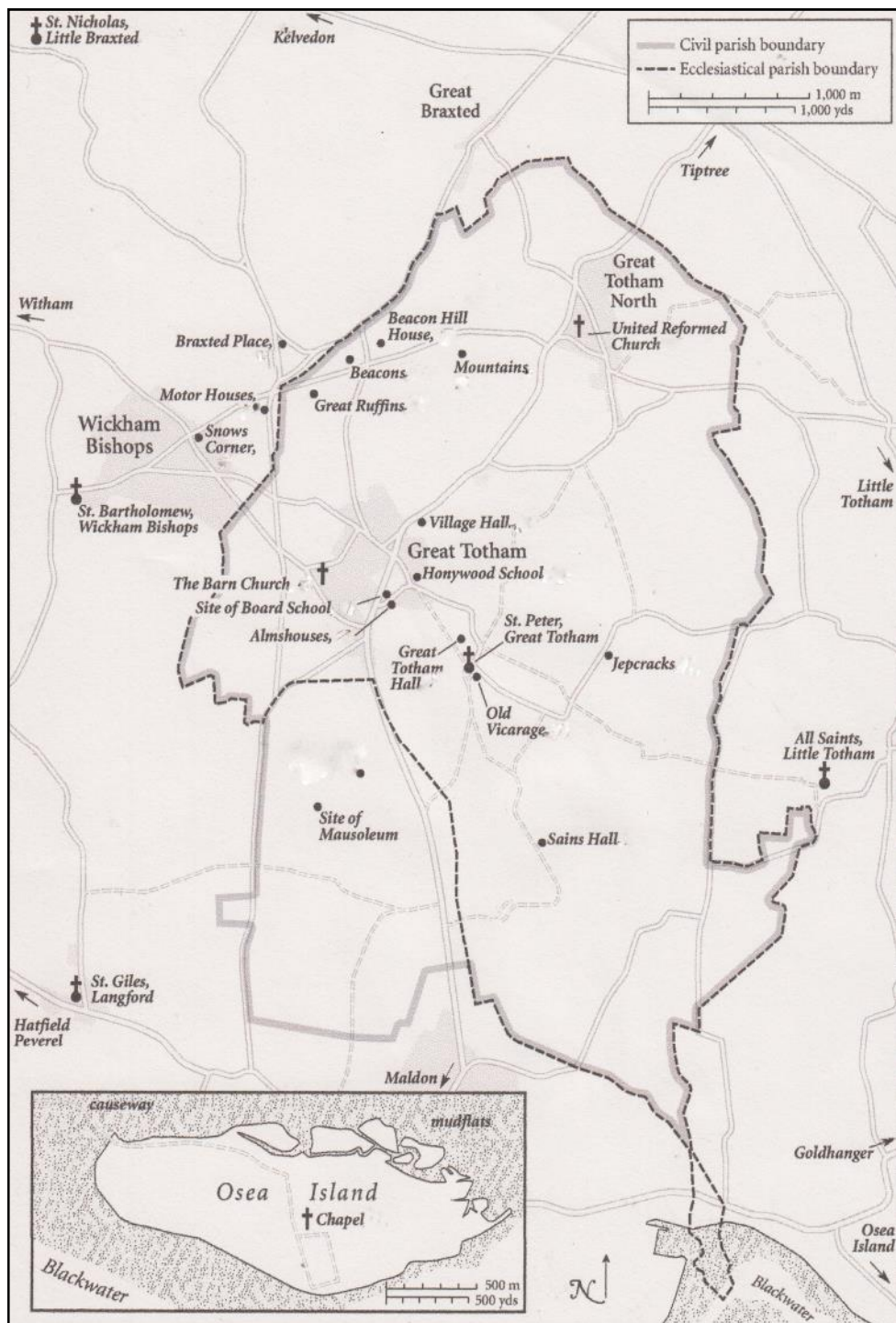
sent to every home in Great Totham
July/August 2025

Join churches within the
Blackwater Benefice
for the
Annual Sea Sunday Service
Focusing on those whose lives
are connected with the sea
10am, Sunday, 13th July
Goldhanger Sailing Club
Followed by refreshments
All welcome



Inside this Edition -

Hurtigruten – The Fast Route
News from the Belfry



St Peter's Church Contact Details



Blackwater
Benefice



Blackwater
Benefice

Parish Contacts:

Priest in Charge (*Vacant*)

Lead Minister in the Blackwater Benefice

Andy Vince 01621 868415 / 07952 144613

Email: andrew.vince15@gmail.com

Associate Priest

Rev. Sue Godsmark 01621 891513

Email : suegodsmark@aol.com

Churchwarden (*Vacant*)

Please contact Rosie Pollock 07908 776750 with any enquiries.

Services

See pages 6 and 7 for details of services and online worship

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals

If you are considering baptism for yourself or your children, weddings, funeral arrangements, Holy Communion at home, or you would just like a visit, please contact Rosie Pollock, Benefice Administrator, 07908 776750, email office.blackwaterbenefice@gmail.com

Rosie is generally available on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Messages left at other times during the week will be responded to at regular intervals.

Magazine:

Enquiries: Helen Mutton: 01621 891067

Jackie Masterson 07951 537206

Adverts: Sue Sharp 07548 826603

Deliveries: Cheryl Knott 01621 890940

Email (for all enquiries): parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk

St Peter's Church Website:

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6657



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



Blackwater
Benefice

Blackwater Benefice Ministry Team Message



Blackwater
Benefice

Do you have trust or confidence in something or someone? If you do, it's called faith.

Sometimes we don't even think about things, we take them for granted. For example, when we drive over the bridge at the Dartford Crossing, we have confidence that we are not going to get wet feet. We have faith in the designers and builders of the structure and those who maintain it. Well, that is provided it's not too windy and all the other drivers act responsibly.

What some don't realise is that Jews, Christians, and Muslims all have faith in THE SAME God. The same God that they worship. How can that be? Some of them have been at war for centuries; apparently because of their faiths.

I was chatting to a friend a little while ago and discovered that we had diametrically opposing views about a particular foreign politician. I started to say how I felt, but quickly stopped, as it was clear that we couldn't change each other's perspective. I've been thinking about that exchange and realised that tolerating and respecting each other's view is part of having friendship.

The Cambridge dictionary definition of tolerance is a "willingness to accept behaviour and beliefs that are different from your own, although you might not agree with or approve of them". If there had been more religious tolerance in the past, then there would have been fewer wars and conflicts. Think about Northern Ireland and the Middle East. However, it requires tolerance on all sides.

When it comes to faith, Jews, Christians, and Muslims all have their own way of life and yet they are aware of conflicts and uncertainties even within their own personal beliefs. Atheists have a belief system as well, and it has many questions. For example, they believe the universe exists by complete chance, they believe nothing exists beyond this life, and that ultimately science alone will explain everything. None of these can be proven. Agnostics are the people who "don't know". Where are you on that spectrum of faith?

If you've been to a church wedding, you may have listened to a bible reading that is frequently used. It emphasises the importance of love in the relationship. I'm sure you would support that view. It was written nearly 2000 years ago by Paul, one of the apostles of Jesus. He wrote his letter at Ephesus, in what is now modern Turkey, to the Christian church at Corinth, Greece. He said, "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love". He supports all three. Love is important to all of us and so is hope and faith.

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Church News

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If reading this has made you wonder about your own beliefs, perhaps it would be helpful to sit quietly in a church, or outside in the churchyard, to try to pin down what you believe in. You would be away from the distractions of everyday life. Perhaps we just take our beliefs for granted. Sometimes we haven't really thought about them.

It's probably not a good idea to start thinking about your faith as you drive along the approach road to the Dartford Crossing!!!

*Malcolm Holmes
St Peter's Church, Goldhanger*

In your prayers at home this month, please include:

Our 'Friendship Church' - Bragernes Kirke, Drammen, Norway
Adam, John, Nina, Peter and Jeanne

Rotas	Church Flowers	Church Cleaning
6th July	Mel Scholey	Mr and Mrs Kemsley
13th July	Wedding	-
20th July	Sally Thake	Heather Gulliver/Hardy-King
27th July	Vanessa Ellams	-
3rd August	Karin Mann	Mr and Mrs Hardy-King
10th August	Sally Buckley	-
17th August	Pat Eaton	Glynis Potter/Sally Thake
24th August	Sue Keyes	-
31st August	Benefice Service	Jenny Barclay/Jean Grant

Church Extension and Kitchen Cleaning: July: Karin Mann
August: Jenny Walling

Church Registers

Baptism

14th June Elowen Margaret Ferris-Brash of Great Totham

Wedding

20th May Mark Andrew Sherman and Kerri Anne Brooks
Both of Great Totham

Funeral

6th May Margaret Collier of Great Totham

Church News

Services at St Peter's Church

St Peter's Church is open for private prayer
10am-3pm Monday to Saturday
11am-3pm on Sundays

Date	Time	Service	Readings
6th July Third Sunday after Trinity	10am	Morning Service of the Word	Isa. 66. 1 Gal. 6. 7-16
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	Gospel: Luke 10. 1-11, 16.20
13th July Fourth Sunday after Trinity	10am	Sea Service at Goldhanger Sailing Club	Ps. 25 Col. 1. 1-14
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	Gospel: Luke 10. 25-37
20th July Fifth Sunday after Trinity	10am	Family Communion	Ps. 15 Col. 1. 15-28
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	Gospel: Luke 10. 38-end
27th July Sixth Sunday after Trinity	10am	Family Communion	Gen. 18. 20-32 Col. 2. 6-15 (16-19)
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	Gospel: Luke 11. 1-13
3rd August Seventh Sunday after Trinity	10am	Morning Service of the Word	Ecc. 1. 2, 12-14, 2. 18-23 Col. 3. 1-11
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	Gospel: Luke 12. 13-21
10th August Eighth Sunday after Trinity	10am	Morning Service of the Word	Gen. 15. 1-6 Heb. 1. 1-3, 8-16
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	Gospel: Luke 12. 32-40
17th August Ninth Sunday after Trinity	10am	Family Communion	Ps. 82 Heb. 11. 29, 12. 2
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	Gospel: Luke 12. 49-56
24th August Tenth Sunday after Trinity	10am	Family Communion	Isa. 58. 9-end Heb. 12. 18-end
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	Gospel: Luke 13. 10-17
31st August Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	10am	Benefice Service at Tolleshunt Major	Ps. 112 Heb. 13. 1-8, 15-16
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	Gospel: Luke 14. 1, 7-14

Church News



Benefice Worship



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

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

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



For details of Evensong by Zoom contact Rev'd Sue Godsmark

Book of Common Prayer Communion Services:

10am	Wednesdays	at St. Nicholas, Tolleshunt D'Arcy
5.30pm	Saturdays	at All Saints Little Totham

Visit the website or email blackwaterbenefice@gmail.com for details of other Benefice events and activities.

The Parish of St. Peter's Great Totham

Charity Number: XN 12862

100+ Club Draw Winners May

1st Prize: Pauline Stebbings

2nd Prize: Gerry Gunton

3rd Prize: Charlotte King

Over the course of a year, 50% of subscriptions is returned in prizes. For every 100 members, the prize value will be £50 per month: 1st prize £25, 2nd prize £15 and 3rd prize £10. More members means bigger prizes.

Membership runs from 1st May to 30th April the following year, although you may join at any time. If you would like to join the scheme, whose proceeds benefit the church, please contact Roger Allen, 100+ Club Administrator, on 01621 892334, email: rw_allen@yahoo.co.uk

Subscriptions (£12 per year) may be by standing order, online bank transfer (sort code 20-54-30, account number 20882739, reference "100+ Club") or by cheque/cash to: Roger Allen, "Kimlee", Burns Green, Great Totham, CM9 8UL

Coffee Mornings at The Honywood



Our next Coffee Mornings will be held on Saturday, 26th July and Saturday, 23rd August. We look forward to seeing you then for bacon butties, tea, coffee, cake and chat, 10am to 12 noon, in The Honywood, Hall Road.

Sheila Allen

Church News

News from the Belfry

On 21st April the Vatican announced the death of Pope Francis. The Pope was known to be in poor health, but it was only the day before that he delivered his traditional Easter blessing to the assembled crowds in St Peter's Square. This was followed by an open topped car ride to greet the people. The Papal Basilica of St Peter, simply known as St Peter's Basilica, is accredited with being the burial site of St Peter. It is situated solely within the Vatican City. The present day basilica replaced the old church on this site, which was built in the fourth century in the reign of Emperor Constantine. Work began on the new basilica on 18th April 1506 and was completed on 18th November 1626. It was designed by Donato Bramante, Michelangelo and Carlo Maderno. Carlo Maderno designed the facade and, in the 17th century, Bernini added two bell towers in an attempt to artistically frame the massive dome. This was not entirely successful as the towers were poorly constructed, showing early signs of cracking, and were removed, leaving only the bases intact. The basilica is the largest church in the world by interior measurement and has the highest dome.

The basilica has six bells, placed in the room below the Roman clock. Only three of the six bells are visible as the other three are hidden from view by the bourdon bell. This is the name given to the heaviest bell of a ring of bells. The six bells are individually named. The smallest bell is the Campanella bell, weighing in at 260 kg, cast in 1825, followed by Ave Maria, cast in 1932, Predica, cast in 1893, Rota, cast in 1288, the oldest bell, Campanoncino, cast in 1725 and, finally, Campanone, the bourdon bell, cast in 1785, weighing in at nearly nine tonnes. It is, however, just over half of the weight of the bourdon bell Great Paul at St Paul's Cathedral, London, this being the largest bell ever cast in the British Isles, weighing in at 16.7 tonnes.

The Campanone bell has an important role to play. It is traditionally rung at Christmas and Easter, as well as when the Pope imparts his papal address and apostolic blessing to the city of Rome and to the world. More recently it announced the death of Pope Francis and the subsequent election of Pope Leo XIV on 8th May following the papal conclave. The white smoke from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel signifies that a new Pope has been elected, but it is not always visible if the weather is inclement, hence the necessity of simultaneously ringing the Campanone bell. Since 1931, the bells have been rung electronically, which means they can be rung from a distance. You can hear the Campanone bell ringing on YouTube.

There was the opportunity to see and hear the bells of St Peter's, Great Totham, being rung at the Flower Festival on 4th and 5th May. You could also see the bells close up, as a camera feed from the belfry projected images of the bells onto the wall of the church. The bells were also rung to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day on Thursday, 8th May.

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Church News

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Do you fancy joining us? It doesn't matter if you are a complete novice as full instruction will be given.

For further information, please contact Janice, our Tower Captain, on 07790 354338 or alternatively visit www.greattothambellringers.org.uk

Andrew and Catherine Hood



Our next meeting is on Friday, 18th July at the Honywood Hall and we will be having an away afternoon to Hyde Hall. This will be our summer celebration as we do not hold a meeting in August, so no meeting at the Honywood until September.

All welcome, please ring me on 01621 891315 for more details.

June Eaton

Donations

To donate to St Peter's Church or the Parish Magazine:

- scan the QR code;
- make a BACS payment to St Peter's Church (sort code 20-54-30, account number 20882739);
- send a cheque (payable to 'St Peter's Church, Great Totham') to 17 Goat Lodge Road, CM9 8BU





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On your marks . . .

On the second Saturday in September each year, 30 counties across the UK 'Ride and Stride' to raise money to help preserve and improve our historic church buildings

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- Enjoy the exercise, meet new people and raise much needed funds for your church
- Please join us!



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Children's Page



16th August National Tell a Joke Day



History of National Tell A Joke Day

Picture a life without laughter; it's hard to imagine that there may have been a time when jokes weren't invented. Jokes are believed to have been a part of history since 1900BC. Many suggest that the joke was created by the Greeks during the Trojan War. There is little evidence to support this claim, and the exact origin of jokes is unknown. The creation of National Tell A Joke Day is also lost in time so we guess the joke's on us!

Tell A Joke Day is a great day to lighten up and laugh it up! Not only is laughter great for the soul, it is also beneficial for our health. When we need help turning that frown upside down, a good joke will save the day! Laughter is also contagious, and the world can always use more smiles and laughter.

The traditions for National Tell A Joke Day are to tell as many jokes as possible. From witty one-liners to comedy shows, jokes dominate the entertainment scene for the day. People also share their favourite jokes and memes on the internet. The idea behind the day is to keep the mood light and enjoy a good laugh. Just remember, jokes need to be setting-appropriate, and the golden rule is to not be offensive or insensitive.

Send in your jokes!

On 16th August, celebrate National Tell A Joke Day by telling a joke.

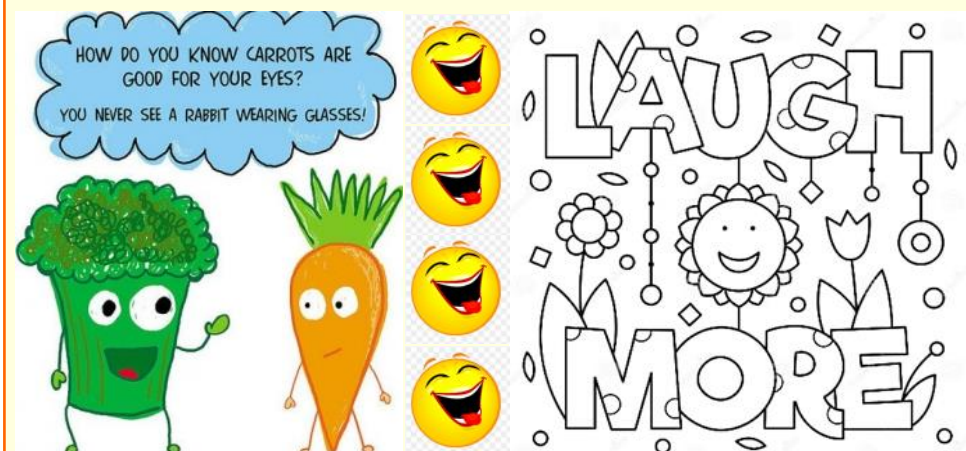
If you have a favourite joke, why not send it in to the magazine using our email address at the back of this issue. Please send these in by **8th August** so that we can place it in the September issue of our magazine.

Here are a few examples:

- ◆ What did the policeman say to his tummy? *You're under a vest!*
- ◆ Knock knock, who's there? Boo! Boo who? *No need to cry!*
- ◆ Why did the banana go to the Doctor? *Because he wasn't peeling very well!*
- ◆ What do you call Postman Pat without a job? *Pat !!!!*
- ◆ What do you get if you cross a dinosaur with a pig? *Jurassic pork!*
- ◆ Knock knock, who's there ? Atish. Atish who? *Bless you!*
- ◆ What kind of room doesn't have windows or a door? *A mushroom!*
- ◆ What do you call a donkey with three legs? *A wonkey!*
- ◆ I'd tell you the joke about the jam but you would spread it. *Roarrr meat!*
- ◆ What do lions eat? *Oh Crumbs!*
- ◆ Two biscuits crossing the road, one got run over, what did the other one say?

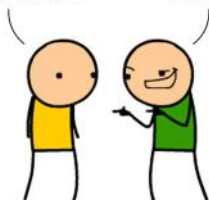
Sourced by June Eaton

Children's Colouring Page



Knock, knock.

Who's there?



Sourced by June Eaton

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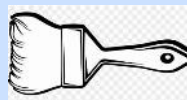
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Community News



MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Your District Councillors



I was honoured to be reappointed as Leader of the Council for another year, and, alongside my fellow councillor Jade, I will continue to work hard for the Great Totham ward and the Maldon District.

There has been a lot of publicity around the changes to the leisure centre. With any change there will be some disruption and the Council, and places of leisure, are doing their utmost to manage this. There are some groups that will have to relocate, and others where there will be temporary arrangements. In the longer term there will be more studio space and facilities to suit a wider range of participants. This is a £6 million investment and the social value in terms of health and wellbeing is estimated at £3.5 million across the district. This is an exciting opportunity, which will ensure that health and wellbeing delivery is improved across the district for the next 20 years.

The new 'Visit Maldon District' website is now live! There are a vast number of improvements and additional information on the site. It can be found at www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk

UFest will take place on Friday, 15th August in Prom Park. This annual event, delivered by Maldon District Council in partnership with other community organisations, brings together a diverse range of organisations to showcase their services and engage with the community. It will feature a music stage, a prize trail for families and children, and stalls from local organisations keen to showcase the help and services they provide to the community.

Maldon District Council are pleased to confirm that a series of community and business projects will receive funding from the 2025/2026 allocations of the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). Previously we have supported 27 community and business organisations with grants, to deliver activities that contribute to increased engagement with local communities and economic growth. The Council will match fund the new allocations to maximise the delivery beyond the one-year funding to further support businesses, residents, and communities. A total of £912,446 will be used to support the projects across the District. It will allow us to continue to build on the great work already delivered. We want to maximise the opportunities for organisations to bid for funding. Details about this will be provided in the next few months.

Jade and I are always keen to help with any ward issues, or if you have any problems or questions about the Council's services. If at any time you need to contact us, please phone 01621 890809, or email:

cllr.richard.siddall@maldon.gov.uk

cllr.jade.hughes@maldon.gov.uk

*Best wishes,
Richard*

Community News

Wickham
Bishops
Drama Club

Wickham
Bishops
Drama Club



7.30pm Friday, 11th July
2.30pm Saturday, 12th July
7.30pm Saturday, 12th July

A terrific gothic-style comedy, which contains all the elements needed to keep you spellbound. Suspense, mock horror and heaps of tongue-in-cheek humour.

Written by Limelight Scripts
Directed by Leigh Perry

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Beacon Hill Rovers

Thank You from Beacon Hill Rovers!

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the Beacon Hill Rovers 2025 Tiptree Cup, an extra special year as we proudly hosted our first-ever Women's Walking Football tournament alongside our long-standing and successful men's competition!



It was a fantastic day full of fun, football, and community spirit — and we're absolutely delighted to come away as winners!

To all the refs, teams, players, supporters, and volunteers: your energy and sportsmanship made the day truly memorable.

Thank you!

Alex

Community News

Hurtigruten—The Fast Route

Our story starts in the late 19th century. Infrequent steamers and unreliable small boats navigated the then poorly chartered waters of the Norwegian coast and ships rarely sailed at night. For much of the 20th century, the coastal ferry route was an essential lifeline for remote communities in northern Norway. It carried cargo, mail and passengers in an era when roads were scarce, and air travel was still in its infancy. Nothing permanent existed to connect the country's cities, town and villages. Just sending a letter from Trondheim to Hammerfest took about three weeks and as many as five months during the winter.

Cargo was a problem too. The rich fishing grounds of herring, halibut and cod in northern Norway were cut off from southern Norway where they could be exported to meet ever increasing demand in Europe. The Norwegian government wanted to find a remedy for the situation and invited companies to submit tenders to operate a route between Trondheim and Tromsø, sailing through the night. No one responded.

Captain Richard With, the son of a shipmaster, was born in Tromsø and would follow in his father's footsteps. A canny businessman, he soon recognised the growing need for better sea transportation and, by the time a government tender came round in 1892, Captain With was ready to defy sceptics and achieve the long-awaited vision of the 'hurtig ruten', the 'fast route'. The Original Coastal Express company was founded back in 1893. It didn't take long for the swift yet safe weekly service to increase in frequency, climbing steadily to daily departures in 1936. Until the 1940s, most ports north of Trondheim could not be reached by road from Oslo, so the sea was the only means of access. The route

was also extended to Bergen in the south and all the way up to Kirkenes on the Russian border.

One of the fleet's 11 ships departs Bergen daily, sailing to Kirkenes and back in 12 days, calling at 33 ports on northbound and southbound sailings.

For over 130 years, Norway's coastal ferry route has connected small communities along one of the world's most dramatic coastlines and Hurtigruten still serves important passenger and cargo needs.

/continued on next page



Community News

/continued from previous page



Before World War II, a number of ships perished, usually because they ran aground in bad visibility. The war marked a challenging period for the service, as Norway's strategic coastline made it a target during the German occupation. Most of the Hurtigruten fleet was sunk. Despite the risks, the service continued, playing a vital role in transporting supplies and personnel. But the historic

service isn't just a lifeline for Norwegians. While the route still served as a practical ferry service, ships began offering more modern cabins, better dining options and panoramic lounges designed for sightseeing. Newer vessels were purpose-built with tourism in mind, and it has become a journey that has captured the imagination of travellers worldwide. Whether it's the midnight sun of summer, or northern light of winter, this route offers a window into Norway's landscapes, culture and history. But what started as a local transportation company, now also operates a fleet of custom-built expedition cruise ships, exploring over 250 destinations in 30 different countries.

The operators, Hurtigruten AS, are investing in green technology to comply with strict environmental regulations, including zero-emission vessels from 2032. Existing vessels will be modernised and renovated to meet the new requirements. In 2019, the world's first hybrid powered cruise ship, MS Roald Amundsen, was launched. Since then, two more have come along. Sustainability has been at the heart of the company's operations ever since they started.

Karin Mann

Parish Magazine

As you may know, the Parish Magazine is produced and delivered free 10 times a year to all homes in Great Totham by a large team of volunteers. We're now looking for volunteer deliverers for Plains Road and part of Maypole Road. This will take around one hour of your time.

If you can help, please email parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk, phone Cheryl on 01621 890940 or Helen on 01621 891067. Thank you!

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Community News



Parish Council Reports for May and June 2025



The May meeting was also the Annual meeting and individual Councillors were elected or appointed to specific responsibilities. Councillor Atkinson and Councillor Mrs. Adams will continue as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively for the Civic Year 2025/2026. The Clerk, having explained that it was good practice to appoint a Personnel Committee to deal with staffing matters, Councillor Mrs Adams, Councillor Atkinson and Councillor Mrs Dundas were elected to serve on this committee, Councillor Atkinson being appointed Chairman. He is also Chairman of the Planning Committee on which all Parish Councillors serve and co-ordinator of our Essex Fire and Rescue Speedwatch group. Councillor Gregan is Chairman of the Amenities Committee, Councillor Mrs Adams our contact for Maldon District Council Emergency Planning and Councillor Mrs Heaviside our contact for Essex County Council Public Rights of Way and Essex County Council Public Transport. It is, of course, still perfectly acceptable for residents to contact the Clerk by phone 07811 400 803 or email clerk@greattothamparishcouncil.uk - with any queries and she will forward them to the appropriate person.

Traditionally, Great Totham Parish Council has made the majority of payments by cheque for which the current signatories are Councillor Delderfield and Councillor Mrs Heaviside. At the June meeting the Clerk, as requested, reported on the possibility of transferring to an Online Banking system. Following considerable discussion, members voted in favour of the change and the necessary arrangements will be made. Members also received a very detailed response from the newly appointed internal auditors with recommendations for ensuring the Council's commitment to transparency and continuous improvement in governance.

As has been mentioned before, much of any Council's work comes into the category of 'ongoing' and it is often frustrating that other agencies do not feel the same sense of urgency when dealing with our concerns as we do! We are, for example, still pursuing the malfunction of the speed indicators on the B1022 and enlisting the help of Essex County Council regarding the vegetation along the footpath between Mill Road and the bus stop. The Clerk is chasing up the reimbursement of costs incurred as a result of the damage to the village sign and Councillor Gregan is speaking with the tree surgeon about the continued dying back of the oak trees on the cricket pitch boundary.

Continued on page 25

Community News

We have found that the introduction of an Action List, detailing 'jobs to be done' and those 'volunteered to do them' has been very successful – not least because of the delight in actually being able to write 'completed' in the update column!

There are, of course, some issues which suddenly arise and seriously ruffle feathers, one such being the installation of 12 metre high masts by Essex and Suffolk Water which, we are informed, are to collect data from smart water meters. The proposed locations are Staplers Heath, The Paddocks, Prince of Wales Road, Captains Wood Road, Maldon Road, Mill Road, Kings Road, Chapel Road and Beacon Hill. I was rather surprised to be told they do not need planning permission but possibly more taken aback that Essex County Council did not feel it might be courteous to consult residents of the villages concerned. Rural areas seldom have the type of street furniture to which items of technology can be attached or, indeed, have wide enough pavements to accommodate a large column without inconveniencing walkers and concerns are to be expected. The Chairman and the Clerk met with representatives of Essex and Suffolk Water and more discussions are planned before any installations take place.

Residents will recall that, following ongoing vandalism at the Jubilee Recreation Ground, play equipment for our younger children was refurbished and relocated to Bull Green. It has been very encouraging to see how well used the apparatus has since become. At the June meeting, the question of the rather sorry condition of some of the remaining pieces was raised and, with the school holidays approaching, members will consider what can be done to provide improved facilities for our older children.

Full details of agendas, minutes, planning applications and other matters of interest can be found on the village notice boards and the Parish Council website or you may like to join us in the village hall to ask a question, make a comment or simply find out what's going on. The next meeting is on Monday 14th July at 7.30p.m.

Vicky Heaviside

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Community News

Lofts Farm: From then to now

As the daughter of a farmer, I knew that, following tradition, it would be my brother who inherited the farming business at Lofts farm. But it was in my late 60s that I had the opportunity to take on the farm after my brother sadly died without heirs. It was not an immediate decision as I had my own business, Colour Naturally and was living in Suffolk. However, I saw the opportunity to develop my business growing plants to make dyes for textiles and eco printing, by increasing the area and range of plants in the yard which had been used for the haystacks. I was also very fortunate to persuade David French to work with me, taking over the agriculture of the farm and much much more!

My grandfather, George Playle, a former chairman of Great Totham Parish Council, owned Northlands Farm, where he grew fruit for Wilkins in Tiptree. When the adjoining Lofts Farm was for sale, he reached an agreement with Claude Woodhead, the owner. As a result, Claude and his sister moved into my grandparents' house, Bermuda, in Catchpole Lane and started a small riding stable, overseen by Anne Williams, whose parents owned The Mitre, Wickham Bishops. A bungalow was built at Northlands for my grandparents and my parents moved into Lofts.

Last year I moved into the converted tractor shed at Lofts after selling the farmhouse to finance the challenge of establishing an environmentally sustainable farming business. The farm is very different to the place where I grew up after years of gravel extraction, but I feel such a connection to this land that I am determined to succeed. The history here is astounding with artefacts from the archaeological work in Colchester and Chelmsford museums. Tim Howson, who is the Principal Conservation & Heritage Officer at Maldon District Council was very excited when he visited the farm, as he discovered that *'The Granary' dates from the late-16th century. One of the oldest agricultural buildings in the Maldon District, it retains some significant features and is a two-storey, three-bay, timber-framed building, with a single undivided space on both levels. At first-floor level it has four diamond-mullion windows served by internal sliding shutters. Remarkably, two of these windows retain their sliding shutters in-situ; an extremely rare survival'*.

We have planted new woodland and hedges and, as part of the Government SFI scheme, have wildflower margins and grass buffers in every field. Volunteer birders visit weekly to record birds and wildlife. The Dye Garden supplies my natural dye designs, as well as the recently started Dye Club and Workshops.

I am one of a growing number of women in this challenging agricultural world and feel so grateful to my grandfather for his passion for the land that I share.

If you would like to know more or to visit the farm, please contact me by email: edwinaann1517@gmail.com.

Edwina Hughes



Colour Naturally Workshops

at Lofts Farm, Great Totham, near Maldon CM9 8NZ

10.30am to 1.30pm

An Introduction to using Plants to dye Fabrics and Yarns

This workshop focuses on the ways plants can be used to make a coloured dye for fabrics. Fabrics and plant material will be provided, and you will have the opportunity to collect from the wonderful dye garden at Lofts Farm. Different fabrics will be available on which you will create your own unique and beautifully coloured fabrics.

Thursday, 7th August

Saturday, 20th September

An Introduction to Eco Printing with Plants on Textiles

This workshop focuses on the ways plants can be used to create eco prints on textiles. Fabrics will include silk, wool and cotton and the plant material will be collected from the wonderful dye garden at Lofts and around the farm. You will create your own unique and beautifully coloured fabrics.

Saturday, 9th August

Thursday, 25th September

Further dates and individual bookings available on request

Family workshops for young people accompanied by an adult can be arranged on request

Workshop Fees and Booking: £50 per person

Dye Club meets every month at Lofts

An opportunity to develop your knowledge and experience in Natural Dyes with friends.

To book your place and for further information contact:

edwinaann1517@gmail.com

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

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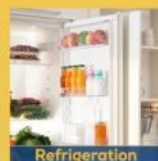
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Sea Sunday Service Sunday July 13th 10am at Goldhanger Sailing Club

The annual Sea Sunday is a day of focus on those whose lives are connected with the sea

"Trinity" – A converted lightship which is the residential centre of Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust (FACT), which provides adventure, relaxation and exploring, especially for young people.



**Service organised by
St Peter's Church, Goldhanger**

Goldhanger Sailing Club is on the sea wall at Goldhanger. Walking/cycling access via the sea wall, car access for the service through Bounds Farm, at the bottom of Fish Street.



Community News

Great Totham Gardening Club Autumn Show Saturday, 6th September 2.30pm to 5pm at Great Totham Village Hall

Get your garden produce ready! There'll be something for everyone: vegetables, fruit, flowers, floral art, cookery, arts and crafts, photography and children's classes. We particularly look forward to seeing your entries for the Spud Bucket Challenge, Harvest Basket and Tallest Sunflower (for children up to 16 years of age).

Cost: 20p per entry. Entries close at 7pm on Thursday, 4th September, to be staged at the Village Hall on Saturday 6th between 8am and 11am.

Raffle and refreshments will be available for you to enjoy throughout the afternoon.

For more information and a show schedule, email:

hpmutton@gmail.com or norman.escala1@btinternet.com

Summer Reading Challenge

This year's Summer Reading Challenge, exploring the magical connection between storytelling and nature, will run from 19th July to 6th September in all Essex libraries, with a special Early Joiners' Day on 12th September.

Children are asked to read six books or do a range of book-related activities. As they do this, they'll collect special stickers of our key characters and add them to their own Story Garden. Six stickers earn a certificate and medal.

Visit: <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/summer-reading-challenge>



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To book your place, book online, at the library or email the library.

Visit: <https://library-events.essex.gov.uk/series?sn=Seated+Exercise>

Community News

What's on in your Community

The Treehouse Club Pre-School

Monday to Friday, Village Hall

Rainbows

Monday, Church Extension

Carpet Bowls

630pm-830pm Tuesday, Village Hall

Baby Signage

9am Wednesday, Church Extension

Bible Study Group

1030am Wednesday, Honywood Hall

Community Choir

730pm Wednesday, Church Extension

Edward Bear Club

1030am Thursday, Church Extension

Great Totham WI

730pm 2nd Thursday, Village Hall

Wickham Bishops Gardening Club

730pm third Thursday,
St Bartholomew's Church Hall

Wickham Bishops WI

2pm last Thursday,
St Bartholomew's Church Hall

Knit and Natter

10am Friday, Honywood Hall

Bellringing Practice

745pm Friday, St Peter's Church

Mothers' Union

145pm some Fridays, Honywood Hall
Contact June Eaton 01621 891315 for dates

St Peter's Church Coffee Morning

10am 4th Saturday, Honywood Hall

URC, Great Totham North

Art Club

Monday, 2pm-4pm

Upholstery Classes

Monday, 7.30pm-9.30pm

Tuesday, 10am-12 noon;

12.30pm-2.30pm

Lunch Club

10.30am—2pm

2nd and 4th Wednesday

Craft and Chatter

1.30pm—3.30pm 2nd Thursday

Piecemakers

Patchwork and Needlework Group

1.30pm—3.30pm last Thursday

Church Coffee Morning

10am—11.30am 2nd Saturday

See page 39 for contact details

*To include your group here, email:
parishmagazinetoatham@yahoo.co.uk*

Future Events

Saturday, 6th September

Gardening Club Show

Sunday, 7th September

Pets' Service

Saturday, 13th September

Friends of Essex Churches

Ride and Stride

Sunday, 28th September

Harvest Festival



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Community News



Great Totham WI



Our visit to Blunts Hall was certainly not spoiled by the showers. We were welcomed by Lesley and Alan Gamblin before being taken round their beautiful garden. All our questions were answered and nothing was too much trouble! To complete the experience, we enjoyed a lovely cream tea.



At our June meeting we welcomed Mandy and her retired police dog, Balloo. The Belgian Malinois had to have one of her legs amputated after being hit by a suspect's car fleeing a crime scene. Her story inspired the launch of an animal trauma support service for police officers. She now visits schools, care homes and community groups to help with mental health issues.

Next month, weather permitting, we are meeting outdoors at 'The Spinney' to enjoy the garden and some entertainment at an earlier time of 2pm.

There is no meeting in August, but from September we will be pleased to see new members and welcome you as a guest at any of our meetings held on the second Thursday in the month at Great Totham Village Hall at 7.30 pm. If you would like any more information about our group, you can find us on our website www.greattothamwi.weebly.com, or email greattothamwi@gmail.com.

Sue Pulford



Wickham Bishops WI



Following our celebration of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day at our previous meeting in April, our May meeting was a chance to discuss resolutions for our President, Diane, as delegate to vote on at the Annual Meeting held on 4th June.

Entertainment was provided by Paul Rhodes, a gentleman with a wonderful baritone voice, who has been singing around the world with many famous names since the age of six. Now nearly 80 years old, he is still working and thrilling audiences, proving that age is no barrier to achieving your dreams.

Many members made cakes for Wickham Bishop's Open Gardens in June following a request from the organisers. The WI is still famous for its cakes, long may that continue.

Our meetings are held in Wickham Bishops Church Hall on the last Thursday of the month from 2pm to 4pm. We are always happy to welcome visitors and new members. Please contact me on 01621 815161 for further information.

Margaret Curtis

Community 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:

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- The work of the Community and Local Policing Teams
- Crime trends
- Crime prevention

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: ianbarratt43@gmail.com

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



Wickham Bishops Library

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Baby and Toddler Rhymetime: Mondays 2.15pm-2.45pm.
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Saturday Story Time: 10.30am-11am every third Saturday of the month.
Free sessions aimed at children aged 5 and under, but everyone is welcome.

Ancestry: Wednesdays 3.30pm-4.30pm. Help to research your family history.

Code Club: Saturdays 9am-10am.

Learn how to make cool games, animations and websites.

Contacts for Community Activities (See page 3 for Church Activities)

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers		www.girlguiding.org.uk	
Rainbows at St Peter's Church	Rosie Pollock		893168
Scouts, Cubs, Beavers at Prances	Brenda Heal	bjheal@btinternet.com	
Great Totham Cricket Club Colts	Paul Marks		07709 793958
The Treehouse Club Pre-School	Village Hall		01621 468020
Edward Bear Club (Toddler Group)	St Peter's Church	Rosie Pollock	893168
Gardening Club	Village Hall	Pauline Wright	892855
WL: GT Evening 2nd Thurs. 7.30pm	Village Hall	Sue Pulford	892063
GT & WB last Thurs. 2pm	St.B Church Hall	Di Mellor	892247
Day Centre Wednesdays	URC	Jean Johnstone	892293
Carpet Bowls Tues 6.30pm-8.30pm	Village Hall	Jean Cloughton	892286
Tollesbury Table Tennis Club	Paul Freeman	freemans21@hotmail.com	
		862510 / 07855 204505	
Maldon Croquet Club		maldoncroquetclub@gmail.com	
Wickham Bishops Drama Club		www.wickhambishopsdrama.co.uk	
Great Totham Community Choir	Colin Heaviside	heavicol@aol.com	893067
Knit and Natter (Honywood Hall)	Sandra Smith		893153
Wickham Bishops Gardening Club	Stewart / Wendy	HortiClub@outlook.com	893360

Useful Telephone Numbers

Honywood Hall Hire	Karin Mann	929866
St Peter's Church Extension Hire	Karin Mann	929866
Village Hall hire	Sue Pulford	892063
URC hall hire	Sue Bowyer	893285
St Peter's—Interment of Ashes and Iron Crosses	Chris Munton	891817
Great Totham Parish Council	Clerk: Nikki Smith	07811400803
District Councillors	Jade Hughes cllr.jade.hughes@maldon.gov.uk	
	Richard Siddall	07979 853947 / 890809
County Councillor	Mark Durham	01245 227249 / 07850 967239
Great Totham Primary School		891091
Maldon District Council		854477
Maldon Citizens Advice	email: manager@maldoncitizensadvice.org.uk	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	emily.fallon@maldon.gov.uk	
NSPCC 24 hour helpline for children		0800 800 500 (free)
The Samaritans		116 123
DIAL UK (Disability Information & Advice Line)		www.dialuk.info
Church of England, St. Peter's	Rev'd Sue Godsmark	891513
Totham Barn Free Evangelical Church	Contact Danbury Mission:	01245 227428
United Reformed Church		01376 500958
Wickham Bishops Church		
Maldon Methodist Church Office	Rev'd Clifford Newman	853423
Maldon Roman Catholic Church	Parish Priest - Fr. Jerold Savio	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



Pets' Service

10am, Sunday, 7th September

in St Peter's Churchyard

Join us for this short service of thanksgiving
for you and your pets

Bring your pet, a photo, toy or
dress up as a pet!

Followed by refreshments
(in the event of wet weather, the service
will be held inside)

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 next edition by: 10th August.

Email: parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk

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