



Great Totham Parish Magazine

sent to every home in Great Totham
March 2026

Mothers Sunday Family Service

10am, Sunday, 15th March

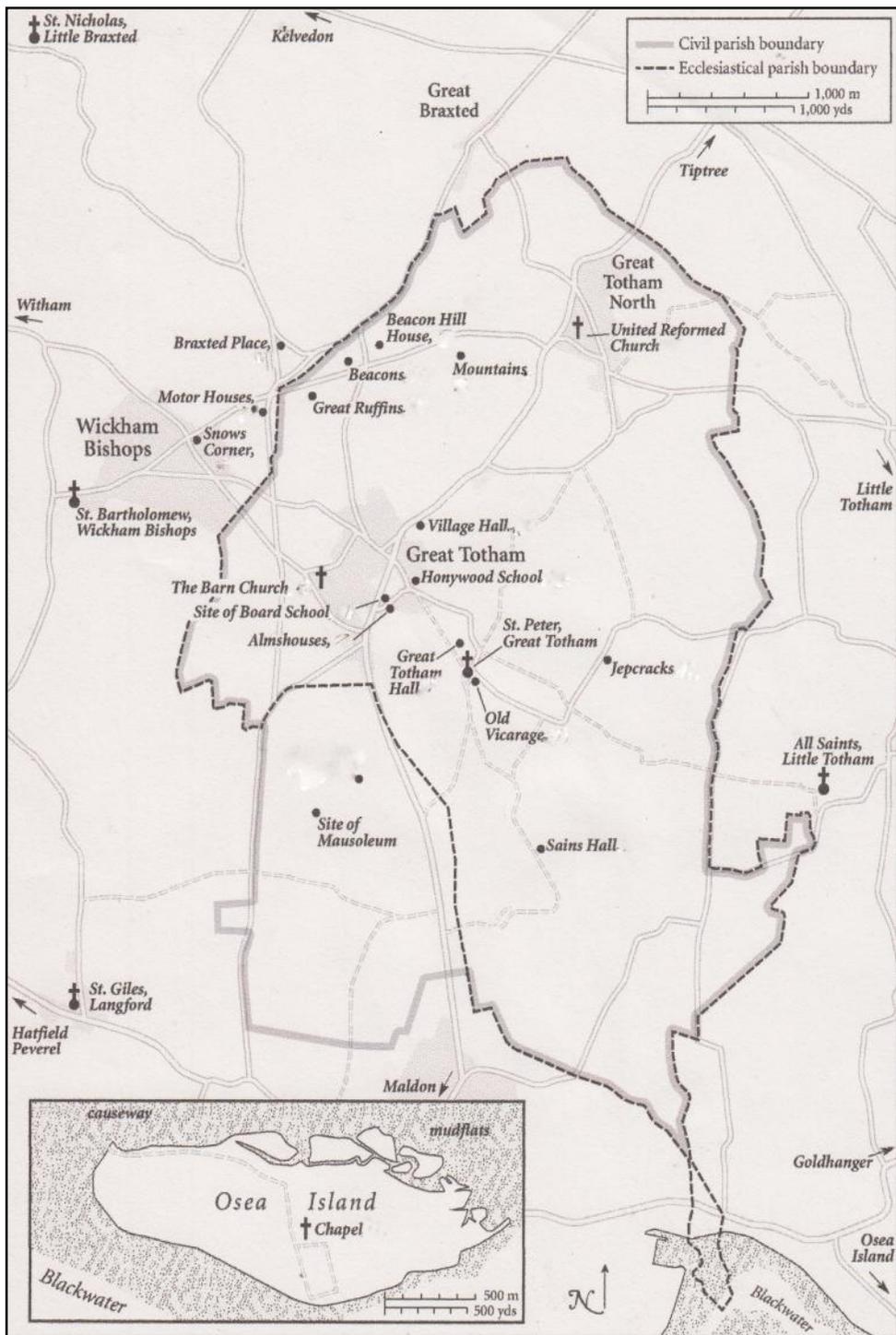
St Peter's Church, Great Totham
Posies of flowers will be
distributed for children to give to
their mothers as well as others in
the congregation

All welcome



Inside this Edition -

Great Totham Gardening Club
Citizens' Advice – Energy Saving



Church News



Blackwater Benefice Ministry Team Message



Looking at the history of the Church of England, it never ceases to amaze me how it manages to evolve and survive, especially during recent times. I was delighted when, five years ago, Rev'd Tracey Caswell was appointed to the Blackwater Benefice and responsible for seven churches. Throughout this period, we had great fellowships, made new friends, and enjoyed sharing our faith together. I particularly enjoyed experiencing the different styles of worship in the different parishes, from the very traditional to more contemporary expressions of Church, such as Café Church or Contemporary Worship in Tollesbury Parish Rooms.

Now it's all changed again! Instead of a seven-church benefice, we are going to join a benefice of 18 churches, split into four clusters, each with their own vicar. My church, Little Totham, is joining the Beacon Group with Goldhanger, Great Totham and Wickham Bishops with Little Braxted and, it has been an exciting time meeting even more Christians in the local area. As a group we had to decide on a name and, due to the location of some of our churches, we decided to be known as the Beacon Group. As you would expect of an ordinand, I wondered if there were any biblical reference about Beacons, and there are; Isaiah 30:17 mentions 'Like a Beacon on a hill.' A Beacon is not meant to draw attention to itself but to guide, warn and give hope. Our new group of churches should be Beacons to our local communities, bright lights pointing people to Jesus, sharing hope with people.

Beacons provide light to guide people; Jesus himself declares 'I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life' (John 8:12). We have just celebrated Christmas, the time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus coming as the light of the world. In a world clouded by confusion, fear and brokenness, Christ stands unchanging, illuminating our way, like a Beacon on a hill.

Every year I work with a local school assessing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition students. They begin their expedition at St Bartholomew's Church, Wickham Bishops, which is set at a high point. The students finish at All Saints Church, Purleigh; again, the church is set on a hill. On a good day you can see both churches; they stand out, showing the beginning of the walk and the end. In Matthew 5:14 Jesus tells his followers 'You are light of the world, a city set on a hill cannot be hidden away.' Beacons are like churches, visible from far away, offering direction, showing people the way, saving people from getting lost.

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Church News

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I continue to be excited about what God has planned for our area, and I am also excited about our new clusters. I commend to you all our churches and recommend you try them out, find a service that you enjoy. It may not be in your village, but I bet you will find God in all our churches, whatever the tradition or the cluster.

*Penny-Anne Adams
Ordinand
All Saints' Church, Little Totham*

Rotas	Church Flowers	Church Cleaning
1st March 8th March 15th March 22nd March 29th March	Lent Lent Lent Lent Lent	Glynis Potter and Sally Thake - Jenny Barclay / Jean Grant - Jenny Walling
Church Extension and Kitchen Cleaning: Karin Mann		

In your prayers at home this month, please include:

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

Donations



To donate to St Peter's Church:

- scan the QR code;
- make a BACS payment to St Peter's Church (sort code 20-54-30, account number 20882739);
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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
1st March Second Sunday of Lent	10am 6pm	Morning Service of the Word Evensong by Zoom	Ps. 74 Rom. 4. 1-5, 13-17 <i>Gospel:</i> John 3. 1-17
8th March Third Sunday of Lent	10am 6pm	Holy Communion Evensong by Zoom	Exod. 17. 1-7 Rom. 5. 1-11 <i>Gospel:</i> John 4. 5-42
15th March Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	10am 6pm	Morning Service of the Word Evensong by Zoom	Exod. 2. 1-10 Col. 3. 12-17 <i>Gospel:</i> Luke 2. 33-35
22nd March Fifth Sunday of Lent	10am 6pm	Morning Service of the Word Evensong by Zoom	Ezek. 37. 1-14 Rom. 8. 6-11 <i>Gospel:</i> John 11. 1-45
29th March Palm Sunday	10am 6pm	Benefice Service at Tolleshunt D'Arcy Evensong by Zoom	Isa. 50. 4-9 Phil. 2. 5-11 <i>Gospel:</i> Matt. 26. 14-27
2nd April Maundy Thursday	7pm	Eucharist of the Last Supper	<i>Details in next month's magazine</i>
3rd April Good Friday	2pm	Stations of the Cross	<i>Details in next month's magazine</i>
4th April Easter Saturday	7pm	Easter Vigil	<i>Details in next month's magazine</i>
5th April Easter Sunday	10am	Holy Communion	<i>Details in next month's magazine</i>

Coffee Morning at The Honywood



Our next Coffee Morning will be held in conjunction with the Mother's Union as a Hot Cross Bun Coffee Morning on Saturday, 28th March.



We look forward to seeing you then for hot cross buns, tea, coffee, cake and chat, 10am to 12 noon, in The Honywood, Hall Road.

Sheila Allen

Church News



Benefice Worship



Visit the website or Facebook page for up to date information on services, or contact Karin Mann (01621 891215) or Karen Tarpey (01621 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

January

1st Prize: Peter Judd

2nd Prize: Karin Mann

3rd Prize: Patricia Kelly

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

Parish Magazine

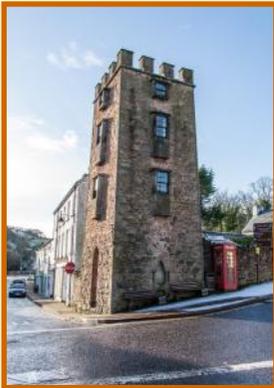
We currently need volunteer deliverers, 10 times a year, for homes in Plains Road and Maypole Road. If you can help, please contact Cheryl on 01621 890940 or Helen on 01621 891067, email: parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk

Church News

News from the Belfry

We sometimes find it difficult to find anything of interest to us on television, but one programme that we always watch is Villages by the Sea. The programme explores the geography and social history of small, lesser known coastal villages of the British Isles. Its presenter, Ben Robinson, is a wealth of knowledge and his enthusiasm for the subject make it enjoyable viewing. One programme in the series explored the village of Cushendall in County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Formerly known as Newtownglens, it is situated on the A2 coastal road between Glenriff and Cushenden. In 1973 it had the distinction of being the second village in Northern Ireland to be designated a Conservation Area.

Much of the development of the village is attributed to Sir Francis Turnly, who was born in 1765/66 at Newtonards. He studied at Glasgow University and was then employed by the East India Company in China for 15 years. Whilst there, he became wealthy and was able to send some of his wages back to Northern Ireland to "wheaten bread and broth for the poor of Belfast". He returned to Northern Ireland in 1801 and, in 1809, he purchased two estates, at Drumnasole, near Garron Tower, and at Cushendall. As a landowner, he made it his mission to improve the conditions for his tenants, improving the coastal road and building schools.



Perhaps his most lasting legacy was the construction of the Curfew tower in Cushendall. It is situated in the centre of the village and was built round about 1820. It is constructed in local pinkish red sandstone, making it a distinctive landmark. It is 20 square feet at the base and 40 feet tall. It has five storeys with projecting windows for defence. It is thought that its design was based on the towers that are situated at intervals along the Great Wall of China, which Francis visited during his time spent there. The first custodian of the tower was a retired army pensioner, Dan McBride. His job was to guard the tower day and night and ring the curfew bell every evening. He was supplied with provisions for a year and was armed with a musket, bayonet, a brace of

pistols and a 13 foot long pike with a cross at the end 'so that it could not be pulled through the hole guarding the door-ways'. There are various opinions to exactly why the tower was built. The tower housed a dungeon to be used 'as a place of confinement for idlers and rioters', but maybe it was initially meant to be just an eye catching folly. Over the years restoration work has been carried out, including the reinstatement of the curfew bell on the parapet. The old one was missing, and the present one was formerly housed in a London fire station. The tower is now the private residence of Scottish musician and artist Bill Drummond.

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Church News

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We are fortunate at St Peter's that we have a talented and enthusiastic band of ringers, but we are always pleased to extend a warm welcome to those who would like to learn to ring the bells.

Do you fancy learning to ring our bells? 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

Easter Lilies

If you would like to donate towards the cost of an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one, please contact me on 01621 891220. We are suggesting a minimum donation of £5.



We will be decorating the church for Easter from 9am on Saturday, 4th April. If you would like to help, you would be most welcome. Greenery and spring flowers would be much appreciated.

Sue Keyes

Church News



On Friday 23rd January, we hosted one of our Diocesan Vice-Presidents, who gave us a talk on Mothers' Union's 150 year history and the celebrations we will be holding this year.

Our next meeting will be our Posy making afternoon at St. Peter's Church extension on Saturday, 14th March at 2.30pm. Please join us at this open meeting where we make posies to give out to all the mothers, grandmothers, aunties and so on at our Mothering Sunday service on 15th March. If you would like to join us, just turn up with a pair of secateurs, some greenery from your garden (daffodils will be provided) and a smile. We look forward to seeing many willing hands. You'll even get a cuppa and biscuit as a reward for your labours!

Our annual Hot Cross Bun Coffee Morning is on Saturday, 28th March in the Honywood Hall, 10am to 12 noon. There will be an Easter raffle and other Easter games, as well as lovely warm hot cross buns. Proceeds will go towards Mothers' Union charity enterprises locally and around the world. We hope many of you will come and support us and look forward to seeing you there.

Please ring me on 01621 891315 for more details on any of the above.

June Eaton

Children's Page

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is an historic observance with centuries of tradition rooted in the Christian calendar, particularly in the United Kingdom and Ireland. It originated as a religious event, but has since evolved into a celebration of mothers and maternal figures. Today, it is widely marked by expressions of love and family gatherings, blending cultural heritage with modern-day appreciation.

Mothering Sunday has origins in the 16th century, when Christians in the UK would return to their "mother church", the main church or cathedral in their home area, for a special service on the fourth Sunday of Lent. This became a rare opportunity for families to reunite, particularly those working in domestic service or apprenticeships far from home. As families came together, the day became associated with celebrating mothers. Children often picked wildflowers along the way to give to their mothers, a tradition that continues today.

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Children's Page

How to Celebrate Mothering Sunday

While the ways people celebrate Mothering Sunday have modernised, many still incorporate traditional and personal elements. Here are some popular ways to mark the occasion:

- **Attend a church service:** Many churches hold special services with readings and blessings to honour motherhood and family life.
- **Give flowers:** Daffodils, tulips, or handpicked wildflowers remain classic Mothering Sunday gifts, echoing the day's origins.
- **Spend time together:** A family meal, afternoon tea, or a simple walk in the park can be meaningful ways to bond.
- **Write a heartfelt message:** Whether in a card, letter, or social media post, sharing personal gratitude can make a lasting impact.
- **Celebrate all mother figures:** Extend appreciation to grandmothers, stepmothers, carers, or anyone who plays a maternal role in your life.



Sourced by June Eaton

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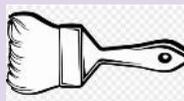
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Community News



Great Totham Parish Council Report for December 2025 and January 2026



Passing swiftly over the proposed reorganisation of local government and imminent mayoral elections announced in November and postponed by December, we received, in January, a letter from the newly elected chairman of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). Full of praise for Parish and Town Councils, 'the bedrock of community life across England', he stated that the NALC 'must continue to step alongside them, shaping the national conversation about the vital role of grassroots government and championing high standards across our sector'. Speaking as one who, some time ago, responded to a NALC 'Rural Special' in which village dwellers were somewhat naively dismissed as NIMBYs who do not appreciate the invaluable help that doubling, or in some cases trebling, the population of villages does in 'sustaining local businesses, schools and public transport', and did not even get an automated acknowledgement, I shall not of course be holding my breath for improved support for what a recent bulletin from the House of Lords refers to as 'the community voice'...but I live in hope!

Nevertheless, Council members continue to keep up to date with both legal obligations and service to residents, particularly in the prudent use of funds. We are currently up-dating the asset register and have resolved to form a Finance Committee to ensure existing arrangements are sound and to regularise the presentation of accounts ready for the end of year inspection. It was agreed that Heelis and Lodge would again be appointed as internal auditors for the financial year 2025/2026. The quote from Maldon District Council for maintenance being considered 'good value for money' and the work of a good standard, it was agreed the Chairman would meet with representatives of the Council with a view to incorporating hedge-cutting into the services provided. You may also have noticed remedial activity around the memorial bus shelter, where overhanging vegetation has been removed prior to the installation of planters and the refurbishment of the seat, to render the space more appropriate as a memorial.

A priority for this year will be our recreation grounds. We have provided three signs indicating emergency numbers at our Bull Green site as requested during our safety checks. Useable equipment from 'the Pit' will soon be relocated to the Council's other play areas, but 'the Pit' itself remains problematic. Personally I find it extremely disappointing that, despite the fact that we have three areas designated for the benefit of our children, we have had to change the gates on one to prevent people riding around on quadbikes; we endured months of vandalism at another; we have (fortunately only a few) owners who are still unwilling or unable to keep their dogs under control; and, of course, the ongoing 'mystery of the defecating dog', though I understand this has recently become rather less of a mystery. Replacement equipment for 'the Pit' will incur considerable expense and residents need to know that their contributions will be

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Community News

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used wisely and for the long-term benefit of our children.

Councillor Siddall attended the December meeting and there was a measure of optimism in his report, particularly regarding Maldon District Council (MDC)'s continuing support in reclaiming St Peter's Hospital and the news that, despite yet more changes to government rules and the necessity of presenting a new Local Plan by 2028, the five year housing land supply requirement is close to being met. It was noted that MDC has reorganised the structure of its workforce, removing a management level and increasing frontline staff.

It was also encouraging that, over the five years Councillor Atkinson has been spearheading Speedwatch, there has been a considerable reduction in the number of vehicles caught speeding and the Clerk is to seek sponsorship for a new speed gun. Members have sometimes questioned the effectiveness of road safety measures, but both speed and density of traffic along the B1022 are clearly of concern to many in the village and it would be reassuring to think that the message of safer driving is finally getting through!

The meeting on 18th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall is the Annual Parish meeting and, as usual, time is set aside for residents to raise any local issues.

Vicky Heaviside

Village Shop



As you'll be aware by now, our village shop is changing hands and Clare has closed the doors to customers. (She will return to run the Post Office for a short time once some maintenance has been carried out).

For 13 years, Clare has served our community and on behalf of all the children in Great Totham, who have popped in after school to buy sweets, chocolates, crisps, fizzy pop and magazines...**THANK YOU!!**

You have waited patiently whilst they selected their goodies and counted out their pennies.... or tried to pay for something under a pound using their debit card! You've also been willing to accept an apology from the odd 'shop lifter' who might have smuggled out a lollipop in their pocket, only to have been found out at home and returned to the shop to own up.... not mentioning any names!!

We are grateful for all your hard work (especially during Covid), we wish you all the best for the future and you will be missed! Love from your friends in the village xxx

Rosie Pollock



Energy Saving

Even though the main winter months may have passed, it can still be difficult to heat your home. Energy prices have increased threefold over recent years, and high energy costs are a worry to many people.

If you don't have a working smart meter, it's essential that you take regular meter readings. You should check your bill to make sure you are on the cheapest tariff. If your supplier has a cheaper tariff available, it should say so on your bill. Paying by Direct debit is the cheapest payment method and credit customers will pay more. Some suppliers offer discounts for customers who are prepared to operate their accounts online or who have smart meters. If you start to struggle, talk to your energy supplier. Most have a range of tools that can help you, including trust funds and affordable repayment plans.

There are a few tips that will help you save energy. Always pull your curtains at dusk and make sure your curtains are lined. You should ensure that drafty windows and doors have draft excluders. These can be added quite cheaply and there is a range of products available at DIY stores. If you have unused open chimneys, you can buy wool draft excluders known as chimney sheep.

Make sure your boiler is serviced regularly. Older and badly maintained boilers will be less efficient. Your engineer will be able to show you how to get the best out of your appliance. Make sure you have a carbon monoxide alarm. Make sure your hot water tank is lagged and that your radiators do not have air in them. Radiators work best if they are clean and free of dust and fluff. Thermostatic radiator valves will give you extra control.

You should always make sure your washing machine or dishwasher is full before running it. Most machines have an Eco setting. When buying new appliances try and get the most energy efficient model you can afford. They are rated from A to G, with A being the most energy efficient.

If you live on your own, it can be wasteful to turn on the main oven. Consider using an Air Fryer or microwave instead, as heating up a smaller space will be cheaper. Only fill up the kettle with as much water as you need as overfilling it wastes money. Most homes have low energy lighting these days, but LED lights are the cheapest to run.

If there is anything you would like advice about, please contact Maldon & District Citizens Advice on 01621 875774. Leave a message and an adviser will ring you back, or complete an enquiry form on www.maldoncitizensadvice.org.uk

Lucy Bettley
Chief Officer, Maldon & District Citizens Advice

Community News

Great Totham Gardening Club



Our next assembly is at 7pm on **Monday, 2nd March** in Great Totham Village Hall. Annie Northfield will talk about 'Witham in Bloom'. Refreshments will be served. All welcome, members free, non-members £3. We look forward to seeing you there. Seed potatoes for this year's Spud Bucket Challenge, to be judged at the Autumn Show, will be available at this meeting as well as at the Spring Show.

The Spring Show will be held on **Saturday, 21st March** in the Village Hall; schedules are available from 58 Maldon Road, Great Totham (email: norman.escala1@btinternet.com) and The Florist on the Green. Entries should be staged between 8am and 11am on 21st March; the show is open from 2.30pm. There will be classes for flowers, floral art, photography, cookery, vegetables, arts and crafts and children's classes. Entries should be submitted before 7pm on Thursday, 19th March to Norman Wright, 58 Maldon Road, Great Totham CM9 8NL (email: norman.escala1@btinternet.com) or Rebekah Clark, 22 Chapel Road, Great Totham CM8 8DA.

Come along on 21st March to enjoy the entries and refreshments. Presentation of awards will be at 4.15pm and the raffle will be drawn at 4.30pm.

For more information, please email: hpmutton@gmail.com.

Helen Mutton

A Note for the dog owners in Great Totham (some, not all!)

I wanted to say **thank you** for believing...I honestly didn't think that many did...I mean, the Tooth Fairy gets a lot of 'press' but not so much for little ole me! Oh, let me introduce myself - I'm the **Dog Poo Fairy** by the way! Yup, it's me who bags up your dog's deposits and pops them in a bin on your behalf...and lately, I have been getting a bit tired of it. Some of the bags are pretty darn heavy! So, I wondered if I could kindly ask those who aren't picking up after their dog, to **PLEASE** be more considerate! In particular on the roads leading to the school – children don't look where they are walking and the poop ends up on the school carpet, YUCK! It's also a health hazard!!

Here are some tips to give you a helping hand in being a responsible dog owner:

Please don't leave home without some poo bags!

Observe your dog(s) – put away your mobile phone, enjoy the scenery and keep an eye on your pooch! Also use a torch if the light is dim!

'Orribly sloppy?! (sorry, TMI!) Make time to return to the scene of the crime to clear it up properly!

Please pick up the mess on ALL public footpaths – even if you're in a field, if it's on or near the path, bag it up and dispose of it! Or flick it with a stick!

Let's all work together to make Great Totham a dog poo free zone! Thank you in advance! Kisses from the DP Fairy x

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Please wear suitable clothing for exercise

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Church News

Annual Church Party

The St Peter's annual church party on Saturday, 24th January was great fun! We played games, chatted, laughed and enjoyed a delicious tea. A lovely way to spend a chilly January afternoon! Thank you to everyone who organised it, contributed food and helped to clear up.

Rosie Pollock



Community News

The Man Who Created Tom and Jerry and Fred and Yogi and Scooby-Doo!

25 years ago this month, the world suffered the loss of a man who created a plethora of characters that brightened so many of our childhoods. That man was William Denby Hanna who, together with Joseph Roland Barbera, was responsible for one of the greatest animation companies ever!

William Hanna was born on 14th July 1910 in New Mexico, although his family moved around quite a bit when he was young. When he was three years old, he moved to Oregon, where he developed a love of the outdoors, then on to Utah, then to California in 1917. He was a talented musician, which eventually resulted in him writing many songs for his cartoons, including the theme song for The Flintstones. He had many interests, including sailing and singing, and went to college to study an odd combination of journalism and structural engineering, although the Great Depression curtailed his time in college.

After a series of jobs including working in a car wash, he joined the Harman and Ising animation studio in 1930, having honed his drawing skills at Pacific Title and Art, which produced title cards for films. Harman and Ising had previously been responsible for the Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies series. Hugh Harman and Rudolph Ising promoted Hanna to head up the ink and paint department. At that time, they were working with Leon Schlesinger at Pacific Title and Arts, who released their output through Warner Brothers. However, in 1933, they decided to produce cartoons independently and release them through MGM, and Hanna opted to stay with them.

Hanna continued to rise through the ranks and started directing his own productions. Ultimately though, MGM decided to bring production in-house, so terminated the partnership with Harman and Ising. However, Hanna's talent had shone through, and he was one of the first to be hired by MGM. His desk at MGM was opposite that of Joseph Barbera. They rapidly realised that they would make a good team. They also started to collaborate with director Tex Avery, who had created Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck for Warner Brothers.

One of the most famous and enduring cartoon series made by the duo was amongst their first. They were nominated for an Academy Award for best cartoon short film in 1940 for a cartoon called Puss Gets The Boot but, despite its success, their supervisor at MGM, Fred Quimby, did not want to make another cat and mouse cartoon! Despite this, Hanna and Barbera continued to develop the characters. There was also a lot of "office politics" involving Ising, whom Hanna felt loyal to. So, in order to fulfil his wish to set up a new animation unit independent of Ising, Fred Quimby gave his blessing to the new cat and mouse idea which was Tom and Jerry. This series dominated Hanna and Barbera's output for the next 17 years, with over 114 cartoon shorts.

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Community News

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Tom and Jerry was nominated for a total of 13 Academy Awards, winning seven, which is more than any other cartoon series. Fred Quimby, however, accepted all the Awards personally and never invited either William Hanna or Joseph Barbera on stage and took credit as sole producer. When he retired in 1957, MGM placed Hanna and Barbera in charge of their animation unit, but the advent of television resulted in falling revenues. So, MGM focused on releasing old cartoons rather than making new ones and closed the animation unit down.

The pair, though, continued to work together as a new company, with each taking alternate years as President. Hanna-Barbera moved into television to become one of the greatest and most successful animation companies ever. They remained best of friends throughout their partnership, which lasted more than 60 years. As Hanna-Barbera, they won seven Academy Awards and eight Emmy Awards, and produced over 3000 short (30-minute) cartoons introducing over 2000 characters.

The list of characters includes many people's most favourite ever. Tom and Jerry, Huckleberry Hound, The Flintstones, Yogi Bear, Top Cat, The Jetsons, Atom Ant and Secret Squirrel, The Banana Splits Show (live action and animation), Wacky Races, Dastardly and Muttley in Their Flying Machines, Scooby-Doo, Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch, and Hong Kong Phooey, among many others.

William Hanna died aged 90 on 22nd March 2001, but his legacy lives on.

Chris Bingham

British Summer Time

British
Summer
Time



Remember to put your clocks and watches forward one hour when you go to bed on Saturday, 28th March.

British Summer Time begins at 1am on Sunday, 29th March (Palm Sunday).

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HOLY WEEK

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PALM SUNDAY, 29TH MARCH

BENEFICE SERVICE, TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY 10AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 2ND APRIL

GT TOTHAM: 7.30PM EUCHARIST OF THE LAST SUPPER

GOLDHANGER: 7PM SYMBOLIC PASSOVER MEAL

WICKHAM BISHOPS: 7.30PM SERVICE

GOOD FRIDAY, 3RD APRIL

GOLDHANGER: 10AM DEVOTIONAL SERVICE

GREAT TOTHAM: 2PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS

LITTLE BRAXTED: 2PM LAST HOUR AT THE CROSS

LITTLE TOTHAM: 2.30PM DEVOTIONAL SERVICE

EASTER EVE, SATURDAY 4TH APRIL

GREAT TOTHAM: 7.30PM EASTER VIGIL

EASTER DAY, SUNDAY 5TH APRIL

LITTLE BRAXTED: 9AM HOLY COMMUNION

GOLDHANGER: 9.30AM HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT TOTHAM: 10AM HOLY COMMUNION

WICKHAM BISHOPS: 10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION

LITTLE TOTHAM: 11AM HOLY COMMUNION

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Community News

YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Maldon District Council can confirm that a banking hub will shortly open in its temporary home at our Council Offices on Princes Road while Cash Access UK continue to progress the hub's permanent premises. The hub will be open Monday to Friday, 9am –5pm and will provide counter services for customers of all major high street banks, including cash withdrawals and deposits, balance enquiries, bill payments and change-giving for businesses. Community bankers from different banks will also attend on set days to offer more specific account support.

This year's MDC council tax for a Band D is increasing by 13p per week or an additional £6.76 per year. The important thing to recognise is that, although we collect council tax, the majority goes to other areas of local government. Thanks to our financial prudence and effective use of resources, we are freezing any car park fees and charges, and they will remain at the same price as last year. This is good news for our high street businesses, residents and visitors.

We have made a further £2.3m investment in parks and open spaces, including £1.3m to the Promenade Park in Maldon, as well as the Dengie 100 where a further £100,000 investment is proposed in addition to the existing £435,000. Beyond Maldon and Burnham there is £1.4m being invested in play sites and £200,000 for public conveniences. These investments will ensure these valued amenities will be enjoyed by many people long after the reorganisation in Essex.

We have allocated £60,000 to support organisations across the district. We have supported four community-based projects to enhance delivery and further support residents in areas of mental health, reducing social isolation and access to services.

We created the community grant scheme aimed at delivering against the four outward facing Corporate Plan Priorities and have allocated around £300,000 for this fund from our own reserves. This recognises the Council's commitment to ensuring the District is a place "where Quality of Life Matters". We are ensuring that our assets are improved and gain long overdue investment.

cllr.richard.siddall@maldon.gov.uk
cllr.jade.hughes@maldon.gov.uk

Become a 10 - 19 March spring picker



The students at Oakfield Primary School in Wickford said the campaign was

"A fun way to help wildlife."

Take action
Pick up 5 pieces of litter every day for 10 days, to help clean up the county before spring.



www.essexwt.org.uk/pickers
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Community News



Thank you!

Jessica Pollock
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and for raising
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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:
parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk*

Future Events

Sunday, 5th April
10am Easter Sunday Service at
St Peter's Church



Covers created by
Purple Rabbit Designer



Community News



Great Totham WI



Unfortunately, we did have to cancel our January meeting, but this month we were pleased to welcome Andy Malcolm, to talk about the work of the Fishermen's Mission, of which he is a regional officer.

Andy gave a very interesting and engaging talk on the dangers faced by our fishermen, interspersed with a shanty song or two and a quiz to see how well we knew the species of fish caught around the British Isles. We heard about individual cases of hardship and loneliness experienced by those who had spent their lives at sea and the help given to bereaved families of those lost whilst fishing. As a relatively small charity, they rely heavily on public donations.

Following the talk, we held our annual tombola, with thanks to Kath Welsh who gives up a great deal of time collecting and preparing the laden table.

Next month Ieston Edward's talk has the intriguing title 'My Tutu Went AWOL'.

We are always 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 commencing 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, alternatively, email greattothamwi@gmail.com.

Sue Pulford



Wickham Bishops WI



The New Year saw us together again, discussing our Christmas Lunch in December and looking forward to a bright 2026. After information from Head Office and National, we enjoyed a quiz which challenged some of us.

With no speaker, we had a sales table of unwanted items, ie, books, jewellery etc, with any items remaining being sent to a charity shop.

Our craft and walking groups are back for a new season, and we look forward to a busy year of speakers, outings and lunches and attending County and National meetings in May and June.

Our meetings are held in Wickham Bishops Church Hall on the last Thursday of the month 2–4 pm. 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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update**

Visit essex.police.uk/your-area for news and updates on:

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



Essex Police – Colchester



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<http://www.essex.police.uk>

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

Monday: 2pm-5.30pm
Saturday: 9am-5pm

Wednesday: 2pm-5.30pm
Telephone: 0345 6037628

Baby and Toddler Rhymetime: Mondays 2.15pm-2.45pm.
Stories and rhymes for babies and young children.

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
WI: 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	
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	clr.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	Contact Rosie Pollock		07908 776750
Totham Barn Free Evangelical Church	Contact Danbury Mission:		01245 227428
United Reformed Church			01376 500958
Wickham Bishops St Bartholomew's Church General Enquiries			07544 973705
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

Mothers' Union Hot Cross Bun Coffee Morning

10am to 12 noon

Saturday, 28th March

Honywood Hall, Hall Road

Easter Raffle and Games

Proceeds to MU charities locally
and around the world

All welcome



Great Totham Parish Magazine is published by The Parish Church to help everyone feel part of the community, recognising people's achievements and the value of community activity, and to encourage support of local businesses. Please contribute by sending us your good news, suggestions and details of any events and advertisements for the next edition by: 10th March.

Email: parishmagazinetoatham@yahoo.co.uk

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

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To read the magazine online, visit www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6657