



# Great Totham Parish Magazine

sent to every home in Great Totham

April 2026



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

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April 7pm  
Eucharist of the Last Supper

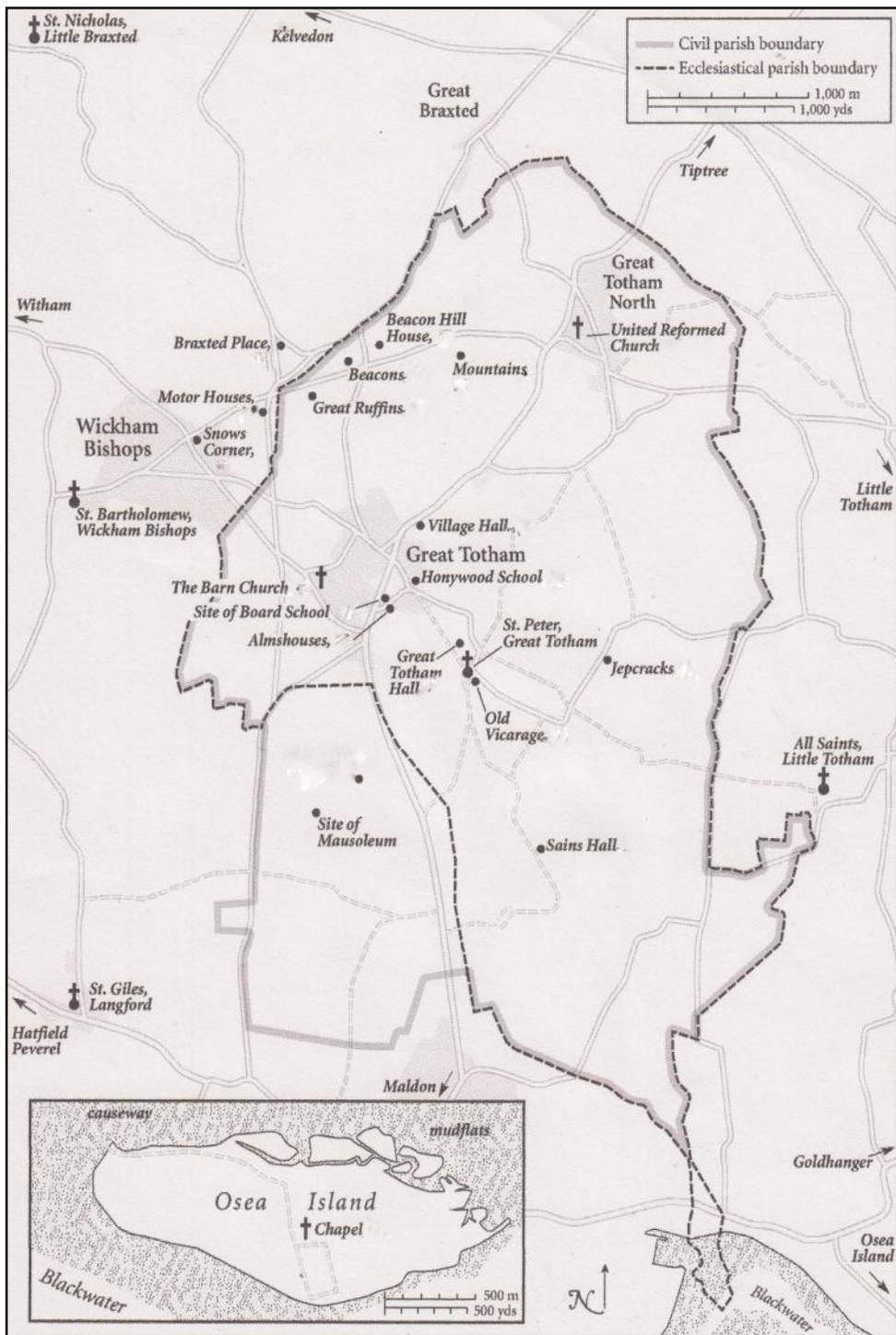
Good Friday, 3rd April 2pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, 4th April 7pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, 5th April 10am Family Communion

Inside this Edition -

100+ Club  
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 and  
Assistant Agricultural Chaplain**

Andy Vince      01621 868415 / 07952 144613

Email: [andrew.vince15@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.vince15@gmail.com)

**Associate Priest** (*Vacant*)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk)

## St Peter's Church Website:

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6657](http://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 Ministry Team Message



### Easter

On Ash Wednesday, as I was reading through the service, it suddenly came to me that the liturgy we use speaks to us in many and varied ways. Many of us, I am sure, can think of several instances when the Easter liturgy has fitted into the different stages of our lives. These stages could be times when we have anticipated the birth of a new baby, or a family member's health had improved, or a relationship was reconciled. At other times, these seasons have felt out of line with our lives; after the death of a loved one, or when we realised that the habit we had hoped to change during Lent was just as persistently part of our personality! Some Easters we have been able to wear spring clothing to church; other times we have had to wear a winter coat due to the cold wind. Liturgy and life do not always line up neatly.

This basic fact reminds us of two complementary aspects of life. First, God is in control of how our lives unfold, and we are not. This goes for both the process of our personal spiritual growth and the healing of the world and its injustices. The second fact is the attitude that we bring to whatever is happening in our life at that moment, and whether we let God "in" or not, is a way that we participate in its unfolding.

For me, this past Lent was a season to do some weeding and ploughing of rocky ground. In Lent, my hope was to let God into those places within me that needed healing and repair. Of course, this is the work of a lifetime and never finished in one Lenten season. I sometimes wonder if this is why it is harder for us to enter fully into the celebration of Easter for a whole season, as we do more easily for Lent; the world is not perfect by Easter Sunday, and neither are we.

Easter, though, is still here. After all, Easter is the reality that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and that life and love triumph over death and sin. Love conquers sin and death.

The way we are all experiencing Easter requires an intentional shift in focus, along with the celebration of family Communion and witnessing Baptisms and the welcoming of new members into the Church. Ministry brings an attitude of celebration to all the good that is happening in life, and in the life of each of our communities. This requires both finding ways to celebrate in community with others and shifting our focus towards our daily prayer.

Awaiting God's response is part of the tender care that we give to newly budding plants. We are like those tender plants for which God cares. In tranquil times and in harder times, Easter encourages us to pay attention to the bounty of God's goodness. God really does want to heal, restore, and provide good gifts for us all. Really. The truth is that Easter, no less than Lent, is a season of surrender. We are not in control, but Love is.

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# Church News

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What do the Resurrection stories mean for each one of you this Easter? Or are you feeling like Peter, ready to jump into the water with exuberance, because Jesus is visible? Or are you like the women waiting at the empty tomb, still searching for Jesus? Whichever way you choose to celebrate Easter, the bounty of God's goodness is for everyone.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

**May your faith be nourished and your hope increased. Happy Easter.**

*Revd Andrew Vince  
Assistant Agricultural Chaplain*

| Rotas      | Church Flowers | Church Cleaning     |
|------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 5th April  | Easter         | -                   |
| 12th April | Vanessa Ellams | Mr and Mrs Campbell |
| 19th April | Karin Mann     | -                   |
| 26th April | Sally Thake    | Mr and Mrs Kemsley  |

**Church Extension and Kitchen Cleaning:** Philippa Hardy-King

***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);
- send a cheque (payable to 'St Peter's Church, Great Totham') to:  
17 Goat Lodge Road CM9 8BU

# 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   |
|---|-------------|---|--|
| 2nd April<br>Maundy Thursday  | 7pm         | Eucharist of the Last Supper  |  |
| 3rd April<br>Good Friday  | 2pm         | Stations of the Cross   |  |
| 4th April<br>Easter Saturday  | 7pm         | Easter Vigil  | Exod. 14. 10—end<br>Rom. 6. 3-11<br><i>Gospel: Matthew 28. 1-10</i>    |
| 5th April<br>Easter Sunday  | 10am<br>6pm | Family Communion<br>Evensong by Zoom                                    | Col. 3. 1-4<br>Acts 10. 34-43<br><i>Gospel: John 20. 1-18</i>          |
| 12th April<br>Second Sunday of Easter                                     | 10am<br>6pm | Morning Service of the Word<br>Evensong by Zoom                         | Ps. 16<br>Acts 2. 14, 22-32<br><i>Gospel: John 20. 19-end</i>          |
| 19th April<br>Third Sunday of Easter                                      | 10am<br>6pm | Family Communion<br>Evensong by Zoom                                    | Acts 2. 14, 36-41<br>1 Peter 1. 17-23<br><i>Gospel: Luke 24. 13-35</i> |
| 26th April<br>Fourth Sunday of Easter ( <i>no service at St Peter's</i> ) | 11am<br>6pm | Family Communion at All Saints Church Little Totham<br>Evensong by Zoom | Ps. 23<br>Acts 2. 42-end<br><i>Gospel: John 10. 1-10</i>               |

## Church Registers

### Baptism

28th February George Robert Hudson of Great Totham

## Coffee Morning at The Honywood



Our next Coffee Morning is on Saturday, 25th April. 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



## 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](mailto: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 February

**1st Prize: Jo Mitchell**  
**2nd Prize: Paul Smith**  
**3rd Prize: Janet Morley**

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 complete the form on page 21 or contact Roger Allen, 100+ Club Administrator, on 01621 892334, email: [rw\\_allen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rw_allen@yahoo.co.uk)

Subscriptions (£12 per year) may be by standing order, online bank transfer (sort code 20-54-30, account number 30603562, reference your surname) or by cheque/cash.

### Subscription Renewals

If you are already a member of St Peter's Church 100+ Club, your £12 annual subscription is now due for the year commencing 1st May 2026.

Members who have a Bank Standing Order need do nothing; all others should pay by BACS (see bank details above), alternatively by cheque payable to 'St. Peters Great Totham Donations A/C', or lastly by cash to Roger Allen.

## News from the Belfry

Retirement gives one the opportunity to pursue other interests. Over the years, my husband and I have been researching our respective family trees. It is a fascinating hobby and it sometimes throws up unexpected surprises. We discovered that my husband's great aunt Evelyn married into a most prestigious Australian family. She married Athol Hobbs, whose father was Lieutenant General Sir Joseph John Talbot Hobbs of Perth. He was described as "not only a soldier but a great citizen and great Christian gentleman". A statue of him was erected just after the Second World War and installed on the Perth Esplanade, before being moved due to redevelopment to the Supreme Court gardens. In civilian life, he and his son, Athol, trained as architects and they designed many of Perth's well known public buildings.

Today one of Perth's outstanding tourist landmarks is The Bell Tower, more commonly known as The Swan Tower, so named as it overlooks the Swan River. It was built to celebrate the Millennium at a cost of five million Australian dollars and, at the time, the project received a great deal of criticism due to its cost. A major nationwide architectural competition was held and the winner was the local Perth architectural firm of Hames Sharley. The tower is located on Riverside Drive and houses 16 bells hung for change ringing and a further two chromatic bells.

The 18 bells have a combined weight of nine tonnes and when they are rung, they exert a considerable force upon the tower's infrastructure. The bell chamber is therefore constructed of reinforced concrete and was cast in situ by the structural engineering company Arup. Soundproof louvres and doors are used to muffle the sound and can also direct the sound of the bells towards the river or city. The design of the tower improves the acoustic property of the bells. The glass-clad spire is designed with spokes radiating horizontally from a centrally positioned axle, declining in width as it rises to a point. The solid-steel columns of the spire are rectangular and the bell chamber is enveloped in 98 feet of copper sails and glass.

Visitors to the tower can engage in interactive exhibits on the history of the bells and learn about the ancient art of bell ringing. The guided tour provides insights into the mechanics and history of bell ringing and the opportunity to chime the bells yourself. Upon completion, visitors receive a Bell Chiming Certificate as a souvenir. There is also the opportunity to book a tour delving into the history of the Great Anzac Bell housed in the tower. There is an observation deck on level six, with panoramic views of Barrack Square and the Swan River. The tower has become a huge tourist attraction in Perth and a must-visit tower for all campanologists.

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# Church News

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The reader may be at this point asking about the bells themselves. They have a surprising link to London, and you will have to read the next edition of the Parish Magazine to find out!

Congratulations go to David Blake (pictured) with his Learning the Ropes Level Three Certificate. He completed his introduction to Change Ringing Skills on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

Do you fancy learning to ring our bells? For further information please contact Janice, our Tower Captain, on 07790 354338 or visit [www.greattothambellringers.org.uk](http://www.greattothambellringers.org.uk)

*Catherine Hood*

## St Peter's Churchyard Grave Repairs



A short while ago a tragic accident in a public graveyard in another part of the country resulted in the death of a small child when a loose headstone collapsed. In order to protect the public from a similar situation occurring in our churchyard, urgent checks were carried out to ascertain whether there was potential for a similar event here.

14 such graves were identified and Messrs AG Smith, Funeral Directors, Maldon were asked to provide a quotation to make them safe. A new system of anchoring the headstone to the base stone was identified and these graves have now been made safe using this system. The church has made the funds available for the work as a priority, as finding the families of the deceased would have caused unnecessary delay.

Nevertheless, it would be prudent to advise that children ought to be kept under adult supervision when visiting graves, as there is always potential for accidents.

*Paul Smith*  
*For and on behalf of St Peters Church Gt Totham*  
*Parochial Church Council (PCC)*

## Church News



On Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, members of the Mothers' Union met up with other willing church helpers in the church extension to make the posies for Mothering Sunday the next day. Chat and laughs over cups of tea and biscuits made the time fly by. Thank you all who took the time to help.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our Hot Cross Bun Coffee Morning on 28<sup>th</sup> March; we will be able to share pictures in the May magazine.

Our May meeting will be on 15<sup>th</sup> May and include our AGM.

For more information on the Mothers' Union meetings, please contact me on 01621 891315.

*June Eaton*

## Children's Page

### St. George's Day

is celebrated on 23rd April each year

St. George is the patron saint of England, renowned for fighting dragons and saving princesses. His courage and selflessness is regarded as the essence of Englishness. St. George is not only the patron saint of England; we have to share him with Portugal, Malta, Georgia, Moscow, Cappadocia, Aragon and Genoa. He is also the patron saint of agricultural workers, archers, cavalry and chivalry, farmers and field workers, riders and saddlers, and skin disease. He is thought to have been an officer in the Roman army who was martyred for his Christian beliefs.

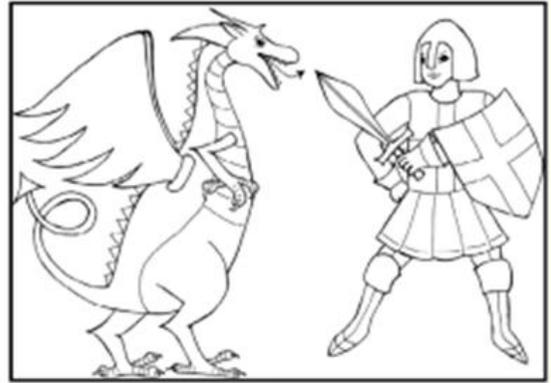
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# Children's Page

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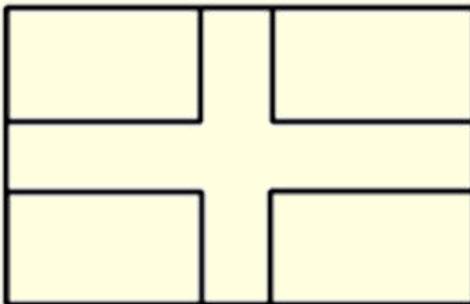
## The Legend of Saint George

The legend goes that a dragon was terrorising a country by demanding that a maiden was sacrificed to it each day. The only maiden left is the princess of that land, and George vows to save the princess by slaying the dragon. He is most unlikely to have fought an actual dragon; the story is undoubtedly an allegory of the fight of good against evil.



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SAINT  
GEORGE'S  
DAY



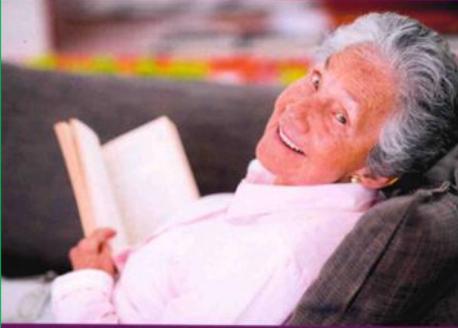
23RD APRIL



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June Eaton

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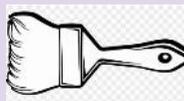
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# Church News

## ST. PETER'S CHURCH GREAT TOTHAM YOU & YOUR FAITH SURVEY

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Village \_\_\_\_\_ Faith \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to provide us with your valuable feedback. Your input helps us to better understand our community and to be able to better support you.

### Please answer the following statements;

I regularly attend church (more once a month)    **Yes**            **No**

I go to church at Christmas/Easter                    **Yes**            **No**

I would attend church more if it offered me a service that better suited me                    **Yes**            **No**            **Unsure**

Which of the following styles of service/activity would you consider attending? (Circle as appropriate)

**Holy Communion**    **Family Service**    **Gospel Singing**  
**Quiet Prayer/Meditation**    **Youth Service**    **Confession**  
**Counselling**            **Youth Club**            **Bible Study**  
**Coffee & Chat**            **Evening Song**    **'Songs of praise'**

**Other (Please State)** \_\_\_\_\_

How would you best describe your faith?    **Casual**            **Serious**            **Unsure**    **N/A**

Does Parking/Transport prevent you from being able to attend church?            **No**            **Yes (Parking)**            **Yes (Transport)**

Do you think the church is an important part of the local community?            **Yes**            **No**            **Unsure**

**Are there any suggestions you would like to make? (Service types, Time of services, Alternative activities at the Church/Honywood Hall etc...) Please write in the box below**

**Cut out and complete the survey and return to:  
Honywood Hall, Hall Road, Great Totham CM9 8NN**

# Church News

## Mothering Sunday at St Peter's Church

Mothering Sunday was a wonderful celebration of all mothers, and the children had important roles during the service! They read passages from the Gospel, helped create an amazing family tree with leaves and distributed lovely posies to the congregation. A big well done to them! Thank you to everyone involved with organising an All Age Service.

*Rosie Pollock*



*Photos courtesy of Rosie Pollock and Chris Munton*



# Church News

## St Peter's 100+ Club

Monthly draws

50% of subscriptions returned in prizes

All profits benefit church funds

More members means bigger prizes

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It's easy to join; complete the form on page 21 and return it to the church or to Roger Allen. Membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> April the following year although you may join at any time and you'll be included in the first draw following receipt of payment. Please ask for details if you wish to do this.

Note: Members may hold more than one draw entitlement.

Remember: More members means bigger prizes!

**Apply to: Roger Allen, 100+ Club Administrator**  
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**email: [rw\\_allen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rw_allen@yahoo.co.uk)**

## St Peter's Church Annual Meeting 11am, Sunday, 3rd May at St Peter's Church

The Annual Meetings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) will be held at St Peter's following the 10am service on 3rd May. The meeting is open to all, but votes may only be cast by those registered on St Peter's Electoral Roll.

At this time, elections are made to elect PCC members, Churchwarden(s) and Representatives to the Deanery Synod.

The 2025 Accounts will be presented, together with a report on the numerous and varied activities of our church community over the past year. As our vacancy for a new Team Vicar within the revised Benefice structure is currently being re-advertised, we will also be hoping for the appointment of a successful candidate later in 2026.

Come along to hear what we have been doing in 2025. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Helen Mutton*

# Church News

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# Community News



## Great Totham Parish Council Report for February



At the February meeting, members took the opportunity to reflect upon the contribution made by the late Jeanne Shrimpton to the life of the village. In a tribute which appeared in the February edition of the Parish Magazine, it was mentioned that she was made a Yeoman of the village, a well-deserved tribute to her enthusiastic efforts on behalf of so many people.

Our 'Action Lists', introduced recently to focus our minds on matters needing attention, have proved extremely useful, not least in highlighting just how much work the Clerk undertakes on behalf of the Councillors! As well as practical tasks such as arranging meetings, attending meetings, dealing with monetary matters and updating the website, she has capably guided us through a range of new policies and reports which seem to have proliferated over the past year.

Otherwise, it was very much 'business as usual'. Councillor Atkinson reported that the Speedwatch Group had undertaken one 45-minute session and, out of 170 vehicles, only four were reported for speeding. This improvement in driving standards was echoed by the Community Policing Team, who recorded a similar decrease in 'captures' during their surveillance.

Members met with representatives of the Football Club, who were requesting a small compound at the Jubilee Recreation Ground for their equipment. The discussion widened to include what might successfully, and realistically, be done to provide for the older village children by way of equipment. It was resolved that the Clerk would instigate initial enquiries and many residents have already posted suggestions on the Great Totham website.

It will come as no surprise that the question of our canine friends was raised yet again and it was proposed there be a dedicated item at a future meeting. The Clerk has also received a complaint regarding a dog running loose at the Recreation Ground. Coincidentally, Maldon District Council posted its own warning about dog fouling, requesting that any contravention of bylaws be reported and, of course, in last month's magazine, our own fairy made an eloquent plea for a change of behaviour!

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday, 15th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

*Vicky Heaviside*

# Community News

## The First Man In Space

The first ever manned flight outside Earth's atmosphere happened 65 years ago this month. The mission was conducted by Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin, who was a 27-year-old Soviet Union Airforce pilot and cosmonaut.

This was all part of "the race for space" which developed in the mid-1950s as a competition between the USA and the USSR. Purported to be a scientific competition, it was really more than that. It developed during the Cold War and became a contest to show which superpower had the more superior technology, military, and ideology. The USSR took an early lead in October 1957 with the launch of Sputnik I, the first artificial satellite, and extended its lead on 12th April 1961 with the launch of Vostok I, to take the first man into space.



Yuri Gagarin was born on 9th March 1934 in Klushino in the Soviet Union. The family suffered greatly during the war and the German advance and Yuri quickly became a saboteur against the German Army. After the war he resumed his education and was taught maths and science, his favourite subjects, by a former Soviet airman. He developed his interest in aircraft through making model aeroplanes. His education continued through an apprenticeship and at the Industrial

Technical School in Saratov. While there, he volunteered at a local flying club where he trained as a Soviet air cadet.

In 1955, he joined the Soviet Air Force and then progressed through flight training, won promotion, and became interested in joining the space programme. This was endorsed in 1959. He then participated in a highly complex training and medical selection process before finally becoming part of Sochi 6 (Vanguard 6), which was the final group from which the first cosmonauts for the Vostok programme were chosen. This was from an initial group of 154 qualified pilots. Ultimately, after a final two days of testing, Gagarin emerged as the top candidate.

Vostok was designed by Sergei Korolev, the Soviet counterpart to Werner von Braun in the US, and at 6.07am on the morning of 12th April, Vostok I took off from Baikonaur Cosmodrome carrying Yuri Gagarin. His flight lasted just one hour 48 minutes, and he completed one orbit of the earth. As he re-entered the atmosphere, he ejected from his capsule at a height of 7000m (23000 feet) and floated down to the ground by parachute.

*/continued on next page*

# Community News

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He was hailed as a national hero and toured both the Soviet Union and abroad, including three visits to the UK, although he was banned from visiting the US by President Kennedy because he was "too popular!" Later, he became a deputy of the Soviet Union, then rejoined the space programme and trained as a backup pilot to his friend, Vladimir Komarov, on Soyuz I. However, Soyuz I was rushed through due to political pressure, resulting in poor safety, and the descent module crashed on 24th April 1967 when the parachutes failed to open, killing Komarov instantly.

After this, Gagarin was banned from training and from taking part in any future space flights for his own safety. Sadly, Yuri Gagarin died on a routine training flight in a MIG-15UTI aircraft on 27 March 1968, aged just 34. Of course, the space race continued, with the US claiming the ultimate prize in 1969 with the first manned moon landing, but Yuri Gagarin will forever be recognised as the first man in space and the first man to orbit the Earth.

*Chris Bingham*

## Parish Magazine

We currently need a volunteer deliverer (or deliverers) to deliver the magazine monthly (10 times a year), for homes in Maypole Road. If you can help, please contact Cheryl on 01621 890940 or Helen on 01621 891067, email: [parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk)



## Great Totham Gardening Club



On Monday, 2nd March, Annie Northfield gave a very interesting talk about the award-winning scheme 'Witham in Bloom'. Annie, who is one of the judges at our Spring and Autumn Shows, was involved in this for many years and had lots of stories to tell us, as well as many wonderful photos. Following the talk, we enjoyed refreshments, including home made cake. Seed potatoes for this year's Spud Bucket Challenge were given to members; we look forward to seeing the results at the Autumn Show!

In April, we are planning a visit to Annie's garden in Witham. At the time of writing, details are still to be confirmed; if you are interested, email [norman.escala1@btinternet.com](mailto:norman.escala1@btinternet.com)

For more information about our friendly club, please email: [hpmutton@gmail.com](mailto:hpmutton@gmail.com).

*Helen Mutton*

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# Community News



## Your District Councillors



We are doing work to the Hythe Quay, dredging the area to increase access to the quay for both the barges and visiting yachts. We are also creating a new covered seating area by the lake, to provide shade in the summer and more effective seating. The kiosks on the promenade are being renovated and given a new look, to enhance the area and to be an asset to the park. We have also resurfaced our car parks, and continue to invest in assets across the district.

We have 4.2 years of land supply in the district, which means we are still vulnerable to speculative development; however, we are working hard to try and change the matter. This is completely down to the unrealistic targets set for the number of new homes.

The Banking Hub at the Council office provides a much needed banking facility for Maldon and the surrounding area, following the closure of several high street branches in the town centre over recent years. By bringing essential banking services together in one location under one roof, the hub will ensure residents and businesses can continue to access the facilities and support they need locally. The hub will be open Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, and residents can use the hub regardless of who they bank with. You can park in the visitor spaces at the front of the building if you are coming by car. You can access a full range of everyday services, including:

- Paying in cash (notes and coins) and cheques.
- Withdrawing cash (notes and coins).
- Checking account balances.
- Paying utility bills.
- Topping up gas and electricity.

Alongside the counter service, the hub also offers a Community Banker Service, providing residents with face to face support and personal banking advice in a dedicated private space.

Monday: Lloyds; Tuesday: Santander; Wednesday: Natwest; Thursday: Barclays; Friday: Halifax.

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](mailto:cllr.richard.siddall@maldon.gov.uk)

[cllr.jade.hughes@maldon.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jade.hughes@maldon.gov.uk)

*Best wishes  
Richard*

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**ALSO DYE CLUB meets 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 10.30am to 12.30pm every month to develop your own projects**

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

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Parochial Church Council of Great Totham nor can the Church guarantee the credentials or performance of any of the advertisers within this publication.

The support of our advertisers means that we are able to deliver the magazine free to every home in Great Totham. Please consider using their services and mention the magazine when contacting them.

## *Church News*

### **Volunteers wanted!**

Many people, including those who are not regular churchgoers, undertake small tasks which help to run St Peter's Church. We're now looking for people for the following; please speak to Karen (892122) or Helen (891067) for further details:

- Compiling and maintaining the church and extension cleaning rotas.
- Joining the cleaning rota(s); training will be given and equipment provided!
- Serving refreshments after the 10am Sunday service (about once a month).
- Joining the rota of people 'meeting and greeting' those coming to services.

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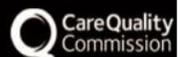
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# Community News

## News from Great Totham Primary School

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



### World Book Day 2026



Children and staff enjoyed celebrating World Book Day on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March with a wonderful array of costumes featuring characters from their favourite books.



### Choir Club Perform at the O2

I had the pleasure of taking the choir to the O2 Arena on Tuesday, 24th February to join 8,800 other children to sing at Young Voices. The children thoroughly enjoyed singing alongside a few celebrity guests and dancing with Urban Strides. It was an extra special concert as Young Voices were celebrating their 30th Anniversary. The children were absolutely AMAZING and they represented the school brilliantly. They all worked so hard learning the lyrics and dances to each song and sang their hearts out on the night.



Thank you so much to all of the parents for allowing them to come and for also celebrating with us in the audience. I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

*Written by Miss Goodsell*

### Year 3/4 Football Tournament Winners!

On Wednesday, 4th March, we took part in a Year 3/4 Football Tournament within the Colchester-Blackwater School Sports Partnership. The event was held at Shrub End Sports Ground and the team was especially excited to be the first to wear the brand new football kit!

12 local schools entered the competition. Captained by Jenson, GTPS won all five games in the early group stages, which got them to an exciting semi-final against our neighbouring school, Tiptree Heath.

A great goal from Zac secured our place in the final. This was played against Braiswick and was a fiercely contested match, but Great Totham stayed strong and came out on top achieving a 1-0 win with a goal from Jack to secure a fantastic victory!

*/continued on next page*

# Community News

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The team played every match with great determination, teamwork and enthusiasm, and every outfield player scored a goal during the tournament. Thanks to Finley's excellent goalkeeping, the team also managed to keep a clean sheet throughout the whole competition. Well done all!



*Compiled by Jo Mazzarella*



**Memory Café - Maldon Library**  
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Martello Tower and the University of Essex. Since 1999, the festival has grown significantly into one of the leading literary festivals in the East of England, welcoming writers and artists from around the world.

Book your tickets from Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> March by visiting [essexbookfestival.org.uk/booking-details/](https://essexbookfestival.org.uk/booking-details/)

# 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

**Bellingring 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:  
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# Community News



## Great Totham WI



Our advertised speaker for March had to cancel so, luckily for us, Jane Williams from Wickham Bishops filled the breach with her entertaining and very informative talk on Tortoises. She illustrated this with photos and videos of various types of tortoise and brought along some of her own live specimens! She talked about the geographical areas from which they originate and gave us tips on husbandry and welfare. Thank you, Jane.

Next month we hold our AGM and have a speaker from the Helen Rollason charity visiting us.

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](http://www.greattothamwi.weebly.com) or, alternatively, email [greattothamwi@gmail.com](mailto:greattothamwi@gmail.com).

*Sue Pulford*



## Wickham Bishops WI



The month started with an invitation to join Heybridge WI at their February meeting. 12 members enjoyed their hospitality, together with a fascinating talk from Lucy Lewis, the first woman Bomb Disposal Officer in the army. Many members will have heard her at last year's County Meeting. A true inspiration.

Our own meeting on a spring day was well attended. We listened to an interesting and sometimes humorous talk by Ed Cannon on his life as a locksmith after many years in corporate business. There are no rules or licences required, which has sadly resulted in a spate of illegal companies, featured last month on TV, showing how the public can be cheated.

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**

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**Maldon Police 0300 333 4444 or 101**  
Maldon District Council Offices, Princes Road, Maldon



Visit [essex.police.uk/your-area](http://essex.police.uk/your-area) for news and updates on:

- 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](mailto: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.

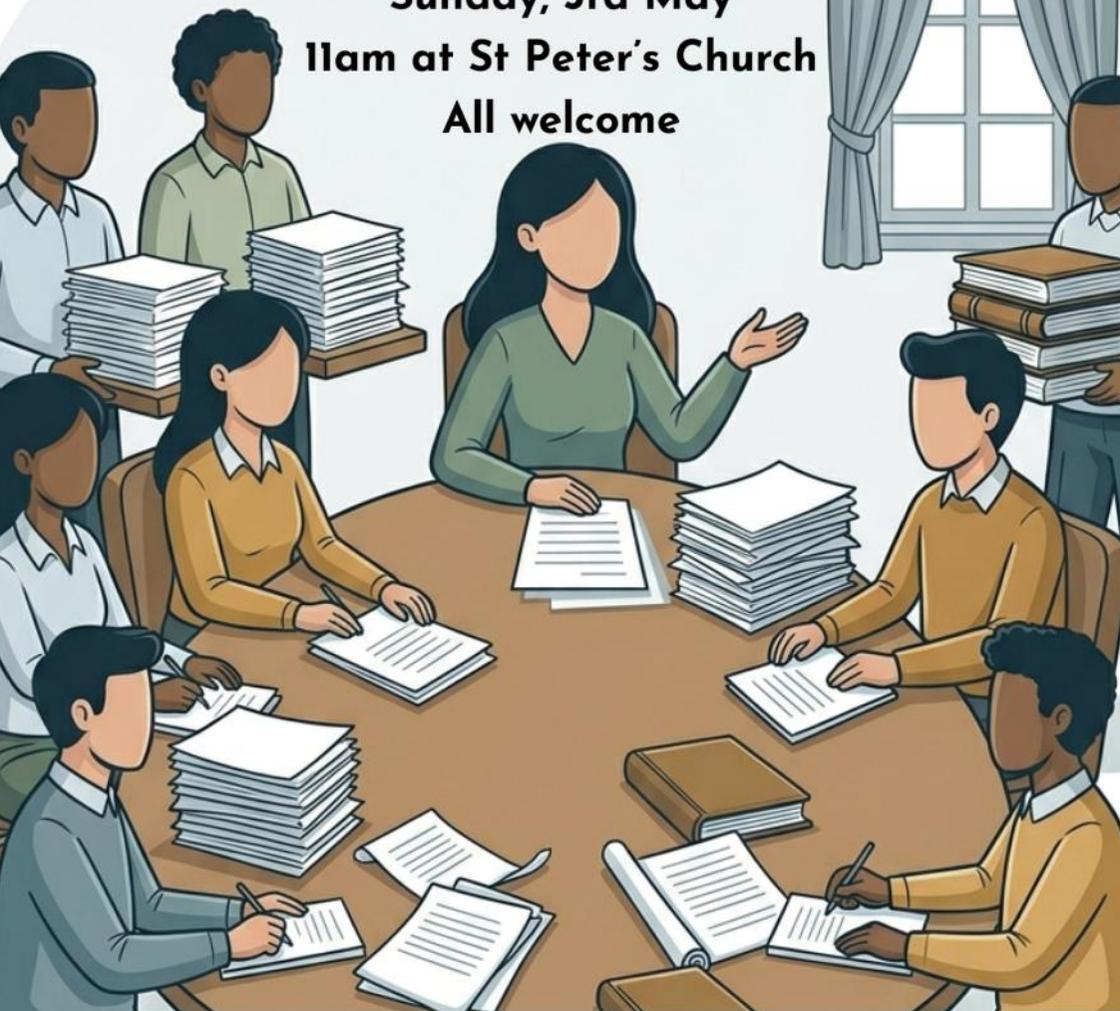
## Contacts for Community Activities (See page 3 for Church Activities)

|                                     |                   |  |              |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|--------------|
| Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers |                   | <a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk">www.girlguiding.org.uk</a>               |              |
| Rainbows at St Peter's Church       | Rosie Pollock     |  | 893168       |
| 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 |
| 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      | <a href="mailto:freemans21@hotmail.com">freemans21@hotmail.com</a>               |              |
|                                     |                   | 862510 / 07855 204505  |              |
| Maldon Croquet Club                 |                   | <a href="mailto:maldoncroquetclub@gmail.com">maldoncroquetclub@gmail.com</a>     |              |
| Wickham Bishops Drama Club          |                   | <a href="http://www.wickhambishopsdrama.co.uk">www.wickhambishopsdrama.co.uk</a> |              |
| Knit and Natter (Honywood Hall)     | Sandra Smith      |  | 893153       |
| Wickham Bishops Gardening Club      | Stewart / Wendy   | <a href="mailto:HortiClub@outlook.com">HortiClub@outlook.com</a>                 | 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                      | <a href="mailto:cllr.jade.hughes@maldon.gov.uk">cllr.jade.hughes@maldon.gov.uk</a>                  |                             |
|  | 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: <a href="mailto:manager@maldoncitizensadvice.org.uk">manager@maldoncitizensadvice.org.uk</a> | 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 hour 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                 | 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        |                                  |   | 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                      |

# St Peter's Church Annual Meeting Sunday, 3rd May 11am at St Peter's Church 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: 10<sup>th</sup> April.

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

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