

ST THOMAS, BRADWELL JUXTA MARE

WITH

ST LAWRENCE

MAY 2026 VILLAGE VIEW

From the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

As we continue this Easter season, we enter into May, we begin to enjoy the beginnings of sunshine, crops and flowers growing all around us.

May is a time in the Church for Rogationtide. Rogation is an ancient church festival to seek blessing for a community and its sustenance. The word rogation comes from the Latin verb rogare, meaning "to ask", which reflects the beseeching of God for protection from calamities. As the Book of Common Prayer puts it: "Rogation Days are the three days preceding Ascension Day, especially devoted to asking for God's blessing on agriculture and industry."

Since mediaeval times there has been a tradition of "beating the bounds" of the parish, praying for God's blessing upon the crops and thus the well-being of that particular settlement. It is still observed by us today – with a procession, prayers and a sharing of hope in God's goodness to nourish every endeavour which enables people to flourish.

The Sixth Sunday of Easter (the fifth Sunday after Easter Sunday), which is Sunday 10th May this year, is traditionally known as "Rogation Sunday" in the Church of England's calendar of festivals. This is because the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the following week are known as the "Rogation Days," days for fasting and prayer. The Thursday of that week is the feast of the Ascension, which comes on a Thursday, the 40th day after Easter (when Easter Sunday is counted as the 1st day).

Rogation invites people to ask for blessing – for a particular place; for all its inhabitants; for every endeavour to promote the common good. It is totally inclusive – joining everyone in seeking sustenance and a commitment to play their part in its provision. So let us ask God for his blessing on our communities.

God bless,

Reverend Steven

Bradwell-on-Sea WI meeting

Wednesday 8th April

The craft of using Natural Dyes



At our April meeting we welcomed Edwina Hughes who talked to us about dying fabrics with natural dyes derived from plants.

Since the Bronze Age man discovered that incredible colours could be extracted from plants. Many years later East Anglia became well known for the cloths and wools that were made, dyed and shipped to many parts of the country and abroad.

Edwina took over her family farm and planted a dye garden and woodland where she grows many ancient plants like woad, weld and madder.

The fibres from woad produce dyes in shades of blue. Weld is a reliable source of yellow and madder produces reds and browns.

Edwina uses her dyes to produce beautiful scarves, covers and clothing fabrics. She carried out research using the nettle plant and discovered that by using fibre taken from plants grown on different soils and in different seasons she was able to produce 32 different shades of green.

In World War 1 nettle dyes were used in soldiers' uniforms and even Vivienne Westwood has used plant dyes on her designs.

Edwina also carries out botanical printing using leaves, flowers and even strawberry husks or onion skins.

She holds different workshops at Lofts Farm, Broad Street Green where the public can learn how to use natural dyes.

This was an inspirational evening, and Edwina will be returning to our Craft Club to let us have a go.

New members are always welcome; there is just a small fee of £5 for non-members, so please feel free to come along! If you have any questions about what we get up to, you can contact Sue Pirret on 07824696807 or

sue@dailygrindimports.com

Linda Barnes

News from RAF Bradwell Bay

Help us to be part of the community of Bradwell on Sea

84 years ago, in April 1942, RAF Bradwell Bay came to life when the first operational squadron moved down from RAF Debden where they had been waiting for Bradwell to be completed. They arrived at RAF Bradwell Bay on 15th April. Aircraft were flown in and ground crew and equipment were brought down by road.

The Canadian crews had sailed from Canada and arrived at the Personnel Reception Centre in Bournemouth; this is where they were familiarised with British ways and RAF procedures. 418 Squadron did not exist then; volunteers were asked for, to form a night fighter squadron flying dangerous intruder missions over enemy territory. For a group of young men, who were becoming restless and bored this presented an opportunity, and so 418 Squadron was born.

After a period of just 24 hours to settle in the first mission was flown from RAF Bradwell Bay on 16th April at 21:54 when Pilot: P/O Stabb, Observer: Sgt Riches, (Canadian) A.G.: Sgt Taylor (Canadian) took off on an intruder operation to the Luftwaffe occupied air base at Gilze-Rijen. The weather was good and the operation uneventful. The aircraft and crew landed safely back at Bradwell at 30 minutes past midnight.



80 years later a Candlelit vigil was held at the memorial at 2154 on 16th April 2022.

418 Squadron was the first and longest serving squadron at RAF Bradwell Bay. During 1942 they suffered the highest number of losses of all squadrons that served at RAF Bradwell Bay, 49% of all losses occurred in 1942. This may have been due to the dangerous nature of the operations, maybe the inexperience of

the crews may have played a part. It must also be considered that 1942, operationally only started in mid-April.

Exactly 11 months (to the day) 418 RCAF squadron left the base on 15th April 1943 to relocate to RAF Ford.

The memories are part of Bradwell on Sea's rich heritage; we must not let these memories be lost. We need help. One way of helping would be to help us write a children's book. We have some records of the station intelligence cat, written in the operational record book. It may be a good opportunity to produce a book that will explain what happened at Bradwell in a suitable way. If you have skills as a children's writer and would like to help, please contact me.

The RAF Bradwell Bay Preservation Group has a Facebook page
RAF Bradwell Bay Preservation Group (Type in whole address) and our new
website

www.rafbradwellbay.org

The RAF Bradwell Bay Preservation Group seeks to preserve the history of the RAF in Bradwell on Sea. We are planning for a museum near the memorial.

You can contact us via rafbradwellbay@gmail.com



**RAF BRADWELL BAY
PRESERVATION GROUP**

Bradwell-on-Sea Village Hall Trustees 100 Club



Charity Number 803054

The Bradwell Village Hall 100 Club draw results for April 2026 are as follows.

1st Prize Number 73 Jeanne Meehan

2nd Prize Number 31 Amanda Beavan

3rd Prize Number 79 Graham Matthews

The next draw takes place on the 1st May. If you would like to join the 100 Club please fill in form available in the Community Shop of the Village Hall or phone or Text 07710868491.

The Othona Community in Spring.



Spring cleaning! You may be reluctant to start on a good old annual clean-up for your home for just yourself, or maybe as a couple or small family. At Othona, the family may be anything up to 80 people, and a rapid changeover after each event. No worries, whether you're from Germany, France, Italy, or even Bradwell, you'll be part of a cheerful team cleaning and dusting from ceiling to floor, folding and stacking bedding in the linen store; or baking delicious flapjack (thanks, Ian!) to keep us going.

Working together is a perfect opening for conversation, too, as a new German volunteer hears now our founder, Norman Motley, started this Community after he had been a WW2 RAF chaplain, where he led Answer Back Meetings (ABM) for airmen to ask real questions about Christian faith in a time of war. "Finally, there was a dream that those who were to survive the war might be able to meet, not simply for an hour or so, but to stay together for a period - in order to think of the problems which would undoubtedly confront the nations and individual Christians in the aftermath of the Second World War." The shared emblem became a cross of Nails, as we see at Othona today. The place chosen was Othona, Bradwell on Sea, because of the Chapel of St Peter's on the Wall. "Who came in that first experimental year? There were a few of the ABM fraternity - those who held the 'Nails.' There were some people from the International Voluntary Service for Peace. There were German prisoners of war, not yet repatriated, and several teenage Russians and Armenians from France - the children of Russian refugees... Coupled with these were a mixed group of students," and several other interested people.

These extracts are from Norman Motley's book "Othona, Much Ado About Something, " available from Othona and giving many more fascinating details of those pioneering days. At Othona it is part of growing as a community to study together: right from the start, speakers were brought in to interest adults and children alike. Having fun together is equally important in bringing everyone together, as you will know if you took part in the crazy Othona Egg Rolling competition this Easter, an event which goes back as far as memories permit, as we set our painted eggs rolling, bouncing and jumping down the sea wall assault course, trying to avoid the Hammer of Justice!

Work, Worship, Study and Play - the four pillars of the Othona Community. We cannot reflect back on Easter without recalling the beautiful dawn service as people from our local villages, and people staying at Othona, were led in the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, by Bishop Adam of Bradwell, followed by the Othona Big Breakfast for over 60 people. From the relative formality of this

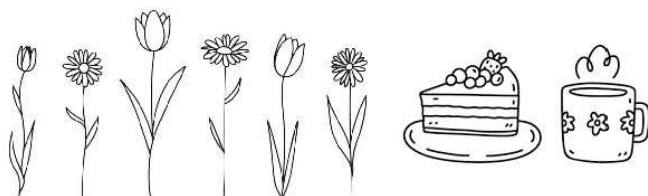
Easter Sunday service, to the informal daily acts of worship held in the Chapel, to the moments of peaceful prayer throughout the day, we hope that Othona is fulfilling its purpose and will continue to do so in the face of all the personal, international and global troubles we may face: very different from 1946 but just as challenging for a Christian Community that welcomes people of all faiths and none.

All are welcome to visit the Othona Community's website and look in on the activities at both centres, at Burton Bradstock West Dorset and here at Bradwell in Sea, Essex.

**Join us for a relaxing, beginner-friendly
floral workshop with afternoon tea**

**Saturday 6 June at 2.00pm
Dengie Village Hall**

In aid of St James's Church, Dengie



Produce your own table decoration, **absolutely no experience necessary**, a helping hand will be available!

All materials and flowers included – just bring your own secateurs or scissors – take home your arrangement

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Charmian 01621 779474
Jean 01621 778077

BRADWELL-ON-SEA COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Bradwell-on-Sea is co-opting to fill a Councillor vacancy.

You are invited to apply to become a Village Councillor.

You are required to meet the criteria for eligibility, set out in s.79 of the Local Government Act 1972.

In summary you must be:

- *A British subject, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union.*
- *On the 'relevant date' (i.e. the day on which you are co-opted) be 18 years of age or over.*

Also:

- *Be a local government elector for the Council area for which you want to stand on the 'relevant date'.*
- *OR have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the council area during the whole of the 12 months preceding that day.*
- *OR had your principal or only place of work in the council area during the same period.*
- *OR have resided in the council area during that 12-month period.*
- *OR You can satisfy the criteria to be co-opted if you have lived in the council area or within 4.8km (3 miles) of it for the whole of the 12 months preceding the 'relevant date'.*

You must not be disqualified, pursuant to s.80 of the Local Government Act 1972. *In summary you cannot stand for co-option/election if:*

- *You are the subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order.*
- *You have, within five years before the day of the co-option/election, been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offence and have had a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine.*
- *You work for the Council you want to become a Councillor for (but you can work for other local Authorities, including the Principal Authorities that represent the same area).*

Application for Co-option

Applicants should apply in writing:

- Confirming that they meet the criteria for eligibility set out in s.79 of the Local Government Act 1972 and are not disqualified under s.80 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- Stating why they wish to be a Councillor.
- Provide a CV.

Send your application to The Clerk, Kelly Andrews, Westwood, Grange Road, Tillingham, Essex, CM0 7UR or email clerk@bradwellonsea-pc.gov.uk by 20th May 2026.

MAY SERVICES

| Time | Service | Church | Readings |
|-------|---|---------------------------|---|
| 1st | Friday | | |
| 12:00 | Communion with Lunch | St Lawrence Church | |
| 3rd | Easter 5 | | |
| 10:00 | Communion and Baptism | St Thomas Bradwell | Acts 7.55-60 1 Peter 2.2-10 John 14.1-14 Psalm 31.1-5,15-16* |
| 10:00 | Easter Service | St Lawrence Church Centre | |
| 10:00 | Easter Service | St Nicholas Tillingham | |
| 15:00 | Evening Service | St James Dengie | |
| 10th | Rogation Sunday | | |
| 10:00 | Communion | St Nicholas Tillingham | Acts 17.22-31 1 Peter 3.13-22 John 14.15-21 Psalm 66.7-18 |
| 10:00 | Rogation Café Church meet at the Church | St Thomas Bradwell | |
| 10:00 | Joint Rogation & Communion service | St Lawrence Centre | |
| 10:00 | | St Lawrence Church | |
| 17th | Easter 7 | | |
| 08:00 | Holy Communion | St James Dengie | Acts 1.6-14 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11 John 17.1-11 Psalm 68.1-10,32-35 |
| 10:00 | Communion | St Lawrence Church | |
| 10:00 | Morning Worship | St Lawrence Centre | |
| 10:00 | Morning Worship | St Nicholas Tillingham | |
| 18:00 | Evening Service | St Thomas Bradwell | |
| 24th | Pentecost | | |
| 10:00 | Communion | St James Dengie | Numbers 11.24-30 Acts 2.1-21 John 20.19-23 Psalm 104.26-36,37b |
| 10:00 | Café Church | St Thomas Bradwell | |
| 10:00 | Morning Worship | St Lawrence Centre | |
| 10:00 | Morning Worship | St Lawrence Church | |
| 18:00 | Evening Service | St Nicholas Tillingham | |
| 28th | Thursday | | |
| 09:00 | Communion | St Peters Chapel | TBA |
| 31st | Trinity Sunday | | |
| 10:00 | Joint Benefice Communion | St Lawrence Centre | TBA |

| Time | Service | Church | Readings |
|----------|----------------------|------------------------|--|
| June 5th | Friday | | |
| 12:00 | Communion with Lunch | St Lawrence Church | TBA |
| 7th | Trinity 1 | | |
| 10:00 | Communion | St Thomas Bradwell | Isaiah 40.12-17,27-31 2 Corinthians 13.11-13 Matthew 28.16-20 Psalm 8 |
| 10:00 | Morning Worship | St Nicholas Tillingham | |
| 10:00 | Morning Worship | St Lawrence Centre | |
| 15:00 | Evening Service | St James Dengie | |

Diary of 2026 Events

Below is a list of dates of events being held for the first two months of 2026. If you or your organisation have dates that you would like advertised, please email details to stthomaspcc@btinternet.com for inclusion.

May

7th Thursday Club St Thomas Church 2pm, 7th May PCC Meeting St Thomas Bradwell 7pm. 13th Women's Institute Village Hall Committee Room 7.30pm, 18th Parish Council AGM and Meeting Village Hall Committee Room 7.30pm, 20th Bradwell Village Hall AGM at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. 21st May St Thomas Church APM at 7pm in the Chapman Room St Thomas Church.

In addition to the above on:- **Mondays** Pebbles 10am to 12noon at St Lawrence Centre during term time.

Wednesdays Rainbows and Brownies. (See Parochial Information for Contact Numbers). **Fridays** Badminton & Table Tennis 10-12 in Bradwell Village Hall

June Village View

All copy for the June Village View should be sent to Roger Scurrall by phone (776341), posted through the letterbox of 6 St Thomas' Row, Bradwell, or by email to the address below, all by May 15th. We do not accept articles after this date.

Copy may also be submitted as a text or Microsoft Word or Publisher file, either on CD or, better still, by email to stthomaspcc@btinternet.com. We ask you to limit your article to 300-350 words and please include a picture.



Bradwell-on-Sea Village Hall

The Village Hall will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 20th May at 7.30pm in the Committee Room. The meeting consists of reports of what has happened over the past year and the financial position of the Village Hall.

The Village Hall Trustees are made up of a member of each organisation that uses the hall on a regular basis and three members of the Public. The Trustees can also co-opt members onto the Trustees.

The Village Hall Trustees being a Charity are responsible to manage the Village Hall facilities in Bradwell-on-Sea for the use of the people of Bradwell-on-Sea and surrounding Villages and provide social activities for the Villages. The Hall is leased from the Parish Council and the internals of the hall are the responsibility of the Village Hall. The money raised by hiring the Hall to groups and individuals is used to pay for upkeep of the hall and any spare money used to improve the facilities of the hall, along with money raised from fundraising events.

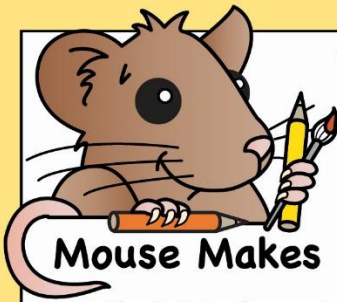
If you are available to come to our meeting on the 20th May at 7.30pm to show your support to the Trustees for providing such a wonderful facility in our Village you will be most welcome.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED
INTERESTED ? PLEASE CONTACT
TERESA FOWLER ON 01621 776588

Bradwell-on-Sea
Flower Show
& Dog Show

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST 2026
Bradwell-on-Sea Village Hall
1:00 - 5:00 PM



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

Genesis 1:2

The

Acts 1:4

The Spirit of

A _____

Romans 8:15

H _____

John 14:26

The Spirit of

John 16:13

The Spirit of

Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

___ O ___

___ Y ___

___ C ___

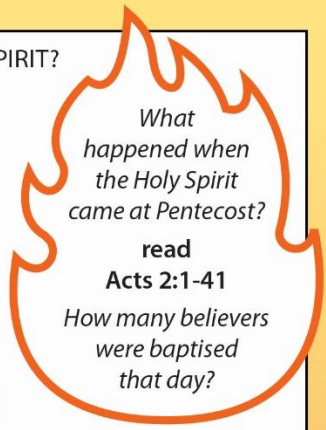
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What happened when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost?

read Acts 2:1-41

How many believers were baptised that day?

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

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER
 ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE
 GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them..

I will fight the best
soldier in Israel's army
and if I win, you will be
our slaves



David's brothers were in
Israel's army. He came to
bring them food, and he
heard Goliath.



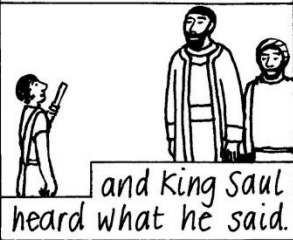
He is insulting God!

David's brothers were not
happy.



You just
came to watch the fight.
Go back to your few sheep.

But David didn't stop..



and King Saul
heard what he said.

We shouldn't be cowards.
I will fight him!



You don't stand a chance.

I have killed lions and bears
with God's help.



Then go ahead.
You can wear my armour.

I can't move with all
this on!



So David took it off.

He took his sling
and chose 5 stones
from the stream bed.



Goliath couldn't believe what he saw.



Do you
think I'm a
dog that
you have
come with
a stick?

I have come to fight you
in the name of the All-
powerful God. The Lord
always wins His battles



As Goliath came forward..

David slung his stone and hit
him on the head.



Goliath fell down dead.

The Philistines ran
away, chased by
Israel's army.



Saturday 4th July

11am - 4pm

Admission
by cash
donation



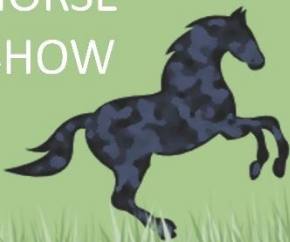
Wheels Hooves & Paws

HISTORIC VEHICLES

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Stalls: Jean - 01621 741564 or 07748 666066 - jeaningram@btinternet.com

HORSE SHOW



Stalls & Refreshments
Children's Activities

DOG SHOW



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Eunice Siggins 01621 778904

PCC SecretaryVictoria Eley email .eley@icloud.com

Rainbows 5 – 7 yrs

Brownies 7 - 10 years

Guides 10-14yrs

For information 07757636446

enquiries@girlguidingsexne.org.uk**District Councillor****Linda Haywood**Clr.lindahaywood@maldon.gov.uk**Wendy Laybourne**Clr.wendy.laybourne@maldon.co.uk**Parish Council Chairman****Marion Gibson**clrgibsob@stlawrence.pc.gov.uk**Clerk to the Parish Council****Kevin Money**clerk@stlawrence.pc.gov.uk**Council meet on 4th Wednesday of each month in Village Hall****Stone Sailing Club**

Weekends 01621779344

Church Flowers

Debbie Montague 01621778477

Children Society

Eunice Siggins 01621778904

St Lawrence Singers

Friday at 5.45-7.00pm, Church Centre

Shirley Masterson 07956799989

Bridge Club

Mondays 1.30 Church Centre

St Lawrence Social Club1st Wednesday of month at

Village Hall

Secretary Gwen Adams

01621778386

Coffee Morning

Tuesday at 10.30am Church

Centre

Wednesday Board Games

2 -4.00pm Church Centre

Fridays Hobbies and Leisure

10.00am Church Centre

St Lawrence Village Hall

Bookings Marion Gibson

01621778102

Friends of St Lawrence**Newlands**

Carole Taylor 01621778523

John Barnes 01621779267

Table Tennis

Tuesdays 3-5pm at Village Hall

PCC Secretary

Sally Pursey

salwar2201@gmail.com

Diddydots Pre School

Monday – Friday 8am-2pm Term Time, Village Hall

Wendy Butterwick Keep Fit

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 7.30-8pm, Village Hall

Age Concern

01245 264499 Two Rivers

Association for Age Concern

Mobile Library

Every Three weeks, Thursdays St Lawrence Bay, Village Hall 11:40-12:10

Local Policing Team

Non Emergency 101

Emergency 999

Crimestoppers

Anonymous Crime Reporting

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The Dengie Medical Centre

Tillingham 01621778383

The Trinity Medical Centre

Mayland 01621745400

William Fisher Medical Centre

Southminster 01621772360

Pebbles Church Centre

Mondays 10am -12noon

If any of the above information is incorrect or you wish to publicise your organisation then please email stthomaspc@btinternet.com

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