

Wimbish Church Newsletter



February 2024 - March 2024



**Debden and Wimbish Parish Churches
Church Services and Events in February -
March 2024**



Changes to our Services can be found at
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6275/
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19645/

Sun 4 Feb	9.30 AM	Village Worship	Wimbish	Home Team
Sun 11 Feb	9.00 AM	Holy Communion	Debden	Rev Paula Griffiths
Sun 18 Feb	10.30 AM	Holy Communion	Wimbish	Rev Hilary Davey
Sun 25 Feb	9.00 AM	Village Worship	Debden	Home Team
Sun 3 March	9.30 AM	Village Worship	Wimbish	Home Team
Sun 10 March	9.00 AM	Mothering Sunday	Debden	Rev Hilary Davey
Sun 17 March	10.30 AM	Holy Communion	Wimbish	Rev Paula Griffiths
Sun 24 March	9.00 AM	Palm Sunday	Debden	Home Team
		Passion Reading	Wimbish	Home Team
Thur 28 March	8.00 PM	Agape Supper	Wimbish	Rev Paula Griffiths
Fri 29 March	2.00 PM	Good Friday Hour at the Cross	Wimbish	Home Team
Sun 31 March	9.00 AM	Easter Service	Debden	Rev Hilary Davey
	10.30 AM	Easter Service	Wimbish	Rev Paula Griffiths

Please note NEW times of Services. Services subject to change: please check websites

Baptism and Wedding enquiries welcome
Please contact Parish Office, Saffron Walden
01799 506024
or Peter Gray 07901 946440

Debden Parish Church, Church Lane, CB11 3LD | Wimbish Parish Church, Off Maple Lane, CB10 2XG

The copy deadline for the April/May 2024 newsletter is 10th March 2024.
wimbishparishmagazine@gmail.com

The views and opinions expressed in articles published in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial committee or of the Wimbish Parochial Church Council (PCC). Editor's decision is final.

Front page photo: Jet Cooper

Message From The Team Rector

Being a Christian isn't always easy. We may have other things we would like to do with our time. We might have good friends who think that going to Church on a Sunday morning is a bit of a strange thing to do. Sometimes religious belief can seem a little at odds with a world built on rationality (I have issues with this last one, but that's for another month).

The main challenge I have with Christianity is other Christians. Not you, of course, but those other embarrassing ones who say and do things that are just plain silly or stupid, or worse. And here's the challenge for me. I might understandably want to write them off and put a clear distance between myself and their behaviour. I might even want to claim that they are not real Christians. Maybe they are not, but only God alone can call that one. Instead, I must accept that they are my brothers and sisters in Christ: Fellow Christians, albeit not very good ones, at least not by my estimation. Maybe I'm not always a very good Christian myself, at least not by my estimation.

That's difficult. It's far easier to turn your back on those who disappoint or disturb you. And, if you do it right, you can do it in such a way that it leaves you feeling justified and even smugly superior. It's just that does not seem to be Christ's way.

Just before Christmas, after long debates at General Synod, the Bishops authorised prayers that allow for same-sex couples to be blessed in a Church service. You may have views on this that range from "about time," to "so what," to "how can the Church of England even call itself Christian." It does, it can, and it is. It is well above your pay grade, and mine, to decide who is and who isn't accepted by God.

Our PCC's will be debating these changes and the authorised prayers over coming meetings and deciding how each parish should best respond. As individual Christians we must also decide how we respond. To do this I would like to draw your attention back to the pastoral principles introduced with the Living in Love and Faith discussions. Any Christian community would do well to take these to heart, as I believe they offer an excellent approach to being God's people together in all aspects of our common life. They are:

- Acknowledge prejudice
- Speak into silence
- Address ignorance
- Cast out fear
- Admit hypocrisy
- Pay attention to power

I truly believe that any Christian and any Christian community committed to these values will be richer and deeper in its faith and better equipped to live the life Christ calls us to in our place and our time. This is not an easy way. The easy way is to build barriers and retreat behind them, turning backs on all that unsettles and disturbs. The Pharisees of Jesus' day were faithful people who had done just that. He loved them, but he also grieved for them. We must resist any temptation, over any issue, to do likewise. That will sometimes be a very difficult thing to do. But, if we do it together, and if we do it trusting that Christ is with us, then it is at least possible. And it will show. And true faith is always attractive.

Jeremy

View From The Fly on the Church Wall

In the last magazine (December/January), we were preparing ourselves to celebrate Christmas. This magazine (February/March), we are preparing for Easter, through the season of Lent till the Easter Sunday. It doesn't seem possible, does it?

Easter seems very early this year, as I can't remember Easter Sunday being on my birthday, or before that.

(I apparently have a relatively short memory, because in 2008 Easter Day was 23Rd March) and the earliest it can ever be is the 22nd March. The next early date is 23rd March 2160.

I say all this because it just seems bizarre that I'm reviewing Christmas services and advertising Easter services in the same article.

The Carol Service was a joyous occasion, singing the familiar carols and listening again to the story of Jesus' birth. With mulled wine and enticing nibbles, it was a lovely way to catch up with friends and neighbours.

Christmas Eve afternoon saw the Crib service. This is usually a quiet period of reflection as the children enact the story of Jesus birth, giving them a chance to savour the true meaning of Christmas, before Santa and presents get in the way. This year was a bit different, in that, after the children had loaded the stable with all the figures, we told the story through the song The Twelve Days of Christmas (with altered words). With parts distributed, the rehearsal and final rendition was chaotic and fun. Just a note... the most noise came from the parents being the various animals!

The midnight Communion, led by Hilary Davey, was a calm oasis before the next day's storm. To participate in a reflective communion was both necessary and gave me heartfelt joy. On my way home at 12.30 am Christmas morning, the temperature was 15 degrees. Unbelievable. I wonder if it's ever been that warm at Christmas? (I'm not Googling that one).

Easter is my favourite time of year. It is spring, with all the hope of warmer and drier weather to come. And the crucifixion and subsequent resurrection of Jesus that gives us the hope of eternal life. Both Spring and Easter offer us hope for better things to come. Doesn't our world need just this now.

I pray that the love of the risen Jesus Christ instils itself in all whose hearts are filled with hate, so that peaceful thoughts and deeds become second nature, and decisions made are for the good of all. Amen

Do please feel free to join us at one or all of our Easter services.

A happy Easter to you all.

Peter

Churchwarden

Wimbish Coffee Mornings

St Paul's Mission
Hall

**10th February, 9th
March, 13th April**
10 to 11.30am



Coffee, tea, soft drinks plus delicious home-made cakes, bakes, produce and preserves.

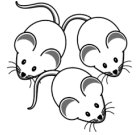
We also have a selection of pre-loved items for sale and great prizes in our raffle.

Are you new to the village or would like to meet people? Come along to our friendly coffee mornings to meet people and have a chat.

Church Mice

Parent and Toddlers

1.45 to 3.00pm
Mondays



**February, 5th, 26th,
11th, 25th March**

New Room, Debden Church,
Church Lane, CB11 3LB

All parents/carers and pre-schoolers are welcome for a social session with a mixture of activities: toys, crafts, songs and refreshments.

Please message Abi Magness on 07841112525 if you'd like to come along. We'd love to see you!



BIRD WATCH

27TH JANUARY 2023 10 AM - 11 AM

Join us at All Saints Church, Wimbish to record the wildlife that you see.

Hots drinks and snacks provided

A belated Happy New Year from everyone at Wimbish Primary Academy. We have started 2024 with some exciting new learning themes that have already captured the children's interests and imaginations.

Learning:

Birch Class are focussing upon 'Where in the World', looking at settlements in the USA and comparing these to the UK. Willow Class are learning about South American Adventures, looking at rainforests, artists and much more. Oak Class are thinking about 'What's up There?' focussing upon space, flight and aeroplanes.

Rewards and Celebrations:

Just before Christmas we introduced the children to some new rewards. Children can now earn merits on their merit card 10 merits earn them a bronze certificate, 20 a silver, 30 a gold and 40 a platinum certificate. Children who earn a certificate in our celebration assembly on a Friday also now earn an apple for their apple team house which they can put in our new reward display. Golden apples are given out by Senior Leaders. These are given to children who do something 'wow'. This might be demonstrating exceptional care and manners, a superb attitude to something, a particular piece of work that is fantastic. The children are eagerly counting the apples in their house team tube as they walk past, desperate to be the winners at the end of this half term!

Parents as Partners:

In November we welcomed Reception Class parents into school to learn about phonics and what a grapheme and a digraph are! In December we enjoyed welcoming parents/carers/extended family to watch Oak Class star in their Nativity Play – they were all super stars. In January we welcomed all parent/carers into school to join our inaugural Reading Café. Mrs Butcher (Deputy Head) shared with our families how we teach reading in school and then they spent time in class with their children doing some 'book tasting'.

School Improvements:

Over the Christmas holidays, we had work completed to put in additional cabling and improve the infrastructure for technology in school - this is really important as there is some very exciting news coming soon to support our children, so watch this space! Anglian Learning Trust are supporting Wimbish to continue to improve our building. Following a number of surveys and assessments, we now have a whole programme of works planned, these include new lighting outside of school for the evenings, improved fencing around the Nest and Oak Class, a new footbridge to the playground, improved security to the external and internal doors, upgrades to the fire alarm system, new flooring in Oak Class, an upgraded phone system, and hopefully some further re-decoration.

Community:

We are still recruiting community readers to come into school and help our children improve their reading fluency. We are also about to start Forest School again and would love anyone interested in outdoor learning and activities to come along and help. We do require all volunteers to have a DBS check which we can arrange.

Wimbish Parish Council News

<https://www.wimbish.org.uk/wimbish-parish-council-contacts.html>

Litter Pick

The 20th Wimbish
Annual Litter Pick
Sunday 24th March
2-4pm

As in previous years the Parish Council will be organising teams that will each cover a different area of the Parish, starting at approximately 2pm.

If you would like to help please contact Tracy Coston 01223 894462, Ted Browne 07974 704138 or Mike Young 01799 599089 to arrange which area you will cover.

Children are welcome but only to tidy up the recreation ground please.

High visibility jackets, pickers and bags will be available but you will need to bring gloves.

Afterwards we will all meet up at the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground for tea and cakes at 4pm.

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone that attended to help tidy up The Lucy May field on 29th December.

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Jodiereid@saffronsupportltd.co.uk
Tel: 07966292650

Louisestokley@saffronsupportltd.co.uk
Tel: 07711967344

For Sale

Exercise Bike

York Barbell C510 Fitness Cycle in good condition- give a donation to Wimbish Church Funds. For more details
07929943054

Andre Rieu Live at Wembley Arena

18/19 May 2024 – one ticket on offer
A classical music concert with 60-piece orchestra, including sung items by talented singers.

Overnight stay at hotel, including breakfast, coach travel and transfer to OVO Arena. If anyone would be happy to go, please phone 07929943054 for more details .



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In and Around Wimbish

WIMBISH WALKERS

Meets on the second Sunday of the month. Walks in Wimbish, or exploring the surrounding villages. Join us for a walk around some of the local footpaths.

Contact: Penny Browne pennybrowne@hotmail.com
<https://www.wimbish.org.uk/wimbish-walkers.html>

WIMBISH PARISH COUNCIL

Meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Village Hall
<https://www.wimbish.org.uk/wimbish-parish-council-contacts.html>

WIMBISH CHURCH WEBSITE

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19645/>

WIMBISH VILLAGE HALL

Capacity is 120 standing or 80 seated.
Cost of Hire: £15.00 per hour, or £75 per day.
Contact: Edward Browne 07974704138.

RADWINTER W.I.

Meets the last Wednesday of the month
Contact: Wendy Rowley 01799 599753

CRAFTERNOON

Do you knit, crochet, or sew? Why not join others for an afternoon of craft?
Crafternoon meets on the third Monday of the month at St Paul's Mission Hall. 2 - 4pm Refreshments provided. Contact: Yvonne
Yvonne@aldridges.eclipse.co.uk



Love cats but don't want the commitment?

Toe Beans needs people who can look after a cat while we find it a new home.

It won't cost you anything!

Contact 07436 285029 or toebeanscr@gmail.com

Janet Remembers..

Christian Activities

by Janet Swan

My brother Tony and I were brought up in a Christian household. As far back as I can remember, my father went to church on his bike on Sunday mornings, where he sang in the choir. As soon as we were old enough, Tony and I went as well – we sat in the front choir stalls and Dad sat just behind us. Tony and several of his friends wore choir robes and looked very sweet for a few years. From an early age we went to Sunday school in St Pauls, which was conducted by various ladies. I remember one Sunday when I was about eight years old and Mrs French, who was the vicar's wife, had been expounding on the evils of non-observance of the Ten Commandments. I asked her "what exactly is adultery?". To my surprise she seemed confused, went red in the face and quickly changed the subject, so I assumed she didn't know either.

When we got older and went to church as a group of teenagers, we always sat at the back, where there was a very large tortoise stove which Mr George Acker lit on Saturdays to heat the church. It was not at all efficient and hardly noticeable in the larger area of the church, hence our choice of seating. Also, at the back we were not so easily observed from the chancel or the pulpit. Church was always at 11.00 in the morning, but the other denominations tended to meet in the afternoons. There wasn't much to do on Sunday afternoons, so we would congregate and go for walks or generally hang out. If it was cold or wet, we went to the Salvation Army or the chapel. The Salvation Army had a corrugated iron building next to Maypole Farm at Wimbish Green. Mr Banks was the Sergeant Major and played a cornet; Mr Jarvis played a piano accordion; Mr Chapman had a euphonium. Mr & Mrs King, who were very elderly, came from Newport. Mrs King had an enormous drum on the floor beside her and donged it with a large padded drumstick at intervals during the service. They all wore uniforms and there was a lot of music and singing.

Then there was the chapel in its own building next to the White Hart. Mr Jupp was the chapel parson, who lived in a little cottage on the main road just past the Elder Street junction. He was tall, thin and stern, wore a round black hat and rode an upright style bike about the village. His wife was a small timid lady who played the harmonium for the chapel services. Mr Jupp could be relied on to preach a lively sermon, banging loudly on the table, shouting and threatening hell fire for all kinds of misdemeanours. He could be quite scary in his black outfit when he got carried away with preaching, and the boys loved it!

The different forms of worship were all attended for a time, but as young adults developed, so did a liking for dancing and cinema, both of which were considered sinful and were forbidden by the non-conformists. The Church of England however, had no such rules or conditions, so became the preferred option.

Janet

Christmas Charities 2023

We chose 3 charities for our Christmas giving.

These were The Uttlesford Food Bank, The Children's Society and the church. Each will receive £266. Thank you to everyone who contributed and for your generosity.

Worship and Word Prayer Group, St Paul's, Wimbish

This is a short informal time of prayer and reflection around the daily office service of Evening Prayer. We include prayer for each other, the life of the churches, the needs of those from around the world, and of course for those we hold dear. You are welcome to join us, with no expectation to pray aloud.

6.00-6.45pm on Wednesdays

Feb 7th and 21st, March 6th and 20th For prayer requests, please contact:

Peter Gray,

petewgray@hotmail.co.uk 07901 956440

HOLD ON TO HOPE

from Pat Rust

Through the kindness, support and love of so many people around me, including all the members of Wimbish Church, I have been given the grace to carry on. Being a member of the 'team' has given me a purpose and the ability to look towards my life ahead.



I am sincerely grateful for the strength you have all given me. Alan taught me this little saying:- Watch and listen, hope and pray, things may happen, any day. Hope and my beliefs have provided me with great comfort after Alan's death. So, 'Hold on to hope' and THANK YOU EVERYONE

WIMBISH Then and Now



Rowney Corner early 1900s and today



My family and I moved into what was then called Brick House in 1969. As children Susan (my sister) and I attended the local school. Not much was done to alter the house until 1970 when my father, Clarrie Lambert, had the second garage built. If you know where to look, Susan and I put our initials in the wet concrete! As an aside, the garage door still has a dent in to this day, caused by myself learning to drive!

My parents had, in fact, viewed the house some two years earlier whilst it was still being altered - it used to be the village garage and petrol station long ago. If you look at the photo, the rose bed by the road is where the petrol pumps were.

The thatched cottage next door was used as a weekend home by two men - David and Charles. They kept themselves to themselves and so we had no issues with them as neighbours.

The farm opposite was owned by Margaret McQueen, who our older readers will remember as the church organist. She was a real character - nothing escaped her gaze! She died in 1985. On the other side of the main road (now B184) lived Miss Vinal, the district nurse/midwife and 'Auntie' Kate Bass - a long time friend of my dad.

Nothing really altered on 'our' corner for some years, then the nurse retired and the house was taken over by the Macphersons who added the second floor. Auntie Kate died and the house was then occupied by the Garwoods - does anyone remember them? The house gained a letterbox and become the Post Office, run by John and Brenda Shopland, with help in later years by their children, Jayne and Claire. I still keep in touch with John.

The aerial photo was taken in the early 1970's so quite a lot has changed since then. The only thing unchanged is the red brick house in the top left of the photo. We moved out in 1996 after my Granny (Doris Bird) died and Jenny and Bunny Hare moved in. So the story continues!

Robert Lambert.



NOTICES

Wimbish Bus Information

<https://bustimes.org/localities/wimbish>

Mobile Post Office Van - Carver Barracks Stop

The Finchingfield Mobile Post Office van calls at Broad Oakes Close, Carver Barracks, CB10 2YJ every Tuesday. 11.00am -12.00pm.

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library visits every three weeks on a Friday, from 2.55pm to 3.25pm. It stops outside the village hall. Occasionally, if the library bus is unavailable, the driver will be in a car.

Next visit dates are:

3rd February, 24th February, 17th March, 28th April

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/digital-content/our-mobile-and-home-library-services/mobile-libraries/uttlesford>

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Wimbish Community Speedwatch

You may have seen residents of our parish out at the roadside monitoring the speed of vehicles on our local roads. These are the trained members of our Community Speedwatch team working with SERPS (Safer Essex Roads Partnership)

Speedwatch is a proactive solution designed to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in their local community. It was originally established to support an under-funded police force and the highways authority. Team members have no authority to prosecute offenders but their role is to collect information to enable driver education to be directed where it is most needed.

Offenders initially receive a letter from the local constabulary requesting that they respect the local speed limits as they would expect others to do in their own community. A second offender gets a visit from the police and repeat offenders find themselves getting special attention.

Our Wimbish team was established by Antony Wordsworth about twelve years ago now when he lived in Howlett End. I joined him shortly afterwards and took over the organisation at his later departure to Thaxted.

Our initial number of volunteers was more than adequate and we were in fact the only parish in the county to have two teams of volunteers with two sets of equipment. Our numbers have gradually decreased due to other commitments, declining health, age, and members moving away. Our valiant band of volunteers in Elder Street gradually decreased until it was only Julie and Moray Bayliss going out on random days to check traffic passing through and our thanks go to them for their persistence. They too have now understandably decided to call it a day so Elder Street will no longer be monitored.

We now have only four people we can call on to assist. Four people who don't even live within a Wimbish speed limit; two Wimbish residents and two officers from Carver Barracks.

We should officially have at least three team members at each session in order to satisfy the insurance requirements so you can see the organisational problems. We do sessions of approximately one hour each at random times on random days in order not to set a recognised pattern. Without more helpers, even these few sessions will disappear.

If there is anyone else in the parish who would like to do a short training session and join our team then please get in touch.

Deryck Johnson 01799 527773

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District Councillor's Report

Cllr Stewart Luck

Mob: 07974 188395

cllrluck@uttlesford.gov.uk

Hello everyone!

I was just reviewing the last magazine and suddenly realized how interesting the content had become. There were lots of reports about activities at the school, the Church, a bat group, Wimbish then & Now! The Hundred Parishes Society, and the obituaries of Wimbish family members. Just looking at the advertisements I can see that there are quite a lot of businesses in the local area who employ a lot of local people. Clearly this is a vibrant caring community.

That said I am each year given an allowance by Uttlesford that I can use in the Ward to support worthy causes. When I asked around it was not apparent who I should be supporting so I had to go looking. On the recreation ground I found the Junior football team from Saffron Walden securing a win in a most convincing manner. Talking to the manager they feel they could use some funding in a constructive way that will benefit Wimbish as well as others in the wider world. I also donated to Toe Beans the cat rescue charity. In the past I have donated to the "Good Companions" group who met regularly in Wimbish village hall however the committee who ran that group decided to call "time" at the end of 2023 and no successors came forward. That's a great pity as the meetings and trips out were well attended.

So where do the people of Wimbish look for like-minded people in the community? Once again, I found the answer in the Church Magazine. The monthly meeting of Crafternoon takes place in the village hall. Radwinter W.I. is the last Wednesday in the month, do men attend and what age group attends? Wimbish Walkers meet on the second Sunday each month. There is a Worship & Prayer Group meeting in St Paul's room regularly as well as the warm and friendly coffee mornings that are held there. So thank you to all who have served in some way or another, providing what keeps the community happy and ticking along. The thanks would of course include the Parish Council who meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the village hall.

While attending one of these social gatherings I was asked why cant WE have more events in the village hall because its looking a bit tired and unloved at the moment. I am not going to run lots of entertainment in the hall but it would be good to meet many of you one evening.

Could I suggest you pop along to the village hall on the evening of Monday 11th March at 7.30 pm where I will host a community get-together. I won't call it a Cllrs surgery, it's just a chance to get to know more residents and get ideas. A wine tasting evening has been hinted at but plans have not come together in time to make the print deadline for this magazine.

Best wishes to you all, Cllr Stewart Luck

R4U Cllr for Debden & Wimbish Ward

THE PARISH TEAM

Team Rector	Reverent Jeremy Trew	01799 500947
Churchwarden	Peter Gray	07901 946440 petewgray@hotmail.co.uk
Churchwarden Emeritus	Janet Swan	01799 599540
Treasurer	Frances Johnson	Meadowfield Thaxted Road Wimbish 01799 527773
Secretary	Pamela Swan	
PCC Members	Tracey Thurgood-Buss Mary Curtis Jenny Hare Karen Hepworth Linda King Jill Kirby Abigail Magness	01799 523358 07722 963409
Church Organists	Pat Rust Lynne Ward-Booth	01799 599548
Newsletter Editor	Jill Kirby	07933 221533 wimbishparishmagazine@gmail.com
St Paul's bookings	Janet Swan	01799 599540
Magazine Advertising	Frances Johnson	01799 527773

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