

Wimbish Church Newsletter



August/September 2025



**Wimbish and Debden Parish Churches
Church Services and Events in August/
September 2025**

Services subject to change:
please check websites

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19645/



All Saints, Wimbish

Sunday 3rd August: Trinity 7

9.30 am Village Worship (Home Team) Coffee served after Service

Sunday 17th August: Trinity 9

10.30 am Holy Communion (Rev Lynda Sebbage)

Sunday 7th September:

9.30 am Village Worship (Home Team) Coffee served after Service

Sunday 21st September:

10.30 am Holy Communion with prayer for healing (Rev Lynda Sebbage)

Sunday 28th September:

3.00 pm Quiet Afternoon/Prayer Walk (Rev Lynda Sebbage)

St Mary The Virgin, Debden

Sunday 10th August : Trinity 8

9.00 am Holy Communion (Rev Lynda Sebbage)

Sunday 31st August: Trinity 11

9.00 am Family Service (Rev Lynda Sebbage and Home Team)

Sunday 14th September:

9.00 am Holy Communion (Rev Lynda Sebbage)

Sunday 28th September:

9.00 am Family Service (Rev Lynda Sebbage and home team)

St Mary's, Saffron Walden

Sunday 24th August:

10.30 am Team Service St Mary's Saffron Walden

Wimbish Parish Church, Off Maple Lane, CB10 2XG
St Paul's Mission Hall, Wimbish Tye Green, CB10 2XE (next to Wimbish School)
Debden Parish Church, Church Lane, CB11 3LD

The copy deadline for the October/November newsletter is 10th September 2025.
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.

LETTER FROM THE RECTORY

There's a particular spot in Debden I always pause at during my regular dog walk. It's along the path that winds through our village allotments, and it's here that I stop to listen—to the trees swaying gently in the breeze, their soft, soothing sounds creating a lullaby of nature. It takes me back to childhood nights, lying awake and listening to the trees at the bottom of our garden, their whispers eventually lulling me to sleep.

This gentle rustling of leaves—known as *susurratio*—can draw us into the secret life of trees. Thomas Hardy, the great novelist, captured this beautifully in his book *Under the Greenwood Tree*. Surrounded by trees throughout his life, Hardy learned to distinguish them by the unique sounds they made in the wind. In the book's opening chapter, he writes:

"To dwellers in a wood, almost every species of tree has its voice as well as its feature.

At the passing of the breeze, the fir-trees sob and moan no less distinctly than they rock;

the holly whistles as it battles with itself;

the ash hisses amid its quiverings;

the beech rustles while its flat boughs rise and fall."

Trees don't just speak—they perform.

Tennyson, in *The Lady of Shalott*, wrote:

"Willows whiten, aspens quiver."

Aspens, like willows, shimmer and shift in the wind, their long, slender leaves catching the light and movement. It's no wonder they're also called "Quaking Aspens."

Trees are ancient beings—the oldest living organisms on Earth. They absorb pollutants like carbon dioxide and release clean oxygen in return. Beneath the surface, their roots form intricate networks, connecting and supporting one another in a remarkable display of cooperation and mutual care.

Throughout the Bible, trees appear as powerful symbols—from the Tree of Life in Genesis to the tree in Revelation. They feature in many key moments: Noah's ark, built from wood; Zacchaeus climbing a sycamore to see Jesus; and the cross itself, fashioned from a tree's trunk.

Psalm 1:3 offers this beautiful image:

"That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers."

Trees give us so much: air to breathe, shade and shelter, fruit and nourishment. Like God, they give freely, never counting the cost. But if we fail to cherish and protect them, it is we who will pay the price.

— **Revd Lynda, Debden Rectory**

WALKING BUDDIES PROJECT

Do you like walking? Would you like a valuable reason to exercise?

We are looking for people who would be happy to accompany a vulnerable beneficiary on a walk.

Some people are prevented from going out on their own for a walk due to various reasons (physical or mental health) and all they need is a supporting companion to make all the difference. Could you support someone for a walk? It might be just a gentle stroll around the block, or it might be a longer country walk. The enormous health benefits of being outside are proven again and again – could you help someone to tap into these benefits?

SERVICE USERS

- Vulnerable people
- People who feel anxious about going out on their own
- People who are new to the area who would like to be shown where to walk

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THIS PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT UCAN VOLUNTEER



Frontline

If you would like to refer a beneficiary to this project, please do so through Frontline

www.essexfrontline.org.uk



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Email: volunteer@ucan.org.uk **Tel:** 01371 404 525

www.ucan.org.uk

01371 404 474



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 - 6.45 pm on Wednesdays September 3rd, 17th

For prayer requests please contact Peter Gray 07901 946440

Wimbish Coffee Mornings

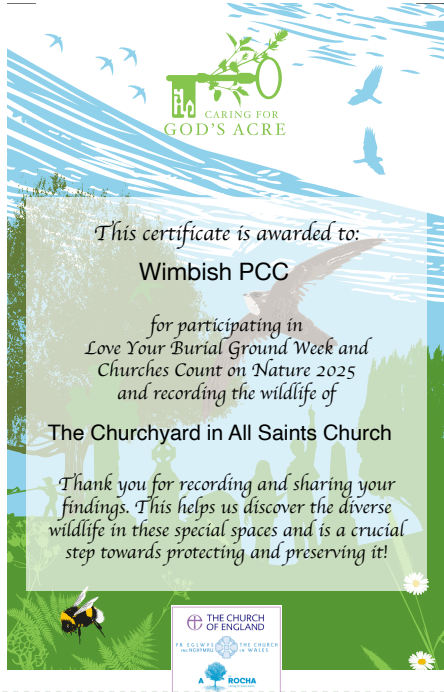
St Paul's Mission
Hall

9th August, 13th
September, 11th
October
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.



Church Mice to return on the 18th September at Debden School.
1.45-2.15pm. Ideal for under 5s with parents/grandparents/carers.
For more information please contact Reverend Lynda 01799 796193

From the Registers:

Congratulations on the marriage of Robbie Cargill and Gemma
Barton on the 21st June 2025.

Baptism and Wedding Enquiries:
debden.wimbishvicar@gmail.com

Quiet Afternoon with Prayer Walk

28th September 3 pm
Wimbish Church

Please join Reverend Lynda Sebbage and the home
team at Wimbish Church for a quiet afternoon with a prayer walk.

Tea and Cake to follow.

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Eco Church Update July 2025

The recent Flower Festival was an opportunity to show our eco credentials. We had made an important decision not to use flora foam (Oasis) in any of the arrangements because the foam is non-biodegradable, non-recyclable and toxic for both humans and animals. We used a variety of materials such as wire, Agra-wool, sand and pebbles as alternatives. The resulting arrangements were brilliant; full of imagination and skills which brought our theme 'Art in Flowers' to life. Please see the short video on the Church website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19645/> which was filmed and edited by Georgina Walters.

The refreshments were widely commented on for their deliciousness and sensible pricing. Much of it was home-made with the ingredients locally grown or sourced. We try hard to adhere to LOAF (Locally produced, Organically grown, Animal friendly or Fairly traded). The stalls had cakes, preserves and plants all produced at home or in the garden.

The art activity was a great success. It was also eco-friendly; utilizing materials, such as cardboard for the picture and frame and old magazines for collage, that would otherwise have been discarded. The activity promoted environmental awareness by looking carefully at and reproducing paintings of the local countryside and flowering plants.

There was (and is) a display in the porch documenting some of our achievements and events. Do take a look – there will be more to come as we take the final steps to Gold!

Swift awareness week was at the beginning of July and the eco team went to the church to see if the swifts had returned. We were treated to an acrobatic display and a 'fly past' by two pairs of swifts. There were also swallows and martins. It was a joy to see! Also noted was one of the tulip trees in flower.

On June 17th Rev Lynda and I went to an event at Chelmsford Cathedral 'Theology and Action for God's Creation'. We began with Evensong with a Creation theme. Celebrating the Diocese's Environmental Network past and present including Deanery Environmental Advocates and parish Eco links. There were locally produced refreshments and a chance to learn about what churches in the Diocese are doing, including some of the Bronze, Silver, and Gold, Eco churches. Debden was represented in the Bronze category and Wimbish in the Silver. I picked up some useful tips from the Gold award churches who had displays and had a very useful conversation with All Saints Springfield who have just achieved Gold.

We then heard from Rev Dr Dave Bookless, Head of Theology at A Rocha International and author of "Planetwise" and "God Doesn't do Waste" and Jo Herbert-James Head of Engagement at A Rocha UK. Jo suggested looking at <https://doughnuteconomics.org/about-doughnut-economics> The Doughnut offers a vision of what it means for humanity to thrive in the 21st century-and Doughnut Economics explores the mindset and ways of thinking needed to get us there. First published in 2012 in an [Oxfam report](#) by Kate Raworth, the concept of the Doughnut rapidly gained traction internationally, from the Pope and the UN General Assembly to Extinction Rebellion.

<https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/> has all the information and inspiration you need to revolutionise the way you spend, save and live.

Fran Johnson

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Please get in touch if you would like further information:

Chroma House, Shire Hill, Saffron Walden, Essex
CB11 3AQ

Jodiareid@saffronsupportltd.co.uk

Tel: 07966292650

Louisestokley@saffronsupportltd.co.uk

Tel: 07711967344

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NEW 'Chair Boogie' Classes

**Every Tuesday at 1.30pm at Wimbish
Primary School, Tye Green, CB10 2XE**

- Seated activities to uplifting music that are suitable for all abilities: improve your fitness and have fun at the same time! Our qualified instructor will guide you through the movements at a pace to suit you.
- Free to attend
- Stay afterwards for free refreshments!
- For more information please phone **07572 114882** or email **active@thetouchpoint.org**

TouchPoint has a regular programme of other activities and clubs, throughout the area, many of which are free to access for everyone. This includes the Community Food Share, which distributes surplus supermarket food for free. To find out more, scan this QR code, or visit **www.thetouchpoint.org**



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 -11.30pm.

Bunny and Jenny – Wimbish Church Flower festival raffle stall (on behalf of all at Wimbish Church) would like to say thank you for the generosity of everyone who donated the wonderful prizes for the raffle and equally for the generosity of so many people who supported us by buying tickets. Many thanks to you all.

Save The Date!

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

All Saints Church Wimbish - Sunday 5th October 11 AM

A celebration and Thanksgiving Service

Followed by lunch

Tea and Chat May 12th St Pauls Mission

We were very lucky to have Andrea Adams. Tri-Service Rural Community Officer based at **Thaxted Fire station** at our meeting.

Andrea talked about keeping safe in our homes and out and about in the community.

Fire alarms are essential in the home and must be in good working order. Currently batteries in alarms last for 10 years but they should be checked regularly. Conventional fire alarm systems and smoke alarms rely mostly on audible warnings to alert building users to a fire, however these signals would not be heard by users who are deaf or hard of hearing, putting them at a significantly higher risk. There is a vibrating pillow pad which is placed under the pillow to help those who might not hear the alarm whilst they are asleep. Equally as important are carbon monoxide alarms.

Other points to note (they might seem obvious but worth the reminder)

- don't use electrical appliances at night or charge phones or tablets
- don't leave electrical items on except for the fridge and freezer of course
- make sure leads are not frayed and don't use 3 way plugs, choose an extension lead but don't over load it
- look after your handbag and don't leave it in your shopping trolley
- don't be distracted whilst shopping by anyone asking you for help if someone really needs help go to the cashier or help desk. It is not your responsibility.
- Andrea can provide bells to put on your purse – the noise is not what the thief wants to hear. Even in Waitrose you may get caught out!
- If you go for a walk make sure you have 'what3words' on your phone. This is an app which can track where you are and would save the emergency services much needed time if you were to have an accident or need help.

Andrea will come and fit fire alarms and carbon monoxide alarms free and will offer advice. Several of our number will be having a visit from her and she hopes that this article is a timely reminder to anyone else in the village that she is here to help and keep us all safe.

Andrea can be contacted at andrea.adams@essex-fire.gov.uk

Tea and Chat is for everyone so if you are free on the afternoon of the first Monday of the month please do join us 2pm at St Pauls.

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@aldriged.eclipse.co.uk

TEA AND CHAT AT ST PAUL'S

Come along to the warm and friendly environment of St Paul's for chat, games, puzzles, activities. **Refreshments provided.**

Meets the first Monday afternoon of the month at St Paul's Mission Hall 2 - 4 pm. All Welcome.

CHAIR BOOGIE CLASSES

Seated activities to music for all abilities. Qualified instructors will guide you through movements at a pace to suit you. Improve your fitness and have fun at the same time.

Every Tuesday 1.30 pm at Wimbish School, Tye Green, CB10 2XE.

Free to attend. Free refreshments after!

For more information: 07572 114882. active@thetouchpoint.org

As we approach the end of another school year, life at Wimbish has definitely not been slowing down. We have been working closely with Carver Barracks to rebuild our raised beds to create a new allotment. Our old planting area had become rather dilapidated and unused and the children were very keen to get it back up and running.

Thanks to a grant secured by the barracks, through the Royal Engineers Association our allotment has been completely rebuilt and is now home to 7 new raised beds that are full of plants from tomatoes, strawberries, courgettes, green beans and herbs to lavenders which the bees are loving. We had a grand opening a couple of weeks ago, where Major General Alistair Dickinson CBE officially opened the allotment and presented us with a stunning plaque. The children are enjoying taking responsibility for watering and weeding the allotment.

It was our annual sports day at the beginning of July. The children competed in a carousel of activities for their house team and then individually in the races such as running, egg and spoon and the obstacle race. There was a real team spirit on show as the children worked to earn as many points as possible to try and make their team the winners!

The whole school recently enjoyed a trip to Walton on the Naze for a day on the beach. The children had a wonderful time splashing in the sea, building sand castles and many other creations as well as completing a beach scavenger hunt. No day at the seaside would be complete without an ice cream and these were enjoyed by everyone.

Breaking news...as the deadline for this article to be submitted goes to press, we are able to announce that we have been successful in our grant bid from the Army Covenant Fund for £75,533 to improve educational outcomes for military children. This money is going to allow us to implement new interventions and ways of working to support our military children from the moment they join us to when they sadly leave, ensuring their transition to a new school is smooth and well supported. The Ministry of Defence, fund the grants and we are very grateful to have been awarded our grant.



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80
VJ DAY

DEBDEN PARISH COUNCIL 

FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST 2025
DEBDEN

Please join us to
celebrate **VJ DAY 80**
Debden Village Hall, 7pm
with a glass of Prosecco, tea, coffee
sandwiches and cake

Beacon Lighting Ceremony
Debden Recreation Ground, 7.45pm
Short Blessing by Rev'd Lynda Sebbage
Beacon and Lamp of Peace Lighting at 8pm
Royal British Legion Tribute

This is a free event, donations to the RBL most welcome.

 For information: debden-pc.gov.uk/council_events
Contact Parish Clerk: E: clerk@debden-pc.gov.uk • Tel: 01799 542288
 [@debdenpc](https://www.facebook.com/debdenpc) • [ve-vjday80.gov.uk](https://www.facebook.com/debdenpc)



GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

Thank you to all those who have completed the GDPR form enabling the church to communicate with you digitally.

I haven't heard from everyone so I am sorry to say you won't get the monthly email to keep you up to date. You can of course have the form to complete.

Details of what's happening/events at Church are in the newsletter and for more up to date information on the church website (<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19645/>) so you can still know what is going on!

Fran Johnson

Peter's Musings

I have heard it said that the wings of a butterfly in the Amazon can cause enough air turbulence to affect the wind pattern in the UK. It's a tough theory to prove, but it does provoke the idea that we can all have some impact, whether benevolent or malign, in our families, communities and the world at large.

Let's be positive and think about things, both large and small, that we have done, and which had some beneficial outcomes. The little things we do can, like butterfly wings, have an existential knock-on effect that we may never know. A telephone call to a lonely neighbour could be welcome, showing that someone cares, and could even help reduce depression and other symptoms. Unfortunately we live in a 'me me' world rather than a 'we we' one, in an era that looks upon poverty, loneliness and homelessness as a disease, rather than as an individual or corporate responsibility to address - and there are a myriad of other urgent situations that need our input.

I think of those people whose names are almost lost in scripture, but who have had a pivotal role in great truths that have withstood the test of time: people who often needed a nudge to leave the comfort of their armchair and get going. We read in The Acts Of The Apostles of a man named Ananias. He was told by God to go and heal, and to teach the Good News of Jesus to a dedicated persecutor of Christians. Ananias was extremely apprehensive, but agreed. The man in question was known as Saul but would later be called Paul. Thanks to Paul's conversion and dedication, the new Christian faith would be established and consolidated throughout the Middle East. Without Ananias we would not have Paul. Without Paul, history - and today's world - would be very different indeed.

In the First Book of Samuel, we hear about a little known lady called Abigail, who was blessed with wisdom and courage. Her advice to King David saved the country from entering a bloody war, and proved that there are other ways to deal with difficult adversaries.

So this month how about becoming a metaphoric butterfly and doing your bit to save the world? No pressure!

Peter Sebbage

TEA & TISSUES!

Wednesday, 3rd September at 0845 at Debden School

Starting school? Join us for a gentle beginning.

If you're dropping your child off for their very first day, we'd love to welcome you with refreshments, friendly faces, and a chance to connect. Debden Church and the school community invite you to enjoy coffee, tea, and homemade cake—and meet other parents and carers taking this step together.

For further information contact Revd Lynda on 01799 796193

We look forward to meeting you!

RIDE+STRIDE

13th September 2025

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

- Source Sponsorship from friends and family
- Explore villages and parish churches by bike or on foot.
- Enjoy the exercise, meet new people and raise much needed funds for your church.

For more information www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride

Wimbish Church and **St Paul's Mission Room** are happy to be taking part this year. Refreshments offered to all participants.

Picnic Funday



MONDAY 11TH AUGUST 12-3PM

**All Saints Church, Maple Lane
Wimbish, CB10 2XG**

**All welcome! Bring your own food & picnic blankets
There will be drinks, games, storytelling & bug hunting
Fun eco activities for all ages exploring our lovely grounds.**



District Councillor's Report

There is a wealth of news and updates to share with the Wimbish community this month. While space is limited, I have prioritised several key topics relevant to our residents.

Tribute to Absent Friends

We recently said farewell to two valued members of our community. **Mr John Clarke** a respected farmer from Debden and long-standing member of the Wimbish Good Companion's club, was known for his dedication and memorable tales of farming life. His commitment to running the raffle at club meetings made him an integral part of our gatherings.

Mrs Tina Knight also passed away in July. A dedicated local figure and conservative representative for Debden and Wimbish Ward, she frequently demonstrated strong leadership and independent thoughts. Among her many achievements, being named Businesswoman of the Year by Margaret Thatcher stands out. **Rest in Peace, Tina and John.**

Local Government Reforms

One significant issue facing the younger generation of our community is the impending Local Government Reform (LGR). Post 2028, the structure of representation is likely to change substantially, potentially diminishing the influence and voice of villages such as Wimbish if representatives are appointed from more distant areas like Harlow. This shift raises concerns about continued local advocacy and effective representation.

Updates from Uttlesford District Council

A new Director has been appointed at Uttlesford District Council, a decision well received due to her proven efficiency. The appointment is necessitated by the CEO's increased commitments, spending considerable time representing Uttlesford at LGR-related meetings.

Police and Crime Commissioner Attendance

The Council continues to seek greater accountability from the Police and Crime Commissioner, encouraging attendance at Scrutiny meetings. However recent invitations were declined due to the Commissioner's involvement in LGR activities and preparations for next year's mayoral elections.

Local Plan and Regulations 19 Feedback

The local plan hearing was conducted over approximately a week, yielding positive feedback. 135 comments were submitted; these are currently under review by the inspector and may prompt further action.

Blueprint Uttlesford and Financial Planning

Blueprint Uttlesford, the district efficiency and cost saving initiative, has been scaled back amidst uncertainties regarding the future structure of local Government after 2028. This lack of clarity presents significant challenges for long-term planning.

Climate Change Initiative and Renewable Energy Projects

Addressing climate change remains a core responsibility. While there have been some opposition to integrating biofuel into the community transport fleet, it was determined that taking proactive measures was necessary. Additionally, several residents have raised questions regarding proposed Solar Farms; current guidance indicates that final decisions will rest with the Government.

Looking Forward

Given the evolving landscape of local governance and ongoing uncertainties, I continue to reflect on the value of serving as District Councillor. Community engagement and advocacy remain priorities, but the effects of Government reforms warrant careful consideration for the future.

Stewart Luck

THE PARISH TEAM

TEAM RECTOR:

Reverent Jeremy Trew: 01799 500947

Email: rector@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

TEAM VICAR:

Reverend Lynda Sebbage: 01799 796193

Email: debden.wimbishvicar@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDEN:

Peter Gray: 07901 946440

Email: petewgray@hotmail.co.uk

CHURCHWARDEN EMERITUS:

Janet Swan: 01799 599540

TREASURER:

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Tracey Thurgood-Buss: 01799 523358

Mary Curtis

Jenny Hare

Karen Hepworth

Linda King: 07722 963409

Jill Kirby

Abigail Magness

SECRETARY:

Pamela Swan

CHURCH ORGANISTS:

Pat Rust: 01799 599548

Lynne Ward-Booth

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jill Kirby: 07933 221533

Email: wimbishparishmagazine@gmail.com or jillkirby@aol.com

ST PAULS'S BOOKINGS

Janet Swan: 01799 599540

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Jill Kirby : 07933 221533

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Contact: **Frances Johnson 01799 527773**

or: wimbishparishmagazine@gmail.com

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