

Wimbish Church Newsletter



October/November 2025



**Wimbish and Debden Parish Churches
Church Services and Events in October/
November 2025**

Services subject to change:
please check websites
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19645/



All Saints, Wimbish

Sunday 5th October: Trinity 16

11.00 Harvest Festival (Rev Lynda Sebbage)

Sunday 19th October: Trinity 18

10.30 am Holy Communion (Rev Hilary Davey)

Sunday: 2nd November: All Saints Day - 4 before Advent

9.30 am Village Worship (Peter Gray and Home Team)

Coffee served after Service

3.00 pm All Souls Service (Rev Lynda Sebbage)

Sunday 9th November:

10.50 am Service of Remembrance (Peter Gray and Home Team)

Sunday 16th November: 2 before Advent

5.00 pm Taizé Service (Rev Lynda Sebbage)

Sunday 23rd November: Christ the King

10.30 am Holy Communion (Rev Lynda Sebbage)

St Mary The Virgin, Debden

Sunday 12th October: Trinity 17

9.00 am Holy Communion (Rev Lynda Sebbage)

Sunday 26th October: Last after Trinity

9.00 am Parish Praise (Rev Lynda Sebbage and Home Team)

Sunday 9th November:

10.50 am Remembrance Service. Special guest the Rt Revd Roger Morris,
Bishop of Colchester.

Sunday 23rd November: Christ the King

9.00 am Holy communion with baptism. (Rev Lynda Sebbage)

St Mary's, Saffron Walden

Sunday 30th November: Advent Sunday

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 December/January newsletter is 10th November 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

LETTER FROM THE RECTORY

Last summer, I visited an exhibition called The Immersive Experience of Van Gogh, held in a remarkable former 19th-century stable building, directly opposite Old Spitalfields Market. I wasn't quite sure what to expect—but immersive it certainly was!

After viewing the main exhibition of Van Gogh's work (reproductions rather than originals), visitors are plunged into a world of heady, pulsating colour. It felt as though we were stepping into the artist's psyche: his vibrant artistry filled the walls, covered the floor, and shaded the ceiling. Colour everywhere.

Van Gogh had an extraordinary ability to paint deeply into colour—his work is undeniably expressive and emotionally charged, often transcending realism while conveying mood and meaning through hue and contrast. Some researchers suggest he may have experienced a visual limitation, possibly a form of colour blindness, which meant he couldn't perceive colours quite as we do. Perhaps this contributed to the overwhelming depth and intensity of his palette. These rich and vibrant colours are echoed all around us now, as we enter the season of autumn. As October deepens, and nature prepares to bed down for winter, the world glows in reds and golds. Leaves drift and fall. The days become shorter, and the sounds of summer become muted—then quiet. We light candles, draw curtains, and cosy up indoors.

But not all have that luxury. Maybe, like me, you find yourself thinking of those who don't have these simple creature comforts. For many, as the nights draw in, so too, do the shadows of loneliness, cold, and uncertainty.

One of Van Gogh's most beloved paintings is *Café Terrace at Night*, painted in Arles in 1888. You may be familiar with it. It shows a glowing café spilling golden light onto a darkened street. People are heading home for the night, and others linger in the warmth and companionship of the café. Enormous balls of stars shimmer above—but it's the warm invitation of the café, its open door and gentle light, that draws the eye and stirs the heart.

As I write this, I'm struck by the cosiness of it all. But then I notice the table and empty chairs turned outward, right on the edge of the terrace. No one sits there—it looks cold and unwelcoming. I wonder what went through the artist's mind as he created this scene? Did he mean to leave those chairs empty?

It reminded me of some of the people I've visited in recent weeks—especially those who have lost a spouse. Loneliness is so evident. An empty chair in a sitting room, like the empty chairs in the painting. As the nights draw in, so too for some does the darkness of grief, solitude, and longing.

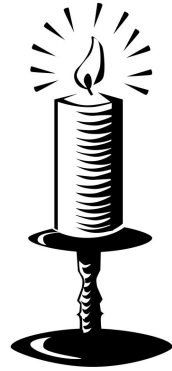
It's a quiet reminder that even as the world cools, we are drawn to radiate warmth. Maybe there's something we can do to bring colour into someone's life, even just for a short moment. A card. A phone call. A visit to someone we know who feels isolated. One idea that was warmly received in my last set of parishes was a small plant left on a doorstep with a simple note attached. Many voices of joy were heard—a warming feeling for both receiver and giver.

*Revd Lynda
Debden Rectory*

Taizé Service

Wimbish Church
Sunday 16th November
5.00 pm

A service of prayer, song and
contemplation by candlelight.



HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

All Saints Church Wimbish - Sunday 5th October 11 AM
A celebration and Thanksgiving Service

All Souls Service

All Saints Church, Wimbish, 2nd November, 3.00pm
Remembering those no longer with us

Save The Date!

Wimbish Christmas Bazaar
Saturday 29th November

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 **October 1st, 15th**

5.00 - 5.45 pm on Wednesdays **November 5th, 19th**

For prayer requests please contact Peter Gray 07901 946440

Please note time difference from 5th November

Wimbish Coffee Mornings

St Paul's Mission
Hall

11th October
8th November
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

Church Mice meet monthly on a Thursday from 1.45-2.30pm,

23rd October: Harvest
20th November: Being thankful
11th December: Nativity Story and Giving

Ideal for under 5s with parents/ grandparents/carers.

PLEASE NOTE

Church Mice will take place in the school during October and November. and in the new room at the church in December.

For more information please contact
Reverend Lynda 01799 796193

A Morning with the Bardfield Artists: Guided Tour with Dr Janet Dyson

Friday, 21st November 2025 at 10am

Join local historian Dr Janet Dyson for a private guided tour beginning in the Bawden Room, where she will introduce a striking series of prints by Edward Bawden, capturing everyday life in and around Bardfield. Janet will share the stories behind the images, offering historical and artistic insights that bring the village's past vividly to life.

The morning continues with a walking tour through Bardfield itself, passing many of the houses once lived in by members of the Bardfield Artists' community — each with its own creative legacy.

We conclude with a rare opportunity to visit the ground floor and garden of Brick House, once home to Edward and Charlotte Bawden, and also Eric Ravilious and his wife, Tirzah. This is a private residence, now owned by Janet, and we are especially grateful for her generosity in welcoming us.

Cost: £20 per head which includes coffee at 'Between the Lines' bookshop before the tour starts.

Numbers are strictly limited and so please book as soon as possible.

Please email Revd Lynda: debden.wimbishvicar@gmail.com for further details and/or to make a booking.

Payment will be required once your booking is confirmed.

Proceeds to St Mary's, Debden. We hope to arrange another visit in the near future once this one becomes full.

Brooklands Garage, Wimbish

Member of the Good Garage Scheme

Class 4 MOT Testing
Forecourt Attended Service
Service & Repairs (to all makes)
Loan Car Provided On Request
Cambelt Specialist
Tyres (inc. fitting and balancing)
2 Wheel Alignment
AirCon Servicing
Batteries & Exhausts
Vehicle Diagnostics

Tel. No 01799 523389

Email: service@brooklands-garage.co.uk

Opening hours

Workshop: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

Fuel: Mon-Fri 8am-5.30pm

Fuel only: Saturday 8am-5pm

We offer all Armed Forces Personnel & NHS/Blue
Light staff 10% off our labour price.

Proof of ID required.

Professional Cleaning of Carpets & Upholstery

Safeclean®

BY  GUARDSMAN

- Carpet cleaning
- Upholstery cleaning
- Rug cleaning
- Spot & stain removal
- Anti-stain protection

Safeclean Cambridge Ltd

T: 01223 782528

E: markallibon@safeclean.co.uk

Come and join us!

1st Debden Brownies

For girls aged 7 to 10



We meet at
Debden Village Hall
on Wednesdays 5 - 6.30 pm
Contact: Anne Bannister
1stdebdenbrownies@gmail.com
Fun Games Activities
Badges Friends

PEASGOOD & SKEATES

THE FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE

Personal Care and Attention
24 hours a day by local, qualified staff

Bespoke Service Sheets

Memorials

Pre-Paid Funeral Plans

Saffron Walden (01799) 523314

Duxford (01223) 833463

Cambridge (01223) 415255

Haverhill (01440) 840140

www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk

A ‘thank you’ from the treasurer.

On behalf of Wimbish Parochial Church Council I would like to thank everyone who gives financially to the church whether this is at church services, Coffee Mornings, other social events or who give regularly directly through the bank. Your generous donations are much needed and gratefully received. This enables us to keep both St Pauls and the Church open and well maintained.

May I put out a plea to an unknown person who, since April this year, has been giving, on a monthly basis, to the church through the bank. In the strictest of confidence I would like to say thank you and also see whether I can claim Gift Aid.

If there is anyone who would like to get involved with the work of the treasurer I would love to hear from you. I will be standing down from this role in the near future and would like to skill up someone to take over. You don't need to be a churchgoer but to have some financial acumen would be good.

Thank you
Fran Johnson
Treasurer Wimbish PCC.

Tea and Chat.

We have had two outings this summer. In July we went to Broadoaks Manor and enjoyed a relaxing wander around the gardens followed by tea. Thank you Tim and Angela for your kind invitation and hospitality.

In September we went to the Ashdon Museum – a treasure trove of nostalgic items which invited much conversation and ‘Do you remember?’ questions. Again there was tea and cake.

In October (6th) we will have a visit from Andrea Somerville, volunteer support officer, Mind in West Essex. Also at this meeting please bring an item ‘You wouldn’t be without’. Perhaps something you use in the kitchen or something that has special memories. A picture would be fine too. Be prepared to say a few words about what you have brought.

In November (3rd) Deryck Johnson will tell you about ‘What happens to the bees in Winter?’.

In December we will have a Christmas event.

Everyone is welcome to attend Tea and Chat. All we ask is that you pay £1 for tea and cake.

Abrey
Agricultural

**WE TAKE YOUR LAWNS
AS SERIOUSLY AS YOU**

Visit our
showroom to
see the range
of gardening
equipment

01799 543208
Sales & Service

HAYTER
MAKERS OF THE FINEST MOWERS

+ **Grillo** **W** Westwood

TIGA

TORO

Mountfield

Abrey & Son Ltd

Pamphillions Farm
Debden,
Saffron Walden CB11 3JT.
www.abreyagricultural.com

DEBDEN BARNES

HOME ♦ GARDEN ♦ CAFE





Saffron Support

CARING HANDS - SUPPORTIVE HEART

Saffron Support Ltd is run by Jodie Reid and Louise Stokley who between them have over 25 years of experience in the care industry. They pride themselves in going the extra mile with all the clients they support. The business is growing from strength to strength, and Saffron Support has a dedicated team of carriers waiting to come out to support.

Saffron Support can help with:

Personal Care	Medication support
Light housework & shopping	Companionship
Sitting service	Nights
Assistance to appointments	PA Support

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

MAGNESS FARMS BUTCHERS

TAYLORS BARN, WIMBISH, CB102XA

We are committed to providing great quality, great tasting meat. We source as locally as possible from neighbouring farms and reputable sources and rear our own beef on our farm in Thaxted.

Great Tasting
High Quality
Local Meat
Selection of BBQ Meats



MAGNESS FARMS
EST. 2020

WWW.MAGNESSFARMS.CO.UK



Busy Bees is your local Ofsted-registered pre-school.

Our recent inspection mentioned our "delightful" outside area and "skilled" and "sensitive" staff.

We are open during term time from 0900 until 1200, and cater for all children between 2 and 5 years, not only military dependants.

We are registered to receive nursery education grants for your children from the term after their 3rd birthday.

Do feel free to come and have a look around at any time. We are located adjacent to the Spar shop near Carver Barracks.

Telephone 01799 523542 or email
bees.busy@yahoo.co.uk

ELDER STREET

CAFÉ & DELI

Purveyors of homemade and locally sourced speciality foods

Now Open Friday & Saturday Evenings
Homemade Burgers - Wood Fired Pizza
Deli Boards

Open
Monday - Thursday 9am - 4:30pm
Friday & Saturday 9am - 11pm
Sunday 10am - 4pm

Debden Barns, Elder Street,
Nr Saffron Walden
CB11 3JY
01799 543 598

info@elderstreetcafedeli.co.uk

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.

Thaxted Arts & Crafts Fair

Thaxted Church

Saturday 18th of October 10am - 4pm

Thaxted Arts & Crafts Fair began 15 years ago with only a handful of stalls as a small fund-raising event for Thaxted church. Since then, the fair has gained a reputation for quality and atmosphere which our dedicated team work hard to sustain and develop.

This year we have over 60 stalls of curated artists and makers from the local area, showcasing pottery to painting and glassware to woodwork. We also run a popular children's trail so, there's something for all the family!

The fair has proven to be a fantastic fundraiser for Thaxted church with last year's event attracting upwards of 2000 visitors and this year we are aiming for even more! The fair is organised by a committee of volunteers working with the support of the local community who all help to make this event special and enjoyable. Catering is provided by a dedicated team from the church serving teas, coffees, fresh cakes and light lunches.

Free admission. Donations welcome in support of Thaxted church.

Coming Up!

Harvest Festival 5th October

Coffee Mornings on the 11th October, 8th November

All Souls Service, 2nd November

Remembrance Sunday 9th November

Taizé Service 16th November

Saturday November 29th Christmas Bazaar

Advent course in December based on the book 'Women of the Nativity' by Paula Gooder. If you are interested please let us know so we can order the right number of books. Full details to come.

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

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

Autumn Migrations

Everyone knows about the autumnal bird migrations – a time when birds which have been breeding in the UK return to their winter homes in southern Europe and Africa, and when a new set of birds fly in from mainland Europe to overwinter here. But did you know that some moth species also migrate?

The most commonly seen through summer are the Hummingbird hawkmoth's (*Macroglossum stelatarum*), which are now believed to be breeding and overwintering here. This year's first sighting was in January and is a sign of our changing climate. UK populations are bolstered by migrants from southern Europe. Their eggs are laid on bedstraws and cleavers, so please look out for them when weeding your garden.

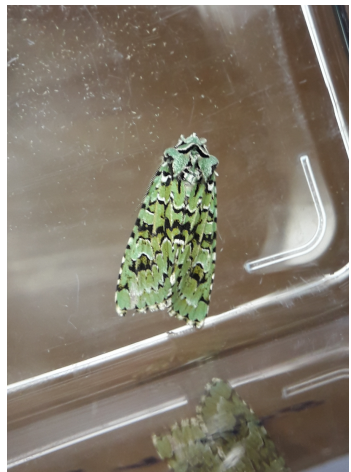
The stunning Merveille du jour (*Griposia aprilina*) "Wonder of the Day" is not a true migrant species, but populations can be boosted by migrants. Its camouflage is designed to blend in with lichens. The caterpillars feed on oak, consuming the buds, flowers and leaves.

The Diamond-back Moth (*Plutella xylostella*), a micro-moth species, caused a stir one year when a huge cloud of them erupted from Germany and flew to the UK. Weather maps predicted heavy downpours, but no rain arrived, only moths. These are known pests of brassica crops and large populations are monitored closely.

Our largest immigrant moth is the beautiful Clifden Nonpareil (*Catocala fraxini*), a stunning underwing moth. Its drab grey upper wings hide a pale blue stripe on its underwing. It was a resident here prior to the 1960's, when it was declared extinct as a breeding species. It has now been confirmed as a UK resident again, with European migrants boosting numbers in the autumn.

Other immigrants which may arrive in small numbers include Rosy Underwing (*Catocala nupta*), which are frequently found on the Channel Islands, Crimson Speckled (*Utetheisa pulchella*), which arrive from the Mediterranean and North Africa, and the Death's Head hawkmoth (*Acherontia Atropos*), our largest hawkmoth. This species was featured on the book cover and in the horror movie Silence of the Lambs.

Fiona Hutchings



LEAKY LOU PLUMBING & HEATING

★★★★★ 9.9/10 -356 reviews

0784 220 2023

LEAKYLOU.CO.UK

Electrical Installation City and
Guilds
Established since 1985

Proud members of
Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters



GRANGE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

MOB: 07516 783138

Grass Cutting
Hedge Cutting
Fencing
Turving
Patio & Driveway Cleaning
Grounds Maintenance Contracts



Contact
Will Grange – 07516783138
Or Email
Grangegroundsmaintenance@gmail.com

Would you like to advertise in this magazine?

The Wimbish Newsletter is
delivered to 350 houses in
Wimbish six times a year.

¼ page ad – £60 per year

½ page ad – £90 per year

Contact: **Frances Johnson**
francesjohnson@meadowfield.uk

or:
Jill Kirby
jillkirby@aol.com

BF Boatman Furniture



**Bespoke kitchens, wardrobes
and storage solutions**

www.boatmanfurniture.co.uk
01799 530230

From Chaos to Freedom

It was one of the popular recreations of the day—somewhere near the beginning of the 9th century—kicking a ball around a spare, vacant field. The trouble was, there were no coherent rules. Boys and young men wouldn't necessarily know who their teammate was, for lack of team colours. There were no white lines to mark the boundaries, so the ball often ended up lost in the bushes. A couple of discarded jackets showed the position of the goalmouth—its width decided on a whim.

Unsurprisingly, enthusiasm waned, and the game lost its sparkle.

Then a far-sighted chap proposed a solution: football could be made more enjoyable with some agreed rules—eleven players per side, white lines, goalposts, team shirts, and ninety minutes of play. It was a revelation. They loved it! Spectators arrived in droves—parents, friends, even local reporters. Football had truly arrived, and so had something deeper: the joy of freedom within structure.

In fact, Melvyn Bragg placed the Football Association rules among the top twelve most influential books ever written. But he noted that the most influential of all was the Bible—the book that offers not just recreational freedom, but freedom for life.

God's laws, far from being constrictive, were gifted to us out of love. They're designed to create space for all to flourish—guidelines that lead to justice, peace, and love. Where these values thrive, autocracy and tyranny are gently dismantled by a far higher power.

But let's not take freedom for granted. It seldom arrives gift-wrapped. Instead, it calls for courage and vigilance. If we're not watchful, it slips away—like the wind through the trees. It is no coincidence that Christian, Judaic, and Islamic traditions all affirm this truth. As the prophet Isaiah declared:

As it is written by the prophet Isaiah *"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the suffering and afflicted.... and to announce freedom to captives and open the eyes of the blind."*

Peter Sebbage

Listening Prayer

Give me courage to listen, Lord,
When I do not want to hear,
When I know that I am wrong,
when I am afraid.
Give me courage to listen, Lord,
To your still small voice within,
Courage to listen, and learn,
And love.

Copyright Rev Louise Petheram
(who has kindly given permission for us to use this prayer)

With thanks to Jenny Hare



Experiences of Frailty and Ageing Well in West Essex

We're looking to speak to people in West Essex to hear your thoughts about:

- Understandings of ageing and frailty
- Experiences of ageing and frailty
- Care preferences and planning
- Information and resources
- Anything else you would like to share

Register your interest here:



☎ 07742 072740

✉ lily.boag@healthwatchesessex.org.uk

healthwatch
Essex

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

Olive's Memories

by Olive Smith

Wimbish has changed a great deal over the last one hundred years.

We didn't have tap water at home until the 1930s—and even then, it was just a hand pump in the garden. Before that, we collected our drinking water from the “spring hole” on Dockleys Lane, lowering a bucket into the spring. Water for washing and for the animals came from the pond.

Most food and goods were bought locally in the village. My mother only went to Saffron Walden at Christmas or when she needed to buy clothes for the menfolk. My own clothes were usually handmade by her. We got our bread and cakes—including the most delicious Swiss rolls—from the local bakehouse. “Joe on the Donkey” ran a general store and off-licence; the men would buy their alcohol there and drink it on the opposite side of the road.

Rationing was still in place until 1952, so food wasn't always easy to come by. My father kept pigs in a sty rented from a local farmer. When it came time to slaughter a pig, Maypole Farm would hang the joints in their chimney to smoke them. My mother would slice meat from the smoked joint as needed. Some of the pork was made into sausages and shared with neighbours and friends. She used the head and trotters to make brawn—nothing ever went to waste.

We also kept chickens, and during and after the war, government egg collectors would check if we had spare eggs to contribute. Hoarding food was not allowed. We grew all our own vegetables, and my father regularly caught rabbits to supplement our meals. In fact, we were better off than many in the towns because of our access to homegrown produce and fresh eggs. I remember my mother once posted a rabbit to her friend in London, as well as vegetables, during a food shortage.

Even though we had our own pork from our pigs, we still had to surrender our meat coupons. Because my father worked the land, he received extra rations—often cheese that no one liked, so we gave it away or traded it. During the war, military officers were billeted in Wimbish, and my mother did their washing. In return, they brought small luxuries—treats we had to hide during the regular inspections for hoarded food.

Milk and butter came from the local farmer. Since we didn't have a fridge, the milk was boiled to keep it from going off. It was skimmed, as the farmer kept the cream to make butter. Meat was stored in a meat safe, but it rarely lasted long. My mother would cook it the day before and serve it on Sunday with gravy.

We had no running water, no electricity or gas—only oil lamps for light. We bought paraffin for them from Joe on the Donkey. We would knit by the dim glow of those lamps. At school, we all learned to knit, making grey scarves for the forces.

In the village, there were two shops, two pubs, a bakery, and nearby churches like St Paul's and the Mission Hall. I attended the Salvation Army hall near Maypole Farm. It was a tin hut, but nicely lined and furnished with pews.

Most men worked on the land, with a few employed by the council. Fields were ploughed by horses and manpower. I clearly remember how daring it seemed the first time a friend said he'd be driving a tractor! Council workers maintained the roads and neatly trimmed the hedges. Cattle often grazed by the roadside, and horses were tethered there too. My uncle Will Swan was only 12 years old when he left school and started work in the Mill in Mill Road.

We walked to school every day—sometimes cutting through fields. Even children from Elder Street made the long walk, as they had no shortcuts through fields. We didn't have a car, so going anywhere was difficult. But once a year, local farmer Mr Wiseman would provide a coach trip. Because my brother was disabled and my mum's family lived in Suffolk, he kindly lent my father a car every year so we could visit them.

I left school at 15 and started working at the village shop and post office. Mornings were spent doing housework and cooking for the family, and in the afternoons, I served in the shop and prepared orders for delivery. Many families had their food brought to their door.

After six years, I took a job at Woolworths in Saffron Walden. I commuted by bus and worked on the haberdashery and biscuit counter—responsible for weighing loose biscuits and cutting slab cakes for customers.

One particularly hot summer, during a water shortage, my father set up a pump at the spring and filled a tank with around 40 gallons of water so the children could cool off and swim. He also used the water to keep the garden alive.



Olive as a young girl and her father Reg Swan at work with Mr Wiseman's Sheep



District Councillor's Report

Dear all,

my previous report in the Aug/Sept issue was quite comprehensive covering many topics so I don't intend to go over old ground here.

An important issue came up recently at short notice while I was on holiday on Cornwall where an Extraordinary Full Council meeting was required. This is the short story of why I returned from Cornwall to attend the meeting. Much more detail about the meeting is available on the UDC website.

The meeting agenda item was a request to approve a loan of £7.6m towards investment at Chesterford Park. You may recall that Chesterford Research Park is owned by UDC in partnership Aviva. The loan would be the UDC share to support continued investment at the site.

All Cllrs were given an overview of the commercial market at this time and the situation at the site. The UDC officers explained that there is now a requirement to complete a building on the site which is half finished due to a building contractor going bankrupt. If the building is completed and occupied by a tenant, then UDC/Aviva will continue to receive an income. Standing idle is not good for anyone. There was a report given by the all party members investment board who recommended going ahead with the proposal. So a vote was taken and the proposal was approved by all except one Cllr who abstained.

Attending the Wimbish PC meetings it is good to see and hear residents coming along to make their views known. Recently they have been able to lobby the PC and myself who made representations on their behalf and the outcome was what they the residents wanted. So please do come along with your concerns or comments or suggestions about things related to your local area. I don't get about as much as I would like to in Wimbish so it all helps me do my job as DC.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the Harvest Festival and Remembrance church services soon. Could you also please remind me of other meetings happening in the village.

Best wishes

Cllr Stewart Luck
07974188395

Cllrluck@uttlesford.gov.uk

THE PARISH TEAM

TEAM RECTOR:

Reverent Jeremy Trew: 07707 386238

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:

Frances Johnson: 01799 527773

PCC MEMBERS:

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

Magazine Advertising:

¼ page ad – £60 per year

½ page ad – £90 per year

Private small ads and community/charity events are free

Contact: **Frances Johnson 01799 527773**

or: wimbishparishmagazine@gmail.com

We hope that choosing the right actions for our church will help meet the prophetic call from General Synod for all parts of the Church to be net zero carbon by 2030. All Saints is well on the way! Here are some ideas you might like to consider on your own journey to net zero.

THIRTY FOR 30:

Thirty Actions for Nature Recovery by 2030

	Nature recovery and improving biodiversity	Improve your health	Reduce carbon emissions	Lower household costs	Increase household togetherness
In Your Garden and Home					
Let part of your garden go wild (stop mowing)					
Provide new water habitat with pond, bowl or bath					
Protect wildlife by cutting out all pesticides and herbicides					
Add native wildflowers and hedge species to your garden or plot					
Make your own compost from food and green waste					
Grow your own herbs, vegetables, fruit					
Put up a bird box, bat box, bee hotel					
Create a deadwood pile for insects and larvae					
Be kind to birds: give your cat a bell					
Save and use rainwater: install a water butt					
Put up window boxes: create a vertical habitat with neighbours					
Add corrugated tin for reptiles; cut a hedgehog highway in fences					
With Your Community					
Ensure local veteran trees are protected: for carbon and species habitat					
Help your primary school connect kids to nature, a forest school, grow food					
Be an ambassador and speak out; talk to a neighbour					
Get your grandchildren to talk or write about a nature encounter					
Persuade your local council to set aside more land for allotments					
Improve mental health by going for a walk: count, watch, care, smile					
Go for a wild swim, canoe or paddle-board; take a boat trip					
Visit a different nature reserve each month for a year					
Take part in local litter picking or river/beach clean up					
Changing How the System Works					
Eat less meat, eat certified fish, buy nature-friendly food, go vegetarian					
Buy local and sustainable foods, support regenerative agriculture					
Join a local conservation or wildlife charity (volunteer if you can)					
Tell elected councillors and MPs you want more nature (be nice)					
Help form a local nature recovery, climate action or energy group					
Join or take part in a clean river campaign					
Join a marine citizen science project to renew seagrass and saltmarsh					
Help establish a 15-minute neighbourhood in your town/city					
Install solar panel/heat pump at home; switch electricity supply to renewables					

With grateful thanks to Professor Jules Pretty for his kind permission to reproduce the table.

This academic year we will be starting our OPAL (outdoor play and learning) project. To support this, over the summer we have had 3 amazing new sandpits built around the school grounds. One is in our Reception/Year 1 garden area for Oak Class to enjoy. Another is in Willow outside area for our Year 2/Year3 children to play in and the other – a huge 4mx4m is on the school field so everyone can enjoy it at playtime and breaktime. The children are absolutely loving digging and building in them and we are seeing some amazing sand sculptures being made.

We have also had some visitors to our school grounds over the summer break. When we came back the children noticed in the orchard some piles of mud with deep holes in them. We also noticed some black and white fur was on the floor. With the help of our nature cameras, we were delighted (and surprised) to discover our visitors were badgers! So far we have captured some fantastic video footage of them having a midnight snack and pottering about.

Even though the new school year has only just begun, we have already started to think ahead to September 2026. We are therefore pleased to announce tours to look around Wimbish to help with making a choice for Reception 2026 places. We also have places available in other school years. Our tour dates are: 7th, 13th and 16th October and 4th and 20th November. Please contact the school office to book on:

office@wimbishprimary.org



Wimbish
Primary Academy
Nurture • Enrich • Inspire

**RECEPTION
2026 TOURS**

7 October
13 October
16 October
4 November
20 November

Booking required.
Contact us to
reserve your space!

office@wimbishprimary.org
01799 599245

www.wimbishprimary.org





AFTERSHOCK

YOUTH GROUP

Meeting at 7:00 in the St Mary's Church Parish Rooms, Saffron Walden
For those in school years 7-13

Autumn term 2025 The Gospels Part one

21/09 - Fun night
28/09 - Gospels and games
05/10 - Edible crafts
12/10 - Gospels and games
19/10 - Fun night
26/10 - Gospels and games
02/11 - Scavenger hunt
09/11 - Gospels and games
16/11 - No Aftershock
23/11 - Christmas fair activity prepping
30/11 - No Aftershock - Advent Carol Service
07/12 - Gospels and games
14/12 - Aftershock Christmas party.

For More Info Contact: childrenand youth@stmaryssaffronwalden.org