

# Wethersfield Parish Magazine

FEBRUARY 2026

Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene



in the benefice of

*~Pant Valley Churches~*

# **WETHERSFIELD PARISH CHURCH**

## **St Mary Magdalene**

Pant Valley Churches Benefice of  
Finchingfield with Cornish Hall End, Wethersfield, Shalford, Gt. and Little Bardfield

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### **Parish Priest**

The Reverend Alex Shannon  
The Vicarage, Bardfield Road, Finchingfield, Braintree CM7 4JR  
Tel: 01371 810309 / 07483 878659 [rev.alex.shannon@gmail.com](mailto:rev.alex.shannon@gmail.com)

### **Associate Minister**

The Reverend Canon Janet Nicholls  
Park House, Braintree Road, Shalford, Braintree CM7 5HQ  
Tel: 01371 851317 [jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org)

### **Reader**

Mrs Sarah Pilgrim, Fieldside, Lombard Street, Finchingfield  
Tel: 01371 850781 [pilgrim511@btinternet.com](mailto:pilgrim511@btinternet.com)

### **Churchwardens**

Mr David Seacombe, Ivanhoe House, Wethersfield  
Tel: 07801 868278

Mr Ben Walmsley, Wethersfield Hall, Wethersfield  
Tel: 07939 030833

### **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

#### **Hon. Sec.**

Mr Brian Muir, The Manse, Wethersfield  
Tel: 07775 675701 [hon.secretary@wethersfieldchurch.org.uk](mailto:hon.secretary@wethersfieldchurch.org.uk)

#### **Hon Treasurer**

Mr Bob Harris, Top Shop, Wethersfield.  
Tel: 07817 379099 [hon.treasurer@wethersfieldchurch.org.uk](mailto:hon.treasurer@wethersfieldchurch.org.uk)

### **Ringling Master**

Mr Roy Threadgold, Plumley, Braintree Road, Wethersfield  
Tel: 01371 850481 [roy@boydellsdairy.co.uk](mailto:roy@boydellsdairy.co.uk)

Please contact the Parish Priest for Baptisms, Marriages and when you are in need of help.

He is very happy to bring Communion to the homes of the sick and housebound.

Would newcomers please make us aware of their presence.

## Services for February 2026

### **Sunday 1 February – Candlemas (The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple)**

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Cornish Hall End

10.30am Benefice Communion Service – Great Bardfield

4pm Sung Compline – Little Bardfield

### **Sunday 8 February – Second Sunday before Lent**

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

9.30am Morning Worship – Finchingfield

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

4pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

### **Sunday 15 February – Sunday next before Lent**

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

11am Family Service – Wethersfield

### **Wednesday 18 February – Ash Wednesday**

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

5pm Reflective Service for the beginning of Lent – Shalford

8pm Said Communion Service – Finchingfield

### **Sunday 22 February – First Sunday of Lent**

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield

9.30am Parish Communion Service – Shalford

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Family Communion Service – Wethersfield

## Regular Services and Events during the week

<b>Monday</b>	8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield 1.30pm 'Faithful Fiction' book club (1st weeks) – Between the Lines, Great Bardfield
<b>Tuesday</b>	8.45am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield 10am Baby & Toddler Group – Great Bardfield 'St Mary's Munchkins' story & song time with refreshments
<b>Thursday</b>	8.45am Morning Prayer – Wethersfield 10am Prayer Group (1st, 3rd & 5th weeks) Coffee Morning (2nd & 4th weeks) – Shalford Coffee Morning (3rd week) – Cornish Hall End 10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield
<b>Friday</b>	8.45am Morning Prayer – Shalford
<b>Saturday</b>	10.30am (3rd weeks) Coffee Morning – Wethersfield

## **The Quiet Work of God in Ordinary Time**

There is a particular grace in the quieter stretches of the year. After the brightness of Christmas and the hopeful resolutions of January, we often find ourselves settling back into familiar rhythms. The decorations are packed away, the days are still short, and life resumes its steady pace. It can feel, at first glance, like very little is happening. Yet Scripture reminds us that God is often most active in the places we overlook.

Jesus frequently spoke of the Kingdom of God in images of slow, hidden growth: a seed in the soil, yeast working through dough, a vine quietly strengthening its branches. None of these processes are dramatic. None demand attention. But all are essential. They teach us that God's transforming work is not confined to the high points of the Christian calendar. It is woven into the fabric of our ordinary days.

Perhaps this is why the Church gives us "Ordinary Time" not as a spiritual afterthought, but as a season in its own right. It invites us to notice the sacred in the simple: the kindness exchanged in a conversation, the patience learned through routine, the small acts of service that no one sees but God. These are the places where faith deepens almost without our realising it.

Many of us long for clarity, for signs, for moments when God feels unmistakably close. But the witness of countless Christians through the ages is that God often shapes us most gently when life is at its most unremarkable. The quiet day, faithfully lived, becomes a place of encounter. The unnoticed prayer becomes a seed of hope. The ordinary moment becomes a doorway to grace.

So perhaps this month we might practise paying attention. Noticing where God is already at work. Trusting that the Spirit is moving even when we feel still. And remembering that the One who formed galaxies also delights in the small, steady growth of a human heart learning to love.

In these quieter weeks, may we find ourselves surprised by God's presence in the very places we thought were empty. And may we discover, once again, that there is no such thing as an ordinary moment when it is lived with God.

*DS*

## **Churchwarden Update**

Spring is knocking; Let's Sow Share, our annual plant event will take place on Saturday 25th April morning (1030am-1230pm). For the uninitiated, this event is an opportunity for you to pick up a swathe of FREE plants, and likewise to bring along your offering to swell the stock of plants to facilitate all of this.

To get the idea, imagine the pews full of tomato plant seedlings, herbaceous divisions, blackcurrant cuttings, herb plants, houseplants, strawberry runners etc and you simply help yourself to as much as you can carry. The quantity and breadth of plants is limited only by our imagination.

The donation plate and sum-up contactless payment machine will, as ever, be in cat-like readiness.

The roof repair plans (North & South Porch, plus the Vestry) are still very much in-train. Once full building approvals are received, we will then begin fundraising. Hopefully the whole process will be complete by year-end.

Ben Walmsley

**Chapel Community Care** is a volunteer led service that supports people in Rural Braintree. We cover the villages between Braintree, Halstead and Haverhill.

We provide a befriending service, transport to appointments, as well as Emotional Support for those going through difficult times such as bereavement, divorce, mental health difficulties and more.

We also provide a monthly meal and monthly outings to places of interest, garden centres, cafes, museums etc.

We rely on Donations, fundraising and grants to cover our costs so we are always looking for help with fundraising and grant applications.

If you have a few hours to spare, whether that is weekly, monthly or occasionally, please get in touch.

We have several roles such as befrienders, drivers, help with admin tasks, fundraising, treasurer...

If you are needing support or someone to talk to, a friend, or would like to come to lunches or outings do contact us and join a group of lovely people!

Please contact Jill for further information on [info@chapelcommunitycare.org.uk](mailto:info@chapelcommunitycare.org.uk) or 07396746674

**Wethersfield Village Hall CIO**  
**The Green**  
**Wethersfield**  
**CM7 4BS**

Notice is hereby given that the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Wethersfield Village Hall CIO (Charity number 117017) will be held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.30pm. The Trustees extend an invitation to all members of the parish of Wethersfield to attend.

Any resident of the parish over 18 years of age may stand to be elected as a trustee. Nominations must be made by similar parish residents, forms for nomination are available from the Secretary Charlotte Holliday at [wethersfieldvillagehallcio@gmail.com](mailto:wethersfieldvillagehallcio@gmail.com)

Village organisations or clubs are also invited to nominate a representative as a trustee, again by contacting Charlotte Holliday as above.

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WETHERSFIELD  
CLUB PRESENTS



# KARAOKE

*Night*

HOSTED BY AUSTIN & BOB

SATURDAY 21ST

FEBRUARY

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE  
EXCITEMENT!

TIME: CLUB OPENS 4PM  
SINGING FROM 7.30PM



## Wethersfield Village Carol Singing

A big **THANK YOU** to all those who turned out to join the carol singing around the village on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December and **THANK YOU** to Wethersfield Club for the warm welcome and refreshment afterwards

**AND**

a huge **THANK YOU** to all those who welcomed us at their doors and gave so generously to our appeal.

You all helped to raise an amazing £105 for **UNICEF** – helping children all over the world

**THANK YOU**

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## WETHERSFIELD VILLAGE SHOP

is open every day for you.

We offer local meats, fruit juice and honey, fresh bread and pastries, everyday essentials and lots more, with Post Office facilities available on Thursday afternoons.

	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>
Monday	10-1	2-4
Tuesday	10-1	2-4 & 6-8
Wednesday	10-1	Closed pm
Thursday	10-1	2-4
Friday	10-1	2-4
Saturday	10-1	Closed pm
Sunday & Bank Holidays	10-11	

Entrance in Old Mill Chase, behind the Village Hall

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**MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE**  
**MONDAY mornings 10.40am to 11.10am**

can be found parked in the High Street or at the Village Hall–

**Next visit date: - MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2026**

- **MONDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2026**
- **MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026**

**WETHERSFIELD CLUB  
SATURDAY, 7 FEBRUARY**

**BINGO TIME**

**EYES DOWN AT 8.00 PM**



**WITH THE LEGEND THAT IS JOHN BARKER  
FABULOUS CASH PRIZES TO BE WON!!**

The next meeting of the **Wethersfield History Group** will be on Thursday 12th February at 8.00pm in the Pavilion. We will be showing some short films from the History Group archive. £3 at the door to include coffee/ tea and biscuits.

St. Mary Magdalene Church,

**COFFEE AND CHAT  
2026**



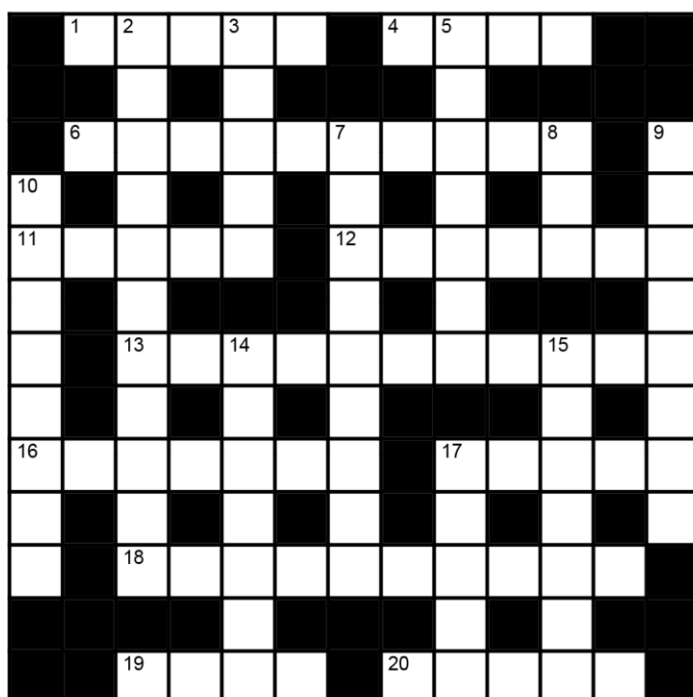
**10.30am – 12 noon Saturdays  
21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY and 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH**

Meet up with old friends, make some new.

**ALL WELCOME**



# Crossword 95 by Robert Burrows



## Across

- 1 Throw out (5)  
4 A goat (4)  
6 Essex Town (10)  
11 Related to vision (5)  
12 Define boundary (7)  
13 Outdo others (11)  
16 Bad practice (7)  
17 Ornamental headwear (5)  
18 Essex Hamlet (7-3)  
19 Posture (4)  
20 Contagious disease (5)

## Down

- 2 Become a member (4-3-4)  
3 Abdominal pain (5)  
5 Spore (7)  
7 Correcting style (3-6)  
8 Tuberos root (3)  
9 Far from centre (8)  
10 Fine gauze fabric (8)  
14 Dress style (7)  
15 Adults (7)  
17 Rodent (5)

## Cryptic Across

- 1 Reject loses right to throw out (5)  
4 A goat, Lib exclaimed (4)  
6 Racy Billie could live in this market town (10)  
11 Poor topic, to do with the eye (5)  
12 Sadly timid, El? Set a boundary (7)  
13 Surpass in Glynde? Very much so (11)  
16 Film ace made very bad (7)

17 Bird going north to get royal headwear? (5)

18 Needy blaze unfortunately in this hamlet (10)

19 Stance some hippo sees (4)

20 A thousand referees get spotty disease (5)

## Cryptic Down

- 2 Follow others into some joint he clubbed! (4,3,4)  
3 Mix oil, cc litres to cure ailment (5)  
5 I'll order 1 cab but sadly get bacteria (7)  
7 Colourful correction (3,6)  
8 May I go back for root veggie? (3)  
9 Not in, resting, off the beaten track (8)  
10 Moss gear, very fine fabric (8)  
14 Garments for untidy cat fans (7)  
15 Badly wrong, not down but mature (5,2)  
17 Animal found in decoy puzzle (5)

## Solution Crossword 94

1	P	A	S	T	A	4	D	I	L	U	T	E
	U	P		S			O		Y		E	7
8	T	W	I	N	S	E	T	9	I	A	M	B
	U		N		E		C		N		P	D
10	P	L	E	D	G	D	O	N	G	R	E	E
			C		A		M				R	E
11	M	O	H	A	I	R		12	C	A	N	A
	O		I					14	T		N	T
15	W	E	L	L	S	T	Y	E	G	R	E	E
	E		L		I		P		E		Z	O
18	R	E	I	G	N		19	H	E	L	P	O
	S		N		C		U		I		N	C
20	E	G	R	E	S	S		21	C	Z	E	C

Please make a note now of these two superb events later on in the year:



## Plant Share

& Coffee Morning  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am – 12.30pm  
Wethersfield Parish Church

Want to pick up some new plants?  
Want to share your love of gardening, and can spare some surplus plants, seedlings etc with our community?



Like a cuppa and a slice of cake?  
Don't really want to drive to an overpriced garden centre?  
Want to help our grade 1 listed church?



Then this event really is for YOU!!



Please bring any of the following:  
Yourself, plants, donation money



# WETHERSFIELD

## ANNUAL FINE & AFFORDABLE ART EXHIBITION

Saturday 9th May 5-7pm drinks  
Sunday 10th May 10-3pm  
Free entry St Mary's Church, CM7 4BY



PROUD SPONSOR  
**JACKSON-STOPS**



# Family & Elderly Shoebox Appeal

## A Big Thank You

to  
EVERYONE

who made up a shoebox,  
or gave donations for shoeboxes,  
helping to send the amazing total  
of

**25,281  
Shoeboxes!**

for helping us to deliver Christmas Shoeboxes  
to some of the poorest people in  
Eastern Europe. Every box  
contained a smile  
from you to them.



Link to Hope  
Link House,  
Ferring Street, Ferring,  
West Sussex, BN12 5JP

[www.linktohope.co.uk](http://www.linktohope.co.uk)  
info@linktohope.co.uk  
T 01903 529333

Reg Charity No. 1488227



### STAMPS

for

Farleigh Hospice

Thank you to all those who have been  
saving their used postage stamps and popping them in the tub on the  
table in Wethersfield church.

*Old and new styles welcome as are those from all countries.*

**PLEASE KEEP COLLECTING!**

Thank you

