

**Blackwater Benefice
The Waterside Parishes
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

Layer de la Haye, Tollesbury, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Tolleshunt Major, Salcott-Cum-Virley

SUNDAY 18th JANUARY 2026

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

1st Day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



9.00am	Messy Church with breakfast	The Congi, Tollesbury
9.30am	Morning Prayer with Isabel Adcock	St Mary The Virgin, Tollesbury
9.30am	Holy Communion with Rev Sarah Clare	St Nicholas, Tolleshunt Major
10.30am	Holy Communion With Rev Jo Wood	St John The Baptist, Layer de la Haye
11.30am	Holy Communion with Rev Sarah Clare	St Mary The Virgin, Salcott-Cum-Virley

For more information relating to our churches, please look at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

CONTACTS:

Team Vicar: Rev Jo Wood josephine.h.wood@btinternet.com 01621 503802

Lead Associate Minister: Rev Andrew Vince

Associate Minister: Rev Sarah Clare

Benefice Administrator; Rosie Pollock: office.blackwaterbenefice@gmail.com

Please email Rosie: office.blackwater@gmail.com with any items for this newsletter by Tuesday p.m. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please let Rosie know.

SAFEGUARDING

We are committed to Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Benefice.

The PCC's have adopted the Church of England's policies and best practice of safeguarding which can be found via www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding or www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding

Revd. Sarah Clare

Having served faithfully in our communities for several years, Revd. Sarah will be stepping back and taking a break from active ministry for an extended period of time from the end of January. We are hugely grateful to Revd. Sarah and want to express our heartfelt thanks for all the time, energy, care and compassion she has devoted to ministry in our parishes. Please keep Revd. Sarah in your prayers as she takes time out to rest and discern where God is leading her in the future.

Church diary at a glance...

Week of
Sunday 18th January
& Future Events - Save The Date!

WHEN?	WHAT?	WHERE?
Monday 19th January: 9am	Morning Prayer	Tolleshunt D'Arcy
Monday 19th January: 10-11am	Edward Bear	St Mary The Virgin, Tollesbury
Tuesday 20th January: 9.15-10am	Morning Prayer	St Mary The Virgin, Tollesbury
Wednesday 21st January: 10am	BCP Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Tolleshunt D'Arcy
Wednesday 21st January: 8-9.30pm	Village Voices Details from Debbie: dwalsham63@gmail.com	The Queen Elizabeth Hall, Layer de la Haye
Thursday 22nd January: 9.15am	Morning Prayer	St John The Baptist, Layer de la Haye
Thursday 22nd January: 1.45-3pm	JB Tots (Baby & Toddler group)	The Queen Elizabeth Hall Annexe, Layer de la Haye

As we begin a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th – 25th Jan), let us pray together...

Heavenly Father,
you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ
to continue his work of reconciliation
and reveal you to the world:
forgive us the sins which tear us apart;
give us the courage to overcome our fears
and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Further resources can be found here:

www.ctbi.org.uk/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2026/

PLANNING AHEAD - SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY 25th JANUARY:

9.30am Holy Communion with Rev Jo Wood at St Mary The Virgin, Tollesbury

10.30am Morning Prayer with Wendy Borgartz at St John The Baptist, Layer de la Haye

11.00am Holy Communion with Rev Jo Wood at St Nicholas, Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Save The Date.... Community Country Dance - Saturday 31st January, Copford School Hall from 7.30-10.30pm. £20 per person. For more information and to book your ticket, please contact annewhistler2766@gmail.com