

**Blackwater Benefice
The Waterside Parishes
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

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

SUNDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2026

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| 9.00am | Breakfast and Messy Church | The Congi, Tollesbury |
| 9.30am | Morning Prayer With Isabel Adcock | St Mary The Virgin, Tollesbury |
| 9.30am | Holy Communion With Rev Jo Wood | St Nicholas, Tolleshunt Major |
| 10.30am | Morning Praise With Tim Whitfield | St John The Baptist, Laver de la Haye |
| 11.30am | Holy Communion With Rev Jo Wood | St Mary The Virgin, Salcott Cum Virley |

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

LENT BEGINS: ASH WEDNESDAY: 18TH FEBRUARY

Please join us for a Holy Communion service at Tolleshunt D'Arcy, 10am. For those who would prefer an evening service, Holy Communion will be at Laver Breton, 7.30pm. (Great Totham also has a service at 10am).

CONTACTS:

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

Lead Associate Minister: Rev Andrew Vince andrewvince15@gmail.com

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

Confirmation Classes

Many people are baptised (christened) as babies, so the Church of England provides confirmation for teenagers and adults who wish to affirm the promises made on their behalf as babies and make their personal commitment to following Christ. If you are interested in this please speak to anyone on the Ministry team. This will involve a short course of preparation explaining what is involved in being a disciple of Christ and a service later in the year at one of the churches in the area (not Tiptree this year).

Active Revision at Fellowship Afloat in Tollesbury

Monday 30th March to Friday 3rd April: An Active Revision residential in the Easter holidays is taking place on a unique floating activity centre in Tollesbury and is a great mixture of study and adventure. It is specifically for school years 10-13. See the attached flyer for more details.

| <div>Week of</div> <div>Sunday 15th February</div> <div>& Future Events – Save The Date!</div> | | |
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| WHEN? | WHAT? | WHERE? |
| Monday 16th February: 9am | Morning Prayer | Tolleshunt D'Arcy |
| Monday 16th February: 1-3pm | Lent course begins | The Lighthouse, 55a East Street, Tollesbury CM9 8QE |
| Tuesday 17th February: 9.15-10am | Morning Prayer | St Mary The Virgin, Tollesbury |
| Wednesday 18th February: 10am | ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Communion | St Nicholas, Tolleshunt D'Arcy |
| Wednesday 18th February: 8-9.30pm | Village Voices Details from Debbie: dwalsham63@gmail.com | The Queen Elizabeth Hall, Layer de la Haye |

(As it's half term, there is no Edward Bear or JB Tots this week)

PLANNING AHEAD – SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY 22nd FEBRUARY

11am Holy Communion with Rev Andrew Vince at St Nicholas, Tolleshunt D'Arcy (joint with Tollesbury)

10.30am Holy Communion with Rev Christine Newmarch at St John The Baptist, Layer de la Haye

Save The Date...

Saturday 21st February – An Evening Of Puddings! 6.30pm – see poster for details....who could resist!

Saturday 28th March – An Easter Egg Hunt at Elmcroft Care home, Tolleshunt Major, 2-4pm

Lent 2026

Lent Courses, open to all, are being held as follows:

Waterside Parishes: Resurrection Journeys – Mondays 1pm-3pm at The Lighthouse Café in Tollesbury CM9 8QE beginning Mon 16th February

Heathland Parishes: Christ and the Chocolaterie – Tuesday evenings at St. Luke's Tiptree or Thursday lunchtimes in Birch beginning Tues 24th / Thurs 26th Feb

See posters for further details.

100 Days of Prayer

Bishop Guli is inviting people from across the Diocese of Chelmsford to join 100 days of prayer starting on Ash Wednesday ahead of a conversation about how we sustain Ministry in the Diocese of Chelmsford, that will begin in autumn 2026. Further information here:

<https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/about-us/travelling-well-together/travelling-well-together-sustaining-ministry/>

Please note that Rev Jo is on leave from 19th - 22nd February. Kindly contact Rev Andrew Vince with any queries:

andrewvince15@gmail.com