

Wethersfield Parish Magazine

AUGUST 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

Associate Minister

The Reverend Canon Janet Nicholls

Park House, Braintree Road, Shalford, Braintree CM7 5HQ

Tel: 01371 851317

jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org

Reader

Mrs Sarah Pilgrim, Fieldside, Lombard Street, Finchingfield

Tel: 01371 850781

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

Hon Treasurer

Mr Bob Harris, Top Shop, Wethersfield.

Tel: 07817 379099

hon.treasurer@wethersfieldchurch.org.uk

Ringling Master

Mr Roy Threadgold, Plumley, Braintree Road, Wethersfield

Tel: 01371 850481

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 August & September 2026

Sunday 2 August – Ninth Sunday after Trinity

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Cornish Hall End
9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford
10.30am Family Eucharist – Great Bardfield
11am Prayer & Pilgrimage (Celtic Morning Prayer) – Wethersfield

Sunday 9 August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford
(with breakfast served afterwards in church)
10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield
11am Family Eucharist – Wethersfield
5pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 16 August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield
9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford
10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield
(for the Patronal Festival, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
11am Morning Worship – Wethersfield

Sunday 23 August – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Parish Communion – Shalford
10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield
11am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield
11am Songs of Praise – Finchingfield
5pm Sung Compline – Little Bardfield
(with cream teas served beforehand from 3.30pm)

Sunday 30 August – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Benefice Eucharist – Cornish Hall End
(followed by Benefice Lunch at the Horse & Groom)

Regular Services and Events during the week

Monday	8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield 1.30pm 'Faithful Fiction' book club – Between the Lines, Great Bardfield (not meeting in August)
Tuesday	8.45am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield 10am Baby & Toddler Group – Great Bardfield 'St Mary's Munchkins' story & song time with refreshments
Thursday	8.45am Morning Prayer – Wethersfield 10am Coffee Morning (2nd & 4th weeks) – Shalford Coffee Morning (3rd week) – Cornish Hall End 10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield
Friday	8.45am Morning Prayer – Shalford
Saturday	10.30am (3rd weeks) Coffee Morning – Wethersfield

From the Vicarage...

It's hot. At least, it is when I'm writing this, and high temperatures have been a (dare I say) hot topic of conversation for the past few weeks. Whether things have cooled down a little by the time August comes along and the print copies of our village magazines reach your letterboxes, or whether we're all still wilting in the heat, the weather phenomena of this year are likely still to be provoking some conversation – after all, even when the weather is unexceptional, it is one of our favourite topics!

We are told to expect that these high temperatures are likely to occur with a greater frequency, and whilst climate scientists and policymakers try to understand what is behind this, and what might best be done about it, another important question to face is how we should react to the fact of a hospitable environment becoming less so. This isn't a new question: although the longer-term trends of increases in average temperatures are something new, there have been exceptional occasions in the past when sudden temperature shifts have made life a lot less comfortable for people. And there are many parts of the world which have been feeling the destructive effects of human activity on their ecosystems for some years now.

If we look into prayer books of centuries past, we find many prayers for deliverance from adverse weather and its effects. It is tempting for us to think ourselves so much more enlightened, now that we understand the scientific principles behind what is happening. What these prayers do reveal, though, and what they remind us, is that we cannot take the hospitality of our natural environment for granted. And although not framed in scientific terms, they do recognise that our actions can be destructive, and that we often have limited power in undoing those destructive effects.

The power we do have, however, is the power which derives from compassion. If we recognise that more frequent heat waves are going to demand of us more concern for our vulnerable neighbours, perhaps we will also learn to recognise the vulnerability of our whole human condition.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

Keep In Touch!

To receive weekly email news about what's going on across our churches, please sign up to our mailing list by following this link: <http://eepurl.com/ifMMHz> or using the QR Code:



Churchwarden Update

Words

The Quiet Gift of Meaning

There is something deeply human about the desire to achieve. From childhood onwards, we are encouraged to learn, improve, accomplish and succeed. Whether in education, work, family life or personal interests, achievement can bring genuine satisfaction. It reflects our ability to use the gifts we have been given and to contribute positively to the world around us.

Yet many people discover, often gradually, that achievement alone does not fully satisfy the heart. Goals that once seemed vitally important are reached and then replaced by new ones. Promotions are earned, projects completed, milestones passed. These things matter, but they do not always provide the lasting sense of fulfilment we might have expected.

Alongside achievement sits something quieter but no less important: meaning.

Meaning is often found not in what we accomplish, but in what we cherish. It emerges through relationships, acts of kindness, service to others, and a sense of belonging. It is present in conversations with friends, time spent with family, care offered to a neighbour, and the steady commitment to a community. These moments rarely appear on a résumé, yet they are often the experiences we remember most deeply.

The Christian faith offers a perspective that gently reshapes our understanding of success. Jesus did not measure people by status, wealth or accomplishment. Again and again, He drew attention to faithfulness, compassion and love. He praised those who served quietly, welcomed the overlooked, and cared for those in need. In God's kingdom, significance is not always found where the world expects to find it.

Meaning does not simply appear; it is something that develops gradually. It grows when we pay attention to the deeper things in life and allow ourselves to be shaped by what truly matters. Often it is found in the quiet experiences that are easily overlooked, when we recognise that our lives are connected to something beyond our own ambitions and achievements. Before we accomplish anything, we are already known and loved by God.

This does not mean achievement is unimportant. Our talents are gifts to be developed and used well. The challenge is to ensure that achievement serves a larger purpose rather than becoming an end in itself. A life centred only on accomplishment can become exhausting. A life rooted in meaning can sustain us through success and disappointment alike.

The writer of Ecclesiastes observed that there is "a time for every matter under heaven". Life is not simply a race towards ever greater accomplishment. It is also an invitation to love, to serve, to grow in faith, and to walk with God.

As we reflect on our own lives, perhaps the most important question is not simply, "What have I achieved?" but, "What has given my life meaning?" For it is in that place, where purpose meets faith and achievement is held within a larger story, that we often find the deepest and most enduring joy.

DS

Belfry News

On Sunday, 12 July the Pant Valley Bellringers met at Finchingfield to celebrate a couple of birthdays. Afterwards a celebratory Quarter Peal was rung and is recorded in the online database, "Bellboard"

Finchingfield, Essex

St John the Baptist

Tenor: 15–2–22 in E

1260 Plain Bob Triples

1 Peter G Smith

2 Sarah Holland

3 Roy Threadgold

4 Alfie Holland

5 Nick Holland

6 James Green (Conductor)

7 Angela Pannell

8 Tim Peckham

Rung as a birthday compliment to Revd. Alex Shannon (vicar) and Sarah Pilgrim (reader). Also sending best wishes to Lady Rosemary Ruggles-Brise as she recovers in hospital.

1st as Conductor of Triples

Events coming up at Wethersfield Club

Saturday 5 September	Our legendary bingo night returns with John Barker, cash prizes to be won, 8.00pm start
Saturday 12 September	Private Party
Thursday 17 September	Regular Open Mic Night, come and play, sing, or just watch those that do
Saturday 3 October	Live Music with Ian Lane, performer from Great Bardfield (a regular on our Open Mic Nights)
Thursday 22 October	Karaoke with Bob and Austin
Thursday 19 November	Open Mic Night, all welcome to play or sing
Saturday 28 November	Wethersfield Christmas Switch On, Village Hall, the Green and Club, 4-7pm Followed by Take Cover from 7pm
at the Club	
Saturday 5 December	Christmas Bingo night with John
Barker, 8.00 pm	
Saturday 12 December	Christmas karaoke night with Bob and Austin, Christmas songs at the ready
NYE 2026	Local DJ Richard Lewsey, entertaining us throughout the night into 2027

WETHERSFIELD VILLAGE COMMUNITY SHOP

Those of us involved with the Wethersfield Village Shop were able to make the most of the sunshine in July to be welcomed by Susan and Richard Clubley for an afternoon cream tea so that the volunteers could get a chance for a catch up and chat about things in general. Often one volunteer comes in as one leaves, and we don't always get time to chat. It was a lovely afternoon, and greatly appreciated by all who attended, thanks to Susan and Richard - think there were 24 of us in all!



If a bit of volunteer work is something you would be interested in, we are always looking for more volunteers to man the Shop when it's open these days. The opening hours are attached, and if you would like further information about what is involved then please do get in touch with one of the team, or by return e-mail to broad.julia@yahoo.co.uk. We provide an essential service to Wethersfield and the local community, any help would be greatly appreciated!

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY	10.00 AM – 4.00 PM	
TUESDAY	10.00 AM – 4.00 PM	6.00 – 8.00
PM		
WEDNESDAY	CLOSED	
THURSDAY	10.00 AM – 4.00 PM	
	(POST OFFICE 2.00 – 4.00PM)	
FRIDAY	10.00 AM – 4.00 PM	
SATURDAY	10.00 AM – 1.00 PM	
SUNDAY	10.00 AM – 11.00 AM	

Deliveries every Thursday of fresh bread, rolls and pies from Mersea Bakery, together with fresh meat, sausages, bacon and ham every week from Priors Hall.

Sliced Hovis is continually stocked and fresh Milk is delivered 3 times a week, plus fresh eggs

Fresh fruit and vegetables available and full range of frozen foods, including meals.

New volunteers are always welcome, pop into the shop with your contact details to join the team.

St. Mary Magdalene Church, Wethersfield

COFFEE AND CHAT

in Church

10.30am – 12 noon

Saturday 15th August 2026



Meet up with old friends, make some new.

Summer Solstice Celebration



Well, didn't we do well at the Summer Solstice Celebration in Wethersfield. The weather for the day was perfect, although a little too hot for our 4 legged friends, so the dog show was cancelled. We had our own Town Cryer open the event for us, leading the procession up from the Green, thanks to Richard Harris for carrying out those duties for us.

We had so much going on, with classic cars, bikes, food truck, ice cream, stalls, games for the kids, and much more. We were joined by the crew from the Wethersfield Fire Station, and also by our local PC, Steve Mugridge. The fire station crew had a tug of war with some of those in the crowd, and after a long, physical battle, the fire crew won the tug! We



were also joined by the Kit Car (from the TV series Knight Rider way back when) and thanks to Anthony Varmey for his support here and all those who entered, joined in and took part!



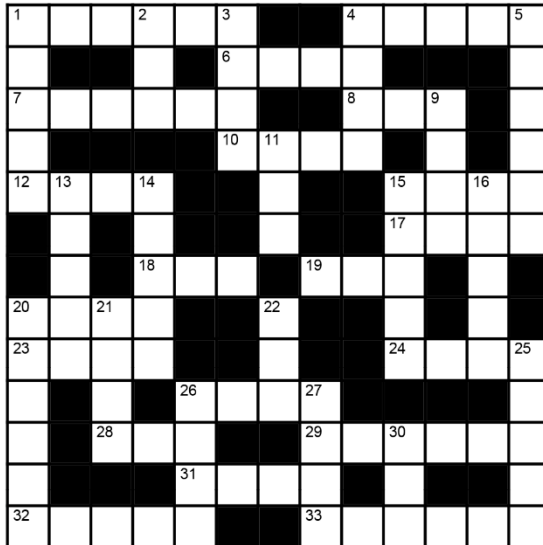
We were entertained brilliantly by all the open mic performers through the afternoon, and then had the wonderful Loran perform for us in the evening, which finished the whole event off perfectly.

The event was arranged by the Village for the Village, and we were delighted to raise £2595.02 on the day, with a wonderful raffle raising £700, which was a fantastic achievement.

We will look to do something similar for next year so pencil in the longest weekend 2027!

Thanks for supporting us, it made all the work worthwhile!

Crossword 99 by Robert Burrows



ACROSS

1 Derived from milk (6)

4 Old French coin (5)

6 Tall African plant (4)

7 Harmed person (6)

8 A class (3)

10 Jewish month (4)

12 Slight movement (4)

15 Top class (1-3)

17 Cleaning implement (4)

18 Pull (3)

19 Something past (3)

20 Conformity (4)

23 Biblical patriarch (4)

24 Short cry of pain (4)

26 Bottle stopper (4)

28 The first woman (3)

29 Greek past tense of verbs (6)

31 Number of ships (4)

32 Agent from the sun (5)

33 Peculiarity (6)

DOWN

1 Strong liking (5)

2 Small child (3)

3 Unconsciousness (4)

4 Free from bias (4)

5 Filaments from a web (6)

9 Be aware (4)

11 Owed (3)

13 Capital of Japan (5)

14 Vomit (5)

15 Appraisal (5)

16 Connected with ships (5)

20 Whining tearfully (6)

21 Designation (4)

22 Sailor (3)

25 Inferior (5)

26 Monetary unit (4)

27 Send to the canvas (4)

30 Old land measurement (3)

Solution Crossword 98



MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

Mobile Library 2 visits Wethersfield **every 3 weeks**
(Excluding Good Friday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day or Bank Holidays.)

NOW on **MONDAY mornings 10.40am to 11.10am**
and can be found parked in the High Street or at the Village Hall—

Next visit date: - MONDAY 10th August 2026

ALL WELCOME and FREE to ALL!

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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

+++++



SHOEBOXES!

Yes, it's that time of year again,
so please dig deep, fill your box(es)
and bring joy to some needy families in eastern
Europe.

Shoeboxes are supporting the charity
Link to Hope
and will go to families and the elderly in
Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.

Leaflets containing full instructions on how to prepare your box and what to put in it can be found in the church.

It is requested every box should contain all these items:

gloves or hat or scarf, sweets or chocolates, soap and flannel,
toothbrush and toothpaste, candle and holder, small games

For a Family box add 5 or more extra items from this list:

colouring pads, crayons/pencils (with rubber and sharpener), small toy (yo-yo, skipping rope, toy cars), soft toy/teddy (with CE label), tape measure, head scarf, shampoo (300ml), solar powered calculator, safety razors, hairbrush/comb, other gifts

For an Elderly person's box select 5 or more items from this list:

reading glasses, magnifier, mug, wooden spoon, cutlery, hot water bottle, work gloves, pen, paper, socks/tights (new), wind-up radio torch, shampoo (300ml), scissors/nail clippers, safety razors, other items

THEN tape the lid to box and wrap it in attractive paper and stick the official leaflet on the outside, completing it to indicate the box contents and including your donation of £3 in coins (to cover admin, distribution etc).

**Remember to get your shoeboxes packed and ready for the
service at
Cornish Hall End Church on 1st November.**

If you are unable to pack a box but could donate items for boxes, or finance a box, that would be much appreciated.

There are collection points for these donations in Wethersfield Church and the reception area at Wethersfield School or
contact Sarah Pilgrim 07788411360 or Anne Collins 01799 586062



**PLEASE
JOIN US**



**Explore villages and parish churches by bike or on foot.
Enjoy exercise, meet new people and raise much
needed funds for your church**

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



SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2026

For further information scan the QR code or visit
www.friendsofsexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride



Charity No 226023



Rhythm & Boots



**Beginners Line
dancing class**

Thursday's 7pm - 8pm
Wetherfield Village Hall
£5 per class