

Wethersfield Parish Magazine

JULY 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 July 2026

Sunday 5 July – Fifth 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 12 July – Sixth 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 19 July – Seventh Sunday after Trinity

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield
9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford
10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield
11am Morning Worship – Wethersfield

Sunday 26 July – Eighth Sunday after Trinity

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

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...

This month's magazine issues present an opportunity again for me to share more of what is taking place in our churches over the summer. While these months are traditionally quieter in terms of activity, and they don't have quite the same round of festivals which take place at other times of the year, the hope (whether fulfilled or not!) of summer weather means there's more of an opportunity to enjoy some social time together.

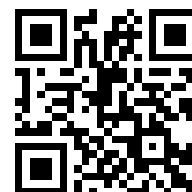
With that in mind, I would like to draw your particular attention to the fact that, in July and August, we will be serving cream teas at 3.30pm before the evening service on the fourth Sundays at St

Katharine's, Little Bardfield. When 5 o'clock arrives, we will then gather together for a short (roughly 20 minute) service of Compline, or Night Prayer – one of the most ancient and beautiful forms of service which the Church possesses.

We also have a fifth Sunday this year in August, which customarily sees us gathering from across the six parishes for a single service, which this August will be at St John the Evangelist, Cornish Hall End. We will have with us as our preacher for the service the Rev'd Katy Hacker Hughes, who leads our chaplaincy at the Wethersfield Base, holding services for those who are resident there, many of whom have faced persecution for their Christian faith in their home countries. This will be an excellent opportunity to hear from her about the realities of these men's experiences, and what has shaped and strengthened their remarkable faith. Afterwards, we will be gathering for a benefice lunch – for information about this, and indeed for questions about other aspects of church life, do get in touch with our administrator, Mrs Caroline Shingleton, on pant.valley.churches@gmail.com.

With six churches all working together, keeping in touch with everyone who might want to know what's going on can be challenging, so here's a reminder that we have a weekly email newsletter, to which you can subscribe via the following link: <http://eepurl.com/iffMMHz> or QR code below. Also this month, don't miss the fact that we are advertising for two employed roles within the churches, so please either consider applying, or passing details to anyone you think might be interested. And, of course, as well as the seasonal or one-off events mentioned above, we continue to have a number of regular monthly or bi-monthly coffee mornings at several of our churches, not to mention our toddler group and book group, so there are many opportunities to come and meet at church events, and you will be assured of a warm welcome.

Rev'd/Fr Alex



Do you know someone who would like to work for our churches?

The Benefice of the Pant Valley Churches is looking to recruit to two new posts. The Pant Valley Churches are six Church of England parish churches in rural north west Essex: Cornish Hall End, Finchingfield, Great & Little Bardfield, Shalford and Wethersfield.

Children & Families Worker

We are looking for an enthusiastic new member of our ministry team to help grow our work with local children and their families. There are a number of areas covered by our group of churches which have new families moving in, and we would like to reach out to them and to those who have already had some contact with the churches through Christenings or services on special occasions. The successful candidate will be enthusiastic about communicating the Christian faith to young people, will be able to build on good existing links with our local schools, and will help facilitate a range of activities, including baby & toddler groups, after school clubs and Sunday morning worship or Sunday school provision. The role will largely be based in Finchingfield & Cornish Hall End, but will involve contact with the other parishes too as we work closely together across parish boundaries. It is an occupational requirement that the postholder be a practising Christian under part 1 of Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010, and the appointment will be subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check. Our churches are fully committed to the safeguarding of children, and indeed all who have contact with us, and the postholder will be expected to undertake Church of England safeguarding training and adhere to the relevant policies. The role will be part-time, 12 hours per week, which will include a regular Sunday morning element (not necessarily every week). We are offering a salary of between £8,700 and £9,200 per annum depending on prior experience, with additional pension contributions. The term of employment will be one year, but there is a possibility of extending this if we are able to secure additional funding.

Church Buildings Maintenance Officer

We are looking for a dedicated person to assist with the maintenance of our church buildings. The successful candidate for this role will take on some of the administrative and practical tasks associated with three of our churches, in Finchingfield, Cornish Hall End and Great Bardfield. This will include liaising with Church Councils, contractors, volunteers and Church authorities to plan and execute necessary work, both regular and one off. We are privileged to have such beautiful and ancient buildings, which are important as places of worship not only for our congregations but the whole local community, and so we are looking for someone who is able both to manage the complexities of organising work within the context of a historic building and appreciate and respect their particular significance. The role will be part-time, 10 hours per week, which can be worked flexibly; the successful candidate will, however, need to be available for meetings with contractors and church officers, and will need to have a means of transport to allow them to reach the relevant churches. We are offering a salary of £7,800 per annum, with additional pension contributions and expenses for travel. The term of employment will be two years, but there is a possibility of extending this if we are able to secure additional funding.

To find out more about either of these roles, please email our administrator, Mrs Caroline Shingleton on pant.valley.churches@gmail.com, who will be able to provide you with a complete job description. The deadline for applications is Friday 17 July, and we hope to interview candidates at a convenient time the following week. If you would like to apply, please send a CV and covering letter to our administrator at the email address above. Rev'd Alex is also happy to talk informally if you would like to know more about either role.

Churchwarden Update

Rest, Renewal, and St Mary Magdalene

As July arrives, it feels like life is finally beginning to exhale. The school rush winds down, holidays are on the calendar, and those long, golden evenings are finally here. Even in our own churchyard, everything seems to slow its pace; the grass grows a little wilder, the birds linger, and the whole place settles into the gentle rhythm of high summer.

It is a season that quietly invites us to do something we often find difficult: to rest.

In our busy world, we are often told to keep going, keep producing, and keep achieving. But Scripture tells a different story. From the very beginning, God blessed rest. Sabbath isn't just an optional extra; it is a gift woven into the very fabric of creation. It is a reminder that true renewal doesn't come from constant effort, but from the simple act of stopping, breathing, and letting God restore us.

This month, as we approach the Feast of St Mary Magdalene on 22 July, we have a wonderful companion for this season.

Mary's most profound encounter with the risen Christ didn't happen in the midst of activity, but in the stillness of a garden. She arrived early in the morning, carrying her grief, her questions, and her weariness. It was in that quiet, vulnerable moment, before the demands of the day could crowd in, that she heard Jesus speak her name.

Recognition came in the pause.

Mary's experience teaches us that rest isn't just "doing nothing." It is the sacred space where God meets us, heals us, and renews our hope. As we honour our saint, our parish is invited

to rediscover this gentle truth: there is holiness in waiting, listening, and simply being present.

As many of you head off on holiday or settle into a quieter routine, we hope that this season brings you a true sense of blessing. If you find summer to be a difficult or lonely time, please know that our church is here as a place of peace and welcome.

For all of us, may this month offer those precious moments, however small, when we can pause, quiet our hearts, and hear Christ speak our name once again.

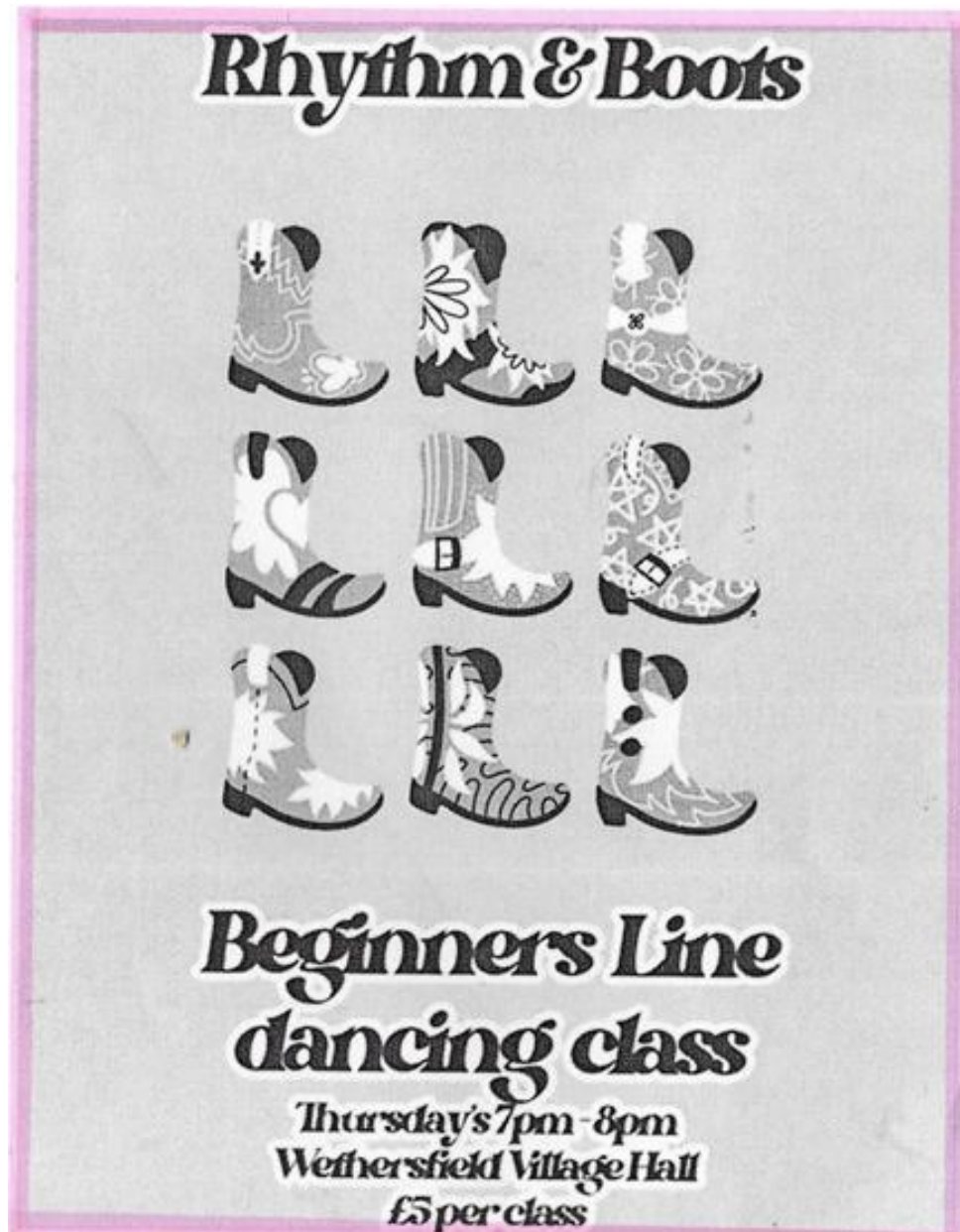
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**WETHERSFIELD VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY NIGHT CINEMA 2026**

17th July	18th September	16th October
WICKED LITTLE LETTERS	The Penguin Lessons	THE WALLIS ISLAND

Doors open 6:30pm Film Starts 7pm
Tickets £5 cash or card Raffle £1
Bar & snacks available before & during interval
Ticket Enquiries 07304 360410



St. Mary Magdalene Church, Wethersfield

COFFEE AND CHAT 2026

10.30am – 12 noon

Saturday 18th JULY and 15th AUGUST



Meet up with old friends, make some new.

ALL WELCOME

Wethersfield Village Community Shop New 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

Every Thursday we take fresh deliveries of fresh bread, rolls and pies from **Mersea Bakery**.

Fresh meat, bacon and ham every week from **Priors Hall**.

Sliced Hovis is continually stocked and fresh Milk is delivered 3 times a week.

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

Volunteers are needed, if you can, please pop your contact details into the shop to join the team.



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.

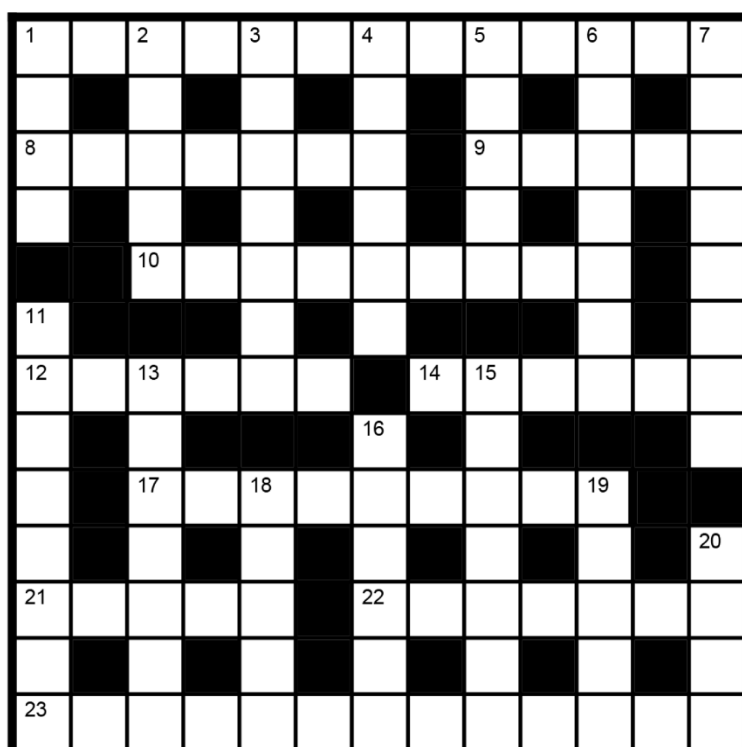


PLEASE KEEP

COLLECTING!

Thank you

Crossword 98 by Robert Burrows



Across

- 1 Money balance (4,9)
 8 Characteristic (7)
 9 Repeated occurrence (5)
 10 Essex Village (6,3)
 12 Reply (6)
 14 Living organism (6)
 17 Essex village (9)
 21 Indian garment (5)
 22 Please, pray (7)
 23 Sweet fruit (8,5)

Down

- 1 Natural (4)
 2 Muslim official (5)
 3 Gratify (7)
 4 Ship holder (6)
 5 Eagle nest (5)
 6 Noble rank (7)

- 7 Discernible (8)

- 11 Affectedly genteel (3-2-3)
 13 add to the end (7)
 15 Chemical element (7)
 16 Capital city (6)
 18 Friendship (5)
 19 Chemical (5)
 20 Hammer head (4)

Cryptic Across

- 1 Broken tent stank, beam gives your balance (4,9)
 8 Coot rib cracked in mechanical style (7)
 9 Play it again (5)
 10 Bend a cone, maybe, in this village (6,3)
 12 Respond to Hans Werther in part (6)
 14 Mal, Ian, sadly not human (6)
 17 Block mare perhaps in this

- place (9)

- 21 Hi, Dot, arranging this garment? (5)

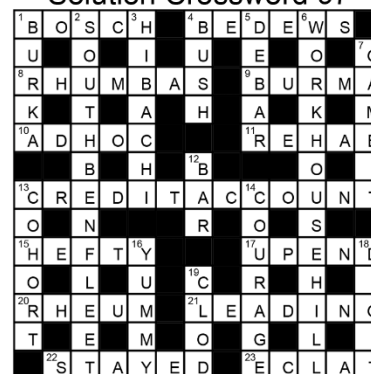
- 22 Ancient term, please good sir (7)

- 23 Fruit comprising sweet water? (13)

Cryptic Down

- 1 Née, Barb or Norma, in part (4)
 2 Some banana Bob ate, a Muslim official (5)
 3 Does AI state completely fill? (7)
 4 Get some branch or stick for ship essential (6)
 5 Resting place for high flyers (5)
 6 Real mud churned for nobleman and his estate (7)
 7 Awful gnat bile you can touch (8)
 11 Two notes for Di, pretentiously posh (3-2-3)
 13 Working Uni jobs? Add notes at the end (7)
 15 Superconducting element (7)
 16 Friendship for May? It could be (6)
 18 PS, joke about capital (5)
 19 Cooking the fuel, Ly? (5)
 20 Look, little Bo! (4)

Solution Crossword 97



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.)

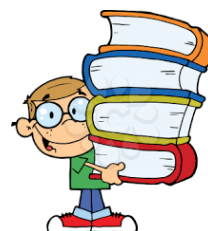
NOW on **MONDAY mornings - 10.40am to 11.10am**

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

Next visit dates: - **MONDAY 20th July 2026**

MONDAY 10th August 2026

ALL WELCOME and FREE to ALL!



Support your Church the Easy Way

We've had 11 donations in the last 30 days, thanks to our supporters using #easyfundraising when they make online purchases!

Please support us on easyfundraising if you're not already. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us for free - at no extra cost to you.

Plus, when you reach your first £5 in donations, easyfundraising will match it!

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/stmarymagdalenechwethersfd/V9MEPN/c2s/128FF5bb/NT255/textcopy/11>
