

Wethersfield Parish Magazine

SEPTEMBER 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 September

Sunday 6 September – Fourteenth 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 13 September – Fifteenth 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 20 September – Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Benefice Eucharist – Finchingfield

4pm Benefice Harvest Celebration – Bardfield Vineyard

Sunday 27 September – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Parish Communion – Shalford

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

5pm Sung Compline – Little Bardfield

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

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:



Aristotle, Mary and the Shape of a Life

September always feels like a new start, even for those of us who left school decades ago.

With summer ending some of us will be asking what will the forthcoming season bring? This month, the Church offers an answer by way of an unlikely pairing: a Greek philosopher who never knew Christ, and a young woman from Nazareth who carried him.

August brought the story of the Assumption of Mary, marked warmly by our Roman Catholic and Orthodox neighbours and treated more quietly here in the Church of England. But whichever way a church leans on the feast, the story underneath belongs to every Christian: the hope that God's love holds us, even beyond this life, even when everything changes.

Aristotle suggested that to understand anything properly, you ask it four questions: what it's made of, what gives it shape, what brought it into being, and what it's for. Take a wooden table: the wood, the design, the carpenter, and its purpose, perhaps to gather a family round a meal. Ask those questions of your own life and something lovely happens.

We are made of bodies, memories and relationships that hold us up more than we notice, and shaped by the people we've loved and the choices we've made. We are brought into being by God, who knows us more fully than we know ourselves. And we are made for a purpose that doesn't fade with the summer: to grow in love of God and of one another.

Mary's life offers a gentle picture of that same shape. It speaks of hope, that God's love isn't undone by change, loss or death. It speaks of dignity, that our worth was never tied to achievement, but to the plain fact that we are God's children. And it speaks of faithfulness, since Mary's holiness lived in trust and quiet perseverance rather than public acclaim, the kind many of us practise in a kind word or an unseen prayer.

Most of what matters in a life is never seen by anyone at the time.

It speaks, too, of fulfilment, that God isn't finished with us yet. The fields around our villages are golden, a reminder that harvest comes from patience, not haste.

So as September settles in, the invitation this month is to trust that the shape of our lives is still in God's hands.

The Church Clock is not working

The Church Clock has stopped. The steel wire which holds the weights which drive the mechanism has snapped. We will look to get this fixed.

DS





The church hosted a wonderful wedding on 15th August between Madeleine Seacombe and Tom Farkas. David sent them off in the highest style, and was such a happy and beautiful occasion. Many congratulations and warm wishes to the couple and Seacombes.

On a separate note, I have been elected to the Braintree Deanery Synod, which gives a welcome opportunity to express thoughts and concerns to the Dean. This meets three times a year and has representatives from all the churches. If you have items you would like me to raise here, do please let me know. I am not “backwards in coming forwards” and have, and will continue to express our thoughts. I have deep concerns on the complete lack of any funding from the hierarchy to our vicars. Additionally, I’m alarmed by what I believe is anti-semitism from both the Archbishop and others within leadership positions with the church, with the latest example being the General Synod hearing the Kairos II documents at their latest meet. This reduces the Gaza conflict to a single and I believe warped narrative. Their musings on this impacts us all, in a number of ways through association. I recommend you looking into this, and to form your own opinions.

Looking ahead please wish our very own Reverend Alex the best of success in his wish to join the General Synod, results of the election in mid October. The General Synod meets twice a year (5 days each) as such is a real commitment, and voices of sanity seem much needed on it.

Ben Walmsley



[Final Kairos document II English.pdf](#)

Well worth looking at and It would be interesting to see how others feel about it. (Ed.)



Pant Valley Churches

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

Time flies by!

Yes, it's that time of year when we look for items to go into a shoebox for the Link to Hope charity appeal.

The boxes are distributed to very needy families in Eastern Europe, many of whom do not have a place to call home.

The charity asks for 6 basics in each box.

Then items for a Family Box or for an Elderly Person box, everyone deserves a present at Christmas. Ideas from the charity suggest a hand knitted hat, wind-up torch, mug, sweets, wooden spoon, small toy, crayons, hairbrush, shampoo etc.

For further information visit www.linktohope.co.uk

Alternatively contact Sarah Pilgrim Tel: 01371 850 781 or

Anne Collins 01799 586 062



Get shopping now!

Shoeboxes need to be ready to go by 1st November

Leaflets, with all you need to know to make up a box, will be available in church shortly, along with some empty boxes for anyone who hasn't got one.

3 WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

1 – fill a box

2 – donate items for boxes.

3 – give a monetary donation



All contributions gratefully received.

THANK YOU

Sarah & Anne

The next meeting of the **Wethersfield History Group** will be at 8pm on Thursday September 10th at The Pavilion. The illustrated talk will be by Pam Wenley and the subject is **'Wethersfield Village Life in the 1900s'**.

Pam is continuously researching the history of the village, its houses and its occupants so I'm sure it will be an interesting evening .

Everyone welcome.

£3 in the door with refreshment

TAPE DOWN ON SHOEBOX HERE

Link to Hope **GIFT AID FORM**

FOR EVERY £3 DONATED, WE RECEIVE AN EXTRA 75p FREE FROM HMRC. PLEASE HELP US GAIN THIS FREE MONEY BY FILLING IN THE GIFT AID FORM BELOW IF YOU PAY ANY SORT OF TAX INCLUDING PENSIONS

(IN CAPITAL LETTERS PLEASE)

TITLE FIRST NAME DATE

SURNAME

ADDRESS 1

ADDRESS 2

TOWN POSTCODE

COUNTY

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Do you want to hear what happened to your shoebox and the work of Link to Hope? Please tick the box (we will not share your details or bombard you with e-mails) ☐

THE BORING BUT NECESSARY PART -

I am a UK tax payer. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on my donations I must pay the difference. Please let us know if your tax status changes.

Please notify the charity if you: want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

£ . 00

This amount is the transport donation NOT the value of your shoebox.

SIGNED:

PAYMENT METHODS (Please tick)

- Donate £3 per box online on the website or send a cheque ☐
- OR do a BACS transfer ☐
- OR tape £3 onto this green square (and nowhere else). ☐

PAYMENT DETAILS ON THE WEBSITE

Thank You

IMPORTANT TO KNOW
The £3 goes towards transport/promotion/processing/distribution/project support costs. We take ownership of the goods and the responsibility for distributing them.

TAPE DOWN ON SHOEBOX HERE

Link to Hope

FAMILY & ELDERLY SHOEBOX APPEAL

- UKRAINE
- MOLDOVA
- ROMANIA
- BULGARIA

JOIN US
HELP US, HELP THEM




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

Register Here

TEL: 01903 529333

BY 1st NOVEMBER 2026

www.linktohope.co.uk

Charity no: 1068722

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.



Pant Valley
Churches

Harvest Celebration

Sunday 20 September from 4pm
at Bardfield Vineyard

A harvest thanksgiving service followed by
refreshments and music to which all are welcome.

Admission is free, but we would welcome
donations to cover event costs.

A cash bar will be available.



**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.

RIDE + STRIDE **for Churches**

SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2026

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



Charity No 228022



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

*Make a difference.
Change a life.*



**CHAPEL
COMMUNITY CARE**

SUPPORT THROUGH
LIFE CHANGING SITUATIONS

We provide compassionate support to people in our community. Could you spare some time to help?

Current Volunteer Opportunities



Befriending In Person & Telephone

Offer friendship, a listening ear and companionship.



Transport to Appointments & Social Events

Help people get where they need to go.



Help & Support with Outings

Support people to enjoy days out and local activities.



Lunch Club & More

Join in, help out and make a positive impact.



And so much more!

Whatever your skills, there's a way you can help.

WE ALSO NEED HELP BEHIND THE SCENES!



TREASURER

Help manage our finances and support good governance.



ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Help with office tasks and keeping things running smoothly.



FUNDRAISING & GRANT WRITING

Support our fundraising efforts and write grant proposals to help us grow.



Your time. Your skills. Their future.

Every bit of help makes a huge difference.

Interested?

Get in touch today!



info@chapelcommunitycare.org.uk



07396 746674

*Thank you
for helping
our community
thrive!*



One of the easiest ways to support St. Mary Magdalene's Parish Church Wethersfield is to sign up to easyfundraising.

Shop with 8,000+ online retailers and brands will donate to us for free.

Plus, for a limited time, when 10 new supporters sign up, we'll get a bonus £10:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/stmarymagdalenechwethersfd/V9MEPN/c2s/j0GibRE4/CE088/textcopy/>

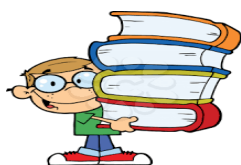
This is a no-brainer. Easy Fundraising has already contributed £600 to our church funds. Why not join in – it costs you nothing.

St. Mary Magdalene Church, Wethersfield

COFFEE AND CHAT

10.30am – 12 noon

Saturday, 19th SEPTEMBER



Meet up with old friends, make some new.

ALL WELCOME

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

Mobile Library 2 visits Wethersfield **every 3 weeks** on

MONDAY mornings 10.40am to 11.10am

(Excluding Good Friday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day or Bank Holidays.)



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

Next visit date: - MONDAY 21st September 2026

ALL WELCOME and FREE to ALL!



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.

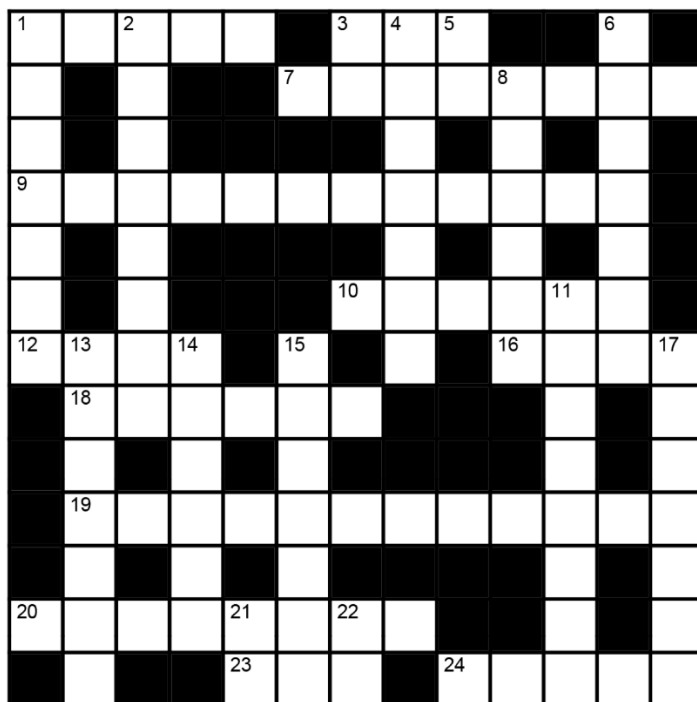
Old and new styles welcome as are those from all countries.



PLEASE KEEP COLLECTING!

Thank you

Crossword 100W by Robert Burrows



Across

- 1 Nip (5)
- 3 Trim the lawn (3)
- 7 Goodbye (8)
- 9 Your village (12)
- 10 Busy (6)
- 12 Wind instrument (4)
- 16 Viscount's superior (4)
- 18 Puzzle creator (6)
- 19 Early reading (3-9)
- 20 Framework (8)
- 23 Not even (3)
- 24 Weighty (5)

Down

- 1 Skill (7)
- 2 Uncharged lepton (8)
- 3 Mother (2)
- 4 Aperture (7)
- 5 Plural of I (2)

6 Membranous bag (7)

- 8 Sentimental film (6)
- 11 Capital of Malta (8)
- 13 Singing birds (7)
- 14 Stays (6)
- 15 Tear free (3-4)
- 17 Chance event (7)
- 21 Japanese unit of capacity (2)
- 22 Christian abbreviation (2)

Cryptic Across

- 1 Quiet old measure, a quick nip (5)
- 3 One man went to ... (3)
- 7 Wear fall outfit? Adieu (8)
- 9 Meadow for castrated lambs in your village (12)
- 10 A civet could be lively (6)
- 12 AI generated music Mason Andrews played (4)

16 Maybe a real peer (4)

- 18 Bruce, the great compiler (6)
- 19 Not the latest scripture (3,9)
- 20 Beads Ted arranges to support the sleeper (8)
- 23 1,3,5 etc (3)
- 24 He's not He's my brother (5)

Cryptic Down

- 1 Skill in making PS worse (7)
- 2 Subatomic particle in neon rut I broke (8)
- 3 Mother could have a Master's degree (2)
- 4 Opening i.e. force maybe (7)
- 5 Pronoun for more than one (2)
- 6 Liquid container for bald Red perhaps (7)
- 8 Small snack for sad film (6)
- 11 A tall vet travels to this capital (8)
- 12 Birds fly over loo rise (7)
- 14 with me, old hymn (5)
- 15 Not like 8 down (7)
- 17 Try tole craft- it's a gamble (7)
- 21 Going forward (2)
- 22 Anno Domini (2)

Solution Crossword 99

1	L	A	C	T	3	I	C	4	F	R	A	N	5	C
2	O				6	O	K	R	A					O
7	V	I	C	T	10	A	D	A	R	9	I	L	K	B
8	E				11	U				12	S	T	13	W
14	O				15	A	O	N	E	16				
17	K				18	O	W	19	W	A	S	V		
20	S	Y	N	C	21	T				22	A	A		
23	N	O	A	H						24	Y	E	L	P
25	I	M			26	C	O	R	K	27				
28	V				29	A	O	R	I	S	T			
30	E				31	N	A	V	Y	O				
32	L	I	G	H	T					33	O	D	D	I

Rhythm & Boots



Beginners Line dancing class

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