



HOBNOB

ON-LINE



THE PARISH MAGAZINE FOR
ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL CHURCH, HORNDON ON THE HILL
ST. GILES AND ALL SAINTS CHURCH, ORSETT
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, BULPHAN

MARCH 2026



THE PARISH OF HORNDON, ORSETT AND BULPHAN

Website: www.hobnob.org.uk

Facebook: @HOBNOBchurches

RECTOR

VACANCY

PTO*

Rev Max Blake

max@hobnob.org.uk

07716 969772

*(permission to officiate)

PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Churchwardens	Alastair Macrae David Mortimer	Beverley Macrae Sonia Ward	Christine Mortimer Frank Woollard
Treasurer	Lynn Bennett		
Secretary	Lynda Robertson		
Parish Administrator	Lynda Robertson		
Deanery Synod Reps	Karen Collier Frank Woollard	Alastair Macrae	Janet Wilkins
Lay Representatives	Jane Barry	Sandra Billinger	Samantha Pankhurst

CHURCH OFFICERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

St Peter & St Paul Horndon-on-the-Hill

Churchwardens	Beverley Macrae Sonia Ward	b.macrae@hobnob.org.uk sonia51anne@yahoo.co.uk	01375 673327 01375 674212
Sacristans	Jane Barry	Beverley Macrae	Judy Rood
Vergers	Robin Clark	Felicity Tarbard	Sonia Ward

St Giles & All Saints Orsett

Churchwardens	Christine Mortimer David Mortimer	c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk d.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk	01375 641485 01375 641485
Sacristan	Janet Wilkins		
Vergers	Jo Metcalf	Christine Mortimer	Libby Seggons
Tower Captain	Judith Church		01375 891556
Mothers' Union contact	Lucy Bubb		07970 728673
Edward Bear Toddler Group	Karen Collier		01375 370441
Oasis Café	Sandra Billinger		01375 891040
Churches Centre Bookings	Gary Jones	bookings@orsettchurches.co.uk	

St Mary-the-Virgin Bulphan

Churchwardens	Alastair Macrae Frank Woollard	Alastairmacrae51@gmail.com f.woollard@hobnob.org.uk	01375 673327 01375 891034
Vergers	Frank Woollard		
Parish Room Bookings	Lynda Robertson		07974 803471

Parish Administrator

Lynda Robertson l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk 07974 803471

Parish Baptism Co-Ordinator

Christine Mortimer c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk 01375 641485

Musicians

Jane Barry 07552 199697
Janet McCheyne 07752 836902

Parish Magazine (HOBNOB)

Submit articles to magazine@hobnob.org.uk

Please note to guarantee inclusion in the current month, articles must be submitted by the 21st of the preceding month.

WEDDINGS

To arrange Weddings, please contact Lynda Robertson:
l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk 07974 803471

SERVICES – March 2026

	HORNDON	ORSETT	BULPHAN
Sunday 1st March <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	10am All Together Holy Communion Service		
Monday 2 nd			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 3 rd	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 5 th			10am Holy Communion Service
Friday 6 th		9-11.30am Oasis Café 9.30-11am Edward Bear Toddler Group At Orsett Churches Centre	
	12noon World Day of Prayer Service at Wellcome Church, Orsett Churches Centre		
Saturday 7 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		4pm Forest Church
Sunday 8th March <i>3rd Sunday of lent</i>		8.45am CW Holy Communion Service 10am Family Service	
Monday 9 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 10 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
	9pm Holy Communion Service at the Whitecroft		
Thursday 12 th			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 13 th		9-11.30am Oasis Café 9.30-11am Edward Bear Toddler Group At Orsett Churches Centre	
Saturday 14 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Sunday 15th March <i>4th Sunday of lent</i>			8.45am CW Holy Communion Service 10am Holy Communion Service
	4pm Refresh Service		
Monday 16 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 17 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 19 th			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 20 th		9-11.30am Oasis Café 9.30-11am Edward Bear Toddler Group At Orsett Churches Centre	
Saturday 21 st	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Sunday 22nd March <i>5th Sunday of lent</i>	8.45am BCP Holy Communion Service 10am Family Service		
Monday 23 rd	2pm Horndon School Easter Service		Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 24 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments	1.30pm Orsett School Easter Service	9.30am Bulphan School Easter Service
	12noon Holy Communion Service		
Thursday 26 th			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 27 th		9-11.30am Oasis Café 9.30-11am Edward Bear Toddler Group At Orsett Churches Centre	
Saturday 28 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Sunday 29th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>		10am All Together Holy Communion Service	
Monday 30 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 31 st	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday		7.30pm Holy Communion with foot washing	Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 3 rd Good Friday	10am Stations of the Cross 2pm Walk of Witness	No Oasis or Edward Bear	
Saturday 4 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		No forest church
Sunday 5th April Easter Sunday			10am All Together Holy Communion Service

Open Church means that the Church is open for private prayer, refreshments are available at all sessions except Thursdays at Bulphan.



THE PARISH REGISTERS

INTERMENT OF ASHES

30th Jan Peter Hurst (H)

MEMORIAL SERVICE

31st Jan James Reynolds (O)



Wedding Enquiries

If you would like to enquire about booking a wedding at:
Horndon, Orsett or Bulphan churches,
please contact: Lynda Robertson: 07974 803471
l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk



Baptism Enquiries

To arrange a baptism, you will need to attend a Baptism Preparation Meeting, where we will discuss the meaning of Baptism, the responsibilities of parents and Godparents, go through the Baptism service and give you the opportunity to ask questions. At the end of the meeting, we can check the diary, and you will be able to book your Baptism.

Forthcoming Baptism Preparation Dates:

Saturday 14th March	12 noon at	Horndon Church
Monday 13th April	7.30pm at	Orsett Church
Saturday 9th May	CANCELLED	
Monday 8th June	7.30pm at	Orsett Church
Saturday 11th July	12 noon at	Horndon Church
Monday 10th August	7.30pm at	Orsett Church

For more information, please contact:
Christine Mortimer: 01375 641485
c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk

MARCH COVER PICTURE
Church Road, Bulphan
From A128 looking west

The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

EASTER SERVICES 2026



Maundy Thursday - 2nd April

at Orsett Church

7.30pm Holy Communion Service with Foot Washing

Good Friday - 3rd April

at Horndon Church

10am Stations of the Cross

2pm Walk of Witness followed by Hot Cross Buns

Easter Sunday - 5th April

at Bulphan Church

10am All Together Holy Communion Service

Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus in the Church and community

PARISH OF
HORNDON, ORSETT AND BULPHAN

*Please come along and enjoy
a ploughman's lunch
at the Orsett Churches Centre*

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH 12.30PM
LAST SITTING 2PM

Tickets must be booked in advance by
contacting Sandra Billinger: 01375 891040
or talk to a Churchwarden at a service

£10 per adult and £5 per child,
this includes a ploughman's lunch, dessert and a drink

All monies raised are for church funds

Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus in the Church and community

Registered charity number 1199779



The churches in this Parish are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within the church community; especially children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Parish Safeguarding Representative is Janet McCheyne, who can be contacted on:
07752 836902

or
janetmcc101@gmail.com

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on:
01245 294444

or
safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org

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Bulphan Churchwarden's Report

We are now into the 6th month of Interregnum, and we must say thank you to Revd Max and visiting clergy for keeping our Parish services going during this time. One of the interesting aspects is visiting clergy and experiencing how they deliver the Christian message. Recently, at Bulphan we have had Revd Tom Rout, from St Margaret's, Stanford le Hope and Revd David Peterson, of St Clements, West Thurrock.

A recent conversation at St Mary's church. Say a prayer for them, our family is not religious we don't say prayers. You don't have to be religious to say a prayer. I do not see myself as religious, just someone trying to lead a Christian life and trying my best. You cannot say that attending Church does not give you something to think about.

Monday February 2nd (40 days after Christmas) was Candlemas which marks the Presentation of Christ and end of Christmas, so time to remove the nativity and put all the characters away, ready for next year.

We have at last, installed our post box. We now have to remember to open it on a regular basis.

As we leave Christmas and move towards Lent, the progression of the church year is marked by the changes of the colour of the altar frontal from white for Christmas to green and then to purple for Lent. We also turn the pages of the book of remembrance to the latest month.

We are grateful to Alastair and his team from Castledon School who have been coming on a Wednesday and have been carrying out the jobs that need to be done to keep the church looking its best.

During Interregnum it is important that all Church Officers, which includes wardens, keep up to date with all the courses they are required to complete. At present some of the Wardens are coming to the end of their three-year safeguarding Leadership certificate. The Parish is fortunate that we have Janet McCheyne as our safeguarding officer with Lynda Robertson as the deputy. Many parishes are struggling to find people to fill these roles.

The adverse publicity from the press and television whenever a church member is accused of wrongdoing is overwhelming even if that person is not a member of the Church of England. We must take some comfort in the fact that each week thousands and thousands of people volunteer their services in so many ways to ensure that so many churches are open and welcoming. We are all responsible to ensure that everyone and especially children and vulnerable adults are safe within the Church.

God Bless
Frank

ORSETT CHURCHWARDENS REPORT



The period just after Christmas until late February or early March is quite a confusing one as the timelines of Jesus' life conflict.

One week we celebrate Epiphany, which marks the Magi presenting their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby Jesus. The following week we roll forward 30ish years with Jesus being baptised by John the Baptist which marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Then on Candlemas / Feast of the Presentation (Feb 2nd) which was when Mary presented Jesus at the temple as a baby. Then towards the end of February we begin Lent which again rolls forward 30 odd years in Jesus' life. It can seem like a bit of a rollercoaster.

In February we start to see the renewal of life. In Orsett churchyard we see daffodils start to appear, along with cowslips, crocus, trees budding and other wildflowers appearing, all signs that spring and hopefully warmer weather is well and truly on its way. Many of these flowers will be many years old having been planted or occurred naturally and come back each year.

When you read this we will be in the 3rd week of Lent, and we hope many will join us for the Easter services and events around the parish. In Hornchurch over the Easter weekend, they are holding their Passion play around Queen's Theatre. This is a really powerful experience and as it only happens every 3 years, if you are able to attend you won't be disappointed. Unlike many things today it is free to attend.

God Bless

Christine and David Mortimer



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Churchwarden's Report - St. Peter and St. Paul Horndon on the Hill

Once a month, on the 3rd Sunday at 4pm, we hold a relaxed, modern-style service in Horndon, called **REFRESH**. We use the screen for songs and to help guide us through a more interactive time together. There's also a moment to share anything you're thankful for, if you'd like to. We keep things simple with a short talk and some prayer, and it's always warm and very welcoming.

Since the start of the interregnum, Christine has very kindly taken the lead with our monthly services. With her away for a few weeks, I was asked to step in for February. Now, I'm used to leading intercessions or reading a passage, but a whole service? That was new territory. Still, I thought, "How hard can it be? I'll talk about St Valentine, throw in the fun fact that he's also the patron saint of beekeepers, and it'll all come together nicely." Famous last words.

It didn't take long to realise my "interesting" talk was rapidly turning into something between a dictionary entry and a Wikipedia page. Every attempt to lighten it up somehow made it worse. After a month of wrestling with it, I abandoned Plan A entirely. Plan B was far more promising: focus on the bees and less on the saint. At last, things clicked, and I managed to put together a five-minute reflection comparing bees to love — and, amazingly, it actually worked.

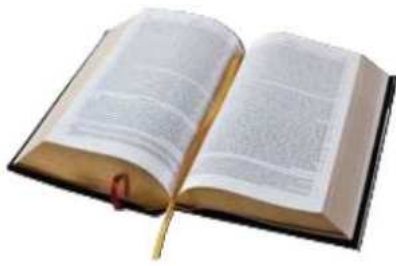
I won't dwell on the worry and stress I went through before the service, or on how well (or not!) it all went on the day. But afterwards, when I was chatting with Max, who was, in true Max fashion, warm, encouraging and full of positivity, I admitted just how nervous I'd been. He simply said, "Oh yes, we all get nervous. Some days worse than others."

It honestly hadn't occurred to me before. I'd never really stopped to think about how the person leading the service might be feeling. Whether they're new to the role, visiting, having an off-day, or simply facing a tough crowd, giving a sermon is, in its own way, a performance.

So, this month, I want to say a big thank you to everyone who prepares and delivers sermons for our parish, week in and week out. To Max, to the churchwardens who've stepped up during the interregnum, and to the visiting clergy who generously give us their time — **thank you, all of you.**

God Bless

Bev Macrae



PRAYER DIARY

Some thoughts to include in your daily prayers

March 1 st	For those living on Welling Road, Orsett
March 2 nd	For those living on Oxford Road, Horndon
March 3 rd	For those living on Orsett Road, Orsett
March 4 th	For our medical practitioners
March 5 th	For those living on Fen Lane, Orsett
March 6 th	For those living in Nigeria on the World Day of Prayer
March 7 th	For those living on Brentwood Road, Bulphan
March 8 th	For those living on Medbree Court, Orsett
March 9 th	For those living on Pump Street, Horndon
March 10 th	For those living on Fordham's Row, Orsett
March 11 th	For those living on Herga Hyll Orsett
March 12 th	For those living on Lower Dunton Road, Bulphan
March 13 th	For those living on Parkers Farm Road, Orsett
March 14 th	For the lonely and childless
March 15 th	For all mothers on Mothering Sunday
March 16 th	For those living on Conway Road, Orsett
March 17 th	For those living on Fen Lane, Bulphan
March 18 th	For those living on Bonham Drive, Orsett
March 19 th	For our Church of England Primary schools in Orsett, Horndon and Bulphan
March 20 th	For our neighbours
March 21 st	For our own prayer lives
March 22 nd	For those living on Heath Road, Orsett Heath
March 23 rd	For those living on Rowley Road, Orsett
March 24 th	For those living on Wingfield Drive, Orsett
March 25 th	For those living on The Parkway, Orsett
March 26 th	For those living on Hillcrest Road, Horndon
March 27 th	For those in hospital
March 28 th	For our Methodist and Congregational brothers & sisters
March 29 th	For Palm Sunday; Christ's entry to Jerusalem
March 30 th	For peace in the world
March 31 st	For members of our congregations who live in Chadwell St Mary

"Thank you, Lord, for our mothers.

We remember today their loving care, and their ceaseless love for us.

May we show them by our gifts, our words and our actions that we love them and care about them too.

Father, we thank you for the family of the Church.

May they know your blessing and strength as they care for others".

Mothering Sunday prayer by Mary Batchelor



Monthly Prayer Group Meeting update - 2026

We are a small, friendly church group that meets on the third Tuesday of each month at The Woolmarket, High Road, Horndon-on-the-Hill, from 8:00pm to 9:00pm. Anyone who attends services in Horndon, Orsett, or Bulphan is warmly invited to join us.

Leadership is shared within the group, and each session reflects the unique style of the person leading. This keeps our time together varied, engaging, and meaningful.

At our January meeting, we reflected on 2025 to help shape our plans for the year ahead. In February, we focused our prayers on the appointment of a new Rector and gave thanks for our church wardens, musicians, helpers, pastoral team, and Max Blake.

Prayer can take many forms—silent reflection, spoken prayer, reading written prayers, creative expression, or inspiration drawn from Scripture, hymns, art, or music. What matters most is that our prayers come from the heart and are offered to God, not to those around us. Some may feel more comfortable praying privately, such as while driving, and that is perfectly valid.

As a resource, we are revisiting material we have previously found helpful:

www.prayercourse.org/session/why-pray/

You may also access it using the QR code provided.



Between April and November, we will be drawing on this resource as we continue to pray for individuals, leaders, global concerns, our communities and ourselves.

The topics include: Why Pray?, Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Unanswered Prayer, Contemplation, Listening, and Spiritual Warfare/Conflict.

We hope this resource supports your prayer life and offers clarity around terms that may be new or unfamiliar.

We look forward to welcoming you to a meeting.

Lisa Anderson



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Bulphan

Community

Café and Post Office



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crisps and biscuits Free Wi-Fi**

Thursdays & Fridays from 1.30 - 4.30pm

- Local councillors Barry and Dave visit regularly
- A social worker visits on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month from 2-4pm for adult care and support drop-in sessions
- Regular visits from the Community Police

'Forget-Me-Not' Coffee morning



**In Horndon Woolmarket
from 10 am – 12 pm**

*We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of
each month for anyone who
would like a cuppa and a chat.
Everyone is welcomed!*

Bring & Buy and Raffle

*All proceeds go to the
Havens Hospices in Essex.
Havens Hospices provide specialist care
and support for people of all ages, and
their families, who are living with
incurable conditions*

**For further details contact
Beverley on 01375 671474**

The Games Café

at

**Horndon on the Hill Village Hall
EVERY FRIDAY EVENING**

7.30pm to 9.30pm



We have 2 Short Mat Bowls
carpets, so up to 12 people can
play in teams of 2 or 3
No previous experience needed



We are all **'have a go'** amateurs
who welcome and encourage all new-comers

£5 per week
Just come along
No need to book



Come alone,
or with
friend/partner

Please text or call Allison for more information
07773 539345



We play cards and board games:
SkyJo, Sequence, Dobble,
Trominoes, Bananagrams and
many others.
Guest games always welcome!

Please note: There is a £10 joining fee payable on your third
visit, to cover set up costs, replacement games and low
attendance weeks. Thank you.



HORNDON-ON-THE-HILL METHODIST CHURCH

4, High Road. Horndon-on-the-Hill
Minister: Reverend Fiona Smith
Senior Steward: Mr Graham Hodgson
<https://www.southessexmethodist.org.uk/>

All are welcome to our services and other activities.

Services March 2026 Sunday 10:30am Worship in the Chapel unless stated otherwise

1 st March	Ms Colleen Weedon	
8 th March	Revd Felicity Al-Hassan	
15 th March	Revd Fiona Smith	Holy Communion
22 nd March	Mrs Suzanne Stubbs	
29 th March	Mrs Maureen McPherson	

Coffee mornings and lunch

All are welcome to our weekly Community Cuppa and Chat in the Methodist Church Hall on Thursdays between 10:00 – 12:00 noon for the coffee morning with drinks, savouries and biscuits and a soup and a roll between 12:00 noon - 13:00.

Lent e mail course

For Lent Maureen McPherson is running an email Lent course called **Walking With Jesus to the Cross**. It's a five-week course with Prayer, scripture, reflection, Benediction and some questions. If you are interested in receiving these please e mail Maureen at mail@south-fields.com

Items for Sale

We are pleased to report that we have now disposed of two large longstanding items that were taking up space in the back room to the Hall. On 12th March villagers may have thought they were watching an episode of *'Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em'* as we formed a go cart using the snooker table as a deck and upturned legs as the superstructure all mounted on removal 'skates'. The team set off down the High Road and safely delivered said item to its new home!



Work is progressing in clearing space in the back room but if anyone is interested in obtaining CDs, books and jigsaws please do get in touch. For further information contact Graham Hodgson graham.hodgson122@btinternet.com on 07775 861322



On Tuesday 17th of February representatives from local Schools, Business and Churches and referral services were invited along to the Thurrock Foodbank to get a behind the scenes look at how their operations work. Myself, Lynda, Jane and Sian attended the event as representatives of The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan.

Upon arrival we were greeted by the staff and volunteers and invited to take a seat for a presentation highlighting who they are, what they do and why they are needed.

Thurrock Foodbank was established in 2012 as an initiative of local churches, after six months of preparation they were ready to open their doors beginning with only three centres . Since 2012 it has grown to ten centres across the borough operating today open Tues-Sat, offering vital support to those facing food crisis. However, we learnt that it is not only food they offer support with, they also offer a safe haven for people to socialise enjoy a warm cup of tea/coffee and advice, working with over 94 referral agencies including the citizens advice bureau, local healthcare providers and many other charities to help and identify those in need.

We were then invited to have a behind the scenes look at their warehouse were they receive and store donations and build the food parcels, not only supplying food but also hygiene supplies for those in need. It was so informative to see it in action, and how the staff and volunteers diligently check all donations, sorting into type and shelf life to ensure all donations are distributed wisely with no waste. It was explained to us that donations are seasonal with a peak in donations around the Christmas period and again at Harvest festival but they see a drop off during Spring and Summer.

The ultimate aim for Thurrock Foodbank is that there is no need for Thurrock Foodbank. But whilst there is a need they will continue with their aim of ensuring no one goes hungry, and will work tirelessly supplying the help needed to our neighbours within the borough of Thurrock.

It really highlighted all the good work they do and the real changes they are making to people who find themselves in a crisis. No one should be worried about where there next meal will come from or how they are going to feed their children but the reality is they are and Thurrock Foodbank is there for them when they need help and support.

We have three food donation points in operation in our Parish

- Horndon: 1, Lion Cottages, High Road
- Orsett: 1 Prince Charles Avenue
- Bulphan: Bulphan Stores

If we all make a small food/hygiene donation when doing our shopping the impact will be far reaching and really make a difference to someone in a time of need.

Finally, I would like to thank the team at Thurrock Food Bank for all they do, they really are making a difference to people's lives.

Sam Pankhurst



WOOLMARKET MUSIC



We had a change of venue for February's meeting and welcomed Harmonie Concert Band at Horndon School. They entertained us with a wide range of arrangements of well known tunes from films, shows, classical pieces, marches and more besides. It was a wonderful evening of playing. Thank you so much to all who came along and we hope it won't be too long before the band visits us again.

We're looking forward to our annual Talent Evening when various locals will show us just what they can do to entertain us. Do come along to see what surprises we have in store.

Coming up

**WOOLMARKET MUSIC
TALENT EVENING
THURSDAY 12TH MARCH
7.30PM**

ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH

Ecology and Social Justice Action Group

Linford Household Waste and Recycling Centre (the tip)

The Household Waste Re-use Centre (HWRC) Reuse Shop

Thurrock Council now has a Re-use Shop — a community space where good-quality, pre-loved items can find new homes instead of ending up in landfill.

The shop, situated in their Linford Household Waste and Recycling Centre, has been created as the council have seen a large amount of good quality items being thrown away at the HWRC. The Re-use Shop helps to avoid items ending up in landfill and improves Thurrock's recycling rates. The shop sells a wide range of pre-loved and new items at low prices.

All income generated by the Re-use Shop will be reinvested into funding council services that benefit the local community.

The Council encourages residents to look to prevent any form of waste but if your waste/items you wish to dispose of are reusable and in good condition, we recommend donating them to charities first, <https://charityretail.org.uk/find-a-shop>, or those in need.

There is also the option to [donate any reuseable items to the council's partner Anglo](#), who offer free doorstep collections for Thurrock residents. These opportunities ensure items are recycled. How you book a collection can be found on Thurrock Council's website.

The Re-Use Shop



Reusable items suitable to be put on sale at the reuse shop at the HWRC.

Any items taken to the HWRC, which are deemed to be reusable by the Site Operatives, may be resold in the Re-use shop. Please let one of the Site Operatives know if you think your item can be reused.

Some examples of items included for sale in the reuse shop are:

- electrical items (all PAT tested)
- books
- bicycles
- toys
- household furnishings

By passing these unwanted items to the shop you are preventing them being sent to landfill, reducing waste and protecting the environment.

Accessing the shop and opening times

The reuse shop is located at the HWRC at [Buckingham Hill Road, Linford, SS17 0PP](#). The shop is only safely accessible via vehicle. At present the shop is open **Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm**. Unlike the HWRC the shop will **not** be open on a weekend.

Buying items at the reuse shop

All items bought at the shop will need to be paid by debt or credit card. Unfortunately, they do not accept cash payments within the shop.



Horndon-on-the-Hill BRIDGE CLUB

In Horndon Village Hall every
Friday from 1.30 - 4.30pm
Admission £2.00 (includes tea/coffee biscuits)
Very friendly atmosphere
Intermediate standard basic ACOL played
For details telephone: Stuart Cameron 01375 673 237

BULPHAN SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB



We are a small, friendly short mat bowls club who meet once a week at Bulphan Village Hall. We are looking for experienced or new players. If you are interested in joining us, you would be made very welcome.

Please feel free to come along and find out more or ring Lesley on 07766 505755

TUESDAY SESSIONS: Tuesday 1.45 - 4.15pm

We have all the equipment for new players to try the game for the first time, and there is always someone who can explain the rules and help you get started.



COMMUNITY RECYCLING

Do you have any unwanted items that you would like to pass on for no charge?

If you do please email or phone
sonia51anne@yahoo.co.uk / 01375 674212

Items must be fit for purpose.

They will be advertised in the HOBNOB for 2 issues.

Please supply a picture and contact details.

Horndon On The Hill Branch

incorporating Stanford, Corringham, Fobbing & Linford

We meet at The Welcome Club
1 Victoria Road, Stanford-le-Hope

Meetings 8.00pm on the last Tuesday each month except in December.

New members welcome, enquiries to the
Chairman stuart.prinn@gmail.com
For all Poppy Appeal supplies contact
aafisher53@yahoo.com





Zion Hall Mission, Bulphan

Church Road, Bulphan

www.zhm100.wix.com/zionhallmission



We enjoy meeting every Sunday evening for worship and are very pleased to see newcomers. We extend a warm welcome to all. The Sunday services for March are:

1 st March	6:30 pm	Rev Max Blake
8 th March	6:30 pm	Peter Crosby
15 th March	6:30 pm	Rev Pholani Ncube
22 nd March	6:30 pm	Lee Woodward
29 th March	6:30 pm	Evening service

75 th Anniversary Year

If you live locally and would like to come along to a service but need transport, or for any other information on our Church or our services please contact the Secretary: Ian Blackburn at the email above or on 07880 235140

This is the fourth in a short series of articles on the history of the Mission between 1938 – 51 explaining the background to our 75th Anniversary which we held last December. In the previous article we saw how membership of and support for the Mission had grown with a successful range of social and fundraising events taking place. Progress though had been slow and with the news that there was little immediate hope of getting a Building Licence members must have been frustrated.

Decline and Revival: A history **Part 4 - 1948 to 1949**

So, what was the system of Building Licences all about? Building Licensing had originally been introduced under the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act 1939 to redirect resources and labour towards the war effort. The regulations also enabled the government to control employment, directing essential workers like carpenters and bricklayers to where they were most needed.

After the War the Government was motivated to keep many Defence Regulations in force to manage post-war reconstruction by subsequent legislation, such as the Emergency Laws (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1947. Drivers behind Building Licensing were social, political and economic.

Construction was focussed on essential projects, such as military infrastructure and housing, rather than other types of development. Many residential properties were destroyed or made uninhabitable, particularly in East London and other big cities. Many of those buildings were subject to very high density occupation and had basic facilities. As the war effort required full focus on infrastructure for the War this took priority over other types of building and by 1945 huge numbers of much better quality houses were urgently required.

Added to this demand lots of marriages that had been delayed during the War finally took place, plus there were hundreds of thousands of couples reunited after the husband had been away which naturally enough led to the "Baby boom" starting from 1946 and the need for more housing still.

1945 brought in the first Socialist government with a clear majority and the Government believed that a planned economy would work better than one directed by market forces. Building Licences were a way of achieving this and an initial ratio of issuing these at 4:1 Public : Private sector was later increased to a ratio of 9:1

Added to this in 1945 the country was in debt. Very heavily in debt. Britain had to pay back the value of all the assistance that had been received during the War under the "Lend-Lease" scheme. This amounted to the equivalent of US\$ 103.1 billion in 2024 terms (Britain finally paid off the last of the loan in 2006). the Lend-Lease debt dominated everything. The slogan was "Export or Die" in other words the need to minimise imports and maximise exports to earn revenues to start paying off the debt. The construction industry suffered in two ways because of this. The construction and fitting out of modern buildings required more than had previously been the case materials that were not home sourced, and in any case much of the rest of the world was building too. This inevitably led, to severe shortages of materials. Secondly the sector does not lend itself to exporting, such as manufacturing, agricultural produce, and coal production. This became a source of resentment among the population that Britain was producing a lot but no-one was allowed to have the products as they were all earmarked for export (we see this at play in many of the World's poorer nation's today).

And as if this weren't enough there was a labour shortage. Many men had died in the War and Britain retained large numbers in the armed forces well after the conclusion of World War II. Also, the logistics of demobilisation took a long time.

So with this background perspective we return from the stage of world politics to our little project in the small village of Bulphan.

Without any drawings to hand it is not clear quite what had been granted planning permission in the Spring of 1948 but as the year progressed the idea of enlarging the premises upon rebuilding was abandoned and attention was turned to making a good case for gaining a Building Licence. This would entail providing information about the 'like for like' nature of the rebuilding, a general case about the need for a Free Church in the area and details of the proposals and a firm cost estimate.

By the AGM September 1948 a meeting had been held with an officer from the War Damage Commission, the Building Fund stood at £208 and offerings were doing very well through this period. Hopes were running high that the new chapel would be built during the following year and in an almost Churchillian speech from the Chairman: Mr Gurnett, he commented, *This (the Village Hall) is not a Church with its billiard table and dart board. Many of us have happy memories of the atmosphere of Zion Hall....We wondered if we should get it back, and it has come back, the same spirit as in the Mission yonder'*

Indeed the spirit of the Mission was running high, but not for the first time the expectation of a new building ran ahead of the reality. In December it was reported that there had been a hold up in the compensation application by the War Damage Commission By March 1949 there was still no further news.

As a side note, in March 1949 it was reported that unauthorised use was being made of the Zion Hall site and it was agreed to erect a notice board and some fencing to secure the site. In some ways 1949 was not so different to today!

By June it was reported that further plans (probably representing a detailed planning application) had been submitted to the council and a tender for the building works had been received from Mr Yates and Messrs Truss.

The following month the building sub committee scrutinized the plans and proposed the provision of a gas connection, and replacement of the stage with a pulpit to accommodate more seating. By the August it was agreed that leaded lights be installed in the windows. A proposal to replace the 'Zion Hall Mission 1910' inscription stone from the original building today provides the red herring to dating the building to the casual observer.



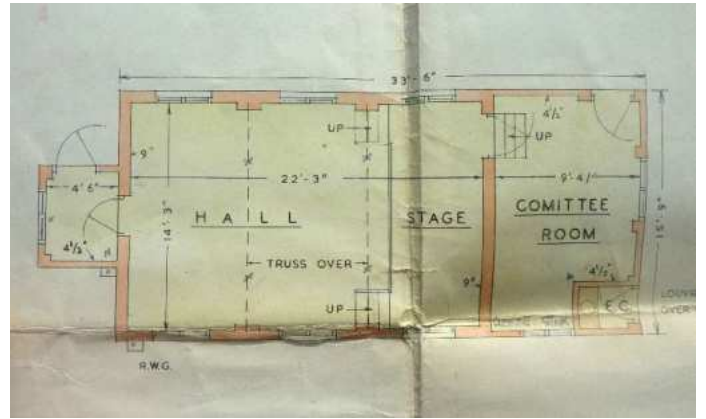
The 'red herring' date on the memorial plaque

Lighting was to be from four gas lamps for the main body of the Hall plus two over the pulpit (electricity was not laid on in Bulphan until 1951/52). In a forward looking move it was agreed to have mains water laid on and install a flush lavatory and cesspool.

The inside of the chapel could have looked quite different as it appears that a ceiling of some kind had been proposed and an offer had been made of 'tip up' cinema seats, but these were rejected as not in to be as good or serviceable. In the event light oak chairs, were agreed upon. Estimated costs for all of the furnishings and improvements came to £251 with the building fund at this time standing at £221 on the basis that costs of the replacement building were directly paid for by the War Damage Commission.

Despite the Summer activity and progress, no news had been received from the War Damage Commission and at the 1949 AGM Mr Gurnett again expressed his frustration with the comment 'We are trying to find the hedge and get over it or through it' but ever resilient in stirring words encouraged the meeting with 'unless we aim high we shall not get anywhere'. The support kept on coming in with St Marys Bulphan making a valuable contribution donating the £14 proceeds from the sale of their harvest gifts.

Finally, the War Damage Commission responded with the news that the tender price was not within their 'ceiling'. 1949 ended like 1946, 1947 and 1948 with there being still no War damage compensation and still no Building Licence to be continued.



An early revision of the plan for the new building notably showing a large raised stage where the pulpit is now sited.

THE PARISH OF HORNDON, ORSETT AND BULPHAN

JOIN US FOR

Easter Antics

EASTER MONDAY - 6TH APRIL, 2025 2PM - 4PM
BULPHAN VILLAGE HALL

- THE EASTER BUNNY WILL BE THERE
- EASTER HUNT FOR UNDER 8'S - £1 PER CHILD
- CHUCK A CHICKEN
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
- RAFFLE
- CAKES AND REFRESHMENTS

See you there!

Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus in the Church and community

W.A.D.E.R.S

JOIN THE WADERS AND
HAVE A SPLASHING TIME

Water Assisted Disabled Exercise & Rehabilitation Scheme
www.waders.org.uk

Exercise in water for people with mobility difficulties
(Supervised by a qualified Aquatic Physiotherapist)

Tuesday:

Laindon Pool
SwimMania, Stannetts,
Laindon North Trading Estate,
Basildon, S15 6DN
7.30pm-8.10pm
8.20pm-9.00pm

Tuesday:

Impulse Leisure Blackshots
Teaching Pool
Grays RM16 2JU
8.00pm – 9.00pm

Friday:

Corringham Leisure Centre
Swimming Pool
Corringham SS17 7NB
11.15am-12.10pm
12.20pm-13.15pm

Please contact a Committee Member before attending your first session
so you know what to expect.

Sharon: 07792 827638 for Laindon
Kay-Anne: 07899 745020 for Corringham
Dawn: 01375 461885 for Blackshots
Email: ask-waders@hotmail.com



The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

Edward Bear Toddler Group

Edward Bear welcomes his little friends and
their accompanying adults in the
Orsett Churches' Centre Chapel

There is no charge for this Toddler Group

Every Friday during term time
9.30 am – 11.00 am

For further details
please contact:
KAREN COLLIER
on:
01375 370441



*In the
Orsett Churches' Centre*

Every Friday during term time
9.00-11.30am

Everyone is welcome

*The perfect place to go after
the school run!*

The dates of Edward Bear and Oasis Cafe are on our website www.hobnob.org.uk, on the 'What's on' page

Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus in the Church and community

FOREST CHURCH

Hoorah it wasn't raining for the February Forest Church. Unfortunately, Kelly who was due to lead us, was stricken with flu, so plan B was enacted. We welcomed Jan Blakey from The Wellcome Church, based in Orsett Churches Centre, who will be joining us as part of her Christian studies course.

We gathered with the theme of St Valentine. We learned that Valentine was priest in 3rd century Rome and at that time Emperor Claudius II had banned marriages as he thought single men made better soldiers. However, Valentine took it upon himself to arrange and perform marriages in secret so couples could still celebrate their love. Unfortunately, the Emperor found out and imprisoned Valentine, sentencing him to death for his crime. One account suggests that, whilst imprisoned, Valentine fell in love with his jailer's daughter and on the day of his execution (February 14th 270) he sent her a love letter signed 'from your Valentine.'

As The Troggs song says, Love Is All Around – and, less romantically, so are the remains of St Valentine. St. Valentine, the patron saint of love, was executed in 3rd century Rome and buried there. However, in 1835 an Irish priest, Father John Spratt, convinced Pope Gregory XVI to dig up St. Valentine's remains and take them home as a gift to his fellow Irishmen and women. So, his remains now lie under Whitefriar Church in Dublin. Except ... it's also thought that a flower-crowned skull exhibited in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Rome, is that of St Valentine. But it doesn't end there. It is thought that some of St Valentine's remains are in Glasgow, Scotland in the church of the Blessed John Duns Scotus as well.

Valentine's Day is said to have originated from a Roman Festival known as Lupercalia, with the first Valentine's Day thought to have taken place in the year 496. It was held on February 15th at a festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman God of agriculture. It's believed that as part of the celebrations, boys drew names of girls from a box. Interestingly, they would be boyfriend and girlfriend during the festival and sometimes these matches would lead to marriage. Later, the church wanted to turn this festival into a Christian celebration and decided to use it to remember St Valentine too. Lupercalia continued for some time but was outlawed at the end of the 5th century when Pope Gelasius declared February 14th as St Valentine's Day.

Other associations

St Valentine like many saints is associated with different people and groups and one of the groups St Valentine is associated with is beekeepers. So, planting flowers and plants that attract bees and other insects is a good way to recognise St Valentine. With this in mind we planted pots with wildflower seeds and seed bombs, with the plan, when they have established growth, to plant them to help establish more wildflowers in the wildflower area we have in Orsett Churchyard.



**The next Forest Church is at 4pm on
Saturday 7th March at
St Mary's, Bulphan**

**Remember we hold Forest Church regardless of the weather,
so please come dressed appropriately**

MOTHERS' UNION

Chelmsford Diocese Mothers' Union (CDMU):



During February, our Diocesan President Maxine said midday prayers at Greensted Church as part of her sponsored 150th Midday Prayer Challenge. Did you know that Greensted Church is the world's oldest wooden church? She has lots more places on her list including Chelmsford Cathedral tower on Ascension Day, and Southend Pier!

Don't forget to buy your tickets for our Anniversary Challenge Tea Party on 22 August at the Chapter House (near Chelmsford Cathedral). There are 3 timeslots (10.30-12, 12.30-2 and 2.30-4pm). Tickets are £10 per adult and £5 per child and numbers for each session are limited. Please let me know if you would like to tickets.

Did you know that MU prayers are said at midday, each day, on Facebook? www.facebook.com/MothersUnion I will be leading live from the Mary Sumner House chapel on Tuesday 10 March.

Mothing Sunday – 15 March 2026



Rather than buying chocolates and flowers, have you thought about buying an ethical gift? Or encouraging those who might be buying you something to buy an ethical gift? Mothers' Union have gifts of belonging to support mothers, families and communities overseas and in Britain and Ireland. www.makeamothersday.org

Celebrating 150 years of Mothers' Union



The final tickets have been released for the 150th Celebratory Service on 10 June 2026 at St Paul's Cathedral with the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the Annual Gathering on 11 June 2026 at The Emmanuel Centre (next to Mary Sumner House, London)! They are both going to be wonderful occasions! Tickets are available online: <https://www.mothersunion.org/event/150/>

Prayer Diary 2026: March



The theme for March in our 2026 Prayer Diary is 'Global invitation to prayer and action': A choir sang, 'Come, let us sing unto the Lord!' (Psalm 95) A child heard the call, 'Yes! I wanted to join that chorus of praise.' Today, a bud swells on the 'dead' branch of winter, vibrant green, bursting with new life, stirring hope of new beginnings. I ponder the source of God's call, how it grows from Scripture, in worship, an attractive life of faith transforming lives, or the wonder of creation. Joining our global community of sisters and brothers in Mothers' Union, the World Day of Prayer, and the United Nations mission, let us be open to receive God's call anew, to

widen our vision in prayer and action.

Monthly Prayer: *Called by God to be a global family of prayer, action, and service, may God bless us with: I hands to comfort I a holy anger at oppression seeking justice I a restless discomfort with easy answers, so that we can seek the truth boldly I enough foolishness to believe that we really can make a difference in this world. So, we are called, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.*

Creative Prayer: If you have a globe or a map, use this and praise God for His wondrous creation. Imagine hands and feet reaching out across the whole world, joining each of us with one another, sisters and brothers in Christ, working together for His praise and glory. Leave a picture of the world where you can see it each day to remind you to pray throughout the month for the work of Mothers' Union around the world.

Lucy Bubb, Mothers' Union contact

Save Bees & Pollinators

Get ready for summer

Bees and other pollinators are small but essential parts of God's creation. They help plants grow, support our food supply, bring beauty to our gardens and they form parts of many food webs, being eaten by many animals. Yet many species are declining due to habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change. As a community, we can play a meaningful role in protecting them.



TO SAVE
THE BEE,
OR NOT
TO BE.

Why They Matter?

Pollinators help one-third of the food we eat to develop and grow. Without them, many fruits, vegetables and wildflowers would disappear. Caring for them is part of our calling to steward God's creation.

How We Can Help?

As we are now coming, hopefully, into warmer spring weather, we can think about planting flowers and plants. If you are, consider plants with nectar-rich flowers like lavender, heather, and sunflowers. An interesting thing to try is sowing some wildflower seeds into pots. Packets of these seeds can be found in many shops. Sowing them in pots gives a better chance of them of growing, than scattering them directly onto the ground. If have seed bombs prepare ground, removing grasses and other things that can prevent seeds growing. When they are flowering, they will attract pollinators to wherever they placed; on the windowsill or transplanted into the garden. When looking at which plants to grow, try to find ones which flower into the autumn, early winter and early spring.

Try to leave a small patch of garden to grow wild for shelter, with a shallow dish with pebbles, for water. Avoid harmful pesticides, however if you have a typical garden with different flowers and plants and the usual garden debris, it is likely to attract natural pesticides, in the form of predators.

Establishing a wildflower garden is not straightforward and could take a couple of years to meet expectations.

If you are looking to populate your garden/wildlife area, please read this [Law on Picking Wild Flowers](#).

These are links to information about pollinators and wildflowers

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/insect-pollination.html>

<https://cdn.buglife.org.uk/2019/07/Pollinator-identification-chart.pdf>

[A simple guide to the wildflowers of Britain | Country Life](#)

Ecology and Social Justice Action Group

Horndon on the Hill Village Hall

A request from Horndon on the Hill Village Hall

We're looking for tough, shade-loving plants to brighten a dry area at Horndon on the Hill Village Hall.

If you're dividing or thinning your garden, we'd be grateful for any spare ajuga, periwinkle, sweet woodruff, hardy geraniums, ferns, lamium, heuchera, hardy cyclamen, snowdrops (in the green), bluebells or wood anemones. Please message if you can help - I'm happy to collect.

Please email Nell at: vicechairpersonhothvhc@gmail.com

Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

Spring book fayre

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH, 10AM TO 12 NOON
ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, HORNDON ON THE HILL

Thank you but
NO more
donations of
books are wanted
for this event



Refreshments available while you browse
including home-made cakes and our
delicious bacon rolls.
Raffle



All proceeds to Parish funds



Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus in the Church and community

Registered charity number: 1199779



COMMUNITY INFORMATION FOR HORNDON - ORSETT - BULPHAN

POLICE at Grays **101 or 999**

Community Officer: PC Javier Rodriguez-Perez
email: thurrockcommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk

DOCTORS

Horndon on the Hill		01375 642362
Orsett & Bulphan	Orsett Surgery	01375 892082
Bulphan	West Horndon Surgery	01708 852318
	Ockendon Surgery	01277 811770

FORUMS

Horndon on the Hill	Horndonchair@thurrockforums.org
Orsett	apeaford@icloud.com
Bulphan	Bulphaninfo@thurrockforums.org

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Mr David Day	david.day@thurrock.gov.uk	07355 924361
Mr Barry Johnson	BJohnson@thurrock.gov.uk	07831 609714

LOCAL MP

Mr James McMurdock	james.mcmurdock.mp@parliament.uk
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA	

SCHOOLS

Horndon C of E Primary	Headteacher: Mrs D Bradley	01375 673260
Orsett C of E Primary	Head of school: Mr J Dickson	01375 891383
Bulphan C of E Academy	Head of school: Mr J Dickson	01375 891220

Advertising in the HOBNOB

Policy

If you would like advertise in the HOBNOB, we offer space to businesses, contractors and organisations within a 15 mile radius of the parish, excluding the area South of the Thames. It is expected that advertisers uphold ethical working practices and in sympathy with the ethos of the church. Ultimately the decision on placing adverts rests with the PCC.

Please send details of your request to advertise to magazine@hobnob.org.uk



Our annual advertising rates are £50 for a quarter page and £75 for a half page. If the advert is placed part way through the year a pro rata invoice will be issued.

SERVING FAMILIES IN AND AROUND ORSETT

YOUR FUNERAL WISHES

our local experts



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Memorials
Unattended Funerals

W HOWARD & SON FUNERAL DIRECTORS

32 High Road, Orsett,
Essex RM16 3HB
01375 891238

We're here for you anytime.
Whatever your wishes or budget,
we can provide a funeral to suit you.



dignityfunerals.co.uk/local

Proud to be a Dignity Funeral Director, providing exceptional services to families across the UK.



Hilltop Foot Health

Professional foot care services

Do you need help with:

- Nail trimming
- Fungal nails
- Thickened nails
- Cracked Heels
- Athletes Foot
- Ingrowing nails
- Corns
- Callus
- Verrucas

To book your foot health appointment, call:

Hazel: 07885 504476 - Brenda: 07950 728920

Treatments in the comfort
of your own home
or in our clinic in
Horndon on the Hill



Hazel Fay S.A.C Dip. FHP
Brenda Martin S.A.C Dip. FHP



Bulphan Village Hall, Church Road RM14 3RU

With a wide variety of groceries, fresh vegetables, fresh meat, fresh-baked bread, off licence, greetings cards and all household essentials, you can also make bill payments for water, electricity and gas with key and card top ups, replacement gas/electricity keys and cards, mobile phone top ups, the Health Lottery and National Lottery and a hot drinks machine.

LOTS OF FREE PARKING

Stamps are always available for sale at the till and there are main Post Office services at the Village Hall (next door) on Thursday and Friday afternoons, 1.30 - 4.30pm

IT'S ONLY A LITTLE SHOP, BUT IT CERTAINLY OFFERS A LOT

The Tichborne Dole

The Tichborne Dole is tradition which dates to the 13th century. It takes place in the village of Tichborne near Alresford in Hampshire every year on March 25th, the Feast of the Annunciation (Lady's Day).

Over eight hundred years ago, there lived a kind and generous woman called Lady Maybela. It was custom in those days that if the woman had a lot of money, it all belonged to her husband from the day of their marriage. So, although Lady Maybela had been very rich, she had to ask her husband, Sir Roger de Tichborne, for anything she wanted.

Sir Roger wasn't the nicest of people, as such Lady Maybela had to beg for everything she needed. Most of things she had she gave to the poor.

When she was very ill and dying, she asked her husband if he would still be kind to the poor people after she was dead. She wanted him to give bread to the poor once a year. Sir Roger wasn't very happy about this, for he would have to give up some of the flour that he made from the wheat he grew, and he didn't like to give anything away for nothing!

Remembering that Lady Maybela was very ill, Sir Roger took a burning log from the fire. He told his wife that however much of his land she could get round before the flames from the log went out, he would set aside for the growing of wheat, and this wheat would be made into flour for the poor.

Lady Maybela called her maids, and they lifted her from her bed into the grounds outside. March is a very windy month, but as Sir Roger carried the burning log outside to watch Lady Maybela, the winds dropped and the flames from the log burned brightly with an unflickering flame. Lady Maybela tried to stand up but she was too weak, so she began to crawl on her hands and knees. As she disappeared in the distance, the servants held their breath and watched the flames on the log. Sir Roger was getting angrier as he saw how far his wife was crawling; he thought he had set her an impossible task. He saw Lady Maybela turn and start to cross across the land, then, still crawling, she turned again, this time to crawl down back to the house. All the time the flame burned brightly.

As Lady Maybela was nearing the house, the log was nearly all burned out, and when at last she reached where she had started, the flame suddenly went out. She had crawled over an area of 23 acres! These same 23 acres are still known as the 'Crawls'.

Before Lady Maybela died she made Sir Roger promise to give all the flour grown on the 'Crawls' to the poor every 25th March, and just to make sure he kept his promise, she put a curse on the Tichborne family and house. The curse said that anyone in the family not giving flour to the poor on 25th March would find that their house would collapse, their money would be lost, and seven sons would be born followed by seven daughters and the name Tichborne would die out.

Flour was given every year until 1796, when Sir Henry Tichborne gave money to the church instead of flour to the poor. He had seven sons, his eldest son had seven daughters and half the family 'fell down', so a very worried son of Sir Henry, a Sir Edward Doughty-Tichborne, started up the custom again and carries on today.

'Doles' of money or goods for the area's poor were popular among the well off for centuries. Among the things given were bread, coal and blankets. Many still exist today on the same basis or financial support from the invested benefaction(s), still realising returns. Many of the latter exist today as local charities with money given to those in need. Although with our modern benefits system, the need isn't as great as it was.



Let's Talk

Let's talk. We'll be here to listen to your community concerns, provide crime prevention advice and talk about what matters to you when it comes to policing in your communities. Need a confidential chat? We'll be here for that too - just ask.

Location:

Oasis café, Orsett church centre,
High Road, RM163ER

Date & Time:

Friday 27th March 2026
10:00-11:00 hours



Find out how Essex Police is making a difference in your area online at: essex.police.uk/yourarea



Bulphan in Bloom is run by volunteers, who live in Bulphan, and our aim is 'working together as a community, involving all age groups, and endeavouring to make Bulphan a more attractive village, not only for its residents but also for visitors'.

We are a very friendly group of people and would be delighted to welcome new helpers. We meet once a month normally on a Sunday and lunch is provided. You don't need to be an experienced gardener, as a volunteer you would complete lots of different activities: planting, mowing, litter picking, painting, watering, maintaining the Churchyard and Village Hall flowerbeds, fundraising and of course socialising!

Our next clear up day is on Sunday 22nd March,
we will be meeting at 9.30am at St Mary's Church.

Please come along and have a laugh and make your village look good too.



Bulphan WI

Just before Christmas, lots of members made a fused glass decorative item. The picture shows some of us proudly showing our 'makes'.



At our meeting in February, we heard some things about British Sign Language from Lindsay Barrell. We were amazed to find out that there are different versions depending on the country someone lives in, over 300 across the world in all. Signing can help to make a person with hearing loss feel more comfortable and accepted, and



Lindsey explained that BSL is not normally taught in mainstream schools although children with hearing loss are often taught in such schools. Lindsey is a BSL tutor on the WI learning platform VIA, which is available to anyone, so have a look if you want to learn how to sign.

At the end of our meeting, President Janet gave Linda Crosby, who has been our Treasurer for around 2 years, a gift and a card to thank her for her time juggling our finances and for being a committee member.

At our next meeting on Wednesday 11th March, our programme secretary has arranged a session called 'the mature driver'. Visitors are most welcome and the meeting starts at 7.30pm.

Lesley Crisp

Secretary Bulphan WI.



Horndon on the Hill Church of England Primary School

We are all part of God's family. Through trying our best in all that we do, we find a sense of belonging.
1 Corinthians 12:27 'All of you together are Christ's body and each of you is a part of it'.

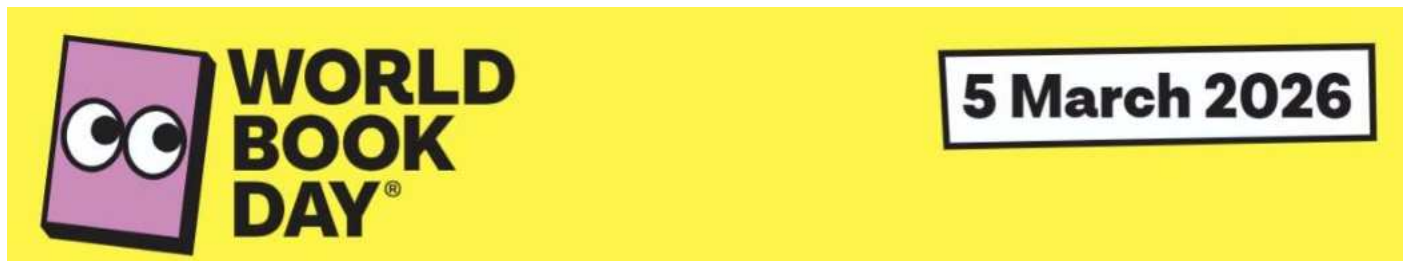
Dear All,

We are halfway through the academic year already, where has the time gone? The second half of the year is always a busy time for the school. We have school trips to arrange, SATs to revise for, Easter services to attend and a production to rehearse.



The end of this half term we have said farewell to Chris, our school cook, who has been a dedicated part of our community for the past 30 years. We wish her every happiness in her well-deserved retirement.

A great time was had by all on Number Day. The children looked amazing in their number based outfits and did some lovely twirls to show them off in our celebration assembly. The year 6 children led lots of fun activities in each class as well as taking part in the TTRockstars competition.

WORLD BOOK DAY®

5 March 2026

Following the success of our previous design a hat competition, this year the children are invited to celebrate World Book Day by designing a mask based on a book character of their choice. We will be sending a paper plate home with every child which they can use to create their masterpiece on. The children can adapt this or use their own resources. The winners of the Character Mask Competition will receive a £5 book voucher to spend at the schoolbook fair. We cannot wait to see all the wonderful ideas. Look out for the next Hobnob where the winners will be shown.

Kind regards

Headteacher



Horndon-on-the-Hill C. of E. Primary School is a proud partner in the Osborne Co-operative Academy Trust

Telephone 01375 648966 Email info@osborne.coop Website osborne.coop

Registered office St Clare's School, Butts Lane Stanford-le-Hope, Essex. SS17 0NW Registered at Companies House, Cardiff, Company Number 7703865

March

Happy Mothering
Sunday



Woolmarket Ladies

Our February meeting was our annual Burns Night supper. Many thanks to the members who volunteered to supply and cook elements for our feast, including swede, potatoes, soup, rolls and delicious trifles, and to those who helped prepare for the evening and who washed up and cleared away. Poems were read, songs were sung, stories were told and toasts were made. I think Robbie Burns would have been impressed with his celebration.

Our March meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd at 8pm in the Woolmarket and we are delighted that we will have a chocolate company (Temprd) joining us for a talk and hopefully a few tasty treats. You will be able to purchase bars of their chunky chocolate as well.

Guests and new members are always welcome. See you there ladies.

Gill

Book of Remembrance

Orsett and Bulphan Churches

To request an entry for a deceased loved one, please contact Lynda Robertson at l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk.

Entries are processed by a professional calligraphy firm, and the cost per line is £7.88. There are other associated costs and Lynda can outline those when you contact her.

Horndon Church

To request an entry for a deceased loved one, please contact Sonia Ward at sonia51anne@yahoo.co.uk

Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus in the Church and community

The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan



DONATE
YOUR OLD
OR FOREIGN
COINS &
BANKNOTES
TO HELP

- ✓ All foreign coins & banknotes
- ✓ Current UK coins and banknotes
- ✓ Any old British & Irish money
- ✓ Even obsolete currency!

Small text at the bottom: Currency services supplied by  cash4coins

Please help raise funds for our churches

Thank you to everyone who has already donated coins or notes.

Since August 2021 we have raised, for church funds

£2,210.57

Please ask friends, family and work colleagues if they have any unwanted coins or notes.

Donations can be taken to one of our churches or you can email Lynda at l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk and she can arrange collection.

Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus in the Church and community

Registered charity number: 1199779

Would you consider donating to support the work of the Parish and help us maintain our three churches?

The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan is registered with the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) which allows you to give to this Parish securely and safely online.

- Give monthly, quarterly or annually by Direct Debit
- Give One-Off amounts by Credit/Debit cards and Apple/Google pay wallets
- You have the option to sign up to inflation-linked giving annually
- If you pay tax you can enhance your gift by having Gift Aid at 25% added to your giving
- You may give securely and donate anonymously, if you prefer

You can set up Parish Giving in three different ways

- set up your Direct Debit online, www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/parish-horndon-orsett-bulphan-essex/
- Fill in a gift form at church
- Or call PGS on 0333 002 1271 and they will take you through it, step by step.

You will need the following information to hand:

- Parish code = 080608339
- Your personal bank account details
- You will need to confirm if you want to increase your gift in line with inflation each year
- Confirm if you are a UK taxpayer and therefore eligible for gift aid

Should you have any questions or need help please contact Lynda Robertson by email: l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk or by phone on 07974 803471



The Foxhound
ORSETT



FAMILY RUN PUB IN ORSETT

LARGE BEER GARDEN & PLAYGROUND

FOOD SERVED TUESDAY - SUNDAY

INTERACTIVE DARTS

LIVE SPORTS

LIVE MUSIC

FUNCTION HALL HIRE

DOG FRIENDLY

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