



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

APRIL 2026

The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

EASTER SERVICES 2026



Maundy Thursday - 2nd April

at Orsett Church

**8pm 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

11.30am All Together Holy Communion Service

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

SERVICES – April 2026

	HORNDON	ORSETT	BULPHAN
Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday		8.00pm 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			11.30am All Together Holy Communion Service
Monday 6 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 7 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 9 th			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 10 th		School holiday-no Edward Bear or Oasis	
Saturday 11 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Sunday 12th April <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>	8.45am BCP Holy Communion Service 10am Family Service		
Monday 13 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 14 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments	9pm Holy Communion Service at the Whitecroft	
Thursday 16 th			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 17 th		9-11.30am Oasis Café 9.30-11am Edward Bear Toddler Group At Orsett Churches Centre	
Saturday 18 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Sunday 19th April <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>		8.45am CW Holy Communion Service 10am Holy Communion Service	
Monday 20 th	4pm Refresh Service		Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 21 st	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 23 rd			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 24 th		9-11.30am Oasis Café 9.30-11am Edward Bear Toddler Group At Orsett Churches Centre	
Saturday 25 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Sunday 26th April <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>			8.45am CW Holy Communion Service 10am Family Service
Monday 27 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 28 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 30 th	12noon Holy Communion Service		Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 1st May		9-11.30am Oasis Café 9.30-11am Edward Bear Toddler Group At Orsett Churches Centre	
Saturday 2 nd	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments	4pm Forest Church	
Sunday 3rd May <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>	10am All Together Holy Communion Service		
Monday 4 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 5 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 7 th			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 8 th		9-11.30am Oasis Café 9.30-11am Edward Bear Toddler Group At Orsett Churches Centre	
Saturday 9 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		

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



THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERAL

4th Mar

Kathleen Gaines

(H)



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:

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
Saturday 13th September	7.30pm at	Horndon Church

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

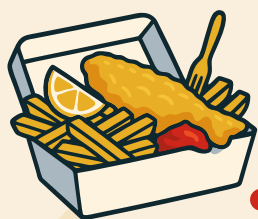
APRIL COVER PICTURE
Methodist Chapel, High Road,
Horndon on the Hill

The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

CHIPPY TEA

Saturday 18th April, 6pm at
at the Orsett Churches Centre,
High Road, Orsett , RM16 3ER.

Come along and enjoy a meal and
traditional games for £10.



Meal options are:

- Fish and chips
- Chicken nuggets and chips
- Vegetarian Burger and chips



Tickets must be ordered and
paid for by **Wednesday 15th April**
and meal choice must be chosen in advance.

Please order tickets by ringing

- Lynda Robertson 07974 803471

or

- Christine Mortimer 01375 641485

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

Registered charity number: 1199779



Abbeyfield
Basildon

Providing
Homes for Seniors
Living in our
Family Houses

- ◆ Competent Highly Trained Staff ◆ Home Cooking
- ◆ Privacy ◆ Support ◆ Security
- ◆ 24 hour cover ◆ Carers by arrangement
- ◆ Doctor and Medical Centre close by
- ◆ Public Transport by your door
- ◆ Living where your choice matters

For a brochure or more information contact

Abbeyfield The Octagon

41 Bridge Street, Noak Bridge,
Basildon
SS15 4AY

Tel: 01268 530414

Email:karen@abbeyfieldbasildon.com

Abbeyfield Timberlog

200 Timberlog Lane,
Basildon,
SS14 1PG

Tel: 01268 550880

Email:teresa@abbeyfieldbasildon.com

Website: www.abbeyfield.com ◆ Visit Our Houses

chelmsfordplumbingandheating.co.uk | sales@chelmsfordplumbingandheating.co.uk



01245 478588

**A trustworthy family run business
specialising in Gas, Oil, LPG, Electrical,
Plumbing, Air-con and Renewables.**

**Boiler Installs, Servicing &
Repairs**

New Heating Systems

Plumbing Repairs

Electrical Services

Air-con & Renewables

- ✓ All calls are answered personally
- ✓ Confirmed bookings given
- ✓ No job too small!
- ✓ Work covered by 12-month guarantee





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

CHURCH OFFICERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

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

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

St Giles & All Saints Orsett

Churchwardens	Christine Mortimer	c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk	01375 641485
	David Mortimer	d.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk	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	Alastairmacrae51@gmail.com	01375 673327
	Frank Woollard	f.woollard@hobnob.org.uk	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



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



Horndon on the Hill
Churchwardens
Events and Musings

Hello friends

Isn't it lovely to see all the spring flowers and trees springing into life, whatever the weather it's like the colours of the spring flowers brighten up the most dreary of days.

Thank you for all who supported the book fair in church. We raised an amazing £355.15. Thank you, Robin, for all your hard work in collating all the books.

Our next fundraising event is on Tuesday 21st April at 12.15 when we will welcome DAVID VAN DAY and his wife SUE MOXLEY to entertain us. This is a free concert with a sandwich lunch. Contributions to Church funds will be much appreciated. David Van Day has had many hit songs so do come and support this event.

On Saturday May 9th at 12.00 we welcome Matthew McCombie to give us a recital on the church organ. The entrance fee will be £10 on the door to include a sandwich lunch. This was very popular last year, so come early for a good seat.

A question I keep getting asked is when will we be getting our new Rector.? Well, I can say the advert is going in the Church Times and on the Chelmsford Web Site in the next few weeks. So nearly there. Do keep the church in your prayers at this time of change.

God Bless

Sonia Ward



Bulphan Churchwarden's Report

Boots on the ground; Ships floating at the bottom of the sea; Tomahawk missile attack; Shahad drone swarms; War going beautifully well; We will seek vengeance. Some of the headlines we have heard since the war commenced in Iran.

Sadly, again The Middle East is at war, and The Holy City is under threat. Israel, the former Palestine, is not new to conflict.

At the time that Jesus Christ carried out his ministry there, over 2000 years ago, the land was under Roman occupation. During the last two millennia there have been many wars, and there were The Crusades, and then about 500 years ago The Ottoman Empire gained control and ruled until the end of The First World War. The British then had a mandate until 1948. There have been further outbreaks of fighting since that time and Israel has increased its control of the area in each of these latter wars.

The worlds three major religions see Jerusalem as a special Holy City and somehow, we must pray that they can reach a peaceful solution.

I have been fortunate to visit Israel, it's a beautiful Mediterranean country, though I doubt if a visit in the future is a possibility.

St Mary's Church Bulphan continues to function. Alastair and I are working together mainly ticking off all the little jobs that occur. I did get a nod from Ron regarding the Easter candle. I must admit I never gave it much thought; it stands at the rear of The Church, is used to light baptismal candles. There is so much more to The Easter, or Pascal candle, Pascal from Hebrew, Pesach (Passover), signifying Christs victory over death. The candle is highly decorated in some churches, it does have a transfer on it which shows the cross, the date, the Alpha and Omega symbols and five incense grains representing the wounds of Christ. Some churches who have an Easter vigil on Holy Saturday bring the lighted candle into the church, this symbolic ritual represents Christ entering a world darkened by sin and death, bringing the light of the resurrection.

The good news is that St Marys Church Bulphan will celebrate The Easter Service on Easter Sunday, and we will light the candle at this service.

The parish is in interregnum, and it is important that the wardens are up to date with all the statutory courses. As my Safeguarding certificate expired, I was one of the first to attend The Leadership Safeguarding Training course, quite a lot of work. Safeguarding is one of the top priorities of The Church, it's very important that whoever attends a Church should feel and be safe and we all have to take responsibility for this.

We are veery fortunate that in The Parish we have an excellent team of people who ensure that we are carrying out our policies correctly these include, Safeguarding Janet, Administration Lynda, Treasurer Lynn and we have action groups that cover all other aspects . We should not take these people for granted many parishes are struggling to fill these posts.

God Bless
Frank

ORSETT CHURCHWARDENS REPORT



As many of you will know I have been away for nearly a month visiting family in Thailand. It was a long awaited visit and I was ready for the change in diet and increase in heat and humidity. What I wasn't expecting was to make a new Christian friend.

Unbeknown to me, my son's next door neighbour, Mon, and her family are committed Christians and go to church every Sunday. I was naturally curious to see if their worship was the same as ours, so off to church I went.

It's always a bit daunting entering a different church for the first time but even more so when you



only know one other person and can't speak or understand the language. The church itself is within a Christian nursery school and both have only one core value – LOVE. The nursery has an enormous painted playground which any boisterous or noisy children can use during the service. My granddaughter accompanied my son and I but was so taken by what she saw that she never even made it into the church!

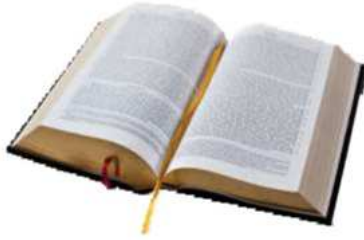
Apart from the language, the first difference was having to remove your shoes before entering the church. They had embraced technology with the entire service shown on a screen and a QR code appeared when the collection was being taken. The service was very much a community event with 8 people contributing to the leadership and a music group of 6 young people. All of the same elements were included in the service, but the bible reading was read aloud by the entire congregation and Communion was a little different - everyone collected their wafer and small vial of wine and returned to their seats. The pastor then blessed the wafers & wine and everybody ate and drank together. The only part of the service which I could participate in was the Creed, which miraculously appeared on the screen in both Thai and English. But there was a time of thanksgiving, during which I spoke of how glad I was to be in church, which Mon very kindly translated for me.

At the end of the service everyone went into the school canteen and shared a meal which had been prepared by members of the church congregation.

Despite not being able to understand what was being said and the service being just over 2 hours long, I can honestly say it was the most spiritual and uplifting service I have ever attended. So, if you ever get the opportunity to attend a church in another country, go for it, you never know what you might find.

God Bless

Christine Mortimer



PRAYER DIARY

Some thoughts to include in your daily prayers

April 1 st	For those living in Hew Watt Close, Orsett
April 2 nd	For the bereaved
April 3 rd	For those living in Lodysons Close, Orsett
April 4 th	For neighbours we do not yet know
April 5 th	For our Bellringers
April 6 th	For those who will die this month
April 7 th	For the communities in Palestine
April 8 th	For those living in Daltons Shaw, Orsett
April 9 th	For Christians around the world
April 10 th	For those preparing for marriage
April 11 th	For Whitecroft, those who live and work there
April 12 th	For the work of all retired clergy
April 13 th	For Clergy serving the Parish
April 14 th	For those living in Victoria Road, Bulphan
April 15 th	For those living in Kirkham Road, Horndon
April 16 th	For the Christian Church in its many denominations
April 17 th	For those living in Bloomfield Walk, Orsett
April 18 th	For Pleshey and all retreat houses throughout the land
April 19 th	For those living in Shelford Close, Orsett
April 20 th	For those living in York Road, Horndon
April 21 st	For all those affected by conflict
April 22 nd	For those living in Cassell Close, Orsett
April 23 rd	For St George, the patron of England
April 24 th	For those struggling with great transitions
April 25 th	For His Majesty's Forces serving overseas
April 26 th	For those living in Church Close, Horndon
April 27 th	For those living in Brentwood Road, Orsett
April 28 th	For the Orsett Churches' Centre
April 29 th	For the work of the Diocese in Europe
April 30 th	For the homeless and hungry

*Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others and
walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God, the Father*

Church Electoral Roll

The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan maintains an Electoral Roll, which is revised each year before the Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM). During this period, anyone who is not currently on the Roll and wishes to join may complete an application form either online, www.hobnob.org.uk/joinroll/ or using a paper copy available in all three churches. Completed paper forms should be given to a churchwarden who will return them to our Electoral Roll Officer, Lynda Robertson.

Why join the Electoral Roll?

Being on the Electoral Roll entitles you to vote at the APCM and to be consulted occasionally on major parish matters. All sidespeople and PCC representatives must be listed on the Roll.

Who is eligible to join?

You may apply if:

- you are baptised,
- you are aged 16 or over, and
- either live within the Parish or have habitually attended worship here for at least six months if you live outside the Parish.

Already on the Roll?

If your details have not changed, you do not need to take any action this year. If you have moved or changed your name, please let us know so we can update your record.

This year our APCM is being held on Sunday 26th April at St Mary's Church, Bulphan and will start after the 10am service. All applications to join the Electoral Roll must be submitted by Saturday 11th April.

The current Electoral Roll is on display at each church.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Lynda, Email l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk or phone 07974 803471.



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 April 2026

Friday 3rd April

Good Friday

5:00pm Afternoon Tea Methodist Hall *

6:30pm Service

Chapel

Preacher Mrs Anna Williams

*Please let Graham know if you plan to come:

graham.hodgson122@btinternet.com 07775 8613222



Sunday 5th April

Easter Sunday Holy Communion

10:30am

Chapel

Preacher Revd Fiona Smith

Sunday 12th April

10:30 am

Chapel

Preacher Revd Brenda Gutberlet

Sunday 19th April

10:30 am

Chapel

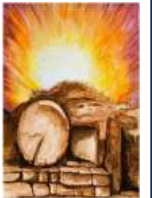
Preacher Mr Habib Nadar

Sunday 26th April

10:30am

Chapel

Preacher Mrs Anna Williams



Good Friday Tea

All are welcome to our traditional Good Friday afternoon tea be held at 5:00pm in the Methodist Hall. We enjoy an afternoon with a range of drinks, savouries and cakes followed by a service in the chapel. To help with arrangements please let Graham know if you plan to come graham.hodgson122@btinternet.com or 07775 8613222.

Following the tea, we look forward to a service led by a guest speaker at 6:30 pm and this year we welcome Mrs Anna Williams.

Coffee mornings and lunch

All are welcome to our Community Cuppa and Chat in the Methodist Church Hall. We meet between 10:00 – 12:00 noon for the coffee morning with drinks, savouries and biscuits and have extended this to continue for a soup and a roll between 12:00 noon - 13:00.

Monthly Email Reflections

You can receive a Monthly Bible Reflection written by Maureen McPherson just by sending her your email. (mail@south-fields.com) Hard copies can be handed out if you don't have email but would be interested in receiving the monthly reflection.



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 February are:

5 th April	6:30 pm	Neil Hunt	Easter Day
12 th April	6:30 pm	Rev Max Blake	
19 th April	6:30 pm	Rev Pholani Ncube	
26 nd April	6:30 pm	David Raj	

75th 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 fifth 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 looked at the social, political and economic background of the immediate post War period and saw how saw how this was hampering rebuilding of the Chapel. Nevertheless, despite the frustration of neither having a Building Licence nor compensation over another two-year period, spirits remained high.

Decline and Revival: A history

Part 5 - 1950 to 1951

There had always been a drive for the Mission to pay for the rebuilding of the Chapel without having to borrow money and to try and to try and achieve this in the light of the War Damage Commission's ceiling for compensation, two further tenders were sought for the work from H.W. Wilson of South Ockendon and G.B. Derrick of Upminster.

Fundraising and social events continued although the opening to 1950 was marred by '*an unfortunate accident at the New Year's party*' whereby Mr Banks's accordion had been damaged. We later learn that magnanimously Mr Banks declined to accept anything towards these damages.

The new tenders for the rebuilding had been submitted to the War Damage Commission (WDC) and by April 1950 they been chased for a response by the architect. A visit from a Commission's official followed. In the minutes reporting that meeting the phrase used is that the official had been '*interviewed*' by one of the members: Bob Miller. I don't know whether this was a euphemism or not, but it was disclosed that although the Commission's ceiling had been £700 subsequent to the meeting they verbally agreed the original amount of £975 tendered by a Mr Curtis. That was some '*interview*'!

It appears though that the compensation was dependant on agreeing the plans and tender, Although it is not clear quite what had been submitted for tender or to the WDC or what items they would cover in their compensation, it was stated that '*the variations in plans e.g. pulpit, basin etc would come under the heading of furnishings*'. Encouragingly the WDC commented that a Building Licence would usually follow automatically in the case of them having approved the plans.

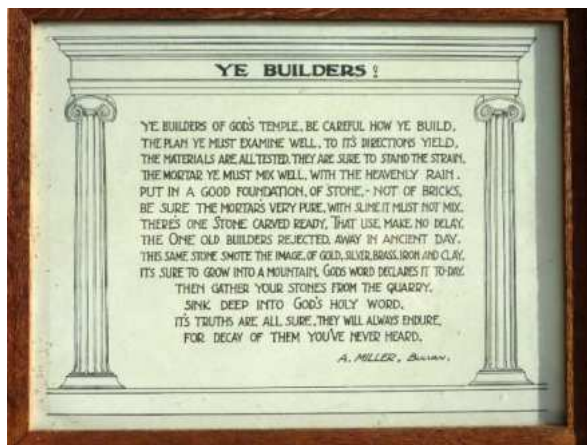
There must have been considerable frustration from members though because despite this very good news there was a view expressed that perhaps the Mission could have pushed harder to have reached a resolution earlier. It appears sufficient doubt in dealing with Authorities had been generated over the years. Consequently, the idea of chasing a response was being premeditated.

Meanwhile progress had been made with securing the carpets and chairs and these were ready and waiting for the building to put them in! Support also continued to come in with a concert by the South Stifford Baptist Church Youth Choir concert from which a collection was taken up for the building fund.

May 30th 1950 yet another great disappointment; the caution over the encouraging words by the WDC proved to be true with news that as the Mission wasn't represented on the 'Churches Main Committee' its application for a Building Licence couldn't be supported. The Mission however would be given the chance to present its case at the next Council meeting.

Perhaps lessons in managing the redevelopment had been learnt, and although members were planning on making a representation at the Building Licence Committee meeting, as an additional approach, the matter was escalated with a letter to Thurrock MP Hugh Delargy who had been newly elected in the February and who promised to take up the matter.

Unfortunately, there are no details of what happened in the next 3 months however it is recorded that by 13th September the building Licence had been granted, a letter of thanks had been sent to the MP and work on the building had commenced by Mr Curtis! As a late change at the September meeting a suggestion was made that the south wall contain a concrete beam that would allow the wall to be removed should we wish to extend the Hall was agreed. There was also some foresight in the positioning of the cess pool. It was felt that to have this in the front would save effort in laying drains in the event of the main sewerage coming to the village. There was still an element of the unknown however as Mr Curtis and he was agreed to completing the building as far as possible but the Committee noted that the timber licence had not yet come through.



A copy of a memorial in the chapel. The original dated to the first foundation in 1910 and this one reflects the words of the Chairman in 1944 **'We shall make headway if we are willing to build on the foundation of God'** and the 10-year struggle to obtain a new building

Other matters agreed at the meeting were the wording for the notice board, the purchase of 36 Sankey hymn books, 72 Redemption song books and a bookcase, curtains for the door, and bags to be used instead of plates for taking the collections.* Chairs were already on order and the building fund stood at £284.

A desire to have new organ was also expressed and up to £25 sanctioned for this purpose. Finally, things were now moving fast.

..... to be continued

* Visitors will see that we still have the Sankey and Redemption Hymn books, the collection plate and bookcase! The curtains were removed during Covid and have not been replaced.



Chairs from the 1950 refitting of the Mission Hall

DeliverEat

Home Cooked Dishes

Community Service Delivered2U

**Daily Hot Food Delivery to the Elderly
and Vulnerable**

www.delivereat.uk - Book now on 07545839126
or Text or Email annette.carmody1@gmail.com

We deliver a fresh Hot Home Cooked Mini Meal to your door 7 days per week
in Thurrock, Basildon, Canvey Island, Benfleet, Langdon Hills, Laindon, Hornchurch,
Romford, Collier Row, Harold Hill and other areas in Essex.

Min Daily Order £8.95 for Thurrock and £11.00 for Havering (to cover our travel
fuel cost)

Feel free to book just 1 day, 2 days or any amount of days between 1-7 as we
are flexible

Invoices issued Thursdays for payment Friday either on-line by Direct Debit,
Bank Transfer, Card Payment or Cash

Visit our website above for further information and call or text to arrange a
meeting to onboard your loved one with us ASAP



Bulphan

Community

Café and Post Office



A warm welcome to all.
**Comprehensive Post Office services;
hot and cold drinks;
licensed bar;
cakes (including gluten free),
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.



**Thurrock Deanery Prayer Walk – Friday 8th May
Bishop Adam's Schedule.**

8.00-8.30: Morning Prayer at
St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Horndon-on-the Hill

10.00-11.00: Prayer Walk from Horndon-on-the-hill C of E Primary
to St. Margaret's Church, Stanford Le Hope.
There will be tea and coffee
and people are welcome to bring packed lunches.

13.00-14.00: Prayer Walk from St. Margarets Church to finish in
The United Benefice of Corringham and Fobbing

17.00-18.00: Evening Prayer, at St. Michael's Church, Fobbing.

During the day Bishop Adam is hoping to deliver prayer resources to
each church in the Deanery.

“Bishop Adam woz ‘ere”



ORSETT IN BLOOM CELEBRATES ITS SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Orsett in Bloom was established 25 years ago as a community group to establish planting in the village and look after the two War Memorials, one on the corner of Rectory Road and High Road and one in Hew Watt Close.

These aims continue today with planting twice a year in the iconic barrels around the village and care of the Memorials.

To celebrate our Silver Anniversary, we are holding a fundraiser disco on
17th April at Orsett Village Hall,

details on the OIB website orsettinblooms@btinternet.com

mothers' union

Time to join (or re-join) Mothers' Union?

If you find the Mothers' Union article each month interesting, why not join as a member? Or re-join, if your membership has lapsed? You could be a diocesan member, like me, and be part of this amazing global movement, making a difference at grass-roots level. It costs £34 per year (equivalent of 65p per week!). To join, either contact me or email Judith on Dm.rep@muchelmsford.org.uk and mention this Hobnob article.

Chelmsford Diocese Mothers' Union (CDMU):



Our Diocesan President Maxine is continuing her sponsored 150th Midday Prayer Challenge. In March she was at Colchester Castle, and this month she will be at Barking Abbey on 10 April. In May she will be at the top of Chelmsford Cathedral tower on Ascension Day and the branch members will meet together for lunch afterwards – why not go along?

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.

MU midday prayers are said, each day, on the MU Facebook www.facebook.com/MothersUnion I will be leading on Good Friday (3 April).

Easter Message from Kathleen Snow, Worldwide President



Our Worldwide President, Kathleen Snow, has written an Easter message to all members – here's a snippet:

"Jesus' resurrection is about new beginnings. God gives us a new dawn, a new creation, and a renewed purpose. As we mark our 150th Anniversary, we step into a new season not just because we are strong, but because Christ is risen and goes before us. He not only goes before us, but he walks with us and at times he carries us."

It can be read in full: https://www.mothersunion.org/resources/?_search_bar=easter

Celebrating 150 years of Mothers' Union



There are just a few tickets left for the 150th Celebratory Service on 10 June 2026 at St Paul's Cathedral with the Archbishop of Canterbury, 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: April

The theme for April in our 2026 Prayer Diary is 'The measure of love': Eastertide reminds us of the expense of God's endeavour to enfold us in gifts of love and invite a response. The cross and empty grave shape the final chapter in the salvation story – a story of tragedy and triumph, and one which endures to eternity. It is a love that does not count the cost. It is a love which will not let us go. As Christians and as MU members, we are called to reflect God's love in prayer and action. May the joy of Easter warm us, and radiate from us, as we journey through our days.

Monthly Prayer: *God of love, in silence and in speaking, we worship You. You are the very breath of our lives; You are the promise of renewal; You are the offer of forgiveness; You are the flame of inspiration; You are the wind of challenging change. Renew, forgive, inspire and challenge us, and fit us for Your service: in Jesus' name. Amen*

Creative Prayer: When you make anything – a garment, a piece of lace, a quilt – the fabric or thread used is measured out. How different with God's love for us – we struggle to grasp how wide and long, how deep and high His love is. It is infinite. As you measure out fabric or wind thread onto bobbins, thank God for His unmeasurable love and, as the item is made, think of the people who are going to use it and pray that they may know God's love and the extent of it.

Lucy Bubb, Mothers' Union contact



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

Smiths
ORCHARD GARDEN CENTRE
TWO AND A HALF ACRES OF
SHOW HOUSES AND DISPLAY AREAS

ORCHARD COFFEE BAR
OPEN DAILY 10:30AM - 3:30PM
SERVING HOT & COLD MEALS & SNACKS
CHADWELL ROAD, GRAYS.
01375 372195
WWW.SMITHSORCHARDGARDENCENTRE.COM



COMMUNITY RECYCLING

Unwanted items to pass on for no charge

The following are in full working order and available free of charge

- 32" Sony Bravia TV with stand
- Matsui VCR
- Matsui DTR3 Digital Set Top Box
- Dion recorder
- Tesco DVD1030 DVD Player

All free from Upminster RM14 2LT
07741 178759 any questions please ask



APRIL FOOL'S DAY



April begins with a day of fun and jokes – April Fool's Day (April 1st), although no one really knows when this began, but it has been kept for hundreds of years.

A common belief is that April Fool came about because of the change of calendars. In 1582, Pope Gregory introduced a new calendar called the Gregorian calendar which is the calendar we still use today. The new calendar was introduced because the old calendar, called the Julian calendar, was ahead by ten days because each year was a little too long. Gregory moved the new calendar forward by ten days. Britain didn't accept the new calendar until 1752. In the Julian calendar, the old calendar, New Year was celebrated from March 25th to April 1st. The first day of the Gregorian calendar is January 1st.

In France, some people were forgetful and others refused to accept the new calendar and still celebrated New Year on April 1st. People would play tricks on them and call them April Fools. April fooling became popular in England and Scotland during the 1700s.

April Fool jokes usually involve persuading someone to do something silly or believe something improbable is real. But you can only play April Fools before midday.

These are some April Fool jokes from the past.

- ☺ One of the great April Fool jokes took place on April 1st 1957. The BBC programme Panorama did a documentary on 'spaghetti farmers' growing 'spaghetti trees.' The hoax programme featured a family from Ticino in Switzerland carrying out their annual spaghetti harvest. It showed women carefully plucking strands of spaghetti from a tree and laying them in the sun to dry. The joke was an enormous success. Hundreds of people believed there was such things as spaghetti trees. Soon after the broadcast ended, the BBC began to receive hundreds of calls from puzzled viewers. Did spaghetti really grow on trees, they wanted to know? Others were eager to learn how they could grow their own spaghetti tree. To this the BBC reportedly replied that they should "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best."
- ☺ In 2005, Ask Jeeves (an old search engine) promised a humanoid search robot that will "find your car keys" and Google launching Google Gulp – a "smart drink" that makes you more intelligent and less thirsty.
- ☺ Another from the BBC, claimed to have discovered 'a colony of penguins unlike any other' in 2008. Harsh Antarctic winters had forced them to adapt and 'fly thousands of miles to the rainforests of South Africa where they spend the winter basking in the tropical sun', it claimed. The documentary, titled Miracles of Evolution, was hosted by Monty Python's Terry Jones and filmed by Prof Alid Loyas - an anagram of April Fool's Day.
- ☺ In the early 1970s Magpie (ITV's rival to Blue Peter) did a report on dehydrated water tablets and that lorry carrying a load of them had crashed causing flooding.
- ☺ In 1976 Radio 1 breakfast DJ Noel Edmonds pretended he was broadcasting live from a passenger jet, flying from London Gatwick to Scotland. Many listeners waited at Aberdeen airport to see Noel arrive, only to discover that the whole broadcast was an elaborate hoax!
- ☺ In 2004, news of a diet tap water that would help people lose weight made a splash. Yorkshire Water claimed a revolutionary new water treatment it had pioneered gave the liquid a negative charge that would attract positive fat cells in the body when drunk. The Yorkshire Evening Post and GMTV played along with the PR stunt, resulting in more than 10,000 people calling the company to enquire about having a special tap installed in their homes.
- ☺ The BBC had listeners in uproar when it reported that Big Ben was moving with the times and going digital in 1980. Their Japanese service also announced that the clock's hands would be sold to the first four listeners to contact them. One Japanese seaman in the mid-Atlantic immediately radioed in a bid.

FOREST CHURCH

March's Forest Church revisited The World Day of Prayer which happened the day before, focusing on Nigeria.

The main theme for Forest Church was burden. Janet brought a yoke for us all to try carrying buckets of water. This wasn't that easy and if you were doing it for a long time and or over a long distance it would be quite uncomfortable and probably spillage, but this is a method used in many



countries today to transport all manner of goods, not just liquids. However, the yoke is and has been regarded as a worldwide symbol of oppression for centuries. Yokes are commonly used to connect animals like oxen to do heavier work than a single ox.



Janet then produced a rucksack with items in it. Rucksacks can be a burden especially when packed, as schoolchildren are aware. It had things in and when removed we were asked how the item could be considered a burden. Some of the things in the rucksack were: a school exercise book which present problems to those unable to read or write; a mobile phone which can create all manner of problems to the owner and an empty purse to illustrate the burden of having no money. Ironically it was discovered that it had Janet's emergency money in, that she had forgotten about.



We then had an activity to make a Nigerian flag which is 2 green stripes with a central white one, by collecting greenery from the churchyard and sticking it to a sheet of paper.

The next Forest Church is at 4pm on Saturday 2nd May at Orsett Church

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

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

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



WOOLMARKET MUSIC

Talent Night 12th March

For March's meeting we invited local musicians, both young and old, to entertain us and it was a wonderful evening of musicianship and talent. The Turner boys played piano and saxophone, Edward played drums, Adam played saxophone and drums, Janet and Alice played piano duets, Isaac sang and Louis accompanied him on guitar but also played piano and finally Cathy and John played some folk tunes on their English concertinas. Thank you so much to all who came along to listen. It was a very enjoyable evening which highlighted the music we have around us and shows us all how music can enhance our lives.



COMING UP

HANNAH WOOLMER

The Woolmarket, Horndon on the Hill
7.30pm Thursday 9th April

Hannah Woolmer is a highly regarded concert violinist and recording artist who has visited us before, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming her again to Horndon's Woolmarket Music group.



SERVING FAMILIES IN AND AROUND ORSETT

YOUR FUNERAL WISHES

our local experts



Attended Funerals
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

Easter Wordsearch

Find the words below in the grid.



P	R	N	L	H	F	O	E	B	E	W	R	D	W	S	R	H	O	X	N	A	R	P	D	A
R	F	I	U	Q	O	Q	T	L	I	H	C	U	A	O	U	L	R	N	O	D	I	A	D	D
U	A	O	Q	H	R	C	X	C	T	N	N	Z	W	F	Q	U	U	X	Z	N	S	S	M	S
N	O	V	U	C	G	R	O	I	R	S	T	N	U	R	N	B	N	F	H	U	S	S	Y	R
A	Q	O	R	A	V	G	G	L	G	O	O	D	F	R	I	D	A	Y	P	S	O	O	N	U
Y	K	L	P	X	J	C	E	F	A	F	S	P	B	M	A	L	I	A	K	R	R	V	H	H
W	D	P	E	P	C	T	T	R	T	T	G	S	A	Y	A	K	Y	P	C	E	C	E	Z	T
C	F	M	V	Y	A	Z	F	H	E	Q	E	M	B	O	Z	C	Q	A	B	T	E	R	V	Y
L	M	F	S	U	J	S	O	J	E	T	S	X	W	U	P	S	X	W	H	S	H	V	N	D
T	G	G	G	U	W	R	C	V	C	O	S	M	H	I	N	U	U	N	C	A	T	G	J	N
I	G	K	D	E	N	J	K	H	R	Z	M	A	J	M	S	S	C	Q	Y	E	F	T	R	U
E	X	A	D	S	Y	E	T	P	A	L	M	L	E	A	V	E	S	U	A	H	O	E	Q	A
X	S	H	K	O	R	S	T	H	E	L	A	S	T	S	U	P	P	E	R	Z	S	N	M	M
T	B	S	V	N	S	U	S	M	G	U	C	K	I	V	J	U	N	P	P	U	N	N	P	K
U	O	J	Z	G	F	S	H	L	B	U	R	A	C	H	I	C	K	S	R	M	O	O	I	G
I	U	M	W	Z	M	D	F	R	L	B	N	J	N	U	F	Z	H	R	H	B	I	B	U	W
P	J	V	B	C	B	S	D	S	I	U	Z	O	E	D	V	K	E	L	C	B	T	N	M	T
R	N	U	G	R	J	V	Y	Q	I	I	W	C	U	P	L	C	S	F	T	M	A	V	Y	D
F	Q	W	D	O	L	W	X	G	L	N	X	I	W	D	T	E	T	F	I	O	T	P	C	X
D	U	Y	U	S	L	K	O	Z	Y	S	A	J	D	I	P	E	S	E	Q	R	S	W	T	F
R	Z	K	E	S	M	Q	W	O	V	D	J	S	O	J	E	Z	H	N	Y	U	X	Y	V	D
R	A	C	E	N	F	H	O	B	C	L	O	N	O	R	Q	G	F	C	I	D	Y	D	K	I
S	W	D	V	P	A	A	J	K	O	I	Q	J	D	P	U	D	Z	M	B	N	L	L	E	C
N	O	I	X	I	F	I	C	U	R	C	P	I	X	D	Y	Z	R	A	C	R	F	S	T	Y



Apostles

Chicks

Crown of Thorns

Easter Sunday

Hot Cross Buns

Lamb

Nails

Passover

Stations of the Cross

Bonnet

Chocolate

Crucifixion

Eggs

Jesus

Mary

Palm leaves

Resurrection

The Last Supper

Bunny

Cross

Easter egg hunt

Good Friday

Judas

Maundy Thursday

Paschal Candle

Risen

Tomb



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.



Bulphan WI

At our meeting in March, we had a presentation from the Safer Essex Roads Partnership about the support available in the form of a free driving with confidence course, and a presentation from Essex Fire and Rescue about water safety. They answered questions from members and brought along some freebies, keyrings and waterproof mobile phone pouches.

The film club have had two cinema visits, seeing Wuthering Heights and Mother's Pride recently. Mother's Pride was thought to be an enjoyable feel-good film.

Our monthly meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday from 7.30pm to 10pm, and we welcome guests, the first visit is free although we do ask for a donation for refreshments.

Alas this open invitation does not apply to our April meeting as it is our 97th birthday celebration and only open to members and invited guests, but the open invitation is extended again from Wednesday 13th May when we have our Annual Meeting.

Lesley Crisp
Secretary

Horndon on the Hill Village Hall

A request from Horndon on the Hill Village Hall

Following the cutting back of the laurel by the car park, we are looking at under-planting the shady side with a mix of shade-tolerant plants to improve the area and support biodiversity. Possible plants could include Hosta, Heuchera, Ferns, Hellebore, Vinca minor and Brunnera. If anyone in the village has spare plants from their gardens they would be willing to donate, they would be very gratefully received. Please message if you can help - I'm happy to collect. Email Nell : vicechairpersonhothvhc@gmail.com



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

@THEFOXHOUND PUB ORSETT

01375 891 295



 **Home Instead.**
To us, it's personal

Live well,
your way

with care in the comfort of your own home

We can offer you the option to continue living a happy and fulfilled life in your own home. We do this with tailored, personal home support based on what you need.

- Dementia Care
- Companionship
- Home Help
- Personal Care
- Live-in-Care



Home Instead Thurrock

01375 803600

www.homeinstead.co.uk/thurrock

Ecology and Social Justice Action Group

Lighten the Load on the Night Sky Simple Ways You Can Protect Dark Skies

The Problem

Artificial light at night doesn't just dim our view of the stars—it disrupts wildlife, wastes energy, and affects our health. The good news? Small changes in how we light our homes and gardens can make a big difference.

What You Can Do Today

At Home: Light Smart

- **Choose warm, low-wattage bulbs.** Opt for LED lights with a colour temperature of 2700K or lower (warmer tones). Avoid cool white or blue-toned LEDs, which are more disruptive to wildlife and sleep patterns.
- **Shield outdoor lights** Ensure fixtures direct **light downward only**, not upward or sideways. Use fully shielded or "bug-friendly" fixtures to reduce glare and attract fewer insects.
- **Use timers or motion sensors** Lights should only be on when needed. Set exterior lights to turn off automatically after dark or when no one is around.
- **Turn off decorative lights** Unplug string lights, garden lamps, and illuminated signs before bedtime. This saves energy and reduces light pollution.

Quick Win: Replace one outdoor light at home with a dark-sky-friendly option this week.

Support Wildlife

- **Keep gardens dark at night** Turn off garden lights at dusk to help moths, bats, and hedgehogs navigate and forage safely.
- **Plant native, pollinator-friendly species** Flowers like honeysuckle, lavender, and night-scented stock attract pollinators and support biodiversity.
- **Avoid artificial light near bird feeders** Bright lights can disorient birds, especially during migration. Use motion sensors or dim lighting instead.

Reduce Your Light Footprint

- **Use curtains or blinds at night** Prevent light from escaping your windows and adding to sky glow.
- **Choose warm-coloured Christmas lights** If decorating for events, opt for amber or warm white LEDs instead of bright white or multicoloured lights.
- **Share the message** Talk to neighbours, friends, and family about the importance of dark skies. Small conversations can lead to big changes!

The Bigger Picture

By making these simple adjustments, you're not just protecting the night sky—you're:

- Saving energy and money on your bills.
- Helping local wildlife thrive.
- Improving your sleep and well-being.
- Inspiring others to join the movement.

Ready to Take Action?

Start with one small change today and see the difference it makes. If you'd like to connect with others in your area who care about dark skies, check out local groups or events near you.

Together, we can keep our skies—and our community—bright in the right way.



At the Community Café in Bulphan Village Hall, held on Thursday and Friday afternoons, there is a sales table where people can take items and leave a donation. Since August 2023, this has raised £442 for Bulphan in Bloom, for which we are very grateful.



At our monthly clear-up on 22nd March, we managed to deadhead and weed all the tubs and containers around the village. The roses at the village hall and church were pruned, the grass at the A128 entrance and in the churchyard was cut, and we even had time for some litter picking!

Our next clear-up day is on Sunday 19th April.
We will meet at 9.30am at St Mary's Church, Bulphan.

Please do come along and help us keep Bulphan looking its best.



Bradwell Area Vocations Day

9.45am till 1.30pm
Saturday 18 April 2026

Emmanuel Church
66-68 Laindon Rd
Billericay
CM12 9LD

For more information or to book a place please contact:
The Bishop of Bradwell's Office.
bradwell@chelmsford.anglican.org
01245 258257

Easter Eggs

Easter is celebrated to mark the death and rising of Jesus. There are a number of services over Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday marking Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem; Maundy Thursday where Jesus shared what was to become known as the Last Supper (at the time it would have just been their usual supper) and where he washed the feet of the disciples; Good Friday's walk of witness which is symbolic of Jesus carrying his cross; Easter Saturday is a day of mourning the end of which in some churches is marked by lighting a candle and finally Easter Sunday where Jesus' rising from the dead is celebrated.

However, the most common way we celebrate Easter today is giving eggs, mainly the chocolate variety. They were first sold in England in 1873 by Fry's, but they have their origins in much older traditions. Many will remember the "crocodile" skin design of Easter eggs, which was used to disguise imperfections.

People across the world have given each other eggs at spring festivals throughout history. Early Christians in Mesopotamia dyed eggs in the period after Easter, and the practice eventually spread into Western Europe. Eggs have represented new life and rebirth in cultures all over the world, and it's thought that this particular ancient custom was absorbed into Easter celebrations.

In medieval times eggs couldn't be eaten during the fast of Lent. The fast ended on Easter Sunday, and egg-giving and eating was an important part of the celebrations. This was especially true for the poor, for whom meat was expensive and eggs were a more affordable and accessible foodstuff. The royals got in on the act too, and the earliest record of a specific Easter egg in England was in 1290, when Edward I purchased 450 eggs. They were decorated with colours and gold leaf and given to members of his household. In the 16th century, before England's break with Rome, the Pope sent Henry VIII an egg in a silver case as an Easter gift.

As at Christmas and other seasonal festivals, it was common for poorer people to be given food and to go from door to door asking for it. In northwest England this tradition developed into 'pace-egging'. Youngsters would dress up and provide entertainment in exchange for food, money and beer. Pace egg plays can still be found in Lancashire and West Yorkshire, with one of the most famous at Heptonstall.

The word 'pace' comes from 'paschal', the Latin name for Easter, and as well as 'pace-egging' it can be found in the northern tradition of making 'pace eggs'. Eggs were hard boiled with onion skins, gorse flowers or other natural dyes to give them colourful shells. The custom derived from older traditions of the wealthy of decorating eggs, but it was only by the 18th century that everyday folk could afford to use eggs for fun rather than food. Although they could still be eaten.

They grew in popularity during the 1700s in towns, cities and villages across the north of England and Scotland. They were used as decorations and given as presents. Egg-rolling was popular too, especially in in Cumbria, the North York Moors, Preston, Derby and Manchester – and events still take place at Preston and Ulverston.

In 1867 the *Lancashire Post* reported on Preston's egg-rolling event:

'Thousands of eggs were rolled in every direction, children were everywhere laughing and capering in infantile pleasure, the elders were looking on with a more staid and demure, but not less hearty enjoyment, and altogether the scene was one of the strangest and yet most thoroughly happy and enjoyable that I have seen for years.'



This a link to making "pace eggs" for yourself. [How To Decorate Eggs For Easter](#)

W.A.D.E.R.S

JOIN THE WADERS AND
HAVE A SPLASHING TIME

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

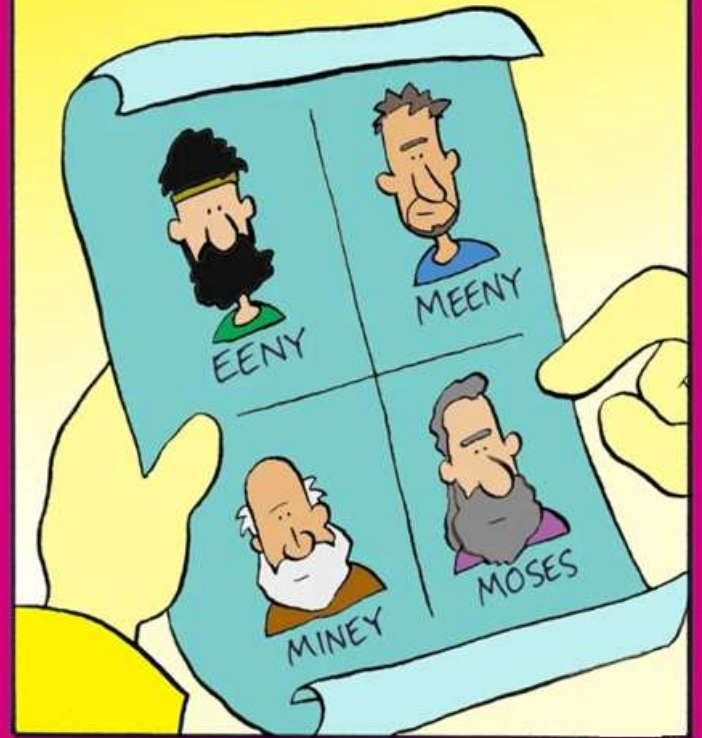
Exercise in water for people with mobility difficulties
(Supervised by a qualified Aquatic Physiotherapist)

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

GOD CHOOSES A LEADER
FOR THE ISRAELITES.



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

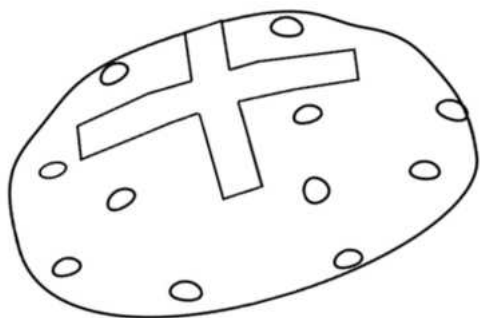
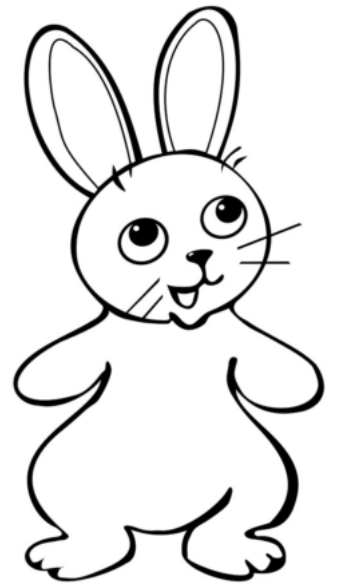
Everyone is welcome

*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

Easter



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

MUSIC IN HORNDON CHURCH

In April and May Horndon Church will be hosting two musical events ...

The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

David Van Day

*formally of Dollar, Bucks Fizz
and Guys and Dolls, together with*

Sue Moxley

will be singing a number of songs.

on Tuesday 21st April, 12.15pm at
St Peter and St Paul Church, Horndon-on-the-hill

*A free sandwich lunch will
be available after the performance.*

There is no entry fee but a donation towards
Church funds would be appreciated.

*Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus in the Church and community
Registered charity number: 1199779*

The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

Organ Recital by Matthew McCombie

Saturday, 9th May 2026 at 12 noon.

At St Peter and St Paul Church, Horndon on the hill

Tickets are £10 person and includes a buffet lunch

**For tickets please contact Sonia Ward on 01375 674212 or
by email sonia51anne@yahoo.co.uk**



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