

HOBNOB



**The parish magazine for
St. Peter and St. Paul. Horndon-on-the-Hill
St. Giles and All Saints. Orsett
St. Mary-the-Virgin. Bulphan**

December 2022



BULPHAN local store

7am - 9pm SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

BULPHAN VILLAGE SHOP

Bulphan Village Hall, Church Road, Bulphan RM14 3RU

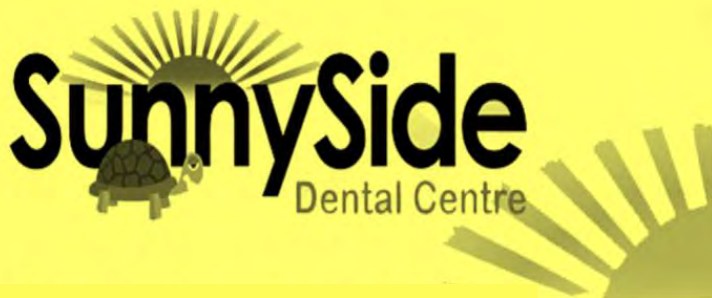
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SERVICES – December 2022

	HORNDON	ORSETT	BULPHAN
Thursday 1 st December			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 2 nd		Oasis Café 9-11.30am Edward Bear Toddler Group 9.30-11am	
Saturday 3 rd	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		Forest Church 4pm
Sunday 4 th December 2 nd Sunday of Advent		4pm Barrels with Carols, in the Foxhound Pub, Orsett	10am All Together Holy Communion Service
Monday 5 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 6 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 8 th			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 9 th		Oasis Café 9-11.30am Edward Bear Toddler Group 9.30-11am	
Saturday 10 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Sunday 11 th December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	8.45am BCP Holy Communion Service 10am Family Service 4pm Christingle Service 7pm Carols in the Swan Pub, Horndon	5.30pm Christingle Service	
Monday 12 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 13 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		5pm Christingle Service 7.30pm Service with Prayers for Healing
Thursday 15 th			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 16 th		Oasis Café 9-11.30am Edward Bear Toddler Group 9.30-11am	
Saturday 17 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Sunday 18 th December 4 th Sunday of Advent		8.45am CW Holy Communion Service 10am Holy Communion Service	
	6.30pm Drive in Carol Service at Benton's Farm		
Monday 19 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 20 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		7.30pm Longest Night, Blue Christmas Service
Thursday 22 nd			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 23 rd		No Oasis Café or Toddler group	
Saturday 24 th	8.30pm Holy Communion Service	4pm Carol Service	10pm Holy Communion Service
Sunday 25 th December Christmas Day			10am Holy Communion Service
Monday 26 th			No Open Church
Tuesday 27 th	No Open Church		
Thursday 29 th			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 30 th		No Oasis Café or Toddler group	
Saturday 31 st			
Sunday 1 st Jan 2023	10am All Together Holy Communion Service		
Monday 2 nd			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 3 rd	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.

Rector's Reflections

Following the celebration of All Saints and All Souls, followed by Remembrance and then Christ the King, we are now in Advent, the period of waiting and anticipation as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, later in the month.

Every year, for the past few years, the Church of England has provided some useful resources to help us to reflect on the meaning of Christmas. These resources come under the umbrella, 'Follow the Star.' This year, the focus is 'The Great Invitation,' the purpose of which is *'encouraging everyone to share the joy of gathering together to celebrate the birth of Jesus with their family, friends and neighbours-especially after two years where this has been impossible for many.'* (C of E Website)

Follow the Star: The Great Invitation consists of 12 reflections from a range of authors who will share personal stories exploring themes of invitation. These reflections will be starting on Christmas Eve and continuing daily (Monday to Saturday) until the Epiphany (6 January) and are designed to help us all make space to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas. On each of the 12 days, a different contributor will share something that speaks of a Christmas invitation for them, bringing the theme to life through a mixture of personal story, Bible reading, reflection and challenge.

These reflections will be made available freely via:

- email
- audio
- app with accompanying resources for children and families

You will find more information about these and other Christmas resources by going to <https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/advent-and-christmas-2022>

I have also ordered some of these reflections in booklet form for those of you without access to technology, including a few large print versions for anyone who would find this helpful. If you would like one of these, they will be available at the back of all three churches. Any donation towards the cost of a booklet would be greatly appreciated.

I encourage you to invite your neighbours and members of your local community to one of our in-person gatherings this Christmas, to hear the Christmas story and be welcomed into the love of Jesus. We have a variety of services both in church and at other local venues including The Swan Pub in Horndon, The Foxhound Pub in Orsett and another drive-in service at Arden Hall Farm in Horndon. Everyone is most welcome at any or all of the services. Please keep an eye on the posters for details.

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

With love and prayers,

Sue



Horndon on the Hill Churchwarden's Report

Hi everyone,

The work to replace rotten wood and clean and repair the glass to the dormer windows has been completed. They look wonderful, especially when the sun is shining. Thanks to Colin for helping me liaise with the contractors.

Here we are again at one of the busiest times at church.

Thank you to all who came and supported the Book and Bacon Roll fundraising event. It was lovely to see so many people and we raised £300 towards the upkeep of our beautiful village church.

You will find all the Christmas Services listed in this issue. Please do support as many as you can.

It is great that the Christingle Service is resuming this year. We are hoping for the school choir to come and sing to us at this event on 11th December at 4p.m. Please do come along on Saturday 10th between 10-12 to make the Christingles. This service is a lovely event for all ages.

Please do use the re-cycling page in the Hobnob to re-distribute any unwanted items you have. Just send a description of the item to me at sonia51anne@yahoo.co.uk.

Wishing you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Sonia Ward (Churchwarden)



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Laindon Pool
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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

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R.Porter@hobnob.org.uk

OR

01375 891 697

ORSETT CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT



November was marked by the traditional Remembrance Services, remembering all those who died in or as a consequence of conflict.

On Saturday 12th the parade organised by Chadwell St Mary Royal British Legion was well attended and tinged with a hint of sadness, as John Southgate organiser and stalwart of this and the VJ Day service at the Burma Star Rose Garden in Hew Watt Close, had passed away in August. The following day the local Scout and Guide groups came to the church for a service at 10am followed by an Act of Remembrance at the war memorial. The young girl who delivered the reading did an exceptional job with a very long section of verse and those who read the thoughtful prayers they had written, were outstanding.

As Christmas approaches we will be holding the following services at Orsett Church as well as our normal parish services and we hope that you will be able to join us in one or more of them :

Sunday December 4 th	7pm Carol service in The Foxhound
Sunday December 11 th	5.30pm Christingle in Orsett Church
Christmas Eve	4pm Carol service in Orsett Church

On Friday 9th December we will be making Christingles at the Oasis Café between 9.00 and 11.30am, if anyone can spare the time to help, it would be appreciated.

On Saturday 10th December we will holding the Parish Christmas Bazaar in Bulphan Village Hall from 12.00 to 3.30pm. If anyone has anything they would like to donate for raffle and tombola prizes, or would be willing to make cakes, please contact Sandra Billinger (01375 891040) or Christine Mortimer (01375 641485).

Wishing everyone a pleasant and restful Christmas and Happy New Year.

God bless

Christine and David Mortimer

OUR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES



THE PARISH OF
HORNDON, ORSETT AND BULPHAN



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2022

Sunday 11th December

4pm Christingle Service at Horndon Church*

5.30pm Christingle Service at Orsett Church*

Tuesday 13th December

5pm Christingle Service at Bulphan Church*

7.30pm Service with Prayers for Healing at Bulphan Church

Sunday 18th December

6.30pm Drive in Carol Service at Benton's Farm, Horndon

This is a ticketed event (free) see poster how to order tickets

Tuesday 20th December

7.30pm Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service at Bulphan Church

Saturday 24th December

4pm Carol Service at Orsett Church

8.30pm Holy Communion Service at Horndon Church

10pm Holy Communion Service at Bulphan Church

Sunday 25th December

10am Holy Communion Service at Bulphan Church

* There will be collection for the Children's Society at each Glowstick or Christingle service

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

Drive-in Christmas Carols

The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan would love to invite you to our 'drive-in' Carol Service at Arden Hall Farm where we can celebrate Christmas together. There will be live music played by a brass ensemble and it will be suitable for all ages, with carols, readings and prayers.

Where possible, we ask you to fill your car with family and/or friends. Entry to the event is with a 'free' ticket and one ticket per car should be ordered, NOT one ticket per person.

There will be a collection for the church after the service.

Please book tickets at
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drive-in-carol-service-2022-tickets-451041245507
Tickets are limited and will be issued on a first come first served basis.

If anyone is unable to order a ticket online please ring Lynda on 07974 803471 and she will order one for you.

6.30pm Sunday 18th December
at Arden Hall Farm,
Horndon on the Hill, SS17 8PZ

Longest Night Blue Christmas Service

*A service to reflect a glimpse of the light
of Christ 'when Christmas hurts'.*

*Tuesday 20th December at 7.30pm
at Bulphan Church*



THE PARISH OF HORNDON, ORSETT AND BULPHAN

www.hobnob.org.uk Facebook: @HOBNOBchurches

RECTOR	Reverend Sue Mann	email: rectorsue@hobnob.org.uk	01375 891 254
ASSOCIATE PRIEST	Reverend Max Blake	email: max@hobnob.org.uk	01375 360 522
CURATE	Reverend Moji Jaiyesimi	email: m.jaiyesimi@hobnob.org.uk	07856 690 593

PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Churchwardens	Alastair Macrae, Sonia Ward, Christine Mortimer, David Mortimer, Frank Woollard
Treasurer	Lynn Bennett
Secretary	Ron Porter
Parish Administrator	Lynda Robertson.
Deanery Synod Representatives	Karen Collier, Alastair Macrae, Janet Wilkins, Frank Woollard
Lay Representatives	Sandra Billinger, Brian Flavell, Felicity Tarbard Beverley Macrae

CHURCH OFFICERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

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

Churchwardens	Sonia Ward	01375 674212
	Alastair Macrae	01375 673 327
Deputy Churchwarden	Felicity Tarbard	01375 677581
Sacristans	Jane Barry. Jane Lothian. Judy Rood.	
	Beverley Macrae	
Vergers	Peter Belsham.	

St Giles & All Saints Orsett

Churchwardens	Christine Mortimer	01375 641 485
	David Mortimer	01375 641 485
Vergers	George Wood	01375 891 744
	Jo Metcalf	
	Libby Seggons	
Mothers' Union contact	Di Bubb	07970 728 673
Edward Bear Toddler Group	Karen Collier	01375 370 441
Tower Captain	Judith Church	01375 891 556
Oasis Café	Sandra Billinger	01375 891 040

St Mary-the-Virgin Bulphan

Churchwardens	Frank Woollard	01375 891 034
	Vacancy	
Deputy Churchwarden	Brian Flavell	01708 225 804
Parish Room Bookings	Traudi Porter	01375 891 697

Parish Baptism Co-ordinator

Christine Mortimer: c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk	01375 641 485
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Musicians

Jane Barry	07552 199 697
Janet McChayne	07752 836 902

To arrange Weddings, please contact Rev. Sue Mann on 01375 891 254 or email: rectorsue@hobnob.org.uk



Bulphan Churchwarden's Report

Sadly the war in Ukraine continues. However we feel about it, the fact that somewhere in the region of 100,000 Russian soldiers have been killed or injured with a similar amount of Ukrainian soldiers suffering the same fate, plus around 40,000 civilians is a very distressing story.

People ask: WHAT FOR? WHAT FOR?

Russia is an enormous country blessed with many valuable assets, especially gas, and Ukraine is one of the bread baskets of the world with wheat and sunflower oil amongst its largest exports.

Most of the world in February 2022 when the invasion of Ukraine commenced, was somehow emerging from the devastating effects of the Covid pandemic. Many loved ones were lost and others are suffering long term illnesses as a consequence. After the years of lock downs with Governments throwing money at the problem to keep businesses alive for the long term, and the Bank of England reducing interest rates to virtually nothing, was it at this moment that the Russian president thought that an invasion of Ukraine would go unnoticed?

At the present time with inflation above ten percent, food and especially energy prices going through the roof and interest rates rising it is not surprising that everyone is worried about the future.

The Church is not immune to all this with rising energy bills and being solely reliant on donations from people who themselves are struggling to survive.

In these circumstances it's not surprising that our three churches are unlikely to be able to pay more than about £40,000 of its family purse of around £82,000. This means that for the provision of our clergy we will have to rely on being subsidised by Chelmsford Diocese to supplement clergy pay. We are not alone in this respect, with most, if not all, parishes in Thurrock being in the same boat.

All that we can do is try to give a regular donation through the PARISH GIVING SCHEME, whatever the amount, so that the church is provided with some sort of regular income.

The porch works at Bulphan Church continues with Ron overseeing.

There was a very well attended Act of Remembrance at our war memorial; our thanks to bugler "Brassy Steve" and our own piper Jo Goddard and for all those who laid wreathes on this moving occasion.

Frank Woollard



Parish Christmas Bazaar

Bulphan Village Hall

Saturday 10th December
12 Noon to 3.30 pm

- Bacon rolls and cakes
- Tea, coffee and soft drinks
- Raffle
- Book stall
- Tombola
- Games
- Craft activities






YOU ARE INVITED TO

**BARRELS
&
CAROLS**

**SUNDAY
4TH DECEMBER**

Time: 7pm

Where: The Foxhound Pub,
High Road, Orsett

THE PARISH OF
HORNDON, ORSETT AND BULPHAN

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

**MORE
CHRISTMAS
ACTIVITIES
IN
THE
PARISH**



THE PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

November 3rd

Joyce Hunt (98)

(O)

November 7th

Ann Marie Maywood (83)

(O)

November 11th

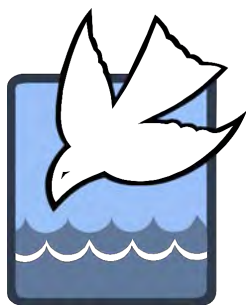
Florrie Johnson (87)

(H)



Wedding Enquiries

If you would like to enquire about booking a wedding at:
Horndon, Orsett or Bulphan churches,
please contact: Revd Sue Mann: 01375 891254
rectorsue@hobnob.org.uk



Baptism Enquiries

If you would like to enquire about booking a baptism at:

Horndon church, please contact:
Christine Mortimer: 01375 641485
c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk

Orsett church, please contact:
Christine Mortimer: 01375 641485
c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk

Bulphan church, please contact:
Christine Mortimer: 01375 641485
c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk



Baptism Preparation

If you would like to have your child baptised in one of the churches
in the parish. Preparation evenings are held in Orsett church on the
second Monday of each month at 7.30pm.
No booking is required.



PRAYER DIARY

Some thoughts to include in your daily prayers

December 1st	For this period of waiting & watching which we call Advent
December 2nd	For the Friends of Orsett Church
December 3rd	For those who live on Stanley Road, Bulphan
December 4th	For the work of the Diocesan staff
December 5th	For those who live on Blackshots Lane
December 6th	Remembering St Nicholas on his feast day
December 7th	For our Clergy as they prepare for Christmas
December 8th	For the Orsett Fire Station and all firefighters
December 9th	For those who live on Mill Lane, Orsett
December 10th	For neighbours and friends who have moved away
December 11th	For those who live on China Lane, Bulphan
December 12th	For those who live on Stephens Crescent, Horndon
December 13th	For those who live on Francis Close, Horndon
December 14th	For those who live on High Road, Orsett
December 15th	For those who live on Grosvenor Road, Orsett
December 16th	For the work of Christian Aid
December 17th	For those who live on Malting Lane, Orsett
December 18th	For those who live on Holmes Close, Horndon
December 19th	For those who live on Bristowe Drive, Orsett
December 20th	For those who live on Hillcrest Close, Horndon
December 21st	For those who live on Peartree Lane, Bulphan
December 22nd	For the shops in Orsett and Horndon and Bulphan
December 23rd	For those who live on Ellis Close, Orsett
December 24th	For the people of Ukraine facing a cold and hostile Christmas
December 25th	For Christians around the world as we celebrate the birth of Christ
December 26th	For the work of the Thurrock Food Bank in these testing times
December 27th	For those who live on School Lane, Orsett
December 28th	For all who work in Basildon Hospital
December 29th	For those who live on Alderton Road, Orsett
December 30th	For those who live on Paddock Close, Orsett
December 31st	For the safety and wellbeing of all, this New Year's Eve

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Bishop Phillips Brooks, [last verse of] "O Little Town of Bethlehem"



COMMUNITY INFORMATION FOR HORNDON - ORSETT - BULPHAN

POLICE at Grays

email: thurrockcpt@essex.pnn.police.uk

101 or 999

DOCTORS

**Horndon-on-the-Hill
Orsett & Bulphan
Bulphan**

(Orsett Surgery)
(Ockendon Surgery)
(West Horndon Surgery):

01375 642 362
01375 892 082
01708 852 318
01277 811 770

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Mr Barry Johnson

07831 609714

Mrs Sue Little

07831 609664

LOCAL MP

Stephen Metcalfe

Orsett Office
Westminster

01268 200 430
020 7219 7009

Write to: House of Commons London SW1A 0AA or
2 Orsett Business Centre, Stanford Road, Orsett, Essex, RM16 3BX

SCHOOLS

Horndon C of E Foundation Primary – Headteacher: Mrs. D. Bradley.
Orsett Academy C of E Aided Primary – Headteacher: Mrs G Smith
Bulphan C of E Academy – Headteacher: Sally Finch

01375 673 260
01375 891 383
01375 891 220

Stephen Metcalfe

Member of Parliament for South Basildon & East Thurrock

As your local Member of Parliament, I hold regular advice surgeries offering help and support. To make an appointment, please contact me by one of the methods below. Thank you.

Constituency Office:

2 Orsett Business Centre,
Stanford Road, Orsett RM16 1BX

P: 01268 200430

E: stephen.metcalfe.mp@parliament.uk

T: @metcalfe_SBET

W: www.StephenMetcalfe.org.uk

Westminster Office:

House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA

P: 020 7219 7009



Working for Basildon & Thurrock

The Alpha Course 2022



A few did not get “The Alpha Course” but the great majority received everything and more.

So what is Alpha? Alpha is a series of weekly sessions where you can explore the Christian faith in an open minded and welcoming environment.

The Alpha Course was held at The Woolmarket, Horndon on the Hill on Thursday evenings. There were 15 sessions which included a Saturday awayday. The meetings commenced at 7.15pm with tea and cakes and at 7.30pm there was a period for music and thereafter a video of about 20 minutes was played.

There were over 20 people attending and these were divided into 2 groups. After the video there was a time of discussion of the subject. The subjects included: Who is Jesus? Who is the Holy Spirit? Why and how should I tell others? Does God heal today and other subjects.

The sessions ended at 9pm sharp, anyone wishing to continue their discussions could retire to The Swan Public House.

As with most of these types of courses it is agreed that what is spoken about within the group stays within the group.

In the group where I was placed, I was surrounded by 10 ladies and at the first meeting when asked by the leader of the group, which word did I think of that started with the first letter of my name. I said Frightened, scared to death with all these ladies; on the last sessions I revised this word to Fantastic.

Within the group we took some time to get to know each other and as people grew more confident we were able to discuss freely and openly any questions that we had, however daft, and also confided within the group our own personal situations and worries.

The group did become very close and on many occasions when we prayed together one lady said that she could feel and touch The Holy Spirit in our midst, certainly we felt a warm loving feeling towards each other, which I am sure will stay with us.

I did say that whilst many of us spoke, probably too much, it was those who spoke least that sometimes said the most amazing things.

Someone within the group remarked that The Alpha Course gives you a voice. This was a theme within the group that people going to church week after week, each on a journey, but never really talking about their faith and never daring to share a problem.

I personally found the course uplifting as I am sure that all of the people in our group did too.

Many thanks must go to Rev. Sue and Phil Anderson who organised and were responsible for everything.

Frank Woollard



Chinese Brush Painting

On the first Monday of each month there is a unique opportunity to learn more about this oriental art form

In Bulphan Parish Room. For further information contact Jean Willis: 01268 284164



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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 - 11.30 am

**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



A Study of the Gospel of St Mark. 2:23-28

O Lord, you have given us your word
for a light to shine upon our path.
Grant us so to meditate on that word,
and to follow its teaching,
that we may find in it the light
that shines more and more until the perfect day;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

23 One sabbath he was going through the cornfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. 24 The Pharisees said to him, 'Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?' 25 And he said to them, 'Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? 26 He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.' 27 Then he said to them, 'The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; 28 so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.'

Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of Man, a title taken from the book of Daniel: Daniel 7:13-14 (13 As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One[b] and was presented before him. 14 To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.)

This is the one who sits on the throne next the ancient One (God the Father) and is given authority and eternal Kingship. Therefore He does have that authority over the Sabbath, that the law does not. The fact that He and His disciples were representing the new Kingdom meant that they were in a position of authority over the sabbath laws. The Pharisees were looking backward toward the old Covenant, Jesus and His disciples were looking forward to the new kingdom. But Jesus justifies His disciples actions by referring back to the story of King David (1 Samuel 21:2-7). So the message Jesus offers to us is that the laws were there to be a helper of mankind, not a hindrance. As well as that, of course Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. (Mark got the wrong high priest, according to the author of Samuel, it was Ahimelech not Abiathar, who was high priest at the time.)

Let us finish with prayer.

Gelasian Sacramentary (8th century)
O Holy Spirit, giver of light and life,
impart to us thoughts better than our own thoughts,
and prayers better than our own prayers,
and powers better than our own powers,
that we may spend and be spent
in the ways of love and goodness,
after the perfect image of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Orsett Women's Institute



Busy Busy Busy

For the ladies at Orsett WI November and December will be a very active time. Starting this week we placed our lovely poppy lady and her retinue at Orsett War Memorial for Remembrance Day.

Followed on Monday by a visit to Meadow Croft German Christmas Market. All had a good time, as we added to our Christmas decorations and bought the odd items to fill our stockings. A nice lunch with a good chat rounded up the day.

On Friday 25th November we will be taking part in the Orsett School's Christmas Fair. We are looking forward to meeting everyone.

The grand finale of 2022 will be an event for our Centenary at the Masonic Hall. On the 7th December Orsett WI will be 100 years old.

Obviously so much has happened during this time. We have been surprised by so many stories we have read in our archives. To celebrate our group as it is today, we have got together to make a banner that will be revealed at our birthday party.

Sue Andrews



The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan Prayer Group



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- 19th April – Sue Mann's House, in Orsett – Listening & seeking God's heart
- 17th May – upstairs room in Woolmarket – Children, schools & young people
- 21st June – downstairs room in Woolmarket – Unity, vision, & communication
- 19th July – downstairs room in Woolmarket – Local needs / the roads we live in
- 16th August – upstairs room in Woolmarket – Our Parish, services & events
- 20th September – downstairs room in Woolmarket – Mission and outreach
- 18th October – downstairs room in Woolmarket – Nurturing & learning, going deeper
- 15th November – downstairs room in Woolmarket – Giving & finance
- 20th December – downstairs room in Woolmarket – Global issues, social justice & ecology

Any enquiries – Please contact Revd Sue at
email rectorsue@hobnob.org.uk or 01375 891254

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

A Medieval Christmas

"Christmas" first appeared in the English language in the 11th century as an amalgamation of the Old English "Christes Maesse", meaning "Festival of Christ", the influences for this winter celebration pre-date this time significantly.



Winter festivals have been a popular in many cultures for centuries. An expectation of better weather and longer days as Spring approached, plus there was more time to celebrate because there was less agricultural work to do in the winter months.

In the Early Middle Ages, Christmas was not as popular as Epiphany on January 6th, the celebration of the visit from the Magi, three kings or wise men, to the baby Jesus bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Christmas was not originally seen as a time for fun and frolics but an opportunity for quiet prayer and reflection during a special mass. From 1000-1300, Christmas became the most prominent religious celebration in Europe, heralding Christmastide, or the Twelve Days of Christmas as they are commonly known today.



In Medieval times Christmas events started forty days prior to Christmas Day, what we now refer to as Advent, which was originally known as the "forty days of St. Martin" because it began on November 11th; the feast day of St Martin of Tours.

Gift giving at Christmas was temporarily stopped by the Catholic Church in the Middle Ages due to its suspected pagan origins. It regained its popularity in the Middle Ages as 'Christmas' became a time of excess dominated by excessive eating, drinking, dancing and singing, and giving gifts.

Some well known Christmas traditions have their origins in the Medieval celebrations

Christmas or Xmas? Many frown upon the abbreviation of Xmas, overlooking the X stands for the Greek letter chi, which was the early abbreviation for Christ or the Greek 'Khristos'. The X also symbolises the cross on which Christ was crucified.

Mince Pies were originally rectangular to represent the infant Jesus' crib. The addition of cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg symbolised the gifts from the three wise men. Like the more modern mince pies they were not very big and it was believed to be lucky to eat one on each of the twelve days of Christmas. As the name suggests, mince pies were originally made with shredded meat with spices and fruit. In the Victorian era the recipe was amended to the modern version of spices and fruit.

Carol singers : The tradition for carol singers going door to door was a result of carols being banned in churches in medieval times. Many carollers took the word carol literally (to sing and dance in a circle) which disrupted more serious Christmas masses, so the Church decided to send the carol singers outside. Carols were sung throughout the year, The Coventry Carol is thought to have originated in Medieval Coventry mystery plays, performed in the middle of the summer.

Umble (Humble) Pie : The most popular choice for Christmas dinner today is turkey, but it wasn't introduced to Europe until the discovery of America in the 15th century. Traditionally goose was and remained the most popular option for many for centuries. Venison was a popular meat in medieval Christmas celebrations, however for ordinary people to do so could see all manner of punishments meted out, as only the rich were allowed to eat the best cuts. However, the Lord of the Manor may have been charitable and given the unwanted parts of his family's Christmas deer, the offal, which was known as the 'umbles'. These would be made into a pie to make them go further, as such they would be eating 'umble pie'. An expression which now describes someone found of wrong doing who has to apologise for their action.

Boxing Day has traditionally been seen as a time for the rich to give gifts to the poor. In medieval times, the gift was generally money in a hollow clay pot with a slit in the top which had to be smashed to get the money out. These small clay pots were nicknamed "piggies", hence piggy banks. However, Christmas Day was a "quarter day", one of the four days in the year when payments, like rents were due, so many poor tenants had to pay their rent on Christmas Day.

The excitement and frivolities of Christmas make it easy to forget the more serious aspects of the festival.



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4, High Road. Horndon-on-the-Hill

Sunday: 10.30 am Worship.

Minister: Reverend Oluyemisi Jaiyesimi.

Senior Steward: Mr Graham Hodgson.

Website: www.methodist-sec.co.uk/horndon/index.html

HORNDON-ON-THE-HILL

We meet at the Welcome Club
1, Victoria Road, Stanford-le-Hope
At 8.00pm on the last Tuesday
each month except in December.

New members welcome
Enquiries to the Secretary
Sec.hothrbl@hotmail.com



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Bulphan WI

Hopefully some of you had a chance to admire the Harvest Festival window displays in the church, it was nice to restart the displays again, here is a picture of the WI display.



The Mayflower Tesco Community Champion came along in October to give members lots of tips and information along with showing them how to carve and make attractive displays with fruit and veg, every member at the meeting went home with a goodie bag of fresh fruit. Pat H won the competition with a picture of her husband's dogs and was

congratulated on her 60th wedding anniversary.

This year's Remembrance display was expanded to include the bench and tubs outside the churchyard and the Jubilee beacon, four colours of poppies are included in the display, red for Remembrance and Hope, white for Peace, purple for animal victims of war and yellow for the Canary Girls, women who worked in munitions manufacturing.

At the November meeting members decorated black plant pots, these currently cannot be recycled so it was an opportunity to repurpose them using paint effects and decoupage. They also had a go at basic Mandala painting on coasters. Monica was presented with a certificate to mark her 35 years as a Bulphan WI member, congratulations Monica.

December's meeting will be a celebration with party food, members providing entertainment, musical bingo, a quiz, and no doubt a sing-along! If you would like to find out more or come along as a visitor you can find updates about future meetings, information, photographs, and much more on Facebook at Bulphan Women's Institute and on Twitter @bulphanwi or contact us via Secretary Janet McCheyne on 07752836902 or email bulphanwi@gmail.com

Jan Curtis
President





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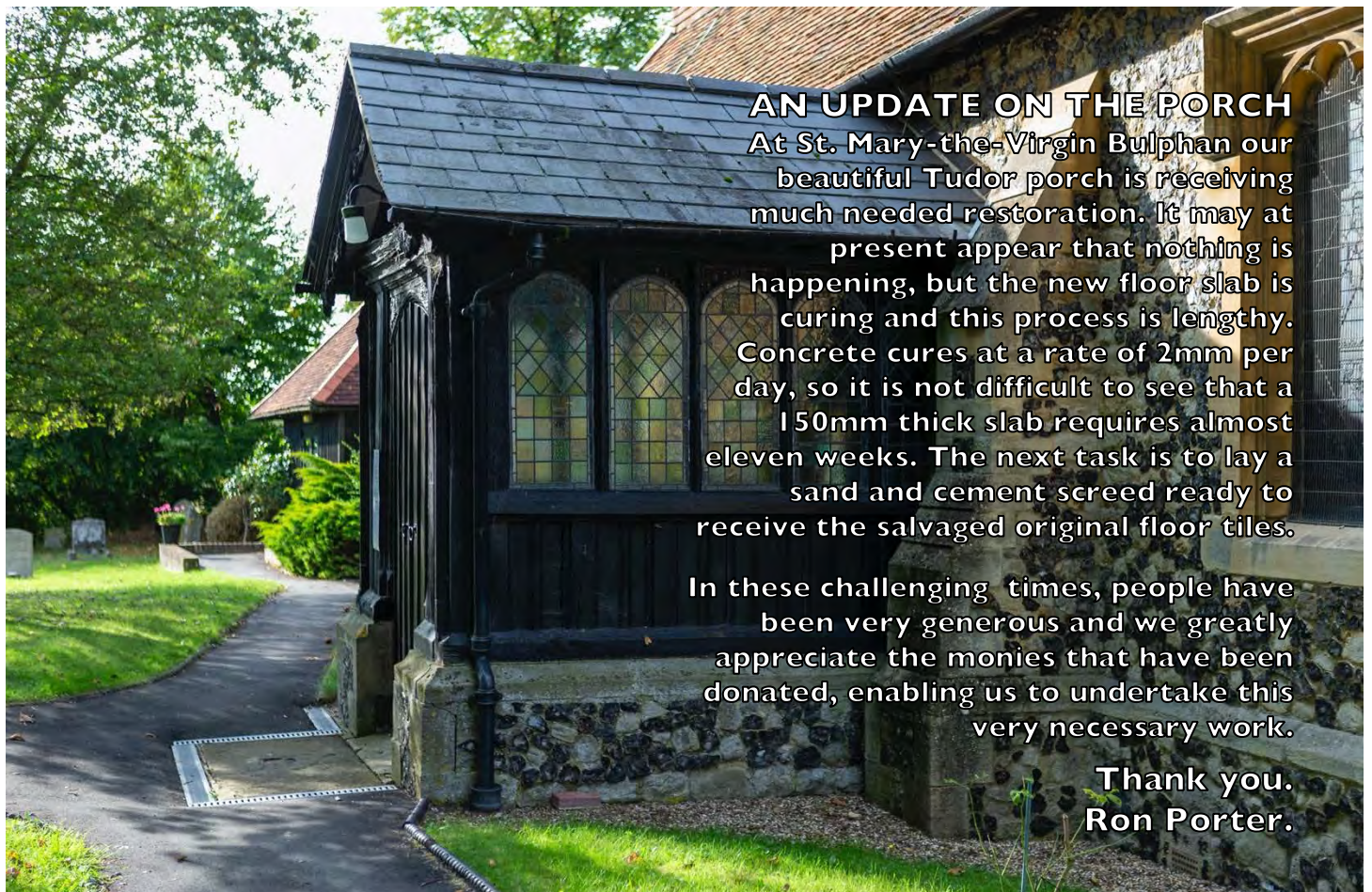
We extend a warm welcome to all. Services planned for December are as follows:

December 4 th	6:30 pm	Rev Pholani Ncube
December 11 th	6:30 pm	Local arrangement
December 18 th	6:30 pm	Rev Brenda Gutberlet Carol Service
December 25 th	-	No service

We have our Carol Service on 18th December at 6:30pm at which we will have traditional lessons and carols. The collection from the service that evening and any other donations will be given to Home for Good <https://homeforgood.org.uk/> The charity works to mobilise and support the Church in the UK to respond to the needs of vulnerable children through fostering, adoption or providing supported lodgings for teenagers.

We still observe social distancing and ask those who are attending to be sensitive to those who prefer a cautious approach. We continue to have sanitising facilities readily available and as always handwashing facilities are available in the vestry.

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 on 01375 891522



THE PARISH OF HORNDON, ORSETT AND BULPHAN



It was lovely to see the children and parents who attended Messy Church at Bulphan Academy on 10th November.

Thank you to the school staff and volunteers who helped.

They heard the story of the annunciation when the Angel Gabriel told Mary that she would have a baby called Jesus and they then did some activities linked to the theme of waiting. This was followed by a short act of worship and a meal.



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Mothers' UNION

Chelmsford Diocese Mothers' Union (CDMU)



The CDMU Council and AGM took place in November at Chelmsford Cathedral, where we were joined by Alison Fernandes from Mary Sumner House. For the coming year we have pledged to:

- Encourage clergy engagement to raise awareness of the breadth of MU projects, advocacy & mission, dispel myths about MU, to be able to support each other in doing God's work
- Supporting our existing projects better to build better relationships & reach more people in need of their support
- exploring *Metamorphosis Bite-Size* to deepen our relationship with God and each other and provide inspiration for groups and individuals

Christmas 2022 Appeal and The Big Give



This year our Christmas Appeal is raising money for our Mothers' Union Literacy and Trauma Healing programme in South Sudan. Sadly, South Sudan has seen years of conflict and violence which have devastated communities and forced millions of people to leave their homes. Over half of the refugees are children and are desperately in need of peace and a better future. Based on over 20 years of experience working in the country, our Literacy and Trauma Healing programme provides a safe space for women to learn essential skills like literacy, trauma healing and peace building.

Again this year, The Big Give will be matching all money donated online to Mothers' Union between 29th November and 6th December, doubling the impact of your donation, using this link:

<https://donate.thebiggive.org.uk/campaign/a056900002NEXapAAH>

12 Days of Christmas: 'Count your blessings' activity, devised by Lesley Munt to raise funds

On the 1st day of Christmas, put a contribution in the tube of Smarties for every church service you've attended during Advent/Christmas

On the 2nd day of Christmas: each Christmas present you've received

On the 3rd day of Christmas: each Christmas card you've received

On the 4th day of Christmas: each Brussel sprout you've eaten over Christmas

On the 5th day of Christmas: each time you've washed up since Christmas Eve

On the 6th day of Christmas: each mince pie or sausage roll you've eaten since Christmas Day

On the 7th day of Christmas: each chocolate you've eaten today

On the 8th day of Christmas: each glass of alcohol (or equivalent) you enjoyed on New Year's Eve

On the 9th day of Christmas: each New Year's resolution you've made

On the 10th day of Christmas: each person you've phoned to wish 'Happy New Year'

On the 11th day of Christmas: each time you've written 2022 instead of 2023

On the 12th day of Christmas: each New Year's resolution you've already broken.

Wishing all a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

*"Hope of the world, Mary's child,
You're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary's child,
Walk in our streets again."*

Di Bubb, Mothers' Union contact

FAMOUS PERSON IN DECEMBER

Sir Richard Arkwright (23rd December 1732 – 3rd August 1792)

Arkwright is considered the father of the modern industrial factory system and his inventions were a catalyst for the Industrial Revolution.

Richard Arkwright was born in Preston in 1732, the son of a tailor. Money was not available to send him to school, but his cousin Ellen taught him to read and write.



He began working as an apprentice barber and it was only after the death of his first wife that he became an entrepreneur. His second marriage to Margaret Biggins in 1761 brought a small income that enabled him to expand his barber's business. He acquired a secret method for dyeing hair and travelled around the country purchasing human hair for use in the manufacture of wigs. During this time he was often in contact with weavers and spinners and when the fashion for wearing wigs declined, he looked to mechanical inventions in the field of textiles to make his fortune.

By 1767, a machine for carding cotton had been introduced into England and James Hargreaves had invented the spinning jenny. With the help of a clockmaker, John Kay, who had been working on a mechanical spinning machine, Arkwright made improvements that produced a stronger yarn and required less physical labour. His new carding machine was patented in 1775.

Arkwright's fortunes continued to rise and he constructed a horse-driven spinning mill at Preston - the first of many. He developed mills in which the whole process of yarn manufacture was carried on by one machine and this was further complemented by a system in which labour was divided, greatly improving efficiency and increasing profits. Arkwright was also the first to use James Watts' steam engine to power textile machinery, though he only used it to pump water to the millrace of a waterwheel. From the combined use of the steam engine and the machinery, the power loom was eventually developed.

From 1775, a series of court cases challenged Arkwright's patents as copies of others work, and they were revoked in 1785. Nonetheless, Arkwright was knighted in 1786 and by the time of his death on 3 August 1792, Arkwright had established factories in Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Lancashire and Scotland, and was a wealthy man.

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4 Morning Advertiser, Wednesday, December 23, 1964

A CHRISTMAS STORY OF 1889

IT was Christmas morning and snow blanketed the village of Horndon-on-the-Hill, Essex. But although it was only six o'clock, lights already gleamed softly through the windows of the Bell Inn, contrasting with the deep blue-black sky, and casting little patches of amber light over the snow.

In the kitchen of the inn, a boy about eight years old sat as near as he could to a great fire, making dripping-toast for the household's Christmas morning breakfast.

The toasted slices of bread were liberally covered with dripping from an enormous joint, and gradually the pile on the huge dish by the boy's side grew into a miniature mountain of golden, shining, richly steaming toast.

After a time, he reckoned there was enough. In any case, he could always make more. Many years later, he was to remember, "It was lovely."

This boyhood memory of a far distant Christmas morning at an Essex inn has been recalled by Mr. G. W. Potter, of Porpoise Avenue, Shirehampton, Bristol. One Saturday morning, a few months ago, Mr. Potter, then about 83 years of age, was listening to "Children's Favourites."

Among the requests was one from "Lucy" of Horndon-on-the-Hill. When

To revive memories of a happy time at an Essex inn

by LEN THOMPSON

Mr. Potter heard the name of that Essex village he was immediately reminded of that Christmas of some 75 years ago, and the memories which came crowding back to him prompted him to write to "Lucy."

Mr. Potter's letter came into the possession of Mr. Frank Bonson, licensee of the Bell Inn at Horndon-on-the-Hill, who kindly sent it on to me.

Record request

The letter began, "Dear Lucy, You will wonder why I write to you. I'll explain. Listening to the children's hour, which I often do, I heard your name announced as of Horndon-on-the-Hill."

"Now that rang a bell, and revived my memory of 75 years ago. You asked for a record of a pop song, but you also said you liked some classical music. Well, you see, I'm what you would call old folk like me—a square."

He went on to recall that when he was about eight years old, he lived at the Bell with his aunt, Mrs. Mingay,

then the licensee. She was a widow, and ran the house with the help of her two daughters.

Mr. Potter wrote of that white Christmas, with "quite a lot of skating and slides on a big pond."

Dripping toast

After describing how he made the dripping toast for breakfast, Mr. Potter recalled that later on Christmas morning he had the task of winding the roasting jack, and keeping the slowly turning goose well basted with a long spoon.

Later in the day they enjoyed "Snapdragon." "We had a large dish of raisins, well saturated with gin. I think it was, or whisky. We set them alight, and would pick them out of the blue flames, all hot."

Here, may I interrupt Mr. Potter's story to observe that I believe brandy to be the spirit now generally used for this very ancient Christmas custom.

Reading Mr. Potter's letter—written in a remarkably clear hand—I thought how sad it was that the little boy's

wonderful Christmas Day should have had such an unfortunate ending. I feel sure he would not mind my retelling the story in his own words.

"How my Christmas Day ended I do not know. Currant gin was a favourite drink, I know. This big glass jar—about a gallon, I should think—was brought into the kitchen, and the gin carefully poured off and decanted, leaving the currants at the bottom of the jar."

"Now imagine what you would do if you were a boy, eight or nine years old, left in a large kitchen with a big jar with currants in it. A big table-spoon would reach the currants, and they were nice to eat."

"I don't know how many I disposed of, but in the next morning—about 2 a.m. I think it was—when my aunt came in to look at me, I had been placed in a big four-poster bed where I used to sleep. How I got there I do not know, but the currants had turned on me."

Mr. Potter passes on a little piece of simple, but sound philosophy. "Do nothing today that brings regret to-morrow."

The top songs

In this letter, Mr. Potter told Lucy about the pop songs of his young days. His elder cousin was engaged to the village policeman, whose name was Edwards.

His favourite song was "If I was a Blackbird." Another song was "Three Golden Kippers." And he always concluded his performances with "How do you fancy Atkins for your other name?"

Another of his memories of the Bell Inn is that it was lit by large paraffin lamps, some hanging from the ceiling, some fixed to the walls. He remembers that their light was reflected in rows of pewter pots of various sizes, glistening like silver.

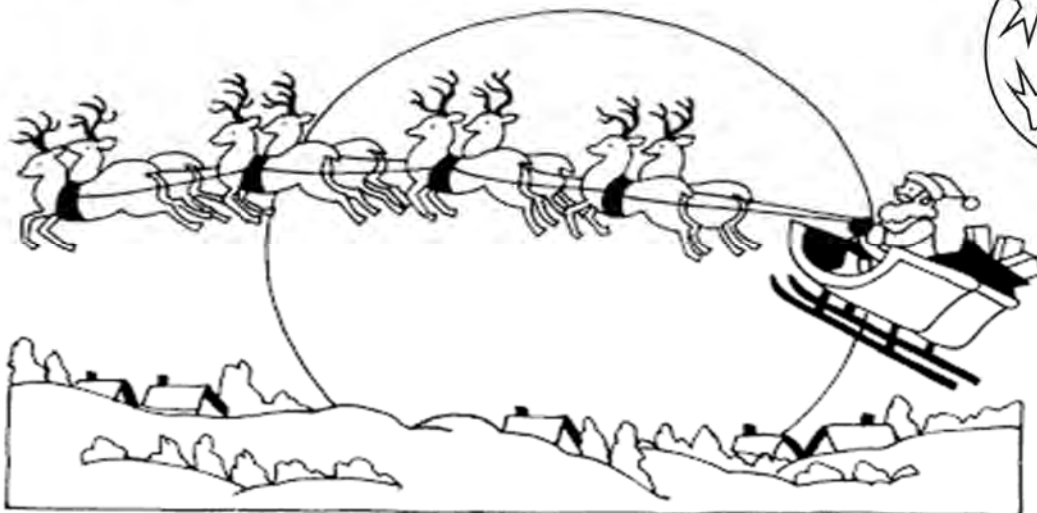
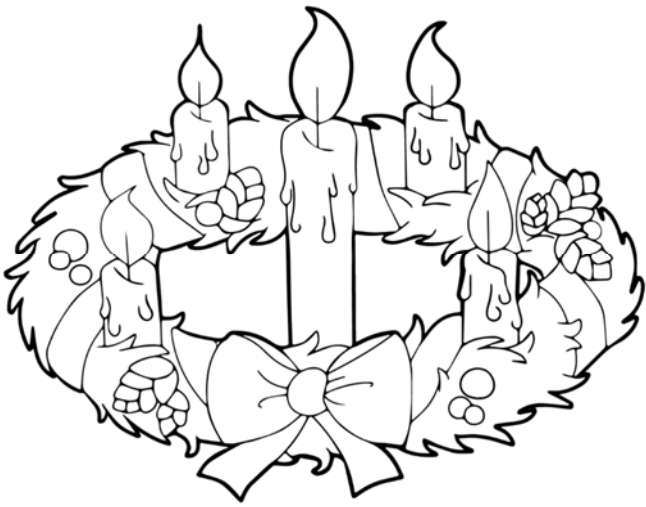
Mrs. Mingay's name, with that of the Bell Inn, were engraved on them. I am sure Mr. Potter would like to know that Mr. Bonson still has those pewter mugs—about 50 of them, in all sizes from quarts to half-pints.

Mr. and Mrs. Bonson have been at the Bell Inn for 26 years. For the past ten years Frank Bonson has also had the Nelson at Southend-on-Sea. At present a committee member of Southend LVA, he was treasurer for some years.

He has also been treasurer of Essex Federation, and is a past president and past chairman of Thurrock LVA.

Image of the Bell Inn reproduced by kind permission of Reverend Max Blake.

December colouring



SATURDAY 3RD & SATURDAY
10TH DECEMBER 2022



Christmas

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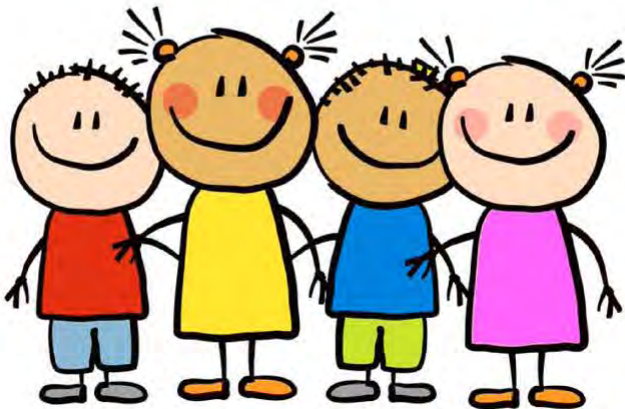
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