

# HOBNOB

On-line



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

## January 2023





## Chinese Brush Painting

*On the first Monday of each month there is a  
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9.30 am – 11.00 am**

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



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# SERVICES – January 2023

	HORNDON	ORSETT	BULPHAN
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2023</b> <i>Naming &amp; Circumcision of Jesus</i>	10am All Together Holy Communion Service		
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>		Oasis Café 9-11.30am Edward Bear Toddler Group 9.30-11am	
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments	Forest Church 4pm	
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</i>		8.45am CW Holy Communion Service 10am Family Service	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		7.30pm Holy Communion Service
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>		Oasis Café 9-11.30am Edward Bear Toddler Group 9.30-11am	
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</i>	4pm Refresh Service		8.45am Holy Communion Service 10am Holy Communion Service
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>		Oasis Café 9-11.30am Edward Bear Toddler Group 9.30-11am	
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</i>	8.45am BCP Holy Communion Service 10am Family Service		
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments 12noon Holy Communion Service		
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>		Oasis Café 9-11.30am Edward Bear Toddler Group 9.30-11am	
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>Candlemas</i>		10am All Together Holy Communion Service 4pm Café Church	
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Oasis Café 9-11.30am Edward Bear Toddler Group 9.30-11am	
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>			4pm Forest Church
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent</i>			10am All Together Holy Communion Service

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

# Rector's Reflections

One of the privileges for me, over the Christmas period, was to hear a beautiful song sung by children in our schools.

Some of the words are:

*If a wise man knows where the Saviour's born,  
guided by a shining star  
to the world he shows why he came so far  
understanding who you are*

*What can I bring, what can I sing  
to honour you my friend and king?  
Who can describe this love of mine  
the holy Saviour so divine?*

*When a child is born and the reason why  
is to love this broken world,  
how can I repay? Can the only way  
be to love him in return?*

*Taken from 'What can I bring' from ISing Christmas*

These words are particularly appropriate in the season of Epiphany which we celebrate this month, marking the visit of the Wise Men, or Magi, to Jesus. We often see images of three of them, although we don't actually know how many of them there were. The number three probably corresponds with the number of gifts which were, of course, gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Gold represented kingship, frankincense - worship and myrrh - death and dying; a foretaste of what was to come. Needless to say, these would all have been very expensive gifts.

I don't know about you, but as we start a new year, I often set many resolutions only to find that halfway through the first month I have failed in at least half of them.

This year, instead of creating a huge, long list, it is my plan simply to ask God in my prayer time each morning, 'What can I bring to honour you?' We all know that the best gift we can give anyone is love, and our relationship with God is no different, so really, in saying those words, I will be asking God how best I can love him.

Love sometimes requires sacrifices and our love for God is no different. This means when we follow God, we are sometimes called to make difficult choices, to say no to things we have previously done or to commit to taking on something new. The book of Hebrews in the Bible is written for Christians who are being persecuted for their faith. We don't know who wrote it, but it urges them on in their faith, listing heroes of faith in the past, describing them as a 'great cloud of witnesses' and at the end of the letter, the Christians are reassured by the words of Jesus, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.'

This year, I encourage you to step out in faith and ask Jesus what you can bring to honour him. Love takes many forms but it is my firm belief that we all have something to offer and that following Jesus is the most exciting things we can ever do.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Take care and God bless,

Sue



# THE PARISH OF HORNDON, ORSETT AND BULPHAN

[www.hobnob.org.uk](http://www.hobnob.org.uk) Facebook: @HOBNOBchurches

<b>RECTOR</b>	Reverend Sue Mann	email: <a href="mailto:rectorsue@hobnob.org.uk">rectorsue@hobnob.org.uk</a>	01375 891 254
<b>ASSOCIATE PRIEST</b>	Reverend Max Blake	email: <a href="mailto:max@hobnob.org.uk">max@hobnob.org.uk</a>	01375 360 522
<b>CURATE</b>	Reverend Moji Jaiyesimi	email: <a href="mailto:m.jaiyesimi@hobnob.org.uk">m.jaiyesimi@hobnob.org.uk</a>	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. 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: <a href="mailto:c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk">c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk</a>	01375 641 485
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### Musicians

Jane Barry	07552 199 697
Janet McCheyne	07752 836 902

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





# BULPHAN local store

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## BULPHAN VILLAGE SHOP

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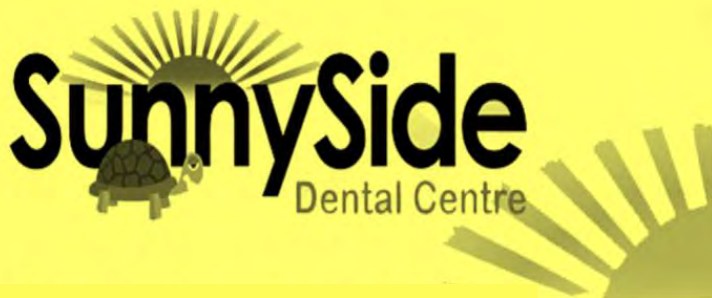
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# THE PARISH REGISTERS

## Funerals

December 6th	Rita Snellings (85)	(O)
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## Interment of Ashes

November 26th	Theresa Margaret Winifred O'Keefe (78)	(H)
November 26th	Leslie Frderick Thomas (90)	(B)
December 6th	Ronald Roy Snellings (89)	(O)



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk)

**Orsett church**, please contact:  
Christine Mortimer: 01375 641485  
[c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk](mailto:c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk)

**Bulphan church**, please contact:  
Christine Mortimer: 01375 641485  
[c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk](mailto: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 sessions are held in Orsett church on the second Monday of each month at 7.30pm and in Horndon church on the 4th Saturday of each month at 12.00 noon.  
No booking is required.



## **HORNDON ON THE HILL** **CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR** - albeit nearing a month late by the time this edition is published ! I've been thinking about both the Church calendar and what the Parish have been doing throughout 2022. Here follows some that I've picked out.

**EPIPHANY** - Bishop Guli joined us at our service on 9<sup>th</sup> January to celebrate the uniting of our three churches to the Ecclesiastical Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan. Three PCCs became one, and, later that month the members of the council were elected.

**LENT** – We strove to go 'Green for Lent' which , together with Fairtrade Fortnight resulted in the PCC agreeing that the Parish would serve Fairtrade labelled refreshments. Bulphan currently have Silver Eco church status and various initiatives have been put in place for both Orsett and Horndon to raise up from Bronze.

**EASTER** – Taizé, foot washing, Stations of the Cross, Walk of Witness and Holy Communion coupled with First communion services were held over Easter.

Several of the congregation joined Revd Sue and members of Thurrock clergy at the five week 'Living in Love and Faith' course.

**PENTECOST & WHIT SUNDAY** – A Strawberry Cream tea took place in Horndon on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and a cream tea in Bulphan on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

We also celebrated the **Feast of St Peter & St Paul** at Horndon by decorating our beautiful church with flowers choosing the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II as the theme. This coincides with the village Feast & Fayre. Many from the three churches came together to help raise funds for the Parish.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October the Parish came together again at St Andrew's church in Basildon to watch Moji's Ordination and the following day, she gave her first communion at Orsett church, both events were full of life, laughter and joy.

**ALL SAINTS DAY** – The Commemoration of the Departed service was held. We also observed Remembrance Sunday at each of our churches.

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS** – A Christmas Bazaar was held at Bulphan and again, many from the three churches came together to ensure a success and good cheer for all.

In addition to the above , Forest church, Open church, Books and Bacon Rolls, The Alpha course, Prayer Group, Refresh Services, Orsett Summer Fete, Coffee and Cops, Edward Bear, Gardening Groups, Oasis café, Drive in Carols, took place throughout the year (plus several I may have forgotten)! Thank you to all that selflessly gave of their time.

With every good wish for 2023 - Alastair





## COMMUNITY INFORMATION FOR HORNDON - ORSETT - BULPHAN

### POLICE at Grays

email: [thurrockcpt@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto: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](mailto:stephen.metcalfe.mp@parliament.uk)

**T:** @metcalfe\_SBET

**W:** [www.StephenMetcalfe.org.uk](http://www.StephenMetcalfe.org.uk)

#### Westminster Office:

House of Commons,  
London, SW1A 0AA

**P:** 020 7219 7009



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# ORSETT CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

As we say goodbye to another year, it is safe to say that 2022 will be a year that everyone remembers.

For most of us it will be remembered as the year that our beloved Queen Elizabeth departed this earthly life and brought about the new Carolean era. Most of us have only ever known the Queen as our sovereign and it has been a challenge to remember to sing *King* during the National Anthem.

The war in Ukraine that started with the invasion by Russia in February still rolls on. There has been great loss of life on both sides, together with a huge displacement of Ukrainian people and we pray that there will be a peaceful solution in the near future.

We have also lost a great many friends from around the parish during the year. We wish all those families who have lost a loved one a peaceful 2023 in which to navigate their grief.

And we wouldn't be British if we didn't talk about the weather. A swelteringly hot 40.3°C was recorded in July followed by a shivering -15.7°C in December. It feels as though we are having more severe weather warnings from the Met Office each year, a clear indication that climate change is happening. Maybe it's time we all took a moment to consider the effects our daily lives have on the environment and make some changes, however small, to lessen the impact we have on the world around us.

We wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

Christine and David Mortimer



## 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

Meetings are in Bulphan Village Hall every

Tuesday from 1.45 - 4.15pm and

Fridays from 7.00 - 9.00pm

New members are welcome and no experience is necessary  
as friendly advice and tuition can be given

For further information telephone Lesley on 07766 505 755



## HORNDON-ON-THE-HILL METHODIST CHURCH

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](http://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](mailto:Sec.hothrbl@hotmail.com)



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION





## Bulphan Churchwarden's Report

We are in Advent, waiting in anticipation of the coming of The Messiah Jesus.

We should all be as excited as young children are on Christmas Eve, where they cannot sleep for the expectation that within a few hours they will be awakening to presents. It is a joyous time for most with school nativity plays, Christingle and carol services.

We are fortunate at Bulphan to have been donated a large Christmas tree by Thurrock Garden Centre. Whilst I have only been assisting with erecting and decorating the tree for the past decade, Ron has been carrying out this job for over 30 years to my knowledge.

I do think that we all take so many people for granted, we see the same people at the door, making the tea, playing the organ and the list goes on. We are all getting older and it's not so easy to do things, especially for those approaching 80 years old, as they were able to do so 30 years ago.

I have tried to thank everyone for their support at St Marys and the list is very long so I apologise to anyone I may have missed.

We are grateful for the work that all the members of Bulphan in Bloom carry out keeping the church yard in such excellent condition.

We thank all those who donate in so many ways especially at a time when the cost of living is rising so much.

Energy costs, soaring sky high, caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine are a great source of concern for so many people. We are all trying to cut back wherever possible but at the end of the day we simply cannot be cold.

Within the Parish I know that Sue wants the churches to be warm and welcoming, nobody wants to sit in a freezing cold church; to be effective, the heating has to be running for hours before a service which obviously increases our energy costs for a relatively short service time. Sadly these large medieval buildings are poorly insulated.

We are told not to worry and we must have faith in the words spoken by Jesus.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year which hopefully will see a return to some sort of normality.

**Frank Woollard**



# PRAYER DIARY

Some thoughts to include in your daily prayers

January 1st	For all our hopes for the New Year
January 2nd	For those living on Hornsby Lane, Orsett
January 3rd	For people we have not yet met
January 4th	For the homeless and hungry
January 5th	For those living on Horndon Road, Horndon
January 6th	For those living on Nelson Road, Orsett
January 7th	For family and friends overseas
January 8th	For those who are cold and hungry in Ukraine
January 9th	For the Deanery Synod
January 10th	For local charities
January 11th	For those living on North Hill, Horndon
January 12th	For our patrons, the Dean & Chapter of St Paul's
January 13th	For those living on The Paddocks, Orsett
January 14th	For our twin dioceses in Romania, Sweden, and Kenya
January 15th	For those living on Annabell Avenue, Orsett
January 16th	For those living on Pound Lane, Orsett
January 17th	For those attending our village schools
January 18th	For those living on Fen Close, Bulphan
January 19th	For those living on Ridgwell Avenue, Orsett
January 20th	For those living on South Hill, Horndon
January 21st	For those living on Robinson Road, Horndon
January 22nd	For those experiencing financial hardship
January 23rd	For those living on Sandown Road, Orsett
January 24th	For St Luke's and all hospices throughout the land
January 25th	For the leaders of nations
January 26th	For those living on Randall Drive, Orsett
January 27th	For those living on Saffron Close, Horndon
January 28th	For those who are ill in body, mind or spirit
January 29th	For those living on Southview Cottages, Orsett
January 30th	For those living on Vincent Avenue, Horndon
January 31st	For the church musicians

*Living God of all that is new,*

*we ask that this year you will help us to carry your light into every place we go*

*and share your good news with those we meet.*

*May we walk and work in unity to reveal your love and goodness.*





# **The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan Prayer Group**



**For everyone !!**

**Every 3rd Tuesday of each month,  
8-9pm at The Woolmarket, High Road , Horndon on the Hill**

- ***17th January***
- ***21st February***
- ***21st March***
- ***18th April***
- ***16th May***
- ***20th June***
- ***18th July***
- ***15th August***
- ***19th September***
- ***17th October***
- ***21st November***

**Any enquiries – Please contact Revd Sue at  
email [rectorsue@hobnob.org.uk](mailto:rectorsue@hobnob.org.uk) or 01375 891254**

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# Zion Hall Mission, Bulphan

## Interdenominational

Church Road, Bulphan

[www.zhm100.wix.com/zionhallmission](http://www.zhm100.wix.com/zionhallmission)

We enjoy meeting every Sunday evening and extend a warm welcome to all. On 18<sup>th</sup> December we were pleased to have a good number join us at our Carol Service and raised £86 which was donated to 'Home for Good'. This charity works to respond to the needs of vulnerable children through fostering, adoption or providing supported lodgings.

We wish all readers of HOBNOB a very happy 2023. The services for January are as follows:

January 1 <sup>st</sup>	6:30 pm	Local arrangement
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Rev Max Blake
January 15 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Andrew Dickinson
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6:30 pm	Peter Crosby
January 29 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Local arrangement

We continue to have sanitising facilities readily available and ask those attending to be sensitive to others in observing social distancing. 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

## WOOLMARKET MUSIC



On 8<sup>th</sup> December we held our Christmas get together and along with members of the Horndon Society/ Community Forum and Horndon Gardeners' Club, enjoyed our Christmas Party on what was a very snowy evening. We were entertained by the U3A ukulele band and the evening was made all the merrier by a glass (or two) of wine and some party food.

On 14<sup>th</sup> January, we will be welcoming back Angelo and Sarah. Angelo is a man of many musical talents: musical director, arranger and multi-instrumentalist (piano, organ, violin, double bass, electric bass, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, flute and saxophone). I think we can call him local as his roots are in Upminster and Woolmarket Music were thrilled that he will be entertaining us along with his wife, Sarah on saxophone.

Just to give you plenty of notice, in February, also in the church, BasOp will be entertaining us – a highly acclaimed local group of actors and singers.

Admission is £7.50 per concert but why not become a member and enjoy all the concerts for just £60 per year? All children under 18 are free.

# New Year's Resolution

## *a potted history*

A lot of people make New Year's resolutions, but when did this tradition start?

The ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first people to make New Year's resolutions, around 4,000 years ago. although their year began in mid-March, when the crops were planted. During a 12-day religious festival known as Akitu, the Babylonians crowned a new king or reaffirmed their loyalty to the reigning king. They also made promises to the gods to pay their debts and return any objects they had borrowed. These promises could be considered the forerunners of our New Year's resolutions. If the Babylonians kept to their word, their gods would favour them for the coming year. If not, they would fall out of favour, which no one wanted.

A similar practice happened in ancient Rome. Julius Caesar established January 1<sup>st</sup> as the beginning of the new year in about 46 BC. Named after Janus, the two-faced god, January had significance for the Romans. Believing that Janus symbolically looked backwards into the previous year and ahead into the future, the Romans offered sacrifices and made promises of good conduct for the coming year.

For early Christians, the first day of the new year became the traditional occasion for thinking about past mistakes and resolving to do and be better in the future. In 1740, John Wesley, created the Covenant Renewal Service, most commonly held on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. Also known as watch night services, they included readings from Scriptures and hymn singing, and served as a spiritual alternative to the more normal raucous celebrations held to celebrate the coming of the new year.

Despite the historically religious roots, New Year's resolutions today are non religious, with the focus on self-improvement.

Some of the popular things people resolve to do at the start of the year are : Exercise more ; Eat healthier ; Go on a diet ; Lose weight ; Spend more time with family and friends ; Stop smoking ; Drink less alcohol ; Start a new hobby/pastime. Some more recent ones - Spend less time on social media ; Be environmentally aware ; Live more economically.

How successful are people following these only time will tell?



We have had a fun-filled term here at Bulphan. The children have worked really hard and we have been really impressed with their attitudes towards their learning.

## Messy church

We welcomed back Messy Church earlier in the term. It was lots of fun! Reverend Sue read the children a story from the bible about angel Gabriel appearing in front of Mary to tell her she was going to give birth to Jesus, the son of God. Children then completed a range of activities including mug decorating, popcorn making, wreath making and salt dough angels! I would like to say a really big thank you to everyone who volunteered, the staff members who helped and the parents and children who joined us. We look forward to holding many more!



## Nativity!

Our KS1 children did such an amazing job in their nativity performances! This year, we performed 'The Sleepy Shepherd'; a story about one particular shepherd who just couldn't stay awake. Luckily in our production, he managed to stay awake and see Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus! I am so proud of all the children who sang incredibly, spoke clearly and danced so enthusiastically. Well done KS1!



## He's behind you!

Recently, we enjoyed our annual trip to Thameside Theatre to watch 'Beauty and the Beast'. The children had so much fun and behaved beautifully. For our smallest children, it was their first time on a school trip and I think it's safe to say – they loved it!



*'God's word is a lamp to guide our feet and a light for our path'  
Inspired by Psalm 119:105*

## PTA Christmas Fayre

We hosted our first Christmas Fayre for three years this year and what an evening it was! There were games, raffles, food and even a visit from the big man himself! It was lovely to see so many members of our community attending and joining in some festive fun with us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped us to set up and run the fayre– we couldn't have done it without you!



## Christingle Service

Thank you so much to everyone who attended our Christingle Service at St Mary's church. The service was lovely with some brilliant readings given by our Year 6 pupils. It is always a magical moment when the Christingles are lit and the lights turn off, illuminating the faces of the children. Thank you to Reverend Max for leading the service, Jane for accompanying our singing on the piano and Ron for taking such wonderful photos!



## Christmas Service

Our Christmas service was just as beautiful, led by Reverend Sue. The children sang, read and behaved impeccably and we were very proud of all of them. Thank you to all those from our community who attended the service with us.

I hope you all have a lovely, restful Christmas. Happy 2023!

Miss Taylor

Head of School

*'God's word is a lamp to guide our feet and a light for our path'*  
*Inspired by Psalm 119:105*

# TANUARIY



HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR  
2023





## Update from Orsett C of E Primary School



The last month here at Orsett has been so busy! We have taken all the opportunities we can to enable our children to flourish and shine and we have certainly been very festive in doing so! I don't know about you but there is so much worry and anxiety in our world at the moment and the future feels uncertain for many of us, so it has been very refreshing seeing the children excited by the festive season and being able to share God's love with each other as a community. It is the first Christmas in a while where there have been no restrictions so we certainly went to town!



Our festive season started with a wonderful Christmas market which was organised by our PTA. The playground was taken over with magical lights and stalls as well as a fabulous grotto which Father Christmas visited for the afternoon. It is something the PTA plan to recreate next year and we'd love to see you visit!



EYFS and KS1 performed a wonderful nativity this year to 3 packed audiences. Their version of 'Shine Star Shine' was fantastic. They sang loudly, they performed their lines with confidence and truly shone on stage! We certainly have some budding performers in school. We also had some children perform at the Nativity by the Pound. I heard they did a fantastic job and we hope to be more involved next year! We were very proud of those that gave up their evening. Well done!



Our choir have been very busy this month. Our reputation for being fantastic singers is certainly growing and we have been invited to so many events. We just can't say no but it has meant we have been very busy! The choir started by singing at our Christmas market. They have also performed at Lakeside for St Luke's Hopsice, Thurrock Garden Centre, at the Kings Arms in Orsett and we also performed live on Gateway Radio and Chelmer Radio. If you would like to listen to our radio performances they are on our website in our [Gallery](#).





On the 12<sup>th</sup> December we also had to contend with lots of snow! It was a bit of a shock as we weren't expecting any snow but we still opened. The staff had to work very hard to clear half of the playground ready for our Carols by candlelight service. We were able to go ahead with the service which was lovely although it was very cold! We performed for 45 minutes in minus 2 degrees and the children did so well. Hopefully next year it may be slightly warmer!



We also have had many exciting things happening in school with Christmas parties, Christmas dinners decorations all and all sorts of art activities which have kept us in the festive mood. As I write this we have 2 more days in school which I'm sure will be full of fun and festivity! Through all of the fun however we have focused on the true meaning of Christmas with the children. Each year, this being no different, we remember that the tiny baby – Jesus – gives us a hope and light that is like no other. That because of his love and sacrifice we have hope for the future. We truly hope that you can also remember this ultimate gift this Christmas and that you have a wonderful time celebrating with friends and family.

# Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at



Until next time,  
Mrs G Smith – Head Teacher



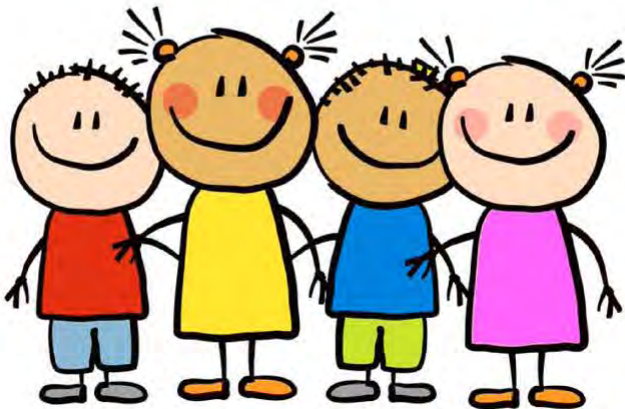
## BULPHAN TODDLER GROUP

Fridays in Term Time  
10.00am - 12.00pm

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## Bulphan Community Café



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Local councillors Sue and Barry,  
and Local Area Co-ordinator Pauline  
are frequent visitors



## 'Forget-Me-Not' Coffee morning

In Horndon Woolmarket  
from 10.00 am - 12.00 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 J's Hospice in Essex,  
providing hospice and respite care for young adults  
with life threatening and life limiting conditions*

**For further details contact Beverley on 01375 671 474**





# Lent Modules 2023

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS – FRIDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2023**

Details about Centre locations will be sent to you nearer the time.

If you require any other information please contact:

Diane Hardy at the Diocesan Office, 53 New Street Chelmsford CM1 1AT

Tel: 01245 294449 email: [dhardy@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:dhardy@chelmsford.anglican.org)

[www.chelmsford.anglican.org](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org)

The Lent Module Guide for 2023 contains a number of courses offered by the Diocese of Chelmsford during the season of Lent. We aim to provide a wide range of courses to enable the whole people of God to connect with their faith in this season of reflection. Please look through the courses on offer to see which appeal to you.

CCS students in their second year choose one module free of charge but the courses are open to everyone, and you can pick more than one course if you would like to. After the challenges that many of us are facing, I encourage all of you to take time out to study and grow closer to God, to reflect on and challenge your calling, so you may be better equipped to serve in God's kingdom.

Caroline Harding LLM

Lay Ministry Adviser.

**TO SEE THE FULL GUIDE AND APPLICATION FORM PLEASE USE THE LINK BELOW**

<https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/discipleship/lent-modules>

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

*The Benefice Safeguarding Representative is Janet McCheyne who can be contacted on:  
0775 283 6902 or  
[janetmcc101@gmail.com](mailto:janetmcc101@gmail.com)*

*The Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on:  
01245 294444 or  
[safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org)*

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# FAMOUS PERSON IN JANUARY

## Robert Burns 25 January 1759 – 21 July 1796

Robert Burns is the best loved Scottish poet, admired not only for his verse and great love-songs, but also for his character, his high spirits, 'kirk-defying', hard drinking and womanising! He came to fame as a poet when he was 27 years old, and his lifestyle of wine, women and song made him famous all over Scotland.

He was the son of a farmer, born in a cottage built by his father, in Alloway in Ayr. This cottage is now a museum, dedicated to Burns.

As a boy, he always loved stories of the supernatural, told to him by an old widow who sometimes helped out on his fathers' farm and when Burns reached adulthood, he turned many of these stories into poems.



After the death of his father in 1784, Burns inherited the farm but by 1786 he was in terrible financial difficulties: the farm was not successful and he had made two women pregnant. Burns decided to emigrate to Jamaica so to raise the money required for this journey, he published his 'Poems in the Scottish Dialect' in 1786, which was an immediate success. He was persuaded not to leave Scotland by Dr Thomas Blacklock and in 1787 an Edinburgh edition of the poems was published.

He married Jean Armour in 1788 – she had been one of his many women during his early life. A very forgiving wife, she accepted and took responsibility for all Burns' children, legitimate and illegitimate alike. His eldest child, the first of three illegitimate daughters all called Elizabeth, was greeted with the poem 'Welcome to a B\*\*\*\*\*d Wean'.

A farm was bought, Ellisland, on the banks of the River Nith near Dumfries, but unfortunately the farm did not prosper and Burns ceased farming in 1791 and became a full-time exciseman.

A problem soon arose as the steady income from this employment gave him ample opportunity to continue with his hard drinking which had long been his weakness.

One of the most important literary tasks he began (a labour of love as he did not receive any payment for the work) was his songs for the Scots Musical Museum. Burns contributed over 300 songs, many of his own composition, and others based on older verses.

At this time he wrote, in just one day, his most famous long poem, 'Tam O'Shanter'. 'Tam O'Shanter' is the story of a man who disturbs a coven of witches in the kirk at Alloway and has to flee for his life on Meg, his old grey mare. The fastest witch, Cutty Sark (cutty sark means short petticoat) nearly catches him by the River Doon, but the running water makes her powerless and though she manages to grasp Meg's tail, Tam escapes over the bridge.

Burns died aged 37 of rheumatic fever which he contracted after falling asleep at the roadside (after a particularly vigorous drinking session) in pouring rain. The last of Burns' children was actually born during his funeral service.

Burns will never be forgotten as his poems and songs are still as popular in Scotland as they were when first written.

Burns Night is a great occasion on January 25th when many dinners dedicated to his memory are held all over the world. The ritual of the Burns Supper was started by close friends of Robert Burns a few years after his death and the format remains largely unchanged today, beginning with the chairman of the Supper inviting the assembled company to welcome in the haggis. The poem 'To a Haggis' is recited and the haggis is then toasted with a glass of whisky. The evening ends with a rousing rendition of 'Auld Lang Syne'.

His spirit lives on!





## COMMUNITY RECYCLING

This page is for everyone to redistribute unwanted items for no charge. Just email details of any items you wish to give away

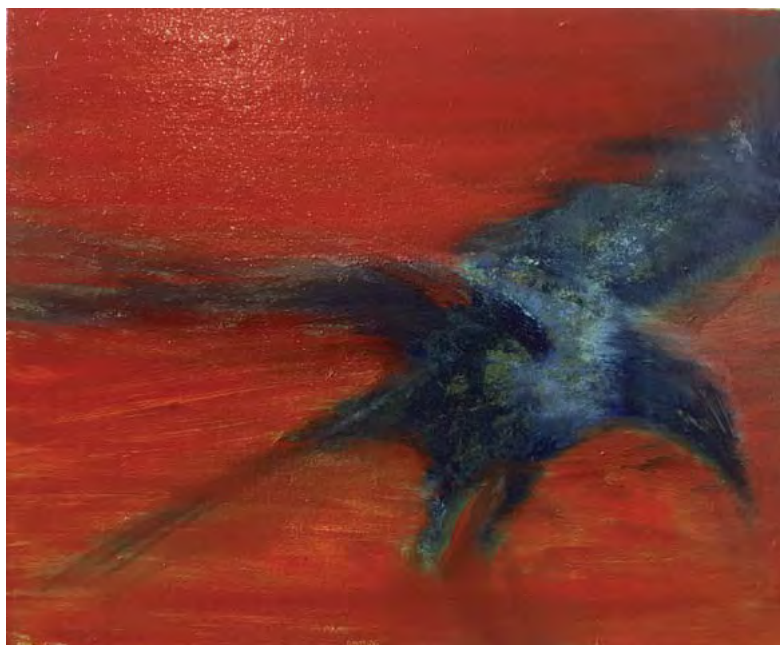
to the address below, together with your telephone number and these will be published in the next issue of the Hobnob.

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## Well House Gallery



Well House Gallery re-opens Friday  
6<sup>th</sup> January 2023

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– [www.wellhousegallery.co.uk](http://www.wellhousegallery.co.uk)

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# Bulphan WI

Bulphan WI members and visitors, wearing their best festive attire, braved the snow, ice and cold to attend our December meeting, festive music welcomed them to the village hall. After a lovely rendition of Jerusalem, they settled down to enjoy the entertainment which started with Jill and Denise leading them in an all-action version of The 12 Days of Christmas. This was followed by Pat H reading an apt poem about forgetfulness and Ann's BBQ tips poem.

Musical bingo was next on the agenda, the 25 seconds of each festive song played, some familiar some not so, had everyone singing along trying to get to the title so they could mark it off on their card, full house was eventually called by Lesley who received a tub of chocolates.

Pat H told her joke about Lions at the Zoo, followed by Jan C's tale of Little Hedgehog and Little Chicken. All enjoyed the buffet food they had brought along washed down with mulled wine and cups of tea, Michael Bubl  playing in the background added to the festive vibe, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year wishes filled the air as everyone left to tackle the journey home.

More fun and games are scheduled for our 11th January 2023 meeting, along with a discussion about the NFWI Resolution selections, four to choose from, Save our water – every drop matters, Women to women – turning over a new leaf in the lives of women tea workers, Online gambling harm: time for action and Clean rivers for people and wildlife.

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](mailto:bulphanwi@gmail.com)

Jan Curtis  
President

Sincere apologies to Bulphan WI for failing to include last month's article in the printed version of the Hobnob

Editorial Team.





## THE MOST BEAUTIFUL TREE!

*Every December for innumerable years,  
St Mary's Church Bulphan has been the recipient  
of a Christmas tree,  
the generous gift of Thurrock Garden Centre.*

*The trees have always been beautiful,  
but this year's is absolutely outstanding.  
Most grateful thanks to all at the Garden Centre  
for your continued support and generosity.*

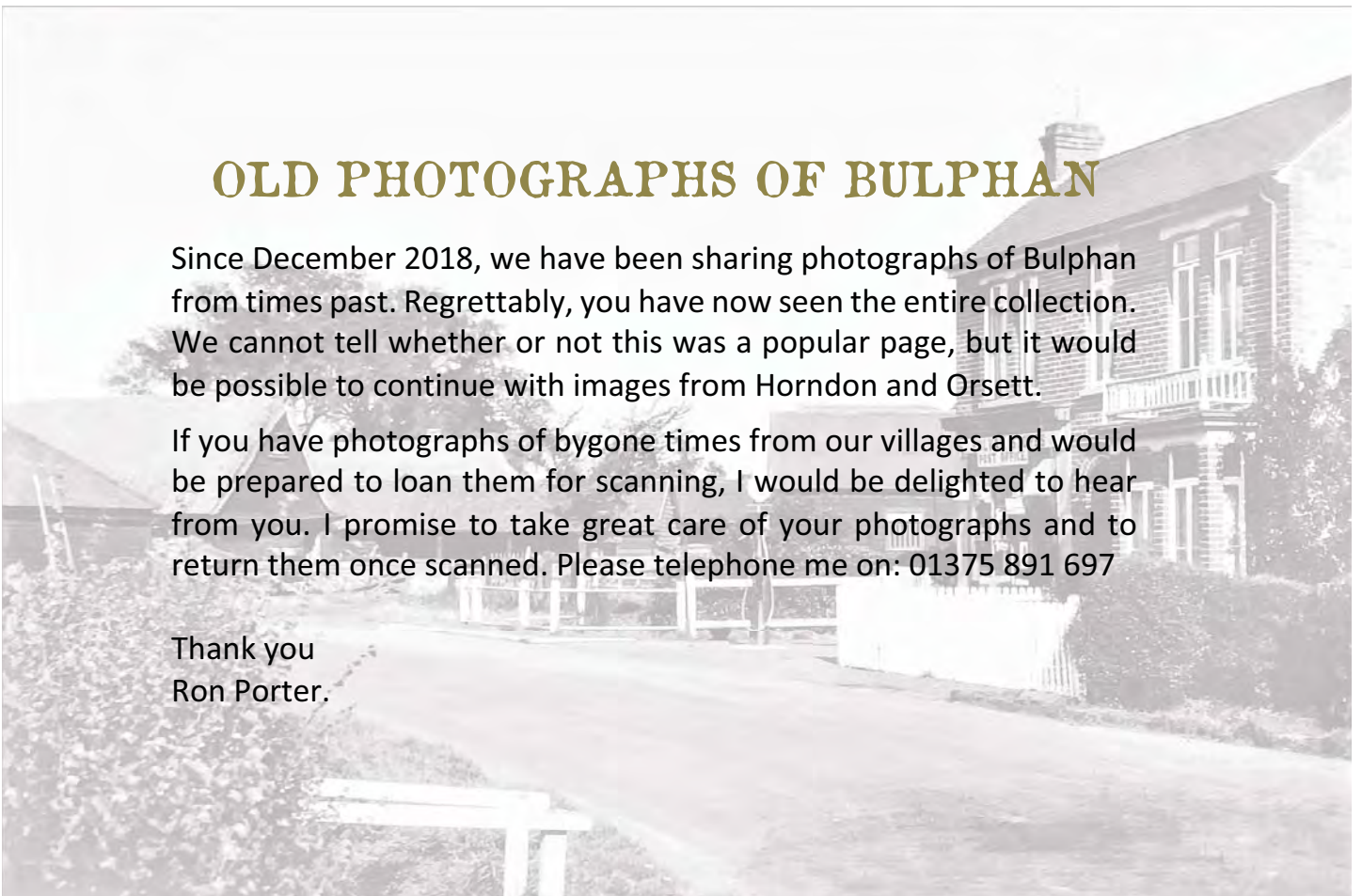


## OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF BULPHAN

Since December 2018, we have been sharing photographs of Bulphan from times past. Regrettably, you have now seen the entire collection. We cannot tell whether or not this was a popular page, but it would be possible to continue with images from Horndon and Orsett.

If you have photographs of bygone times from our villages and would be prepared to loan them for scanning, I would be delighted to hear from you. I promise to take great care of your photographs and to return them once scanned. Please telephone me on: 01375 891 697

Thank you  
Ron Porter.





**THE PARISH OF HORNDON, ORSETT AND BULPHAN**

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**Are you available to help on a Friday between 8.30am and 12 noon?  
We would love to add a few more names to our rota!**

**For more details please ring Sandra on 07967 428154**

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

**THE PARISH OF HORNDON, ORSETT AND BULPHAN**

***Cafe Church is an informal service during which refreshments and cake will be available.***

***Everyone is welcome***



***4pm Sunday 29th January 2023 in  
St Giles and All Saints Church in Orsett***

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

# Orsett Women's Institute



## **Orsett WI Celebrates its 100th Birthday**

Orsett WI's President Geraldine Riddles hosted a birthday party for WI members and guests including the Mayor, Cllr James Halden and Deputy Mayor Sue Little on the 7<sup>th</sup> December at their local Masonic Hall.

This event had been in the planning for several years. Ladies of Orsett WI had been fund raising with quizzes, tea parties and try and buy nights that enabled a really spectacular evening to take place.

The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of their new banner. Consisting of 100 squares made by each of the members, with a centerpiece of a tree with the names of all previous Presidents embroidered in the branches.

Huge thanks were given to Sue Thompson and her group for the outstanding banner, comprising of personalized illustrations that shows the character of Orsett WI.

Our longest member Phyllis Ford was asked to cut the birthday day and received a round of applause.

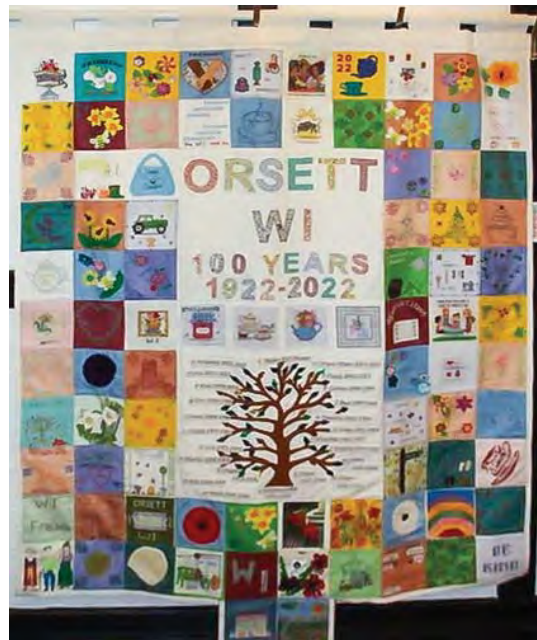
After a delicious three course meal the entertainment came to the fore and it took only minutes for ladies to take to the floor. Alec Berry was much appreciated for taking photographs of everyone.

We managed to persuade the Mayor to select the raffle tickets and there were some lovely prizes to win,

Thanks go out to all the guests and staff at the Masonic Hall.

Orsett WI were delighted with a comment on Facebook from the Deputy Mayor stating: "We both really enjoyed ourselves it was a real show of companionship and love."

From all the members of Orsett WI we couldn't have put it better.





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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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