

# 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 2023

# SERVICES – December 2023

	HORNDON	ORSETT	BULPHAN
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December		9-11.30am Oasis Café at the Orsett Churches Centre Edward Bear Toddler Group 9.30-11am	
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments 4pm Forest Church		
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	10am All Together Holy Communion Service		
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>		9-11.30am Oasis Café at the Orsett Churches Centre Edward Bear Toddler Group 9.30-11am	
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments	Carols in the Foxhound Pub at 6.30pm	
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	4pm Christingle Service	8.45am CW Holy Communion Service 10am All Family Service	
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments	2pm Holy Communion Service, at The Whitecroft Care home	
		7.30pm 'Nativity on the Pound' in the Church	
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>		9-11.30am Oasis Café at the Orsett Churches Centre Edward Bear Toddler Group 9.30-11am	
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>			8.45am CW Holy Communion Service 10am Holy Communion Service
	6pm Carol Service in the barn at Cherry Orchard, Orsett		
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		5pm Christingle Service
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	7pm Carols in the Swan Pub		
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>		No Oasis Café or Edward Bear	
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i>	8.30pm Holy Communion Service	4pm Family Carol Service	10pm Holy Communion Service
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Day	10am Holy Communion Service		
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	No Open Church		
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>		No Oasis Café or Edward Bear	
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>		10am All Together Holy Communion Service	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	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

December has come round once again, and Advent has begun. There are many ways that we can all prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. And I would, at this point, like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has enabled church events to happen smoothly throughout the year and to those who are working hard to make this Christmas special. You can find details of our Christmas services further on in the magazine and I look forward to seeing you at some of them.

I am very conscious, however, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, that many of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land are facing a very different reality from the one that we are living and we all long for a time of peace. I am, indeed, praying for a ceasefire. We sing '*O Little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie.*' Yet how far from the current truth can this be?

Thousands of people have been killed and over a million displaced after the escalation of violence in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory.

1,400 Israelis have been killed and 5,400 injured. Israeli civilians, including women and children, have been forcibly taken.

In Gaza, 10,818 Palestinians have been killed and 26,905 have been injured. Airstrikes have caused widespread destruction of homes, schools, healthcare facilities and telecommunication installations. Hospitals already at breaking point have been destroyed, and over a million people have been displaced. Food supplies, fuel supplies, access to water and sanitation, and schools have been drastically affected. So, as we make our preparations for Christmas, let's not grumble because we don't get our favourite carol, but be thankful for the freedom we have, to celebrate in the way that we do. Moreover, let's be mindful of those in parts of the world where the fact that they are alive today is a gift they can't take for granted tomorrow.

Please do especially keep the people of the Holy Land in your prayers.

Longing for a world of peace  
Where all are treated equally  
Where all can recognise their worth  
Where all can live with dignity  
Where all can join hands with neighbours  
Whether Muslim, Christian, Jew  
And find a way to live together,  
Making Holy Dreams come true.

Garth Hewitt. (From the Song Holy Town)

I will continue to pray for all around the world to know the peace of the Christ Child this Christmas.

With love and prayers,

Sue





THE PARISH OF  
HORNDON, ORSETT AND  
BULPHAN

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2023

**Saturday 9th December**

6.30pm Carols in the Foxhound Pub, Orsett

**Sunday 10th December**

4pm Christingle Service at Horndon Church

**Tuesday 12th December**

7.30pm 'Nativity on the Pound' at Orsett Church

**Sunday 17th December**

6pm Carol Service at Cherry Orchard Farm in their barn.

address: Conways Road, Orsett, Essex, RM16 3EL

Please bring your own chair and wear warm clothes

**Tuesday 19th December**

5pm Christingle Service, Bulphan Church

~~**Tuesday 19th December**~~

**CANCELLED**

~~7pm Carols in the Swan Pub, Horndon~~

**CANCELLED**

**Sunday 24th December**

4pm Family Carol Service at Orsett Church

8.30pm Holy Communion Service at Horndon Church

10pm Holy Communion Service at Bulphan Church

**Monday 25th December - Christmas Day**

10am Holy Communion Service at Horndon Church

**Sunday 7th January 2024**

4pm Epiphany Carol Service at Horndon Church

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



# 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>PTO*</b>	Reverend Max Blake	email: <a href="mailto:max@hobnob.org.uk">max@hobnob.org.uk</a>	01375 360 522

\*(permission to officiate)

## PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

## CHURCH OFFICERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

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

Churchwardens	Sonia Ward	01375 674212
	Beverley Macrae	01375 673 327
Deputy Churchwarden	Felicity Tarbard	01375 677581
Sacristans	Jane Barry. Judy Rood. Beverley Macrae	
Verger	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
Churches' Centre Bookings	Gary Jones	<a href="mailto:bookings@orsettchurches.co.uk">bookings@orsettchurches.co.uk</a>

### St Mary-the-Virgin Bulpnan

Churchwardens	Frank Woollard	01375 891 034
	Alastair Macrae	01375 673 327
Deputy Churchwarden	Brian Flavell	01708 225 804
Verger	Ron Porter	01375 891 697
Parish Room Bookings	Traudi Porter	01375 891 697

### Parish Administrator

Lynda Robertson: <a href="mailto:l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk">l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk</a>	07974 803 471
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### 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

7am - 9pm SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

## **BULPHAN VILLAGE SHOP**

**Bulphan Village Hall, Church Road, Bulphan RM14 3RU**

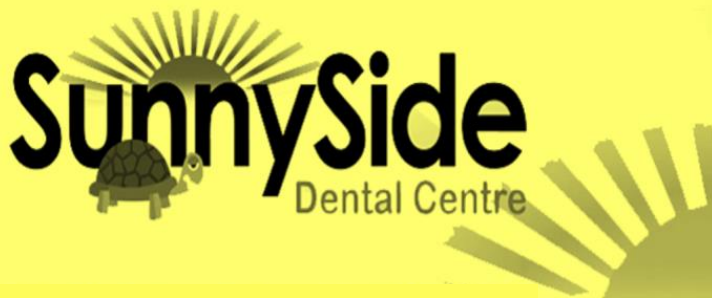
**Free delivery to local customers: call 07429 295505**

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

### **LOTS OF FREE PARKING**

Stamps are always available for sale at the till and there are main Post Office services at the hall next door on Thursday and Friday afternoons, 1.30 – 4.30pm

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



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email: [sunnysidedentist@btconnect.com](mailto:sunnysidedentist@btconnect.com)

Orsett Village Dental Surgery is a long established family practice offering all dental treatments, including intravenous sedation for the nervous patient, laser surgery for most dental procedures, hygienist/therapist services and dental implants all carried out by highly trained practitioners.



# THE PARISH REGISTERS

## Weddings

30th November

Toni Clark and Mark Christodoulou

(B)

## Funerals

13th November

Morag Waterman (79)

(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:

**Any of our churches in the parish**, 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,  
the preparation session in **December**  
will be Monday 11th at 7.30 pm  
in Orsett Church.

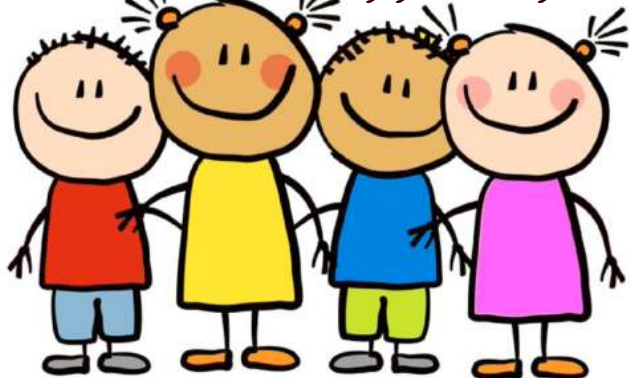
No booking is required.

# BULPHAN TODDLER GROUP

Fridays in Term Time  
10.00am - 12.00pm  
BULPHAN VILLAGE  
HALL

£2.50 + £1 each additional child

Contact Corinne 07722 417 143



## Bulphan Community Café and Post Office



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

Thursdays & Fridays from 1.30 - 4.30pm

Local councillors 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**



## The Games Café

at

Horndon on the Hill Village Hall

**EVERY FRIDAY EVENING**

**7.30pm to 9.30pm**

We have 2 **Short Mat Bowls** carpets  
so up to 12 people in teams of  
2 or 3 can play together.

No previous experience  
needed.



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

**£5** per week. **Just drop-in.**

No need to book.

**Come alone or  
with friend or partner.**



We **play cards** and **board games**:

SkyJo, Sequence, Dobble, Trominoes,  
Banagrams and many others.

Guest games always welcome!

**Please text or call Allison for more information 07773539345**

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





## Bulphan Churchwarden's Report

St Marys Church, Bulphan stands as a refuge for those who have faith and those who have no faith. It is welcoming to all.

The Church opens on Monday and Thursday mornings for private prayer and there is a service held on every third Sunday. The Holy Communion Service on a Tuesday evening has been transferred to the Rectory. This is mainly due to the low attendance and the fact that during the cold dark winter nights the Rectory might prove a better venue.

There are changes within the Chelmsford Diocese. The Bradwell Episcopal area which consists of eight Deaneries, one of which is Thurrock has a new Bishop of Bradwell, Adam Atkinson who took office in November 2023; I attended his Ordination and Consecration at Westminster Abbey on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Within our own Church we have had an amazing Remembrance Service, our thanks go to 'Brassy' Steve, Piper Joe and Janet McCheyne for their musical skills. With the current wars raging in Ukraine and Gaza people seemed very aware of the debt that is owed to those who laid down their lives for our freedom.

Phil Anderson in his recent address, reminded us that there are thirty- two countries where conflicts are being fought.

Our thanks go out to all the Bulphan in Bloomers who this weekend carried out such an amazing cleanup in the Churchyard. We have just received approval from the Probation Service that they will recommence their grass cutting/strimming works within the churchyard, which hopefully will remove some of the burden from Bulphan in Bloom. These works stopped during the Covid Pandemic.

During the past month the fire extinguishers were tested and recharged/replaced where necessary.

**Frank Woollard**

# ORSETT CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT



November saw the village pay its respects to those who gave and continue to give their lives in conflict to uphold the freedoms we take for granted. We also took time to remember those who suffered, and continue to suffer, from injuries and mental scars in ways few of us could imagine.

The end of the year is a busy time for everyone, the church being no exception. We look forward to the beginning of December with great anticipation as we move into the season of Advent. The Cambridge Dictionary lists Advent as 'the fact of an event happening, or a person arriving' and for the church it is the beginning of our liturgical year which brings a time of great reflection and prayer. A time for us to reflect on the coming of Jesus and what it meant to the people of that time but, more importantly, what it means to us today.

There are a number of events across the parish which we hope people will attend and enjoy. Special events and services in Orsett are as follows:

Saturday 9th	Carols in the Foxhounds – 6.30pm
Tuesday 12th	Nativity on the Pound – 7.30pm, St Giles & All Saints
Sunday 17th	Carols at Cherry Orchard Farm – 6pm Many thanks to the Cole family for the use of their barn.
Tuesday 19th	'A Christmas Carol' by Commedia – 7pm, St Giles & All Saints £10 per person – phone 01375 893808
Sunday 24th	Family Carol Service – 4pm, St Giles & All Saints

We hope you find a quiet time to reflect this Advent and don't get too caught up in the hustle and bustle of the commercialisation which seems to have overtaken the true meaning of Christmas.

God Bless  
Christine and David Mortimer



## **HORNDON-ON-THE-HILL**

### **CHURCHWARDEN'S PONDERINGS**

Hello all,

Our new kitchen is being installed in the next few weeks. This will make a tremendous difference to all the volunteers who serve at Open Church and other events. This is being made possible with the help of legacies left to our village church.

How quickly the Christmas season comes around. We have Christingle making on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10am. Please encourage all young people to come and make their Christingle for the next day's service. Christingle service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm, Carols at Cherry Orchard Farm in Orsett on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm, Carols at the Swan Pub on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm, Christmas Eve Communion at 8.30pm and Christmas Day Communion at 10am.

Please do come and celebrate the birth of our saviour, you will be made most welcome. The Church will be open for OPEN CHURCH all over the Christmas period including Boxing Day so please avail yourselves of our hospitality especially if you are on your own over the Christmas period.

Our OPEN CHURCH Christmas Party is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December between 10 and 12. There will be food, entertainment and carols for all. Please do come and join us, Young and old and everyone  
A Blessed and Happy Christmas to you all

**Sonia Ward**



## **WOOLMARKET MUSIC**

Our November concert saw the return of Hannah Woolmer, an accomplished professional Violinist. This time she had a new accompanist Daniel Roberts.

For such a magnificent concert the audience numbers were poor again this month.

Nevertheless, the playing of both performers was very warmly appreciated. Hannah started her recital by playing the well-known Elgar violin piece 'Salut D'amour' and continued with works by Mozart and Brahms. In the second half Daniel played pieces by Rachmaninov and Chopin and the recital finished with The Lark Ascending by Vaughn Williams.

Hannah lived streamed the concert around the world. How magnificent is that!



**Christmas Party and Concert Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 7.30 In the village church**

**Please join us for our Christmas social.**

**We will be entertained by the 'U3A Ukulele Band' and surprise artists!**

**Of course, there will be plenty of food. Free entry.**



## 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



**Working for Basildon & Thurrock**





# 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 an uncertain 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 peace in Israel and Palestine.

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"*

# USED STAMPS

**REMEMBER WE ARE STILL COLLECTING USED POSTAGE STAMPS  
FOR THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY "CRY"**

**DON'T FORGET TO TEAR OFF THE STAMPS FROM THE ENVELOPE  
LEAVING A SMALL RIM OF PAPER AROUND EACH STAMP.**

**LET'S HAVE A BUMPER COLLECTION FROM ALL THOSE  
CHRISTMAS CARD ENVELOPES THAT WILL BE POPPING THROUGH  
YOUR DOOR DURING DECEMBER.**

**COLLECTION BOXES ARE SITUATED IN EACH OF OUR CHURCHES.**



## **Zion Hall Mission, Bulphan Interdenominational Church Road, Bulphan**

**[www.zhm100.wix.com/zionhallmission](http://www.zhm100.wix.com/zionhallmission)  
[zionhallmission@outlook.com](mailto:zionhallmission@outlook.com)**



We wish all readers of HOBNOB a very happy and blessed Advent and Christmastide. We extend a warm welcome to all and services planned for December are as follows:

December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6:30 pm	Rev Pholani Ncube	
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Lee Woodward	
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Rev Max Blake	with carols
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	-	No service	
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Andrew Dickinson	

With there being a number of other local services on Christmas Eve we have decided not to meet that evening. We will however include a number of carols in our service the week before on the 17<sup>th</sup> December. On New Year's Eve we will be having a service but **at the earlier time of 5:00pm.**

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

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

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or in our clinic in  
Horndon on the Hill



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



# Carl Pickering

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or  
email: [Cpickering1976@outlook.com](mailto:Cpickering1976@outlook.com)





# Horndon on the Hill Church of England Primary School

Head of School Mrs. D. Bradley

Address Hillcrest Road, Horndon on the Hill, Essex. SS17 8LR Telephone 01375 673260

Email [admin.hps@osborne.coop](mailto:admin.hps@osborne.coop) Website [www.horndononthehill.org.uk](http://www.horndononthehill.org.uk)

We are all part of God's family. Through trying our best in all that we do, we find a sense of belonging.

1 Corinthians 12:27 'All of you together are Christ's body and each of you is a part of it'.

Dear All,

## Horndon Church of England Primary School Remembers



We held our Remembrance Service on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November this year. You may recall that the weather was awful that day, so the service took place in the school hall. We were honoured to have Bill Rayner as a guest at the service. For years Bill was part of the service in the role of Standard Bearer, raising and lowering the flag. Unfortunately, due to ill health, Bill is unable to continue in this role, but it was lovely to see him still attending the service.

The children made class wreaths and laid them at the front of the hall before we all took part in singing 'Make Me a Channel of Your Peace'.

## Visit from the Bishop

On Wednesday afternoon Horndon on the Hill Primary were honoured to receive a visit from the new Bishop of Bradwell. Bishop Adam had asked if he might be able to come in and see one of the Church schools within our Parish and Horndon was chosen. Reverend Sue held Collective Worship which included a question-and-answer session with Bishop Adam. Esme and Addison, who are members of our WOW (Worship our Way) group asked the questions that had been supplied by each of the classes. The children had thought of some great questions and the Bishop said afterwards that he was made to really think; the questions were that good! We hope that he will come and visit the school again during the summer, giving him the chance to see our Prayer Garden.

Warmest wishes

**Mrs D Bradley**  
**Head of School**



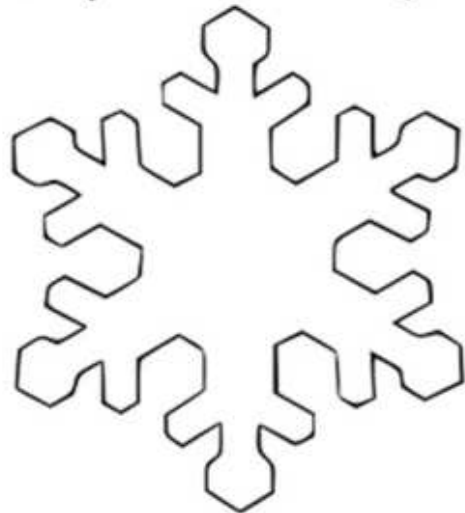
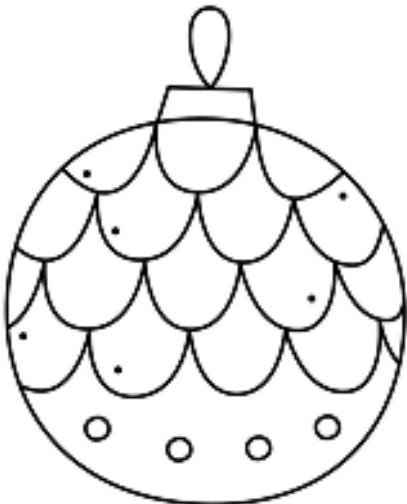
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# december



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The Parish 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 294 444

or  
[safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org)

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We have already completed half a term here at Bulphan. It has flown by and the children have worked really hard and we have been really impressed with their attitudes towards their learning.

## Food bank

Last half term Thurrock FoodBank came and collected all the donations that were generously donated by our parents and carers for our Harvest service. Thank you so much to everybody who donated something.



## World Mental Health Day

In support of World Mental Health Day this year, the whole school participated in some lovely activities.

Lower School had the opportunity to spend time with Upper School doing some buddy reading, colouring and playing games. Middle School created some lovely cups of positivity!



## Remembrance Service

We had a beautiful service on the playground for Remembrance Day. We shared some lovely prayers and poems and paid our respects during a 2-minute silence, followed by the children singing the national anthem.



## School Starters 2024

We have been welcoming new families in for tours of our school; who have children starting in September. It has been lovely showing off all our school and sharing our ethos. We can also hold individual tours should you wish to come and have a look around. Please call or email our office, who will be more than happy to arrange a convenient time for you to come in.

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

# Mothers' UNION

## Chelmsford Diocese Mothers' Union (CDMU):



It was wonderful to spend a few days entertaining Sandi, who is one of our link members from Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, when she came to the UK last month. She was visiting relatives in Birmingham but was able to visit Chelmsford Diocese. Lucy (Di's daughter) and Maxine (Diocesan President) took her to visit Mary

Sumner House as well as Chelmsford Cathedral and joined a branch meeting in Hadleigh.



## Christmas 2023 Appeal and The Big Give



Our 2023 Christmas Appeal is once again being matched through the Big Give, which gives you the opportunity to double your donation so that even more communities can lift themselves out of poverty. This year's appeal will focus on supporting our savings and credit skills training project in Tanzania.

We have been running savings programmes in different forms for over 30 years, so we know our approach works and transforms lives! All donations made between 28 November midday and 5 December midday will be matched through The Big Give up to £38,148, so please do help others at this time by donating at [www.mothersunion.org/christmas23](http://www.mothersunion.org/christmas23)

## Christmas Gifts



The new MU Retail Christmas & Autumn/Winter Gift Guide 2023 has been launched with lots of fantastic things to buy from Christmas cards to calendars to socks to candles to name just a few. If you are looking for something for a friend or relative, have a look online: <https://mueshop.org/>

The proceeds from the sale of cards and gifts helps to support our activities and programmes such as our Literacy and Financial Education Programme in Burundi which has been running for over 20 years.

## Orsett Traditional Recipe Book – 1984

It's party time to how about serving Margery Smith's Lemon Tarts alongside the mince pies? Their sharpness contrasting with the sweetness of the pies ..... whatever you decide to provide, may you all enjoy the fellowship of friends and families and have a joyful and peaceful Christmas season:

### Lemon Tarts

8 oz shortcrust pastry	2 oz breadcrumbs
2 oz margarine or butter	1 egg
2 oz caster sugar	Juice of 1 lemon

Roll out shortcrust pastry and cut into twelve rounds. Beat together margarine, sugar, and egg. Add breadcrumbs and lemon juice. Mix well. Divide between the pastry cases and bake at Gas Mark 4 (180 C) for 15-20 minutes, until filling is set.

*May the humility of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the joy of the angels and the peace of the Christ Child be God's gifts to us and to people everywhere, this Christmas and always.*

**Di Bubb, Mothers' Union contact**





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# CALL FOR PEACE & HUMANITY

On 11.11.23, with the support and prayers of the Ecology & Social Justice Action Group, I took part in the London march calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. This was the biggest pro-peace protest since weekly marches began, attended by more than 300,000 people – including individuals, families with children, young & old, Christians, Muslims & Jews. I have never before taken part in such a protest but my Christian, moral and ethical conscience would not allow me to be silent on this matter.

***Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. Proverbs 31:8-9***

Wearing my poppy, on Armistice Day, it seemed appropriate to be marching for peace. The Oxford English Dictionary definition of **Armistice** is 'a suspension of hostilities; a truce, a ceasefire; ...'. I was exercising the very rights and freedoms that many sacrificed their lives for and for whom I observed silence the following day, Remembrance Sunday. The march was over a mile away from the Cenotaph observance, later in the day, and the day before the main Remembrance Day Service and Parade; important distinctions overlooked by some.

I am no expert in the circa 75 year and complex Israel Palestine conflict but for the last 15 years I have informed myself about the plight of the Palestinian people. I have attended talks by both Palestinians and Israelis and heard about the illegal settlements, demolitions and clearances of Palestinians from their lands; the apartheid practiced by Israel in Jerusalem and the West Bank, the control exercised over Palestinian water, fuel and food supplies – all documented by the United Nations and Israeli & international human rights organisations.

***Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4***

The Hamas attack on Israel on 7 October 2023 was horrific and must be condemned. But since then, UN figures show that over 9,000 (and rising) Palestinian civilians have been killed in Gaza; approximately 1,200 Israelis have been killed in the same period. This disproportionate and indiscriminate killing of civilians and the collective punishment of Gazans by withholding fuel, food and water, is why I felt I had to add my presence to the call for a ceasefire, in addition to letters to MPs & Ministers. I ask myself, if a gunman took refuge in a house in my street, would I not find it unacceptable for the authorities to isolate me and my neighbours, cut off our food, water and power, and destroy our homes and occupants, in order to eliminate the criminal?

***Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered. Proverbs 21:13***

The march was noisy but peaceful. I witnessed no intimidation or violence. I felt safe. The chants called for ceasefire, justice and peace. Surely, we can no longer watch more innocent civilians die; peace and security to Palestinians and Israel will only prevail when the bombing and oppression stops. Opposing Israeli government policy is not antisemitic. I pray for PEACE for all.

***Please feel free to find out more and fact check the above at:***

[www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-67347201>

<https://icahd.org/2023/11/09/from-the-river-to-the-sea-our-response-to-the-slogans-controversy/>

Philip Mann 19.11.23  
Ecology & Social Justice Action Group





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Laindon North Trading Estate,  
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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](mailto:ask-waders@hotmail.com)

**Please help raise funds for**

**The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan.**

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

**Since August 2021 we have raised £1,439 for church funds.**

**Please ask friends, family and work colleagues if they have  
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**Donations can be taken to one of the churches or email Lynda  
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# ACT OF REMEMBRANCE IN BULPHAN







## HORNDON-ON-THE-HILL (with Stanford-le-Hope) METHODIST CHURCH

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

Sunday: 10.30 am Worship.

Minister: Reverend Fiona Smith.

Senior Steward: Mr Graham Hodgson.

Website: [www.methodist-sec.co.uk/horndon/index.html](http://www.methodist-sec.co.uk/horndon/index.html)

### SERVICES DECEMBER 2023

Sunday 3rd	Advent 1	10.30 a.m.	Mr. Habib Nadir
Sunday 10th	Advent 2	10.30 a.m.	Rev. Fiona Smith
Sunday 17th	Advent 3	10.30 a.m.	Local Arrangement
Sunday 24th	Advent 4	10.30 a.m. Carol Service Followed by mince pies and tea/coffee	Mrs. Maureen McPherson
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Advent 4	11.30 p.m. Midnight Service	Rev. Fiona Smith
Sunday 31st	Morning Worship	10.30 a.m.	Local Arrangement

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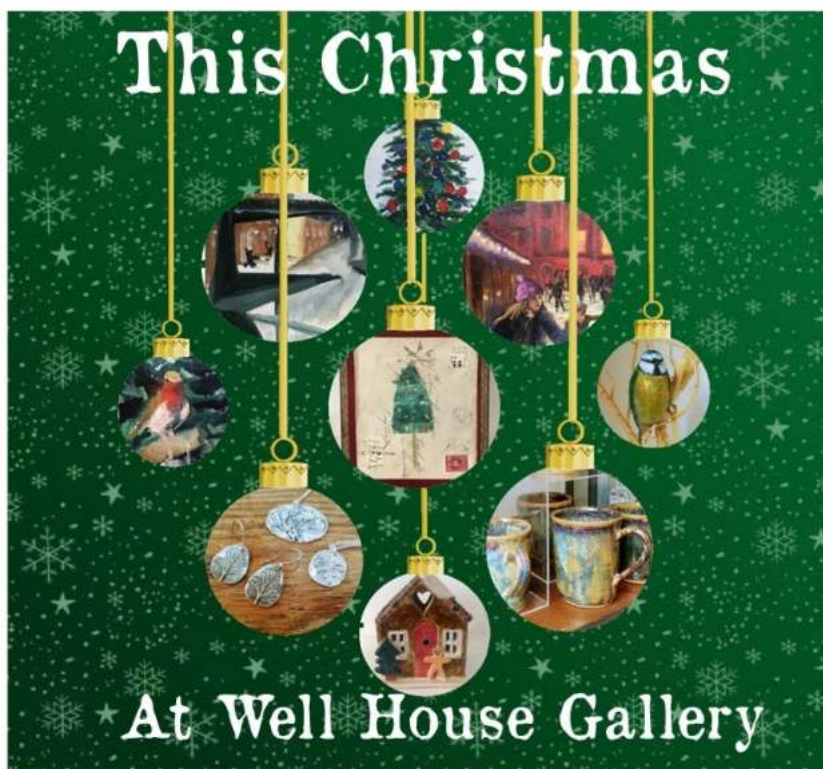


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# Five Candles

We are now in the season known as Advent, the 4 weeks in the Christian calendar that mark approach of Jesus' birth. This year Advent starts on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> and finishes on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Eve.

A tradition of the wreath has its origin in 15<sup>th</sup> century Germany and marked the approach of Christmas more than Advent. Originally Advent, like Easter, lasted 40 days, starting on November 11<sup>th</sup> with the Feast of Martinmas.



During the period known as Advent when you visit church you will see a wreath of evergreen leaves which represents eternity, with 3 purple and one pink candle around the outside, and a white candle in the middle, this is the Advent Wreath. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus. We light a candle on the Sunday of each of the four weeks, culminating with the white candle.

The candles have symbolism and meaning;

Candle 1 (purple) : The Patriarchs – typically Abraham, his son Isaac, and Isaac's son Jacob, also named Israel, the ancestor of the Israelites. There are many others considered as Patriarchs

Candle 2 (purple) : The Prophets – who foretold the coming of the Messiah including Isaiah and Zechariah. There are many Prophets.

Candle 3 (pink) : John the Baptist – Jesus' cousin who proclaimed the Saviour

Candle 4 (purple) : The Virgin Mary – who gave birth to Jesus

Christmas Day candle (white) : The Christ candle signifying the birth of Jesus, light of the world

In this definition each of the four Advent Sundays reminds us of those who prepared for Jesus' coming.

Another meaning for the candles is;

Candle 1 (purple) : Hope (in the one to come)

Candle 2 (purple) : Peace (in the world)

Candle 3 (pink) : Joy (in the waiting for the time we can all feel joy)

Candle 4 (purple) : Love (the love of God who sent his only son)

Christmas Day candle (white) : The Christ (the light of the world)

In this definition each of the four Advent Sundays reminds us of what we should feel each week.

The White candle can be lit on Christmas Eve. Although strictly it should be lit on Christmas Day and then at services after this, until the end of the Christmas season which is another much debated topic.

Throughout Advent the themes of the services should reflect the candle being lit. What seems to cause confusion is the pink candle, as despite what may be seen as a convention for pink to symbolise females, it does not symbolise or represent Mary.



# FAMOUS PERSON IN DECEMBER

## JOHN MILTON

**December 9th 1608 – November 8th 1674**

An English poet, pamphleteer, and historian, considered the most significant English author after William Shakespeare.

John Milton was a formidable English writer of the 17th Century and great believer in liberty. He was born in Bread Street, London on 9th December 1608. His father also named John was a scrivener (one who wrote contracts and other legal documents). His mother was named Sarah. John Milton senior also composed music and from an early age, John Milton Junior also loved music. Aged 12, he attended St Paul's school.



In 1625 Milton went to Cambridge University, he was awarded a BA in 1629 and an MA in 1632. After leaving university Milton continued studying at home. He also wrote poetry and in 1629 wrote a poem called "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity". In 1634 a masque by John Milton called Comus was performed; a masque was a form of entertainment that involved, drama, music, and dance. In 1638 his famous poem called Lycidas was published.

During 1638-39, Milton travelled to France and Italy and met Galileo. In 1639 when he returned to England he became a schoolteacher in London.

In 1642 civil war began between the King Charles I and parliament. John Milton was a strong supporter of freedom so chose to support the parliamentarians. In 1642 he wrote pamphlets attacking episcopacy (church government by bishops), and the following year wrote a pamphlet arguing that divorce should be allowed and then in 1644 he wrote a pamphlet in favour of freedom of speech. Following the execution of King Charles I in 1649 John Milton wrote material supporting the Commonwealth (the republican government that ruled from 1649 to 1660). During this period, Milton worked for the government translating documents into Latin.

Tragically in 1652, Milton went blind. However, in 1667 his great work Paradise Lost was first printed. It deals with the rebellion of Adam and Eve against God and their expulsion from the Garden of Eden. In 1671 another work by Milton, Paradise Regained was published. John Milton was married 3 times. He died on 8 November 1674 aged 65 and is buried in St Giles Church in Cripplegate, London.

Today he is remembered as the greatest English writer of the 17th century.



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## **HORNDON-ON-THE-HILL (with Stanford-le-Hope) METHODIST CHURCH**

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

Sunday: 10.30 am Worship.

Minister: Reverend Fiona Smith.

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)





# Bulphan WI

Some of our members recently saw the musical 'Mrs. Doubtfire' in London, and their comments about the production ran from 'fun' and 'energetic' to 'poignant'.

The Queen Victoria Seamen's Centre in Tilbury provides assistance to seafarers when their ships are in dock, and members had a great time wrapping Christmas gifts for them and their families. Quite the production line was in operation.



At our meeting this month we heard from Corrinne from Bulphan Honey about her bees, how they make beeswax and honey, and her inventive methods of cleaning the beeswax to make candles. Although we care about bees, and are grateful she and Thurrock Beekeepers look after our local swarms and hives, however, her comment that you often get stung was more than a little off-putting to quite a few of the members.

This year, again, we set out poppies around the church and village hall for Remembrance Sunday. Each year the poppies are stored and re-used, and this year were augmented by a donation from a scout group. Our President, Janet, laid a wreath on our behalf at the Sunday service.



Our thoughts are now turning to our Christmas trip to Southend to see 'The Fairytale of New York' and our Christmas celebrations in the Village Hall for all our members. If you would like to join us a visitor, first time is free, please contact Denise on 07718 860417.

**Lesley Crisp**



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