

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**

February 2024



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
PTO*	Reverend Max Blake	email: max@hobnob.org.uk	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	Lucy 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	bookings@orsettchurches.co.uk

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: l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk	07974 803 471
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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 McCheyne	07752 836 902

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

SERVICES – February 2024

	HORNDON	ORSETT	BULPHAN
Thursday 1 st February			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 2 nd		9-11.30am Oasis Café at the Orsett Churches Centre Edward Bear Toddler Group 9.30-11am	
Saturday 3 rd	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Sunday 4th February <i>2nd Sunday before Lent</i>	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		9-11.30am Oasis Café at the Orsett Churches Centre Edward Bear Toddler Group 9.30-11am	
Saturday 10 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Sunday 11th February <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>		8.45am CW Holy Communion Service 10am Family Service with baptisms	
Monday 12 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 13 th <i>Shrove Tuesday</i>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
	2pm Holy Communion Service, at The Whitecroft Care home		
	7.30pm Holy Communion Service at the Rectory, School Lane, Orsett		
Wednesday 14 th <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	7.30pm Ash Wednesday Service		
Thursday 15 th			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 16 th		School holiday no Oasis Café or Edward Bear	
Saturday 17 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Sunday 18th February <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	4pm Refresh Service		8.45am CW Holy Communion Service 10am Holy Communion Service
Monday 19 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 20 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 22 nd			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 23 rd		School holiday no Oasis Café or Edward Bear	
Saturday 24 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Sunday 25th February <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	8.45am BCP Holy Communion Service 10am Family Service		
Monday 26 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 27 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
	12noon Holy Communion Service		
Thursday 29 th			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 1 st March		9-11.30am Oasis Café at the Orsett Churches Centre Edward Bear Toddler Group 9.30-11am	
Saturday 2 nd	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		4pm Forest Church
Sunday 3rd March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>		10am All Together Holy Communion Service	
Monday 4 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments

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

Rector's Reflections

Dear Everyone,

As we enter February, our Church Council, the PCC, will be going to Mulberry House, in Brentwood, to pray and consider how we, as a church, can continue on our journey to be as inclusive as possible. So With this in mind, we welcomed the Revd Mike Nelson, from Twydall in Kent, to one of our morning services in January to speak to us about his church's journey to become an 'Inclusive Church.'

The 'Inclusive Church' statement says,

"We believe in inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

Whether or not we are a member of 'Inclusive Church,' it is important that our doors are open to all and that each person who walks over the threshold feels welcomed, loved and valued. That means we are called to love our neighbours, especially those who don't look like us, think like us, speak like us, pray like us or vote like us. Jesus loved everyone without exception. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus says,

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'

And so that is what we, as Christians, are called to do.

In the Parish, we try hard to be as inclusive as possible and really do hope you feel welcome when you come along to church, or to church activities, although we recognise that we may not always get it right. So, if there is something we could do to make your experience of church more comfortable or welcoming, please do let me, one of our wardens or a member of the PCC know.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

With love and prayers,

Sue



THE PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

15th January

2nd February

5th February

Betty Barness (85)

Grahame Michael Evans (78)

Molly Sylvia Chilton (92)

(O)

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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:

Any of our churches in the parish, 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,
the preparation session in **February**
will be at 12 noon on Saturday 13th
in Horndon Church.

No booking is required.



Bulphan Churchwarden's Report

After a long, sometimes icy, wet and windy January we look forward to a slightly longer than usual February as 2024 is a leap year. A leap year, also known as Intercalary year or bissextile year, contains an additional day, this day is added to keep the calendar year synchronised with the astronomical or seasonal year.

On Sunday 14th January we welcomed Rev Mike Nelson to St. Peter & Paul's, Horndon who had been invited to talk to us by the Eco and Social Justice action group. Mike's church (Holy Trinity in Twydall Gillingham), became a member of the Inclusive church group eighteen months ago.

Mike talked through a short presentation on their journey and why his congregation chose to link with the Inclusive church brand. He was available to answer any questions afterwards over tea and cake. Much food for thought. Should anyone wish to find out more the links to Mike's church and also Inclusive church are:

<https://htt.org.uk> and <https://www.inclusive-church.org>

Shrove Tuesday falls on 13th February the following day, Ash Wednesday, is the beginning of Lent. We are, once again, holding Lent Lunches across the three villages of the parish these will be held at the below locations between 12.00p.m. and 2.00p.m.

LENT LUNCH DATES

17 th February	Bulphan Parish Room	24 th February	Orsett Churches Centre
2 nd March	Horndon Woolmarket	9 th March	Bulphan Parish Room
16 th March	Orsett Churches Centre	23 rd March	Horndon Woolmarket

The meals will be a choice of vegetable soups and bread, fruit, teas and coffees, all of which will be fair trade goods. A hamper, full of fair trade goodies will be raffled. Please come along to support these lunches. All donations for the lunches and the proceeds of the raffle will be used to support Water Aid, one of the parishes chosen charities.

Later in the year (date to be confirmed) the Parish will be holding a Pudding Evening. This evening can only go ahead if we can get the help of generous cooks and bakers to provide Puddings and savouries. If you can help please put your name down on one of the lists at our churches. You can ask any of our Churchwardens for more details.

Please keep our dear friend Frank Woollard in your prayers. Frank has been unwell and is on the road to recovery. Luckily for Frank, and us, he has the help and support of his family to speed his recovery. Get well soon Frank.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

God Bless

Alastair



Horndon on the Hill Library Order and Collect

Are you unable to get to your library?

Sign up to the new
Community Order and Collect library service

If you live in Horndon-on-the-Hill and are having difficulties getting to the library, volunteers will collect your books once a month from Corringham library and return them for you.

Register your interest by 12 January 2024
by contacting access.services@thurrock.gov.uk

Or phone 01375 413976



For more information on the various library services available, please visit thurrock.gov.uk/libraries

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,
Bananagrams 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.

ORSETT CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT



As the hustle and bustle of Christmas and New Year seem but a distant memory, our attention is now drawn to putting the church in good order for the coming year.

Anybody driving or walking past cannot have failed to notice that the Lime trees along the main path have had, what can only be described as, a 'major hair cut'. In order for these trees to maintain their shape and keep them in good health, they are pollarded every 5 or 6 years. They may look bare at the moment but with spring just around the corner, will soon grow new and stronger branches.

The churchyard needs constant attention during the year and we are blessed in having Bronc, an ex Orsett resident, who visits most weekdays and carries out any necessary gardening jobs. This is a never-ending task, especially during the summer, so, if you or someone you know has a few spare hours a week and could help out with the upkeep of the church grounds, please do get in touch.

As with any building, there are always maintenance jobs to do and we have just had our lovely tower clock serviced. This should be carried out every year but since the pandemic has been a bit sporadic. Hopefully, this can now get back on track and help the village to keep time for a good while yet.

God Bless

Christine and David Mortimer



Horndon on the Hill

Churchwarden's Musings

Hello everyone

We are certainly in winter; the temperature today is well below freezing and the sky looks full of snow.

We look forward to seeing those signs of spring in our gardens and church grounds. We ask you again if you would adopt a small piece of the church flower beds to look after. This is not an arduous task and helps our regular volunteers who attend our grounds and cemetery each week. Just give me a ring and I can explain more.

I hate talking about money but just to say that to keep our village church open costs just over £1,000 per week. Please do support any fundraising we have later in the year to help us reach this target. Also, don't forget Open Church each Tuesday and Saturday from

10-12pm. We offer a lovely warm space for making new friends and meeting old ones. Free tea, coffee and biscuits are always available and we have just started serving Bacon Rolls at £2 each. There is of course a quiet space for prayer and reflection, and usually a member of our clergy team to talk to if you so require.

We have a re-cycling page in the HOBNOB. Please do use it if you have any item you have no use for anymore and it can be repurposed.

God Bless

Sonia Ward

Churchwarden 01375674212

ORSETT STORES

YOUR LOCAL AND FRIENDLY VILLAGE STORE

41 High Road Orsett, Essex Telephone: 01375891242

Open from 6.30am until 9.30pm Monday-Saturday 7.00am until 9.30pm Sundays

Suppliers of Groceries, Fresh Bread, Milk, Fruit, Vegetables, Chilled and Frozen Foods, Fresh Meat, Off Licence, Tobacco, Cards and Stationery, Confectionery, Fresh Flowers and Plants, Daily Newspapers and magazines.



Services:

Dry Cleaning, Photocopying,
National Lottery Outlet,
Newspaper delivery.

Post Office Local In-Store

Open from 8.30am until 1.00pm
Monday-Saturday

**Free local home delivery on
Tuesdays & Fridays,
please call to place your order.**



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

The Parish Safeguarding Representative is Janet McCheyne, who can be contacted on:
0775 283 6902

or
janetmcc101@gmail.com

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on:
01245 294 444

or
safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org

Smiths

ORCHARD GARDEN CENTRE

TWO AND A HALF ACRES OF
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WWW.SMITHSORCHARDGARDENCENTRE.COM



PRAYER DIARY

Some thoughts to include in your daily prayers

February 1st	For the innocents caught in the conflict in the Middle East
February 2nd	For St Luke's Hospice & all carers
February 3rd	For humanitarian organisations here and abroad
February 4th	For those living in Baker Street in Orsett
February 5th	For those who mourn
February 6th	For those living in The Spinney in Orsett
February 7th	For those living in South Hill Crescent in Horndon
February 8th	For those living in Stanford Road in Orsett
February 9th	For those living in Church Lane in Bulphan
February 10th	For those living in Mill Lane in Horndon
February 11th	For our clergy in this Deanery
February 12th	For members of our congregations who live in Grays
February 13th	For those living in Prince Charles Avenue in Orsett
February 14th	For our Orthodox brothers and sisters on the Feast of SS Cyril & Methodius
February 15th	For those living in Albert Road in Bulphan
February 16th	For physicians and all health care professionals
February 17th	For those living in Doesgate Lane in Bulphan
February 18th	For those living in Gordon Road in Horndon
February 19th	For those living in the High Road in Horndon
February 20th	For those living in Farm Road in Orsett Heath
February 21st	For those living in Penn Close in Orsett
February 22nd	For those living in Orsett Road in Horndon
February 23rd	For those living in Church Road in Bulphan
February 24th	For those living in The Green in Orsett
February 25th	For those living in Victoria Road in Horndon
February 26th	For our twin dioceses in Romania, Sweden, Kenya and Trinidad & Tobago
February 27th	For the work of Chelmsford Cathedral
February 28th	For those we remember but will never see again
February 29th	For the residents and staff of the Whitecroft Care Home

*"To see a world in a grain of sand
And a heaven in a wild flower
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
and Eternity in an hour"*

William Blake

Epiphany

CAROL SERVICE



On Sunday afternoon on the 7th January at 4.00pm in St Peter's and St Paul's Church Horndon-on-the-Hill, this special Epiphany Carol Service celebrated the Christmastide period that extends to Candlemas on 2nd February

Traditional and favourite Carols were sung and hand-held candles were progressively lit through the church. A joyous occasion at the beginning of the New Year.





Zion Hall Mission, Bulphan

Interdenominational

Church Road, Bulphan



www.zhm100.wix.com/zionhallmission
zionhallmission@outlook.com

We enjoy meeting every Sunday evening and extend a warm welcome to all to any of our services. Please feel free to drop in and join us for worship and fellowship.

The services for February are as follows:

February 4 th	6:30 pm	Rev Pholani Ncube
February 11 th	6:30 pm	Peter Crosby
February 18 th	6:30 pm	Rev Brenda Gutberlet
February 25 th	6:30 pm	Lee Woodward

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 at the e mail above or on 01375 891522



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**

20th February - Church Unity, Inclusive Church, all Churches in the Parish, Archbishops, PCC and Alpha.

12th March - Palestine (World Day of Prayer), Peace in the Middle East.

16th April - Leaders and Government

21st May - Giving, Finance and Generosity.

18th June - Local Community, organisations, Basildon Hospital and The Whitecroft.

16th July - Action Groups, PCC, Wardens, Musicians and All who serve.

20th August - Prayer Walking starting at the Woolmarket (for those who are able)

17th September - Schools, Education, Colleges and University.

15th October - Technology, Social Media and AI.

19th November - Christmas

**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



BULPHANlocal 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.



55 High Road Orsett RM16

Tel: 01375 892050

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and very caring staff

website: www.ss dental.co.uk

email: 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.



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 – Head-of-school: Miss E Taylor

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_S BET

W: www.StephenMetcalfe.org.uk

Westminster Office:

House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA

P: 020 7219 7009



Working for Basildon & Thurrock

CHRISTMAS

At St. Mary's



Because Christmastide extends to the 2nd of February, it enables us to enjoy the decorated Christmas tree, the Advent candles, nativity scenes and wonderful floral arrangements well beyond twelfth night, when most people remove these festive decorations even before the arrival of the three Kings. Bulphan Church is blessed with generous people: Gavin Knowles who donates the wonderful flowers and decorates three window cills and Thurrock Garden Centre that furnish us with a spectacular tree. Sincere thanks to all for your kindness.



Pottery & Paint Exhibition



5th January—27th February

Our latest exhibition kicks starts 2024 with an exhibition celebrating the creativity of potters Susan Warren, Pat Douglas and Susan Keeble. Their ceramic work shall be displayed alongside their paintings. So there is something for everyone.

Second preview on 10th February 11am-1pm

Check out our website: www.wellhousegallery.co.uk Or find us on Facebook and Instagram

The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

Baptism Preparation Meetings - 2024

To arrange a baptism you will be asked to attend a Baptism preparation meeting and at that evening, we discuss the meaning of baptism and things like the responsibility of parents and Godparents, the Baptism service and give you the opportunity to ask questions.

At the end of the meeting we can check the diary and you will be able to book your Baptism.

- **Sat 13th January** - 12 noon at Horndon Church
- **Mon 12th February** - 7.30pm at Orsett Church
- **Sat 9th March** - 12 noon at Horndon Church
- **Mon 8th April** - 7.30pm at Orsett Church
- **Sat 11th May** - 12 noon at Horndon Church
- **Mon 10th June** - 7.30pm at Orsett Church
- **Sat 13th July** - 12 noon at Horndon Church
- **Mon 12th August** - 7.30pm at Orsett Church
- **Sat 14th September** - 12 noon at Horndon Church
- **Mon 14th October** - 7.30pm at Orsett Church
- **Sat 9th November** - 12 noon at Horndon Church
- **Mon 9th December** - 7.30pm at Orsett Church



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



HORNDON-ON-THE-HILL (with STANFORD-LE-HOPE) METHODIST CHURCH

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

Minister: Reverend Fiona Smith

Senior Steward: Mr Graham Hodgson

<https://www.southessexmethodist.org.uk/>

Sunday 10:30am Worship Services February 2024

4 th February	Mr Ian Brown	
11 th February	Revd Fiona Smith	Holy Communion
18 th February	Local Arrangement	
25 th February	Revd Celia Mc Donald	

Introductions – Reverend Fiona Smith

Hi everyone, my name is Fiona and I am the new Methodist minister covering the area of Horndon-on-the-Hill, Stanford-le-Hope, Linford and Grays.



In January, in the Methodist church, we have our Covenant Services. Services where we reaffirm our commitment to living God's way, 'wherever [God] may place [us], in all that [we] do, and in all that [we] may endure.' For me, the words have had a particular potency this year as I have led the services for the first time, far away from Somerset, where I grew up, and Birmingham, where I lived for the last two years as I trained to be a minister. As probationer ministers we have very little choice where we will exercise our ministry, where we are placed. It is a process that requires a great deal of trust. Trust in God and trust in the Methodist Church's system of placement. Trust that we will end up in a place where God can use us and our skills, so that we and the churches we serve can grow and flourish. But this is not just true of ministry, however we have chosen to spend our days, as Christians, we trust that God will use us to make the world a better place. As we enter February, may we be open to the ways God is looking to use us in the places we are.

I look forward to meeting more of you, and learning more about you, as I continue to settle into life in Thurrock. God bless you.

Mothers' UNION

Chelmsford Diocese Mothers' Union (CDMU):



We give thanks for the life of Di Bubb, who died last month. She was Orsett Mothers' Union branch leader for many years as well as CDMU Overseas Chair responsible for building strong relationships with Mother's Union members in Myanmar (Burma). Di wrote this page in the Hobnob each month, sharing news from across the diocese and the global membership.

Do you join in Midday Prayers on the Mothers' Union Facebook page? This month Di's daughter, Lucy, will be delivering midday prayers on Thursday 22 February.

The Clewer Initiative Lent Resource



The season of Lent begins on 14th Feb 2024. This year the Clewer Initiative has combined with the World Council of Churches to launch a substantial new resource for Lent called True Freedom. This six-week course draws on themes from the book of Galatians and encourages individuals and churches to respond to modern slavery in their communities. To find out more about the course and download the materials visit www.truefreedom24.com

Lent

Ash Wednesday is on 14 February and marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Are you going to make it special in any way? We shared this Swedish proverb last year, it's still a good challenge for our Lenten journey:

Fear less, hope more

Eat less, chew more

Whine less, breathe more

Talk less, say more

Love more and all good things will be yours.

Whatever you do DO something.

Mothering Sunday – thinking ahead to March!



This year's Make a Mothers' Day campaign will focus on Gifts of Dignity. Through your support more women could grow their independence, take on leadership roles, and build a better future for their children. For information on how you can make a difference for mothers and their families through the ground-breaking work Mothers' Union does around the world, look at:

<https://mueshop.org/collections/make-a-mothers-day-2024>

Orsett Traditional Recipe Book – 1994

For the last year, we've been sharing recipes from some of the Orsett Mothers' Union cookbooks, paying tribute to members who are no longer with us. It felt right this month to share one of Di's recipes: Cheshire Onion Pie

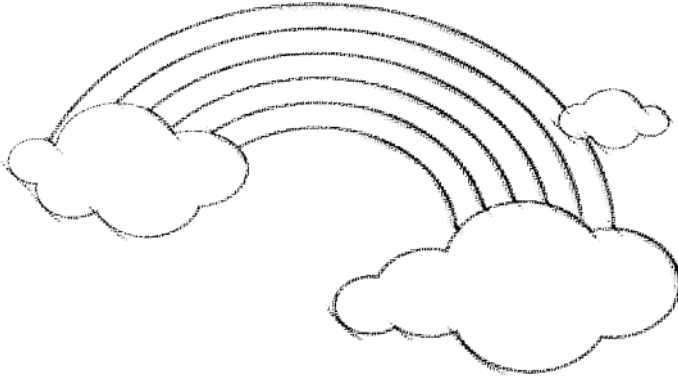
6oz plain flour	1 oz plain flour
¼ teaspoon salt	2 oz butter
1½ oz lard	¼ pt cream
1½ oz margarine	1 large egg
3 dessertspoons water	grated nutmeg
1 to 1½lbs onions, peeled and sliced	

Cooking time: 50 mins – 200 Celsius or Gas Mark 6

Make shortcrust pastry. Line an 8" flan ring or dish. Melt butter in saucepan – add onions and cook gently until soft – approx. 15 mins. Do not brown. Add flour, let it sizzle, add salt, pepper, and a little nutmeg. Stir in cream, bring to boil, and cook for 2 mins, remove from heat. Beat egg lightly, spoon into it a little mixture from pan, stir in then return to pan and mix in. Fill flan case, sprinkle more nutmeg on top. Bake in the oven (If using a flan ring, bake for approx. 30 mins until pastry is set. Remove ring to allow crust to brown.

Lucy Bubb, Mothers' Union contact.

February



*God's rainbow covenant with Noah –
Genesis 9*





Bulphan WI

The village hall was packed with members all eager to bag a bargain. The three long tables in the centre of the hall were covered with many and diverse items. Denise skilfully conducted the auction, with Mel and Bev as her runners. From a bread maker to a bottle of gin, from scented candles to assorted mugs, after almost an hour we had raised £184 for our funds.

Expression of interest sheets for future outings to the Strictly Come Dancing costume workshop, the Essex Air Ambulance and the Queens Theatre in Hornchurch were some of the trips members could sign up to join.

The WI has a long history of campaigning on social issues, from equal pay for women to keeping Britain tidy. Part of our meeting in January was devoted to discussing the four resolutions for 2024, Dental Health Matters, Impacts of poor housing conditions, Say 'no' to gambling advertising and Improving outcomes for women in the criminal justice system. We then voted on which of them we supported individually. The result of our votes will be collated with those from WIs in England and Wales, and lead to the process of deciding the national campaign for 2024.

We have entered a team for the Starlight quiz on 3 February, let's hope we cover ourselves with as much glory as our darts team, who are currently top of their league.

Our next meeting on February 14 has a chocolate theme, and on March 13 we have a flower arranging demonstration. Visitors are welcome, first visit is free.

LESLEY CRISP

The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

2024 LENT LUNCHES

Lent lunches will be provided on the following dates and venues
(all Saturdays, with the lunch starting at 12 noon last serving at 1.45pm):



- 17th February - Parish Room, Bulphan Church
- 24th February - Orsett Churches Centre
- 2nd March - The Woolmarket, Horndon on the Hill
- 9th March - Parish Room, Bulphan Church
- 16th March - Orsett Churches Centre
- 23rd March - The Woolmarket, Horndon on the Hill



The menu will be a hearty soup (vegetarian), a chunk of French stick loaf, an apple and a (Fairtrade) hot drink.

Those attending are encouraged to donate what they would have spent on a lunch.
At the lunch we will be selling raffle tickets for a hamper of Fairtrade goods.

All monies raised will be donated to Water Aid. Water Aid works with their supporters, partners and local communities to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere.

More details can be found at www.wateraid.org/uk

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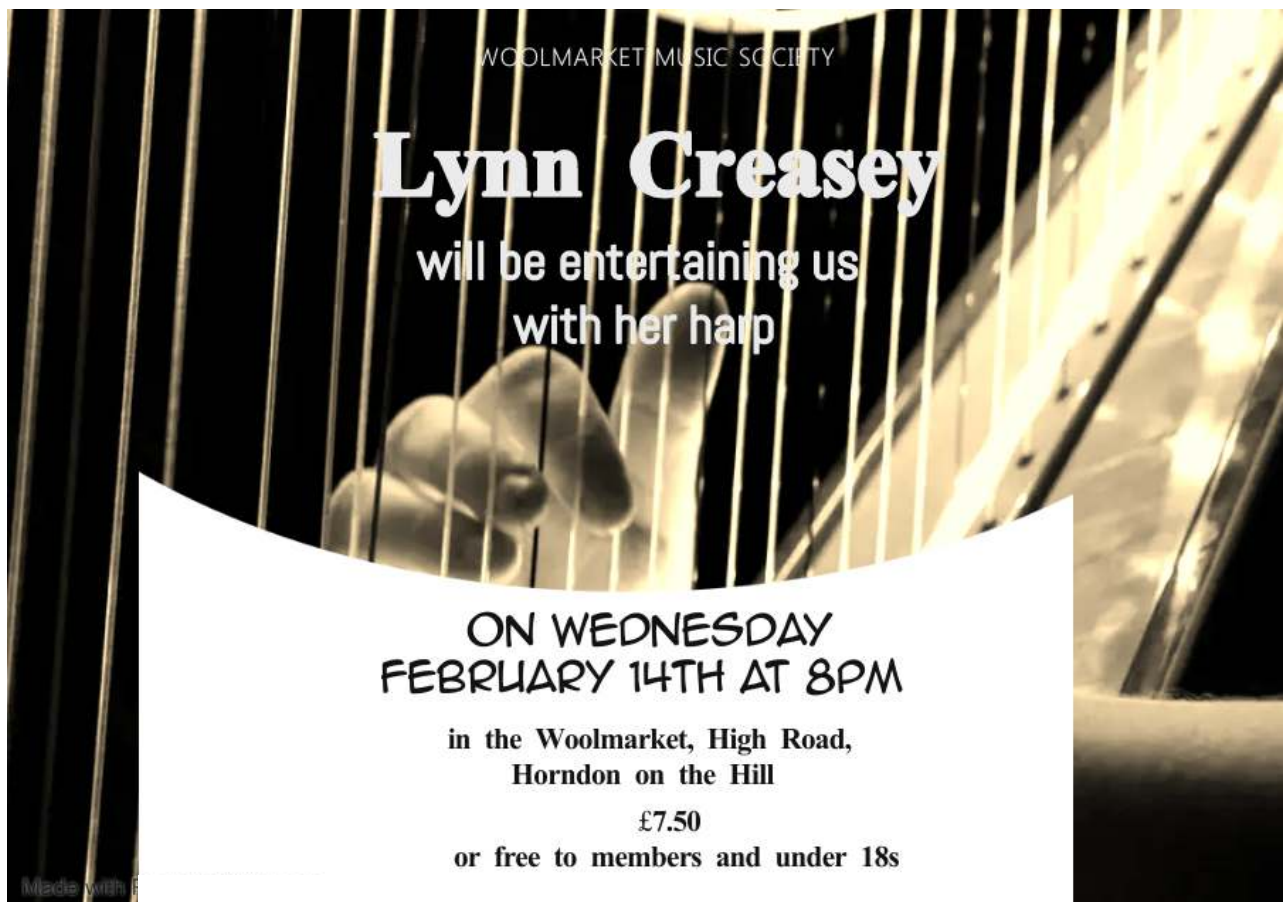
WOOLMARKET MUSIC



Our guest performer in January was Richard Stokkerei. Richard didn't need a map to find us as he has been to Horndon a few times before, entertaining us in the church at Feast & Fayre on many occasions. He has also guested at Woolmarket Music. We listened to some of his wonderful solo classical guitar pieces from Spain and Mexico and it was a lovely way to start the new year.

In February we'll be welcoming Lynn Creasey, who is an amazing harpist. Why not come along? It always promises to be a very entertaining evening.

Wednesday, February 14th at 8pm in the Woolmarket. £7.50 or free to members and under 18s. See you there!



WOOLMARKET MUSIC SOCIETY

Lynn Creasey

will be entertaining us
with her harp

**ON WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 14TH AT 8PM**

in the Woolmarket, High Road,
Horndon on the Hill

£7.50
or free to members and under 18s

Made with

Ecology & Social Justice Action Group

This month's theme is STEWARDSHIP. The dictionary defines this as the responsibility of looking after property. However, as Christians, stewardship is a way of life in which we recognise that we are guardians of all that God has given us. That includes our **time**, our **talents**, our **possessions** and our **money**. How do we use these responsibly and to the betterment of God's kingdom and society?

Care for the environment is an obvious focus of stewardship and the Parish strives to do this through Eco Church and more widely through our support of international aid agencies. As individuals we can make a difference by recycling, using green energy, travelling by public transport, reducing our flying, etc.

Bird Feeders - we would like to erect some bird feeders in the church yards to encourage wildlife and to boost our Ecochurch credentials as we aim for the Gold Award. If you or someone you know would like to donate or sponsor a feeder or bird feed do let Reverend Sue know.

Water Aid - our chosen overseas project to support for 2024 via Lent lunches.

Our money has great influence if we use it wisely. Christians (and other faiths) are encouraged to tithe and give the first portion of their income to the church and charity – for many Christians this is the first 10%. However, there are other ways to use our money well too. Do we support independent local traders in preference to corporations? Small local companies are more likely to use the money we spend with them locally, and are more likely to pay rates and taxes in full. Do we use ethical companies for our banking, savings, pension funds, investments and mortgages?

I believe stewardship extends more broadly, for example, to the protection of rights we have inherited from our forebearers. Votes for women and the entitlement to sick pay, paid leave, reasonable working hours, etc., have only been achieved by protest, strike, and/or collective bargaining by workers and unions. Most would agree these have all been for the greater good of everyone. We should therefore pause perhaps before we complain about or condemn those who protest or strike today. And we should consider carefully supporting proposals to curb citizens' right to protest or workers' right to strike for it is usually the more vulnerable and poorest in society for whom these are most required. So sometimes our Christian responsibility does extend to 'political' matters.

Does stewardship also extend to how we look after others in our local and wider communities? Do we support the food bank, advocate for the needy, condemn injustices and atrocities, challenge those in power in companies/local & national government? In Gaza indiscriminate bombing of civilians and civilian infrastructure continues. In the West Bank destruction and illegal possession of Palestinian homes continues. The oppression of Palestinian peoples continues. The UN calls for a ceasefire; shouldn't we echo that call as compassionate fellow human beings?

Philip Mann

Ecology & Social Justice Action Group



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FAMOUS PERSON IN FEBRUARY

WILLIAM HENRY FOX TALBOT

11th February 1800 – 11th September 1877



Fox Talbot was an English member of parliament, scientist, inventor and a pioneer of photography.

William Henry Fox Talbot was born on 11 February 1800 in Melbury, Dorset, into a well-connected family. His father died when he was less than a year old and he and his mother lived in a succession of homes until she remarried in 1804. Talbot went to Cambridge University in 1817.

In 1832, he married Constance Mundy and the same year was elected as MP for Chippenham. In 1833, while visiting Lake Como in Italy, his lack of success at sketching the scenery prompted him to dream up a new machine with light-sensitive paper that would make the sketches for him automatically. On his return to England, he began work on this project at his home at Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire.

Thomas Wedgwood had already made photograms - silhouettes of leaves and other objects - but these faded quickly. In 1827, Joseph Nicéphore de Niepce had produced pictures on bitumen, and in January 1839, Louis Daguerre displayed his 'Daguerreotypes' - pictures on silver plates - to the French Academy of Sciences. Three weeks later, Fox Talbot reported his 'art of photogenic drawing' to the Royal Society. His process based the prints on paper that had been made light sensitive, rather than bitumen or copper-paper.

Fox Talbot went on to develop the three primary elements of photography: developing, fixing, and printing. Although simply exposing photographic paper to the light produced an image, it required extremely long exposure times. By accident, he discovered that there was an image after a very short exposure. Although he could not see it, he found he could chemically develop it into a useful negative. The image on this negative was then fixed with a chemical solution. This removed the light-sensitive silver and enabled the picture to be viewed in bright light. With the negative image, Fox Talbot realised he could repeat the process of printing from the negative. Consequently, his process could make any number of positive prints, unlike the Daguerreotypes. He called this the 'calotype' and patented the process in 1841. The following year was rewarded with a medal from the Royal Society for his work.

Fox Talbot was also an eminent mathematician, an astronomer and archaeologist, who translated the cuneiform inscriptions from Nineveh. He died on 11 September 1877.



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