

HOBNOB *September Online*



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

We have now begun holding services in Church again, details of which can be found on our Services page, but you can also watch in your home, the services livestreamed from Church at hobnob.org.uk/watch or you can join our livestreamed Morning and Night Prayer on Mondays and Fridays at 8.30am and 6pm which you can find on Facebook @HOBNOBChurches

During the Corona Virus pandemic there will be no printed version of the Hobnob



THE UNITED BENEFICE OF ORSETT, BULPHAN AND HORNDON - ON - THE - HILL

www.hobnob.org.uk Facebook: @HOBNOBchurches

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CHURCH OFFICERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

St Giles & All Saints

Orsett

Churchwardens	Janet Wilkins	01375 372 067
	Jackie Wood	01375 891 744
Treasurer	Lynn Bennett	
Covenant Secretary	Mark Willett	01375 892 113
PCC Secretary	Vacancy	
Sacristans	Di Bubb, Judi Mowatt, Tony Mowatt	
Vergers	Ed Stoddart	
	George Wood	01375 891 744
Mothers' Union Branch Leader	Di Bubb	01375 891 404
Edward Bear Toddler Group	Di Bubb	01375 891 404
Tower Captain	Judith Church	01375 891 556

St Mary-the-Virgin

Bulphan

Churchwardens	Ron Porter	01375 891 697
	Frank Woollard	01375 891 034
Deputy Churchwarden	Brian Flavell	01708 225 804
Treasurer	Lynda Robertson	01375 892 428
Covenant Secretary	Frank Woollard	01375 891 034
PCC Secretary	Ron Porter	01375 891 697
Parish Room Bookings	Traudi Porter	01375 891 697

St Peter & St Paul

Horndon-on-the-Hill

Churchwardens	Sonia Ward	01375 674 212
	Alastair Macrae	01375 673 327
Deputy Churchwarden	Felicity Tarbard	01375 677 581
Treasurer	Robin Clark	
Covenant Secretary	Ann Bonson	
PCC Secretary	Beverley Macrae	01375 673 327
Sacristans	Jane Barry. Jane Lothian. Judy Rood.	
	Beverley Macrae	
Vergers	Bill Rayner. Peter Belsham.	

Benefice Baptism Co-ordinator

Christine Mortimer: c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk

01375 641 485

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

Rector's Reflections

Although, since the beginning of lockdown, I have been writing weekly letters to try and stay in touch and, more recently, we have reverted back to having a weekly notice sheet to keep people informed, this is the first Rector's Reflection I have written since March.

So much has happened during the past few months, some of which has been, and continues to be, very painful and some of which has revealed tremendous community spirit and care for one another. Thank you to all of you who have helped to keep things going in so many ways, from phoning round to delivering letters, maintaining the churchyards, checking buildings and so much more. As I have expressed to many people, it has been a very steep learning curve, particularly with regard to technology which we have had to embrace in order to communicate effectively. The numbers accessing online services has been encouraging and, albeit operating through new means, the Church has been very much alive and kicking.

Although restrictions have been eased, somewhat, it has, and remains, a challenging time for many people and, whilst some of us are out and about, it is important that we are mindful of the many people who are still afraid, or unable, to venture from their homes. For these people it has been, and still is, a very long tunnel, the end of which is not yet in sight.

My husband recently went to London and was shocked to see the impact of coronavirus, with almost empty trains and once bustling pubs and sandwich bars largely closed. As the reality of the economic impact of this lockdown hits, there are many families that are struggling. One of the consequences of this locally has been the increased numbers using the Thurrock Foodbank. Thank you, so much, to those of you who have given so generously to this project. And, if you are able, please do continue to support this work. We still have collection points in Bulphan, Orsett and Horndon.

Worship has resumed in two of our church buildings. Services, at present, are alternating between Orsett and Horndon Churches at 10am on Sundays and are being live-streamed for those who are still worshipping at home and you can access these by going to www.hobnob.org.uk/watch **

Horndon and Bulphan Churches are open for private prayer: Horndon on Tuesdays and Saturdays and Bulphan on Mondays and Thursdays, both from 10am until 12.00. We are also about to introduce Forest Church, an outdoor church, which we had planned to launch in April before we were all instructed to 'stay at home.' Forest Church is for all ages and uses creation to help us focus on God. Do join us if you are able.

Although challenging, we will get through this time. If we look through the Bible, God's people faced many trials, from plagues in the Old Testament to the apostle Paul's many sufferings we read about in the New Testament, including imprisonments, flogging, stoning, being shipwrecked, being cold and hungry to name a few.

It is so important that we keep praying for one another and our brothers and sisters around the world, and let's keep hold of the comforting words written by Paul, despite his own suffering, which say.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, [a] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8: 38-39

With love and prayers,

Sue



THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

Funerals

17th August
20th August
20th August

Stephen John Davis (73)
Thomas Jarvis (80)
David John Staines (79)

(H)
(O)
(H)



Wedding Enquiries

If you would like to enquire about booking a wedding at:
Orsett, Bulphan or Horndon 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:

Orsett church, please contact:

Christine Mortimer: 01375 641485
c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk

Bulphan church, please contact:

Christine Mortimer: 01375 641485
c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk

Horndon church, please contact:

Christine Mortimer: 01375 641485
c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk



Bulphan Churchwarden's Report

This time of year we would normally be looking forward to Harvest Thanksgiving, with the sights and smells in our churches, of produce donated by the congregation and our school children. But in 2020 there is no possibility of a Thanksgiving Service in Bulphan. We will have to live with that, but the greater loss is the produce, which would in normal circumstances have been passed to the Food Bank. Already struggling with increased demand, the Food Bank will now miss out from the huge contribution that would normally have been gifted to them in Harvest time. Perhaps we could find it in our hearts to purchase a few extra items of grocery shopping and let that be a personal form of Thanksgiving.

We rightly hear praise for the frontline workers as they unconditionally give time and effort to keep us safe and help us through the pandemic, but we hear little of our farmers; they too are heroes, working exceedingly hard at all hours in all weather to produce the food for our tables. Let us remember them at this time and give thanks for all that they do.

VJ75 day, celebrating the end of World War II in the Far East, happened on a blustery grey Saturday, but undeterred and at the appointed hour, Jo Goddard piped, Steve Benn proclaimed and Iris Aedy tolled the bell 75 times as residents gathered around the war memorial and paid tribute to "The Forgotten Army". The event then moved to the village recreation ground for a socially distanced picnic and entertainment. Unfortunately rain stopped play. Our thanks to Janet McCheyne who co-ordinated this event.

On the 20th of September Bulphan Church will hold its long deferred Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Very little will change from last year as the Wardens and Officers will not be nominated due to the fact that during lockdown proposal forms could not be issued, so like it or not you will have the same faces in office at least until April next year.

"What no Harvest wheat sheaf!"



Please be careful and stay safe!

Horndon-on-the-Hill Churchwarden's Report

Hi,

I can't believe this is my first report of 2020.

Life has changed for us all. I believe we have learnt to become more thankful for what we have and that material wealth is not so important as we thought. Having face-to-face contact with family and friends is what we all have craved for and hopefully, slowly but surely we are beginning to see a light at the end of a very long tunnel. I know many of our church family have had to isolate for many months and we have endeavoured to keep in touch by phone and letter if they are not online.

In Horndon this year we have had to say goodbye to many of our church and village residents: Godwin Swift - A churchwarden for many years and stalwart of the church.

Hazel Swift - Godwin's wife and a colourful lady of the village. She had a wonderful smile and was so generous.

Peter Moore - A font of knowledge on church matters and an ex Churchwarden. A committed allotment holder and church gardener.

Betty Tinworth - A villager all her life and member of many groups. Betty was a regular at church on Tuesday and Saturday mornings.

Peter Rood - Husband of Judy and member of many Horndon groups including Feast and Fayre and Twining group.

David Staines - A well respected Head Teacher/runner and trainer and member of our church congregation.

Steve Davies - A great supporter of the church, especially the gardening team and an allotment holder.

Now to the more positive.

Earlier in the month Felicity and myself arranged a Cream Tea for single ladies from the village to raise funds for our church. To keep in line with social distancing we arranged two sittings. With beautiful weather, everyone had a great time speaking to friends they had not seen for many months. We raised £250.

Our open church on Tuesday and Saturday mornings has restarted but as yet not with refreshments. Many people both local and visiting have looked around the church and used it for private prayer. We hope soon we will be returning to normal!

Church Services have resumed in both Horndon and Orsett on a rota basis at 10.00am. It's great to meet again albeit at a distance. No singing is very hard for me and it has been known for the Rector to have to stop the service to tell me to stop singing!!!

Keep safe.

God Bless

Sonia Ward , Churchwarden



PRAYER DIARY:

September 1st	For those living on Oxford Road, Horndon
September 2nd	For those starting at new schools
September 3rd	For those living on Brentwood Road, Bulphan
September 4th	For those living on Fen Lane, Orsett
September 5th	For our Bishop, John Perumbalath, his wife Jessy and their family
September 6th	For those living on Pump Street, Horndon
September 7th	For those living on Welling Road, Orsett
September 8th	For those living on Medbree Court, Orsett
September 9th	For the Deanery of Thurrock
September 10th	For the Church of England schools in our villages
September 11th	For those living on Hillcrest Road, Horndon
September 12th	For those living on Lower Dunton Road
September 13th	For those living on Parkers Farm Road, Orsett
September 14th	For those living on Heath Road, Orsett Heath
September 15th	For those in prison
September 16th	For those living on Conway Road, Orsett
September 17th	For those living on Fen Lane, Bulphan
September 18th	For those living on Bonham Drive, Orsett
September 19th	For those in hospital
September 20th	For those living on Wingfield Drive, Orsett
September 21st	For our own prayer lives
September 22d	For members of our congregations who live in Chadwell St Mary
September 23d	For those living on Rowley Road, Orsett
September 24th	For all those dealing with major transitions in their lives
September 25th	For those living on The Parkway, Orsett
September 26th	For those who mourn
September 27th	For those living on Fordham's Row, Orsett
September 28th	For our Methodist and Congregational brothers & sisters
September 29th	For those living on Herga Hyll, Orsett
September 30th	For our Rural Dean, Darren Barlow

Alone with none but thee, my God,
I journey on my way.
What need I fear, when thou art near
O king of night and day?

More safe am I within thy hand
Than if a host did round me stand.
St Columba

Zion Hall Mission, Bulphan

Interdenominational

Church Road, Bulphan

www.zhm100.wix.com/zionhallmission

At the time of writing, along with many other churches we are still unable to hold our evening service at the Zion Hall Mission building in Church Road. When we are able to return we will post notices on our noticeboard at the church (by the post box) and on our website. We are hoping that we will be able to hold some services in the Autumn following any changes to government guidelines on the matter.

In the meantime we are using Sundays to listen to and watch some of the many good local services which are on line including the broadcast of HOBNOB services. We thank all those involved in producing these. A few of us have also been studying Isaiah and are now studying the names of God.

Some of us attended our first services since lockdown at a couple of 'drive in' gatherings in the car park of Stubbers Outdoor Activity Centre at Cranham. It was good to meet friends from another church and be part of this innovative approach - although won't be attempting this at Zion Hall!

As you may have seen we have a poster on our notice board with Isaiah 46 verse one on it, alongside a note that we are praying for those in Bulphan village at this time. We trust that this may be of encouragement to all who pass by:

***'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble'
- Psalm 46 verse 1***

If you would like to learn more about the church at any time please visit our website or contact the Secretary: Ian Blackburn on
01375 891 522

GREETINGS FROM HORNDON-ON-THE-HILL METHODIST CHURCH

As you may know Churches within Methodism are grouped together in Circuits, Horndon-on-the-Hill is part of the South Essex Circuit which covers an area from Grays through to Stanford-le-Hope to Basildon, Billericay and Herongate.

Apart from preparing to re-open our buildings we have recently said goodbye to our Minister Rev. Brenda, who had pastoral responsibility for Grays, Linford, Stanford-le-Hope and Horndon-on-the-Hill, and we welcome Rev Yemi. In our Circuit Newsletter both of them wrote a piece some of which I reproduce here.

Message from Rev. Brenda Gutberlet

It seems strange to say that I am now retired, or 'sat down' - the traditional words used when Methodist Ministers ask Ministerial Synod for permission to retire. Thank you to the Circuit, and especially the Thurrock churches, for their prayerful support, messages, cards and gifts, as I begin a new chapter in my life. Though we were unable to share in the usual round of farewells due to Covid-19, I retire blessed by the six years of fellowship within South Essex Circuit. As with driving, so too with a change of Minister, glance back and give thanks to God, but then look up, and move forward together. Be blessed and stay safe.

Message from Rev. Oluyemisi Jaiyesimi (Yemi)

Dearly beloved people of God in the South Essex Circuit let me start with the Good News in ten golden words:

GOD LOVES YOU. JESUS DIED FOR YOU. YOU ARE PRECIOUS.

My first name is Oluyemisi which means The LORD cherishes me and I truly believe He does. My middle name Adetokunbo means Crown from overseas and this is because I was born in the UK.

From 1964 to 1984 I lived in Nigeria, among other things attending Methodist Boys High School in Lagos and the Government College Ibadan for my secondary education and University of Ibadan and A.B.U. Zaria for further studies and Immanuel College of Theology for my ministerial training and taught at my alma mater MBHS Lagos.

I met my wife Mojisola in 1982 in Nigeria and we got married in 1984 at St Marks Church, Kennington in South London and had our only child, a boy, in 1985. Our son Jesuseun, also called John, is married to Jane.

I returned to Nigeria in 1985 and continued teaching at my old school MBHS until 2001 and was briefly the Principal of Igbobi College in 2002. Commissioned as a Methodist minister in Nigeria in 1982 and ordained in 1986, I have served in the British Conference since 2002 in Kings Lynn, in Shebbear College as Chaplain, in Bristol, in Barnsley and until recently in the Ealing Trinity Circuit and now I am here travelling still with Jesus

I love reading. I love films on true life stories and events and I certainly love singing and love it when there is a harmony between the music and the words and when we sing what we mean.

I do believe that God loves each one of us as we are, but loves us too much for us to stay as we are, so together we praise Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that is to come.

My wife Mojisola, which means I wake up to wealth, is a lawyer but presently is in training to be an advocate for CHRIST in the Church of England our mother Church.

I look forward to getting to know you, to love and be loved, knowing that we love because He first loved us. At the beginning of a new church year it suffices to hold on to the words in Haggai 1 v13 THE LORD SAYS I AM WITH YOU and we respond keep me travelling along with you.

Stay safe and secure in the love of Jesus continually poured into our hearts by the Blessed Holy Spirit... Thank you to my Father for giving us your Son and leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done. The LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

We aim to re-open our Church in Horndon-on-the-Hill on Sunday morning September 13 with a short service arranged and led by ourselves.

Graham Hodgson, Senior Steward

FAMOUS PERSON IN SEPTEMBER

Dame Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie

Lady Mallowan, DBE née Miller;

15 September 1890 - 12 January 1976

She was an English writer known for her sixty-six detective novels and fourteen short story collections, particularly those revolving around fictional detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. She also wrote the world's longest-running play, *The Mousetrap*, which was performed in the West End from 1952 to 2020, as well as six novels under the pseudonym **Mary Westmacott**.



In 1971, she was appointed a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) for her contributions to literature. *Guinness World Records* lists Christie as the best-selling fiction writer of all time, her novels having sold more than two billion copies.

Christie was born into a wealthy upper-middle-class family in Torquay, Devon, and was largely home-schooled. She was initially an unsuccessful writer with six consecutive rejections, but this changed in 1920 when *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, featuring detective Hercule Poirot, was published.

Her first husband was Archibald Christie; they married in 1914 and had one child before divorcing in 1928. During both World Wars, she served in hospital dispensaries, acquiring a thorough knowledge of the poisons which featured in many of her novels, short stories, and plays. Following her marriage to archaeologist Max Mallowan in 1930, she spent several months each year on digs in the Middle East and used her first-hand knowledge of his profession in her fiction.

According to Index Translationum, she remains the most translated author. *And Then There Were None* is one of the highest selling books of all time, with approximately 100 million sales. Christie's stage play *The Mousetrap* holds the world record for the longest initial run. It opened at the Ambassadors Theatre in the West End of London on 25 November 1952, and by September 2018 there had been more than 27,500 performances. The play was closed down in March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In 1955, Christie was the first recipient of the Mystery Writers of America's Grand Master Award. Later that year, *Witness for the Prosecution* received an Edgar Award for best play. In 2013, she was voted the best crime writer and *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* the best crime novel ever by 600 professional novelists of the Crime Writers' Association. In September 2015, *And Then There Were None* was named the "World's Favourite Christie" in a vote sponsored by the author's estate. Most of Christie's books and short stories have been adapted for television, radio, video games, and graphic novels. More than thirty feature films are based on her work.

ORSETT EDWARD BEAR TODDLER GROUP

The summer holidays are over; Edward Bear didn't go away this year, instead opting for a staycation at home. He did have some fun times though ...



At the beginning of the month, he joined in the United Benefice Virtual Cream Team with Di but they actually ate their scones with jam and cream (or was it cream and jam?!) which went together with a lovely cup of tea. Here are some photos:



He also went on a day trip to Cambridge when he chose a very big pot for an acer tree ... "Goodness me", thought Edward Bear, "this pot is almost as big as me!"

Finally, he got all his furry friends together to read a book called "The Paper Dolls" – have you read it? He wondered about having an Edward Bear Book Group but his furry friends do find it difficult to turn the pages with their furry paws!



Edward Bear had thought to himself: "I hope all my friends are staying safe. I'm not sure when I'm going to see them again because it's still not safe enough for us to meet once a fortnight like we used to. Some of my friends will be going off to school for the first time and I'd like to say a prayer for them at the start of this academic year"-

"Heavenly Father, as we start a new academic year we thank you that you are always with us. We thank you that in the good times and the difficult times you are present with us. As this school year unfolds, may we all know your presence with us as we seek to know your guidance, your peace, your joy and your encouragement. Amen"

Edward Bear also wondered if his friends would like to take part in a prayer trail ... it's been created by the Diocese of Chelmsford especially for children returning to school and is on the following page. It's great to use at home or in the garden or even at the local park. It even reminds us that God loves to see his children play, which is just as well because Edward Bear knows that his friends like to listen to stories and play!

Edward Bear would also love to hear from his friends – send us your summer photos, or comment when he shares his stories and photos: <https://www.facebook.com/Orsett-Edward-Bear-Toddler-Group-1824091051224579/>

Edward Bear, Di, Gill, and Sandra

LISA ANDERSON AT THE WELLHOUSE GALLERY

We are so happy to be back!

We re-opened our doors on June 15th, not knowing if people would have the confidence to return to the high street. To our surprise we have had quite a busy few months! New artists, new customers, and a new buzz of life.

New work includes pottery by Craig Melling. His fantastic range of home-ware: 'Pots The Soldier Designed' is a testament to how creativity can help individuals through traumatic circumstances and bring joy to life. You can see his work in our shop on the High Street – we think it would make a wonderful addition to your home!



Government restrictions have necessarily stopped our much-loved Preview evening and Art Workshops, but we have found ways to adapt. The 'Virtual Art' club was born at the start of Lockdown and have been 'meeting' over WhatsApp every Tuesday since March!

This vibrant community of diverse artists has been able to encourage one another to use the resources we have, be inspired by our every-day surrounding, and appreciate the beauty around us.

We are excited to showcase a real-life exhibition of the 'Virtual Art' work in October this year!

Max Blake's exhibition of oil paintings is on display from the 14th September!

On August 1st we celebrated 6 years of the Gallery opening. We would like to thank you all again for welcoming our family in the village, for supporting us all from the beginning and throughout the twists-and-turns of life and the business since! We love Horndon-on-the-Hill! Here's to many more years of championing artists and celebrating the God-given creativity in us all. We can't wait to see you soon!



With love from Lisa and the family.

Latest information is available at www.wellhousegallery.co.uk, and on our Facebook page.

Hand sanitiser is available on your way in, and face coverings must be worn in store as per the current government guidelines.

For any queries, please ring Lisa on 07946530379, or email info@wellhousegallery.co.uk.

LOOKING BACK AT LOCKDOWN – ME AND MY iPad



Personal Reflections on Worship

What a treasure my iPad became during the extraordinary months of lockdown!

My iPad enabled me to join every day with a variety of United Benefice services: Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer (Compline) as well as Sunday services all led by Rector Sue and Max, our Assistant Priest. It was comforting to know other friends were joining in online too and, of course, taking part in the pre-recorded services – even I had a go at being recorded! I want to give a big thanks to Rector Sue and Max, as well as Phil and Thomas for their help with all the services.

Our Benefice Services weren't the only services that I was able to join in though – there were so many others from churches, cathedrals, and Christian groups of all denominations across the world. I found myself joining in services based on: the prayers of Julian of Norwich; the Northumbrian Community; the Iona Community liturgy from the Wee Worship book; the Moravian tradition; the Franciscan prayers; prayers on themes such as Peace and Creation. Particularly wonderful was the Mothers' Union Midday prayers, which joined me together with members from all corners of the world. Then there was the excellent material put out by Archbishop Justin Welby and the Church of England website as well as 'Daily Hope', the phoneline (0800 804 8044), which includes services, hymns and the latest offering of 'Holiday at Home on the Phone' – reflections using your imagination for those unable to go on holiday.

Out of all these opportunities, for me, there was one big surprise. One Sunday, I started listening to an 8am Holy Communion from the old prayer book, the "Book of Common Prayer 1662" and because it had been the main service of my life for so many years, the words were completely familiar and I was able to join in without using an order of service. I'd forgotten how beautiful and rich the language was, obviously ingrained in my mind.

I have been reflecting that today, with so many different services being used even just in our United Benefice, I don't get to know the prayers and those just starting their faith journey will have very different experiences to mine without the opportunity to really get to know and become familiar with a service setting. I wonder how many people have their own prayer book – I still have mine given to me on my confirmation in 1942. During this reflection I've realised how blessed I have been!

So the lockdown has been an unexpected learning curve in so many ways not just, of course, for my faith journey. For me, it's been a time to learn new things and also to be reminded of the beauty of our liturgical history.

These are my personal thoughts and reflections – I wonder what you've discovered?

Di Bubb

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

Happenings around the Benefice this month in the past

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE ORSETT SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 1882

The following is a transcription from The Chronicle, Friday 22 September 1882 of the Harvest thanksgiving service at Orsett. This is a far cry from what we experience now.

As an indication the offertories would have a modern value of around £1,600

Harvest thanksgiving services were held in the parish church on Sunday last. The church was, as usual, very beautifully decorated for the occasion. Offerings of fruit, flowers and corn were received from Captain Wingfield, of Orsett Hall, from most of the farmers and from many others of the inhabitants of the parish. The east end was particularly chaste. The text over the altar, worked in wheat and leaves, was "I am the bread of life." The panels were also tastefully decorated with wheat and barley. Choice ferns and plants from the hall were placed in the sanctuary. The font was beautifully adorned with a perfect wreath of harvest offerings, and the pulpit was very brightly decked with fruit, corn and flowers. The text over the doorway was "Enter his gates with thanksgiving." The workers were Miss Sharples, Mrs Cook, Mrs Talmarsh, Mr Biddell, Miss Biddell, Miss Cliff, Miss Emily Woollings, Miss Rowley, Miss Cook, Miss King, Mrs Powell and Clement Frostick. Mr Howard also gave the decorators much help in arranging the work. The services began by celebration of the Holy Communion at eight, when there were 28 communicants. This was followed by matins, with a second celebration at eleven. There was a very large congregation and the sermon was preached by the Rev R T Whittington, rector, from Leviticus xxvi 2, 3, 4. There were 48 communicants. In the afternoon at three, the Litany was sung by the Rector, and the sermon was preached by the Rev J E Potts. At half-past six there was choral evensong. The service was intoned by the Rector. The anthem was Smith's "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness." Canon Hitchcock, vicar of Romford, who was to have preached at this service, was unable to be present, owing to illness. His place was taken by the Rector, who preached from Psalm cxvi 11, 15, 16. The sermon was full of earnest exhortations to those present to keep God's commandments, and so to live a life of thankfulness for all his mercies to us, which were entirely undeserved. There was a very large congregation indeed. Extra seats were placed in the Baker-Wingfield chancel and in the aisles, and all were filled. The singing all through was very good, and reflected great credit on the choir and Mr J B Ridgwell, choirmaster and organist. The offertories during the day amounted to £16, and this is to be divided between the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Society and such of the London hospitals as the Rector and churchwardens may determine.

HOUSE FOR SALE BY AUCTION IN HORNDON 1857

Transcription of an advert in the Essex Herald for a house for sale by auction on September 28th 1857 This was obviously a sizeable property in the now High Road in Horndon:

A very desirable FREEHOLD ESTATE, comprising a Residence with five bed-rooms and closets, three sitting rooms, kitchen, pantry, cellar and brew-house; also a 3 stall stable and cart shed with loft over, and henhouse, with garden and large productive orchard well stocked with fruit trees and pond; also two cottages adjoining and a blacksmith's shop with two forges, penthouse and coalhouse containing altogether about 1 acre, 2 roods, 24 perches, pleasantly situated in the High Street and parish of Horndon on the Hill, within a mile and a half of Stanford le Hope station on the London, Tilbury and Southend Line of Railway, thereby bringing the property within two hours of the Metropolis, within two miles of the kennel of the South Essex Hounds and in one of the most healthy and picturesque villages in the county.

BULPHAN RECTOR LEAVING 1847

Below is the transcription from the Essex Herald dated 22nd September 1847 of a report pertaining to the Rector of Bulphan Rev Thomas Hand, leaving to take up a post in Clones, Ulster in 1847. A little research showed Rev Hand to be quite well connected through marriage.

The appointment of the Rev Tomas Hand, rector of Bulphan, and chairman of the Orsett Union, to the valuable and important parish of Clones in the province of Ulster, and the consequent removal of the rev gentleman to the sister kingdom, have produced quite sensation in the district with which he is more immediately connected, and it must be most gratifying to him to see how highly his public and private character is estimated by the manner in which all join to evince their respect for him. In our advertising columns will be found the announcement of a public dinner, which the guardian and the public generally intend to have in honour of him at The Royal Hotel, Purfleet; the venerable Sir T B Lennard presiding.

DINNER
TO
THE REV. THOMAS HAND,
AT THE HOTEL, PURFLEET,
On **TUESDAY, October the 5th, 1847.**

THE Guardians of the Orsett Union have invited their late excellent and highly-respected Chairman, the Rev. THOMAS HAND, (who is about leaving this country to reside in Ireland,) to a **FAREWELL DINNER**, at the Hotel, at Purfleet, on **TUESDAY, October 5th, at Five o'Clock**, when the numerous friends of that Gentleman, and all those who have had the opportunity to remark his high character, his great talents, and his eminent services, not only as Chairman of the Board of Guardians, but as a Magistrate, and in other public situations, are invited to attend.

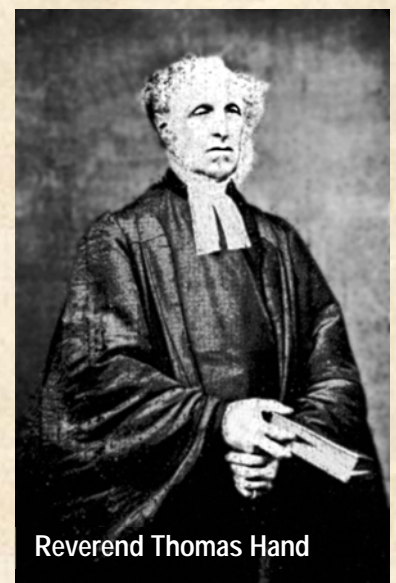
Sir THOMAS BARRETT LENNARD, Bart.
WILL PRESIDE;

And the following Gentlemen will act as Stewards:—The Rev. H. S. Hale; Messrs. S. Westwood, C. L. Vidal, R. B. Jordison, T. J. Skinner, W. C. Woodthorp, and H. St. John Joyner.

Tickets, 12s. 6d. each, are to be obtained by application to either of the Stewards; to Mr. North Burridge, Romford; or Mr. Taylor, at the Hotel, Purfleet.

No Tickets will be issued after Twelve o'Clock on Saturday, the 2nd of October.

This is a notice for Rev Hand's farewell dinner. It is worth noting that the ticket price would equate to around £60 today



Reverend Thomas Hand



MOTHERS' UNION

Thank You Key Workers Appeal

You've probably heard about the **Together coalition** as there has been much in the media - Together is a coalition that everyone is invited to join, from community groups to some of the UK's best known organisations. The aim is to bring people together and bridge divides, to help build a kinder, closer and more connected country.

At the end of June, the Mothers' Union joined the Together coalition and on 5 July said the biggest thank you possible to all those who have helped us to get through Covid-19. Bev Jullien, our Mothers' Union CEO said: "The ethos of the Together coalition couldn't have chimed more clearly with us, not just because of the work that we do, but especially at this moment in time when we are focused on the exceptional need for recovery and rebuilding within families and communities."

There has been an outpouring of compassion and care during the crisis from our hospital workers to our delivery drivers, carers to cleaners and our refuse collectors to bus drivers, however, because of their personal sacrifices quality family time has not always been possible.

Families and supporting family life have always been at the heart of the work of the Mothers' Union, and we recognise the importance of making time to step away from the stresses of everyday life, reconnect and create memories - enhancing wellbeing is essential to healthy lives and healthy families. Therefore, the existing Away from it all Programme (AFIA) is being extended to say a special "thank you" to key workers in these unprecedented times. People are being asked to support this in whichever way they can, from nominating a key worker, to fundraising or just letting people know about the Appeal in their local communities and networks. The extended AFIA programme will help provide a range of day trips/experiences and short breaks for families of key workers to help rebuild connections and togetherness, especially for those who have been kept apart or who are on low incomes - families who would generally be unable to have experiences like this. To find out more information: <https://www.mothersunion.org/thank-you-keyworker-appeal>



Getting ready for Christmas!

I know it might feel a bit early to mention Christmas but ... there is a new Mothers' Union Enterprises catalogue out and it's packed with Christmas products, including an extensive and beautifully designed range of Christmas Cards. Why don't you have a look online and see if there is something you fancy? <https://mueshop.org/>

Special honour

Lynne Tembey, who was our Mothers' Union World Wide President (2013-2018), has recently been appointed at Lay Canon and Prebendary of York Minster, which means she will be part of a team appointed to oversee the day-to-day running of the York Minster – a fantastic achievement! She received an OBE in 2019 in recognition of her services to Mothers' Union, to women and to families.

Midday Prayers

Mothers' Union Midday Prayers are now said online (Monday – Saturday) – it really is a joy to be able to join in prayer in this way with thousands of our sisters and brothers across the world. If you haven't joined in yet, please do try: <https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnion>

Di Bubb, Mothers' Union contact

A THANK YOU FROM JACKIE FIRMAN

Dear All,

I wish to say a sincere thank you to Joan Browne. She has been a tremendous support and inspiration to me. Joan took part in the first Nativity on the Pound over 50 years ago and is still a 'good shepherd' hanging on to our live sheep at the yearly event. She has been a staunch fundraiser from parachuting teddy bears off the tower roof, working hard at flower festivals and bazaars and producing copious amounts of plants to sell at various events. 16 years ago, Joan and I joined forces to write the little book 'Orsett Then & Now.' All proceeds of this have gone to the Church for various projects. I have taken over the remains of the fund and wanted to thank Joan for so carefully looking after it all these years. Thank you to all our unsung heroes beavering away in the background. Our church is in need of much help in these unprecedented times. Step up guys and be the next Joan Browne! join The Friends of Orsett Church and help save our Norman heritage. Stay safe everyone.

Jackie Firman.



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. All items must be fit for purpose.

A large garden umbrella.

email: alan.pat.pollington@btinternet.com

To advertise here telephone 01375 674212

Or email sonia51anne@yahoo.co.uk

Prayer Trail

For children
returning to
school



As a new term begins take some time to pray as a family or for families in your church in this interactive prayer trail.

See how many different trees and plants you can find. Take photos and find out what they are.



Either as a church or as individual households you can use this trail in your local park or in your home or garden.

*Please do check latest COVID-19 guidance and risk assess this activity for your own context.

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion! For he
strengthens the bars of your gates;

he blesses your children within you.
He grants peace within your
borders;
he fills you with the finest of wheat.

Psalms 147: 12-14



Shelter

Say these words from Psalm 91:1-2 as a prayer over your home and family as you set out on your walk.

Live under the protection of God Most High and stay in the shadow of God All-Powerful. Then you will say to the Lord, "You are my fortress, my place of safety; you are my God, and I trust you."

People often build shelters in the woods. Look out for shelters like this on your walk or build your own. Stop and pray for those who have no shelter and think how your home is your shelter –especially during lockdown.



As you walk, notice the feel of different surfaces under your feet and the noises they make. Think about the different places you go to: family, friends, school, church, clubs and groups.



Burdens

Take some stones in your hand and hold them. Are there things you feel concerned or worried about? Hand those to God now by placing the stones on the ground. As you place the stones on the ground read these words.

1 Peter 5:6-8

Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

Stories and Play

Zechariah 8:4-5 reminds us that God loves to see his children play.

Thus says the Lord of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.

Where might this doorway lead?



Woods and parks are great places to use our imaginations, to tell stories and play games. What stories can you tell while you are on your walk? What games can you play? Have you found some new games to play during lockdown?

Signposts

We get to make lots of choices in life. Little choices every day like who to play with, how to talk to people, how hard to work at school, what to eat and how to spend our time. Sometimes much bigger choices have to be made like choosing a secondary school. It is always good to talk to God when we have choices to make so he can help us to do the right thing.

Psalm 25:4-5

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Which paths will you choose to follow on your walk? How will you decide? Will you choose an easy route or something more challenging?



Resting



Jesus says, 'I am the good shepherd.'

'I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest.'

John 10:10-11

What do you think about Jesus's words?

If you find a bench on your walk then take a seat for a while – maybe have a snack or drink. Think about who you like to spend time with.

Who do you eat with? Who do you sit with at school?

Who do you miss right now?

View

Is there a great view somewhere on your walk?

Take some time to stand and look at the view before you.

How does it make you feel?

What are your thoughts about going back to school?

The Bible is full of God's promises.
read this from Isaiah 51: 16

We do not always know what lies ahead of us, but we can ask God to be with us now and in the future.

I will keep you safe in the palm of my hand. I spread out the heavens and laid foundations for the earth.



At harvest festivals, Christians often remember with thanks those who labour to produce the food on which we depend. We often don't go on to consider the way the food we consume impacts on the lives of humans, animals, and the earth. If Christians worship the good creator of a good creation and look forward to the whole creation being released from its bondage (Romans 8.21), we should consider how what we eat affects God's creation.

Humans

Many churches recognise that those who work to produce food often get a bad deal and choose to serve fairtrade tea, coffee, sugar, and other goods in response. This can be a problem close to home as well. UK farmers have protested at being pressured by supermarkets to accept prices that don't make their work viable. Globally, 70 per cent of agricultural land is used to raise animals, and they are fed one-third of all the cereals we grow. Reducing meat, dairy and egg consumption would make a significant contribution to human food and water security, as well as benefitting human health. Buying direct from farmers helps make local food production viable.

Animals

Farming is becoming more intensive. Most chickens raised for meat live only 35 days in vast warehouses without access to daylight. Most pigs spend their lives indoors, and increasing numbers of dairy cattle are not given access to grass. Old Testament law required farmers to show consideration for their cattle (eg Exodus 20.8–11, 22.30; Deuteronomy 25.4), yet most farm animals are now not able to express behaviours that are natural to them. Choosing animal products from higher welfare systems is an important recognition of their status as fellow creatures of God. The Earth The fertiliser spill-off from intensive arable farming changes the nutrients in rivers, causing significant environmental damage. Greenhouse gas emissions from transporting food and from the growing numbers of animals raised for meat make a substantial contribution to climate change. Choosing locally produced food and reducing meat and dairy consumption lowers the environmental impact of our food choices.

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Search the web for local farmers' markets

Cook a meal using local produce, and consider using local produce for meals served at church. Click on the weblink and use the postcode search to find local foods from farmers and producers who have decided to cut out the middle-men and sell direct to you. <http://localfood.org.uk/>



Explore practical ideas for buying, cooking and growing food

Good food is 'a celebration of God's creation and human creativity'. That's the message from A Rocha UK's Living Lightly initiative. Every mouthful of food is a gift of God's grace, and your body is a temple of God's Spirit (1 Corinthians 6.19). So we should eat healthily and ethically. And don't stop enjoying and celebrating the goodness of food! <https://arocha.org.uk/our-activities/food/>

Research fairtrade food products

Visit the Fairtrade Foundation website. <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>

Find out how food is produced locally to you

Open Farm Sunday connects consumers with farming and food. It provides a unique opportunity for everyone to visit a farm, talk to farmers and see how their food is produced. Open Farm Sunday helps to build consumer trust in the food they eat – as well as building greater understanding about the vital job farmers do to produce food and manage the countryside sustainably. <https://farmsunday.org/>