

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**

December 2020



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

www.hobnob.org.uk Facebook: @HOBNOBchurches

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	Jackie Wood	01375 891 744
Treasurer	Lynn Bennett	
Covenant Secretary	Mark Willett	01375 892 113
PCC Secretary	Vacancy	
Sacristans	Di Bubb	
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
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St Peter & St Paul Horndon-on-the-Hill

Churchwardens	Sonia Ward	01375 674212
	Alastair Macrae	01375 673 327
Deputy Churchwarden	Felicity Tarbard	01375 677581
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
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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

Rector's Reflections

This year there has been a lot of waiting: waiting for the next Government briefing; waiting for a period of lockdown to end; waiting to find out whether the vaccine will work, when the vaccine will be available and who will be able to have it and, ultimately, waiting for an end to the coronavirus. And, in Advent, we now enter a period of waiting in the church calendar. Not only are we waiting to celebrate the birth of Christ, albeit in a very different way this year, we await the second coming of Christ too, although none of us know when that will be.

The past few months have been tough year and for some this has meant family illness, bereavement, job loss or being furloughed. And, alongside the suffering, have come many questions. As Christians we are not exempt from suffering, and our life isn't always comfortable, but God has promised to walk alongside us. He also calls us to challenge things and structures that need challenging.

As we light the Advent candles in the approach to Christmas, we think of love, joy, hope and peace. I believe that whatever the circumstances we do have a hope and that this time has caused all of us to reflect and, perhaps, to become more outward looking. My prayer is that when Covid-19 is something of the dim and distant past, all the good that that has come out of it, such as maybe a heightened awareness of the needs of others, support for the poor and marginalised, will continue to flourish, develop and grow.

Over recent days I have been reading a book entitled 'Against the Grain' written by Garth Hewitt, a singer, songwriter, priest, author and activist. It is a mixture of stories, theology, wisdom, music and humour underpinned by a desire to make a difference in the world, God's difference. And I would like to share with you a prayer that I found at the end of the book, the source of which is unknown, but which I have decided I am going to use in my personal reflection throughout the period of Advent.

Make a difference in the world

May God bless you with
discomfort at easy answers
half-truths, superficial relationships,
so that you will live deep within your heart.
May God bless you with anger at injustice,
oppression and exploitation of people,
so that you will work for
justice, equity and peace.
May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer
from pain, rejection, starvation and war
so that you will reach out your hand to comfort
them and change their pain to joy.
And may God bless you with foolishness
to think that you can make a difference in the world
so you will do the things which
others tell you can't be done.

Christmas is going ahead. We will be celebrating the birth of Jesus; Jesus who came to change the world and who is in the midst of this with us. I pray that you will have a blessed and joyful time. And please know that my prayers are especially with those of you for whom this will be your first Christmas without a loved one.

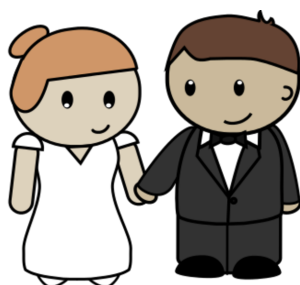
Take care and God bless,
Sue



THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

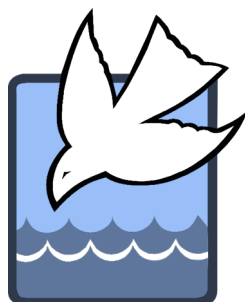
Funerals

30th October	Peter Flint (72)	(H)
12th November	Peter Tarrant (60)	(B)
27th November	Eileen Elizabeth McMenemy (71)	(O)



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

Orsett Churchwarden's Report

This year started so normally, little did we know that just a few months later we would all be going through such turbulent times. The Corona virus has touched each and every one of our lives in many ways. With the American election and Brexit, 2020 certainly has been a memorable year.

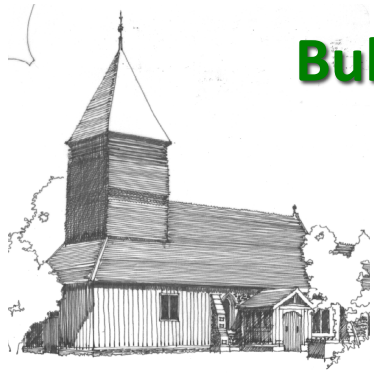
We have all had to deal with a different way of life and the turmoil we have lived through. There have been some consistencies, our much beleaguered health service, our key workers, and our community carers. In our church family we also have some wonderful people. Rector Sue has been there for us all praying, watching guidelines and changing services to work with them when they appeared to be changing daily. The adaptation to online services and live streaming must have been difficult yet they were managed with grace. The second amazing constant in our life was Lionel Andrews who has with a little help from friends kept the church grounds in beautiful condition, viruses and our country varied climate did not disturb him but our grounds were well cared for. I am sure that you too can think of local heroes that have kept an eye on the old and vulnerable, shopping and keeping in touch so that our community has felt less isolated.

We are trying, rules permitting, to have Christmas in church, this year so we have a blue Christmas service planned for the 21st December at 19.30 which is for those of us that have less to celebrate this year. There will be an outdoor 'Glowstick' children's service in our lovely grounds the on the 13th of December at 17.00 so please dress warmly. On Christmas Eve there will be an all age Christmas service at 19.00 and on Christmas Day a Holy Communion service at 10.00am. It would be marvellous if you could join us for some of these services, but please note that that due to Covid restrictions prior booking is required for all services except Christmas morning.

There is so much we have to be grateful for, so please help me to say an amazing thank you to all the fore mentioned Benefice and community heroes that have made such a difference to our life's this year. Let's celebrate the birth of Christ in our new normal, socially distanced way.

Have a very blessed Christmas

Jackie and Janet



Bulphan Churchwarden's Report

If ever there was an example of "not counting ones chickens before they hatch" it was my article for November. Practically every paragraph I wrote became redundant by lockdown number two.

The resumed Thursday Communion services (of which we managed two), have had to be abandoned and our church is now open only for private prayer on Mondays and Thursdays from 10.00 until 12.00.

We were really looking forward to hosting the November Forest Church, which had to be moved to a live-streaming service.

Thankfully, we were permitted to go ahead with a short Act of Remembrance on Sunday 8th November, which was extremely well supported. Jo Goddard attended and piped a lament while the usual 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' had been pre-recorded onto a clever miniature public address system that Reverend Sue had purchased, and with the integral microphone enabled everyone to hear the prayers, the epitaph and the exhortation. All-in-all, a very moving service, the more so for the wearing of masks and social distancing that are currently required.

We don't know and cannot predict what the Government will announce for Christmas, but it is fairly certain that it will be a very different experience from any previous ones. I have no doubt that within the bounds permitted; Reverend Sue and Reverend Max will do their utmost to achieve what they can to help us celebrate the birth of Christ.

So many people have lost loved ones in this awful year that Christmas will be a raw experience for them, without those dear to their hearts; we can only hope and pray that next year may be a new dawn where friends and family can hug and kiss and put the horrors of Covid behind them.

With every blessing for Christmas and hope for the future.

There will be an online version of the magazine in January. Articles should be sent to me by the last week in December via email: ronald714@btinternet.com



HORNDON ON THE HILL CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Remembrance Sunday was marked at St. Peter & St. Paul's on Sunday 8th November.

The service was particularly well attended and wreathes were placed at the memorial in the traditional manner.

In a necessary break from tradition, due to the need for social distancing the service of remembrance took place within the Churchyard and not on Orsett Road. Our appreciation and thanks to Max for his hard work in making sure that the service could take place in line with current requirements. Our sincere thanks also to those who assisted Max in any way to make this service so special.

We hope that the service in 2021 will be a much more traditional one.

Whilst we are planning to hold as wide a range of services at Church as possible, we are unable to predict which measures may be in force over the coming Christmas period. With this in mind, please check for any changes or updates on the schedule of services in the Benefice either via the website or on the Church notice boards.

In a year which everyone has found difficult please remember those who may need extra help and, if you are able, make a donation, however small, to any charity or food bank.

Until further notice the Church is open every Tuesday and Saturday morning from 10.00 to 12.00 for individual prayer or quiet reflection.

The Churchwardens would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a healthy and happy new year.

Very best wishes for 2021.

God Bless

Alastair

CHRISTMAS IS CANCELLED?

Christmas is cancelled?
You're having me on!
Because of a virus?
That's got to be wrong!

So what will be missing
On that happy day,
The loving? The caring?
Surely they'll be there anyway.

The food and the feasting,
The cup of good cheer?
For most at least
There's always next year.

No Gathering of families
As everybody comes home?
For some that's quite normal
They spend each Christmas alone.

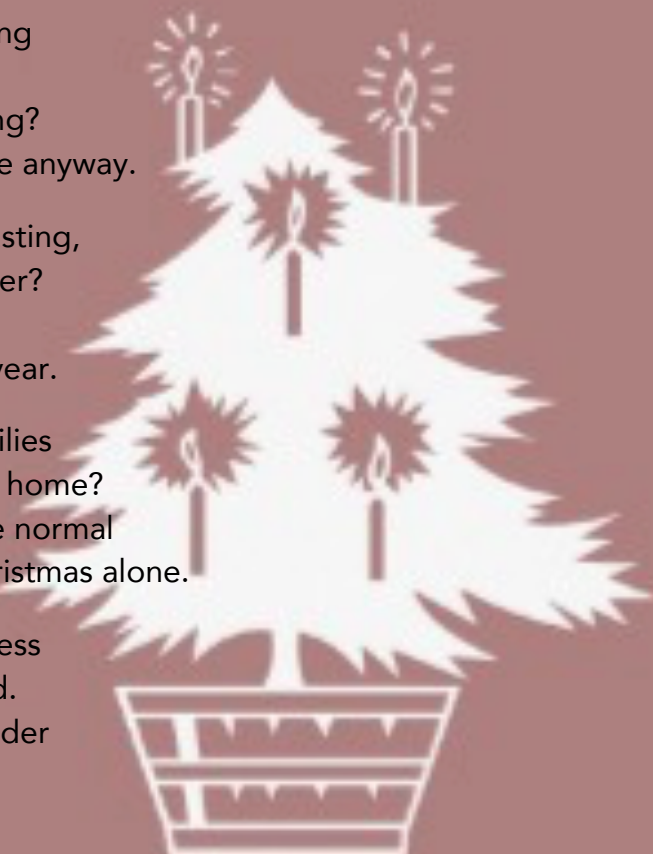
Some folk are homeless
And some feel so sad.
For some it's a reminder
of all they once had.

This year, they say,
Money might be quite tight.
Are we worried about presents?
That can't be right.

What makes Christmas tough
Is grief, loss and sadness,
Not missing out for once
On shopping frenzy madness.

The virus can do one!
CHRISTMAS CANCELLED? No fear
It's the coming of Jesus....
And don't worry – He's here!

SUE SHERIFF
YORK.



Christmas
has been
cancelled.

Zion Hall Mission, Bulphan

Interdenominational

Church Road, Bulphan

After the joy of being able to start our services again in October, in common with other churches, we were again locked down through November. At the time of writing however we understand that there will soon be an announcement and details of arrangements for the holding church services again, and in anticipation of this have provisionally organised services for December as follows:

We offer a warm welcome to all at our services

December 6 th	6:30 pm	Evening Service
December 13 th	6:30 pm	Communion Service
December 20 th	6:30 pm	Evening Service
December 27 th	To be confirmed	

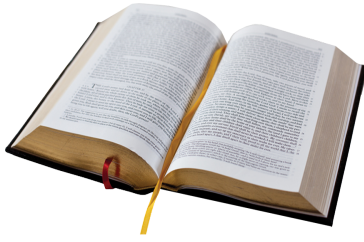
We have a small building and Covid – 19 distancing measures means that capacity is limited to a congregation of 9-13 depending on whether attendees are in bubbles. Please let the Secretary know if you are planning on coming to our services and for the last Sunday of each month also please call to confirm that there will a service going ahead.

In common with other places of worship:

- Face coverings are to be worn at all times
- Observe social distancing at all times
- Please sanitise your hands upon entering and leaving the building
- For 'track and trace' purposes please sign in on the sheet provided

Handwashing facilities are available in the vestry

For any information on our church or any of our services contact the secretary:
Ian Blackburn on 01375 891522 or 07786 110413



PRAYER DIARY

Some thoughts to include in your daily prayers

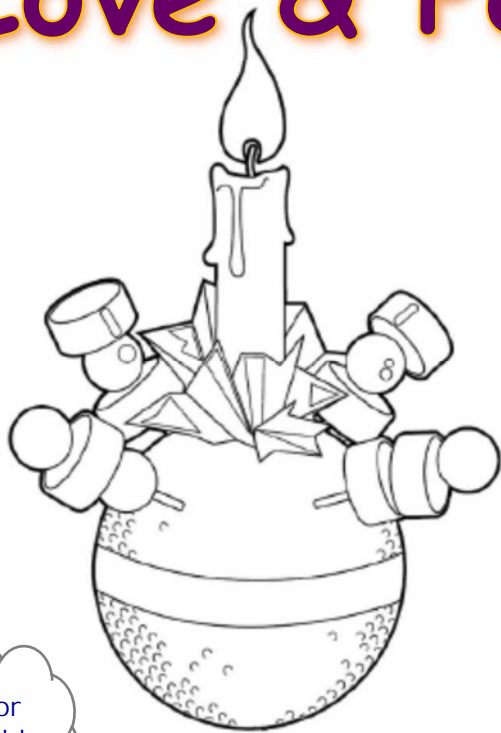
December 1st	For this period of waiting & watching which we call Advent
December 2nd	For the Friends of Orsett Church
December 3rd	For those who live on Stanley Road, Bulphan
December 4th	For the work of the Diocesan staff
December 5th	For those who live on Blackshots Lane
December 6th	Remembering St Nicholas on his feast day
December 7th	For our Clergy as they prepare for a very different 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 our police
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 fighting the pandemic
December 29th	For those who live on Alderton Road, Orsett
December 30th	For those who live on Paddock Close, Orsett
December 31st	For the safety and wellbeing of all, this New Year's Eve

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

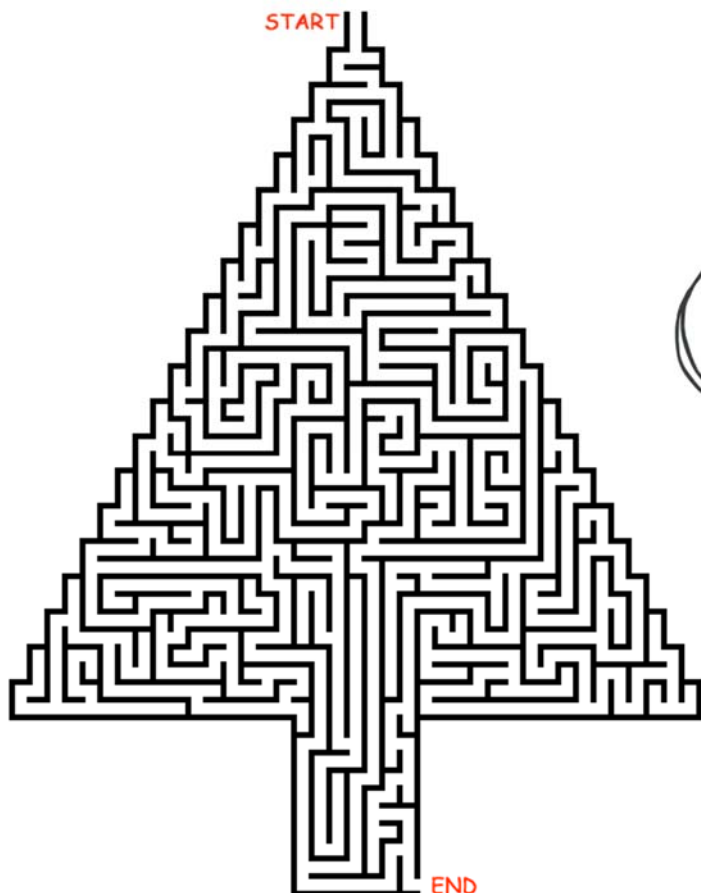
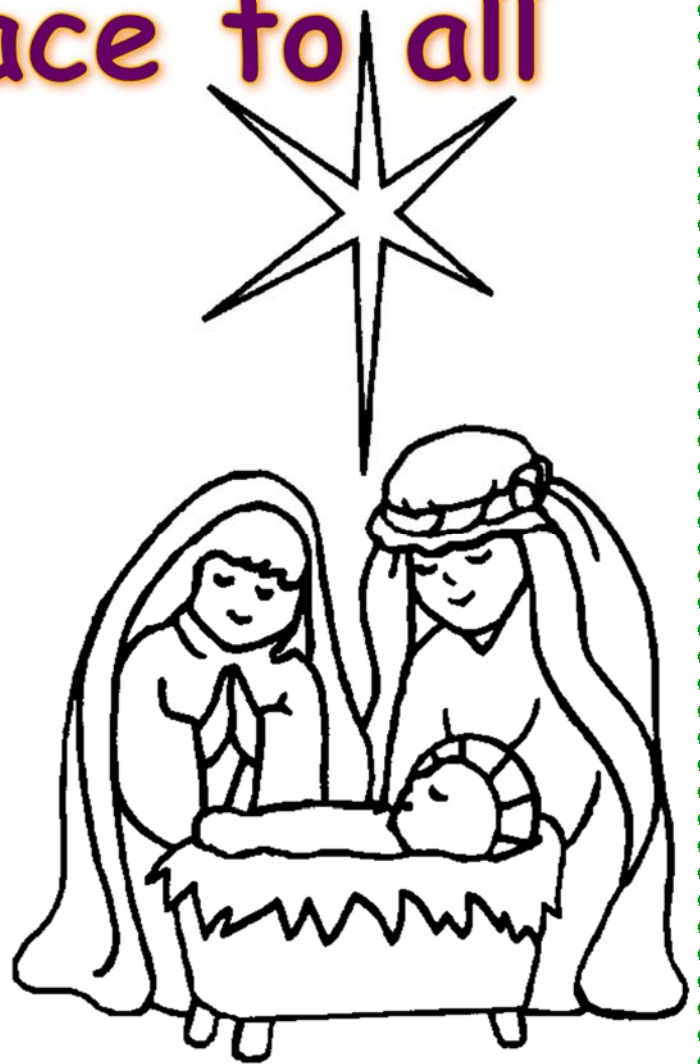
Bishop Phillips Brooks, [last verse of] "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Christmas

Love & Peace to all



Pictures for
young & old
to print and
colour in



Advent



ORSETT EDWARD BEAR TODDLER GROUP

Did you join in the virtual Forest Church on 14 November?

Edward Bear joined in at home and he really enjoyed celebrating National Tree Week. He made collages of trees and thought about how to recognise different trees and considered how others might be able to recognise us as Christians. He also lit a candle (carefully) when it was time to say prayers. The photos show his handiwork.



At the very end of November, Orsett Edward Bear Toddler Group celebrated its birthday so Edward Bear had his photo taken with the special birthday cake hat and his favourite food – honey! He's made so many friends over the last 13 years and he hopes to make even more when we can all gather and play together.



"Seems to me", pondered Edward Bear thoughtfully, "that this year lots of folk are thinking more about Christmas and what's most important about the great festival. Does it really matter if there aren't all the usual trimmings? Do we need to spend loads of money on presents? Often there's too much pressure on busy parents – perhaps its getting to be a more simple celebration where we care for one another, make presents and cards, dust off the old decorations, maybe get cooking the pudding and cake at home again."

The first Christmas day dawned on a lonely hillside and in a grubby stable but there was much rejoicing and you could feel the love and know that a child had come to show the world the possibility that our world would live in peace.

Edward Bear looks forward to welcoming once again the message of Christmas wherever he and his friends may be. Happy Christmas and a brighter and better New Year when we can all meet together again!

God Bless

Edward Bear, Di, Gill, and Sandra

PS Don't forget to look out for Edward Bear on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Orsett-Edward-Bear-Toddler-Group-1824091051224579/>

Activities For All

Paper Doily Christmas angel

You will need

- ☺ Paper doily
- ☺ Sticky tape or glue
- ☺ Pipe cleaner
- ☺ Card with a gold or silver backing - you can make your own by sticking tin foil or coloured foil to some card

1. For the body, cut a paper doily in half and roll it carefully into a cone shape. Stick it together at the back using sticky tape or glue.
2. To make the head, fold and twist a pipe cleaner into a hoop shape, leaving 5 cm of straight pipe cleaner to insert into the top of the doily cone.
3. Cut a set of wings from decorative card and stick firmly in place and you have a bespoke Christmas angel to put on your Christmas tree or part of your decorations.

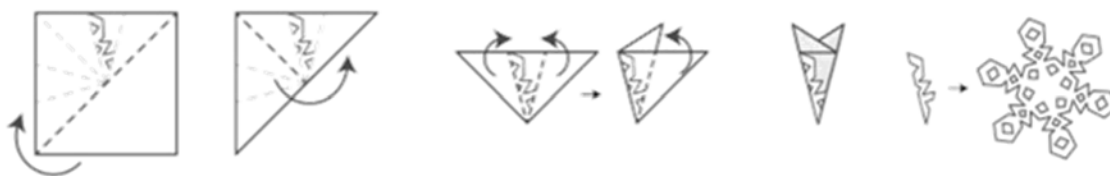


Making paper snowflakes



To make a snowflake you need : a pair of scissors, a square piece of paper and a creative mind

If you're starting with an A4 piece of paper or a rectangular shape, make a square by folding one corner down to form a triangle and cutting off the excess paper.



- * Step 1 : Fold the square piece of paper in half diagonally to make a triangle.
- * Step 2 : Fold the triangle in half from the top corner to the bottom one, making a smaller triangle.
- * Step 3 : Fold the triangle into three. Try to get these sections as even as possible. Cut across your paper to create a straight edged triangle.
- * Step 4 : Now's the time to get creative and give your snowflake a pattern. Cut some straight and/or curvy lines into the edges of your paper – these can be different sizes and shapes but be careful not to cut right across the paper or you'll end up with a much smaller snowflake.
- * Step 5 : Gently unfold your paper to reveal your snowflake and your unique design.

You can decorate your snowflake with things like glitter, tinsel or something similar to give them a frosty sparkle.

If you want to make the snowflake a bit more solid and have some weight : mix together

- * 1 part room temperature water
- * 2 parts corn starch or flour starch
- * 2 parts PVA glue

Brush this mixture on one side of the paper snowflake, let it dry on a clean sheet of plastic. Then repeat on the other side.



Greetings!

Our Christmas greeting comes to you
at the end of another year.
And it comes at the end of Covid, too,
which means that it's been quite drear.

We've suffered social distancing
and we've all worn a mask;
let's hope for a better time next year.
It isn't much to ask.

We haven't seen our family.
we haven't seen our friends,
it really seems to me as if
it's the year that never ends.

Merry Christmas!

It would be good to do once more
the things we always did before,
like getting together with our folks
(even the ones that tell bad jokes)

To talk and eat and drink our fill,
but not too much so that we are ill.
To move around freely, without fear
of travelling into a higher tier.

Merry Christmas!

Now Christmas time is here at last
and perhaps pandemic's in the past.
My bestest present, without exception,
a vaccine delivered by injection.

Our Christmas wish for all of you
is that you get the vaccine too,
and then at the end of twenty-one
all virus problems will be gone.

Happy New Year!

**Many will remember Ted Webb who
was a long serving Churchwarden at
St Mary's, Bulphan.**

**Ted has always had a penchant for
writing poetry; something he is
rather good at, and with his consent
his special Christmas offering is
published here.**

**We wish Ted and Jean a very Happy
Christmas and a healthy New Year.**



The more things change ...

As anyone involved with managing a church will testify, the upkeep is costly and in modern times the various bodies who have a say in how and or what you can and cannot do to a church and in many instances directing churches to specialist companies with pricing to match, make this an even more unenviable task. The raising of the money for these works relies massively on donations, goodwill from the local population and in the old normal times all manner of events to bring in a few quid, which has not changed

All three churches in the Benefice have been refurbished to some degree in the last 150 years. Last month the reopening of a refurbished Bulphan church 1874 was noted in the HOBNOB, nothing thus far has come to light as to the work undertaken or the cost entailed. Orsett church caught fire in 1926 and researching for this month's HOBNOB unearthed a report including comments from the then Vicar of Horndon, Rev Sidney Fischel relating to the restoration of Horndon church, in the Grays and Tilbury Gazette dated December 22nd 1900.

From the report when Rev Fischel took over Horndon Church in August 1898, his new job came with a building described as : *"fallen by the lapse of time into a condition bordering upon the dangerous"* and *"The chancel, which long ago was used for interment had become so full that the floor was raised until it was three feet six inches above floor level"*. He must have taken this on with a vision of what he wanted to do to improve things.

By December 1900 the church had been largely transformed into the church we know today and reported thus; *"It has been roofed anew, wood block flooring has been put down through the interior, a new west window inserted, the north and south walls have been almost completely pulled down and re-built, as also have been one of the pillars and a couple of arches. The old belfry, a remarkable one of its kind and one of the best specimens extant shows strong beams of oak interleaved and covered by two floors, one of which has been taken away and the other raised as to open up to view the work which constitutes the chief charm of the old belfry."* ... *"The choir stalls have been removed and the whole auditorium has been seated in the same material : the accommodation having been increased from about 200 to quite 50 more."* ... *"The chancel, ... also had the attention of the restorers and is now reduced to its normal height."*

A quote from Rev Fischel; *"Our Thirteenth century church, of great interest, has been saved in this parish from utter dilapidation by timely restoration; but the course of the work, fresh difficulties have had to be faced to thoroughly accomplish what we had begun."*

The cost of this work was cited as being £2,500, but by December 1900 only £1,700 had been raised, which would have taken quite remarkable efforts. Rev Fischel was reported as saying; *"A rural village in a poor district is not the place to easily raise £2,500, the extent of the cost of this work, but noble efforts have been made by our villagers, and earnest co-operation rendered me by members of my Building Committee, our total by this means having attained the sum of £1,700."*

In order to raise the additional money Rev Fischel appealed to a wider audience; *"The last £800 is the hardest to get. May I earnestly plead for the sympathy of strangers in one sense, yet brother Churchmen, who will sympathise with our earnest desire to*

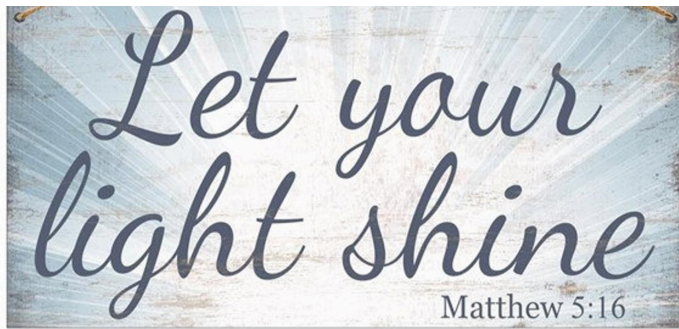
contributions, to help to save us from the mutilated offering of a Church restored indeed, but nevertheless not paid for."

It would seem that Rev Fischel was a very resourceful and determined gentleman, by the fact that we have been able to and still can enjoy Horndon church in the ensuing 120 years. Equally the Reverend gentleman and residents of Bulphan and Orsett would have shown a similar resourcefulness and determination when their churches needed rescuing.

The £2500 has an estimated modern value of about £300,000. Although it is easy to imagine that for a similar job today, £300,000 would only be a starting figure and take considerably longer to amass and do the work.



The Church we know and love today



News From Horndon

In 2000 it was thought that it might be a nice idea to floodlight our church so that people walking through our village would be able to admire the beautiful building. The added thoughts of security were, of course, considered. The Church was very fortunate that the Vereker family offered to finance the project and Chris Wright fitted the floodlighting. As a result the Church of St Peter & St Paul stands at the top of the hill, lit for all to see.

The floodlights have caused some issues in recent years and the PCC decided that it was time to try to raise money to renew them. We are extremely grateful that, once again, the Vereker family have provided funds to replace the floodlights. The Church understands that Paul Wells, who fitted them, did this free of charge and we thank him as well for his generosity.

I just have to look out of my upstairs window to see the Church tower reflecting the lights and it is a reminder that amidst all the turmoil of everyday life, when we see so much darkness around us, our Church stands proud and strong, as it has done for some 800 years. It is not just a part of the worshipping community here in Horndon but a beacon of hope, shining out for us all.

The PCC wishes you all a very blessed and peaceful Christmas. May 2021 be the start of a return to normality for all of us.



Safety Guidance for your Christmas Crib

The coronavirus pandemic has had a huge impact on the way we conduct our lives, with many new rules and restrictions governing our health and safety. One area of concern is your Christmas Crib. Although there are several weeks to go before Christmas, you will need to start planning now. You will need to begin with a thorough risk assessment to ensure your Crib is COVID-secure. Here is some further guidance:

1. A maximum of 4 shepherds only are permitted in the Crib.
2. Shepherds must wear facemasks (unless exempt) and strictly observe social distancing (2m or 1m+ with mitigations).
3. Jesus, Mary and Joseph form a family bubble and thus may be placed together.
4. The ox and the ass need Declaration of Non-Contamination Certificates, obtainable from the Department of Agriculture.
5. The Three Wise Men, since they come from a non Schengen Area, will be subject to a 14-day quarantine, whether or not they have tested negative for Covid.
6. The straw, moss, palm branches and other decorations must be disinfected, with hands washed for 20 seconds after handling.
7. Angels flying over the Crib are now forbidden, owing to the aerosol effect produced by the batting of wings.
8. Shepherds are permitted provided they are not more than 70 years old or suffering from underlying medical conditions or in another vulnerable category.
9. The inn, along with other businesses in the hospitality sector, is closed until further notice.
10. For 2020 only, a Pontius Pilate should be added to the Crib to explain to authorised participants the protocols for washing and sanitisation of hands.



NOVEMBER PUZZLE

ANSWERS

Quiz Answers

1. Railway Carriage
2. Bobby Moore
3. Blackbeard
4. Charles de Gaulle
5. Edwin Lutyens
6. 30th
7. Soviet Union / Russia
8. All Saints' Day (Also known as All Hallows' Day, Hallowmas, or The Feast of all Saints)
9. Haile Selassie
10. Monopoly
11. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson
12. Franklin D. Roosevelt
13. Dr Who
14. Advent
15. Sandwich (John Montague Was The 4th Earl Of Sandwich)

Word wheel - words of 4 letters or more

Acre	Cram	Armer	Nacre	Beemer	Reearn
Bare	Cran	Barer	Namer	Bracer	Rename
Barm	Earn	Barre	Racer	Camber	Acerber
Barn	Erne	Berme	Ramee	Careen	Amercer
Bear	Marc	Brace	Ramen	Career	Cerebra
Beer	Mare	Bream	Rance	Carmen	Crammer
Berm	Merc	Caber	Ranee	Crambe	Creamer
Brae	Mere	Caner	Rearm	Earner	Embrace
Bran	Narc	Carer	Rebar	Meaner	Menacer
Bree	Near	Crane	Rebec	Member	Careener
Bren	Race	Cream	Reman	Mercer	Embracer
Brer	Rare	Creme	Reran	Merman	Membrane
Carb	Ream	Embar	Ambeer	Mermen	Remember
Care	Rear	Ember	Amerce	Nearer	Reembrace
Carn	Acerb	Emeer	Barmen	Raceme	REMEMBRANCE
Carr	Amber	Emmer	Barren	Rammer	
Cere	Ameer	Macer	Beamer	Reamer	
Crab	Arene	Merer	Bearer	Recane	



Did you see?



The Church of England streams a service every Sunday at 9am. On 15th November, our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, had the great honour of giving the address. If you didn't see the service, it's still available online – it was wonderful to watch!

Follow this link to watch the service on 15th November. [Church online | The Church of England](#)

Mothers' Union Global Day



As many of you are now aware 5th December marks our first ever Global Day when we will say "No More 1 in 3" in response to the statistic that 1 in 3 women worldwide will experience Domestic Abuse in their lifetime. This year, more than ever, domestic violence of many kinds will have been taking place and with the mental health issues that many people will be experiencing, these incidents will be far more than usual. The restrictions that COVID19 inevitably brings may mean that you are not as able to give comfort or advice to people you may know in your community who are suffering in this

way. Do remember that whilst the majority of people who suffer abuse are women, there is a large minority of men who do as well and we mustn't forget that.

Despite planned events now taking place virtually this year there is plenty to get involved in! We encourage all members to take part in our virtual protest and there are a number of online events free to attend:

Timetable of online events on The Global Day (5th December):

9.00am	Online Protest launches – throughout MU social channels including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
11.30am	Online "Cup of Tea for No More 1 in 3" - Join us with a cup of tea as we take time out to reflect and pray for our "No More 1 in 3 campaign" followed by Middyay Prayers
8pm	No More 1 in 3 Global Day Service

Bishop Rachel Treweek speaks about the Domestic Abuse Bill on this podcast.

[The Domestic Abuse Bill; What do we welcome and where does the bill need to do more? – Diocese of Gloucester \(anglican.org\)](#)

Information and resources can be found here

[16 Days of Activism and Global Day Resources 2020 | Mothers' Union](#)

A Prayer for those affected by gender-based violence.

*Lord of justice and mercy, who has called us to be the body of Christ,
we offer up our prayers for those who are affected by gender-based violence
and as a sign of our unity with all who campaign for justice across the world. Amen*

The Big Give Christmas Challenge



The Big Give runs the UK's biggest match funding campaign, The Christmas Challenge. For seven days, it offers supporters of participating charities, such as Mothers' Union, the opportunity to have their donation doubled. The Christmas Challenge 2020 will take place from 12.00pm 1st December 2020 – 12.00pm 8th December 2020 when donations will be doubled. Please see our Big Give page here for more information on our cause and on how to donate. [Rebuilding livelihoods - putting women first \(thebiggive.org.uk\)](https://thebiggive.org.uk)

Chelmsford Diocesan Mothers' Union AGM and Council Meeting

The previously scheduled meeting is now planned for Tuesday 15th December at Emmanuel Church, Billericay from 10:30am. It is hoped that the meeting will also be available on Zoom. If you have any questions for the Trustees, please email them to: secretary@muchelmsford.org.uk

Mothers' Union Nine Lessons and Carols – Thursday 17 December, 7.30pm



Pour yourself a cup of tea or glass of mulled wine and join from the comfort of your own home for an evening of Christmas tradition and celebration. With a selection of carols, choral pieces and hymns interspersed with Bible lessons and readings, this promises to be a truly special way to mark the end of the vastly different year that has been 2020! The service will be broadcast on the Mothers' Union Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Support us with Amazon Smile this Christmas



In the run up to Christmas this year the majority of shopping will be happening online. We wanted to draw your attention once again to the simple way you can raise some money for MU. If you are an Amazon shopper then why not use Amazon Smile instead? It is the same as Amazon, but it donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases to a charity of your choice. All you need to do is start shopping at smile.amazon.co.uk and select Mothers' Union as the charity to which you want to donate, you could encourage your family to do the same. It is a simple and effective way to give and already MU has raised over £400 this way!

Staying connected through Midday Prayers



Our UK members who don't have access to the internet at home will still be able to hear our midday prayers thanks to the Church of England's Daily Hope line. Just call 0800 804 8044 from a UK mobile or landline and press option 4, then option 8.

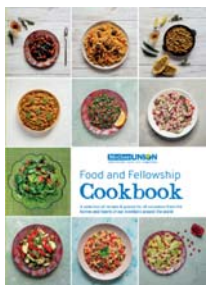
Follow this link to our November Midday Prayers.

[Midday Prayers & Wave of Prayer | Mothers' Union](#)

We are still running Midday Prayers Monday - Saturday on our public Facebook page. [Mothers' Union - Home | Facebook](#)

Thousands have viewed these already, but for those interested and not aware, feel free to watch and comment.

Getting ready for Christmas!



Christmas is coming ... 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 and a cookbook featuring a variety of recipes from members and clergy around the world, special prayers and graces and a foreword from our Worldwide President Sheran Harper. This is a lovely reminder of what a global movement we are and will make a lovely gift for friends and family. The cookbook will be priced at just £5.00. Why don't you have a look online and see if there is something you fancy? Don't forget to state that you live within Chelmsford Diocese as this raises additional funds for our Mothers' Union work. <https://mueshop.org/>

Di Bubb, Mothers' Union contact

PUZZLE PAGE

December Quiz

1. Which pantomime was also the name of a character voiced by Antonio Banderas in the 'Shrek' films?
2. Who is the author of the 1978 children's picture book 'The Snowman'?
3. Which two books of the Bible describe the birth of Jesus?
4. Which star of 'The Maltese Falcon' and 'Casablanca' was born on Christmas Day in 1899?
5. In 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens, which of the ghosts does not speak to Ebenezer Scrooge?
6. In which country was the carol 'Silent Night' written?
7. "Everybody knows a turkey and some mistletoe help to make the season bright.", is a line from which song?
8. In which year was the first televised Queen's Christmas speech?
9. Which biblical town's name means 'house of bread' in Hebrew?
10. What did Harry Potter get as a Christmas present during his first term at Hogwarts?
11. Which traditional Christmas plant was once so revered by early Britons that it had to be cut with a golden sickle?
12. Which Renaissance painters were the Christmas hit amongst children in 1990?
13. Which Christmas food could mean vision for a cockney?
14. What Christmas item takes its name from the old French word estincelle, meaning spark?
15. From which country does the poinsettia plant originate?

Christmas Song Anagrams

Work out the titles of these carols and festive period popular songs
The number in brackets is the number of words in the title of the song

1	This warm ethics (2)	10	Manage rain way (4)	19	Jill begs len (2)
2	Flashy astronomer from leg gel (6)	11	Troubledly trim me (3)	20	Dug maintain petrochemical (6)
3	Sonic gas knowledge (3)	12	Green motel dysentery germ (5)	21	Worthy jolt ode (4)
4	Thy lion hog (3)	13	Kneel dottily (2)	22	Boom, twentieth hotel fell (5)
5	Wild renowned rant (2)	14	Earth shaking danger shell (5)	23	Where stepchild wed shah (3)
6	Racy additive only sonic (5)	15	Sweet gherkin (3)	24	Deplored, he is the odder runner (5)
7	Hid healthy novelty (5)	16	Handwritten bike mile (4)	25	To wishy washy, rare crummies (6)
8	Tinsel two (3)	17	Hardy symbolic (3)	26	Better collision slugs (4)
9	The chalk sled (3)	18	Lift shelter now (3)	27	Chess extra soul (3)

Answers in the January issue of the HOBNOB

IT'S COOL TO BE KIND



What a lovely week we had at Bulphan Academy, celebrating how cool it is to be kind! Last week was National Anti-bullying Week. We encouraged the children to always show kindness to make our world a better place; especially at the current time.

Throughout the week, the children had the opportunity to take part in various activities. Odd socks were worn to symbolise our uniqueness and to celebrate the differences between us all and children designed their own odd socks with kind words. The children also learned what it meant to be a tribe and unite as one community to support each other in every day life; they made special individual classroom flags to show their tribes across the school. We cannot wait to have these up on display for all to see!

The children enjoyed circle times to share their feelings, classroom discussions and scenario activities where they could share feelings and ideas in a safe and secure environment. We hope the children learned the value of kindness and continue to share this in the wider community!

Bulphan C of E Academy



ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

Happenings around the Benefice this month in the past

1770 Kentish Gazette -

Tues 4th December -

Horndon Bankrupt

William Coppen, of the parish of Horndon on the Hill, in the county of Essex, shopkeeper; to surrender on the 11th and 22nd inst and 15th January, at five in the afternoon each day, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr Coverley, in Prescot Street, Goodman's Fields.

1836 Chelmsford Chronicle -

Fri 23rd December

Cart shed fire

Fire at Orsett - About seven o'clock on Monday morning a cart shed belonging to Mr T Newcombe Esq of Orsett, was discovered to be on fire. It was first observed by one of the workmen, and he immediately gave the alarm to the master, who happened to be standing at the gate talking to Mr Robinson, of Horndon. Mr Newcombe immediately climbed up, pulled off his frock, and endeavoured to smother the flames with it, till he was nearly suffocated with smoke; several of his men then came to his assistance, each with a pail of water, and the flames were soon got under. There was too much reason to fear the fire was the work of an incendiary, and a reward has been offered of the detection of the offender.

1849 Chelmsford Chronicle -

Fri 28th December -

Orsett Union (Workhouse)

Christmas dinner

At Orsett, by express desire of the guardians, the inmates were regaled with roast beef and plum pudding and pint of good ale each, - the number being 190, forty more than were within the walls at this time last year.

1837 Bell's Weekly Messenger -

Mon 11th December -

Horse stealing

At the Essex Adjourned Session J. Collop, a farrier, and T. Brown alias John Smith, a miller, two desperate looking characters (accomplices of the two Wickers, lately transported for horse stealing) were convicted of stealing three horses, the property of Wm. Robinson, of Horndon on the Hill and were sentenced to be transported for 15 years.

1854 Essex Standard -

Weds 20th December

Patriotic Fund - Orsett

The sum of £88 12s 10d has been raised in this parish in aid of the Patriotic Fund, including £50 given by W Baker, Esq, of Orsett Hall

The Lloyd's Patriotic Fund was founded in 1803 as a charity to support those wounded in service of the Crown and still exists. This donation would be worth around £9000 today. 1854 marked the start of the Crimean War

1861 Gravesend Reporter -

Sat 21st December -

Death of the Prince Consort

By the express wish of the Rev Rector and Churchwardens the whole of Monday evening the bells tolled a muffled peal. Throughout the parish of Orsett the most profound grief for the affliction of the Queen and the national loss, is exhibited.

Although not reported it is likely this would have been done in all parishes across the country

1868 Chelmsford Chronicle -

Fri 11th December -

The Temperance Society -

On Wednesday se'nnight a meeting was held in connexion with the society in the Orsett Institute, when the appropriate readings for the occasion were given by Messrs TE Manning, W Cook, jun, W Woolings and WH

Sackett. The Band of Hope aided considerably to the evening's entertainment by singing several temperance melodies. Miss Fordham presided at the harmonium, the use of which was very kindly granted by the chairman (the Rev FH Wright, MA). The attendance was large and the various pieces were well received; and the close the rev. chairman, with a few well-timed remarks proposed a vote of thanks to the readers, to which Mr W Woolings briefly responded. A vote of thanks warmly accorded to the chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

Se'nnight is a term used to refer to having happened in the preceding 7 days.

The Temperance Society was founded earlier in the 19th century to promote abstinence from alcoholic drinks. Religious involvement came later initially the non-conformist then established churches.

1869 Chelmsford Chronicle -

Fri 17th December -

Fire in Horndon church

Extraordinary scene in the Church - On Sunday, the 5th inst, the inhabitants of the above village were thrown into a state of great excitement by an accident which occurred during the morning service, and at one time threatened to be of an alarming nature. The Rev J Windle took his text from Hebrews xi, 1, and while he was delivering his discourse a very strong sulphurous smell was noticed to be spreading over the sacred edifice. It was with difficulty the vicar was enabled to continue his sermon, towards the close of which the school children, who were seated beneath the belfry and near one of the stoves, began to be much affected. Some vomited, others fainted, and had to be carried out, causing no little commotion. It was then the text was exemplifying itself in the true sense of the word, for the

congregation began to find that the fumes from the coke, instead of being conveyed up the chimney, were beaten down into the church, caused by a heavy atmosphere and a defect in the flue, thereby checking the necessary draught, the unwholesomeness of the vapour proving itself to be "the evidence of things not seen". Several ladies upon leaving the church, inhaled the vapour and were thrown prostrate, some were attacked when coming into contact with the air, while others were able to reach their destination before feeling the ill effects. Upwards of 30 people were more or less victims to the carbonic gas. The church clerk, on account of his age, was severely attacked, and several hours elapsed before all were restored to perfect consciousness. Fortunate to say recovery has followed in every case, but for the time it caused considerable alarm, lest one or two more aged should sink under the effects. No service was held in the afternoon, and the churchwardens have since taken steps to remedy the evil.

1878 Essex Herald -
Tues 31st December -
Orsett - Carol Singers

The choir at Orsett church accompanied the rector, the Rec RT Whittington and the curate Rev MBW Dawe, patrolled the parish on Christmas Eve and delighted parishioners by their excellent rendering of a series of carols. Finishing up at the residence of Mr Woolings, the parish churchwarden, they were then hospitably entertained to supper.

1887 Essex Newsman -
Tues 13th December -
Christmas tree for school

Entertainment - On Friday evening Dec 2nd, an attractive entertainment was held in the Schoolroom, Bulphan, to raise funds for a Christmas tree for the school children. The programme was as follows :-

Part I - Pianoforte solo, Miss Welch; song, "The seller and the maid"; Miss Godfrey; vocal duet "Country Courtship" Miss Kilmaster and Mr C Mann; reading "A melting story", Miss Russell; song "Oh Polly", Mr C Mann; duet "ABC" Miss Mann and Mr C Mann.

Part II - Pianoforte duet, "The British fleet", Misses Harris; song, "The voice is near", Miss Kilmaster; song "I'd take her", Mr C Mann; song "The sea-girl tale" Miss Russell.

Part III - consisted of a charade ("Breakfast"), in which the characters were impersonated by Miss Russell, Mr Barratt, Miss Kate Harris, Miss Kilmaster, Miss Watson, Miss Mann, Miss Harris, Mr C Mann, Miss Foster and Miss Harris.

1889 The Essex Chronicle -
Fri 27th December -

Whitmores arrive at Orsett Hall

From a report which appears in another column it will be seen that Orsett Hall formerly known far and wide as the seat of the late Mr Wingfield Baker, has just received as its occupant Captain Whitmore who has succeeded to Mr Baker's estates. The name of the late owner was for many years closely identified with the political history of the county, and there are a number of persons who have pleasing recollections of the days when Mr Wingfield Baker and Mr Andrew Johnston were generally recognised champions of the Liberal cause in South Essex. Since Mr Baker's death, nearly 10 years ago, the Hall has been generally unoccupied, and it is not surprising, therefore, that on Captain Whitmore and his family taking up their residence there, they should be enthusiastically welcomed by the residents of Orsett. We hope and believe that Captain Whitmore will speedily become as popular among his tenants and neighbours as his predecessor was. The Captain is not altogether a stranger to Orsett, for he has been in the

habit of visiting the Hall for the last 30 years.

1906 Barking, East Ham & Ilford Advertiser - Sat 6th December -
Horndon on the Hill - Religion in the school

An excellent report has again been received from the Rev WE Spencer, Diocesan Inspector who states - "the infants have been carefully taught, and answer well in all subjects. In the mixed school the religious teaching has again been given with marked care and success throughout the standards."

1920 Chelmsford Chronicle -
Fri 10th December -

Horndon War Memorial

War Memorial Unveiled - On Sunday Col. F Hilder MP, unveiled a memorial erected in the churchyard to men of Horndon who fell in the war. Taking the form of a large granite cross, the memorial bears eleven names.

1969 The Birmingham Post -
Sat 6th December -

Rector bans weddings for day for rugby

A country rector is banning weddings in his church for a day - so that he can watch The Springboks. The Rev. Frank James of Bulphan, near Basildon New Town, Essex, has a ticket for the game against Wales at Cardiff Arms Park on January 24. And he said: "I intend to go. If people want a wedding on that day they will be unlucky"

A Welshman and a long standing Rugby enthusiast, Mr James, announced his decision on the eve of the Springbok match against Scotland at Edinburgh today



Bulphan WI

For their November meeting Bulphan WI members enjoyed an exclusive Neals Yard pamper session. Those attending received a selection of product samples to try in the comfort of their own homes while listening to consultant Daisy explain how to use them to benefit their skin and wellbeing. You can tell from the smiling faces that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Members will be getting into the Christmas spirit for their next meeting, speaker Eve Regelous will broadcast from her festive filled home on the topic of 'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!' Those attending have been asked to match Eve's festive decorations as well as wearing their best Christmas attire ready for the inevitable screenshot. Members who are unable to attend have been asked for photographs of themselves in their festive outfits. Every member will also be receiving a 'Meeting in a Bag' at some point during the month, we can't say what it will contain as it would spoil their surprise.



We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and friends a Happy Christmas and a safe, healthy New Year.

Updates about future meetings along with this year's programme, information, photographs, and much more can be found on Facebook at Bulphan Women's Institute and on Twitter @bulphanwi or contact Secretary Janet McCheyne on 07752836902

Jan Curtis

President

FAMOUS PERSON IN DECEMBER

John, King of England

John (24 December 1166 – 19 October 1216) was King of England from 1199 until his death in 1216. He lost the Duchy of Normandy and most of his other French lands to King Philip II of France, resulting in the collapse of the Angevin Empire and contributing to the subsequent growth in power of the French Capetian dynasty during the 13th century. The baronial revolt at the end of John's reign led to the sealing of *Magna Carta*, a document sometimes considered an early step in the evolution of the Constitution of the United Kingdom.



John was the youngest of the four surviving sons of King Henry II of England and Duchess Eleanor of Aquitaine. He was nicknamed **John Lackland** because he was not expected to inherit significant lands.^[1] He became Henry's favourite child following the failed revolt of 1173–74 by his brothers Henry the Young King, Richard, and Geoffrey against the King. John was appointed the Lord of Ireland in 1177 and given lands in England and on the continent. The war between Henry II and his elder sons ended with the deaths of Henry the Young King and Geoffrey. John unsuccessfully attempted a rebellion against the royal administrators of his brother, King Richard, whilst Richard was participating in the Third Crusade, but he was proclaimed king after Richard died in 1199. He came to an agreement with Philip II of France to recognise John's possession of the continental Angevin lands at the peace treaty of Le Goulet in 1200.

When war with France broke out again in 1202, John achieved early victories, but shortages of military resources and his treatment of Norman, Breton, and Anjou nobles resulted in the collapse of his empire in northern France in 1204. He spent much of the next decade attempting to regain these lands, raising huge revenues, reforming his armed forces and rebuilding continental alliances. His judicial reforms had a lasting effect on the English common law system, as well as providing an additional source of revenue. An argument with Pope Innocent III led to John's excommunication in 1209, a dispute he finally settled in 1213. John's attempt to defeat Philip in 1214 failed because of the French victory over John's allies at the battle of Bouvines. When he returned to England, John faced a rebellion by many of his barons, who were unhappy with his fiscal policies and his treatment of many of England's most powerful nobles. Although both John and the barons agreed to the *Magna Carta* peace treaty in 1215, neither side complied with its conditions. Civil war broke out shortly afterwards, with the barons aided by Louis VIII of France. It soon descended into a stalemate. John died of dysentery contracted whilst on campaign in eastern England during late 1216; supporters of his son Henry III went on to achieve victory over Louis and the rebel barons the following year.

Contemporary chroniclers were mostly critical of John's performance as king, and his reign has since been the subject of significant debate and periodic revision by historians from the 16th century onwards. Historian Jim Bradbury has summarised the current historical opinion of John's positive qualities, observing that John is today usually considered a "hard-working administrator, an able man, an able general". Nonetheless, modern historians agree that he also had many faults as king, including what historian Ralph Turner describes as "distasteful, even dangerous personality traits", such as pettiness, spitefulness, and cruelty. These negative qualities provided extensive material for fiction writers in the Victorian era, and John remains a recurring character within Western popular culture, primarily as a villain in films and stories depicting the Robin Hood legends.

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF BULPHAN



Bulphan Women's Institute 1929



Wheelwrights: Mr Simpson & Wally Wood



Marian Blackburn's father
with his two horse rake

Each Month we will publish a few photographs from this extensive collection