

A romantic garden scene featuring a wooden deck with a small table and two chairs. The table is set with a teacup and saucer. The scene is framed by a lush archway of pink and white roses. Sunlight filters through the foliage, creating a soft, dappled light effect. A black lantern-style light fixture is mounted on the archway. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and inviting.

Wickham Bishops Parish Magazine
June 2024

Produced by St Bartholomew's Church
www.churchinwickhambishops.org.uk

Big Hymn Sing

9 Most Popular Hymns

Sunday 9th June 2024

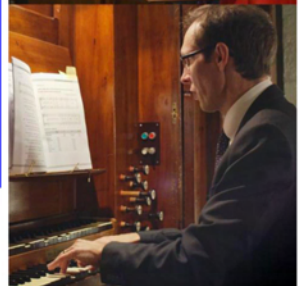
4pm

St Bartholomew's Church Hall
Wickham Bishops

Come and join us
to sing 9 of the most popular Hymns
and hear a specially commissioned
new hymn.

Retiring collection for
The Royal School of Church Music
and St Bartholomew's Music Fund

ALL WELCOME



The Royal School of Church Music is a company limited
by guarantee, registered in England, no. 00250031.
It is also a registered charity, no. 312828.

RS+M
THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC

Church Services for June

If the redecoration etc. of St Bartholomew's Church has not been completed, services will continue to be held in the Church Hall.

Our 10.30 am Sunday services at St. Bartholomew's Church are on FB Live

SUNDAY 2 1st Sunday of Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 9 2nd Sunday of Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Holy Communion

4.00 pm Big Hymn Sing for RSCM Music Sunday

SUNDAY 16 3rd Sunday of Trinity

9.00 am Holy Communion (by extension)
at St. Nicholas' Lt. Braxted

10.30 am Sunday Praise Service

SUNDAY 23 4th Sunday of Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 am Holy Communion

SUNDAY 30 5th Sunday of Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Holy Communion

The picture on the front cover was generated entirely by computer and downloaded from the internet. Whether you embrace or mistrust Artificial Intelligence, it does come to the rescue of an editor struggling to find a suitable photograph!

Parish Register

Baptisms None

Marriages None

Funerals Alfie Lydon Friday 17th May
at St Nicholas' followed by burial at St Bartholomew's

Parish Contacts

Priest in Charge	Vacant position	.
General Enquiries		07544 973705
Revd Derek Clark Permission to Officiate	The Leas Farm Wickham Bishops Road Hatfield Peverel CM3 2JL	01245 380627 07860 235778
Churchwardens	Vacant Positions	
Deputy Churchwarden Graham Wingrove		
PCC Secretary Geraldine Spearman	gspearmanpcc@gmail.com	07870 166008
Peter Bates Magazine Editor	10 Church Green <i>magazine@churchinwickhambishops.org.uk</i>	01621 334541
Kath Adkins Church Hall Bookings	<i>kathrynadkins57@gmail.com</i>	01621 891143

A Letter from John Gilbert



Welcome to the June edition of the Parish Magazine for Wickham Bishops and Little Braxted – hopefully by now summer has arrived. Spring was variable to say the least and plants have been racing to make up for lost time after all the cold and rain.

In the garden, it is the time when you find out just how well rooted your plants are. Whether it is resistance to the wind, or the heavy rain, or the drying effects of the sun, it is the roots that determine whether the plant will thrive or fail as the growing conditions change. Drawing nutrients from the ground, finding water in deep places when it is dry, the roots are critical to the long-term health of the plant.

That does not just apply to the ones we want to keep. Weeding the lawn in the long summer of 2022 was made easier as the shallower rooted grasses turned brown in the heat, leaving patches of green where the tap rooted dandelions and thistles helpfully revealed themselves for “treatment.” In the vegetable garden and flower beds removing great swathes of bindweed leafage may be emotionally satisfying and give the illusion of progress, but unless you get the roots (good luck with that), the process is destined to repeat itself as the roots deliver the next batch of shoots and leaves to the surface.

So it is with faith. Religion gives us all sorts of props that may help keep us supported, whether it is the familiarity of the liturgy, the church buildings with their own symbolism, the beauty of sacred music, or other aids that we use. If these are removed, then the strength of our faith determines the health of our spiritual life. As Bishop Roger said when he visited St Bartholomew’s at the end of April, being rooted in and remaining connected to God is the key to personal wellbeing.

We are hoping to have the main church building back after redecoration at the beginning of this month, which will be a comfort for many. A huge thank you is due to all who have helped us raise the money over a number of years to pay for the redecoration and reordering to make the building more accessible.

... continued on the next page

All are welcome to come and see the fruits of all that hard work and join in meeting with God and one another there – remembering that it is a support for our faith, not a substitute for it!

Many in the village will be wondering what the state of play is with the provision of ordained ministry for the church and the parish following Reverend Hilary's retirement. All the usual services are being held, with great support from Rev Derek Clark, visiting clergy from our neighbouring parishes and, even our Area Bishop and Archdeacon. Discussions continue about the nature of future ordained ministry here. In the meantime, our busy and committed lay ministry team is in full swing keeping things going and making service and ministry for the parish continue.

Talking of which, our excellent editor, Peter Bates, is desirous of a well-earned rest, so if any of you have a desire and skill to take over that role, we will be more than happy to hear from you!

Women's Christian Fellowship ...

Our speaker in May was Andy Moore who is the Conservation Education Manager at Colchester Zoo.

What an interesting afternoon it was as Andy began his story with the history of the zoo since it started in 1963, but after becoming very run down, it came under new ownership in 1983. Since then it has gone from being in a very bad state of repair to one of Europe's leading zoos. This is after going through the famous storm of 1987, which caused a lot of damage, foot and mouth disease in 2001 and then of course COVID in 2020.

The zoo is very involved with other zoos to help conserve many creatures from insects to tigers who are endangered in the wild and at great risk of dying out altogether. It certainly opened our eyes as to what they are all trying to achieve and we hope to have a follow-up talk another time.

For our meeting in June we will be having Afternoon Tea at Le Bouchon in Heybridge which was so popular last year. If any member who would like to come but has not put their name down please contact myself or any committee member.

Denise Yelland



FLOWER FESTIVAL



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH
WOODHAM WALTER



“THE JOY OF FLOWERS”



FRIDAY JULY 12TH – MONDAY 15TH JULY 2024
10AM – 5PM

Refreshment tent 🌸 *Free Admission* 🌸 *Live music*

SUNDAY SERVICE 10- 11





For our meeting during May, we were invited to visit the gardens of 'Great Ruffins' on Beacon Hill. This spectacular house is set in a large garden which, unfortunately, previous owners had rather neglected and allowed to grow wild.



The present owners have spent six years on restoring it to include several beautifully manicured lawns, linked by areas of woodland and winding pathways. There is still much work to be done, and we hope for a return visit in a year or two, to see how it is progressing. We then held a 'seedling swap' at the home of Stewart and Wendy, where around 40 members gathered to exchange plants and enjoy drinks and canapes kindly provided by our hosts.





A group of our members is venturing north at the end of May, to visit the two RHS gardens in Harrogate and Manchester. The garden at RHS Bridgewater in Manchester is the newest of their gardens, having opened only two years ago.

In June, we will be holding a meeting in the Church Hall on Thursday 20th at 7:30 pm, when our speaker will be Heidi Seary talking about 'Developing Community Gardens'.

We then look forward to an outing in July to visit the Olympic Wilderness Park in Stratford, and our Summer Garden Party in August.

One of our long-standing members, Mary Brown, is organising the plant stall for the Church Summer Fayre on Saturday 8th June, and would be grateful for donations of plants and other garden-related items. Please bring them to the Church on the Saturday morning from 10:00 am onwards, and do come and support the event from noon until 3:00 pm.

Visitors are always welcomed to this friendly group - we offer refreshments including a glass of wine and plenty of good company. Members also enjoy a 10% discount at Olivers' Nursery and Claremont Garden Centre, and half-price on packets of seeds from King's Seeds.

For more information, please phone 01621 893360 or email HortiClub@outlook.com

The photographs show members enjoying the garden at Great Ruffins and were taken by Wendy Wallace and Jica Bates

Wickham Bishops Women's Institute ...

In April, our main focus was our Annual Meeting with reports on finance, speakers and the President's report on the year in general. Our existing Committee was re-elected including two new members and we said goodbye to our long term and invaluable Secretary, Sharon.

Diane our current President has agreed to stand for another year and so we are in good hands.

After the mandatory business, we enjoyed a quiz, a sales table made up of scarves, bags and jewellery, and of course, tea and cake.

We look forward to another year of interesting speakers, lunches out and a continuation of our walking and craft groups but most of all the chance to meet together and be part of a welcoming organization.

Our meetings are held in Wickham Bishops Church Hall on the last Thursday of the month from 2-4 pm. We are always happy to welcome visitors and new members.

Please contact Margaret on 01621 815161 for further information.

Margaret Curtis

Great Totham Women's' Institute ...

Mike Farley made a welcome return visit in May. This time he regaled us with anecdotes of his time as a Henry VIII impersonator for the past twenty years. The hall was filled with laughter as he told of his encounters with children and the more elderly whilst wearing his splendid costume, reminiscent of Henry as portrayed in the famous Holbein painting!

In June our speaker will be Maldon author, Patrick Forsyth, whose talk is entitled 'Journey Into Print'

We are always pleased to see new members and would be happy to welcome you as a guest at any of our meetings held on the second Thursday of the month at Great Totham Village Hall, commencing at 8pm.

If you would like any more information about our group, you can find us on our website www.greattothamwi.weebly.com or, alternatively, email greattothamwi@gmail.com.

Year 1 - Hyde Hall

Year 1 visited Hyde Hall. Everybody had a fantastic time.

The children learnt a lot about plants and even planted their own seed. They painted pictures of flowers and made crayon rubbings of different seeds. The children also completed a scavenger hunt around the grounds and collected different petals which they then made into a bookmark.



Before the children went home, they made a bird's nest which was great fun because they had to only use a peg (as a beak) to collect the sticks.



It really was a lovely day and we were very proud of the children's behaviour which was commented on by the staff of Hyde Hall as being exemplary.

... continued on the next page

Sponsored Walk 2024



Well done to all those who took part in the PTFA Sponsored Walk on 27th April. The rain just about held off for us!

A big thank you to all parents and staff who helped to organise the event and also marshal on the day. Thank you also to the big orange dinosaur leading the way!



Cross Country - 23rd April

Some of us went to a cross-country race against lots of different schools from round the local area. We took one team from each KS2 year group. We were very successful and gave it our best shot. Lots of children came away with medals for finishing 3rd, 2nd and 1st.

Written by Ariadna, Y5



Year 3 - 2nd place Ollly

Year 5 - 1st place Ralphia

Year 4 - 2nd place Zachariah & Isla R

Year 6 - 3rd place Elliott

Well done to all the children who took part representing GTPS!

Tag Rugby - 19th April

Maldon Rugby Club welcomed us to a tournament for local primary schools. Maldon Rugby players helped to coach our teams. We were given some previous Great Totham pupils to help out with our teams!

Year 3 & 4

During the morning, Year 3 and 4 competed against 12 other teams. We battled against the rain and enjoyed warming up when the sun came out!



We won some, we lost some but we all enjoyed ourselves, and were awarded medals at the end of the morning.

Year 5 & 6

In the afternoon it was the turn of Year 5 and 6, playing in the tournament against 14 other teams.

It didn't start well with a sudden downpour, but after all 150 children gathered in the club house, the rain stopped and play began.



Our red team won most of their games and ended up being placed 4th. Our yellow team, won 2, drew 1 and lost 3. We were both awarded trophies.

Thanks to Stuart Pearson at Maldon Rugby Club and to Mr Delderfield and all the helpers who made the day an enjoyable one.

The Arts Society Blackwater



Thursday 6th June

Caravaggio, Painter Extraordinaire

A Flawed Genius and ... a Murderer!

Keith Bonser

The AGM precedes this lecture, at 10:30 am

Visitors welcome - all enquiries to Julie Chellingsworth - 01621 788608

Meetings are normally held at the Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 11 am

Visit our website www.theartssocietyblackwater.org.uk

Beacon Wine Circle ...

On 3rd May we held our AGM, which attracted 79 members. We're very encouraged by this attendance as this meeting is generally not the most attractive. It may be that the promise of short official proceedings, coupled with cheese and biscuits and a mystery speaker is what persuaded people to attend. On the other hand, it may just be that we have keen members who enjoy meeting each other in a relaxed social atmosphere. Long may it continue.

Following the AGM, the mystery speaker was one of our longstanding members, Don Littlemore, who gave a short but fascinating talk about the history of communications, particularly the telephone. It was scary how many of us remember using some of the oldest models on display. How things have changed in a relatively short period of time!

We now look forward to our summer outing to Thorpeness in June and our garden party on 14th July.

As always we welcome new members and you can attend as a guest for £5 per person to try us out.

*Enquiries to Peter Elvish or Simon Morrison at
beaconwine81@gmail.com*

BEACON HILL SPORTS ASSOCIATION

WHAT'S ON AT WICKHAM BISHOPS VILLAGE HALL ?

JUNE

Saturday 1st	Graham's Country Music	7:30pm
Thursday 6th	Arts Society - Caravaggio	10:30am
Saturday 8th	Starlight Dancing Summer Ball	
Saturday 15th	Jazz Club - New Orleans Jazz Bandits	7:30pm
Monday 17th	Maldon U3a - The Women's Land Army	1:30pm
Saturday 22nd	Graham's Country Music	7:30pm
Friday 28th	Community Cinema	7:00pm

JULY

Fri/Sat/Sun	Wickham Bishops Drama Club	
13th/14th/15th	Summer Production	

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Nursery	Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri	from 9:30am
Cotton Scatterers	Mondays	1:30-4:30pm
Drama Club	Mondays & Thursdays	8-10pm
Tai Chi	Tuesdays & Fridays	9:30am-12pm
Ladies' Badminton	Tuesdays	2-4pm
Vicki Little Stars	Tuesdays	4-8pm
Men's Badminton	Tuesdays	8-10pm
Toddlers	Wednesdays	9:30-11:30am
Ladies' Badminton	Wednesdays	1:30-3:30pm
Starlight Dancing	Wednesdays	4-8pm
Bridge Club	Wednesdays	7-10pm
Georgias Dance	Thursdays	5:30-7pm
Ladies' Badminton	Thursdays	1:45-4pm
Beacon Hill Social Club	Open Every Day	

**For further contact details see the BHSa website:
wickhambishopsvvenues.org**

From the Parish Council . . .

The Statutory Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held on the 7th of May. Cllr Ian Wardrop was re-elected as Chairman for the next twelve months and Cllr Mandy Mickelsen agreed to continue as Vice-Chairman. The Planning Committee met on the 24th of May. The minutes of both meetings can be read on:

www.wickhambishopparishcouncil.org

You should have received a copy of the Parish Council Annual Report with this magazine. If your copy is missing, please contact the Parish Clerk (details below) and we will deliver one to you. It is also available on the website.

The Maldon Council 'TruCam' attended for four and a half hours during April and recorded 49 drivers exceeding the 30 mph speed limit. This is a service paid for by the Parish Council and any motorist caught exceeding the limit will be subject to the same penalties as if caught by the police.

As we (hopefully) approach the warmer summer months, people enjoy sitting outside, having a barbecue or party in the garden, and leaving their windows open in the evenings. However, their enjoyment can be spoiled by a neighbour lighting a bonfire. If you can, recycle any waste, but if a fire is inevitable, please be mindful of your neighbours, look for open windows or washing in the garden, and try to light it when the wind is taking the smoke away from others' properties. It is illegal to burn rubbish that creates 'black smoke', such as plastics, rubber or oil.

The 'Saturday Surgery' is scheduled for the 15th June, from 11 am to 12 noon, in the Library. No appointment is needed and all residents are invited to come and discuss any matter of concern.

A General Meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 4th June at 7:30 pm in the boardroom of the village hall. Residents are invited to attend and may speak on any agenda item, or other matter of concern, during the 'Public Forum'. A Planning Committee meeting will be held during the month if required. Councillors may be contacted individually or you may contact the Parish Clerk on 07542 190176 or by email at

info@wickhambishopparishcouncil.org

Beacon Lighting Ceremony at Promenade Park to Mark D-Day 80th Anniversary

On the 6th of June, Maldon District Council will be hosting a special beacon lighting ceremony to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day as part of the National D-Day 80 commemorations.

The event will take place at the beacon in Promenade Park from **8.45pm** where local historian and broadcaster, Stephen Nunn will read a piece he has written especially for this commemoration highlighting the sacrifices made by those from the Maldon district.

This will be followed by the reading of 'A Nations Tribute' by Cllr Kevin Lagan, Chairman of Maldon District Council. This tribute will be read simultaneously across the country, following which the beacon will be lit at **9.15pm**.

Cllr Kevin Lagan, Chairman of Maldon District Council said, "I would like to encourage the community to come together at this short ceremony to remember and honour the brave men and women who fought for freedom during World War II. This tribute will be part of the chain of beacons being lit across the country at the same time and date, as part of the Nations tribute."

Please be aware that there will be some loud bangs from maroons which will be fired as part of the commemoration as well as a WWII air-raid siren at the start and end of this short ceremony.

Earlier in the day, Cllr Lagan will lay a wreath on the grave on Private Charles Argent who lies in Maldon Cemetery, having been returned home after dying in training.

D-Day, which took place on June 6, 1944, marked the beginning of the liberation of Europe during World War II. The successful Allied invasion of Normandy was a turning point in the war and contributed significantly to the eventual defeat of Nazi Germany.

The beacon lighting event will serve as a tribute to the courage and sacrifice of the thousands of men and women who took part in the operation, many of whom never returned home, including those from the Maldon District.

**STAY
SWITCHED ON**

Are you ready for the end
of analogue landlines?



Confused, worried, unsure?

Contact your telephone provider

or visit www.essex.gov.uk/landline-switch

Essex County Council's Digital Essex team wants to make residents in Wickham Bishops aware that changes are coming to analogue landlines.

By 2025, traditional phone lines will be replaced by a digital landline service. This means that calls will be made over a broadband line.

For most residents, this change will be straightforward – you'll also get to keep your phone number. Your telephone provider will contact you before anything changes. It is important to respond and discuss what you need to do to ensure your service won't be affected.

The switch to digital landline services could affect some residents. If any of the following apply to you, or someone you know, make sure you contact your telephone provider:

- You don't have broadband
- You rely solely on a landline
- You use a personal alarm or healthcare device
- You live in an area with poor mobile signal
- You have additional needs

If you're confused, worried, unsure, or have any questions, call your telephone provider.

Visit us at an event near you! Digital Essex will be attending events across Essex this Spring and Summer, where we'll be sharing the latest information about changes to phone lines.

We are planning to attend the [Maldon U-Fest](#) event on the 16th of August. This is subject to change so please see the full list of events at www.superfastessex.org/landline-switch-events.

BT is also visiting locations across Essex throughout May. For full details, visit their website at www.bt.com/broadband/digital-voice/events.

If you'd like to read more about the switch to digital landlines, visit Essex County Council's website: www.essex.gov.uk/landline-switch

News from The Library ...

Volunteer for our Summer Reading Challenge



It's that time of year again...

If you have a child who is 14 or over and is looking for something to do in the summer holidays then Essex Library Service has the answer. Come and volunteer for our Summer Reading Challenge 2024! It's a great chance to get some work experience, meet new people and gain valuable life skills.

Apply online at:

libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/summer-reading-challenge-volunteering



Our fantastic challenge for pre-schoolers is back this summer!

Ready... Steady... Go To School is a fun challenge full of activities which helps children to practise skills that they'll need to feel confident when they start school in September.

They'll complete activities in 7 different development areas, collect stamps in their special booklet, and then receive a certificate when they finish!

Come and take part in any Essex library until 7 September! You can find more details at:

libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/school-readiness

Wickham Bishops Jazz Club

Presents

Allen Beechey's New Orleans Jazz Bandits

On Saturday 15th June 2024

At Wickham Bishops Village Hall CM8 3JZ

(Doors open 6.30 for 7.30 start, until 10.30pm)

No Bar : Bring your own Drinks, Glasses and Nibbles.

Please remember to take your empties home.

Please leave quietly so that you do not disturb our neighbours.

To Book Tickets Please Contact Pete:

email: wickhambishopsjazzclub@gmail.com - Tel: 07548775777

St Bartholomew's
Church Hall
Wickham Bishops

Monday 10th June
2.30 - 4.00 pm

Interested? Just come along
or phone Sue on 01621 892032





Braintree Area Foodbank June & July's 2024 Shopping List

Urgent items we need

- Tinned cold meat i.e. Spam
- Tinned hot meat i.e. Stews
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned fish
- UHT Milk
- Cereal

Urgent Non-food items

- Female deodorant
- Female shampoo

Other stock items we really need

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Jam | Tinned potatoes |
| Sponge puddings | Tinned spaghetti |
| Rice (500g bags) | Pasta (500g bags) |
| Pasta sauce | Rice (500g bags) |
| Tinned fruit | Packet custard |
| Tinned hot snacks | Chocolate bars |
| Tinned rice pudding | Biscuits |
| Squash (small bottles) | Tea bags (40/80 packs) |
| Coffee (small jars) | |

* Please note: We ask for small packs as larger packs do not fit in our boxes making it difficult for our clients to carry home. Also, we are unable (for hygiene reasons) to split large size or catering packs.

We are always pleased to accept monetary donations if you prefer or Supermarket Gift Cards.

Please Note: We follow the standards set by the Food Standards Agency. We can only accept donations of unopened and undamaged goods that are still well within their "use by" date (no less than six months if possible). Items which do not meet these requirements cannot be used and your donation may be wasted.

T: 01376330694

E: info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk

W: www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food



Back Words ...

Greetings!

This may sound hypocritical coming from an editor who has announced his intention to resign in the next few months, but I recently stumbled across an article in 'The Spectator' Magazine. Copywrite laws and the length of the article prevent me from reproducing it here, but you may read it at www.spectator.co.uk/article/the-church-of-englands-volunteering-crisis/ The author highlights the large number of churches throughout the country which have insufficient volunteers to fulfil the roles needed, not just clergy but the lay-people needed: treasurers, secretaries, cleaners, readers, etc. Up to 40% of the churches in many dioceses having only one churchwarden, not the required two (we currently have none).

Vanishing volunteers is not just a church problem. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport reports that numbers of regular volunteers has fallen by 11 per cent in eight years.

The article is well-worth reading and, if it doesn't discourage you, please consider volunteering.

Best Wishes



Items for the combined July/August magazine should be submitted to the editor by

Monday 17th June 2024

Please send items by email if possible to:

magazine@churchinwickhambishops.org.uk

or place in an envelope marked 'Parish Magazine'
and deliver to **10 Church Green, Wickham Bishops**

Priority goes to church events and information connected with Wickham Bishops.

**If you would like to place an advert in this magazine please contact
John Mason on jmason.36@outlook.com or Tel. 01621 927066**

For enquiries regarding distribution of the magazine, please phone
Jayne Jennings on 01621 891396

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COMMEMORATING D-DAY

6 JUNE 2024

AT 8.45 PM

PROMENADE PARK, MALDON,
CM9 5JQ

THERE WILL BE A SHORT CEREMONY
HELD IN THE PARK AT 8.45 PM.

FOLLOWED BY THE LIGHTING OF THE
BEACON AT 9.15 PM.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

PLEASE NOTE, THERE MAY BE LOUD NOISES FROM
AN AIR RAID SIREN AND MARDONS AT THIS EVENT.





Saturday 8th June

12 pm to 3 pm

St. Bartholomew's Church

Wickham Bishops



**BBQ * Teas * Plants
Pimms * Prosecco * Beer Tent**

Cakes * Raffle * Tombola

And Much More!



In aid of Church Funds.

Charity Number: 1159874