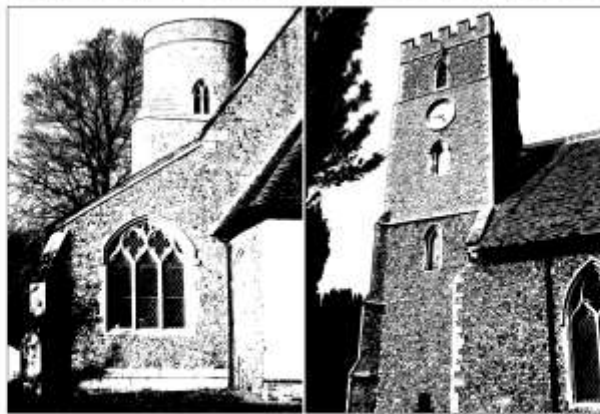


THE SALINGS MAGAZINE



DEC 2022 / JAN 2023



THE PARISH MAGAZINE FOR GREAT AND LITTLE SALING

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS



Let us start with a warm
THANK YOU to all contributors,
advertisers, distributors and
readers!

No doubt some of you will recall the opening scene from Dickens' 'Christmas Carol': 'A Merry Christmas to you uncle'...'Bah' said Scrooge 'Humbug'.

Perhaps you will be sharing Scrooge's reaction this year. As we write this, it is a rainy November day and we have just heard the Autumn Statement, forecasting the economy falling into recession 'and living standards [falling] 7 per cent over two years, wiping out eight years' growth.'

But it could be worse, and for many in our world it is. John Davies, in his Remembrance Address, speaks movingly of the horrors of war (see pages 16 & 17) and we continue to remember the devastation and suffering in Ukraine.

On a lighter note, we are in the happy interlude between the arrival of our national football teams in Qatar and any actual results. However, the timetable itself has had an impact on our annual Carol Service, and we are happy to report that on 11th December at 4pm (and indeed all of that day) there are no World Cup matches that could divert you from joining us at St James Great Saling.

Returning to Scrooge, you will also recall that, by the end of the story, he was a changed man - 'he became as good a friend, as good a master...as the good old city ever knew...and he knew how to keep Christmas well.' May that be said of all of us this Christmas!

Please email contributions to the February 2023 edition by the 15th of Jan. to: SalingsMagazine@gmail.com

From Revd. Sue Hurley, Priest-in-Charge of the Pilgrim Parishes Ministry Team



You could be forgiven for feeling a little 'at sea' at the moment. The rate of national and even international change is astounding. With scarily escalating costs, coupled with supply chain issues, many of us are having to make some difficult decisions about where to make cuts.

Add to the mix Covid-driven uncertainties and Russia's unpredictability and many of us are finding ourselves a little short on festive cheer and sauntering somewhat heavy hearted-

ly through life. I recently read that the word 'saunter' is derived from the Latin 'sancta terra', meaning 'holy ground'. For when we slow our pace, we may just begin to glimpse aspects of life which were previously obscured by life's relentless pursuit of speed.

This Christmas, I pray that you will find the time to pause; to reconsider where inner peace might be found.

For Christians all over the world, the heart of Christmas is the celebration of the astonishing moment when God reaches out and becomes one of us. Born into a family struggling to make ends meet and forced, because of political decrees, to flee to Egypt as refugees. Yet into the chaos of this uncertainty, comes the hope for humanity!

A bright star pointed the way for weary travellers and signalled the birth of the Christ child, to those who would take the time to follow. This tiny, seemingly insignificant, baby grew to be one whose life still smashes through the doldrums of dreariness, offering each of us a future hope. The offer of a life where The Prince of Peace can comfort and calm us through the roughest storms.

Why not be a wise man or woman this Christmas season and seek this Prince of Peace for yourself?

We offer each of you a warm invitation to join us at any of our Christmas services.

May God bless you and bring you His peace this Christmas.



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Further information in
your February Magazine.

LOCAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

4. Dec.	11.00 Holy Communion	Great Saling church
11. Dec.	16.00 The Salings Carol Service	Gt. Saling church
	Followed by refreshments	
18. Dec.	11.00 Holy Communion	Great Saling church
24. Dec.	15.30 Christingle & Crib Service	Little Saling church
25. Dec.	10.30 Holy Communion	Great Saling church



INFORMATION ABOUT CHURCH ATTENDANCE

If you have COVID or COVID symptoms, can we ask that you graciously stay away until you are better. At Communion, the common cup will not be offered but priests will offer to dip your wafer in wine before handing it to you.

If anyone has been shielding / isolating and would like a priest to bring them Holy Communion, please get in touch & we will organise a visit.

To connect to any of the live streamed services on YouTube search for: **“Pilgrim Parishes Contingency Church”**

General pattern of Church Services in the Salings **please check noticeboards in the churches for further details:**

1st Sunday of the Month	11.00am in Great Saling church
2nd Sunday of the Month	11.00am in Little Saling church
3rd Sunday of the Month	11.00am in Great Saling church
4th Sunday of the Month	9.30am in Little Saling church



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Naturally Unwrapped

Farleigh Hospice - here for you over the Festive period

Farleigh Helpers Befriending Service If you need someone to talk to over the festive period and beyond, our Farleigh Helpers telephone support and befriending service is here for you. Run by volunteers, the service provides a friendly, listening ear to those who are ill, isolated, lonely, bereaved, or just in need of someone to talk to. To find out more and refer yourself or somebody else to Farleigh Helpers, call 01245 933800, email farleigh.helpers@farleighhospice.org or visit www.farleighhospice.org/farleighhelpers

Light Up A Life Services: 27 November – 17 December

We understand that Christmas can be a difficult time for anyone who has lost someone special and you are very welcome to join us at one of our Light Up A Life remembrance services, held across mid Essex in November and December. All of our services are free to attend and do not require booking in advance. For a list of services, please visit www.farleighhospice.org/lightupalife





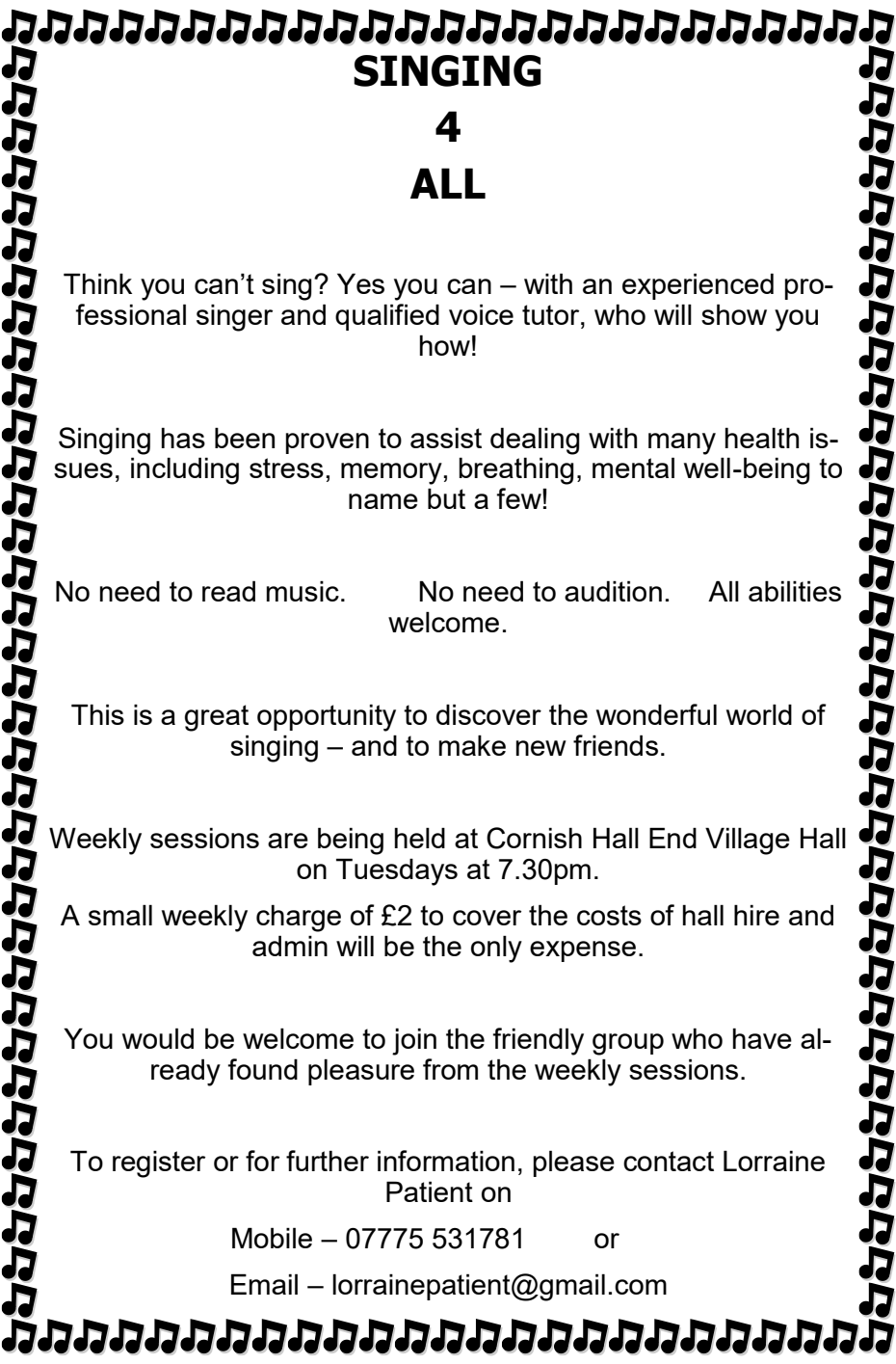
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4

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Weekly sessions are being held at Cornish Hall End Village Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30pm.

A small weekly charge of £2 to cover the costs of hall hire and admin will be the only expense.

You would be welcome to join the friendly group who have already found pleasure from the weekly sessions.

To register or for further information, please contact Lorraine Patient on

Mobile – 07775 531781 or

Email – lorrainepatient@gmail.com

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District Councillor Paul Euesden

By the time you read this, Christmas will be almost here. As you prepare family celebrations and gatherings, please remember friends and neighbours who may be alone, especially in these difficult times.

The large advertising sign by Grove Villas for a new house being built doesn't have permission to be there and the owners have been asked to remove it. I have reported the pot holes and damaged edge of road /beginning of verge along the Bardfield road between Plums Lane and Hyde Lane through our County Councillor's pot hole reporting scheme, following complaints by residents of damage to vehicles. It is to be hoped they will be repaired as soon as possible.

District News.

Pop up stalls are available at the monthly Braintree Street Markets, to help Startup/small businesses to bring their products to new audiences, from only £11 per event. These markets are very popular and well attended. Full details are available at streetmarkets@braintree.gov.uk

Due to the increasing demand from young people wanting to learn to swim, Fusion Lifestyle have opened classes on Sundays, making swim lessons available 7 days a week across the 3 swimming pools in the district.

Affordable Housing delivery across the district for 2022/2023 so far is 170 new homes. The full year target is 250.

The A120 roundabout exit onto/off Birchanger Lane is closed from now until Spring 2023 for work to ease congestion. Full details are available on ECC website.

The Essex Forest initiative has secured an additional £750,000 in grant funding to plant an additional 1,785 trees across Essex, including Braintree District. More details can be found on ECC website.

As previously mentioned, BDC has set up a Cost-of-Living Partnership, District wide to support residents, with representation from the private, public and voluntary sectors. This was in response to the increasing levels of concern about the impact of cost-of-living issues on residents. There is now a huge range of information available about what help is available, for what, how to access it etc. It is very comprehensive and covers topics from Benefits to Help with energy bills; from Foodbanks to help with child costs; from transport to Holiday activity and food; from Wellbeing to a list of places offering warmth and company throughout the district. The information is regularly updated but details are available on www.braintree.gov.uk/costofliving

Braintree Museum is open most days of the week and offers a range of Exhibitions, Events and Community Activities. I took my grandchildren to the dinosaur exhibition (now ended) and we had a super day of activity and information. From November 2022 to July 2023, the Museum is running an

exhibition of Ladybird book artists who illustrated the Ladybird series for over 30 years. The exhibition includes a large collection of the books and original artwork. These books played a big part in the lives of many children, including me, my son and my grandchildren and I will be visiting the exhibition as soon as it opens. I hope many of you will visit too.

The Museum is also offering a Christmas Wreath making event on December 10th, but you will need to book.

Also on offer are Museum Takeover Days for local primary school children, under the Warm Winter Welcome project. It runs from October 2022 – March 2023 and provides activities, breakfast, a hot lunch and is free to attend. For more information contact philiprawlinson@community360.org.uk

Finally, as always please be kind to each other and have a very happy, healthy Christmas. If you need my help on any matter, please contact me.

cllr.peuesden@braintree.gov.uk

Best wishes, Paul Euesden

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Councillors

Chair - Peter Martin - peter@pmpltd.co - 07801 236461

Richard Aggiss - richardaggiss@outlook.com - 07912 177279

Colin Bennett - petrabennett@btinternet.com - 01371 850320

Terry McCarty - k.mccarty@sky.co.uk

Jennifer O'Connell - Jennifer.OConnell@russellreynolds.com -07872 844961

Ann Hooks – Annhookssalings@gmail.com

Clerk to the Council

Michelle Baker - salings.pc@outlook.com - 01371 829094

Website: Salings Parish Council (salings-pc.gov.uk)

District Councillor - Paul Euesden - Cllr.peuesden@braintree.gov.uk

County Councillor - Graham Butland - Cllr.Graham.butland@essex.gov.uk

Meeting Schedule 2022/23

January 24th 2023

May 9th 2023 (Annual Parish Meeting)

May 24th 2023 (Annual Parish Council Meeting)



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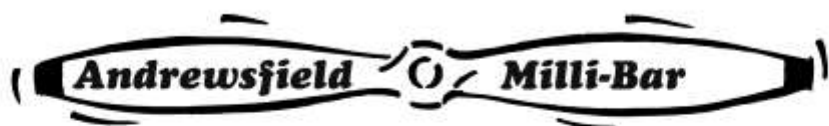
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Contact: Mr Colin Bennett: 01371 850 320, M: 07789770645
Email: petrabennett@btinternet.com

EVENTS:

Tuesdays **Arts Group** 10.00am - 3.00pm
 Pilates 6.00pm - 7.00pm
Thursd. **Zumba** 10.30am - 11.30am
 Carpet Bowls 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Fridays **Carpet Bowls** 7.00pm - 10.00pm



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**1st John Barlow
2nd Barrie Pilkington
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**Hunters Carpet Bowls Club
The Saling's Millennium Village Hall
Great Saling CM7 5DW**

You are cordially invited to try indoor carpet bowls on Fridays at 7pm, and Thursdays at 1.30pm.

Your first 3 weeks are free of charge, including tea/coffee and a biscuit too. You are welcome to try out bowling with guidance, all in a very sociable atmosphere. It's fun to enjoy and make new friends, all in a comfortable environment.

So do come to a warm welcome.

Suitable for adults of all ages and abilities.

Ring John on 07957 861056 for more information

ADDRESS FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2022

FOR YOUR TOMORROW, WE GAVE OUR TODAY

There is no one living today with personal memories of fighting in the First World War, the war to end all wars as it was called, after which Armistice Day, the precursor of Remembrance Day was established. It was after the Second World War that it was renamed Remembrance Day, so that those who died and had been injured in both world wars could be commemorated and honoured. And as each year passes there are fewer and fewer people with personal memories of fighting in the Second World War.

Sadly since that time there have been many conflicts in which our servicemen and women have been involved. From 1948 they have taken part in more than 50 operations and conflicts around the world, often working as part of the United Nations, NATO or other conflicts. From the jungles of Malaysia to the South Atlantic seas, our soldiers, sailors and airmen have fought and sometimes died. It was to commemorate those who had given their lives since 1948 that the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire was created. The main feature in this Arboretum is the Armed Forces Memorial, the largest of many memorials in the grounds of the arboretum, an impressive and striking monument, upon which the names of all those from the Army, the Navy and the Air Force who have died since the end of the Second World War. How many names do you think are inscribed on the many panels that make up this memorial? Just take a few seconds to think about it. Over 16,000 names are recorded. There is space for another 15,000. I found this amazing. There has only been one year since the end of the Second World War that no new names have been added.

War is horrible, war is unpleasant, war is tragically destructive. Some of our servicemen have been called upon to do terrible things in the service of their country. Shortly after the Berlin Wall came down in the early 1990s, I visited Dresden as a guest of the Dresdner Bank. They wanted to show me and other European banking colleagues the site of their original Head Office. Now at that time the reconstruction of the city after the wartime bombing, with the exception of the Zinger museum and the opera house, had barely begun.

The devastation of the city was very moving to see.

We stayed in the only hotel in the city close to the ruins of the Frauenkirche, that once magnificent Lutheran church built in 1473 and destroyed in the allied bombing of 1945. In the streets, postcards showing piles of bodies being taken out of the ruined and burning buildings in the city were still being sold. Many of our airmen involved in the bombing never really recovered from the emotional impact of what they had done – and no doubt the same emotions were felt by the German airmen who had taken part in the bombing of Coventry and the London blitz. Terrible, terrible events to have had experienced first hand. If you want to know about the horrors of war, ask a soldier.

And yet on countless occasions our servicemen and women have exhibited those qualities and strengths which we as Christians are constantly taught to espouse. The first of these is courage, selfless courage. Think of people like Colonel H Jones, Commanding Officer of 2 Para in the Falklands. He was severely wounded in a solo charge against an Argentine position on Darwin Hill and who subsequently died of his wounds when Darwin Hill was secured but before he could be evacuated. What courage! I have seen and walked on that hill; to envisage this man alone charging up the hill with many Argentinians at the top resisting him was breathtaking. What courage! And it was very moving to visit his grave in the windswept but beautifully maintained war cemetery at San Carlos. Think of those brave pilots, who took those equally brave volunteers into France by night to help the French Resistance during the Second World War – and risked their lives in collecting them when danger was beckoning. What courage! One of them was the much decorated Leonard Ratcliff, an Essex man, who I had the pleasure of meeting several years ago before his death. A great experience. Yes, what courage.

And there are countless other qualities. Resilience – the resilience of personnel in the submarine service who have to spend weeks, months on end beneath the ocean in one of our nuclear submarines. I spent a morning in one of them and was very glad to get out after a few hours. Determination – determination to finish the job once it is started. The Falklands once again – in 1992, the Royal Marines of 45 Commando walked or yomped 56 miles over difficult terrain – and I have seen that terrain and it certainly is – and in bad weather from San Carlos Water on the west of the East Falkland to the capital, Stanley – which they took. A tremendous achievement. Compassion – the care our servicemen and women take of others; Comradeship – you only have to see that when you watch those parading in Whitehall this morning. I don't believe there is any other group that manifests such comradeship, one with another, as the military. Many of them have shared together so many life changing experiences

So what do we as Christians make of all this. Clearly war should always be a last resort and politicians need to learn wisdom and restraint and take great care before resorting to it – after all, they are not the ones who have to go into battle. Most wars, if not every war, begin with human greed. We are not here today to glorify war or the supremacy of this or any country. We are here to remember those who have died in the service of their country – in the two World Wars and in conflicts since that time – Korea, Malaysia, the Falklands, Iraq, the Balkans, Ireland, Afghanistan to name but a few. We are here give thanks to God for their lives, to pay homage to those who gave their todays so that we might have their tomorrows.

In the comfort of your love, may they rest in peace.

John Davies

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Pilgrim Parishes Refugee Support

October 2022

One year on

At the end of September 2021 the Pilgrim Parishes started to support the charity Care4Calais. Government policy was to temporarily place asylum seekers (who had mainly arrived by dinghy on the Kent coast) into hotels whilst their asylum claims were being processed. Care4Calais (C4C) told us that about 120 men, woman and children had just arrived at a hotel in Stansted and were in urgent need of clothes, particularly shoes, as most had only the clothes and flip flops they were wearing when they arrived. C4C had initially been supporting refugees in the camps in Calais but had now been asked to also support these arrivals in hotels throughout the UK. So began our involvement with 120 people, aged new born to 70 plus, who for one reason or another had fled the problem areas of the world that you hear about on the news - Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Georgia etc - and ended up in a hotel on our doorstep.

Over the last year your generosity has enabled us to purchase shoes, coats and other items for those who had nothing and a full list is shown below. Care4Calais is now providing much more than just essential items. Many asylum seekers have been at the hotel for over a year, they have little money to spend on themselves (£8pp per week) and are not allowed to work to earn any more. With your support C4C has been able to:

- Arrange legal help for asylum claims
- Accompany and support visits to lawyers
- Arrange opticians appointments
- Try (mainly unsuccessfully) to arrange dental appointments
- Support expectant mothers through pregnancy and birth
- Arrange help for complex medical needs
- Provide clothing
- Provide shoes
- Provide mobile phones and SIM cards
- Organise sports events and provide sports clothes and equipment
- Organise trips to sports centres
- Organise trips to local play areas
- Organise volunteering opportunities for adults

Continued



- Provide bikes
- Provide for dietary requirements with the help of local foodbanks
- Provide suitcases and backpacks
- Provide English lessons
- Provide hairdressing
- Organise exercise sessions for the adults
- Organise Buffy bus visits for the children
- Organise celebrations at Christmas, Easter and Eid
- Celebrate children's birthdays with cakes and presents
- Provide gift wrapped presents for all children at Christmas
- Provide pushchairs, cots, highchairs and other baby equipment

Over 100 pairs of new shoes

3.1 new winter coats

A pressure cushion

Whiteboards and pens

Exercise books

Paper plates and bowls

English / Tigrinya dictionary

Where your money has gone

Thankyou for your generosity.
All these items have made a huge
difference to someone's life

Various second hand items:

Clothes and shoes

Suitcases and Backpacks

Car seats

Pushchairs & Highchairs

Crutches

Umbrellas

Christmas Boxes 2023

Last year we provided shoe boxes of presents for the 47 children at the hotel who would otherwise have received nothing. Unfortunately 29 of those children are still there, and have been joined (so far) by 16 new arrivals so we have a total to date of 45 children under eighteen.

We have enough shoe boxes which we have started to cover, and a lot of stuff left over from last year plus some new donations. The plan for this year is fill boxes with items we've already got then ask for donations to buy what is still needed - so watch this space for details of how to contribute and opportunities to come and help pack and write cards for each child.



Would you like to help?

Here's what two parishioners have to say about their experience of volunteering at the hotel:

It's been my great pleasure and privilege to be able to bring a smile to the faces of the lovely refugees by cutting their hair on the 3 Saturdays that I've been able to get there. It wasn't always easy going as difficulty with the language and variety of hair types brought with it different challenges, but mobile phones and pictures are a blessing. Hopefully after initial Grandbaby duties are complete we can get back to a regular Saturday salon. Di Troup



It is over seven months now since I responded to a request for someone to teach English to refugees in a local hotel. Although a trained teacher, this was definitely outside my comfort zone - I don't teach adults and I had no experience of teaching English! But despite my initial trepidation it is something I really enjoy doing.

The most rewarding thing has been seeing a group of people who couldn't (or wouldn't?) speak English now able to hold a simple conversation and ask for things they need. It has also given them a tool to speak to one another as they come from different backgrounds and don't always have a common language. Initially they didn't even know each other's names... I can't honestly say whether it is what I have taught them, or whether I have simply given them confidence to use what they already knew but either way I love hearing them speak English.

Our twice-weekly lessons are great fun. We are learning more about each other and beginning to share a sense of humour. So I would say to you that if ever you feel challenged to take on something new give it a go - even if you are scared!

It might just surprise you. Julia Longman



Inspired by their story?

There are details of how YOU could get involved on the next page.....

Pilgrim Parishes Refugee Support

November 2022

Urgent Appeal for Funds

You will all be aware that the migrant situation is not getting any better.

Some sections of the press show only pictures of jubilant young men arriving on the Kent coast but the reality is many more of the boats are overflowing with men women and children who are cold, wet, frightened and seasick and with no possessions other than what they are wearing.

Following recent events at the reception centre at Manston the government has requisitioned more hotels and another local hotel is now being used to house newly arrived asylum seekers.

Care4Calais has once again been asked to help and last week found 50 new arrivals who had only the clothes they stood in and flip flops on their feet. The immediate need is for money to purchase basic items of clothing. By bulk buying Care4Calais can provide essential items:

£2 buys a pack of 3 pairs of socks

£5 buys a pack of 2 pairs of pants

£5 buys a long sleeve T shirt

£9 buys a pair of jogging bottoms

£12 buys a pair of shoes

So you can see every £ really does count and will make a difference to the life of someone who has fled their home and often left behind family, friends, jobs and the same sort of home and possessions we all enjoy.

All donations go through the church accounts

To donate on line just scan the QR code or click on the link



<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/ac292570-clc01-45f7-90f2-7aa5458516f3>

Alternatively cheques can be made out to Stebbing PCC and sent to
James Crick, Barn House, Braintree Rd, Felsted, CM6 3DW.

And if you can, please gift aid your donation.

Thankyou for you continued support and generosity.

Mike ands Cath Studd

St James's Church
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In addition there have also been cash donations.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!



VOLUNTEER WITH US Tesco Winter Food Collection 1st December - 3rd December

We are looking for volunteers to support with our Tesco Winter Food Collection again this year. We will be collecting in person at Tesco Marks Farm & Tesco Witham.

If you can spare a few hours please sign up today and help feed local people in crisis.

To find out more and to sign up please contact us:

Phone: 01376 330694 (leaving your name and contact number if the office is closed)

Email: pm@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk

braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk

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FOOD BANK

To Help please donate via cheque to Braintree Area Food Bank Ltd (phone 01376 330694 for address) or via BACS to: Braintree Area Food Bank, Account no: 00029229, Sort code: 40-52-40.

Our need at the Foodbank is greater than ever, for a lot of reasons, including the removal of the £20 uplift in Universal Credit, increased fuel and energy prices and the removal of rent caps.

Please encourage the people you see to donate generously - as I know they always do. Thank you



Softscapes and Maintenance

T: 01621 773659 M: 07821336124

info@cjlandscapinguk.co.uk

Contact John

07821336124

info@cjlandscapinguk.co.uk

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- Farming Land Control

Church Yard Maintenance:

- Regular Maintenance
- Re-Levelling and Repair
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- Cleaning

1st FINCHINGFIELD SCOUT GROUP

There are four sections that meet in the
Scout Headquarters, Finchingfield.

Beavers 6-8yrs held on Wednesday evenings 5.45 – 7.00pm

Cubs 8-10 1/2 yrs on Tuesday evenings 6.30 – 8.00pm

Scouts 10 1/2 -14yrs on Thursday evenings 7.30 – 9.00pm and

Explorer Scouts 14–18yrs on Monday evenings 7.30 – 9.00pm

All sections are available to girls and Boys

We are currently recruiting Adult helpers for all sections

To find out more contact

Mark Wells - Group Scout Leader

T: 01371 810447 E: finchingfieldscouts@outlook.com



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THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE



After a wet and warm October the Gardens have recovered a bit from the dry summer, but it is now very difficult to guess how any month is going to pan out. What we do know is that Christmas falls in December and so our volunteers will get a welcome break from gardening and Gary, our volunteer who provides talks about the Gardens, will let his laptop cool down! We will all get right back into action in January. The talks programme is filling up, but still has spaces. If you think one of your local groups would welcome a talk, contact Gary through the form on our website or by emailing groupvisits@eastonlodge.co.uk.

Last December after we had tidied up all the leaves and trimmed a few trees, we had lots of new trees to plant that had been donated to us. After such a difficult summer, this year our winter focus is more likely to be on care and maintenance: lots of mulching to look after the plants and new trees that have made it through the year and work on our infrastructure too.

By the end of December, we will be starting to think about snowdrops! We have set the dates for two Snowdrop Sunday Open Days, on 12th and 19th February and two Snowdrop Thursdays, on 16th and 23rd February. As for this year, our Open Sundays should be bigger affairs with access to the Gardens of Warwick House as well as “our” part of the Gardens and a full catering offer, including savoury rolls. Snowdrop Thursdays are restricted to “our” side and we will provide drinks and homemade cakes. This year we only managed 2 of the four days, so we hope to improve on that record in 2023! Details will go onto our website in due course, but why not save the dates?

So, wishing you all the best for a happy festive season. And, if you are beginning to think about your new year’s resolutions, maybe you might like to consider joining us as a volunteer gardener, baker or front of house person? Or perhaps as a Trustee? We are always happy to add to our happy team!

Jill Goldsmith



The Hundred Parishes Society

Before the middle of the twentieth century most people did not have watches; they relied on public clocks which could be seen at railway stations, post offices and other public buildings - and on church towers. This reminds me of the lines written in 1912 by the homesick poet, Rupert Brooke:

***“Stands the church clock at ten to three
And is there honey still for tea?”***

The Hundred Parishes has a variety of interesting church clocks. In Furneux Pelham, St Mary's clock is topped by Old Father Time and the words “Time Flies, Mind Your Business”. One wonders what prompted those words to be included. The bell tower at Sheering has two clock faces which were installed in the 1940s to remember those who served in the War. The north-facing one tells us to “Work and Pray” whilst the west-facing proclaims “Today Is Yours”.

The church at High Wych was built in 1861 to the design of local architect George Edward Pritchett. Its clock is almost as wide as the thin flintstone tower on which it is mounted.



Hinxton (see left) possibly has our oldest church clock, believed to date from 1700 AD, albeit extensively renovated in 1809 when a new face was fitted.



Artist Eric Ravilious lived in Great Bardfield and his wood engraving of the church of St Mary the Virgin clearly shows the enormous clock (see right) that was added to commemorate the coronation of King George V in 1912. One assumes the residents of Great Bardfield are never late for work or church. The engraving has been adopted as the logo of The Hundred Parishes.

I hope you will keep an eye open for the variety of clocks to be found around the Hundred Parishes. The Hundred Parishes Society's trustees join me in wishing you a Merry Christmas.

Ken McDonald, Secretary.



The Hundred Parishes Society

Within each of our hundred or so administrative parishes, the parish church is nearly always the most significant heritage feature. The majority of our Grade I-listed buildings are churches and each of them has fascinating architecture, memorials and memories. Today, I would like to focus on one particular aspect, the church clock.

Firstly, I must report that only half of our parish churches have a clock. All listed buildings have a formal description, but the details for a listed church rarely mention the clock, albeit that it is often a distinctive element of the church's appearance.

Most clocks are mounted on the church tower. Many churches have just one clock, some two or three. I have found only three churches with four clocks, one on each side of the tower: Newport, Radwinter and Steeple Bumpstead.

The majority of clocks are round, but a few are lozenge or rhombus shaped, like Felsted (see right) and Great Waltham.



Most clocks have a solid face although a few, like those at Steeple Bumpstead, consist of metal framework and numerals through which the brick or flint wall can be seen. Solid faces are usually either blue or black. Numerals and the hour and minute hands are almost always golden.



The hands generally point to Roman numerals (I, II, III, IV, etc – although several have IIII instead of the usual IV). Widford breaks the mould with Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, 4, etc). Great Canfield (see left) has just a single hand, pointing to the hour.

Some clocks are inscribed with a date and occasionally a royal cipher, for example Great Waltham celebrates Queen Victoria.

Hatfield Broad Oak appears to display the oldest date locally, 1797, although the clock looks in pristine condition following recent conservation.

I hope this brief insight will encourage you to take more notice of our humble church clocks.

Ken McDonald, Secretary



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The group is working to

- encourage crop growers to use visual deterrents
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ELECTRONIC COPIES of the Magazine via www.salingspc.org
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