



DEDHAM Parish Magazine



April 2025

Dedham Parish Magazine

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April 2025

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DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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The deadline for the May 2025 magazine entries is the 10th April.

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Cover Photo - Camellia in Southfields - John Goldsbrough

Can we help?

Sometimes things in life can just get too much to cope with on your own... **Psalm 34:18: *The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*** If you would like some support or know of any one who would, please contact: Ruth Higginson **Tel: 322 598.**

If you would like a lift to church contact Sharon Sarson Tel: 07876 114418

If you have been bereaved or know of anyone who has, please contact Vee Druitt **Tel: 322 000** or Ruth Higginson **Tel: 322 598**

If you need any further support, please contact the Parishes Office Tel: 322 136 and your call will be returned.

Throughout the magazine local telephone numbers omit the 01206 area code unless otherwise stated.

Sunday, 6th April

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Cafe Church
9.30am Rise N Shine
5.00pm Evensong

Ardleigh
Ardleigh
Dedham*
Dedham*

Sunday, 13th April

9.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Holy Communion

Ardleigh
Dedham*

Thursday 17th April

7.00pm Maundy Thursday Service

Ardleigh

Friday 18th April (Good Friday)

12.00pm Stations of the Cross
2.00pm Stations of the Cross

Ardleigh
Dedham

Sunday, 20th April

9.30am Easter Communion
9.30am Easter Communion

Ardleigh
Dedham*

Sunday, 27th April

9.30am Morning Praise
9.30am Matins

Ardleigh
Dedham*

* = Services which are live streamed.

Morning Prayer - Every Tuesday
10.30am at Dedham Church.

Ardleigh Friendship Group: every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month: 10am to 12 noon - Ardleigh Church.

Ardleigh Craft Group: every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month: Meeting at Ardleigh Church from 10am to 12 noon. During the winter months, this group is held in members' homes. Please contact Ardleigh Churchwarden for more information.

Little Steps Pre-School Group: every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month: 9.30am-11.30am in Ardleigh Church.

Men's Breakfast - Saturday 5th April 9am - venue tba. For bacon butties, tea, coffee and chat.

Monday Lunch Club – Monday 7th April 12.30pm, Essex Tea Rooms. Phone 322192 to reserve a place indicating it is for the Lunch Club.

Walk and Talk - Thursday 10th April Dedham Arts and Craft Centre. 10am for a walk, or at 11am for just a chat.

FROM THE REGISTERS.

Funerals:

George Beekan - February 20th

Janet Ward (interment of ashes) - February 23rd



Our services are on YouTube.
Search Dedham and Ardleigh Parishes.



Follow us on Facebook,
search - Dedham and
Ardleigh Parishes.

Dedham and Ardleigh
parishes website -
QR code





Dear Friends

Amidst the advancing signs of new life emerging in Spring, Christians look forward to Easter and the promise of new and eternal life offered by Jesus, his passion, death and resurrection.

As you enjoy the warmer days and a hot cross bun or piece of traditional Simnel cake, both popular Easter traditions, I challenge you to ponder afresh the gift that is at the heart of the Easter story.

As a young teenager, I could not understand the term 'Passion of Christ'. Passion or Holy week runs from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday itself. The word passion in this sense comes from a Latin word, *patior* meaning to suffer or endure. That is not what a teenager usually understands passion to be!

From the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life, we know there was nothing good or peaceful about the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion. In this last week after his triumphant entry into Jerusalem we remember on Palm Sunday, he was troubled by the swindling money changers at the temple and let down by his close friends, the disciples, who could not stay awake with him.

Later he was betrayed by one of them to the authorities and disowned by yet another.

He was put on trial, found guilty on false accusations and executed by crucifixion between two common criminals. Christ's passion was suffering and enduring pain in a very real sense. (Read Mark chapters 11 to 15.) Yet his death was not the end.

On Easter morning we celebrate Christ's resurrection. Fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy, on the third day after his death, the women who followed Jesus as part of the group of his disciples, went to his tomb intending to complete the burial rituals. Instead, they found the tomb stone rolled away and the body gone: he was not dead but alive and many instances are recorded in the Gospels of people meeting with the resurrected Jesus, eating and drinking with him. This first Easter Sunday is described in Mark chapter 16.

The hope of Easter for Christians is that our troubles and fears are defeated by Jesus' resurrection. As somebody once said, 'Jesus resurrection is not the reversal of a defeat, but the triumph of a victory'. One of our greatest fears may be death, but through Jesus and the Easter story we are offered eternal life. This is not earned or gained through any merits of ourselves. It is a free gift offered through belief and faith in Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14 v 6.)

This Easter, I pray you may all know some of the joys of spring, of hot cross buns and Simnel cake, but that you may also know the peace and security of eternal life offered through Jesus and the Easter story. Come and join us at one of our Easter services where we will celebrate this wonderful gift – you would be most welcome!
Easter Blessings

Rev'd John Saxon

LILIES IN REMEMBRANCE OF SOMEONE



If you would like to buy some lilies in memory of a loved one, to be arranged in church for Easter Sunday, please place your order in the Parishes office mailbox which is on the side of the Assembly rooms. Simply place the cost of the lilies (£3 each) in an envelope with your name and telephone number on the front.

The final date for ordering is FRIDAY 11th APRIL. If you have any queries, please contact Helen Sims (07899 061840).

LIVING WATER

We are connected in creation
by water which gives us life.

Tides move in our blood,
and on distant shores
our kindred lift their heads
in the salt air

and scan the horizon
for a trace of our mark on the earth.

Let our marks be gentle.
Let us respect the sacredness of water
which moves between us
as a blessing from the hand of God.

© Yvonne Morland, from Eggs & Ashes,
published by Wild Goose Publications,
Iona



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

April 2025

April 13th 2025

The Deanery choir will be singing at St George's Church, Great Bromley CO7 7TS at the I am Communion service. The choir will sing 'God so loved the world' by Bob Chilcott.

April 18th 2025 Good Friday

The Deanery Choir will be singing at St Mary's Church, Ardleigh. CO7 7LD. Performing 'Wondrous Cross', the work of local composer Alan Bullard. The choir will also sing 'Song for Athene' by John Tavener.

WONDROUS CROSS

Alan Bullard
Song For Athene ~ John Tavener

Good Friday
18th April 2025
THE DEANERY CHOIR

Sally Pudney
Conductor

Peter Clayton
Organist

6pm Start

**ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLCHESTER ROAD
ARDLEIGH, COLCHESTER CO7 7NS**

Retiring collection towards church funds

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE AT EASTER TIME

It's been a busy month with lots coming up for children and youth at Dedham Church. The youth enjoyed a pancake party on Shrove Tuesday evening and with a few new faces it was really good to get to know each other.

Now we are in the season of Lent, the junior church group has started a four week Lent series learning about the time before Jesus was crucified and his resurrection. Below is a photo of the children making Triumphal Entry crowns!



The youth are following the Six Beats One Story series, in line with the ReVive@5 services. We had a great evening dressing up and creating a movie in February.

“Open the Book” and “Messy Church” style sessions continue at Dedham Primary School - thanks to the pupils who actively took part in the Open the Book assembly as sheep, neighbours and Zacheaus and also to the year 5s for the awesome discussions and questions around Lent.

What's coming up?

Sunday, 6th April - Rise and Shine
Sundays 13th and 27th April - Junior Church (20th April is altogether Easter Sunday service)
Wednesday, 16th April - DJB Youth Easter trip to Frinton Beach
No Revive@5 or DJB on Easter Sunday, 20th April.

Please do come along and try any of the junior church or DJB youth group services - we would love to welcome you. Contact me by email on stmarydacypw@gmail.com for any information or if your young person would like to join in. Blessings to you all this Easter time.

Claire Arculus
Children & Young People Worker

MISSIONS BAKE SALES



The dates for the 2025 Mission Stall are as follows:

Saturday 10th May is our first real mission stall. The Dedham Horticulture Society also have their spring fair outside the church 9-12

Saturday 28th June 10-12 noon

Saturday 26th July 10-12 noon

Monday 25th August 10-4pm bank holiday

Saturday 27th September 10-12 noon

Saturday 25th October 10-12 noon

COMPLETION OF THE ORGAN PROJECT



St. Mary's Church Dedham, Saturday 10th May 2025 at 7.00 pm.

A short service of dedication by the Bishop of Colchester, followed by an inaugural concert by Jonathan Scott - a leading British organist with an international reputation

There is no charge for this event, however it is a ticket only, pre-booked event, based on a first come basis.

Tickets will not be available at the door.

Tickets (Four per application) can be requested by emailing dedhamorganconcert@gmail.com

Booking for tickets opens on 14th April. Please include your name, email address and number of tickets required.

Scan the QR code to email



JONATHAN SCOTT



Born in Manchester, Jonathan studied piano and organ at Chetham's School of Music and continued his studies in the UK, USA and Netherlands. He won the Worshipful Company of Musicians WT Best Scholarship and gold medal, and is a Freeman of The City of London.

Jonathan Scott enjoys a hugely varied international performing career on a diverse spectrum of keyboard instruments, and is known throughout the world for his virtuoso arrangements of major orchestral music for the pipe organ. As Associate Artist of The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, Jonathan gives a series of lunchtime organ recitals which attract huge audiences.

Recent concert highlights include a series of Concerto performances with the National Chinese Orchestra of Taiwan and the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, the re-opening organ concerts at the organs of Marienkirche Kavelaer and All Saint's Church, Warsaw, and a solo evening organ concert from the Royal Albert Hall, London for the BBC Proms.

Jonathan gave the world premiere of the new organ concerto '6000 Pipes!' by Sir Karl Jenkins for Hull UK City of Culture and has toured this work, including a special gala performance at the Royal Albert Hall, London, with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by the composer.

Old Testament Figures

The majority of the stained glass windows in St Mary's Church, Dedham and in Christian Churches in general depict scenes from the New Testament and the life of Jesus. However, in the side windows of the chancel, above the New Testament scenes, we see representations of twelve of the important figures of the Old Testament. Each of them is labelled with their name at the bottom of the window and although they have elaborate clothes and head-dresses they do not have halos as they are not Saints.

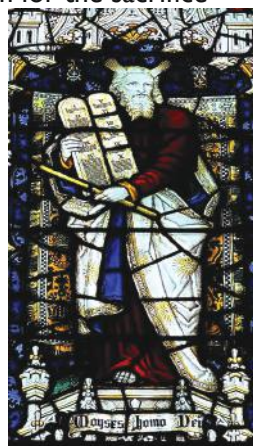


Abraham

“Abraham patriarch” Abraham was called Patriarch because, as was promised by God, he became the father of the Tribes of Israel and, we read in Genesis 15, his descendants would become as numerous as the visible stars in heaven. Abraham is tested by God and told to sacrifice his son Isaac. At the last minute God reprieves Isaac because Abraham has shown true obedience and provides a ram for the sacrifice instead. (Genesis 22). The window shows Abraham carrying the knife to sacrifice Isaac, and the fire with which to burn the sacrifice.

“Moses homo Dei” Moses man of God led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and parted the Red Sea so that they could escape. He is, however, most famous for receiving the “Ten Commandments” on the two tablets of

stone from God on Mount Sinai. (Exodus: 31: 18 for the first set which Moses broke in anger when the Israelites worshipped the golden calf and Exodus 34: 1 for the second pair of stones replaced by God). Here Moses is shown carrying the two tablets marked with ten Roman numerals .



Moses

“David Rex” David was the second King of Israel after Saul. He is shown carrying a harp as among other achievements he was the author of nearly half the Psalms and can also be credited with making music and singing a fundamental element of worship. (1 Chronicles 16: 4-7)

“Salomon Rex” Solomon succeeded David as King of Israel he is shown holding in his right hand a jewelled sceptre, a symbol of absolute power. In his left hand is a book titled “Sapientia Salomon” (The Wisdom of Solomon) on the cover. Solomon’s wisdom is proverbial and we read in 1 Kings 4: 29 “God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore”.



David



Solomon

Old Testament Figures

The other eight figures are all “Prophets” and have their own books in the Old Testament. Often in Latin inscriptions in church a form of shorthand was used to condense the writing and here p’pheta stands for propheta or prophet.

They are Amos, Elias (Elijah), Esaias (Isaiah), Esdras (Ezra), Ezechiel (Ezekiel), Jeremiah (Jeremiah), Malachais (Malachi) and Samuel.



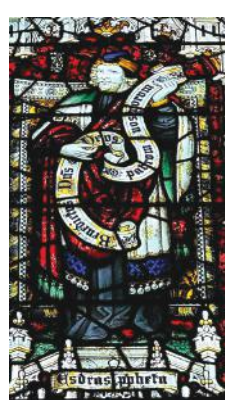
Amos



Elijah



Isaiah



Ezra



Ezekiel



Jeremiah



Malachi



Samuel

Mostly these figures carry text banners with quotes from their book in the Bible. However there are a couple of other biblical allusions depicted which are worth noting. Samuel carries, as well as the scrolls of his book, an elaborately decorated and gold mounted horn in which was kept Holy Oil used for anointing Kings. He used this oil to anoint David (1 Samuel 16: 13) and it was also used to anoint Solomon (1 Kings 1: 39). It is also easy to miss at the feet of the figure of Elijah, a beautifully depicted “Raven” with a wafer of bread in his mouth. In 1 Kings 17: 2-6 we read that the Lord instructed Elijah to take refuge in a ravine where he would drink from the brook and ravens would bring him bread and meat twice a day to feed him.

Adrian Beckingsale

This country as a whole is desperately short of bell ringers and in our other Benefice Church at Ardleigh we are one of only two churches in Essex to be affiliated to the Association of Ringing Teachers, dedicated to training new ringers.

Our bells whilst fairly easy to ring have for some time now started to show signs of wear in many of the moving parts and having had nothing major done to them for seventy years are long overdue for some serious tender loving care.

The idea was first mooted in 2018 to restore the bells and try and improve our training facilities by adding two smaller bells to the ring of eight. This will create a true light ring of the front six bells which will be much easier for youngsters to learn on.



Bell donated by the Essex Association of Change Ringers

The whole process was held up firstly by the installation of the new heating system, then the discovery of asbestos, and followed on by Covid, so we didn't really get started until 2023.

Now thankfully the work has commenced, and this has prompted me to research some of the history of our bells.

The largest bell known as the Tenor was cast C1410 by Robert Burford a London bell founder (1392-1418) who incidentally also cast two bells for Little Bromley, one for Stratford St Mary and the sixth bell at Dedham all around the same time. Back then the transport of heavy items was a problem so it is almost certain that these bells would have been cast in a pit dug in either the church yard or a nearby field.

We are not sure exactly how many bells were hung in the tower until 1552 when there is a reference in the church wardens accounts to paying for the bells to be mended.

By the mid 1600's we know that the church had a peal of six bells, the smallest bell or treble was cast by John Darbie in 1676 and the second bell also by him the previous year 1675. The third bell was cast by Thomas Gardner of Sudbury in 1727 and probably replaced an earlier bell as did the fourth bell cast by Charles Newman in 1689.

On January 16th 1804 Mr Briant was paid £18-1-0 for recasting the 5th bell. There are a great many references in the church wardens accounts of money being paid to the bell ringers for beer and ringing for special occasions.

One of these on October 5th 1821, a ringer was paid 2 shillings to toll the bell for the Queen's funeral. This was Queen Caroline, the estranged wife of King George IV whose body was brought from London to Colchester where it spent the night in St Peter's Church then the next day through Ardleigh on route to Harwich and the continent.



Casting a new bell.

In 1892 Mears and Stainbank of Whitechapel London recast the Gardner bell of 1727 and cast two new bells to augment Ardleigh to a peal of eight. The bells were hung in a new oak frame made by Henry Bowell and Son, of Ipswich.

These served the parish well until the major restoration of 1955 when John Taylor and Co of Loughborough recast all the bells except the Tenor and the 3rd and rehung them in the 1892 frame on ball bearings.

The present restoration work involves replacing all the worn bell bearings, the ground pulleys, re-bushing the worn crown staples and clapper pivots, re profiling the worn sliders, modifying and extending the bell frame to take our two new extra bells, altering the rope drops to give a better fall of the ropes in a straight line, not drawn across as at present and the installation of a rope guide in the ringing chamber.



New bell

A party of nine ringers went to John Taylor's bell foundry on October 10th 2024 to witness the casting of our two new bells, a memorable occasion for us all.

At the same time as this work is progressing we are installing two dumb/training bells in the clock chamber with all the computer related software. This greatly enhances our training facilities which we will use for the benefit of the whole area.

We are indebted to the many local bell ringers ranging in age from 12 to 82 for the help in assisting the bell hangers and for providing food and accommodation during the working week for the duration of the work on the bells.

Our two new bells will be on display in the church on Sunday April 6th ready for the service of dedication at 9.30am to which you are all invited.

If anyone is interested in learning to ring bells then please get in touch 07817 094426

*David Culham. Tower Captain,
St Mary the Virgin Ardleigh.*



MARCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Notes from the meeting held on the 3rd of March 2025.

A presentation from PCSO Emma Wright.

Emma informed the meeting that Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) will be around for at least another year following recent debates about their future. PCSOs have a large area to cover and she encouraged residents to use the online chat and forms facility. The police are conscious of the traffic and speeding problems in the village. Emma encouraged residents to report all incidents. Emma finally said that there is now a greater emphasis on neighbourhood policing and this should have an impact upon Dedham. Some special officers are supporting her as well.

Charlotte Sneddon was elected as Vice Chair of the Council.

Ardleigh Surgery Online Services.

It was noted that the surgery were running courses to help local residents become accustomed as how to use the new online booking system. There are plans to hold support opportunities in Dedham.

Colchester City Council Housing Development Plans.

The City Council's housing development plans have yet to be approved. However it was noted that the planned housing developments in Langham could have a major impact upon Dedham .

Water Fountain on Playing Fields.

In light of ongoing problems with the water fountain, it was agreed to remove it.

Dialogue with Munnings Museum.

There had been further dialogue with Munnings museum regarding the proposed dog exercise park and the Council re-iterated its concerns about this proposal and planned to continue to work with local residents to seek alternatives .

Tennis Club Planning Application.

The Tennis Club's Application for lighting to be installed on their courts was discussed, with a range of views expressed. There was general support for the Club, however there was concern about the impact of the lights on local residents and potential contravention of the Dark Skies policies supported by Dedham Vale National Landscapes.

Priorities for the Council 2025-2026

The priorities cover three main areas:

Ongoing responsibility include the items the Council is responsible for, such as, maintenance of areas which are the responsibility of the Council, monitoring and providing comments on planning proposals which affect Dedham residents, supporting community groups and ensuring that the Council's finances are in order.

Communication areas to cover; effective communications through use of social media, review and develop the website and continue to support the parish magazine.

Development areas to cover; Development of a parish plan, address ongoing issues with parking, traffic and speeding in partnership with other local bodies, address anti-social behaviour in the village, support the pylons campaign, work with NEPP on the development of car parks, improve personnel procedures and support the proposal to purchase the water meadows and create a nature reserve.

These areas would be seen as priorities for 2025/2026 and would feed into the Parish Plan.

Council members were asked to consider these priorities in the development of the proposed working groups.

The following groups were proposed and agreed:

- Finance and Standards
- Planning
- Infrastructure
- Community areas
- Communications

In addition, there would be a sub group for liaison with NEPP and a separate group for personnel. There may also need to a river group.

These groups do not have any delegated authority, cannot approve financial expenditure and any decisions of the main council.

These groups can be revised and adopted following the annual meeting in May.

Financial Matters.

In addition to agreeing expenditure for the past month, the Council needed to review of the process of appointing auditors and contracts.

VE Day 80 Plans.

The Royal British Legion are planning to have a stall and display on the VE Day 80 weekend on Saturday 10th of May.

Large Potholes in Southfields.

Highways have been informed about the large potholes in Southfields.

Social media and website development.

The Council is looking into reviewing its website and social media presence. John Goldsbrough was thanked for his work on the website to date.

Date of next meeting: Monday 7th April 2025 at 6.30 p.m.

Scan to access the Parish Council website.



THE POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER FOR DEDHAM.

PCSO 71502 Emma Wright

Tel: 07815492935

Email: emma.wright@essex.police.uk

Scan to email emma





Help us help you

Every day we answer thousands of phone calls from members of the public asking for our help. We are dedicated to helping people, especially in an emergency. But we are continuing to see an increase in the numbers of people ringing 999 for something that isn't an emergency. Just 20% of the calls we are receiving to 999 actually need an emergency response. So, we are asking people to think about whether they need to call 999. Or if another way of contacting us would be better.

By doing this, it will help make sure we are free to answer those phone calls from people who need our help the most. Calling 999 must be a last resort. You should only use this service if you are reporting an emergency.

24-hour 101 service

People can call this service if they feel it is more appropriate to speak to us or don't have access to the internet. If it is not an emergency and the crime you want to speak to us about is not happening right now, please do not call 999.

Here are some of the things you can do online through our Digital 101 service. Report Something you've seen or heard; An existing case or report; Lost or stolen vehicles; Lost or found property; Civil disputes

Live Chat

Our Live Chat service allows people to report crime that isn't an emergency, antisocial behaviour or give us information. Users can send and receive real-time messages with our online digital 101 operators. Look out for the 'Live Chat' icon at the bottom right of our home page or our contact us page. Live Chat works on a desktop computer, laptop, tablet or even a mobile phone.

What is an emergency?

Sometimes it can be difficult to know what counts as an emergency. We've listed a few examples of when it would be necessary to call 999. But this list is not exhaustive and common sense must prevail.

General circumstances

CALL 999 when there is danger to life, use, or immediate threat of use, of violence, serious injury to a person and/or serious damage to property,

Criminal conduct

CALL 999 when the crime is, or likely to be serious and in progress, an offender has just been disturbed at the scene an offender has been detained and poses, or is likely to pose, a risk to other people.

Road traffic Incidents

CALL 999 when the situation involves, or is likely to involve, serious personal injury. the road is blocked or there is a dangerous or excessive build-up of traffic.

Advice and information

If you're not sure if something is a police matter, you can find out by visiting Askthe.police.uk. Here you will find the answers to the most frequently asked policing questions.

You will also be able to find out who are the best people to contact if what you're looking to find out isn't a police matter.

The ANIMA patient platform has been in use for 3 months, and we are excited to share that over 4,000 patients have already registered. We aim to reach 7,200 patients by the end of the year so if you have not registered yet, please do so now.

From our experience, we have found that Mondays and Tuesdays are our busiest days, with demand gradually decreasing as the week goes on. The average number of contacts on Mondays and Tuesdays is around 120, which drops to about 80 on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Key Points:

1. Registration: Please register with ANIMA, even if you rarely use the GP surgery. This will ensure you can access our services when you need it.

2. Days of the Week: If you have a routine issue, please put in your query on Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays.

3. Pre-plan Appointments: If you know you have a day off in two weeks, consider putting in your appointment request now. This will allow you to secure a routine appointment well in advance. Please avoid waiting until the day before to make a request.

4. We are still here on the Phone: A clinician, not a computer, is triaging your calls. If you are unable to complete an ANIMA request, you can still call the surgery, and our receptionist team will assist you in filling out the form.

Starting April 1st, Dr. Kelechi Anumnu and Dr. Michelle O'Carroll will join the partnership alongside Dr. Outtridge and Dr. Cole. We are confident this will help us improve the efficiency of the practice

Finally, we would like to wish Dr. Gladwin and Sister Lacey all the best in their retirement, as they both retire at the end of March 2025.

Ardleigh Surgery

MANNINGTREE ROTARY CLUB

Supporting the Charity **TWAM - Tools with a Mission**. Empowering people with tools that create livelihoods and transform lives.

If you have any of the tools listed below that you no longer require please donate them to TWAM, they will be refurbished and sent to countries that are most in need. Below are the tools that can be accepted:

Agricultural - Builders - Carpenters/Joiners - Electricians - Plumbers - Mechanics/Garage Workshop - Power Tools – Knitting Machines - Sewing Machines (manual, treadle, electric, industrial) - Fully Working IT Equipment and Bibles in modern English (not KJV)

We have to be honest about the items we collect, so below are the items we cannot use. This is not about what we want but about what the people can use.

Broken tools (or those with woodworm) - Ladders/Step Ladders - Lawnmowers - Printers/Scanners/Typewriters - Disability Aids - Bikes.

Our collections will take place on Saturday 17th, 24th and 31st May from 10.00am till 3.00pm. The collection location will be outside Screwfix at Unit 1, Causeway End, Station Road, Manningtree, CO11 2LH

For further information email:
griffithsroger042@gmail.com

(TWAM Registered Charity No: 1104903)

THANKS FOR THE HONEY, DEDHAM

As I write this, Dedham has been enjoying a week of gloriously sunny weather (not quite t-shirt temperatures though) and my honeybees have already been working hard. They've been looking for nectar, pollen, water and the means to make propolis. Bees reduce the water content in nectar to create honey, while some is mixed with pollen and honey and ferments to become 'bee bread' for developing larvae.

Bees also collect sap to make propolis. This sticky resin hardens to help seal cracks in the hive and helps preserve honey. Bees even use its antibacterial benefits to embalm any hive intruders that they can't remove on their own.

As they forage around Dedham, all sorts of plants will help my honeybees. They can see deeper into the ultraviolet (UV) spectrum to identify specific flowers and parts of those flowers. They cannot see true reds but do see the UV pattern of red flowers and forage on them as often as flowers of any other colour.

Good news for those of us with 'jewel' or 'hot' borders in the garden. It's easy to think that bees visit only the flowers in our gardens but anyone who suffers from hayfever will tell you that trees have plenty of pollen too. I've apple stepovers and dwarf greengages in the garden and both offer blossom, as will ornamental crab apples and cherries. However, double flowers – while lovely to look at – can make it harder for bees to reach nectar.

Other than fruit trees, Dedham's countryside has alder, hazel and goat willow, which offer pollen-laden catkins as early as February, hawthorn blossom and, in May, magnificent horse chestnuts. If you have a laurel hedge, my bees may be visiting you to take advantage of its



Dedham Hawthorn

prolific nectar in late spring. Here at home, one side of my garden is bounded by a large pyracantha hedge and in early summer is a froth of small white flowers that seems to summon almost every honeybee in the hive.

But what about the beds and borders? A good rule of thumb for your flowers is to keep it simple. Hellebores are great and will be flowering in winter for any bees that emerge early. Helleborus niger and single forms of the Oriental hybrids are great options and bring colour to the garden. If greens are your thing, try Helleborus foetidus, which has clusters of single, lime-green flowers that last for several months.



Hellebores

Close to the start of spring, loads of purple crocus start popping up throughout my garden and on sunnier, warmer days I can hear the bees bobbing from flower to flower. If you grow the grape hyacinth (I don't love it, so only have the occasional rogue), it's a fantastic producer of nectar.

As more of the garden flowers, my bees are foraging as much as they can. If you've read any previous articles here, you'll know I love a dahlia (perhaps a little too much), so it's good for me and my bees that there are plenty of single varieties offering pollen through the summer.

I have the red bishops of 'Auckland' and 'Llandaff', stunning cerise 'Bishop of Canterbury' (although semi-double, its centre is still accessible), as well as 'Mexican Star', a chocolate cosmos hybrid with its cocoa-scented blooms. Actual cosmos is also ideal and looks lovely in the border.



Single Dahlias

As we come to autumn, bees will turn to asters and sedum. I have clumps of the pale pink sedum 'Autumn Joy' which complements purple asters. The open daisy form and flat heads make great landing places for the bees and provide plenty of nectar as they start setting aside stores for the winter.

Ivy also does its business now, though I've usually taken my honey supers off before it comes into flower. This is a good thing as ivy honey crystallises quickly and can be tough to extract. It's handy for the bees to store for winter use but less so if you want to collect honey for yourself.

If you have bees and are willing to throw a bit of caution to the wind and watch them return to the hive, you may see them bring back pollen of all kinds of colours. There's practically a cottage industry in pollen identification and you can get charts to help you spot when bees have been gathering red pollen from horse chestnuts, pale blue from hazel or elder, or deep orange from dandelions.

Beekeeping is a fascinating hobby and complements my efforts to create a great-looking garden too. With luck, Dedham's countryside and cultivated gardens will help the bees create another batch of multi-floral honey.

Elliott Frisby

dedhamgardening.wordpress.com - QR code



Don't forget, the Annual Spring Show takes place on Saturday 5th April at 2pm in the Assembly Rooms.

Hamidou arrived in the UK on a tourist visa 20 months ago. After exhausting whatever funds he had, he petitioned the Home Office for asylum. With the assistance of an interpreter (he had absolutely no English at the time), he explained that he faced persecution from the authorities in his own country. He had the scars to prove it: his mouth had been savaged, virtually all his teeth knocked out with the butt of a Kalashnikov rifle.

A journalist by trade, Hamidou had had the temerity to report on the reality around him. In a land where truth is buried and corruption rife, he had dared to shine a light upon it. This action cost him dearly: he'd lost his home, his family, his job, his possessions. Everything!

He now awaits the result of his asylum application. The last months have been tough. He's not allowed to work and surviving on his meagre allowance is a struggle. He misses his wife and two young daughters terribly and yearns for the day when they will be reunited in "this green and pleasant land."

Desperate to integrate, he attends lessons in English language and culture assiduously every week. He now volunteers his services in support of the community which, in time, will bring him friends and make him feel part of our society. Loneliness and the memory of what he has suffered still haunt him.

This tribute to Bridgeway, one of several organisations that have assisted him along the way, shows how much he has progressed and how appreciative he is for any little act of kindness and friendship towards him.

John Groslin

Bridgeway Association: A Refuge of Hope for Refugees in Britain

By: Hamidou Boubekeur

In the heart of Colchester, where cultures blend, and destinies intersect, Bridgeway Association stands as a humanitarian haven, opening its doors to those seeking safety and stability. Under the slogan "Let's Live in Peace," this association provides material and moral support to asylum seekers and refugees, particularly those from the Middle East, striving to help them start a new life away from war and crises.

The Beginning and Vision of the Association

Bridgeway Association was founded with the mission of supporting those forced to leave their homelands. It offers services such as food assistance, legal consultations, psychological and social guidance, and a supportive environment that helps refugees integrate into their new communities. Its vision is to create an inclusive society where refugees have the opportunity to learn, work, and actively participate in public life, rather than feeling isolated or marginalized.

One of the prominent activists in the association, affectionately known by beneficiaries as "the mother of refugees" for her dedication to helping them, says:

"We do not just provide food or advice; we offer hope and guidance. We want to see these people rise again and become active members of society."

Great Challenges... But Hope Prevails

Despite financial and human resource shortages, Bridgeway Association has proven its ability to persevere, thanks to the dedication of its

volunteers and support from local entities. One of the major challenges the association faces is securing sustainable funding to ensure the continuity of its services. However, its determination to move forward stems from the success stories shared by its beneficiaries.

I, personally, was one of those who benefited from the support of this association. During the most difficult moments of my life, Bridgeway extended a helping hand, pulling me out of depression and giving me a second chance at life. The support was not just material but also emotional and psychological, enabling me to rebuild myself and continue my professional journey.

The Role of the Association in Integrating Refugees

The association operates through a comprehensive program aimed at helping refugees integrate into British society by offering:

- Educational courses in English to improve communication.
- Vocational and professional training programs to help secure employment opportunities.
- Cultural and social activities that foster relationships between refugees and the local community.

A Message to Society: “Let’s Live in Peace”

Amid the growing global challenges of migration and asylum, Bridgeway remains a true model of humanitarian work, proving that solidarity can make a difference in many lives.

The activist concludes by saying:

“Everyone deserves a new opportunity, and we are here to provide it to those who have lost theirs.”

This is a call to everyone reading this article: Let’s make our communities more compassionate and humane, and let’s live together in peace.



Hamidou outside Bridgeway, opposite Colchester Castle.

Learn more about Bridgeway.

<https://bridgewaymission.com/>





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A vacancy has arisen for a new resident in one of our properties in Crown Street, Dedham.

Under the terms of the charity relating to these particular properties applicants must be in need of housing, aged over 60 years, currently living in the parish of Dedham or specific neighbouring villages, including Ardleigh, Stratford St Mary, Langham and Lawford.

The vacant property has an upstairs bedroom, with all other facilities downstairs.

Residents must be capable of independent living, caring for themselves without assistance.

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clerk.duntons@gmail.com

Closing date for applications is Friday 25th April 2025



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Membership costs only £15 a year. Monthly coffee mornings are held on the first Friday of the month 10am – 12pm at the Lambe School, Gaston Street, East Bergholt.

Come along, meet some members, hear more about us and decide whether you'd like to join. Monthly lectures are held on the second Wednesday at 2.15pm in the Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt. Guests are welcome for a charge of £4.

Our speaker on **9th April** is Sally Sibley who will tell us about the latest happenings at Sutton Hoo and on **14th May** we have Sally Hattingh from Right at Home talking about safety issues so that seniors can remain in their own homes as long as possible.

Please take a look at our website www.u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley for more information and contact details



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The Constable Trust Annual Lecture will be held on Saturday 12th April 2025 at 6.30 for 7pm at Constable Memorial Hall, East Bergholt CO7 6TP.

Tickets for the talk are £15 (includes wine and canapes)
Available from: <https://theconstabletrust.org.uk>



SCAN ME

ROMAN RIVER SPRING SERIES CONCERTS

Wednesday, 23rd April, 7.30pm, The Old Library, Colchester, CO1 1PG. Acclaimed harpsichordist Nathaniel Mander: Bach's Goldberg Variations. Tickets from £10.

Thursday 22nd May, 7.30pm, The Girling Room, The Minories, Colchester, CO1 1UE. Classic FM Rising Star, clarinettist Jonathan Leibovitz: Debussy, Denisov, Brahms and Poulenc (clarinet and piano) plus young artist spotlight from Hassan Marzban on renaissance recorder. Tickets from £10.

Search - Roman River Spring Concerts, 2025 – The Minories & The Old Library Colchester.



SCAN ME

THE MUNNINGS ART MUSEUM

The museum opens on Wednesday 2nd April 2025 until Sunday 26th October. Wednesday to Sunday, 1.30pm to 4.30pm.

The Tea Room in the garden opens from 2nd April, Wednesday to Sunday 10am to 4.30pm.

enquiries@munningsmuseum.org.uk



Thursday the 8th of May 2025 we mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, when we will celebrate 80 years of peace in Europe since the end of World War II. It is a day to honour the millions of people who served in the war, and to remember the sacrifices they made.

On the evening of the 8th at 2100 hrs, beacons will be lit across the country. Everyone can get involved and candles can be lit and placed in a window to mark the occasion and to remember the fallen.

To mark the occasion in Dedham, and to raise much needed funds for the Royal British Legion, we will be running a stall at the Royal Square on Saturday the 10th of May. There will be VE metal pins available along with stickers for the children and tasty cupcakes, all for a small donation.

The stall will be manned from 1000hrs to 1600 hrs by our regular Poppy Appeal volunteers. Please pop along to say hi and purchase your Victory in Europe commemorative pins and why not sample a homemade cupcake at the same time.

I look forward to seeing as many people as possible and hopefully boost the wonderful Poppy Appeal total that we raised in November for the Royal British Legion.

Many thanks,

Arin Andrews

CANCER RESEARCH UK

The Colchester local committee for Cancer Research UK held their annual Quiz night on 22nd February in the Assembly Rooms and also presented Gill Burgess CRUK Regional Manager with a cheque for £35,000 which was raised in 2024. The £35,000 was raised from a variety of events - Autumn Ball, Wreath Making, Race Night, In memoriums and donations.



The popular Quiz Night was a sell out with a waiting list. It was hosted by Jan Derbyshire who managed to test peoples brains and memories with a lot of laughter and banter! A fun night for guests and committee alike.

The committee would like to thank all who support our events and those who generously donate Auction and Raffle prizes. Cancer Research UK receive no Government funding, so are reliant upon the support and generosity of the public to fund their life-saving work. All funds raised will go to research into the causes, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of all types of cancer. Our next event is Friday 13th June with Mary Newton - Retired Forensic Scientist's Talk "When the Dog Don't Bark" at The Assembly Rooms - Tickets, £15 from: cruk.colchester.loc@gmail.com.

Once more on behalf of the Committee thank you for your support of Cancer Research UK.

Marion Livermore



CONCLAVE (12) Directed by Edward Berger 2024

Wednesday, April 16th, 2025 - 7:30 PM
10:00 PM

CONCLAVE

When Cardinal Lawrence is tasked with leading one of the world's most secretive and ancient events, selecting a new Pope, he finds himself at the centre of a web of conspiracies and intrigue that could shake the very foundation of the Catholic Church.

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Tickets £5 will be available online on our website or in person at St Helena Hospice shop in Dedham High Street or on the door or our Box Office on 0333 666 4466



GUIDE DOGS

Once seen, never forgotten was most peoples view of trainee Guide dog Kenny when I was puppy raising him.

Great news he has qualified and is now a Guide Dog, helping to improve the life of a lady with sight loss, allowing her to be more independent and live the life she chooses to.

Marjorie Cullham



DEDHAM ART SOCIETY

We are an amateur group who enjoy painting regularly. Occasionally we have guest tutors, the rest of the time we help each other, beginners welcome.

If you require any information about the Dedham Art Society please contact us by email at

dedhamartsociety@gmail.com

or visit our website at

<http://www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk>

Here are the sessions for this month, if you are interested in attending please call 07872334729.

Thursday 10th April

Assembly Rooms, 2pm - 4.30pm

Members' painting together session:

Drawing and mono printing demo

Friday 11th April

Full day workshop. Assembly Rooms

10am- 4pm. Visiting Professional Artist:

James Power. MEMBERS ONLY

Saturday 19th April

Wivenhoe Park (Saturday morning plein air group)

Thursday 24th April

Assembly Rooms, 2pm - 4.30pm

Members' painting together session -

Animals & wild life

RAISE A SMILE

Mrs. Gladys Dunn was a pillar of her church. She visited the sick, she greeted newcomers, she served on every committee, and substituted for the organist when necessary.

After services one day, she noticed a stranger leaving the church. She went up to introduce herself. Extending her hand, she said, "I'm Gladys Dunn." The stranger replied, "Me, too! That was the longest sermon I've ever heard!"

Dedham Horticultural Society

OPEN SHOW

All welcome to exhibit - no charge

Saturday 5 April

2 - 4 pm

Assembly Rooms, Dedham

Admission: members and children free
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Children to be accompanied by an adult



Download the schedule and entry form
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this link - https://youtu.be/tf_aG4zREIM.

APRIL 2025

- Wednesday 2nd - Munnings Art Museum opens for the 2025 season.
- Wednesday 2nd - 7.30pm The Assembly Rooms - DHS The Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Helligan.
- Saturday 5th - 2.00pm, The Assembly Rooms - DHS Spring show.
- Sunday 6th - 9.30 am, Rise N Shine.
- Sunday 6th - 5.00 pm, Dedham Church - Evensong.
- Monday 7th - 12.30pm, Monday Lunch Club, Essex Rose Tea Room.
- Monday 7th - 6.30pm, Dedham Parish Council Meeting, Duchy Barn.
- Thursday 10th - The Assembly Rooms, 2pm - 4.30pm. Dedham Art Society.
- Sunday 13th - 11am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Wednesday 16th - 7.30pm, The Assembly Rooms - Dedham Films, CONCLAVE.
- Friday 18th - 2.00pm, Dedham Church - Good Friday Hour at the Cross.
- Sunday 20th - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Easter Communion.
- Thursday 24th - The Assembly Rooms, 2pm - 4.30pm. Dedham Art Society.
- Sunday 27th at 9:30am, Dedham Church - Matins.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday

- Meet up Mondays - The Sun Inn, 11am to 12pm.
- Social Table Tennis - Dedham Sports Club, 10:30am to 12:30pm.
- Watercolour Painting Group, Duchy Barn, 10am to 12pm.
- Mobile Post Office - Royal Square 13:30 to 15:30.

Tuesday

- Coffee morning - The Duchy Barn, 10:30 to 12pm.
- Mobile Post Office - Royal Square 09:00 to 11:00.
- Dedham Baby and Toddler Group Dedham Sports Club, 10am to 12pm (Term time only)
- Dedham Carpet Bowls Club - Dedham Sports Club, 7pm to 9pm.

Wednesday

- Bridge in Dedham - Assembly Rooms, 1.30-5.00pm.

Thursday

- Coffee morning - The Duchy Barn, 10:30 to 12pm.

Friday

- Dedham Youth Club - The Duchy Barn, 7.30pm to 9.15pm.

Opinions expressed in contributed articles are those of the contributor and do not necessarily represent the position or opinions of the PCC or the Editorial team.



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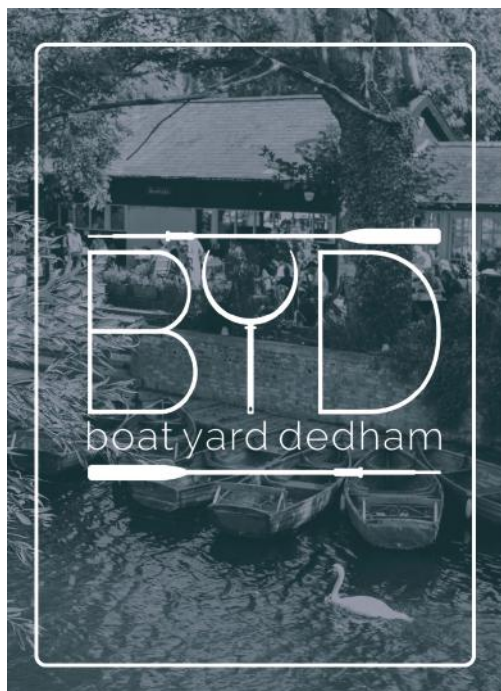
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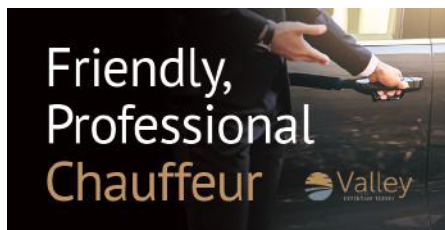


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