



DEDHAM Parish Magazine



February 2025



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DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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The deadline for March 2025 magazine entries is the 10th February.

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Cover Photo - The new organ from above - Nicholson & Co.

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, 2nd February

8.00am Eucharist (BCP)
 9.30am Café Church
 9.30am Rise N Shine
 5.00pm Evensong

Ardleigh
 Ardleigh
 Dedham*
 Dedham*

Sunday, 9th February

09.30am Morning Praise
 11.00am Holy Communion

Ardleigh
 Dedham*

Sunday, 16th February

9.30am Holy Communion
 9.30am Matins
 5.00pm ReVive@5

Ardleigh
 Dedham*
 Dedham*

Sunday, 23rd February

9.30am Morning Praise
 9.30am Holy Communion

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 1st February 9am - venue tba. For bacon butties, tea, coffee and chat.

Monday Lunch Club – Monday 3rd February 12.30pm, Essex Tea Rooms. Phone 322192 to reserve a place indicating it is for the Lunch Club.

Walk and Talk - Thursday 13th February Dedham Arts and Craft Centre. 10am for a walk, or at 11am for just a chat.

FROM THE REGISTERS.

Funerals:

November 17th - Jean Flewin.
 Interment of Ashes

December 2nd - Jean Oakley
 Interment of Ashes

December 15th - Pamela Everett
 Interment of Ashes

December 19th - David Simpson

January 9th - Lee Walker



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

Now February is here, I trust the weather at least shows a hint of warming with the afternoons lengthening. For many, these are difficult days with feelings of lethargy and tiredness, low mood and general all-round apathy. I write this during the New Year holiday where the festivities have often included big family meet ups and party celebrations! With these far behind us now February is here, it is no wonder many of us feel jaded, even depressed.

In our group of nine churches, we have just had one of our 'Nine Together' services. On these Sundays, usually where there are five Sundays in a month, there is only one service held among our churches and all are encouraged to attend.

Our service of Holy Communion at St George's Church, Great Bromley was a wonderful and jubilant occasion where we enjoyed each others company with a real sense of the presence of God as we worshipped. The occasion provided an opportunity to mingle and meet each other afterwards, enjoying drinks and finger foods we brought to share together.

For those from smaller churches it is a great moral boost to be among many others, singing and worshipping together. But for everyone, it is a real encouragement to realise that we are part of something bigger too. This may be said to be the numinous – the mystical and spiritual nature of worship – that connects us with each other and the Christians that have gone before us over many years.

Our bible reading that Sunday was from Paul's letter to the church at Colossi, chapter 3 and challenged us to live with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

In verse 14 it says
'Over all these virtues, put on love, which binds them altogether in perfect unity'

It is often easier to show love to our friends and family, but we should show love to one and all, particularly those who live alone.

As we emerge from the depths of winter, let us be aware of our friends, family and neighbours who may be struggling with their well-being. Let us be mindful to be caring towards others in need, whatever the cause. And there may be no better way to do this than to share time with a drink and bite to eat together. It did wonders for us as a 'family' from nine churches.

Can we be 'families' together in our village communities too I wonder, acting with compassion, kindness, gentleness and patience.

Best wishes Revd John Saxon

HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!!

All of us at the Dedham parish magazine would like to say a huge thank you to the wonderful volunteers who deliver our magazines each month come rain or shine - without you this wouldn't be possible. We hope you enjoyed a well-earned break over Christmas and New Year.

I would also like thank Liz Reed for her work sourcing articles from the church community for the Parish Magazine and for her time spent proof reading the magazine articles. Liz is stepping down from her role with the magazine as from this issue.

John Goldsbrough

BIBLE QUOTE COMMENTARY

'Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person and they with me.' Rev 3:20

'The Light of the World', by the pre-Raphaelite painter William Holman Hunt is recognised worldwide. The original is in Keble College, Oxford, and copies hang in St Paul's Cathedral and in Manchester City Art Gallery. Perhaps you've seen one of them. You will almost certainly have seen the image on a card or in an illustration.



"The Light of the World"

Wikimedia commons & Open Source.

In the gloom of night, outside a dark house, Jesus stands alone. Light is seen shining from his lantern and from the crown of thorns on his head.

The door is shrouded with tangled brambles and weeds – could it be years since it turned on its rusty hinges? Jesus knocks patiently and waits for a response from us.

Holman Hunt deliberately painted the door without a handle. The only way for it to be opened is from the inside. It's up to the occupant. Jesus allows us to decide whether to open our lives to him and welcome him in. Do we intentionally keep his love and life-changing presence on the other side of the door?

As a young student, I chose to keep my distance from Christians. I didn't like the idea of having my own agnostic views challenged. Yet when my father died suddenly in my first year at the end of the Christmas term, people from the Christian Union showed me great kindness. I was far from my home and family and the support of new university friends meant a great deal.

I can remember the moment when, in spite of myself, I accepted an invitation to a guest service at All Souls, Langham Place. Through the talk on The Prodigal Son, I heard for myself the loving and forgiving voice of Jesus. I was beginning to know and understand the power and the presence of God's love in my life.

As a 20-year-old student, I understood the reality of the words in Revelation 3: 20: *'I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.'* The Light of the World waits for us to invite him in and break bread with us. Can there be a better way to celebrate closeness than by having a meal together?

Cathy Groslin

MISSION CAKE STALLS

A big thank you to all those who have helped this year and also those that have supported us and purchased or made cakes. The total fundraising at the end of 2024 was £2,520. This has been split evenly between Korban, Beacon House in Colchester and Feeding Faith (a missionary couple in Guatemala). For more information the websites are:

www.beaconhouseministries.org.uk

www.korban.org.uk

www.feedingfaith.org

Ruth Higginson

“FAREWELL”

After 4 years of working with two editors and helping to find articles; mainly church based ones for our Parish Magazine, I have decided it is time to stand down from the position and pray someone will come forward to take it on.

Thank you to everyone I have worked with over the years and to those who have contributed during this time in making our magazine such an enjoyable one to read each month.

I have felt privileged to have been able to help spread God's message of Love and Peace through the medium of the magazine, and pray that we continue to “reach out” to others in 2025 by writing articles that will support each other in faith.

Sending good wishes to everyone,

Liz

SOMEONE DOES CARE

The Someone Does Care prayer was published in the December/January issue, however the Optical character recognition software jumbled up the lines. We are publishing it again in its correct form.

SOMEONE DOES CARE

*I found God in the morning,
we just sat and talked.*

*I kept him near me,
everywhere I walked.*

*I called on God at noontime,
a heart filled with despair.*

*I felt his quiet presence,
I knew he was there.*

*We met again at sunset,
the waning of the day.*

*I had made him happy,
I had lived his way.*

*Then when at bedtime
I knelt silently in prayer,
again his gentle presence I felt:
Someone does care.*

Unknown author, but Dorothy Perry has known and loved it all her long life, and would like to share it with us all.



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

February 9th 2025

The Deanery choir will be singing at St Georges Church, Great Bromley CO7 7HZ at the 11.00am Communion service. The choir will sing a version of Ubi Caritas by Ola Gjeilo.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKER

At the time of writing this article, Epiphany has just been celebrated (6th January), commemorating the visit of the Magi to the birth of Jesus Christ. Magi from far away lands bringing gifts to represent the future life of Jesus - Gold representing Jesus as King, Frankincense bringing Jesus to divine status by its use as incense and Myrrh an embalming oil and fragrance embedded on dead bodies indicating that Jesus would endure persecution and death. The Magi from far away non-Jewish (gentile) lands show us that the gift of salvation is for us all with no exceptions - offering us all hope.

However, New Year is not always seen as representing a 'new year, new start, new beginning' as this may not be possible in practice for many, especially in light of a loved one passing, struggling with illness, or encountering difficult times financially or relationally. If this applies to you, let us offer hope for you through our Lord Jesus Christ. As the Children and Young People's worker, do reach out if you need to for any support the Church can provide for your family or young people. Likewise, the church can offer pastoral team support to any parishioner. There are some links at the bottom of this article which may offer support from external charities also.

As we enter 2025, the new series for ReVive@5 titled Six Beats One Story from the Bible Society continues on 16th February (see flyer on Page 23). Our church youth group, DJB (from year 6s upwards), will continue to meet in the Duchy Barn straight after the service until 7.30pm where we will discuss the Revive@5 theme together with snacks, drinks and games. Rise and Shine continues on 2nd February at 9.30am for all ages.

Excitingly, our junior church sessions will break from the Biggest Story Series from Sunday, 9th March to embark on a six-week Lent series. Junior church is aimed at ages 3-11.

Just a final note to say how incredibly heart-warming it was to see so many children and families over the Advent and Christmas period at our services and events. Three of many special moments included the Junior Church Christmas celebration, the DJB youth group bowling trip and the amazing parts the children and young people played in the Crib service.

May 2025 fill you all with God's blessing and peace.

Claire Arculus

Children and Young People's Worker
Dedham Parish
stmarydacypw@gmail.com

SUPPORT LINKS AND QR CODES

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk>



<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/guides-to-support-and-services/bereavement/support-and-self-care/>



<https://www.parentkind.org.uk/for-parents/be-school-ready/what-financial-support-can-parents-get>





The Beatitudes

As we move into the New Year we continue to look at some of the stained glass windows in St Mary's Church, Dedham. At the east end of the north aisle facing East is a three-panel window by Clayton and Bell, one of the most prolific and respected manufacturers of stained glass of the mid-19th century.

The window depicts "The Beatitudes" which Jesus enumerated at the beginning of the "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5: 3-10). Centrally we see "Christ in Majesty" also known as "Christ Enthroned" and He is surrounded by seven Angels.

The seven Angels are all dressed in white with differing halos and gold wings and wonderfully curly blond hair. Each Angel carries a ribbon with the words of the first seven of the Beatitudes on them.

Christ has a ribbon over his head with the words of the eighth Beatitude on it, "*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*".

Christ is seated on His throne wearing luxuriously embroidered and jewelled robes, He has an elaborate halo and His right hand is raised in blessing and His left hand open showing the stigmata. This image of Christ sitting as ruler of the world arose within the iconography of the Church at least as early as the 4th century AD, and has been very little altered in its format ever since. Again this window is in the typical renaissance revival style of its era, which we learn from the dedication inscription in the glass at the bottom of the window is from the 1890's.

Each section of the window depicts detailed architectural stonework, and at the top six more Angels preside over the scene. Below Christ's feet is another ribbon carrying the words, "*Blessed are you when men revile you*". Not included as one of the eight Beatitudes, but what Jesus said directly to his disciples, rather than the crowd, after he had spoken the Beatitudes themselves. Extra vitality and interest is given to the work by the clever use of alternating bright blue and red backgrounds for Jesus and each Angel.



Christ seated on His throne.



Caritas (Charity) Fides (Faith) Spes (Hope)

John Singer Sargent, the famous American artist, and both are known for their portraiture and depiction of Edwardian luxury. Von Glehn was also part of the impressionist movement. The window is a fusion of differing styles. The tall robed ladies are almost pre-Raphaelite in style; they are dressed in long robes of dark purples, blues, reds and browns, and the central figure has red hair, whilst the use of glass with gradations of colour within each panel is typical of the Arts and Crafts movement. The shaping of the individual pieces of glass in the background sky give a distinct nod to Glehn's impressionist leaning, but the architectural surrounds retain the renaissance revival style of many of the other somewhat earlier windows in the church. The overall appearance however is very balanced, eye-catching and effective. The window was donated by Ariana Curtis in memory of her late husband, a cousin and friend of John Singer Sargent and presumably of von Glehn.

At the other side of the Church, at the west end of the south aisle, is a stained glass window in a very different though rather mixed style. This three panel window shows depictions of three ladies, each standing barefoot above a label in Latin: CARITAS (Charity), FIDES (Faith) and SPES (Hope).

The figure of Charity or Love, as more recent biblical translations suggest, holds a burning sacred heart, which signifies Jesus' intense love for us.

The figure of Faith holds a crucifix to remind us that Jesus suffered and gave his life on the cross for us.

The figure of Hope is shown with hands held in prayer, signifying that when we pray we are reminded that by God's love and Jesus' death, we are given hope of forgiveness and eternal life.

No doubt this window is intended to remind the viewer of I Corinthians 13, with its well-known description of charity / love.

It was designed by Wilfred G. von Glehn and bears his initials and the date 1909. He was friend and companion of



Initials of Wilfred G. Von Glehn

Adrian Beckingsale

ORGAN REPLACEMENT PROJECT – FROM START TO FINISH



The re-furbished facade. Photo - John Goldsbrough.

Back in 2018, when it was quite clear that the existing pipe organ was on its last legs and was only kept going by the skill of our Organist, Antony Watson & Andrew Stevens the Organ Tuner, the PCC commissioned a small group of people to get together to prayerfully consider the options for replacing it. These included doing nothing (quickly discounted), installing a brand-new pipe organ, reconditioning an old, no longer needed pipe organ, or installing a digital organ.

After a lot of painstaking research, a Report and Proposal was presented to the PCC on the 23rd March 2020, and the recommendation was, “to obtain a fine pipe organ with a good pedigree from a redundant church for refurbishment and installation in Dedham Church”. The Report also identified a suitable organ which was no longer needed by Harvest Glasgow (formerly Mossspark Parish Church) and recommended that Nicholson & Co from Malvern be appointed the Contractors for the Project.

After lengthy discussions, hampered by the arrival of Covid and with concerns

about the funding of such a major project, the PCC agreed with the recommendation, subject to the project being agreed by the Diocesan Planning authorities, and it also being fully funded, and the proposal was taken to a meeting of Parishioners and other interested parties in Church on the 26th September 2021.

This confirmed that the project as recommended should go ahead, and following that the long process of applying for a Faculty, (Church speak for planning permission) started. An overall budget of £300,000 was set and over the next 24 months or so multiple fund-raising events were held; including concerts by the Kelvedon Singers, the Goldsbrough Consort, Piculet and the Colchester Chamber Choir and the never to be forgotten 24-hour Organathon!!

The required Faculty, which had been preceded by agreement from Historic England, was finally granted in October 2022. The contract with Nicholson & Co was also signed on the 21st October 2022, with a likely installation date of summer 2025.

In August 2022 Nicholson & Co had removed the console from Harvest Glasgow, as they had advised us that they no longer had room for it and were going to dispose of it. Very grateful thanks must go to Scott Hamilton and Harvest Glasgow as their advice and co-operation in the early stages of the project was invaluable, and in addition, they did not charge us anything for the organ.

Without this generosity the project might well not have gone ahead. In January 2023 all other elements of the Glasgow organ were dismantled and transported to storage in Kidderminster, pending elements being moved to the workshop in Malvern for repair and restoration as necessary.

The Organ Project

The skill and the craftsmanship of the Nicholson & Co staff is truly extraordinary, and they have advised that they spent 9,075 hours on the project covering all aspects required to get the new organ designed, built, and in place working in Dedham Church.

All the required work went extremely well; so much so, that in December 2023 we were contacted by Nicholson & Co to ask if they could bring the installation forward to the 4th quarter 2024. because of another project they were working on being put back, at the request of the Client.

We were very happy to agree to this, and accelerated certain things, such as a survey by Natural England of the Bats who roost in the Church, and cannot be disturbed at certain times of the year. Fortunately the 4th quarter of the year was acceptable for work to be completed in.

Nicholson & Co had also requested that the existing organ be removed as soon as possible, to allow them to complete the design of the new organ in the existing loft space and this was duly achieved in February 2024.

On Monday 7th October 2024 the first major elements of the new organ were delivered, and over the next 7 weeks they, along with all the other parts that had been delivered separately, were successfully installed in the existing organ loft, and part of the Bell Ringing Chamber. This phase of the installation was completed by 22nd November. The 'new' console arrived on 27th November and the next week work to complete the transmission cabling and system was completed. Week Commencing 2nd December saw the installation of the last remaining pipework, approximately 1500 in total, completing the "voicing" and tuning stage. This led to Nicholson and Co handing over the organ week commencing 9th December.

The new organ was played at the Dedham Primary School Carol Service that week, and then at the 9.30 a.m. service on Sunday 15th December, and the Carol Service in the evening of the same day. To say that those attending these services were massively impressed by the wonderful sound the new organ made is a huge understatement. Antony Watson recalls someone saying that the sound 'reaches deep into one's soul,' and Antony agrees.

It is a most incredible instrument, built to the glory of God. There are so many people to thank for the successful completion of this huge project, not least all those who gave their time and their talents for free, but without all the generous financial donations the project would never have got off the ground. 55 people kindly made donations, which contributed just under 70% of the total amount raised, and by March 2024 the project was fully funded. In addition, a number of local and national Charities and local Companies supported the project following grant applications being made to them. These were as follows:

The FSJ Trust, ON Organ Fund, Essex Churches Community Trust, The Friends of Dedham Church, The Benefact Trust, Williams Church Music Trust, Belstead Ganzoni Charitable Settlement, Fiducia Asset Management, Garfield Weston Foundation & The Duchy of Lancaster
A very grateful thanks to all of them.

A previous edition of the Parish Magazine mentioned that it was planned to hold a special Organ recital and a Dedication Service for the new organ in 2025. This has now been arranged for Saturday 10th May in the evening. The Dedication Service will be led by the Bishop of Colchester, followed by the Recital which will be given by the eminent Organist Jonathan Scott,

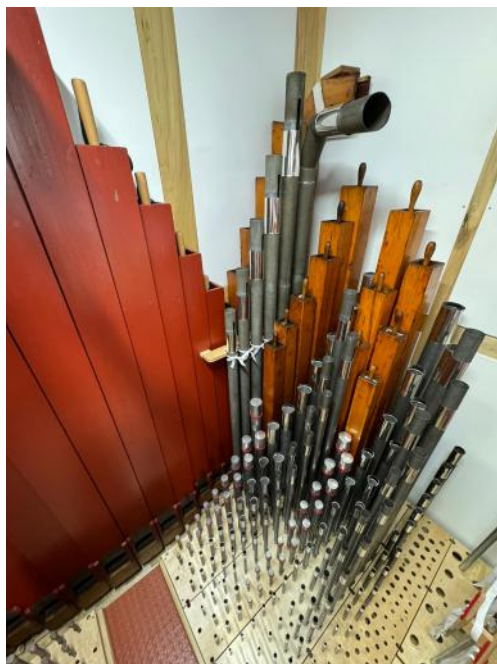
The Organ Project

described by BBC Radio 3 as “The leading British Organist”. A “must save” date for your 2025 diary and information regarding tickets, which will be free, will be in a future edition of the Magazine.

David Druitt

On behalf of the Organ Replacement Project Committee.

A selection of photographs of the completed organ. Photos - Nicholson and Co. and Margaret Kitson.



CHAIR OF DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

As the recently elected Chair of the Parish Council I would like to introduce myself and outline some of the things we are planning to do in the future.

First of all, we are wanting the Council to be more accessible to residents of the village and to encourage greater dialogue and sharing of information and ideas primarily at our Parish Council meetings, where we are hoping to start to introduce timed issues for discussion that can directly involve residents bringing in different perspectives. These for example could include managing the river problems we have experienced, parking and dog fouling.

Secondly we want to develop our committee structure and involve residents more within them as co-optees and to have the sub committees as public events.

Thirdly we are keen to have dialogue with relevant community groups and ensure the Council is servicing and supporting their needs.

If you have any queries or questions to raise please contact me at douglas.bourn@dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk

By-Election For Dedham Parish Council. Following the resignation of three councillors, the date of the by-election for the three vacancies is the 20th February. Details will be sent to all the electorate along with voting papers. Please look at Colchester City Council website, Dedham Notes and Dedham Parish Council website for further details.

Cllr Douglas Bourn

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

You may recall from previous articles that I voted for additional money for the highway maintenance budget.

This included a priority budget, which I have allocated funds for Dedham in areas such as Mill Lane, Grove Hill and Shoebridge Hill (for overgrown vegetation) in the past. I welcome further submissions to cldr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk for consideration of both the general maintenance budget and my priority budget.

We also continue the campaign to improve road safety and traffic management in the village. Unfortunately, we are still waiting for funding to be approved for the revisited plan for Dedham-Langham-Boxted so that a co-ordinated effort is made to address these challenges. We will keep lobbying for this. I have also joined a multi-agency group to tackle flooding issues, as many of these require cross-agency input. I will keep raising those issues pertinent to Dedham to get them sorted. Please do get in touch with any important issues to you.

Finally, we are likely to get local government reform in Essex in the near future. I am a supporter of local government reform and, at the time of writing, there is an upcoming vote on submitting a proposal to government to implement their reforms locally.

It is expected that the government will roll this out nationwide in the near future, with Essex likely to be one of the first tranches. Local government reform will likely be jointly with devolution, giving more powers and responsibility to local areas.

I have found local government too bureaucratic and inefficient. I am hoping these proposals will give our local communities more control with a structure to local government that is far more sensible, leads to better outcomes and saves taxpayers money.

Cllr Lewis Barber

Dedham Parish Councillors, local residents & Vice Lord Lieutenant Roy Clare at Monday 16th December unveiling of Heritage Plaque to mark the fact that Alice Lee D.Sc, Mathematician (1858 – 1939) lived at what is now The Tiptree Essex Rose.

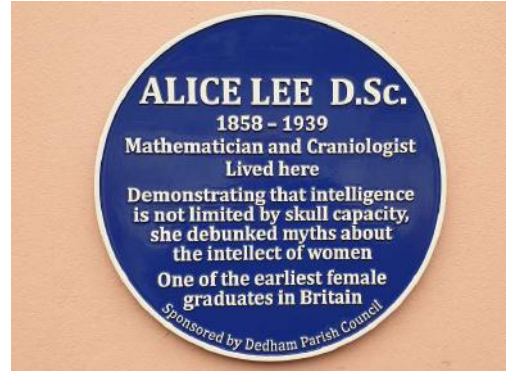


Alice Elizabeth Lee was the daughter of William Lee (1821-1887), born in Sudbury, Suffolk, and Matilda Wren Baker (1822-1903), born in London. William Lee was a master coach builder and he had married Matilda on 29th July 1846 in St Mary the Virgin church in Dedham, Essex.

Alice was born on the 28th June 1858 and baptised in Dedham Church on 15th August 1858 by George Murray, vicar of Dedham (1854 – 1877). At the time of the 1861 census, William and Matilda Lee were living in Upper Park Road (Coles Oak Lane) Dedham with their first five children. This was the likely birth place of Alice in Dedham. In 1861 they were living next to Upper Park Cottage.

During the 1860's the family moved into Dedham High Street because in the 1871 census the family were living in a home attached to William's coach building premises in Dedham High Street. Alice and her two younger sisters were studying at school in Dedham. Both the 1871 and 1881 census allow us to identify the exact location of their home.

When these censuses were taken the Census Enumerator followed a specific route when collecting the census forms. The home and premises were on the corner of Mill Lane (Mill Street at the time of these censuses) and the High Street.



The 1871 and 1881 censuses confirm that Alice lived in what is now the Essex Rose after the family moved there in the 1860's.

We know from the census record that Alice was a scholar, presumably at school in Dedham, and as she lived only a couple of doors down from Ivy Lodge which was then a girls school, it was reasonable to assume that she went to school there. This was confirmed by a report in the Essex Standard of May 1876 which published the Cambridge Matriculation results.

Her headmistress was listed as Miss Barber who ran the Girls School in what is now Ivy House. 1876 was also the first year of the publication of the Dedham Parish Magazine, Alice and her sister Grace feature in the April edition. Also 1876 was the first year in which girls were named in the exam lists as previously only the number of girls taking the exams was noted.

In 1876 Alice Lee became a student at Bedford College, London. This college had been founded in 1847 to provide higher education for women; in fact it was the first college in the UK to provide such an education for women.

In 1874, just before Alice began her studies there, the College moved from its first site in Bedford Square to two houses in York Place, close to Baker Street, in Marylebone. In 1879–80 she attended the first mathematics class at Bedford.

Alice was one of the first women to graduate from the University of London (Bedford College was then a women's college of the University), getting a BSc in 1884 and a BA in 1885.

Alice Lee was finally awarded a D.Sc. in 1901, the first woman to become Doctor of Science at the University of London.

In her dissertation, Alice demonstrated that there was no correlation between skull size and intelligence. Through a formula Alice calculated the cranial capacity from the anatomical measurements. The individuals in the groups were ranked in order of decreasing skull size, and identified by name.

The dissertation was completed in 1899 and the findings caused considerable controversy. It was then an accepted theory in craniology that brain power increased with size, hence skull capacity was a measure of mental ability.

As a consequence it was believed that men, who generally had larger heads than women, were mentally superior. Alice's findings shed doubt on that belief and her study drew considerable criticism from her thesis examiners.

For a more information - <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/84b3e3f31a.html>

John Goldsbrough

Dedham Ecclesiastical Lectureship Trust (DELT): Financial Administrator Needed.

DELT is a charity which provides support to the work of the Church in Dedham through the application of income earned on its endowment funds.

After many years of sterling service, our Financial Administrator, Philip Strangward, has decided it is time for him to step down.

We are therefore looking for a replacement for Philip. The duties include the preparation of DELT's annual accounts (which are independently audited), the making of payments to local beneficiaries and the maintenance of DELT's details with the Charity Commission, such as an annual return.

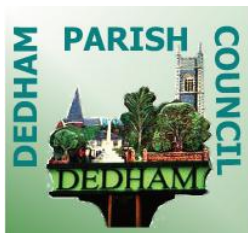
Familiarity with basic book-keeping is the key skill required and Philip has kindly agreed to allow his replacement to continue to use the software licence to run the accounts.

If you are interested and have appropriate experience, please contact Clifford Sims, chair of Trustees via email: clifford61.sims@gmail.com.

Clifford Sims

Scan to email.





DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL DECEMBER 2024 MEETING NOTES

Resignations

It was reported that there had been 3 resignations from the Council, Lucy Goodall, Steve Mole and Gill Neville.

New Chair appointed

Douglas Bourn was appointed chair of the Council

PUBLIC FORUM

Wheelie Bins

There were differing views expressed about the value of wheelie bins. The Chair agreed to consult with the Council on what was felt to be most appropriate. It was agreed to have further discussions with our City Council representative about how best to represent differing views to the City Council.

Guide dogs

It was noted that leaving rubbish on the pavements can be a hazard for guide dogs and this needs to be taken into consideration with regard to changes in collections for recycling etc.

Format of Minutes

It was suggested that the minutes of the meeting could be more detailed and cover more about discussions.

Petalo Lodge

Ongoing concerns were raised about Petalo Lodge and Chair of Council agreed to visit the area and discuss with local residents.

Fishing Club

It was noted that the fishing club is developing well and have helped to form a swan sanctuary on the river.

Parking

Several resident raised ongoing concerns about parking in certain areas on the High Street and in Royal Square. This will be taken up by the Council and will include the installation of more no parking signs.

Dedham Primary School

Cllr Bourn updated the council with the meeting that was had with Dedham Primary School. Cllr Bourn and Cllr Neville had a meeting with the Head of the Primary School and they raised a few ideas for funding. It is the school centenary this year and there will be another meeting with them, to look at ways to support the school in as many ways as we can. The school were thanked for their traffic posters which have been distributed around the village. Thanks were also given to the school for organising an excellent Christmas fair.

Budget and Finances

With the resignation of 3 councillors, it was noted there will need to be new signatures for the account. It was agreed this will be the Chair and the Parish Clerk.

The outline budget was agreed in principle and will be finalised in more detail at the next meeting.

Grant Applications

The Council agreed to give a grant for the Dedham Christmas Party for the village.

The Council also agreed to support Dedham Vale Society and their campaign for a judicial review of the extensions to the car park at Manningtree Station. At stake was the law that is supposed to

stop National Landscapes from being blighted by insensitive development. There could be wider implications for the village if similar proposals went through that ignored status of the area.

Youth Club update

Cllr Main gave an update on the Youth Club, by saying that it has been running for 6 weeks and has between 7 to 12 youths per week attending. Activities have ranged from dry clay making, using slime, cooking and quiz nights, plus usual activities of ice hockey and the use of a tuck shop.

Dog fouling

A letter has been received from a resident regarding this and Cllr Bourn is currently in the process of addressing this letter. It was discussed where new bins may be needed or added in the future. This will be followed up in the school area as well as Coggeshall Road. If the dogs and owners can be caught on camera, this then can be uploaded to CCC website

Blue plaque unveiling for Alice Lee

This was held on Monday 16th December at 10:30am outside Essex Rose Tea rooms.

Planning Applications

The Council had no comments on the applications.

Traffic & Parking

Quotes for work at the car park were noted and will be discussed at a meeting with NEPP in January.

Munnings Museum

An open event at Munnings Museum was held on Saturday 7th December.

Horses Being Aggressive

Dedham Parish Council have been informed about horses on a field where the footpath runs from Duchy field across to Coopers Lane. One of these horses has become aggressive so the public needs to be aware of this. The Chair will further investigate this matter.

The February Parish Council meeting to which all residents of the village are welcome is on Monday 3rd February at 6.30pm at the Duchy Barn.

*Councillor Douglas Bourn
on behalf of the Parish Council.*

<https://www.dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk/>



Scan for details of the Dedham Parish council by-election on February 20th.



<https://www.colchester.gov.uk/elections/dedham-parish-by-election/>

Ardleigh Surgery - Anima Health communication platform.

Medical Requests: Submit requests online between 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

Administrative Requests: Submit requests online between 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM. Examples include requesting test results, travel advice, updating personal information, and requesting copies of medical records.

Accessibility for All: If you are unable to use the technology, you can still contact the surgery by phone.

MIKE ATKINS 1933 TO 2024

Former Headmaster of Dedham C of E Primary School.



It's well known that cheese and wine mature with age, but it says in *The New Scientist* that people mellow with age. Well Mike certainly did!! And, by the way, everything written here is with his son Matthew's blessing. Over the last 5 years I have got to know Mike as a good friend, not just the Headmaster of Dedham C of E Primary School and he's been a kind, appreciative, and caring one.

Mike was born above H E Reynolds Newsagent in August 1933 in Dovercourt at 7.45am, just as the papers were coming in. He lived there with his parents and maternal grand-parents and came from a working-class background. His parents bought a terraced house in Dovercourt and he went to Harwich County High School.

When his father joined the army in 1939 Mike's mother didn't want him to be evacuated so the two of them moved back to live with his grandparents and three aunts. He was brought up to be hard working, and from a young age, he delivered the papers. His brother Roger was born in 1944.

At age 11 Mike took the Scholarship and got a place at Harwich County High School, leaving with the School Certificate at 16. He was a keen sportsman, and represented Essex County for football, and athletics, signing Amateur Forms with Ipswich Town shortly after leaving school.

He did two years National Service and loved it, followed by a number of jobs, including serving in an ironmonger's, and 2 years in the Air Force Police, where he enjoyed the work and the discipline.

In the early 1950's he met Fay, and after they were married he got a job as Headmaster's assistant at an Approved School, and was responsible for many sports including boxing, cricket and football. His potential was spotted and in his late 30's he went to Teacher's Training College.

After six years' experience in several jobs, he moved to Dedham, where Matthew was born, and he was appointed Headmaster of Dedham C of E Primary School in 1974, where he stayed until he retired in 1998.

Dedham C of E Primary School had an outstanding reputation and was known for its traditional values, discipline, a good solid education, and high standards which was what most of the parents were looking for. Mike ran a tight ship, was not always popular, and many of us had a run in with him over the years, but our children benefited from their time at the school.



Many pupils didn't like the discipline, but as they grew up, they appreciated and valued it, and became friends with him, and he was always interested in them.

Mike was a committed carer, nursing Fay until she died in 2017. Though he had had Labradors for years, he then got Raf, his little border terrier, and they continued living happily in Reynbank.

Mike went into hospital in 2022 for about a month, and then onto a care home to recuperate. When visiting him there, Matthew once asked him why he didn't go into the lounge? Mike replied, "It's full of grumpy old men" and Matthew answered, "You should fit in nicely then!"

But Mike mellowed, and when I took him into the village on a Tuesday morning, after we had been to Dedham Church, it was like being out with a celebrity. Parents of children at the school, former pupils, the girls in the Co-op and the boys in the butchers, plus many locals, used to come and speak to him.

Though he was 91, he remembered them all, and had little stories about them. Sally said "When we had a car crash my daughter was in hospital for 9 weeks, and Mr Atkins used to come and visit her – he was so kind. He was firm but fair." Judy moved her son to another school for logistical reasons but says "Mr Atkins' love of horse racing was evident, he would follow Charlie's career as a jump jockey, always concerned if he had fall and would get in touch to see how he was."

Tina, known to us from the Co-op says "Mr Atkins was instrumental in getting Aaron work experience, then a job, at Terry's, the Architects, where he still works." He recently wept in the High Street when hearing sad news about one of his former pupils. He was interested in each one, right till the end.

Mike had other passions as well as Dedham C of E Primary School. He was well known for his love of dogs, and always enjoyed horse racing, but most of all, he was devoted to Matthew, his son, Claire his much-loved daughter-in-law, and his wonderful grandchildren, and them to him. The village will miss him – and I will miss a very dear, mellow old friend.

Diane Foster

Footnote: From the Dedham Parish Magazine, November 2012

DOUBLEWINNER

Charlie Wallis, a horse jockey who attended Dedham CE Primary School in his youth, had a double cause for celebration recently. Michael Atkins, Charlie's former Headteacher, noticed that on two consecutive days last month Charlie had ridden winners - Salvatore at Towcester (33/1) and Arctic Echo at Worcester (12/1). Charlie's grandparents, Mr & Mrs Ben Wallis, run the Benson Stud in Harts Lane, Ardleigh.

HAPPY NEW (GARDENING) YEAR

I hope you enjoyed the festivities and that any events (say games night) brought you together for plenty of fun and just the right amount of competitive spirit.

Winters being what they are these days, the garden is already alive with pops of colour with plenty of plants flowering their little hearts out right now.

Bulbs like snowdrops, crocus and iris reticulata are competing with the hellebores, primroses and primulas, while



Hellebores and Primulas

over them shrubs from mahonia and forsythia to pussy willow and hazel are offering up pollen and nectar to early-emerging pollinators.

If you're looking for something to do (I know you are), February is a great time to prune roses and give them the best start to the year ahead. Make sure you use your sharpest secateurs to make the job easier and for cleaner cuts that cause less damage to the plant. Have some loppers and maybe a sharp pruning saw to hand for thicker stems, (if you have to strain to cut with secateurs, switch to a bigger tool). Don't make random cuts; always go back to something – just above a bud, leaf or the joint with another stem.

Roses are pretty tough, so don't worry too much about how you prune them. You might get a bit of die back or lose some flowers if you cut at the wrong time, but pruning is unlikely to kill your plants.



Roses

Bush roses hybrid teas (large-flowered) and floribunda (cluster flowered) flower on the current season's growth, so prune them hard now. Remove all weak, wispy, damaged or crossing stems first. Then take back anything that remains to form an open bowl or cone shape. I know some who traditionally cut hybrid teas back to 60cms each year and RHS Wisley aims to cut out all three-year-old wood in favour of younger more vigorous growth. Shrub roses have a wide range of varieties and need very little pruning. It's fine to do these now too and you can even whip over them with a hedge-trimmer or shears, though I quite like the zen-like use of secateurs. You can also cut

them back in late summer once they have finished flowering.

Then there are the true climbers, flowering from early summer to autumn with single large blooms. Aim to remove about a third of the plant – the oldest, woodiest stems – to maintain a framework, or long shoots trained horizontally so side shoots (which carry the flowers) break from them come spring. You can do this any time after they've flowered but certainly no later than this month. If you do it when the side-shoots have started growing, you'll cut off flower buds.



Roses

Ramblers are also climbers (I know, confusing) but carry clusters of smaller flowers once, around mid-summer. These

don't need a lot of pruning but should be trained and trimmed immediately after flowering as the flowers grow mostly on stems that sprout in late summer.

From roses to grasses – ornamental that is, not the lawn – which are starting to look ragged now. Don't worry about evergreen varieties, like *Stipa gigantea*, which just need the flower spikes cutting off at the base at the end of this month or in March, and maybe a comb through with your hands (wear thick gloves) to rake out dead leaves.

Instead, focus on deciduous grasses – I have *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Flamingo' and 'Malepartus', and *Calamagrostis* × *acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' – which should be cut back hard, close to the ground. Right now, the new green shoots shouldn't be too long but be careful not to cut off any that are emerging. If you want to move your ornamental grasses, wait until late May or early June, when they are growing strongly and will have the best chance of surviving.

I hope 2025 has started well for you all and you are looking forward to the year ahead.

Dedham Horticultural Society's next event is our virtual Speaker Evening on Zoom when we will be 'Treading gently through the borders' with Ben Pope. If you'd like to join us for 7.30pm on Wednesday 5 February, get in touch by emailing dedhamgardening@gmail.com and we'll let you have the details. You can learn more about our full programme on our website.

Elliott Frisby

dedhamgardening.wordpress.com - QR code





Touch (15) Directed by Baltasar Kormakur 2024

Wednesday, February 19th, 2025
7:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Touch - A romantic and thrilling story that spans several decades and continents; TOUCH follows one widower's emotional journey to find his first love who disappeared 50 years ago, before his time runs out.



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



Fun 4 Kids are looking for a new management team at their Dedham After School Club. Both positions are Monday to Friday 2.55pm-5.55pm term time only. **Fun 4 Kids** are committed to safe practice in recruitment and selection that includes consideration of issues regarding child protection, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people.

All staff will be expected to complete a DBS check if they are not already on the DBS Update Service and supply us with two previous employment references. Scan the relevant QR code which will take you direct to all the information you need to apply. Manager <https://uk.indeed.com/viewjob?jk=5ff0f85058a1f61a>
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19th January: Origins

16th February: Exodus

16th March: Exile



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Refreshments and chat from 4.30pm

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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 13th February

Assembly Rooms, 2pm - 4.30pm
Members' painting together session – Life Study. This is an opportunity for members to create a life study in a medium of their preference. A clothed

live model will be available for a life study or portrait.

£8 Members; Non members £13

Saturday 22nd February

Wivenhoe (Saturday morning plein air group)

Thursday 27th February

Assembly Rooms, 2pm - 4.30pm
Members' painting together session – Night Scene

Friday 28th February

Full day workshop. Assembly Rooms, 10am – 3.30pm. Visiting Professional Artist – Soraya French. MEMBERS ONLY

Stour Valley Arts & Music

Young Musicians' Platform

Sunday 09 February
2025

At the Constable Hall, East Bergholt
CO7 6TP at 4pm.

Tickets £6. Tickets can be purchased from the Booking Secretary using the booking form or online from TicketSource. Unless the concert is sold out in advance tickets will be available on the door.

We are planning the return of this popular extra event, where young musicians from local schools are given an opportunity to perform for a live and appreciative audience, complete with tea party after the concert. This is an extra event, not included in the season ticket.

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DEDHAM POPPY APPEAL 2024

What an amazing Poppy Appeal we had in 2024. It was another record year with over £8000 being raised. This total will rise once the Royal British Legion inform us what was raised through the QR codes on every tin in every business in Dedham.

I am over the moon with the amount that we have raised. Dedham is a small village and this in an incredible amount of money which will go a long way in helping veterans and serving members of the Armed Forces.

There are far too many people to thank but I will give it a go;

Firstly, all the residents of Dedham and the visitors to Dedham, Dedham and Ardleigh Church, Dedham primary School, local businesses, too many to name, house to house collectors and to the volunteers who gave up their time to help on the stall on the Royal Square, a Massive Thank You. Without your support this would not be possible.

I would also like to thank The Essex Rose and The Marlborough Head, who kept our volunteers warm with hot drinks and tasty snacks. Thank you so much for your generosity.

A big thanks to local resident and my predecessor, Richard Brown, who has helped me plan the Appeal and count the money, which is an extremely lengthy process. Thank you, Richard.

Finally, we are always desperately short of volunteers to staff the stall. If you have a spare two and a half hours during the Appeal, which runs for two weeks from the end of October up to Remembrance Sunday, please get in touch.

It is enjoyable and a good chance to meet new people and do something worthwhile that makes a difference to people's lives.

If you are interested, please drop me a message- arinandrews@hotmail.com

Thank you for making 2024 a record year. See you in November 2025.



FEBRUARY 2024

- Sunday 2nd - 9.30 am, Dedham Church - Rise and Shine.
- Sunday 2nd - 5.00 pm, Dedham Church - Evensong.
- Monday 2nd - 12.30pm, Monday Lunch Club, Essex Rose Tea Room.
- Monday 3rd - 6.30pm, Dedham Parish Council Meeting, Duchy Barn.
- Wednesday 5th - 7.30pm, DHS Zoom meeting, "Treading Gently through the borders".
- Sunday 9th - 11am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Thursday 13th - The Assembly Rooms, 2pm - 4.30pm. Dedham Art Society
- Sunday 16th - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Matins.
- Sunday 16th - 5pm Dedham Church - ReVive@5
- Wednesday 19th - 7.30pm, The Assembly Rooms - Dedham Films, TOUCH
- Saturday 22nd - Dedham Assembly Rooms - 7.30pm, Cancer Research UK, Who Wants to be a Millionaire style Quiz
- Sunday 23rd at 9:30am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Thursday 27th - The Assembly Rooms, 2pm - 4.30pm. Dedham Art Society

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.



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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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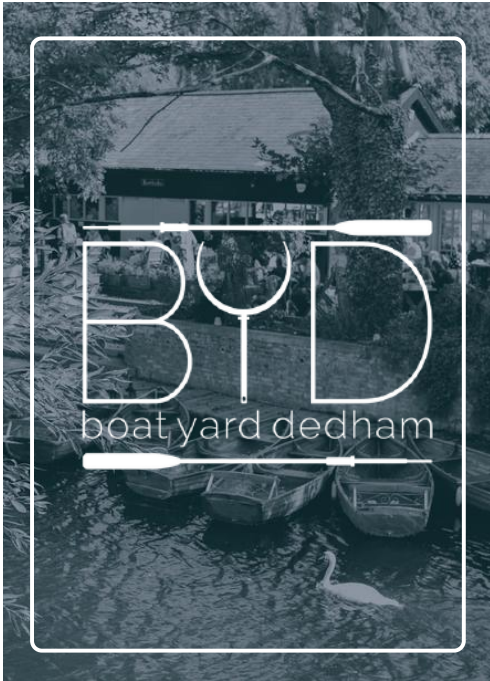
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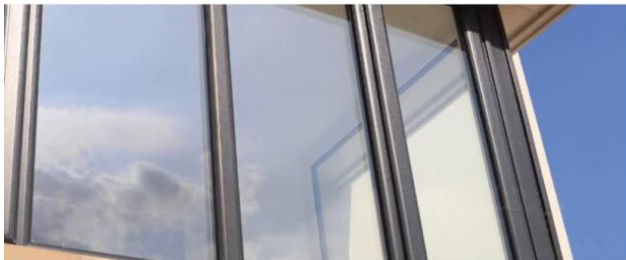
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