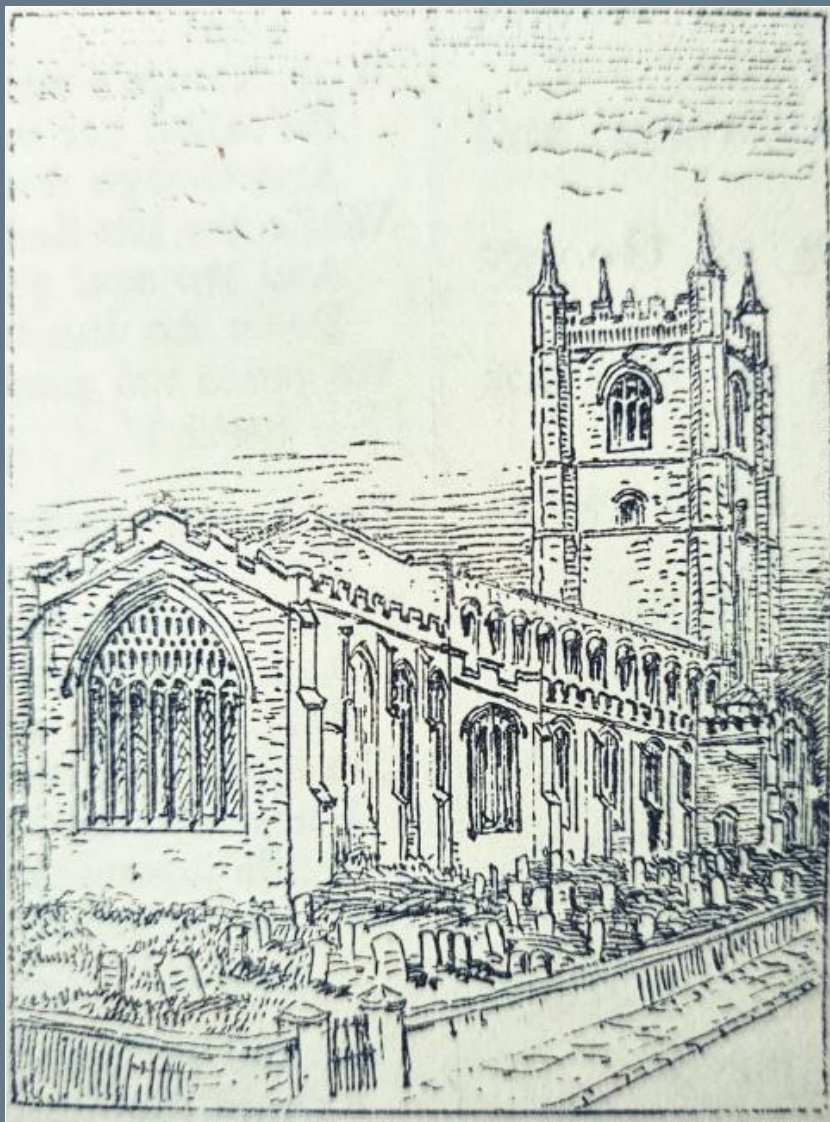




# DEDHAM

# Parish Magazine

## February 2026



Copper plate etching of Dedham Church, 1876.

# Dedham Parish Magazine

First Published in 1876

150 years

February 2026

## DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

Rural Missioners      Phillip Young  
Tel: 323 919  
John Saxon  
Tel: 01255 781859  
Assistant Minister      Merv McKinney  
Tel: 322 136

## PARISHES OFFICE

Assembly Rooms, High Street, Dedham.  
CO7 6HJ.

Tel: 322 136

Office hours - Monday and Thursday  
9.00am to 1pm.

Parishes Administrator      Sianne Mann

Email: [stmaryda@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryda@gmail.com)

## CHURCH WARDENS

Ruth Higginson      Tel: 322 598  
Email: [ruthhigginson422@gmail.com](mailto:ruthhigginson422@gmail.com)  
Sharon Sarson      Tel: 07876 114418  
Email: [sharonsarson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sharonsarson@hotmail.co.uk)

## MUSIC

Director of Music      Antony Watson  
Tel: 322 425

## ASSEMBLY ROOMS

Tel: 323 921

## CHURCH FLOWERS

Coordinator      Helen Sims  
Tel: 321 286  
Wedding Flowers      Wendy Sarton  
Tel: 323 027

## DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

Editor:      John Goldsbrough  
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**The deadline for March 2026 Magazine  
entries is the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

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## 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, 1<sup>st</sup> February

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) Ardleigh  
 9.30am Café Church Ardleigh  
 9.30am Rise N Shine Dedham\*  
 5.00pm Evensong Dedham\*

## Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> February

09.30am All Together Ardleigh  
 11.00am Holy Communion Dedham\*

## Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> February

9.30am Holy Communion Ardleigh  
 9.30am Matins Dedham\*  
 5.00pm Revive@5 Dedham\*

## Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February - Ash

Wednesday service.  
 8.00am Holy Communion Ardleigh

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

9.30am Morning Praise Ardleigh  
 9.30am Holy Communion Dedham\*

\* = Services which may be live streamed.

**Morning Prayer - Every Tuesday**  
**10.30am at Dedham Church**

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

**Ardleigh Craft Group: every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month:** Meeting at **Ardleigh Church** from 10am to 12 noon. Please contact Ardleigh Churchwarden if you are interested in joining the group.

**Little Steps Pre-School Group: every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month: 9.30am in Ardleigh Church.**

**Monday Lunch Club – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 12.30pm, Essex Tea Rooms.** Phone 322192 to reserve a place.

**Men's Breakfast - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 9am** - Breakfast, Bacon, Buns and Bible.


**Walk and Talk - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 10am or 11am, Dedham Arts and Craft Centre.** 10am for a walk, or at 11am for just a chat.

## FROM THE REGISTERS


### WEDDING.

**28<sup>th</sup> December. -**  
**JEMILLA ALISHA BOWLER and**  
**NICHOLAS ALAN BOWLER**


*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.*



**YouTube**

**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,

As February arrives, we find ourselves once again on the threshold of Lent, a significant season in the Christian Calendar marked by Reflection, Repentance, and Renewal. This year, Ash Wednesday falls on 18<sup>th</sup> February, inviting us to pause and consider our everyday actions and attitudes in daily life – a good discipline for everyone whether they have a faith or not.

In our parishes, we will mark Ash Wednesday with services of Holy Communion, offering all an opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes and reflect together. The imposition of ashes is being marked in ash with a small cross on our foreheads, made from last year's Palm Sunday crosses. This serves as a poignant reminder of our human frailty and the call to turn our hearts back to God. *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return"* (Genesis 3 verse 19) echoes through our churches, prompting us to embrace humility and seek forgiveness.

Lent is a journey of forty days (excluding Sundays), echoing Jesus' time spent fasting in the wilderness. It is a time for spiritual discipline, whether through prayer, fasting, or charitable giving.

Many choose to give up luxuries or take on new commitments, but the essence of Lent is not merely self-denial. Instead, it is a chance to deepen our relationship with God and one another, to clear away distractions, and to open ourselves to transformation. As we begin this sacred season, let us all take the opportunity to pause, reflect and notice our relationships with one another; in our families and in our communities and work/school places.

Let us all approach this season with open hearts, ready to be shaped by compassion and care for one another in these dark winter days, anticipating better times as surely as spring follows winter. For Christians, it is God's love and grace that we are particularly thankful for as we approach Easter, and it is God's love we seek to imitate and share. Lent is not only a time for personal growth, but also for strengthening the bonds within our community. May our journey this Lent lead us to Easter with a deeper sense of Hope and Joy.

**Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Services will be at:**

**Ardleigh Church at 8.00am.**

**Gt Bromley Church at 11.00am  
(with the Litany).**

**Wrabness Church at 7.30pm.**

**Save the Date!** The Deanery Choir will be singing at Tendring Church on Good Friday 7pm 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

*Best wishes*

*Rev'd John Saxon*



Image by Grzegorz Krupa from Pixabay

## IN YOUR MAGAZINE

This is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first issue of Dedham Parish Magazine. We have included a copy of that first magazine which ran to three pages. It had been decided to localise a publication called Home Words with the outside pages of the magazine containing purely local information, whilst the central sheets consisted of interesting stories, addresses, poetry, etc., with illustrations.

As we belong to the Association of Church Editors (ACE), we have been given permission to use items from Tom Gordon's Reflections and Hymns at <https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com/>.

Tom Gordon is a former Church of Scotland parish minister and hospice chaplain who is now retired and living in East Lothian. He is also a member of the Iona Community. He writes a daily blog with a quote, reflection and short prayer.

*John Goldsbrough*

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## REST

*"Between the mysteries of death and life  
Thou standest, loving, guiding – not  
explaining;*

*We ask, and Thou art silent – yet we gaze,  
And our charmed hearts forget their drear  
complaining;*

*No crushing fate, no stony destiny!  
Thou Lamb that hast been slain, we rest in  
Thee."*

Harriet Beecher Stowe, Life's Mystery

I'm not going to say much about the quotation above, from the 19<sup>th</sup> century American abolitionist and writer, Harriet Beecher Stowe, most famous as the author of the anti-slavery novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin. It's not that I don't have thoughts, or that her words don't encourage deep reflections in me. But, despite the "thees and thous" in the

language of her day, I fear that any spin of mine might get in the way of your own response to her words. Take your time. Read them over. And ponder awhile ...

I went back to her book, Life's Mystery, after I'd received a number of responses to my recent piece on "mystery", and how we have to try, as best we can, to live with the mysteries of life, and not be weighed down trying to find answers for, or meaning in, everything. To find rest from our explaining and complaining is, surely, a good place to be.

One friend posed two questions for me on Epiphany Sunday – when we traditionally remember the Wise Men bringing gifts to Jesus at Bethlehem – in this form. "Are you preaching on Epiphany? And, if so, are you going to explain what happened to the gold, frankincense and myrrh after Mary and Joseph left Bethlehem with Jesus?"

The answers were "yes" (I was, indeed, preaching on January 4th) and "no", I have no idea what happened to the Wise Men's gifts ... It's a mystery I can live with.

But another friend was on a different tack, and quoted some words from the 19<sup>th</sup> century American Presbyterian minister, Ichabod Spencer:

*Whoever believes in a God at all,  
believes in an infinite mystery;  
and if the existence of God is such an  
infinite mystery,  
we can very well expect and afford  
to have many of His ways mysterious to us.  
To believe in "in infinite mystery" and accept  
God's mysterious ways, is a place where I'm  
more than happy to find my rest for now.*

Copyright - Tom Spencer

<https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com/>



## CRIB SERVICES IN DEDHAM CHURCH



We had two crib services in Dedham Church this year due to an overflow last year, and both were very well attended. It was lovely to see the church full of families enjoying the Christmas message about the birth of Jesus.

This year the retiring collection for both services was £776 and this has been given to Dedham Therapy Farm.

Dedham Therapy Farm provides bespoke, person-centred therapeutic services and occupational therapy using nature and animals. They improve people's physical and mental health using Animal-Assisted Intervention and ASDAN short Courses.

They empower people to develop, recover, or maintain their well being through nature, animals and meaningful activities. Whether they have anxiety, learning disabilities, autism or phobia, they are there to help. A very deserving local non profit organisation.

*Ruth Higginson*

## MISSIONS BAKE SALES



Thank you to all those who helped with the stall and donated cakes etc. In 2025 we made £2,825, a little more than the previous year. The money has been split equally between Beacon House ([www.beaconhouseministries.org.uk](http://www.beaconhouseministries.org.uk)) and Korban ([www.korban.org.uk](http://www.korban.org.uk)) both homeless charities in Colchester and two missionaries who live and work in Guatemala for an organisation called Feeding Faith ([www.feedingfaith.org](http://www.feedingfaith.org)).

Thank you also to all those people who supported us by buying cakes, jams, chutneys and bric a brac. Hope to see you all in 2026.

The dates for the 2026 Mission Stall are as follows:

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May is our first real mission stall. The Horticulture Society Plant Sale is also outside the church 9-12 noon.  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 10-12 noon.  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 10-12 noon.  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 10-4pm bank holiday.  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 10-12 noon.  
Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 10-12 noon.

*Ruth Higginson*

## STAINED GLASS WINDOWS



The work on the windows and masonry project will begin in the week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> January with scaffolding being put in place, and three windows being removed for repair (one in the vestry).

Masonry work will be undertaken over the following weeks externally and the windows replaced in March. Disruption will be kept to a minimum and internal scaffolding removed whilst the masonry work is done. The organ will be out of use for two Sundays during this time.

The scope of the work was reduced from the original specification following the appointment of our new architect and consequently the cost has also reduced. Thank you for everyone's hard work and generosity.

Thank you for your patience and understanding whilst these works are carried out.

## FILMS @ DUCHY BARN



Further to our successful film showings in November - January, we shall be continuing with our monthly film projections in the Dedham Duchy Barn on the following dates in 2026:

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 10 am**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 10 am**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 10 am**

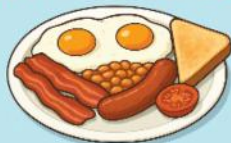
This event is free and open to the general public. ALL are welcome! Please note that the maximum capacity of the Duchy Barn is 30, so admission will be on a "first come first served" basis and subject to film certificate age restrictions.

There will be a 10-minute interval half way through, during which refreshments will be served, and a short introduction before the start of each film. We aim to finish before 1pm. This initiative is sponsored by St Mary's Church Dedham. Due to licensing regulations, we are not allowed to advertise the specific film being shown outside church premises.

Posters and leaflets can therefore be found in the Duchy Barn and at the back of St. Mary's Church in Dedham detailing the films on offer. Please feel free to take a leaflet away with you and to share it with your friends!

We very much look forward to welcoming you there on these occasions!

## BIG BREAKFAST DEDHAM ASSEMBLY ROOMS



November 2025

On the 15<sup>th</sup> November the Big Breakfast Team welcomed many residents to the Assembly Rooms to enjoy a 3 course breakfast. The doors opened at 8.30 am and by 11.30 when we closed we had served about 190 breakfasts. The kitchen team worked so very hard for over 3 hours as did the many volunteer waitresses, the atmosphere in the hall was electric with much laughter and chat and camaraderie.

Vast quantities of porridge followed by sausages, eggs, bacon, beans, mushrooms, tomatoes, fried bread along with toast and marmalade were consumed. There was a very successful Christmas Raffle and overall the Church benefited by a profit in the region of £1800. A huge thank you to everyone who participated in this annual event and we look forward to feeding you all again this year.

*Jill Strangwood*



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

## FEBRUARY 2026 DIARY

February 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St Georges Church, Great Bromley CO7 7TS** at the 11 am communion service. The choir will sing 'Lord, make me to know thy ways' by William Byrd. Byrd (1540 – 1623) was an English Renaissance composer considered among the greatest composers of the Renaissance, he had a profound influence on composers both from his native country and on the Continent. He is often considered along with John Dunstaple and Henry Purcell as one of England's most important composers of early music.

In 1577, the same year that recusancy (the refusal to attend Anglican services) laws began to be enforced, Byrd and his family moved to Harlington, Middlesex. As a devout lifelong Roman Catholic, he probably preferred the greater privacy of living outside London. Yet, in spite of his close social contact with many other Catholics, some of whom were certainly implicated in treasonable activities, his own loyalty to the government was never questioned.

Also in 1591 a manuscript volume of Byrd's keyboard music was prepared for "my Ladye Nevell" (probably Elizabeth, wife of Sir Henry Neville), and many more keyboard pieces found their way into the early 17th-century volume known as the Fitzwilliam Virginal Book, copied by another well-known Catholic, Francis Tregian, during his imprisonment in the Fleet Prison.

*Graham Bell, Deanery Choir*





**SEPTEMBER 5 (15) DIRECTED  
BY TIM FEHLBAUM 2024**

**Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 2026,**  
7:30 PM - 10:00 PM

During the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, Germany, an American sports broadcasting team must adapt to live coverage of the Israeli athletes being held hostage by a terrorist group.

September 5 unveils the decisive moment that forever changed media coverage and continues to impact live news today. Starring Peter Sarsgaard, John Magaro and Ben Chaplin.



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

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

**ADVERTISE** in this magazine for as little as £111 per annum (Eighth page, B/W). The advertisement will be included in TEN issues: Jul/Aug & Dec/Jan are combined. There is no VAT to be added. Advertisement location is subject to availability at the time. We do not accept cash payment, only bank transfers or cheques.

**Please contact**

[dedham.advertising@gmail.com](mailto:dedham.advertising@gmail.com) for more information and details of rates for other sizes of adverts.

Scan the QR code to send an email.





## **Dedham Parish Council Meeting Report – Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025.**

### **Co-option of new Councillor to Dedham Parish Council**

Terry Haines was co-opted onto the Council.

### **Public Forum**

**Parking** at the Drift, Manningtree Road and Crown Street junction has become a problem and it was requested that Essex Highways should be contacted regarding the extension of double yellow lines.

This to be investigated.

**Bus timetables** – Several residents commented on problems with the timetables and drivers not knowing routes. This will be followed up.

**The pavement in Crown Street** near Munnings is missing and is dangerous. This will be followed up and reported to Highways.

### **Consideration of a Solicitor to act for the Council when needed**

It was agreed to seek quotes for a solicitor to provide ongoing professional advice,

### **Fish and Chip van siting**

A risk assessment was undertaken regarding the location of the fish and chip van on Royal Square.

It was agreed to have a designated space on the Square for any approved street trader.

Discussions were ongoing with Colchester CC on advice and possible relocation to main car park but in the meantime the current location of the fish and chip van was agreed with one councillor abstaining.

### **Parish Plan**

Cllr McLaughlin gave a report on this to say a list of parish clubs, charities and business had been completed and a letter will go out to these after the Christmas period.

### **Dedham - Munnings and Constable update.**

Cllr Bourn reported on plans by East Bergholt Parish Council regarding the Constable celebrations and it was agreed to work closely with them. An event in Dedham Parish Church is being considered.

With regard to Munnings Museum anniversary, Essex Record Office have agreed to support training of volunteers to interview local residents who may have known Alfred and Violet Munnings. Meeting to share experiences planned for Friday January 19<sup>th</sup> at Munnings Museum.

### **Local Plan Consultation**

It was noted that Colchester Council's Local Plan Committee, recently voted to submit the draft local plan for consultation. The next step in the process called a Regulation 18 consultation. This gives more weight to the sites in the draft for planning reasons.

## Pylons

A submission to the consultation was made by the Council. It was agreed that there will be need for coordination with other bodies including Dedham Vale Society and other Parish Councils on impact of disruption of the construction of the pylons is likely to bring to the area.

## Finance, Standards and Procedures

The Finance group is looking at the draft budget at its next meeting.

Grants for Sports Club and Community Christmas Party agreed.

## Infrastructure and Community areas

The group reported on the painting competition with the school for the new speeding signs around the village.

Regarding lighting on Mill Lane, it was agreed the Council would pay for the replacement lights.

## Communications

The Council agreed to have a professional support consultant to help councillors with any issues they may have with IT.

**Date and time of next meeting**  
**Monday 12th January 2026.**

*Chair, Cllr Douglas Bourn*

## Parish Council Update (January)

A number of issues have been drawn to the attention to the Council recently which we feel residents need to be aware of.

### Dog Fouling.

The first is the apparent increase in dog fouling around the village. This has now become a major problem on paths in the middle of the village, along Crown Street and through the Drift.

Residents are reminded that dog fouling is illegal with a significant fine. It is also very anti-social and has become an issue, particularly for families taking their children to school.

### Garden waste bins and recycling waste.

The second is the location of garden refuse bins and recycling bins on the side of roads. Residents should be leaving their bins in their driveways or just outside their houses. There have been reports of bins scattered around making it difficult for people to pass. Please be mindful of other residents.

Finally our next parish council meeting is on **Monday 2nd February at the Duchy Barn at 6.30pm**

*Douglas Bourn*  
*Chair of Dedham Parish Council*

Scan to access the Parish Council website.



## DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE IS 150 YEARS OLD IN 2026.

Throughout 2026 we will be having a look back at what was happening in Dedham 150 years ago in 1876, with items from the magazine and archive Newspaper reports. The very first edition of the magazine from January is included on the following three pages, the original was three pages long with no front cover illustration. AI has been used to extract the text from images from the magazine, as well as enhancing the actual extracts from the magazine pages. In February 1876 the editor announced that they were organising a copper plate engraving of the Church to use in future editions of the magazine.

**ETCHING OF THE PARISH CHURCH.**—The cost of a copper etching of the Parish Church, to be placed on the first page of the Magazine, will be £1 12s. 6d. Of this sum £1 has already been contributed by one parishioner, and 5s. by two others. Mr. Scott will be glad to receive contributions towards the remaining sum of 7s. 6d.

February 1876 Extract from Page 3.

The etching (as shown on our front cover) first appeared in the June 1876 issue of the magazine.

*Note: £1 12s 6d is equivalent to £164*

### NOTICES.

PERSONS intending to take in the Magazine are requested to leave their names and residences at Mr. Scott's or at Mr. Kirkman's. The Magazine will then be sent to them each month.

Application respecting advertisements in the Magazine should be made to Mr. Scott, from whom all particulars can be obtained.

It is hoped that many of the parishioners will contribute papers of *local* interest to the Magazine. The manuscripts should be sent early in the month, addressed, "The Editor of the Dedham Parish Magazine," at Mr. Scott's Dedham.

Advertising has played a large part in the magazine, as early as February 1876 there was a request for advertisements.

The very first advert (for C. J. Kirkham) in the February 1876 edition of the magazine is displayed below.

*John Goldsbrough*

February 1876 Notices (Page 1)

**C. J. KIRKMAN,**  
**CHEMIST, STATIONER, &c.**  
**DEDHAM, ESSEX.**

Bibles, Prayer-Books, Church Services, and Hymn-Book used at the Parish Church, are kept in stock.



## DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE.

JANUARY, 1876.

### NOTICE.

A DESIRE having been several times expressed that Dedham, like many other places, should have its Parish Magazine, it has been decided to localise Home Words for that purpose. The outside pages of the magazine will contain purely local information, whilst the central sheets will consist of interesting stories, addresses, poetry, etc., with illustrations. At the end of the year the twelve local covers can be bound up together at the end of the volume. The local information will consist of a Monthly Calendar with notices of Services, Meetings, Classes, etc.; the hours of Church Services and Sacraments; the date of Parish or Missionary Meetings, and accounts of them after they have taken place; statements of accounts of Offertories, Collections, School Funds, etc.; and a Register of Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths for the preceding month. From time to time short articles will appear on the History of Dedham Church, the History of the Dedham Grammar School, and the Lives of the Lecturers, and on other matters connected with the history of Dedham. The cost of the Magazine will be one penny per month. A List of Bible Questions will be printed each month in the central sheets. Answers to these should be sent to the Rev. J. G. Mills, not later than the 20th of each month. The names of those who send in correct answers will be printed in the next issue of the Magazine. At the end of the year a prize will be presented to the sender of the best complete set of answers.

Persons intending to take in the Magazine are requested to leave their names and residences at Mr. Kirkman's, Chemist, Dedham. The Magazine will then be sent to them each month.

### SERVICES FOR JANUARY.

Sundays - Morning, 10.30.

Afternoon, 3.0;

Lecture. Evening, 7.0.

HOLY COMMUNION, on first Sunday in the month after Morning Service.

NEW YEAR'S DAY-Morning, 11.0.; Short Address and Holy Communion.

Tuesdays-Morning, 11.0.; Lecture.

Thursday, Jan. 6th. Morning, 11.0.; Epiphany of our Lord.

### BAPTISMS.

1875. Dec. 12. Arthur Daniel, son of Daniel Robert and Joanna Smith.

### BURIALS.

Dec. 26.

Mary Osborn, aged 75. Philip Clark, aged 81.

### OFFERTORIES.

		£	s.	d.	OBJECT.
Dec. 5.	Morn.	1	17	2½	Sick and Poor.
	Aft.	9	11	5½	Church Expenses.
	Even.	0	12	4½	" "
" 12.	Morn.	1	12	11½	" "
	Aft.	0	16	8½	" "
	Even.	0	14	6½	" "
" 19.	Morn.	12	11	2½	" "
	Aft.	8	0	1½	" "
	(Boxes)	1	13	2½	" "
Christmas' Day.	Morn.	4	6	0½	Sick and Poor.
Dec. 26.	Morn.	1	8	10½	Church Expenses.
	Aft.	1	19	10½	" "
	Even.	1	13	10½	" "
Total					£20 7 4.

### ALMSHOUSE SERVICE.

Jan. 7.	Friday Afternoon,	2.30.
14.	" "	2.30.
21.	" "	2.30.
28.	" "	2.45.

DISTRICT, VISITORS' MONTHLY MEETING in the National Schoolroom, Tuesday, January 4, at 12 noon.  
TEACHERS' MEETING.

Every Friday, at 4 p.m., in the National Schoolroom.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS. Morning, 9.30. Afternoon, 2.

In issuing the first number of the Dedham Parish Magazine, we take the opportunity of calling the attention of the Parishioners to:

**(i) The Church.**—The piety of our forefathers has provided for this parish a truly noble building for the public worship of God. The privilege of worshipping in such a grand old church being granted but to few parishes, the parishioners of Dedham have cause to be proud of their house of God, and doubtless, when the time arrives, will join heartily together in the work of restoration, more particularly of the exterior, which cannot be far distant, if the church is to be preserved from decay and ruin. During the past year portions of the exterior have been several times repaired, but there can be no doubt whatever that a complete restoration of the exterior is required as soon as possible.

**(ii) The Schools.** The state of both Sunday and Day schools is satisfactory and encouraging. The Government Grant in to the Day schools was larger than that of previous years, thus testifying to the increased efficiency of the schools. Grants were also made last year towards the enlargement of the National Schools: £30 by the Essex Diocesan Board of Education, and 21s by the National Society. The whole cost of the enlargement was £258 11. 8d., and increased accommodation was thus provided for 60 children. In the Sunday school the numbers have increased both in the Boys and Girls' Schools, as will be seen from the following figures

Girls, No. on the books	April 4,	57
	Dec. 26,	71
Boys,	April 4,	38
	Dec. 26,	72

A Sunday-school Library has, through the kind liberality of many friends, been established. Half-price grants of books were made to the Library by the Pure Literature Society, and the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge; whilst free grants of books were made by the Sunday-school Institute, and many friends in the parish. The Hon. Librarian, who attends at the Schoolroom every Monday, from 12 to 12.45, will be glad to receive donations of books.

**(iii) Home, Colonial, and Foreign Missionary and other Societies.** The Societies supported by the parish of Dedham during the past year, and the sums contributed towards each, are:—

Church Missionary Society, Mrs. Murray	...	£26	4	0
Hon. Sec.	...	26	8	0
Society for Propagation of Gospel, Rev. Dr. Lermitt	...	6	8	0
Rev. Dr. Lermitt	...	3	0	0
Church Pastoral-Aid Society, Miss Murray	...	£3	0	0
Additional Curates-Aid Society, Rev. R. T.	...	£10	16	10½
Withington	...	22	19	10
Irish Church Missions, Mrs. Murray	...	22	19	10
Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge,	...	2	15	0
Rev. Dr. Lermitt	...	3	0	0
National Society	...	3	0	0
Colonial and Continental Society, Rev. Dr. Ashwin	...	1	13	0
Ashwin	...	3	4	3
British and Foreign Bible Society, W. H. Penrose, Esq.	...	3	4	3
Penrose, Esq.	...	14	8	9
Jews' Society, Mrs. Murray	...			
Total ..		£124	5	1.

**(iv.) District Visitors and Sunday-school Teachers.** We cannot close this brief review of the work done in the parish during 1875 without acknowledging the devoted labour of our District Visitors and Sunday school Teachers. To them we would address the words of St. Paul as an encouragement in their work: "Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

## THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The number of boys on the roll for the term ending at Christmas, 1875, was 90, W. J. Chapman, the captain, and R. H. Walker proceeded to St. John's College, Cambridge, and have since passed the previous examination; the former being in the first division in both parts, the latter in the second, and both have passed in the additional subjects for honours. The other old Dedhamians at presenting residence at Cambridge, are: H. Pollexfen, scholar of Pembroke R. T. Pollexfen, Pembroke, J. W. Woolley, Corpus, H. Newman, Sidney, H. Wood, Trinity. C. A. Bree and S. H. Turner graduated in June, 1875.

## DEDHAM NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

On Thursday, December 23, the annual Christmas examination of these Schools took place. The Schoolroom was very prettily decorated for the occasion by the teachers. Amongst the parishioners present, in addition to a large number of the parents of the children, were Mrs., Miss, and Mr. R. Murray, Mr. and Miss Edwards, Mrs. Penrose, Mrs. Ashwin, Mrs. Chitty, Mr. and Mrs. Rodwell, Mr. and the Misses Cobbold, Miss Elton, Miss Lermite, etc. In opening the proceedings, the Rev. J. G. Mills apologised for the absence of the Revs. Drs. Ashwin and Lermite and Mr. Penrose, who were unavoidably absent. In the course of some some further remarks Mr. Mills mentioned that in future only those children who made the full number of attendances required by the Government for presentation at examination (viz., 250), would be allowed to come to the annual Summer Treat. The children then sang the hymn, "We meet again;" after which they were examined in Scripture and Catechism by Mr. Mills. The manner in which they repeated, explained, and gave references of, passages of Scripture committed to memory, was exceedingly good. The examination in arithmetic was conducted by Mr. J. W. Brooke that in reading and

spelling by Mr. Cobbold; and that in geography, by Mr. Ehrke. Between the different examinations songs were sung and pieces recited by the children. The songs sung were, "Be kind to each other," "Bright beams the Morning," "Winter," and "Far Away." Those who recited pieces were:-Ada Boutell, Anna Smith, Hetty Hitchcock, Fanny Watson, W. White, G. Hudson, Herbert Cook, Ellen Hudson, Emma Thorington, and Agnes Ham. During the evening specimens of the children's needlework and writing were handed round the room for inspection. Prizes were presented to the children by Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Penrose. Mr. Mills, for Mrs. Clarke, presented the prizes which she had offered for home work. The prize boys and girls were George Boutell, John Fulcher, Ernest Spurgeon, Emma Cullem, Ellen Smith, Chas. Freeman, Kate Harrison, Annie Howard, Minnie Watson, Benjamin Munson, Ellen Richer, Ellen Howard, Herbert Cook, Annie Harrison, Rose Gallant, William Wadley, and Elizabeth Gallant. A dress, kindly given by Mrs. Lermite to the mother of the child making the largest number of attendances during the year, was presented to Mrs. Chaplin. In future, the parent must live half-a-mile from the school. Mr. Mills then addressed a few words to the parents, and concluded Happy Christmas. He trusted that it would by wishing both parents and children a be a season not of mere worldly happiness, but that they would have that true happiness which we can only possess by knowing Him who is the source of all true happiness, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The national anthem was then sung by the children, who, after giving lusty cheers for Mrs. Clarke and her assistants, and the examiners, were regaled with buns, which by kind forethought had been provided for them.

*(£1 is equivalent to £100)*

## TRANSITION INTO SPRING

February is a transitional month in the garden - still very much winter, but full of signs that spring is approaching as the days get longer and the soil slowly starts to warm again.

Look around the garden and you'll find snowdrops, crocus, winter aconites and camellias bringing the first real colour of the year (green doesn't count).

I'm cutting back the leaves of my hellebores to remove signs of black spot and display the flowers to their best advantage. Elsewhere, daffodils are coming into flower, seeming to bloom earlier than ever – one of our members had a daff in full flower on Christmas Day! – while indoors, I've amaryllis and forced hyacinths cheering the place up.



Amaryllis

If vegetables are your thing, you might still be harvesting the winter cabbages, sprouts, leeks and parsnips that you

didn't eat over Christmas.

However, generally February is a great time to shake off the last of the winter lull and begin preparing your garden for the growing year to come. Traditional cottage gardens would mix ornamental plants (grown for flowers or foliage, rather than to eat) with edibles, and



Rhubarb forcing pot

rhubarb can look wonderfully architectural among your flowers. It can also be grown in a large pot – just divide it and share it with friends when it gets too big. If you haven't already done it, early in the month is really your last opportunity to cover the plant with a bucket or forcer to exclude light and grow stems that are a lovely tender and juicy pink. Yum!

There are several seeds worth sowing under cover this month – I have some windowsill propagators that are ideal for starting off my tomatoes – as well as some that can be sown in a tray and left



in a sheltered area outside. The latter will usually be hardy annuals, biennials like foxgloves, or perennial seeds which may not germinate unless they think they've suffered through a winter season before the rise in temperature encourages them to sprout.

There's quite a bit of pruning you can do towards the end of the month. I've talked about roses in a previous article, but you can also cut back some clematis varieties (the Group 3s) in February. I've several in rich jewel tones like 'Gravetye



### Clematis (summer flowering)

Beauty', 'Rooguchi', 'Madame Julia Correvon' and 'Niobe'. All flower later in the summer and benefit from being pruned to a pair of healthy buds 20-30cm from the base of the plant. I love them for their different shapes and wide range of colours. Well chosen, you can have a clematis of one form or another in flower throughout the year, but they can take a while to establish.

If you're fond of a rhyme (and who isn't), there are a couple to help with the first being especially apt right now: 'if they flower before June, don't prune'. The second gives you some reassurance if

you think the plant you put in last year has turned up its toes: "the first year they sleep, the second year they creep, and the third year they leap". Just give them some feed, try to keep the roots cool in the heat of summer, and don't accidentally dig them up, and they'll eventually do you proud.

As part of the plan to rejuvenate one of my borders, I'll also cut back my deciduous ornamental grasses, the two-metre tall *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Malepartus' which have grown into significant clumps over the last decade. I'm going to divide them and discard any sections that are no longer performing well before replant some of the pieces in other places around the garden. They are great for creating informal screening and creating surprise and interest.

If you have just a balcony, patio or small courtyard, plant lily bulbs now for stunning scented blooms in the summer. If your pots and containers have been planted for a while, remember that the soil may have run out of nutrients by now and will need more to grow well in the season to come. You don't always have to re-pot them; instead, you can 'top dress' which just means replacing the first two inches of compost with fresh and adding a sprinkling of slow-release fertiliser.

Start warming up for spring with a bit of time among your pots and borders this month. It'll be worth it – I promise!

*Elliott Frisby*

[dedhamgardening.wordpress.com](http://dedhamgardening.wordpress.com) - QR code





At Dedham Primary, we provide many extra-curricular and curriculum enrichment activities to enable our children to broaden their horizons and to ensure a holistic education. As identified in our SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection last term, our children spoke with enthusiasm about their breadth of experiences (including music, sports and drama) and they eagerly rose to the challenges that these provide.

At Christmas, a small group of children from the Key Stage Two choir visited Blackbrook Care Home to sing Christmas carols and songs, and a number of children also performed in the village carol service.



Earlier in the term, the choir also took part in the Rotary Club Junior Choir Competition and having successfully progressed from the heats, they faced very tough competition in the final from Brightlingsea, Bishop William Ward and St Mary's who had all won the competition in recent years.

Each choir performed the set piece, Any Dream Will Do, as well as a piece of their choice, and the performances were judged by a panel of three experienced singers and musical directors. I am delighted to say that Dedham won the competition and our trophy now stands proudly in the entrance to the school. Throughout the whole competition process, the children demonstrated tremendous ambition and teamwork and they represented our school wonderfully.



This term, the 45 members of the choir will be learning some songs from The Lion King ahead of a trip to the West End to take part in a musical theatre workshop and to see the show itself. It's fair to say that everyone is very excited!

*Laura Valentine*

### DEDHAM COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY 2026



The Dedham Community Christmas Party took place in the Assembly Rooms on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. This year was the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Party. David Carter, who died last year, aged 85, started the Christmas Party when he owned The Sun Inn in 1986. After buying The Anchor Public House on The Heath, he continued to hold the event there. The Anchor was then purchased by Geoff Clarkson who honoured the event and took over the costs. The event was cooked by the public house's Chef's and waiting staff but also included some regular customers who gave their time to help serve and arrange transport to and from the venue.

Sadly The Anchor was sold in 2003, so from 2004 the party was held at the Assembly Rooms and then organised by the volunteers who also held fund raising events throughout the year to pay for it. In 2008 most of the volunteers were old enough to sit down and the youngsters took over but some of the elders carried on organising. The two longest term helpers from the beginning are Alan Grego and Donna Wilson, however Alan could not attend this year due ill health.

As always, there is great local support in raising funds for today's party, including Tom & Josie with their staff and customers at the Marlborough Head throughout 2025. Dedham Parish Council has again kindly contributed largely toward the party. The Chapmans Trust, which is a Dedham based Trust, has also kindly donated to us again. All the donations and grants are greatly appreciated and help to keep the party going year after year.

A big thank you goes to Steve & Karen White, Louise, Rob & Tracy, Marion and Julie and the rest of the cooking crew for preparing the meal and arranging the tables. Also, a special thank you to all the extra helpers that show up on the day to help serving, washing up and the drivers collecting and dropping off those who need it. Committee Members for the Party, Steve & Karen White, Miles, Donna and Louise Wilson, Rob & Tracy Woods would also like to thank all the helpers.

A collection for this years charity, Cancer Research UK, at the end of the meal raised £582.

Any correspondence for the Dedham Community Christmas Party can be forwarded to:  
Miles Wilson, 9 Lawford Place, Lawford, Essex, CO11 2PT  
[miles@mlpanels.com](mailto:miles@mlpanels.com)

*John Goldsbrough*



## ALMSHOUSE VACANCY

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Applications are invited to occupy a vacancy that has occurred at one of the Almshouses in School Lane, Dedham.

The Charitable Trust requires that residents shall be single women of limited means, not less than 55 years of age and who are, or have been, inhabitants of the Parish of Dedham. Preference will be given to any applicants who meet these criteria.

Applications should be made in writing and addressed to:

The Secretary, care of  
[David.jewell@crown-consultancy.com](mailto:David.jewell@crown-consultancy.com)  
Please include two references.

Regulations include:  
Occupancy is subject to residents being in good health and able to maintain themselves. A medical certificate may be required. No pets allowed.

Terms are available on request.

Anticipated Occupancy date 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026

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### DEDHAM ART SOCIETY

We are a friendly and welcoming amateur art group who love painting together on a regular basis. From time to time we invite guest tutors, and at our other sessions we enjoy sharing ideas, supporting one another, and learning together in a relaxed atmosphere. If you'd like to find out more about the Dedham Art Society, please

email [dedhamartsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dedhamartsociety@gmail.com) or visit our website:

[www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk](http://www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk).

If you're interested in coming along to a session, please do get in touch by email.

#### **Dedham Art Society – February 2026 Thursday Painting Sessions**

##### **Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**

Members' painting session. Assembly Rooms, 2.00–4.30pm

##### **Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

Members' painting together session – Interior Light and Shade. Assembly Rooms, 2.00–4.30pm

---

### **A FEW FUNNIES**

One Sunday after the morning service the vicar asked his vergers, "Do you think I should put more fire into my sermons?" The vergers replied, "In my opinion, vicar, you should put more sermons into your fire."

The minister's young son wrote to his aunt to apologise for forgetting her birthday. "I'm ever so sorry," he wrote, "I have no excuse, and it would serve me right if you forgot mine, which is next Tuesday."

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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 of the month at 2.15pm in the Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt, CO7 6TP. Guests are welcome for a charge of £4. On 11<sup>th</sup> February, Marion Pettet, retired Chairman of Chelmsford Ballet Company, will share her love of dance and theatre with "A Peek Behind the Scenes" and on 11<sup>th</sup> March, Andrew Baker, acclaimed cruise ship lecturer, will return to talk on "The Anatomy of the NHS".

Please take a look at our website <https://stourvalley.u3asite.uk/welcome/> for more information and contact details.

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*Stour Valley Arts & Music is a Registered Charity no 276640*

## CANCER RESEARCH UK

Your local CRUK committee ended a great year hosting Mark Smith Historian & Medals Expert from Antiques Roadshow in a fascinating talk on the Unknown Warrior to a packed hall – the event raised £2,200. Chair Jill Davies was delighted to present our cheque for £40,000 to CRUK Area Manager Gill Burgess raised in 2025 by the local committee from events, donations and inmems ( In memoriam donations

To mark Remembrance, the Dedham Royal British Legion led by Arin Andrews displayed their recently found banner and auctioned the Tommy Wreath knitted by Clare Walker, along with a bucket collection.

None of this would be possible without the support and contribution of many Dedham friends and we take this opportunity of thanking you. Sadly in December 2025, our young Treasurer Carol Lloyd passed away on holiday and her dedication and drive will be sorely missed. We are constantly looking for new blood and ideas so if anyone has an inclination to give a little of their spare time to charity work we would be delighted to welcome you – contact Jill or Marion. We are thrilled to kick off 2026 with a donation of £582 from the Dedham Community Christmas Party Guests – Thank you.

Jill-Marie Davies - 07976295699. Marion Livermore - 07393625685



Presentation of the £40,000 cheque to  
Gill Burgess



Arin Andrews  
and Clare Walker  
with knitted  
Tommy Wreath.



Mark Smith,  
Historian and  
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## FEBRUARY 2026

- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Rise N Shine.
- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Evensong.
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - 12.30pm, Essex Rose Tea Room - Monday Lunch Club.
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6.30pm, Duchy Barn. - Dedham Parish Council Meeting.
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> - 11am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> - 2.00-4.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, Dedham Art Society.
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> - 5.00pm, Dedham Church - Revive@5.
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Matins.
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> - 7.30-10pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms - Dedham Films, SEPTEMBER 5.
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> - 7pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, Cancer Research UK Quiz Night.
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> - 10am, Duchy Barn, Films@Duchy Barn.
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> - 2-4.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, 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.
- Morning Prayer - Dedham Church, 10.30pm.
- Mobile Post Office - Royal Square 09:00 to 11:00.
- Dedham Baby and Toddler Group Dedham Sports Club, 10am to 12pm (Term time).

### 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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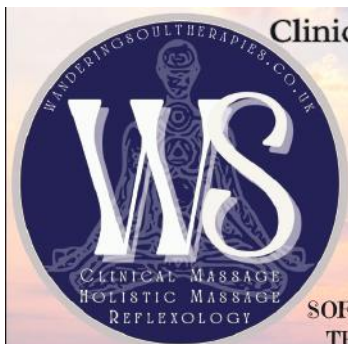
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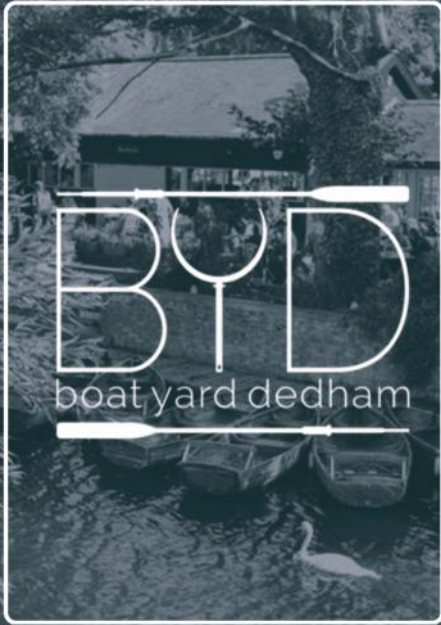
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