



HOBNOB

Online



The parish magazine for
St. Peter and St. Paul. Horndon-on-the-Hill
St. Giles and All Saints. Orsett
St. Mary-the-Virgin. Bulphan

September 2025

Traction Engines at the Orsett Show

SERVICES – September 2025

	HORNDON	ORSETT	BULPHAN
Monday 1 st September			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 2 nd	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 4 th			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 5 th		NO Edward Bear Toddler Group 9-11.30am Oasis Café At Orsett Churches Centre	
Saturday 6 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Sunday 7th September <i>12th Sunday after Trinity</i>			10am All Together Holy Communion Service
Monday 8 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 9 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments	2pm Holy Communion Service at The Whitecroft	
Thursday 11 th			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 12 th		9-11.30am Oasis Café 9.30-11am Edward Bear Toddler Group At Orsett Churches Centre	
Saturday 13 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Sunday 14th September <i>13th Sunday after Trinity</i>	8.45am BCP Holy Communion Service 10am Family Service		
Monday 15 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 16 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 18 th			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 19 th		9-11.30am Oasis Café 9.30-11am Edward Bear Toddler Group At Orsett Churches Centre	
Saturday 20 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Sunday 21st September <i>9th Sunday after Trinity</i>	4pm Refresh Service	8.45am CW Holy Communion Service 10am Holy Communion Service	
Monday 22 nd			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 23 rd	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
	12noon Holy Communion Service		
Thursday 25 th			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 26 th		9-11.30am Oasis Café 9.30-11am Edward Bear Toddler Group At Orsett Churches Centre	
Saturday 27 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		10.30am B17 Air Crash Service
Sunday 28th September <i>15th Sunday after Trinity</i>			8.45am CW Holy Communion Service 10am Family Service
Monday 29 th			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 30 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 2 nd October			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 3 rd		9-11.30am Oasis Café 9.30-11am Edward Bear Toddler Group At Orsett Churches Centre	
Saturday 4 th	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments	4pm Forest Church	
Sunday 5th October <i>16th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10am All Together Holy Communion Service		

Open Church means that the Church is open for private prayer, refreshments are available at all sessions except Thursdays at Bulphan.

Rector's Reflections

This will be the last time I write for the Hobnob magazine, and so I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of you for welcoming me and our family into your midst, nine and a half years ago and for the prayers, the support and care you have shown during that time. We will miss you all as we move on to pastures new.

A lot has happened during those nine and a half years, not least the Covid Pandemic, which was a terrible time for everyone.

At church we have been through many changes which I know have, at times, been challenging, but I believe, at this point in time, we are in a good place, thanks to the hard work and commitment of so many people. It has been wonderful to witness the way in which the three villages have worked together and supported one another.

As I think I have mentioned previously, life changes, but God never changes. Hebrews 13: 8 says,

'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.'

As we all walk forward into the unknown, I encourage you to hold fast to God, in prayer. He is there to guide us all, whatever the future might be.

One of the friends of my parents, a devout Roman Catholic, who sadly died earlier in the year, used to make prayer cards with the prayer,

'Gracious God, may we treasure the past with thanksgiving, may we embrace the future with hope, may we journey ahead with confidence. Amen.'

It's a lovely prayer and one which I keep on the wall in my study.

Finally, as some of you know, in addition to being a priest, I have always had an involvement in the Guide Association and, when time affords, I am sometimes asked to lead singing days for Guide leaders' singing groups and often, at the end of a day, we sing a setting of The Irish Blessing, the words of which I would like to leave you with.

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
the rain fall soft upon your fields.
And, until we meet again some day
May God hold you in the palm of his hands
May the memories that we have shared
Linger on and on.*

Thank you, take care and may God bless you all.

With love and prayers,

Sue



THE PARISH OF HORNDON, ORSETT AND BULPHAN

www.hobnob.org.uk Facebook: @HOBNOBchurches

RECTOR	Reverend Sue Mann	email: rectorsue@hobnob.org.uk	01375 891 254
PTO*	Reverend Max Blake	email: m.blake@hobnob.co.uk	07716 969 772

*(permission to officiate)

PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Churchwardens	Alastair Macrae, Beverley Macrae, Christine Mortimer, David Mortimer, Sonia Ward, Frank Woollard.
Treasurer	Lynn Bennett
Secretary	Beverley Macrae
Parish Administrator	Lynda Robertson.
Deanery Synod Representatives	Karen Collier, Alastair Macrae, Janet Wilkins, Frank Woollard
Lay Representatives	Jane Barry, Sandra Billinger, Samantha Pankhurst. Wayne Beadle-Phelps (co-opted).

CHURCH OFFICERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

St Peter & St Paul Horndon-on-the-Hill

Churchwardens	Sonia Ward	01375 674212
	Beverley Macrae	01375 673 327
Sacristans	Jane Barry. Judy Rood. Beverley Macrae	
Vergers	Robin Clark, Felicity Tarbard, Sonia Ward	

St Giles & All Saints Orsett

Churchwardens	Christine Mortimer	01375 641 485
	David Mortimer	01375 641 485
Sacristan	Janet Wilkins	
Vergers	Jo Metcalf, Libby Seggons, Christine Mortimer	
Mothers' Union contact	Lucy Bubb	07970 728 673
Edward Bear Toddler Group	Karen Collier	01375 370 441
Tower Captain	Judith Church	01375 891 556
Oasis Café	Sandra Billinger	01375 891 040
Churches' Centre Bookings	Gary Jones	bookings@orsettchurches.co.uk

St Mary-the-Virgin Bulphan

Churchwardens	Frank Woollard	01375 891 034
	Alastair Macrae	01375 673 327
Verger	Ron Porter, Frank Woollard	
Parish Room Bookings	Traudi Porter	01375 891 697

Parish Administrator

Lynda Robertson: l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk	07974 803 471
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Parish Baptism Co-ordinator

Christine Mortimer: c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk	01375 641 485
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Musicians

Jane Barry	07552 199 697
Janet McCheyne	07752 836 902

To arrange Weddings, please contact Rev. Sue Mann on 01375 891 254 or email: rectorsue@hobnob.org.uk

The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

Table Top Sale

on Saturday 20th September 2025

12 noon to 4pm at

Orsett Churches Centre, High Road, Orsett. RM16 3ER

If you would like to book a table the cost is £15 please contact Christine Mortimer on 01375 641485.

There will also be tea, coffee, bacon rolls and cake on offer.

Please come along and support this event.

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Registered charity number: 1199779



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THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

24th August

Jax Jamie Robert Morgan

(H)

Interments

2nd August

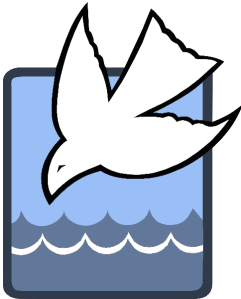
Lily Bounds (101)

(O)



Wedding Enquiries

If you would like to enquire about booking a wedding at:
Horndon, Orsett or Bulphan churches,
please contact: Revd Sue Mann: 01375 891254
rectorsue@hobnob.org.uk



Baptism Enquiries

To arrange a baptism you will need to attend a Baptism Preparation Meeting, where we will discuss the meaning of Baptism, the responsibilities of parents and Godparents, go through the Baptism service and give you the opportunity to ask questions. At the end of the meeting we can check the diary and you will be able to book your Baptism.

Forthcoming Baptism Preparation Dates:

Mon 13th October - 7.30pm at Orsett Church
Sat 8th November - 12 noon at Horndon Church
Monday 8th December - 7.30pm at Orsett Church

For more information, please contact:
Christine Mortimer: 01375 641485
c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk



Churchwarden's Report St. Peter and St. Paul. Horndon on the Hill

Summer's winding down, and those unbearably hot days are starting to ease into the cooler, more comfortable autumn months. I've noticed some of the leaves turning golden, and Robin has brought in a bunch of windfall apples. Schools will be opening their doors again soon, and with that comes all the usual nerves and excitement of a new school year.

We're hoping Bakers of Danbury will be arriving soon to replace the oak window sill on the porch front. To make things easier for them, we've already trimmed back the surrounding foliage. Speaking of greenery, the fantastic Community Payback team—led by Jim—have been doing a brilliant job keeping the Mill Lane graveyard looking its best. They've also mown the churchyard and cleared away weeds and brambles around the church. Next on the list, we're hoping to tackle the overgrown plants behind the church facing Mill Lane, and trim some of the low-hanging lime branches—classic autumn garden tasks !

Don't forget, if you would like to come along and join the Tuesday Gardeners (ten to midday at the church) you would be very much welcomed. There's even an unlimited supply of tea and coffee and the odd cake, biscuit, bacon roll or all three!!!

Together with everyone in the parish who knew him, we mourn the passing of our dear friends Gwen Brown and Gerry Toop.

Gwen, served as a Reader and shared her thoughtful sermons at many services in Horndon. She was a volunteer at Feast and Fayre, taking on the role of the 'gnome at the door'. Her collection plate was always overflowing, a testament to her warmth and the affection she inspired in others.

Gerry and his wife Mary were familiar faces at the Refresh services in Horndon. Whether sharing a thoughtful reflection, a story, or occasionally a song, he brought light to our gatherings. At Open Church, he could often be found seated beneath the bell tower, right at the heart of the table, joyfully joining in the cross-banging ritual with the rest of the regulars. He also contributed thought provoking articles to this magazine.

Gerry was a whirlwind of colour, warmth, and joy - a soul impossible to forget. We will miss him deeply, each and every one of us. Our hearts are with Mary and the family.

God bless

Bev



BULPHAN local store

7am - 9pm SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

BULPHAN VILLAGE SHOP

Bulphan Village Hall, Church Road, Bulphan RM14 3RU

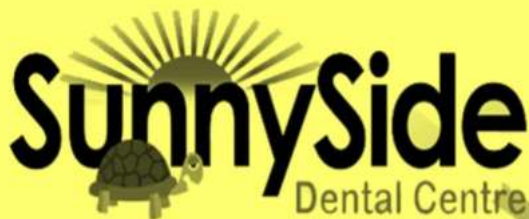
Free delivery to local customers: call 07429 295505

With a wide variety of groceries, fresh vegetables, fresh meat, fresh-baked bread, off licence, greetings cards and all household essentials, you can also make bill payments for water, electricity and gas with key and card top ups, replacement gas/electricity keys and cards, mobile phone top ups, the Health Lottery and National Lottery and a hot drinks machine.

LOTS OF FREE PARKING

Stamps are always available for sale at the till and there are main Post Office services at the hall next door on Thursday and Friday afternoons, 1.30 – 4.30pm

IT'S ONLY A LITTLE SHOP, BUT IT CERTAINLY OFFERS A LOT.



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ORSETT CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT



As the nation came together to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day on 15th August, we held a short service followed by a buffet lunch in Orsett church to show our own respect for those who gave their lives during World War 2. The screen showed key dates and events regarding the war in the Far East and there were some printed copies of local newspaper reports for those whose eyesight was up to it – the print was much smaller than, presumably to save paper. We were joined by friends from all three villages and some who had made the journey from Stanford-le-Hope. Our thanks go to all those who helped or attended, making it a very enjoyable couple of hours.

The annual Orsett Show will once again be held on Orsett Showground Saturday 6th September. If you are able to attend it is a day filled with both horticultural and agricultural displays together with a stunt team, vintage cars, birds of prey and much more. Do come and visit Thurrock Deanery tent where there will be children's activities (Glitter tattoos, biscuit decorating and wooden toys available), short services throughout the day and an opportunity to talk to Bishop Adam, the Bishop of Bradwell. For those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to say goodbye, Rev. Sue will also be in attendance on what will be her last day as Rector of our parish.

On that note, we wish Sue and Phil all the best as they journey to Norwich and a new parish in Hellesdon. We will miss you enormously and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the encouragement, friendship and love that you have shown to all during your time with us.

Though we part ways, the memories we've made will always keep us connected.

God Bless

Christine and David Mortimer



Bulphan Churchwarden's Report

There are lots of concerns today and prayers are required for many places and people.

The parish needs to pray for Rev. Sue and Phil as they move on to their next calling in Norfolk. The Parish finds itself in interregnum again after nine and a half years, it is important that we all stick together in what could be at least a year without a Parish Priest. There is much to be done, firstly a parish profile has to be prepared and then agreed, once agreed we have to advertise the position. We are assuming of course that The Diocese agrees to a new priest being appointed. Paid priests' numbers in Thurrock in the long term are being reduced, at present there are ten paid priest positions. Without scaremongering it is important that we pay as much Family Purse as we can. At present The Family Purse for our three churches is about £68,000 and on current trend we are likely to be about £20,000 short. If you are able in these difficult times to increase your donation now would be a good time.

Bulphan has applied for permission to take up sections of the floor to the nave to see if the rot discovered at the entrance door is localised or has spread beyond.

We thank Les for replacing the two broken taps to the water butts.

On 15th August V.J. Day the bells were rung at Bulphan at 6.30 pm and this was well attended. Most of us paid little attention to Victory over Japan Day, but the recent TV coverage brought home to us all the terrible suffering that was endured in ending the war in the Far East. I suddenly became aware that I have a connection in that my Dad's two younger brothers Stanley and Edward both served in the war; being born in 1944 whilst they were away I was named after them. My Uncle Ted served in Burma and spoke very little about it.

We must say prayers for Ukraine and Gaza and all places where there is conflict at this time. We seem to have become used to the war in Ukraine, the eastern part of Europe, as it is very slowly being taken over. It seems we now face the possibility that an aggressor can be given parts of another sovereign nation with all the long term implications of what this means.

We must pray for all those suffering from illness and those mourning the loss of loved ones. As so many of our congregation grow old, including me, it is inevitable that we are more likely to suffer from illness. Most of us who like me, never saw a doctor for 50 years it is now becoming a regular event.

Probably when you read this we will only have a volunteer priest, please be patient because all the same services, weddings, baptisms etc will still take place.

Frank Woollard

W.A.D.E.R.S

JOIN THE WADERS AND
HAVE A SPLASHING TIME

Water Assisted Disabled Exercise & Rehabilitation Scheme
www.waders.org.uk

Exercise in water for people with mobility difficulties
(Supervised by a qualified Aquatic Physiotherapist)

Tuesday:

Laindon Pool
SwimMania, Stannetts,
Laindon North Trading Estate,
Basildon, S15 6DN
7.30pm-8.10pm
8.20pm-9.00pm

Tuesday:

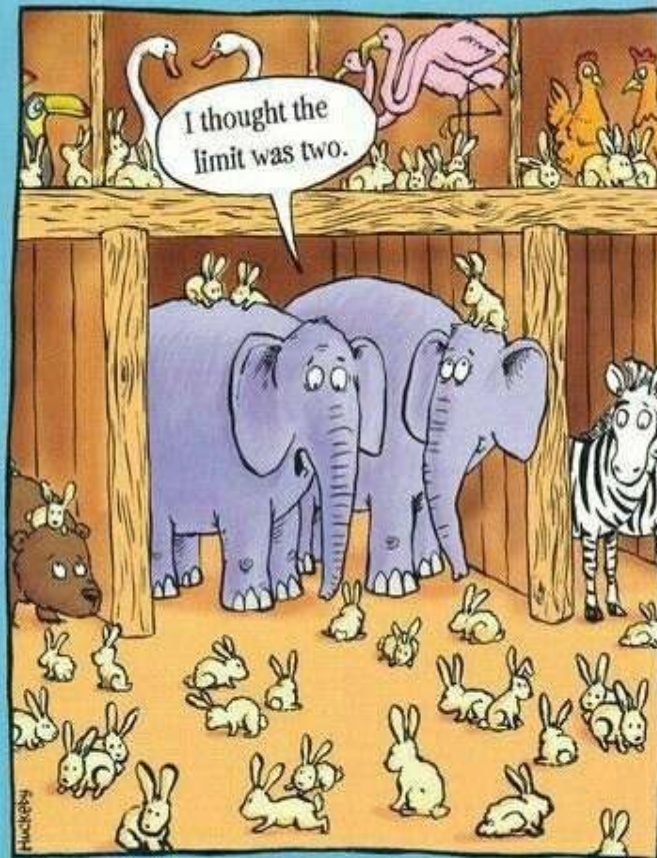
Impulse Leisure Blackshots
Teaching Pool
Grays RM16 2JU
8.00pm – 9.00pm

Friday:

Corringham Leisure Centre
Swimming Pool
Corringham SS17 7NB
11.15am-12.10pm
12.20pm-13.15pm

Please contact a Committee Member before attending your first session
so you know what to expect.

Sharon: 07792 827638 for Laindon
Kay-Anne: 07899 745020 for Corringham
Dawn: 01375 461885 for Blackshots
Email: ask-waders@hotmail.com



DAY 39 ON THE ARK.

The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

Edward Bear Toddler Group

Edward Bear welcomes his little friends and
their accompanying adults in the
Orsett Churches' Centre Chapel

There is no charge for this Toddler Group

Every Friday during term time
9.30 am – 11.00 am

For further details
please contact:
KAREN COLLIER

on:
01375 370441



— C A F E —
IN THE ORSETT
CHURCHES' CENTRE

Every Friday during term time
9.00 - 11.30 am

THE PERFECT PLACE TO GO
AFTER THE SCHOOL RUN!

The dates of Edward Bear and Oasis Cafe are on our website www.hobnob.org.uk, on the 'What's on' page

Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus in the Church and community



HORNDON-ON-THE-HILL METHODIST CHURCH

4, High Road. Horndon-on-the-Hill

Minister: Reverend Fiona Smith

Senior Steward: Mr Graham Hodgson

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

All are welcome to our services and other activities.

Services September 2024

Sunday 10:30am Worship unless stated otherwise

7 th September	Revd Fiona Smith	Holy Communion
14 th September	Mrs Maureen McPherson	
21 st September	Mrs Anna Williams	Harvest Festival
28 th September	Mr Benjamin Harry	

VJ 80 Commemoration and Celebration

On 14th August to complement the VE80 event held in May, we held a special Community Cuppa and Chat morning in which we remembered. The many who suffered in and through the Far East campaign.

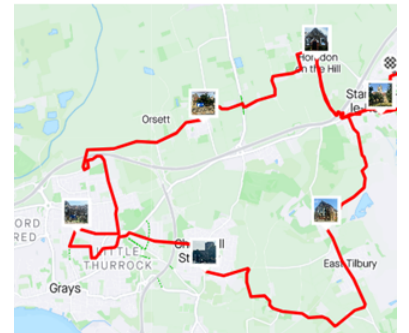
Harvest Festival

We offer a special welcome to our traditional Harvest Festival service on **21st September**. The chapel will be decorated with produce and seasonal displays of flowers.

Cycle of Faith

Last year members of the Horndon on the Hill Methodist Church completed a cycling circuit around the Methodist Churches in Thurrock. We will be riding the same circuit on **27th September** which also encompasses Horndon and Orsett parish churches. It would be good to share this ride through our locality with others from the Parish and the wider area.

The leisurely ride is led by a qualified British Cycling ride leader and first aider and takes around three hours with a number of brief stops. Under 18's are welcome but must be accompanied by parent/guardian or responsible adult. If you are interested please contact Jeff Bell at jeff3bell@gmail.com for further details.



Coffee mornings and lunch

All are welcome to our weekly Community Cuppa and Chat in the Methodist Church Hall. We meet on Thursdays between 10:00 – 12:00 noon for the coffee morning with drinks, savouries and biscuits and a soup and a roll between 12:00 noon - 13:00.

Bible Month

In recognition of the Bible Month we are providing materials for a daily study on the Gospel of John. There will be a Bible meeting on a Monday afternoon (location to be advised) and a weekly email group. Anyone is welcome to join in the study. Contact Maureen McPherson at (mail@south-fields.com)

Monthly Email Reflections

You can receive a Monthly Bible Reflection written by Maureen McPherson just by sending her your email (mail@south-fields.com) Hard copies can be handed out if you don't have email but would be interested in receiving the monthly reflection.

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Romford, Collier Row, Harold Hill and other areas in Essex.

Min Daily Order £8.95 for Thurrock and £11.00 for Havering (to cover our travel
fuel cost)

Feel free to book just 1 day, 2 days or any amount of days between 1-7 as we
are flexible

Invoices issued Thursdays for payment Friday either on-line by Direct Debit,
Bank Transfer, Card Payment or Cash

Visit our website above for further information and call or text to arrange a
meeting to onboard your loved one with us ASAP



Bulphan Community Café and Post Office



**A warm welcome to all.
Comprehensive Post Office services;
hot and cold drinks;
licensed bar;
cakes(including gluten free),
crisps and biscuits
free Wi-Fi**

Thursdays & Fridays from 1.30 - 4.30pm
Local councillors Barry and Dave visit
regularly. A social worker visits on the
2nd & 4th Friday of the month from 2-4pm
for adult care and support drop-in sessions.
Regular visits from the Community Police.



**'Forget-Me-Not'
Coffee morning**
In Horndon Woolmarket
from 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

*We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for anyone
who would like a cuppa and a chat. Everyone is welcomed!*

Bring & Buy and Raffle

*All proceeds go to the Havens Hospices in Essex.
Havens Hospices provide specialist care and support for people of
all ages, and their families, who are living with incurable conditions*

**For further details contact
Beverley on 01375 671 474**



The Games Café

at

**Horndon on the Hill Village Hall
EVERY FRIDAY EVENING
7.30pm to 9.30pm**

We have 2 **Short Mat Bowls** carpets
so up to 12 people in teams of
2 or 3 can play together.

No previous experience
needed.



We are all **'have a go'** amateurs
who **welcome** and **encourage** all **new-comers**.

£5 per week. **Just drop-in.**
No need to book.

**Come alone or
with friend or partner.**



We **play cards** and **board games**:
SkyJo, Sequence, Dobble, Trominoes,
Bananagrams and many others.
Guest games always welcome!

Please text or call Allison for more information 07773539345

Please note: There is a £10 joining fee payable on your third visit, to cover set up costs,
replacement games and low attendance weeks. Thank you.

The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

**WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE MORNING**

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

is being held at the Oasis Cafe, in the Orsett Churches Centre,
on Friday 26th September 9am to 12 noon.

There will be a cake stall, tombola and raffle.

Please come along
and support this wonderful charity.

Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus in the Church and community



**Zion Hall Mission, Bulphan
Interdenominational
Church Road, Bulphan**

<https://zhm100.wixsite.com/zionhallmission>



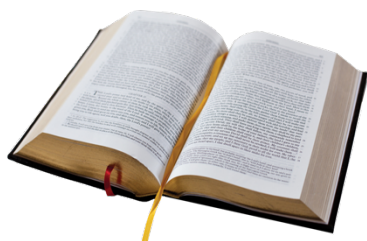
We enjoy meeting every Sunday evening and extend a warm welcome to all to our services. Please feel free to drop in and join us for worship and fellowship.

The services for September are as follows:

7 th September	6:30 pm	David Raj
14 th September	6:30 pm	Rev Max Blake
21 st September	6:30 pm	Revd Pholani Ncube
28 th September	6:30 pm	Lee Woodward

As an advance notice we will be holding our traditional Harvest Service at 6:30pm on Sunday 5th October. The Harvest Service has proved to be popular over the years and we extend a particular invitation to all to come to share in our time of thanksgiving and celebration.

If you live locally and would like to come along to a service but need transport, or for any other information on our Church or our services please contact the Secretary: Ian Blackburn on 01375 891522, 07880 235140 or at zionhallmission@outlook.com



PRAYER DIARY

Some thoughts to include in your daily prayers

September 1st	For those living on Oxford Road, Horndon
September 2nd	For those starting at new schools
September 3rd	For those living on Brentwood Road, Bulphan
September 4th	For those living on Fen Lane, Orsett
September 5th	For our Clergy and Churchwardens
September 6th	For those living on Pump Street, Horndon
September 7th	For those living on Welling Road, Orsett
September 8th	For those living on Medbree Court, Orsett
September 9th	For the Deanery of Thurrock
September 10th	For the Church of England schools in our villages
September 11th	For those living on Hillcrest Road, Horndon
September 12th	For those living on Lower Dunton Road
September 13th	For those living on Parkers Farm Road, Orsett
September 14th	For those living on Heath Road, Orsett Heath
September 15th	For the lonely
September 16th	For those living on Conway Road, Orsett
September 17th	For those living on Fen Lane, Bulphan
September 18th	For those living on Bonham Drive, Orsett
September 19th	For those in hospital
September 20th	For those living on Wingfield Drive, Orsett
September 21st	For our own prayer lives
September 22d	For members of our congregations who live outside the Parish
September 23d	For those living on Rowley Road, Orsett
September 24th	For all those dealing with major transitions in their lives
September 25th	For those living on The Parkway, Orsett
September 26th	For those who mourn
September 27th	For those living on Fordham's Row, Orsett
September 28th	For our Methodist and Congregational brothers & sisters
September 29th	For those living on Herga Hyll, Orsett
September 30th	For our Rural Dean, David Rollins

Alone with none but thee, my God,
I journey on my way.
What need I fear, when thou art near
O king of night and day?

More safe am I within thy hand
Than if a host did round me stand.

St Columba

‘THE ELUSIVE PUZZLE PIECE’

As a 44 year old woman, I would say I was fairly happy with my life, a moderately successful career woman, caring husband, two well-adjusted children on the cusp of adulthood, a Labrador and beautiful cat. All was well in my life but why did I feel I was missing something?

One evening whilst watching the evening news with my then 19 year old son, he turned to me after a rather harrowing piece on warring factions and asked, ‘What religion would you say we are?’ Without missing a beat, I responded ‘Well we are Christian of course!’ ‘OK,’ he responded, ‘then why don’t we go to church?..’

I sat and digested this comment as I really had no response. I had never been inside a Church outside casual tourism and sightseeing, let alone attended a service!... ‘Well?’ he persisted ‘why don’t we?’ ‘I really don’t have an answer for that,’ I replied. ‘But you’re right’. With that he toddled off upstairs with a shrug and left me contemplating his words.

How do I go to Church was a question rolling round in my head. With that I picked up my phone and googled Bulphan church and from there I was directed to the HOBNOB Parish page; I had a little read and decided to email that very question to Reverend Sue, ‘Can I come to Church when I have never been? Is it open to everyone? Will I be welcome? Do I need an invite? These questions seem bizarre to me now, but at the time it was the unknown and I needed guidance and was unsure of how it all worked. And this was the Christian religion of which I counted myself a follower!!

Within a day I received an email back from Reverend Sue. ‘Of course you are welcome, all are welcome please come along to a service and see for yourself.’ So, the following Sunday morning reassured by Sue’s words I tentatively took myself off (dragging my husband along for moral support) to my first ever service at St Mary the Virgin Church in Bulphan Village. At first, I was unsure of what was expected. Was I standing at the right times? Was I singing too loud? Was I doing the correct things? Were people looking at me? All the concerns I had soon disappeared as towards the end of the service everything fell into place. This is what I had been missing, this was the little piece of the puzzle that had been eluding me, I had found my faith! Or my faith had found me is how I now like to see it. From that first service I have never looked back. Learning the teachings of Christianity and meeting new people who have guided me on my journey to faith is one of the best decisions I have ever made.

18 months on after that innocent question posed from my son, I can now count myself as a Christian going on a journey of discovery involving many people that have helped me to learn and grow. I have completed the Alpha course decided to get both baptised and confirmed on the same day. My journey is ever evolving and one that I would never have taken the first step on if it hadn’t been for that profound question asked of me. I am far from the only person who needs to hear those words and question myself. My advice is if you read these words and ask yourself the same question, come along to try a service see if it is also your elusive puzzle piece. I am so glad I did and trust me as someone who has taken that first step into my journey recently, all are welcome, and I look forward to meeting you at Church.

Sam Pankhurst

FAMOUS PERSON IN SEPTEMBER

Peter Markham Scott.

September 1909 - 29th August 1989

Peter Markham Scott was born on the 14th September 1909 in London, England and was the only son of the famous Antarctic explorer Captain Scott and sculptor Kathleen Bruce.

Peter was only two when his father died during the ill-fated exploration to the South Pole. In a letter to his wife, Captain Scott expressed his wish for his son to become interested in natural history, which she duly encouraged.

His middle name was Markham and was taken from the mentor of Scott's polar expeditions Sir Clements Markham.

Peter was educated at Oundle School and went on to Trinity College, Cambridge where he read Natural History before going on to graduate in the History of Art in 1931.

Peter Scott had an artistic talent and went on to exhibit his work in London in 1933. Due to his financial security, he was able to follow his Art and Wildlife interests together with various sporting activities such as sailing where he represented Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games winning a Bronze medal.

During the Second World War, Peter Scott served in the Royal Navy as a Sub-Lieutenant where he served in Destroyers in the North Atlantic and later commanded a Squadron of steam Gun Boats in the English Channel and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) for bravery.

In 1946, Peter Scott founded the Severn Wildfowl Trust, now the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire. Over the years Peter led worldwide ornithological expeditions becoming a television personality and with his BBC natural history series 'Look', which ran from 1955 to 1981. In 1956, Peter Scott appeared in This Is Your Life, hosted by Eamonn Andrews in the Kings theatre, Hammersmith, London.

He also took up gliding and by 1963 he had become British Champion. He was the chairman of the British Gliding Association (BGA) in 1968 and 1969 and was responsible for involving Prince Phillip in Gliding.

Peter Scott wrote and illustrated several books including his autobiography The Eye of the Wind which was published in 1961.

Bizarrely, Peter Scott was responsible for giving the Loch Ness Monster its scientific name of Nessiteras rhombopteryx based upon a blurred underwater photograph so that it could be registered as an endangered species. In 1962, he and David James MP, co-founded the Loch Ness Phenomena Investigation Bureau. David James was the Polar adviser on the movie 'Scott of the Antarctic'.

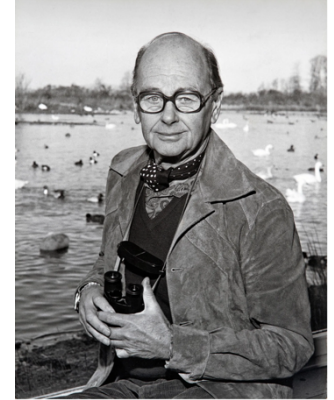
Peter Scott was Knighted in 1973 for his contribution to the conservation of wild animals.

Peter Scott was Chancellor of the University of Birmingham from 1973 to 1983 and was awarded an Honorary Degree from University of Bath in 1992.

On the 29th August 1989, Peter died from a Heart Attack. He was the founder president of the 'Society of Wildlife Artists' and President of the 'Nature in Art' trust, a role in which his wife Philippa succeeded him.

Honours and Decorations

- 1941 - Mentioned in Despatches
- 1942 - Mentioned in Despatches
- 1942 - Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)
- 1943 - Awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)
- 1953 - Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE)
- 1973 - He was Knighted.
- 1987 - Appointed Order of the Companions of Honour (CH)





COMMUNITY INFORMATION FOR HORNDON - ORSETT - BULPHAN

POLICE at Grays

Community Officer: PC Javier Rodriguez-Perez
email: thurrockcommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk 101 or 999

DOCTORS

Horndon-on-the-Hill
Orsett & Bulphan
Bulphan

(Orsett Surgery)
(Ockendon Surgery)
(West Horndon Surgery):

01375 642 362
01375 892 082
01708 852 318
01277 811 770

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Mr Barry Johnson

07831 609714

Mr David Day

07355 924 361

LOCAL MP

James McMurdock

Email: james.mcmurdock.mp@parliament.uk
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

SCHOOLS

Horndon C of E Primary
Orsett C of E Primary
Bulphan C of E Academy

Headteacher: Mrs. D. Bradley.
Head-of-school: Mr Dickson
Head-of-school: Mr Dickson

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01375 891 383
01375 891 220



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each month except in December.

New members welcome
Enquiries to the Secretary
Sec.hothrbl@hotmail.com



You may have visited the sunflower field in Stanford le Hope from where I recently picked blooms. There is no charge for picking the sunflowers but donations are requested for St Luke's Hospice. The field was planted by a local farming family inspired by the memory of their daughter's husband, who lost the battle with cancer and planted as a way to love, support and pray for all those battling illness. They have raised thousands for St Luke's over the past few years and I'm sure they will continue to do so.

While searching online for appropriate prayers, I found this – The Sunflower Prayer. I thought it encompassed all we need to think about.

Felicity Tarbard

THE SUNFLOWER PRAYER

**Plant me like a sunflower, Lord, deep in the fold of your will.
Forge my faith in soil's darkness, sprout hope up as I wait still.**

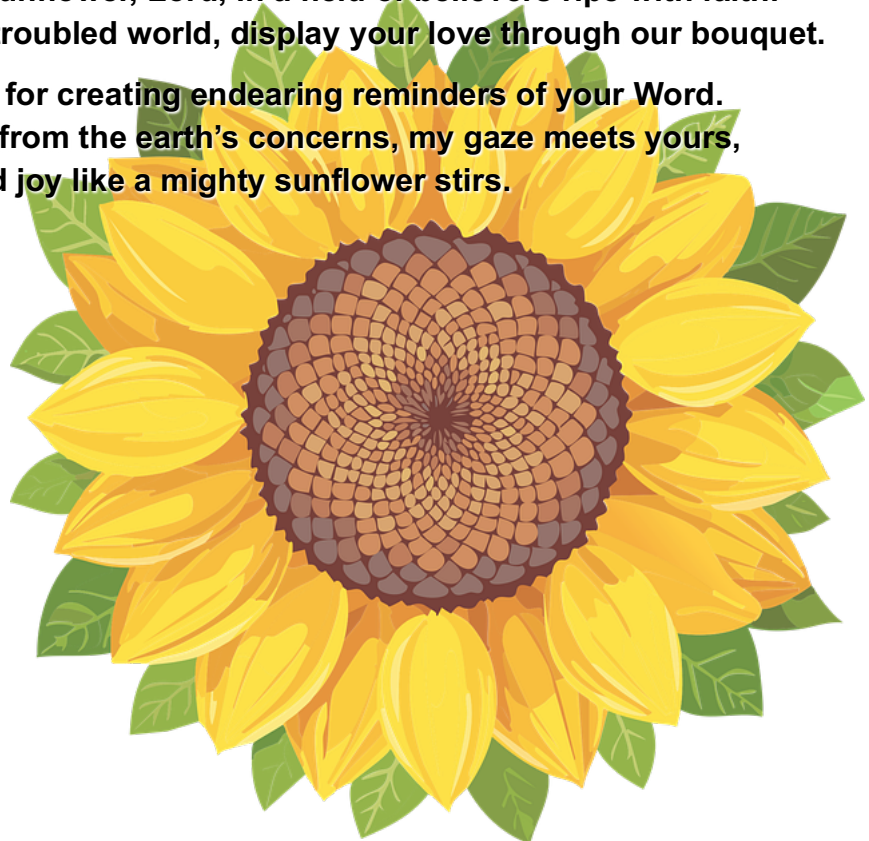
**Grow me like a sunflower, Lord, leaning close towards your light.
Extend bright rays of direction, keep me warm in your sight.**

**Adorn me like a sunflower. Lord, humbly wearing a righteous crown.
Stack petals of mercy and grace, golden forgiveness in Christ I've found.**

**Use me like a sunflower, Lord, to offer nourishment and cheer.
Harvest the Spirit's fruit within me, encourage others you are drawing near.**

**Surround me like a sunflower, Lord, in a field of believers ripe with faith.
Bring us together for a troubled world, display your love through our bouquet.**

**Thank you, Lord, for creating endearing reminders of your Word.
Looking up, away from the earth's concerns, my gaze meets yours,
and joy like a mighty sunflower stirs.**





Mothers' UNION

Chelmsford Diocese Mothers' Union (CDMU):

Last month we celebrated Mary Sumner Day on Saturday 9 August at Waltham Abbey. It was lovely to worship together. During the service we remembered Jesus is the light of the world and lit our own candles to light the way for future generations of Mothers' Union.

We also celebrated that Waltham Abbey MU branch was presented with their Silver MU RISE UP award. Earlier in the month, Moulsham St Luke's Church in Chelmsford (where Lucy is Churchwarden) were presented with their award. The MU RISE UP campaign is about raising awareness about domestic abuse – find about more about it on the MU website: <https://www.mothersunion.org/riseup>

Don't forget that you can join Midday Prayers on the MU Facebook page every day. Lucy will be leading on Monday 22 September.



Update from Myanmar

It is wonderful to hear news from Mothers' Union members in Myanmar following the devastating earthquake in March 2025. Myanmar was already suffering from one of the world's longest-running civil wars when a 7.9 earthquake struck, with the epicentre close to Mandalay, the country's second-largest city. It was the most powerful earthquake to strike the country since 1912, with over 5,000 people dying as a result. In the Mandalay diocese, 30 MU member houses and 6 churches were damaged, while in the Toungoo diocese, 270 houses and 46 churches were affected, with some roofs and walls destroyed. Whilst there were no fatalities in Toungoo, the earthquake affected Mandalay more severely, resulting in multiple deaths. Members have been helping to support those affected. Items such as essential clothing, pure water, medicine, and food have been distributed. Tents have also been provided to people without shelter, with church members staying in church compounds. Trauma healing workshops are also being run to support survivors and families further. To read more, go to the Mothers' Union website: <https://www.mothersunion.org/news/update-on-myanmar-post-earthquake>



Prayer Diary 2025: September

The theme for September in our 2025 Prayer Diary is 'The Power of Reconciliation': Sometimes it seems that our troubled world is immersed in the pain and suffering of conflict and broken relationships. Yet Jesus reminds us that even though we are all less than perfect, every one of us is worthy of being redeemed, loved and forgiven. As members of Mothers' Union, we are building a future of reconciliation, justice and peace in partnership with The Community of the Cross of Nails. Use the QR code to read more about The Community of the Cross of Nails.



Monthly Prayer: *Jesus told his followers: 'If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.'* Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)

Father, as we seek to follow your son, help us to be always aware of how our actions and words affect others and the world around us. Give us grace to be peacemakers among people, and good stewards of your creation. Amen.

Creative Prayer: A handmade gift can be a demonstration of God's love and reconciling power. As you knit, sew, crochet or use other craft skills, spend some time thinking about and praying for the person or charity who will receive your gift. Every stitch will hold your love and prayers, and although you and the person receiving the item may never meet, they will be emboldened through the power and love of your prayers.

Lucy Bubb, Mothers' Union contact.



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A TALE FROM THE TOWER

Residents of Orsett will have heard the church's bells ringing for longer than usual on Saturday 17th May 2025. Six of us were privileged to ring a peal on the bells, only the seventh ever at Orsett; the previous peals were in 1913, 1959, 1960, 1975, 1979 and 2016. In change-ringing parlance, a "peal" is a continuous piece of ringing by a single group of ringers, consisting of 5,000 or more permutations of the bells. Our peal at Orsett took us two hours and 41 minutes to complete.

Although I now live in North Yorkshire, the church and tower at Orsett hold special significance for me and my family. My mother, Elizabeth Hull (née Mason) learnt to ring bells at Orsett as a teenager in the late 1950s, taught by Fred Blatch who was tower captain at the time. She rang her first peal at Orsett on Boxing Day 1959 when she was 15 years old. My father, George, moved to Grays with his job in 1962 and, already a bellringer, he sought out a local tower where he could join the band. This led him to Orsett, where he met my Mum. They were married at St Giles and All Saints in 1968 and, when I arrived in 1969, I was baptised there too. In 1975, my Dad rang his first peal, also at Orsett.

I was born in Orsett Hospital, and we lived in Long Lane in Grays. I used to attend the church with my Granny, Dorothy Mason, and became a member of the choir for a time. I was also taught to ring the bells by my Dad, starting at the tender age of six, in 1975. 2025 therefore marks my 50 years of ringing, and I was delighted when I heard that the Rector, Churchwardens and Tower Captain had agreed to a peal attempt. I was able to invite friends from Essex and elsewhere in the country to join me, as well as my son Ewan who is now also a keen third-generation bellringer.

I am grateful to the church authorities for allowing us to ring, and enabling me to achieve a long-held ambition, surrounded by friends and family. We hope that the residents of Orsett enjoyed hearing the bells and, if not, that we weren't too much of a noise nuisance. And also to The Foxhound for providing us with some much-needed refreshment after the peal - bellringing is thirsty work!



David Hull
about 8 years old ringing at Orsett

DAVID HULL



The band who rang on the 17th May

ESSEX ASSN

ORSETT, Essex,
St Giles & All Saints
Sat 17 May 2025 2h41
(10)

**5040 Cambridge S
Minor**

(1 x 2160, 4 x 720)

- 1 Robin O Hall
- 2 David G Hull (C)
- 3 Trevor E Church
- 4 Clive J Stephenson
- 5 Julia R Cater
- 6 Ewan G A Hull

Marking David's 50 years of ringing. He first learnt to ring on the bell he rang in the peal.

FOREST CHURCH

Whatever the weather, the first Saturday of the month at 4pm in the grounds of one of our churches and it's Forest Church, with the obligatory fire pit and refreshments.

Each Forest Church has a theme. In August this was Lefthandedness as August 13th is Left Handers Day.



We learned that the Bible mentions lefthanded warriors who were all Benjamites. It appears the other tribes were righthanded so hiring the lefthanded Benjamites gave them something of an advantage in their battles. You see this in many games and sports where the lefthander can have an advantage when facing a righthander.

We then discussed what makes or can make people feel different to others and how people may react to them. In this we looked at how being lefthanded may affect people day to day, as many things are not designed with lefthanded people in mind. However it wasn't all bad, as sometimes being lefthanded can be a definite advantage.

We had two activities; one where we had to try and do something with our non dominant hand. Many of us managed to write our names with the non dominant hand, some as good if not better than with their dominant hand. After this we answered questions to see how lefthanded we may be or even ambidextrous. Many seemed to be naturally lefthanded for some things, while being righthanded and vice versa.



The second activity was scouring the churchyard to make a collage of things we could find, with the criteria we had to find 6 things that were the same and one that was different. The collages were predominately of leaves and or flowers, as these were in abundance.



The next Forest Church will be in October on Saturday 4th at Orsett at 4pm and is a Pet Service, with a blessing for pets. Remember dress warmly and or bring a coat.

There is no Forest Church in September as it is the Orsett Show.

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Victory over Japan 80 in Orsett

As mentioned in the Churchwarden's report, we had a buffet lunch in Orsett church to mark VJ 80, the 80th Anniversary of WW2 ending, on Friday 15th August. Before we ate we held an Act of Remembrance, observing the National two minute silence at midday, with Revd Sue conducting a short service.

The following day, Saturday 16th, was the annual VJ Day Parade at the Burma Star Rose Garden in Hew Watt Close.

This has been held since 1983 when the Rose Garden was dedicated. Originally the garden was in front of the old Orsett hospital in the grounds along School Lane and was reinstated in its current position in Hew Watt Close as part of the new build agreement.

The parade was attended by Professor Michael Almond, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Cllr Sue Shinnick, Mayor of Thurrock, Orsett Ward councillor, David Day, along with members of the Royal British Legion, Far East Veterans, Royal Air Forces Association, many ex-servicemen and servicewomen, along with members of the public and cadet forces, to remember those who served, some making the ultimate sacrifice. The service was conducted by Reverend Sue Mann for the last time before she moves to her new parish in Norfolk, and the music was provided by members of Grays Town Band.



After the parade, attendees were hosted by the local Masons with refreshments at the Masonic Hall in Rectory Road.

Next year the parade will be held on Saturday 15th August 2026.



When you go home, tell them of us, and say:
For your tomorrow, we gave our today
Kohima Epitaph

Ecology & Social Justice Action Group

Farewell

This is my final article on behalf of the Ecology & Social Justice Action Group, as Sue and I move to pastures new.

I hope that readers have found my articles interesting and perhaps challenging, many of which have been based on topics discussed at Action Group meetings. Some of the subjects that have featured in articles since July 2023 are:



Speaking out for the environment and for social justice is sometimes difficult and, inevitably, verges on the political. But I have always tried to ensure my views shared here are based on verifiable facts and are rooted in what our Christian faith teaches us. As Proverbs 31:8-9, tells us:

**⁸ Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.**

**⁹ Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy.**

My fellow enthusiasts in the Action Group will continue to write the monthly Hobnob articles, on a rota basis, sharing views and ideas on matters which we feel are important to all of us as Christians.

It has been good to share fellowship and action with like-minded people in the Action Group. If this is your passion too and you would like to be part of the Group, do make contact with Bev or Alastair or Janet or Edward or Lynda through the Church.

Putting words into action is challenging and is often a balancing act between what is practical or affordable. But we should all be encouraged that if we **all** do just a small act, **big change** can happen.

Philip Mann

Ecology & Social Justice Action Group

Woolmarket Ladies

After a long hot Summer, we look forward to welcoming our members back to our club on Tuesday 2nd September at 8.00 pm in the Woolmarket. At our meeting we will be having a games night. Ladies, we always welcome new members and visitors.

On Saturday 27th September we are holding a MacMillan coffee morning from 9.30 -12.30 in the Woolmarket. Please join us to raise money for this worthwhile cause.

Gill

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Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus in the Church and community

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The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan



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*Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus in the Church and community
Registered charity number: 1199779*

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- Give monthly, quarterly or annually by Direct Debit
- Give One-Off amounts by Credit/Debit cards and Apple/Google pay wallets
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You will need the following information to hand:

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0775 283 6902

or
janetmcc101@gmail.com

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on:
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or
safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org

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