



# HOBNOB

*Online*



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

# **December 2025**

# SERVICES – December 2025

	HORNDON	ORSETT	BULPHAN
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>		9-11.30am Oasis Café 9.30-11am Edward Bear Toddler Group At Orsett Churches Centre	
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
	4pm Forest Church		
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	10am All Together Holy Communion Service		
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>		9-11.30am Oasis Café 9.30-11am Edward Bear Toddler Group At Orsett Churches Centre	9.30am Bulphan School Christmas Service
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>		8.45am CW Holy Communion Service 10am Family Service	
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm Horndon School Christmas Service		Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		5pm Christingle Service
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>		9-11.30am Oasis Café 9.30-11am Edward Bear Toddler Group At Orsett Churches Centre	
		9.30am Orsett School Christmas Service	
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	4pm Carols by Candlelight		8.45am CW Holy Communion Service 10am Holy Communion Service
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	8.30pm Holy Communion Service	4pm Family Carol Service	10pm Holy Communion Service
 Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>			10am Holy Communion Service
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>		No Oasis Café or Edward Bear	
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas</i>	8.45am BCP Holy Communion Service 10am Family Service		
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>			Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> January			Open Church 10am-noon
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>		No Oasis Café or Edward Bear	
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Open Church 10am-noon with refreshments		
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas</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.



# THE PARISH OF HORNDON, ORSETT AND BULPHAN

Website: [www.hobnob.org.uk](http://www.hobnob.org.uk)

Facebook: @HOBNOBchurches

## RECTOR

## VACANCY

## PTO\*

Rev Max Blake

[max@hobnob.org.uk](mailto:max@hobnob.org.uk)

07716 969772

\*(permission to officiate)

## PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Churchwardens	Alastair Macrae	Beverley Macrae	Christine Mortimer
	David Mortimer	Sonia Ward	Frank Woollard
Treasurer	Lynn Bennett		
Secretary	Lynda Robertson		
Parish Administrator	Lynda Robertson		
Deanery Synod Reps	Karen Collier	Alastair Macrae	Janet Wilkins
	Frank Woollard		
Lay Representatives	Jane Barry	Sandra Billinger	Samantha Pankhurst

## CHURCH OFFICERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

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

Churchwardens	Beverley Macrae	<a href="mailto:b.macrae@hobnob.org.uk">b.macrae@hobnob.org.uk</a>	01375 673327
	Sonia Ward	<a href="mailto:sonia51anne@yahoo.co.uk">sonia51anne@yahoo.co.uk</a>	01375 674212
Sacristans	Jane Barry	Beverley Macrae	Judy Rood
Vergers	Robin Clark	Felicity Tarbard	Sonia Ward

### St Giles & All Saints Orsett

Churchwardens	Christine Mortimer	<a href="mailto:c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk">c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk</a>	01375 641485
	David Mortimer	<a href="mailto:d.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk">d.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk</a>	01375 641485
Sacristan	Janet Wilkins		
Vergers	Jo Metcalf	Christine Mortimer	Libby Seggons
Tower Captain	Judith Church		01375 891556
Mothers' Union contact	Lucy Bubb		07970 728673
Edward Bear Toddler Group	Karen Collier		01375 370441
Oasis Café	Sandra Billinger		01375 891040
Churches Centre Bookings	Gary Jones	<a href="mailto:bookings@orsettchurches.co.uk">bookings@orsettchurches.co.uk</a>	

### St Mary-the-Virgin Bulphan

Churchwardens	Alastair Macrae	<a href="mailto:Alastairmacrae51@gmail.com">Alastairmacrae51@gmail.com</a>	01375 673327
	Frank Woollard	<a href="mailto:f.woollard@hobnob.org.uk">f.woollard@hobnob.org.uk</a>	01375 891034
Vergers	Frank Woollard		
Parish Room Bookings	Lynda Robertson		07974 803471

### Parish Administrator

Lynda Robertson [l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk](mailto:l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk) 07974 803471

### Parish Baptism Co-Ordinator

Christine Mortimer [c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk](mailto:c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk) 01375 641485

### Musicians

Jane Barry 07552 199697  
Janet McCheyne 07752 836902

### Parish Magazine (HOBNOB)

Submit articles to [magazine@hobnob.org.uk](mailto:magazine@hobnob.org.uk)

Please note to guarantee inclusion in the current month, articles must be submitted by the 21<sup>st</sup> of the preceding month.

## WEDDINGS

To arrange Weddings, please contact Lynda Robertson:  
[l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk](mailto:l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk) 07974 803471



# THE PARISH REGISTERS

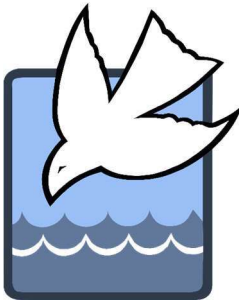
## INTERMENT OF ASHES

27 Oct	Anne Rhoda Heapy	(0)
21 Nov	John Barry McCartney	(0)



## Wedding Enquiries

If you would like to enquire about booking a wedding at:  
Horndon, Orsett or Bulphan churches,  
please contact: Lynda Robertson: 07974 803471  
l.robertson@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:**

<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	7.30pm at	Orsett Church
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January</b>	12 noon at	Horndon Church
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	7.30pm at	Orsett Church
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	12 noon at	Horndon Church
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	7.30pm at	Orsett Church

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



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## Bulphan Churchwarden's Report

As you may be aware some problems have been discovered with some of the joists supporting the Church floor. Colin and Kevin carefully removed sections of the floor to enable our quinquennial architect to inspect the flooring and check for any other issues. The inspection was carried out on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November and the flooring has now been re-laid. We are waiting for a detailed report advising us of the necessary work that needs to be carried out. This will need agreement from the diocese in the form of a faculty and may require us to fundraise depending on the costs involved. We will keep everybody updated in the next issue of Hobnob.

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November Frank together with several other parishioners helped to pack Christmas parcels for Queen Victoria's Seafarers retreat at the Port of Tilbury. They helped to pack 300 parcels for seafarers.

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00 P.M. our remembrance service was held at the war memorial in the Church yard. As with previous years the service, led this year by Frank Woollard was very well supported. Thanks to the WI and others who prepared the memorial and Church grounds. The service was recorded by Neil Speight for Thurrock Nub News website and may still be available online.

Dates for Christmas services in the parish are listed elsewhere in this edition of Hobnob.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Frank and myself to wish everybody a happy, peaceful and joyful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you at one, or more, of our services.

God Bless

Alastair

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## Bulphan

## Community

## Café and Post Office



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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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 am – 12 pm**

*We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 671474**

## 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 can  
play in teams of 2 or 3  
No previous experience needed



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

**£5 per week**  
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No need to book



Come alone,  
or with  
friend/partner

Please text or call Allison for more information  
07773 539345



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

**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.

# ORSETT CHURCHWARDENS REPORT



Together with towns and villages all across the country, Orsett was united to commemorate Remembrance Sunday on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

St Giles & All Saints was packed with varied uniform sections of the Scouting movement (Squirrels, Beavers and Scouts) who, with their families, joined in with our Family Service before moving across to the war memorial for the act of remembrance.

We were again joined by members of the Harley Owners Group, Lakeside Chapter who read some thought provoking poems including *The Bayonet in the Shed* by *Ian Whiteley*. If you haven't heard it, it is worth a read and can be found on-line.

It was fitting that the wreath from the church was laid by our oldest member, Edna Fox (who for many years fronted the beaver group) and one of our youngest, Ava Watts.

Our Christmas celebrations begin on 29<sup>th</sup> November with a bazaar being held in the Methodist Hall in Horndon from 12 noon until 3pm. This is our first joint venture with the Methodist Church and we would love to see as many of you that are able to come.

Advent starts the following day, with many and varied services in the lead up to Christmas Day itself. We hope to see you all over this Christmas period and don't forget to come early for our Carol Service, 4pm Christmas Eve, if you want to be sure of a seat!

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
Christine and David Mortimer



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

Hello All

Well, I can't believe it but here we are at the start of Advent again. A New Year for the Church when we look forward to the birth of our saviour.

I think this is the busiest time of the year for officers of the Church and especially as we have no permanent Rector at this present time. Although, we must say a big Thank you to Max for guiding us so well during this time of change.

You will find throughout this month's magazine all the events we will be holding during this festive season. Here are a few not to be missed:

### ***Christmas Bazaar***

In conjunction with the Methodist Church  
In the Methodist Hall, High Road, Horndon on the Hill  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 12 noon -3pm

### ***Horndon Open Church Christmas party***

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 10am – 12 noon  
Entertainment and Nibbles.

### ***Carols Lessons and Readings by Candlelight***

Horndon Church Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 4pm

### ***Christmas Eve Holy Communion – Horndon 8.30pm***

If you require a lift to any of the events please do not hesitate to phone me. Do not miss out on celebrating our Lord's birth.

On behalf of Beverley and myself may we wish you a Blessed Christmas and we hope to see you very soon.

God Bless  
Sonia Ward



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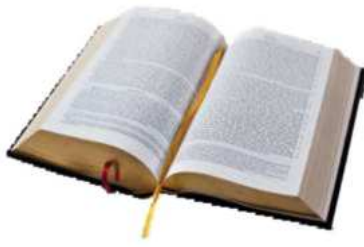
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# PRAYER DIARY

Some thoughts to include in your daily prayers

December 1 <sup>st</sup>	For this period of waiting & watching which we call Advent
December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	For the Friends of Orsett Church
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	For those who live on Stanley Road, Bulphan
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	For the work of the Diocesan staff
December 5 <sup>th</sup>	For those who live on Blackshots Lane
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Remembering St Nicholas on his feast day
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	For our Clergy as they prepare for Christmas
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	For the Orsett Fire Station and all firefighters
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	For those who live on Mill Lane, Orsett
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	For neighbours and friends who have moved away
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	For those who live on China Lane, Bulphan
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	For those who live on Stephens Crescent, Horndon
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	For those who live on Francis Close, Horndon
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	For those who live on High Road, Orsett
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	For those who live on Grosvenor Road, Orsett
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	For the work of Christian Aid
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	For those who live on Malting Lane, Orsett
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	For those who live on Holmes Close, Horndon
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	For those who live on Bristowe Drive, Orsett
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	For those who live on Hillcrest Close, Horndon
December 21 <sup>st</sup>	For those who live on Peartree Lane, Bulphan
December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	For the shops in Orsett and Horndon and Bulphan
December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	For those who live on Ellis Close, Orsett
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	For the people of Ukraine facing an uncertain and hostile Christmas
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	For Christians around the world as we celebrate the birth of Christ
December 26 <sup>th</sup>	For the work of the Thurrock Food Bank
December 27 <sup>th</sup>	For those who live on School Lane, Orsett
December 28 <sup>th</sup>	For all who work in Basildon Hospital
December 29 <sup>th</sup>	For those who live on Alderton Road, Orsett
December 30 <sup>th</sup>	For those who live on Paddock Close, Orsett
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	For those getting married in the coming year

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

*Bishop Phillips Brooks, [last verse of] "O Little Town of Bethlehem"*



# 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 December 2025

### Sunday 10:30am Worship in the Chapel unless stated otherwise

7 <sup>th</sup> December	Mrs Maureen McPherson	
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Ms Rachel Gallehawk	
21 <sup>st</sup> December	Revd Fiona Smith	Carol Service
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Revd Fiona Smith	Christmas Eve Service <b>11:20 pm</b> with Holy Communion
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Mrs Maureen McPherson	Christmas Day Service <b>10:00 am</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> December	Local Arrangement	

**Cycle of Faith** – For our October ride we started at Stanford le Hope covering a route through Orsett, Bulphan (calling in at Zion Hall) and across the Fen to the Thames Chase Forest Centre. It was a beautiful Autumnal day with clear views to the higher ground all around the Fenland. We will be having a break over Winter and will start again in Spring. It would be good to share our rides with others from the Parish and the wider area.



### Christmas Bazaar: Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 12:00 – 3:00pm, Methodist Hall

This is being held jointly between HOB Parish and the Methodist Church. Please come along for a chat, some fun and something to eat and drink. There will be stalls for books, jigsaws and cakes and preserves, Christmas games, a white elephant stall and lucky dip. Refreshments will include bacon rolls, sausage sandwiches. Teas and coffees.

**Advent Course** - Revd Fiona will be running an advent course on Monday morning at 10:30am at the Manse starting 1<sup>st</sup> December. Please contact Fiona if you need directions or further details. Come and join us as we explore some of the hidden gifts of the Christmas season.

**Items for Sale** - To improve the use of our space at the Hall we are planning on disposing of some longstanding items. We feel these are of some value and will consider reasonable offers. At present we have for sale:

- A 6'x 3' snooker / pool table solid slate bed with support frame. Cushion rubbers, baize and pockets need renewal.



- A 'G Plan' sideboard



For further information contact Graham Hodgson  
[graham.hodgson122@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.hodgson122@btinternet.com) or 07775 861322

**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 lunch of soup and a roll between 12:00 noon - 13:00.

## You can raise FREE donations for The Parish Of Horndon, Orsett And Bulphan EVERY time you shop online.

Just letting you know that The Parish Of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan are now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online.

Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

**Enter [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and then go to 'find a cause' and search for 'The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan'.**

How to sign up should be very straightforward.

Thank you so much! Your support would be much appreciated.

You can also get to our page by using this QR code



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## The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

### GIFT IN WILLS

In our Parish, we welcome all gifts in wills, however large or small and we promise to use your gift to make a difference to our Parish.

A charitable legacy is a gift of money and this type of giving is commonly referred to as gifts in wills. Gifts in wills can be left to The Parish or an individual church and are exempt from inheritance tax.

Since needs change over the years, we encourage you to leave a gift in your will for the general purposes of the parish rather than for a specific purpose.

You can be confident that your gift will be used to make a real difference to the work of the Church.

We acknowledge gifts in whatever way the donor and/or their executors feel most appropriate. Equally, we can make sure that gifts remain anonymous if the donor prefers.

Further guidance can be found on the Church of England's website  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/church-legacy>

If you wish to talk to someone in confidence about the sorts of purposes your gift might fund, and how/if you would like your gift to be acknowledged, please contact Revd Sue.

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



# Zion Hall Mission, Bulphan

Church Road, Bulphan

[www.zhm100.wix.com/zionhallmission](http://www.zhm100.wix.com/zionhallmission)



We enjoy meeting every Sunday evening for worship and are very pleased to see newcomers. We extend a warm welcome to all. The Sunday services for November are:

<b>7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Lee Woodward</b>	
<b>14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Andrew Dickinson</b>	
<b>21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Rev Pholani Ncube</b>	<b>Carols</b>
<b>28<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Peter Crosby</b>	

**7<sup>th</sup> December  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Please do come and join us on **7<sup>th</sup> December** to celebrate and give thanks for God's provision to us over these past 75 years. Also, on **21<sup>st</sup> December** as we draw near to Christmas our service will include a number of carols.

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 at the email above or on 01375 891522.

### ***Decline and Revival: A history Part 1 - 1938 to 1942***

Our chapel in Church Road (between Albert Road and Stanley Road) is often missed by passers-by as it lies well back from the road. It was founded in 1910, as says the plaque on the wall facing the road....so, you may well ask, why the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary? and why does it lie back from the road? This is the first of a short series of articles on the history of the Mission between 1938-51 explaining those questions.

<b>Zion Hall Mission</b>		
BULPHAN		
BUILT 1910	DESTROYED 1940	RE-BUILT 1950

**RE-OPENING SERVICES**  
SATURDAY :: DECEMBER 2nd, 1950

Coinciding with the start of the Second World War it appears that difficulties were arising with the running of the Mission. From 1938 income was reducing and late in 1939 there appears to have been a disagreement with two members resigning from the Committee. As the decade turned it appears that although Sunday services continued business meetings were not being held.

With the World War II bombing campaign well underway, on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1940 three bombs were dropped across Bulphan one landing in the undeveloped plot of ground next to the chapel. The blast so seriously damaged 'Colina', Zion Hall and 'Cosy', that all three had to be pulled down. Tragically that raid resulted in the death of Mr Gray, a worshipper and Steward at Zion Hall, and I believe the only civilian killed in the village from enemy action during the War.



*A small chapel was damaged during a raid on a village in south east England.*

The Sunday services and Sunday School continued having been transferred from the outset to the old Bulphan Village Hall together with seating and some other items from the chapel being stored there.

From the accounts it appears the Committee of the Parish Hall were remarkably helpful through the Mission's sojourn there as there is no record of any Hall hire fees being paid in these early years. Nevertheless, records indicate a reducing congregation and it appears the enthusiasm of and for the Mission had suffered.

It seems that this had been recognised by 1942 as help with erecting a new building had been sought from the Baptist Union and Essex Baptist Association although this had not proved to be possible. It was also mooted that perhaps the Mission should link with another larger church. As a further attempt to find a new way forward it appears that help was sought in the form of Mr Bernard Gurnett of Grays. Bernard had been a visiting preacher to the Mission from 1933 having started his ministry when only about 19 years old. His parents would occasionally come to the services too. Eventually in September 1942 a General Meeting was held to deal with the situation.

Bernard was elected to the Chair and it was with a sense of gravity, that the meeting opened with the words *'It is some time since we met for business ... we want to find out where we are and what each one of us is thinking, an understanding between ourselves as to who is responsible for the work of the Mission. Also, and especially those who will have to deal with problems, legal and otherwise, which we expect to come along sooner or later after the war'*

...to be continued

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## **WOOLMARKET LADIES NOVEMBER 2025**

Elaine welcomed members and guests to the meeting. There were 30 ladies present.

Our Speaker for the evening was Danielle Barnett who gave an interesting talk about Christmas traditions and events around the world. We learnt that Santa Claus comes in many guises, mainly in Europe and Scandinavia. Gnomes, witches and goblins are characters that appear in various countries in Eastern Europe, Greece and Scandinavia. The first Christmas tree is accredited to Riga in 1510. The Nativity scene seemingly originated

There will be no meeting in December as we will be holding our annual Christmas meal month Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Mini bus will be outside the Woolmarket at 6.30 pm. Meal will be at 7.00 pm



THE PARISH OF  
HORNDON, ORSETT AND BULPHAN

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025

### Tuesday 16th December

5pm Christingle Service, Bulphan Church

### Sunday 21st December

4pm Carols by Candlelight, Horndon Church

### Wednesday 24th December

4pm Family Carol Service

at Orsett Church

8.30pm Holy Communion Service

at Horndon Church

10pm Holy Communion Service

at Bulphan Church

### Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

10am Holy Communion Service

at Bulphan Church

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



# Father Christmas is coming!

Meet Father Christmas  
outside Bulphan Village Hall at approx 4pm

Follow Father Christmas as he tours the  
Village on his sleigh on Christmas Eve and  
come back to the hall for festive refreshments

**Mulled wine &  
mince pies at the  
Village Hall afterwards**

*Mardyke Valley Rotary Club will be collecting for charity*

[bulphaninfo@thurrockforums.org](mailto:bulphaninfo@thurrockforums.org) or 0775 283 6902

# ORSETT STORES

## YOUR LOCAL AND FRIENDLY VILLAGE STORE

41 High Road Orsett, Essex Telephone: 01375891242

Open from 6.30am until 9.30pm Monday-Saturday 7.00am until 9.30pm Sundays

Suppliers of Groceries, Fresh Bread, Milk, Fruit, Vegetables, Chilled and Frozen Foods, Fresh Meat, Off Licence, Tobacco, Cards and Stationery, Confectionery, Fresh Flowers and Plants, Daily Newspapers and magazines.



### Services:

Dry Cleaning, Photocopying,  
National Lottery Outlet,  
Newspaper delivery.

### Post Office Local In-Store

Open from 8.30am until 1.00pm  
Monday-Saturday

**Free local home delivery on  
Tuesdays & Fridays,  
please call to place your order.**



The churches in this Parish are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within the church community; especially children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Parish Safeguarding Representative is Janet McCheyne, who can be contacted on:  
0775 283 6902

or  
[janetmcc101@gmail.com](mailto:janetmcc101@gmail.com)

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on:  
01245 294 444

or  
[safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org)

## Smiths

### ORCHARD GARDEN CENTRE

TWO AND A HALF ACRES OF  
SHOW HOUSES AND DISPLAY AREAS



### ORCHARD COFFEE BAR

OPEN DAILY 10:30AM - 3:30PM  
SERVING HOT & COLD MEALS & SNACKS

CHADWELL ROAD, GRAYS.

01375 372195

[WWW.SMITHSORCHARDGARDENCENTRE.COM](http://WWW.SMITHSORCHARDGARDENCENTRE.COM)

# FOREST CHURCH

Our theme was apples and we explored Forbidden Fruit as the apple is widely regarded in Western Christianity as the fruit God said was the one thing Adam and Eve should not eat in the garden of Eden.

The apple became regarded as the forbidden fruit due to the people who translated The Bible from one language to another. Two unrelated Latin words *mālum*, which means 'evil' and *mālum*, another Latin noun, borrowed from a Greek word for 'apple'.

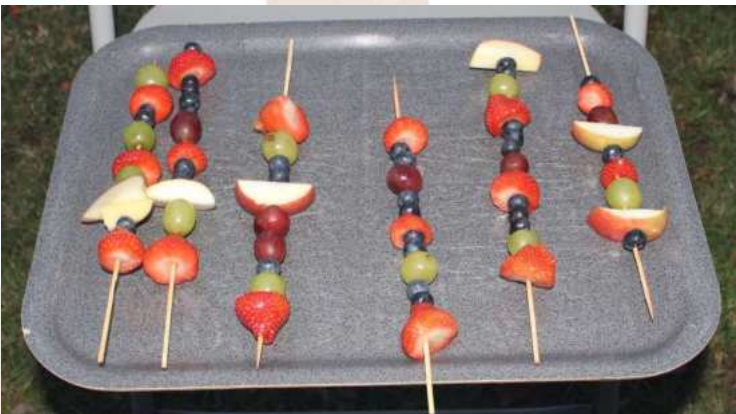
However there more potential 'forbidden fruit';

FIG : This is one fruit that could fit the purpose as in the Bible it says that when Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they realised they were naked and made coverings from fig leaves. So if the forbidden fruit was a fig, they would have had fig leaves to hand.

POMEGRANATE : If as many think the Garden of Eden was in what we know as the Middle East, the pomegranate could fit as the "forbidden fruit". It grows wild and has been cultivated as a food crop in the area for thousands of years.

GRAPES: This idea comes from Noah looking to use grape juice for Holy purposes to make up for Adam's sin.

As part of our activities we tried some of the different options for the fruit and some were definitely in the 'forbidden' category as they were disliked. We also made fruit skewers with things people liked. The other activity was making garlands and hangers from dried fruit, cones and leaves.



**The next Forest Church at 4pm on December 7<sup>th</sup> at St Peter & St Pauls, Horndon on the Hill**

The 2026 Forest Church calendar is in this issue of The HOBNOB  
We hope to see you.

# A MEDIEVAL CHRISTMAS

"Christmas" first appeared in the English language in the 11<sup>th</sup> century as an amalgamation of the Old English "Christes Maesse", meaning "Festival of Christ", the influences for this winter celebration pre-date this time significantly.

Winter festivals have been a popular in many cultures for centuries. An expectation of better weather and longer days, also there was more time to celebrate because there was less agricultural work to do in the winter months.

In the Early Middle Ages, Christmas was not as popular as Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>, the celebration of the visit from the Magi, three kings or wise men, to the baby Jesus bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Christmas was not originally seen as a time for fun and frolics but an opportunity for quiet prayer and reflection during a special mass. But between 1000 and 1300, Christmas became the most prominent religious celebration in Europe, signalling the beginning of Christmastide, or the Twelve Days of Christmas as they are more commonly known today.

In Medieval times Christmas events started forty days prior to Christmas Day, what we now refer to as Advent, which was originally known as the "Forty Days of St. Martin" because it began on November 11<sup>th</sup>; the feast day of St Martin of Tours.

Gift giving at Christmas was temporarily stopped by the Catholic Church in the Middle Ages due to its suspected pagan origins. It regained its popularity in the Middle Ages as 'Christmas' became a time of excess dominated by excessive eating, drinking, dancing and singing, and giving gifts.

Some modern Christmas traditions have their roots in the Medieval celebrations

**Christmas or Xmas?** Although many frown upon the modern abbreviation of Xmas, X stands for the Greek letter chi, which was the early abbreviation for Christ or the Greek 'Khristos'. The X also symbolises the cross on which Christ was crucified.

**Mince Pies** : These were originally rectangular to represent the infant Jesus' crib. The addition of cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg was to symbolise the gifts from the three wise men. Like the more modern mince pies they were not very big and it was believed to be lucky to eat one on each of the twelve days of Christmas. As the name suggests, mince pies were originally made with shredded meat with spices and fruit. In the Victorian era the recipe was amended to the modern version of only spices and fruit.

**Carol singers** : The tradition for carol singers going door to door was a result of carols being banned in churches in medieval times. Many carollers took the word carol (to sing and dance in a circle) literally, which disrupted more serious Christmas masses so the Church decided to send the carol singers outside. Carols originally were sung throughout the year.

**Umble (Humble) Pie** : Venison was popular in medieval Christmas celebrations, however, only the rich were allowed to eat the best cuts of meat. The Lord of the Manor may have been charitable and donated the unwanted parts of his family's Christmas deer, mostly the offal, which was known as the 'umbles'. These were made into a pie to make them go further, as such they would be eating 'umble pie'. Today this is an expression we use to describe someone who has to face humiliation and subsequently apologise for a serious mistake.

**Boxing Day** : This was traditionally a time for the rich to give gifts to the poor. In medieval times, the gift was generally money in a hollow clay pot with a slit in the top which had to be smashed to get the money out. These small clay pots were nicknamed "piggies", hence piggy banks. However, Christmas Day was a "quarter day", one of the four days in the year when payments such as ground rents were due, so many poor tenants had to pay their rent on Christmas Day!

# MOTHERS' UNION

## Chelmsford Diocese Mothers' Union (CDMU):



If you were a member of the Mothers' Union branch in Orsett before it closed, have you become a Diocesan MU member? If not, why don't you re-join and become a Diocesan member? You will receive regular information as well as our MU printed magazines – and you'll be a member of an amazing worldwide organisation, working at a local level! For more information, just get in touch with me. Don't forget that you can join Midday Prayers on the MU Facebook page every day. Lucy will be leading on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

*May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy, and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen*

## Celebrating 150 years of Mothers' Union



Don't forget to get your tickets for the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebratory Service on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at St Paul's Cathedral and the Annual Gathering on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at The Emmanuel Centre (next to Mary Sumner House, London)! Tickets are available online: <https://www.mothersunion.org/event/150/>

## 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (25 November – 10 December)



This year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence focuses on the theme: UNiTE! to end digital violence against all women and girls. At Mothers' Union, we stand united with women and girls everywhere who face harm, harassment or exclusion in digital spaces, especially where gender-based violence is involved. Whether online or offline, every woman and girl deserves to feel safe, valued and protected.

## Christmas Appeal 2025



This year's Christmas Appeal will launch on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 12pm (noon). We're fundraising for the Kingdom Savings & Credit Programme, which empowers women to support each other by creating self-managed savings groups. And there's never been a better time to give. Between Tuesday 2 and Tuesday 9 December, every online donation will be doubled thanks to the Big Give. That means your gift will go twice as far, helping twice as many families build a future filled with dignity, security, and hope: [www.mothersunion.org/appeal/christmas25](http://www.mothersunion.org/appeal/christmas25)

## Prayer Diary 2025: December



The theme for December in our 2025 Prayer Diary is 'Invitation and Gifts':

As we enter the seasons of Advent and Christmas – let's think about invitations. December is such a time of preparation: invitations, messages and cards, feasts and parties, gifts and secrets, travel plans or bed-making and welcoming! It may also be a time of repentance; deep sorrow and loneliness, frustrated hopes and dreams, financial difficulties or, for so many in our world, of hunger and fear. Let's prepare our hearts and minds to receive the

greatest gift, Christ.

**Monthly Prayer:** *Gracious God, we gladly accept and give thanks for your invitation to venture with you through this season of Advent. As we await in anticipation the promises foretold by the prophets 'behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son', may we be ready at his birth, to recognise the gift of your Son and be well prepared to love and serve him. Amen.*

**Creative Prayer:** As we take our journey through Advent, preparing for Christmas, take time to reflect. It is too easy to be carried away by the rush to get things done, the busyness of Advent taking over. Take moments to stop and think about family, friends, and those who are lonely at this time as we prepare for Christmas. As we write and receive invitations and cards, think about the person who will receive it from you and pray for them. Why not send out a few extra cards to those who may receive a couple, or none at all? It is such a simple way to let someone know you're thinking of them at this time.

## Lucy Bubb, Mothers' Union contact



# COMMUNITY INFORMATION FOR HORNDON - ORSETT - BULPHAN

## **POLICE at Grays** **101 or 999**

Community Officer: PC Javier Rodriguez-Perez  
email: [thurrockcommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk](mailto:thurrockcommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk)

## **DOCTORS**

Horndon on the Hill		01375 642362
Orsett & Bulphan	Orsett Surgery	01375 892082
Bulphan	West Horndon Surgery	01708 852318
	Ockendon Surgery	01277 811770

## **FORUMS**

Horndon on the Hill	<a href="mailto:Horndonchair@thurrockforums.org">Horndonchair@thurrockforums.org</a>
Orsett	
Bulphan	<a href="mailto:Bulphaninfo@thurrockforums.org">Bulphaninfo@thurrockforums.org</a>

## **LOCAL COUNCILLORS**

Mr David Day	<a href="mailto:david.day@thurrock.gov.uk">david.day@thurrock.gov.uk</a>	07355 924361
Mr Barry Johnson	<a href="mailto:BJohnson@thurrock.gov.uk">BJohnson@thurrock.gov.uk</a>	07831 609714

## **LOCAL MP**

Mr James McMurdock	<a href="mailto:james.mcmurdock.mp@parliament.uk">james.mcmurdock.mp@parliament.uk</a>
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA	

## **SCHOOLS**

Horndon C of E Primary	Headteacher: Mrs D Bradley	01375 673260
Orsett C of E Primary	Head of school: Mr J Dickson	01375 891383
Bulphan C of E Academy	Head of school: Mr J Dickson	01375 891220

## **Advertising in the HOBNOB**

### **Policy**

If you would like advertise in the HOBNOB, we offer space to businesses, contractors and organisations within a 15 mile radius of the parish, excluding the area South of the Thames. It is expected that advertisers uphold ethical working practices and in sympathy with the ethos of the church. Ultimately the decision on placing adverts rests with the PCC.

Please send details of your request to advertise to [magazine@hobnob.org.uk](mailto:magazine@hobnob.org.uk)



Our annual advertising rates are £45 for a quarter page and £70 for a half page. If the advert is placed part way through the year a pro rata invoice will be issued.

## Parish Ecology and Social Justice Action Group Queen Victoria Seafarers Rest (QVSR)

On 19<sup>th</sup> November three members of our Ecology and Social Justice Action Group, Lynda, Bev and Janet along with Churchwardens Frank and Christine spent time at the centre in Tilbury Port packing and wrapping gifts. The gifts are for those seafarers who will be at sea and far away from home during the festive period. They receive a knitted hat, scarf or gloves, toiletries, a bar of chocolate and a Christmas card.



Thank you to those people who have knitted items this year. We were told that this year the number of donated knitted items was much lower so, please continue your knitting so we have a big stock of items for Christmas 2026!

Queen Victoria Seafarers' Rest (QVSR) is a long-established maritime welfare charity founded in 1843 to support seafarers working in the Port of London and beyond. Based in Poplar, it provides accommodation for up to 175 residents, including active and retired seafarers, veterans, and others in need of stable housing. Alongside accommodation, QVSR offers pastoral care, welfare support, and aftercare to help residents move towards independent living.

QVSR also operates port-based welfare centres in Tilbury, Felixstowe, Immingham, Bristol and London Gateway. These centres offer chaplaincy, practical support, rest facilities and a warm welcome to seafarers visiting the UK's ports, many of whom spend long periods away from home.

The organisation remains an important part of the UK's maritime welfare network, providing practical help, community and continuity for those working at sea.

Lynda Robertson

**QVSR SEAFARERS CENTRES**

*We hope you can join us for*  
**QVSR LONDON TILBURY SEAFARERS CENTRE'S CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**  
**MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2025**  
**AT 11.00AM**

**Tenants Row, Tilbury RM18 7EH**  
*Guests to be seated by 10.45am  
please feel free to bring a guest(s)*

*Refreshments will be served after the Carol Service*  
RSVP: Email: Julie.Hobby@qvsr.org.uk by 12th December 2025

For more information regarding the environment please look at our page on the Parish website. [www.hobnob.org.uk](http://www.hobnob.org.uk), click on 'About us' and select Eco Church.

# CHRISTMAS SONG ANAGRAMS

These anagrams lead to the titles of favourite Christmas carols and pop songs. The numbers in brackets are the length of the words in the title.

This warm ethics (5,9)	
Flashy astronomer from leg gel (5,4,3,6,2,5)	
Sonic gas knowledge (4,4,9)	
Thy lion hog (1,4,5)	
Wild renowned rant (6,10)	
Racy additive only sonic (4,2,5,6,4)	
Hid healthy novelty (3,5,3,3,3)	
Tinsel two (3,2,4)	
The chalk sled (4,3,5)	
Manage rain way (4,2,1,6)	
Troubledly trim me (5,7,3)	
Green motel dysentery germ (3,4,2,5,9)	
Kneel dottily (5,6)	
Earth shaking danger shell (4,3,6,6,4)	
Sweet gherkin (2,5,5)	
Handwritten bike mile (2,3,5,9)	
Hardy symbolic (5,3,5)	
Lift shelter now (3,5,4)	
Jill begs Len (6,5)	
Dug maintain petrochemical (2,4,4,1,8,5)	
Worthy jolt ode (3,2,3,5)	
Boom, twentieth hotel fell (1,6,4,2,9)	
Where stepchild wed shah (5,9,7)	
Deplored, he is the odder runner (7,3,3,5,8)	
To wishy washy, rare crummies (2,4,3,1,5,9)	
Better collision slugs (4,3,8,5)	
Chess extra soul (3,6,5)	



## Horndon-on-the-Hill BRIDGE CLUB

In Horndon Village Hall every  
Friday from 1.30 - 4.30pm  
Admission £2.00 (includes tea/coffee biscuits)  
Very friendly atmosphere  
Intermediate standard basic ACOL played  
For details telephone: Stuart Cameron 01375 673 237

### BULPHAN SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB



We are a small, friendly short mat bowls club who meet once a week at Bulphan Village Hall. We are looking for experienced or new players. If you are interested in joining us, you would be made very welcome.

Please feel free to come along and find out more or ring Lesley on 07766 505755

TUESDAY SESSIONS: Tuesday 1.45 - 4.15pm

We have all the equipment for new players to try the game for the first time, and there is always someone who can explain the rules and help you get started.



## COMMUNITY RECYCLING

**Do you have any unwanted items that you would like to pass on for no charge?**

If you do please email or phone  
[sonia51anne@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sonia51anne@yahoo.co.uk) / 01375 674212

Items must be fit for purpose.

They will be advertised in the HOBNOB for 2 issues.

Please supply a picture and contact details.

### Horndon On The Hill Branch

incorporating Stanford, Corringham, Fobbing & Linford

We meet at The Welcome Club  
1 Victoria Road, Stanford-le-Hope

Meetings 8.00pm on the last Tuesday each month except in December.

New members welcome, enquiries to the  
Chairman [stuart.prinn@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.prinn@gmail.com)  
For all Poppy Appeal supplies contact  
[aafisher53@yahoo.com](mailto:aafisher53@yahoo.com)



# what is CHRISTINGLE?

Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope.

Christingle celebrations are named after the Christingles that are lit during the service. Christingles are oranges wrapped in red tape, decorated with dried fruit or sweets, with a candle on the top.

There is no one way to hold a Christingle celebration.

Christingle services are usually held from the end of November through to February (Advent to Candlemas), with Christmas Eve being particularly popular.

During the service, each person takes a Christingle and the candles are lit to create a warm glow symbolising the light of Christ and bringing hope to people living in darkness.

Christingles are made using oranges and a few other bits, as you choose. Each part of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story:

- The orange represents the world
- The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations
- The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.



The idea of Christingle came from a Moravian Church in Germany in 1747. The minister, John de Watteville, gave children at the service a lighted candle with a red ribbon around it. This represented Jesus being the light of the world and the final prayer of that first service was "*Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become*". The custom went around the world with the church. Missionaries brought the Moravian Church to England in the late 1700s.

In England the Children's Society, with strong connections with the Church of England, have promoted Christingle. The first Christingle service held in the Church of England was in 1968, although services seem to have been held earlier in at least one Church of England church. The idea came from John Pensom known as "Mr Christingle"! People thought the service wouldn't work as making the Christingles would be too complicated. The custom has spread through to all kinds of churches and has become one of the most common and popular Christmas services in the UK. In the UK it is not only a chance to come together and celebrate what Jesus represents and have a tasty treat, it is also an opportunity to raise money for the Children's Society for their work with less fortunate children across the UK.

The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

# Forest Church - 2026

*Encounter God in the great outdoors: in the sky, the earth, the trees and the wildlife. This service is for all, old and young and includes outdoor fun activities on a Biblical theme and worship around a fire.*

*The service will carry on even if it is raining so please dress appropriately.*

Date	Location	Theme
Sat 7th Feb	Orsett	St Valentine
Sat 7th Mar	Bulphan	World Day of Prayer
Sat 4th Apr	Easter Saturday - No Forest Church	
Sat 2nd May	Orsett	Hearing Impairment Awareness
Sat 6th June	Bulphan	World Environment Day
Sat 4th July	Horndon	World Chocolate Day
Sat 1st Aug	Orsett	International Left Handers' Day
Sat 5th Sept	Orsett Show - No Forest Church	
Sat 3rd Oct	Bulphan	St Francis Pet Service
Sat 7th Nov	Orsett	Apple Day
Sat 5th Dec	Horndon	Advent

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





# *Woolmarket music*

We had a thoroughly enjoyable concert on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November from CDOT Voices. Led by MD Angelo Tsocos, and superbly accompanied by Clare Benson, the singers delighted with a good varied programme and all sounded in fine voice. The trio from War Horse was a fine example of unaccompanied singing Angelo Tsocos accompanied the soloists and inserted a suitably jazzy interlude into Autumn Leaves.

Next month sees our Christmas get together, along with members of the Gardeners Club and the Village Forum. We'll be meeting in the church on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm to enjoy some refreshments and a glass of wine.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and music filled New Year. Please come along to support our performances in 2026 – beginning with Claudio Allodi, playing his accordion, on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January in the Woolmarket.



*A message from Chris Driscoll  
in Horndon's village shop*

*I'll be leaving the shop on 22nd December.  
Just wanted to say a big thank you to all  
customers and friends whose kindness and  
support over the years has meant the world to  
me.*





# Horndon on the Hill Church of England Primary School

We are all part of God's family. Through trying our best in all that we do, we find a sense of belonging.  
1 Corinthians 12:27 'All of you together are Christ's body and each of you is a part of it'.

Dear All,

This academic year is flying by, although the summer does seem a distant memory now that the cold weather has arrived. We are preparing for our Christmas celebrations, beginning with our Lakeside Singers who will be entertaining shoppers on 1<sup>st</sup> December to raise money for St. Luke's Hospice. If you are out Christmas shopping, please come along to the centre of the shopping centre at 1:30pm; be prepared to be impressed!



In Year 1's computing topic, 'Digital painting', the class learned how to create beautiful firework displays on the Microsoft Paintz application. First, they used the fill tool to create a black background and then used the airbrush tool to create colourful fireworks.

OBJ

In the Nursery we explored light and dark in the dark tent, when we learned about



Divali.

We have had a busy time with school trips and visits and now we will be rehearsing for our Nativity and preparing for our Christmas Bazaar. The Bazaar takes place on 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 2pm – all are welcome.

Hopefully we will see you soon.

Kind regards

Headteacher

On Thursday 9th October, Roots to Food came in to school to teach our children to cook their own Indian meal. They served up Tandoori chicken and sag aloo.

Archie said, "I liked cutting the peppers and throwing the food into the pan. It tasted lovely. I would eat it again."

Amber added, "The pan sizzled when we added the ingredients - I liked that. The taste of the chicken was like sauce, but it wasn't spicy. I liked the spinach with the potatoes, and I think I would try it again."

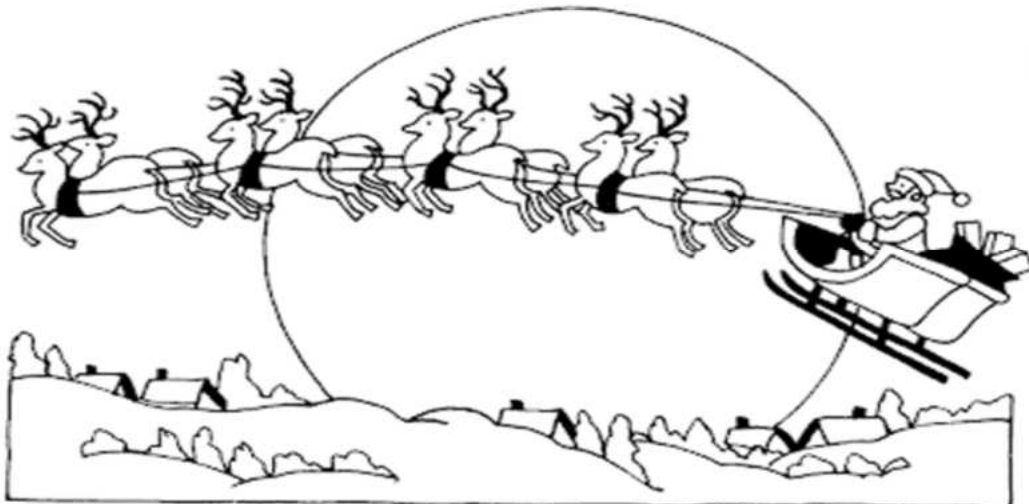
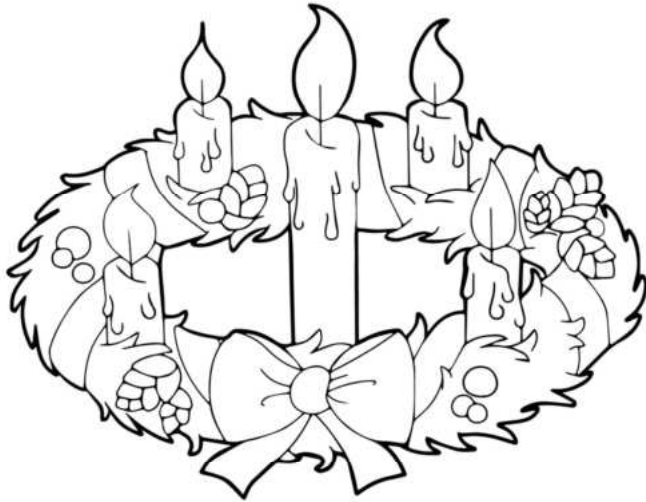


Horndon-on-the-Hill C. of E. Primary School is a proud partner in the Osborne Co-operative Academy Trust

Telephone 01375 648966 Email [info@osborne.coop](mailto:info@osborne.coop) Website [osborne.coop](http://osborne.coop)

Registered office St Clare's School, Butts Lane Stanford-le-Hope, Essex. SS17 0NW Registered at Companies House, Cardiff, Company Number 7703865

# December Colouring



**Christmas song anagram answers** : White Christmas; Angels from the realms of Glory; Good King Wenceslas; O Holy Night; Winter Wonderland; Once In Royal David's City; The Holly and The Ivy; Let it Snow; Deck The Halls; Away In A Manger; Little Drummer Boy; God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen; Little Donkey; Hark The Herald Angels Sing; We Three Kings; In The Bleak Midwinter; Mary's Boy Child; The First Noel; Jingle Bells; It Came Upon A Midnight Clear; Joy To The World; O Little Town Of Bethlehem; While Shepherds Watched; Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer; We Wish You A Merry Christmas; Ring Out Solstice Bells; The Sussex Carol

# W.A.D.E.R.S

JOIN THE WADERS AND  
HAVE A SPLASHING TIME

Water Assisted Disabled Exercise & Rehabilitation Scheme  
[www.waders.org.uk](http://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](mailto:ask-waders@hotmail.com)



## 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



In the  
Orsett Churches' Centre

Every Friday during term time  
9.00-11.30am

Everyone is welcome

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](http://www.hobnob.org.uk), on the 'What's on' page

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



# Bulphan WI

We were very proud to once again provide a display of poppies for Remembrance Day 2025, and our thanks go to everyone who helped to make the church and grounds look so colourful.

At our November meeting we made a fused glass sun catcher under the expert guidance of Katie Lynn from Molten Wonky. We had free rein in our designing, Christmas trees were popular and we eagerly await our December meeting when the fired results will be returned to us.

Our December meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> is open to visitors, we do ask that you bring a plate of food, either sweet or savoury, to share. There will be music from the Travelling Tilbury's and a raffle, please do come along.

Our January meeting is a Swishing Clothing Exchange and so bear that in mind if you are considering getting rid of any items.



# Famous person for December

## Edith Louisa Cavell

**4<sup>th</sup> December 1865 – 12<sup>th</sup> October 1915**



Edith Cavell was born on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1865 in Swardeston, a village near Norwich, where her father Frederick Cavell was the vicar for 45 years. She was the eldest of the 4 children of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Frederick Cavell and his wife Louisa.

She was educated at Norwich High School for Girls, then at boarding schools in Clevedon, Somerset, and Peterborough (Laurel Court).

After a period as a governess, including for a family in Brussels, she returned home to care for her father during a serious illness. In 1895 after her father's recovery, she decided to train as a nurse at the age of 30. After completing her training in 1898 she worked as a private nurse treating patients in their homes. In 1901 she was appointed night superintendent at St Pancras Infirmary and in 1903 she became assistant Matron of St Leonard's infirmary in Shoreditch. In 1906, Cavell took a temporary post as matron of the Manchester and Salford Sick and Poor and Private Nursing Institution, working there for about nine months.

In 1907, Cavell was recruited to be matron of a newly established nursing

school, L'École Belge d'Infirmières Diplômées, in Ixelles, Brussels. By 1910, she felt that the profession of nursing had gained sufficient foothold in Belgium to warrant a professional journal and launched the nursing journal, "L'infirmière". Within a year, she was training nurses for three hospitals, twenty-four schools, and thirteen kindergartens in Belgium.

When WW1 broke out, Cavell was visiting her widowed mother in Norfolk. She returned to Brussels, where her clinic and nursing school were taken over by the Red Cross.

In November 1914, after the German occupation of Brussels, Cavell began sheltering British soldiers and funnelling them out of occupied Belgium to the neutral Netherlands. Wounded British and French soldiers as well as Belgian and French civilians of military age were hidden from the Germans and provided with false papers by Prince Réginald de Croÿ at his château of Bellignies near Mons. From there, they were conducted to the houses of Cavell, Louis Séverin, and others in Brussels, where their hosts would give them with money to reach the Dutch frontier, and guides obtained through Philippe Baucq. This placed Cavell in violation of German military law. German authorities became increasingly suspicious of the nurse's actions, which were further fuelled by her outspokenness.

Cavell was arrested on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1915 and charged with harbouring Allied soldiers. She had been betrayed by Georges Gaston Quien, who was later convicted by a French court as a collaborator. She was held in Saint-Gilles prison for 10 weeks, the last two of which were spent in solitary confinement. She made three depositions to the German police (on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>), admitting that she had been instrumental in conveying about 60 British and 15 French soldiers, as well as about 100 French and Belgian civilians of military age, to the frontier and had sheltered most of them in her house. At her court-martial, Cavell was prosecuted for aiding British and French soldiers, and young Belgian men, to cross the Dutch border and eventually enter Britain. She admitted her guilt when she signed a statement the day before the trial. Cavell declared that the soldiers she had helped escape thanked her in writing when they arrived safely in Britain. This admission confirmed that Cavell had not only helped the soldiers navigate the Dutch frontier, but it also established that she helped them escape to a country at war with Germany. Her fellow defendants included Prince Reginald's sister, Princess Marie of Croÿ. Despite international pressure for mercy, the German government refused to commute her sentence. At the execution 16 men, forming two firing squads, to carry out the sentence pronounced on her and 4 Belgian men at the Tir national shooting range in Schaerbeek, at 7:00 am on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1915. Although there are conflicting reports of the details of Cavell's execution, it received worldwide condemnation and extensive press coverage.

Belgian women immediately buried Cavell's body next to Saint-Gilles Prison. After the war, her body was taken back to Britain for a memorial service at Westminster Abbey and then transferred to Norwich, to be laid to rest at Life's Green on the east side of the cathedral. King George V had to grant an exception to an Order in Council of 1854, which prevented any burials in the grounds of the cathedral, to allow the reburial.

There are numerous memorials to Edith Cavell around the world. A stone memorial to her in Paris was one of two statues that Adolf Hitler ordered to be destroyed on his 1940 visit there. The most impressive, possibly, is Mouth Edith Cavell, in Alberta, Canada, named after her in 1916. An interesting fact is that French singer Édith Piaf, born two months after Cavell's execution, was named after her. The name "Édith", which was rare in France, became more common after 1915.

THE PARISH OF HORNDON, ORSETT AND BULPHAN

# Carols by Candlelight

## LESSONS AND READINGS

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas with our enchanting Carol Service. Gather with family and friends to enjoy the love of the season

**Mulled wine and mince pies will be available  
after the service**

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**AT 4 PM ON SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER**

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**St Peter and St Paul Church, Orsett Road  
Horndon-on-the-Hill. SS17 8NS**

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



# BULPHAN local store

7am - 9pm SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

## BULPHAN VILLAGE SHOP

Bulphan Village Hall, Church Road, Bulphan RM14 3RU

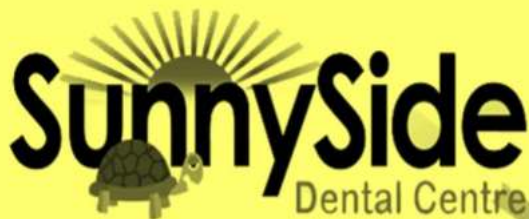
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