

The Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

March 2024



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

After a long January, February has flown by! Half term has been fairly mild in weather but somewhat wet, and Easter is just around the corner.

The garden is about to burst into life with all the bulbs poking through. The tulips are on their way and our camelia has flowered. Roses are starting to shoot, and the grass is starting to look in need of a good cut, although it's far too wet to try. Our cats are venturing outside more whenever there is a glimmer of sunshine. They really appreciate the milder temperatures.

In this month's magazine there is some useful advice from Great Bentley surgery about the new Pharmacy First service which allows participating community pharmacies to receive referrals from NHS 111, GP practices and other referring centres.

The Manningtree & District Photographic Society have a great photo which is worth looking at the online version of the magazine to appreciate its beautiful colours. The online version and previous issues can be found at www.greatbromley.org.uk.

St George's Church has also been busy, and Jenny has filled us in on all

the details.

Following the King's Coronation, councils across the UK have been invited to apply for a free framed portrait of HM King Charles III to commemorate the accession to the throne. I've submitted our application and hopefully it will arrive in the next few weeks. The Parish Council will liaise with the Village Hall Committee as to where it should be hung.

Awareness days in March include:

- 1st - St David's Day
- 7th - World Book Day
- 8th - International Women's Day
- 14th - Pi Day
- 20th - World Frog Day

*Take care,
Lizzie*

*A big thank you to all our authors and contributors, our Treasurer, delivery team, and advertisers. If anyone wants to have a go at writing an article or a short story, please send it in - don't be shy. As long as it follows the rules below, you can't really go wrong.

MATERIAL for the **APRIL 2024** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th MARCH 2024** please.

Contributions from anonymous sources will not be printed. Whilst the editor welcomes contributions, photographs etc. this is on the understanding that there is no obligation to publish, that the item may be edited and that there is no breach of copyright. Publication is in good faith and neither the editor nor the publisher accept any liability in respect of the content of any article, photo or advertisement, including any error or omission, responsibility for which remains with the author.

Copy can be delivered by hand, sent by post or e-mail (see inside back cover) or via the link on the websites www.greatbromley.org.uk or www.littlebromley.org.uk

For details of availability and costs for **ADVERTISING** in the 'The Messenger' please contact the Treasurer on 01206 230537

Please support the sponsors of our magazine.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS

This month we'd like to show our appreciation to the individuals and organisations who have generously donated to the Messenger this year.

The Messenger

Thank you!

Blow The Dust Off

Tuesdays, 6.15pm - 7.15pm

Venue: Clacton County High School
Clacton Concert Orchestra invites

anyone with an instrument to take it out of the case, dust it off and join fellow musicians in forming a training orchestra called Blow The Dust Off. It's ideal for anyone who wants to brush up on their skills within a small friendly group.

Cost £5 (under 16 £3)

For further information contact Hannah 07952 181188

hannahspeck92@gmail.com

<https://clactonconcertorchestra.com/>



Public Notice

Following positive discussions at the last Parish Council meeting, Privo invites you to come and see the early concepts for residential development proposals on land north of Harwich Road at Great Bromley Village Hall on Thursday 21st March 2024 2pm – 8pm.

The team at Privo look forward to meeting you and sharing our initial ideas and gathering your feedback to progress the proposals.

If you have any questions or would like to get in contact, please feel free to drop the team an email at Themeadows@Privoland.co.uk

Privo

MANNINGTREE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



In February our members continued to enjoy this year's programme with a field trip to Shotley Point, two professionally judged PDI/print competitions and a club workshop. In March we are looking forward to:

- Field Trip to Lavenham.
- 14th – Online presentation by Kevin Pigney - *'Post Processing of my Nature Images'*.
- 28th – Club Workshop/Demo with James Child - *'Portraiture'*.

Please visit our website for full details of our varied programme together with competition results, photo albums and further club information. Our public Manningtree Photographic Club Facebook page also features various club news and activities and we continue to have fun with our monthly themed Facebook Challenge.

This month's featured image is *'The Lonely Sea and the Sky'* by Jill Sullivan, which won a recent *'Minimalism'* prints competition - judged by Roy Essery MPAGB.

We are a small group of photography enthusiasts with a wide range of photographic experience and knowledge. The club aims to provide a friendly environment for members to enjoy the development of their photographic skills through a variety of activities in the company of like-minded individuals.

If you have an interest in

photography, at whatever level, you would be most welcome at M&DPS and we would like to invite you to come along to a free club meeting. We meet at Mistley Village Hall, on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursdays of the month between September and May at 7.30pm.

For further information please contact our Secretary Pat Ainger on 01206 231242 or email: madps@post.com

Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/manningtreeanddistrictphotographicsociety/>



March 10th:

The Deanery choir will be singing at St Georges Church, Great Bromley CO7 7HZ at the 11.00am communion service. The choir will sing a version of Ubi Caritas by Ola Gjeilo. In his undergraduate career, Gjeilo studied at the Norwegian Academy of Music and transferred to the Juilliard School. He studied at the Royal College of Music, London, and received a bachelor's degree in composition.

March 29th - GOOD FRIDAY:

The Deanery choir will be performing John Rutter's 'Requiem' at 6.30pm at **St Marys Church, Little Bentley, CO7 8SE**. The Requiem is a musical setting of parts of the Latin Requiem with added psalms and biblical verses in English, and was completed in 1985. It is scored for soprano, mixed choir and orchestra or smaller chamber



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

ensemble.

Four of the movements of the Requiem were first performed at Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento, California, on 14 March 1985. The first performance of the complete work was at Lovers' Lane United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas, on 13 October 1985. It was published in 1986 by Oxford University Press.

This performance is supported by Peter Clayton; Organist, Graeme Bruce; Cello, Judith Clayton; Clarinet and soloists; Mary McCarthy and Shirley Davison.

ARDLEIGH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We do not have a meeting in March. Our next meeting is Thursday 11th April when Lindsay Huggins will talk to us about Allotments. The meeting is at Ardleigh Village Hall and starts at 7:45pm. Members free admission, visitors just £2.

Schedules for this year's show will be available at the meeting and from mid April at Ardleigh Convenience Store & Craft Nurseries.

The Mobile Library visits every three weeks at Church Meadow on a Thursday - next dates are:

- 14 March
- 4 April
- 25 April

9.45am to 10.15am



Hello Great Bromley,

Some good news, we finally got the go ahead to work on our internal courtyard and turn it into a more tranquil place, for our residents to be able to enjoy with friends and family. It was originally our veggie patch which started off well with lots of participation from the residents, but as with most things in life, interest dwindles over time. After many resident's meetings, it was finally agreed that a little place just to relax would suit all. I'd also like to mention Amarlia Landscaping the contractors doing the work for us, they've made the whole process very easy and have done their utmost to ensure the disruption is at a minimum, this is greatly appreciated by all. As mentioned, we're looking to make it a relaxing area so I'd like to take this opportunity to ask for some donations in the form of outdoor pots, plants, paving slabs, garden furniture and anything that you think will help transform it into that little getaway that we all need sometimes. Many thanks in advance, as I know the good folk of Great Bromley are always very generous, I've also included a photo to give you an idea on the space we're working on.

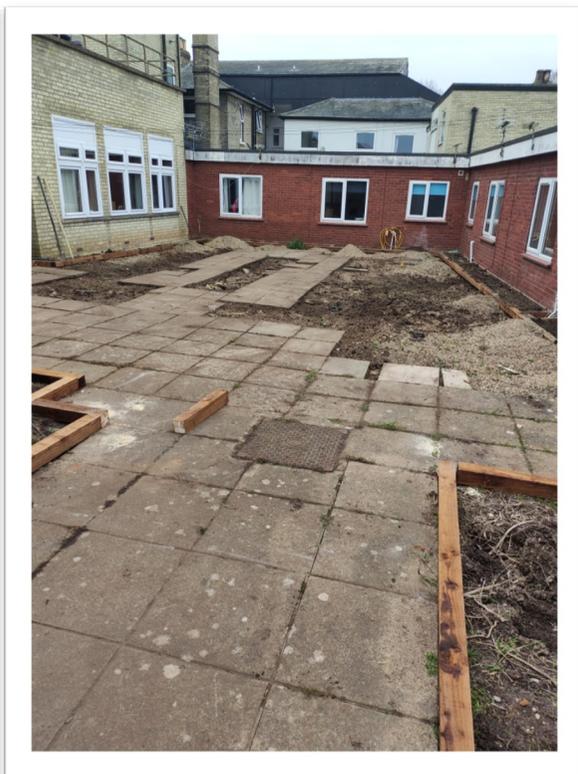
Let's not forget it's also Valentines, the time of the year that most men start to panic about, why I hear you ask? Making sure we don't forget is one, but the ultimate sin is an underwhelming gift, I've learnt this the hard way over the years, but practice makes perfect. I just hope it goes well for everyone

and you all feel that little spark of joy as you did on that first Valentines with the one you love, I've also had a go at something resembling poem, please don't be too harsh with your critique it's just a bit of fun.

It's that time of the year when love is in the air, your nearest and dearest will always be there, so come on you lovebirds show them you care. With a smile on your face and your heartbeat a race, pull out your cash then start to pace. The gift must be right, the pressure is on, so don't be stingy, for it could all go wrong!

Yes, it was targeted at the guys.

*Until the next time
Lee.*



IDENTITY FRAUD

Identity fraud, or 'ID theft', involves the use of a person's stolen details to commit crime. Many victims never find out exactly how someone got hold of their details, and clearing things up afterwards can be costly and stressful.

Protect your address:

- If you start getting post for someone you don't know, try to find out why.
- Lenders use the electoral roll to check who's registered as living at a particular address.
- When registering to vote, tick the box to opt out of the 'edited' register. This will help prevent unsolicited marketing mail or junk mail. This doesn't affect credit checks.

You can also:

- sign up to the Mail Preference Service to prevent marketing letters

- protect mail left in communal areas of residential properties
- redirect your mail when moving home

Protect your bank accounts

- Be extremely wary of unsolicited phone calls, letters or emails from your bank or other financial institution asking you to confirm your: personal details, passwords and security numbers
- Regularly check your bank accounts and chase up any statements that you don't get when you expect them.
- Dispose of anything containing your personal or banking details by using a cross-cut shredder or tearing into small pieces.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE REPLACEMENT ESSEX MINERALS LOCAL PLAN

Residents are invited to have their say on the future of minerals development in Essex. Like other Planning Authorities across the country, Essex County Council is required to publish a Minerals Local Plan. This provides planning policies for minerals development in Essex and identifies future sites for mineral extraction or quarrying.

Essex County Council has launched a consultation on the Replacement Essex Minerals Local Plan, which would run to 2040. During the consultation, residents and other stakeholders can



Essex County Council

have their say on the sites submitted for inclusion, as well as the revised plan itself.

Have your say by Tuesday 19th March - go to www.essex.gov.uk, search News and Have your say on Replacement Essex Minerals Local plan.



GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

Easter Opening Hours

The normal Surgery opening times are from 8.00 am to 6.30 pm Monday to Friday. Over the Easter bank holiday, the Surgery will be closed on Friday, 29 March 2024 and Monday, 1 April 2024.

If you are on regular medication, please remember to order this in good time so you don't run out over the Easter weekend. We do require three working days (excluding Saturday and Sunday) to process all prescriptions.

The new Pharmacy First service is now up and running and allows participating community pharmacies to receive referrals from NHS 111, GP practices and other referring centres. As well as the Surgery referring patients to this new service, patients can also self-refer themselves.

Pharmacy First referrals are requests for a pharmacist to support patients that require:

- A consultation with a pharmacist to manage a minor illness
- A consultation for one of 7 common conditions listed below:

If needed, the pharmacist is also able to prescribe appropriate medication for these conditions.

Surgery Training Afternoon

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Wednesday, 27 March 2024 for staff training.

Patient Participation Group Meetings

The next meeting of the Patient Participation Group will be held on Thursday 28 March 2024 at 6.30 pm at Great Bentley Village Hall in the Mitchell Room.

Sue Mitson
Operations Manager



Extra funding allocated to Essex Highways

Essex County Council has announced an additional £12 million allocation for priority work on highways at their recent Full Council meeting. This funding will go towards new crews focusing on repairs raised by local councillors and increasing the enforcement team to address dangerous overgrown vegetation. The funds will be distributed across various areas of the county. Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure, and Sustainable Transport, highlighted the importance of this investment in maintaining and improving highways.

At our February meeting we were treated to a dynamic talk from our speaker Lindsey Barrell who explained the history of British Sign Language, reaching back many hundreds of years. In an amusing and engaging evening, we learned how sailors' tricks to deal with weevils gave us the sign for biscuits and how recalling Tommy Cooper helps with the sign for thunder! We learned how to sign the letters of the alphabet and were invited to join a free signing course Lindsey is running for WI Hub, one of hundreds of free online courses the WI offers its members.

Next month we hear about home safety and awareness around electronic devices from the community department of the fire service. Women are welcome to visit.



Lindsey Barrell with WI president Dorothy O'Grady



Karen and Ann prove they have done their homework as they thank the speaker with sign language!



Dates for your diary

MARCH 2024

6	WI - Home Safety from Fire Service, Village Hall	7:30pm
10	Mothering Sunday	
13	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	7:30pm
21	Little Bromley Parish Council, The Haywain	7:30pm
24	Antiques & Collectors Fair, Village Hall	9:00am-3:00pm
26	WI Crafting Social, Village Hall	10am-12pm
29	Good Friday	
31	Easter Day British Summer time begins	

APRIL 2024

3	WI - Tornado Smith & Wall of Death, Paul Gallifant Village Hall	7:30pm
10	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	7:30pm

MAY

8	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	
	Annual Meeting	7:00pm
	Parish Assembly	7:20pm
	Ordinary Meeting	7:30pm
12	Antiques & Collectors Fair, Village Hall	9:00am-3:00pm

Essex Recovery Foundation Recovery Space Launch and Welcome workshop

Essex Recovery Foundation recently created a number of recovery spaces across Essex, including one in North Essex that takes place in Colchester every Friday. These spaces are a weekly, social session for people who are in recovery from addiction, to come together with others local to them, take part in activities, meet new people and get involved in the work of the ERF. Essex Recovery Foundation would like to invite local stakeholders to go along and find out more about the recovery space.

The Colchester event will take place on the 8th of March at the Mercury Theatre. Find out more and book here -

<https://essexrecoveryfoundation.beaconforms.com/form/c82dbc95>

Taking place in Tendring in the Harwich and Dovercourt Hub is a Welcome Workshop on the 12th of March. Find out more and book here - [https://](https://essexrecoveryfoundation.beaconforms.com/form/217ac6b7)

essexrecoveryfoundation.beaconforms.com/form/217ac6b7

Post Office & Community Library The Cross



Wednesdays
10.00am - 12 noon



GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

Clerk: Mrs Lizzie Ridout Email: clerk@gbpc.org.uk



After the heavy and at times prolonged rain I hope everybody is safe well and dry, please phone me if you need any help or support with the extreme weather.

There is an application for construction of bungalows alongside Harwich Road, by Privo Land Ltd, this application includes a pavement. A representative of the company attended the Parish Council meeting on 14th February and outlined its proposal, they intend to hold a public consultation in our Village Hall in the near future. This pavement would be a huge asset to the village as it would link Hare Green to the School, the new shop and Church and keep our community safe. For many years your Parish Council have been trying to get permission for a pavement and it is now looking imminent should planning permission be granted.

I have received several complaints regarding mud on the highway at Parsons Hill caused by developers at Hamilton Lodge. I am aware that our Clerk has been in touch with the company and requested they ensure the road surface is maintained in a safe manner. Elemento have allowed the Parish Council to recycle some wooden benches from the grounds of Hamilton Lodge that were not required by them.

There is concern regarding water flooding onto Parsons Hill at its junction with Mary Lane from the Orwell Housing development. The Council is also aware of water flowing from adjoining fields onto some gardens and garages in the Orwell Housing development. When Orwell Housing

applied to TDC Planning department to build more properties in Mary Lane, the Parish Council and some residents objected. Cllr Gary Scott, one of our District Councillors and myself spoke at the Planning Committee pointing out to Officers and the Committee the problems at Robinson Close with water flowing off surrounding fields onto gardens and garages in Robinson Close; unfortunately Officers and the Committee chose to ignore our concerns. Now there are serious problems with water flowing into some gardens and garages in Robinson Close. The council awaits with interest any action the Developers will take, perhaps TDC Enforcement will have to become involved. The Clerk has been requested to write to Orwell Housing and to copy in TDC Planning and Enforcement Department and ask they take remedial action for both the home owners and the flood water flowing onto Parsons Hill.

There is still a problem with flood water in Frating Road, we have been in contact with ECC Highways yet again, hopefully they will react and attend and deal with the problem before a serious collision occurs.

Low level play equipment is being installed at Church Meadow, to discourage playing on gravestones and trees and potential injury or damage.

Cllr Fred Nicholls
Chairman

PLANNING DETERMINATIONS

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
<u>23/01793/</u> <u>NMA</u> Mr Ny Moughal - Elemento Group Approval	Non Material Amendment to application reference 20/00547/OUT for alterations to windows and materials as shown on the floor plan and elevation drawings.	Land Site of Former Hamilton Lodge Parsons Hill Great Bromley CO7 7JB	Non Material Amendment 02.01.2024 Delegated Decision
<u>23/01626/</u> <u>FULHH</u> Mrs S McNeill	Proposed extension to the existing store including re-cladding and re-roofing existing roof.	Bottle House Carringtons Road, Great Bromley CO7 7XA	Approval - Full 09.01.2024 Delegated Decision
<u>23/01598/</u> <u>FULHH</u> Mr and Mrs Mason	Erection of front porch, 1.5 storey rear extension, and raising of roof to create additional bedrooms including front dormer windows (following demolition of existing side and rear extensions).	Rose Lea Ardleigh Road Great Bromley CO7 7TL	Approval - Full 18.01.2024 Delegated Decision
<u>23/01713/</u> <u>LUEX</u> Neil Napthine and Nico Miller - Larchcroft Trading Co. Ltd.	Application for a certificate of existing use or development for occupation of Building B as a community shop (use Class E(a)) and Building D for storage for the shop (use Class E(a)) for a period of 10 years or more.	Land adjacent Oak House Farm, Harwich Road, Great Bromley CO7 7JG	Lawful Use Certificate Granted 02.02.2024 Delegated Decision

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
<u>24/00001/</u> <u>FUL</u> Wayne Knowles	Erection of replacement detached chalet bungalow following demolition of existing bungalow. Great Bromley Parish Council had no comment on the application.	Byeways Mary Lane North Great Bromley



CHURCH JOTTINGS

Great News! Our list of events at St George's continues to grow. Enabled of course, by the completion of our new servery unit and facility. We are so pleased with the development and improvement of this previously cold, damp and badly lit area of our church,

Hopefully you will all be able to join us for many of the events we are planning for 2024.

So, here are some dates for your diary;

March 1st 10.30am churches from the Harwich Deanery are coming together at St Georges to celebrate World Day of Prayer. This year the service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Palestine and is entitled "I beg you, bear with one another in love". All are welcome to this service of Prayer, refreshments will be served afterwards. If you would like to find out more information, please visit the website wwdp.org.uk

March 10th is Mothering Sunday, the Deanery Choir will help us to celebrate this special service where there will be posies and flowers for all. Service time is 11.00am.

March 23rd, we are very pleased once again to welcome The Student Cross, at the beginning of their Holy Week pilgrimage to Walsingham, and they will be popping in to the church for a warm cuppa and cake about 10.30am. It is always a pleasure to welcome these fantastic folk who make this annual journey replicating the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem all those years ago.

March 24th is our annual Palm Sunday Service led by Rev Phillip Young. We meet at the

Lych Gate for a short service and are led by our friend Jane and her donkey into church again celebrating the journey of Jesus into Jerusalem. Palm crosses will be available for all who join us at 11.00am. Tasty refreshments will be served after the service.

April 14th is a very special Sunday. Our morning service is at 11.00am and is followed at 3.00pm by a concert. The group "Anglia Baroque" are playing for us. It is to be a very exciting and super concert followed by afternoon tea at 4.00pm. Please come along, entrance is free but we are asking for donations towards our imminent work on the North Aisle Roof.

I think our most important event this year may well be our fabulous Flower Festival which is planned for June 14th, 15th and 16th, planning and preparation is well underway. Meetings were held at the end of the last year to measure the interest and potential of organising a festival in 2024. It is so essential that we have an active team of flower arrangers, helpers, cake bakers, administrators, musicians, cleaners and support from village organisations and school who are all invited to take a role advertising and publicity. Well, the dates are definite, and we ARE going

to have the most fabulous Flower Festival. The title is "Bee Friendly", and we already have some amazing titles and ideas for the Flower Arrangements;



"Bee Beautiful"



"Bee in your Bonnet"

"Buzzing Around"



... to name but a few. There are still a few spaces available, so if you would like to take part,

Cont'd...

please let me know. There will be stalls, tasty refreshments from the “Bee Café” and much, much more, Musical recitals, concerts and a wonderful celebratory Songs of Praise on the Sunday afternoon.

If you would like to sponsor some flowers, an arrangement or donate a raffle prize, please let me know.

As always entry is free with donations towards our beautiful Grade I listed building as we have a huge project to undertake this year in the North Aisle; the roof and clerestory windows repairs will cost a lot of money.

Finally, I would like to thank our newly formed group of volunteers called

“Helping Hands”. You may have noticed how tidy and well kept the Churchyard of St Georges is looking. Every month, and sometimes more, we meet in all weather bringing spades, brooms, secateurs and wheelbarrows cleaning twigs, leaves, flattening mole hills, hedges, removing ivy and much more. Thank you dear friends, I’m so proud of you all. If you would like to join us at work, we are on WhatsApp, please let me know.

More dates next month or perhaps sign up for our weekly newsletter which you can receive electronically.

Jenny

Don't ignore it - Report it at www.essexhighways.org



Essex Highways carry out regular inspections of roads and pavements, but issues may come up between these inspections. These could be potholes or other road surface issues, damaged street lights, street signs, overgrown trees, or issues with public rights of way.

Report maintenance issues online by using the highways reporting tool. If you think there's a risk to public safety please call 0345 603 7631 or if you have hearing problems you can use the text phone service on 0345 758 5592.



Did you know? Great Bromley has two Automated External Defibrillators. You can access these at:

- The Courthouse, Harwich Road, CO7 7JG or
- The Cross Inn, Ardleigh Road, CO7 7TL

Also at the Cross Inn is a Bleed Kit. The kit, provided by Great Bromley Parish Council, contains specialist equipment to help stem extreme blood loss before ambulance crews arrive.

Bleed control kits, also known as emergency trauma packs, are similar to first aid kits but include trauma dressings, gauze, chest seals and tourniquets to help stop serious bleeding. They can help victims of violent crime, those involved in road traffic accidents or workplace accidents, and could be particularly useful in rural areas where ambulance response times may be slower.

ST. MARK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

St. Mark's, Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich IP2 0QQ
Holy Family Church, Ipswich Road, Brantham CO11 1TB

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Luke Goymour
The Presbytery, 180 Hawthorn Drive,
Ipswich IP2 0QQ
Tel: 01473 684963
revgoymour@gmail.com

Reflection

In the Gospel Jesus encourages us to love our neighbours and to love others as He loves us. Just a smile and a thank you takes little effort, but they can really make someone's day. And researchers have found that an "attitude of gratitude" is consistently associated with greater happiness and improved health. It benefits the giver as well as the receiver. Mother Teresa used to say that if someone doesn't have a smile, give them a smile. She also said "The greatest evil is the lack of love and charity, the terrible indifference towards one's neighbour. People today are hungry for love, for understanding love, which is much greater, and which is the only answer to loneliness and poverty. Food for thought!

St. Mark's Second Sunday Praise and Worship 6.30pm March 10th

Weekday and Sunday Masses and devotions

All are very welcome to attend services. Please check the parish website for updates on weekday masses in case of changes and for Easter services: www.stmarksparish.org.uk or the noticeboards outside the churches.

Saturday 17.30 St. Mark's vigil mass with confessions from 17.00

Sunday 09.00 Holy Family, Brantham 11.00 St. Mark's

Tuesday 10.00 Holy Family mass with Stations of the Cross at 9.20 during Lent.

Wednesday 09.30 St. Mark's

Friday 12.15 St. Mark's mass

Father Luke's Sunday sermons are available at anchor.fm/fr-luke-goymour

Bring & Buy Coffee Morning at Viv Szitasi's home, Paddock Gate, Whitehorse Road, East Bergholt CO7 6TR will take place on **Thursday March 28th** 10.30 to 12. All welcome.

The Sick & Housebound

Please let Fr Luke know of anyone who is ill at home, housebound or in hospital, so that they may receive appropriate pastoral care, he can be contacted on 01473 684963.

Email from Kathy Pollard:
kathy.pollard@btinternet.com

19 The Street, Capel St. Mary, Ipswich, IP9 2EE Tel: 07889 123702

GREAT BROMLEY FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our first meeting of the year was well attended, and we were very pleased to welcome two visitors for the afternoon, Karen and Wendy who we hope will join us for our future meetings.

Members have been asked to collect British and foreign stamps, used and

unused, for the Royal Society for the Blind and bring them along to future meetings, together with plastic bottle tops.

The competition for March is a tea towel. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at The Cross, 2-4pm.

STOUR CHORAL SOCIETY SPRING CONCERT

Stour Choral Society would like to invite you to its spring concert, the 'Messa di Gloria' by Puccini, and Opera Choruses arranged by John Rutter.

The concert will take place on Saturday 13th April 2024, 2.30pm at Mistley Parish Church, New Rd, Mistley, CO11 1ER

The choir will be conducted by Susanna Rose, accompanied by Stephen Smith, organist and Ben Steinitz on percussion.

The soloists will be Gerry Bremner, tenor, Howard Brooks, baritone, Peter

Grevatt, bass, Anna Maria Rose, soprano, and Fiona Morris, mezzo-soprano.

Tickets £15 adults, free for under 18's will be available six weeks before the performance from Howell's hardware store in Manningtree High Street, or by email: info@stourchoralsociety.co.uk, or telephone 07511908213, or on the door (cash only).

Please do join us for another splendid afternoon of music. Refreshments will be available and there is ample parking available at Mistley Park Place opposite the church.

ESSEX TRADING STANDARDS ON POSTAL SCAMS

Postal scams can be challenging to identify, making it crucial to be aware of common tactics used by scammers.

Examples include lottery and prize draw scams, pyramid schemes, psychic and clairvoyant fraud, bogus job offers, and inheritance scams. It is important to note that legitimate lotteries do not require fees for collecting winnings, pyramid schemes should be avoided altogether, psychics sending generic letters are likely scams, authentic job offers do not ask for upfront registration fees, and suspicious inheritance claims should be verified with the Law Society. Taking preventative measures such as registering with the Mailing Preference Service and reporting any postal scams to Action Fraud can help protect against fraudulent activities.

If you suspect that you or someone you know has fallen victim to a postal scam, it is crucial to take immediate action. Contact **Action Fraud promptly at**



Essex County Council

0300 123 2040 to report the scam and seek assistance.

If you require guidance regarding the legality of a particular scheme, reach out to the **Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline at 0808 223 1133** for expert advice and support. By staying informed and proactive, you can protect yourself from falling prey to postal scams and mitigate the potential consequences.

You can also contact the Mailing Preference Service at www.mpsonline.org.uk to have your name taken off direct mailing lists in the UK (this won't cover mail that is unaddressed or from overseas).

RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

It's strange to think that at the end of this month we will have already finished the first quarter of this year. For us, the year began quite eventfully with the birth of our fourth child (and first daughter) on 2 January. We are grateful for the many cards, presents and expressions of kindness Louise and I have received from the communities we serve since her birth.

How is your year going so far? How do you measure success or progress? A diminishing to do list? A positive or growing bank balance? A (relatively) quiet home?

Holy Week this year falls rather early: the last week of March. It begins with Palm Sunday, when Christians recall the great promise with which Jesus entered Jerusalem – the hopes of so many for better days than life under an oppressive Roman regime. But as we move to the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday and the sobering reality of Jesus' death on Good Friday so much of what we consider to be success or progress is called into question. In Luke's account of the Last Supper we find Jesus instituting a meal by which His followers were to recall His sacrificial death on their behalf: of the bread, as He "gave thanks and broke it" He said "This is My body given for you" (Luke 22:19) and of the wine He said, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you" (v20). Jesus' death, from one perspective, seems like failure, because at the moment He seemed to have the greatest following, He is abandoned by everyone (including His closest followers) and killed. From another perspective, it seems like a

tragedy: a young life full of promise senselessly cut short.

But the reality is very different. The Apostle Paul writes "at just the right time ... God's King [Jesus] died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6). It was the perfect time because we were powerless to do anything about the things in our lives that rob us of the fullness of life God intends for us – powerless to deal with our destructive addictions, with the dysfunction in our relationships, with our apathy towards God. But in that moment, at that time, God began to do something that we could never do: He began to heal the source of all this darkness, our broken relationship between Him and us. And His resurrection is the sign that His sacrifice for our failings was effective. The death and resurrection of Jesus, far from being a failure or a tragedy, was a triumph – a triumph over our failures and over what cuts off every life: death. It was a sign that there was – and is – something more to this life than just the here and now, than just what we taste, touch and see. It was a window in to something bigger, something eternal.

So why not journey with us this Holy Week? Come to one of our services and consider "[His] body given for you" and "[His] blood poured out for you" and the difference it can make to us all.

Best wishes,
Phillip



St George's Church Great Bromley



www.greatbromley.org.uk

Parish of The Bromleys

To receive our email newsletter, please sign up via the website or email us at church@greatbromley.org.uk

March 1 st	Friday	World Day of Prayer	10.30am
March 3 rd	Lent 3	Parish Eucharist BCP	11am
March 10 th	Lent 4	Parish Eucharist	11am
March 17 th	Passion Sunday	Evensong BCP	6.30pm
March 24 th	Palm Sunday	Procession & Eucharist	11am
March 28 th	Maundy Thurs	Holy Communion <i>at St Mary's, Wix</i>	7pm
March 29 th	Good Friday	Good Friday Liturgy <i>at All Saints', Wrabness</i>	2pm
March 30 th	Easter Eve	Easter Vigil Service <i>at St Mary's, Little Bromley</i>	7pm
March 31 st	Easter Day	Easter Eucharist	11am

St Mary's, Little Bentley

March 3rd Morning Prayer 11am

March 17th Holy Communion 11am

March 29th Good Friday Concert 6.30pm

**Services details for Dedham/Ardleigh, Moze benefice,
and Manningtree CrossReach parishes
can be found on their websites.**