

The Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

May 2024



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

We had a lovely sunny weekend and then we had every possible weather in one day! Wisteria watch is in full swing, provided the wind doesn't blow the whole lot away.

I hope you all had a good Easter break, it seems quite a while ago now. There's been lots going on in the village since then, especially at St George's Church (see pages 29 onwards).

The children are back at school and in the final term of this academic year already. Exams start this month, so whether it's SATs, GCSEs, A-Levels or Finals, good luck to you all. Good exam results are great but do not define you as a person.

As promised, information about the changes to landline telephones is on page 13. Your telephone provider will help with any questions you may have.

Thanks to Carol for this month's cover picture of the Bromley 10K race held in April. You can read more about the race on page 5. I must admit to being a fair-weather

runner, so it's nearly time for me to get back out there and start again.

If you like to follow the cricket in the village, Tracey is back on page 25 with full details of the forthcoming matches this month and next.

Awareness days for May include:

- 3rd - World Laughter Day
- 18th - International Museum Day
- 20th - World Bee Day
- 22nd - National Numeracy Day
- 29th - National Biscuit Day

And I'll definitely be in trouble if I don't mention my Dad's birthday on the 20th - he's 85!

**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. Any interesting or unusual hobbies, recipes to share or short stories, it's all welcome. As long as it follows the guidelines below, you really can't go wrong.

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

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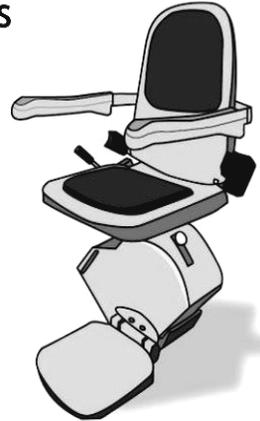
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LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

Spring Has Sprung in Little Bromley

With the arrival of warmer weather, the village was bursting with new life in April. Daffodils and tulips were in full bloom, adding splashes of cheerful colour along the lanes despite the rain. I am sure many of us have birds nesting in our gardens.

We would like to thank everyone who has signed up to be included in the Village Database where we will keep you informed of developments on the substations saga. It's not too late, just email littlebromleypc@gmail.com and we will add you to the Database. If you missed our first communication to residents who have already signed up you can view it on the website under Notices. We held an informal gathering at the Haywain in April following the launch of National Grid's final Consultation document which was well attended.

It was good to see many residents at our last Parish Council meeting on 21st

March. You can view the Minutes on the website <https://www.littlebromley.org.uk/council-minutes>. We hope to see you on 9th May for the AGM, Parish Assembly and Parish Council Meeting commencing at the earlier time of 7pm. Everyone is welcome.

One of the topics discussed at the March Parish Council meeting in March was the possibility of installing a bus stop sign on the opposite side to the car park. We will be looking into this and will report on its progress at the May meeting. It would be good to have your feedback on whether this is needed.

What are your favourite signs that Spring has arrived? We'd love to hear your stories and photos. You can submit them to littlebromleypc@gmail.com to be included in the next issue of the Messenger.

Happy Spring!

VOLUNTEER FOR THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

It's that time of year again...

If you have a child who is 14 or over and is looking for something to do in the summer holidays then Essex Library Service has the answer:

Come and volunteer for our Summer Reading Challenge 2024!

It's a great chance to get some work experience, meet new people and gain valuable life skills.

[Apply via our online form and get more information.](https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/summer-reading-challenge-volunteering) (Link: libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/summer-reading-challenge-volunteering.)



BROMLEY 10K RUN

Sunday 14th April dawned dry and runners for the Bromley 10K started to fill the parking areas. Local residents, Harwich Runners and some Police Cadets assisted with parking and marshaling.

Although 750 runners had entered the race, just under 600 runners actually took part. The race began at 9.30am and off they went. Just over 31 minutes later, the first man, Jack Nixon (St. Edmunds Pacers) crossed the line. The first lady, Lizzie Wellsted (Colchester Harriers) finished in just under 33 minutes. Afterwards, we had a continuous flow of finishers for the next hour, who then walked back through Paynes lane to their cars, collecting their water and gift bags enroute.

The good weather, the smiling faces of the happy runners, the many

supporters made it a lovely morning. Many thanks to all those who marshaled, helped, supported and came to take part in the Bromley 10K. We are pleased to say that once again we will be able to give some money to local charity NEST.

Flash news - although most things were packed away on the day, it was decided to leave the registration marquee up until Monday. Well, the weather turned rather windy and wet; So, if anyone saw a big white marquee flying through the air, they weren't seeing things. It came to land in a nearby reservoir. However, we are happy to report that it was successfully retrieved and no fish were harmed in the process!

***Carol Cordwell
Harwich Runners***

Online ticketing fraud...

What you should know:

The scammer's website will offer tickets that aren't on sale yet or to sold-out events. You may even get the tickets you paid for, but at the event you find out they're fake, or have been reported as lost or stolen and are therefore invalid.

Scammers may tell you a representative will meet you at the event with your tickets, but they don't turn up.

Pay for tickets using your credit card, it offers protection under the Consumer Credit Act if you're scammed.

Check online for negative reviews of the website you want to use.

Remember, the only way to avoid being scammed is to buy tickets from:

- the promoter
- the venue box office
- a reputable ticket exchange site
- an official agent





GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

May Opening Hours

We will be closed on Monday 6 May 2024 and Monday 27 May 2024 as these are Bank Holidays. NHS 111 will be covering for urgent medical problems on these days.

GP Appointments

All our GP appointments are 10 minutes. Due to this, doctors are not always able to deal with more than one issue at an appointment and you may be asked to book a follow up appointment to deal with any additional problems you have. Please ensure that when you see the doctor, you speak to them about your most concerning problem, so that this is dealt with on the day of your appointment.

Medication Reviews

In order to assist our GPs with the 6,500 patients on repeat medication, Letty Toto, a Clinical Pharmacist has been employed via our Primary Care Network to carry out medication reviews for Great Bentley Surgery patients. All appointments will be by telephone. Appointments for medication reviews can be booked by contacting a member of our reception team on our main telephone number – 01206 250691.

Holiday Travel Vaccinations

If you need to check if your vaccinations are up-to date for travel, a Travel Risk Assessment form can be completed and submitted via

the Great Bentley Surgery website. For patients who do not have access to the internet, a paper copy can be collected from reception for completion. Please remember to do this at least one month in advance of your holiday, to ensure you are able to receive any vaccinations that are needed in time for your holiday.

Patient Participation Group Meetings

The next meeting of the PPG will be held on Thursday, 23 May 2024 at 6.30 pm in The Mitchell Room at Great Bentley Village Hall.

Sue Mitson
Operations Manager

ARDELEIGH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

PLANT & CAKE SALE

Sat 18th May 2024
9.30 – 11.30
(CASH SALES ONLY)

**Ardleigh Village Hall,
Station Road, Ardleigh**

www.e-voice.org.uk/ardeleigh-horticultural-society

Hello Great Bromley,

Let's start with a huge thank you to years five and six from St Georges School that popped in over the Easter period to sing for everyone here, the children were fantastic, and I can honestly say that everyone enjoyed it immensely. If there are any parents reading this then you should also know their behaviour was exemplary, you can all be proud.

We also need to mention Jenny and friends that secretly cleared the path leading to the church from our car park. It's something I've been meaning to do for some time now, but never quite had enough time in the day or the weather to start. Getting to the Church was always an ordeal and on a couple of occasions we almost didn't make it, turning back would have been easier but we persevered. I'm not sure if my moaning about it over the months had any influence on their decision but regardless, we thank them all very much.

It's been a standard month really, with trips out and our regular activities to keep us occupied but I'm always open to suggestions so please don't hesitate to put ideas forward. Also, if anyone has some free time and would like to pop in for a visit, please feel free to contact me so we can arrange a suitable time on 01206 230 345 and just ask for that charming activities guy Lee:)

Unfortunately, I was unable to get Lloyd to the Colchester-Wrexham game, so by way of an apology I arranged a pub lunch instead. He forgave me and added that he'd forgive any future boo-boo's if we do the pub thing again

Hehe. I would have added a photo of his forgiving smile as proof, but new protocols won't allow us to do so, you'll just have to take my word for it, I'll add a cryptic photo and see if you can work out why he's willing to forgive?



I have a date that I'd like everyone to make a note of, on the 8th of June were having a barbecue with entertainment and you're all invited. An Elvis tribute act is already booked and were hoping for more to be confirmed closer to the date. No charge for entry, food and drink will also be available for a small charge, all we ask is that you call to let us know that you're coming so we can make the necessary arrangements. This would be a great opportunity for everyone to meet some of our friends here at Seven Rivers, were all hoping for a good turnout, the more the merrier.

I look forward to getting lots of phone calls with ideas for activities and confirmation for the barbecue, so au revoir until the next time.

Lee

May 9th

The Deanery choir will be supporting the Deanery service at St Mary's Church, Great Bentley CO7 8QG at 7.00pm. This has been at the request of Laurie Bond and will bring together all the churches in the diocese.

May 12th

The Deanery choir will be singing at St George's Church, Great Bromley CO7 7HZ at the 11.00am communion service. The choir will sing '**Give almes of thy goods by Christopher Tye**'. Christopher Tye is believed to have been born in Cambridge, England. Little is known about his origins. The first references to him are when he attended and received his Bachelor of Music degree in Cambridge in the year 1536. It is because of this that his birth date is believed to be around 1505. The next year, in 1537, he took up a position as a lay clerk at King's College. Based on recorded financial records we know that by 1543 he took up a more prestigious position as the Magister Choristarum at Ely



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

Cathedral with an annual salary of ten English pounds. Shortly, thereafter, in 1545 the University of Cambridge saw fit to bestow upon Tye the degree of Doctor of Music.

May 26th

The Deanery choir will be supporting the Frinton church choir at the **Frinton Festival Choral Evensong**; 6.00pm at St Mary's Church, Frinton CO13 9BX. The choir will sing the anthem Beati Quorum Via and the Te Deum by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford. Also in the programme is the wonderful Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Brewer.

All are welcome to this event which is part of the Frinton music and arts festival.

Graham Bell
Deanery Choir Organiser

ST. MARY'S CHURCH , LITTLE BROMLEY

On Saturday 30th March, we held our Easter Eve Vigil at St. Mary's Church. Canon Stephen Carter led the service, assisted by Reverend Nicky Young. The lit Paschal Candle was carried into the church, then everyone followed and the candles were gradually lit throughout the dark interior, whilst the Exultet (Easter song) was sung. The brass candlesticks shone amid the mass of candlelight.

Twenty-three people attended the service, which was followed by a glass of wine. We would like to thank all those who helped with the service and provided the wine. A special thank you to Jackie for the lovely flower arrangements.

On Wednesday 12th June 'My Theatre' will be performing another play at the church. Their previous plays have always been popular and their next play will be: Jane Austen's 'Persuasion.' For further details, please go to: www.thisismytheatre.com

The new Bell Committee have been busy, and are beginning to raise some money towards the restoration of the bells framework.

We are hoping to hold an event during the summer, so please watch this space.

Carol Cordwell
Secretary of the Friends

CHANGES TO LANDLINE TELEPHONES

The UK's telephone network is being upgraded, which means that landline services are changing. You can still have a landline in your home, but the technology that powers it will be different. For most, switching over will be straightforward, but some people may need new equipment or support to make the changes.

What is changing?

Landlines have been delivered through an analogue network for decades, but this is being replaced with newer digital technology.

The new system is called 'Voice over Internet Protocol' (VoIP). You may also hear this referred to as a digital landline or 'Digital Voice', the name of BT's new home phone service. BT is one of many network providers making this change.

Once you've moved to the new digital system, your landline will mainly work as it always has, although there will be some differences. For example, it won't work if there's a power cut so you'll need an alternative solution such as a mobile phone or battery backup unit for emergency calls.

What happens if there's a power cut?

Unlike some traditional corded analogue phones, a digital phone will only work in a power cut if it has a battery back-up, because it'll run using your home electricity. In these instances, phone companies are advising people to use mobile phones as a backup.

If you're dependent on your landline phone – for example, if you don't have a mobile phone or you live somewhere where there's no or poor mobile signal,

then your telephone provider must offer you a 'resilience solution' to make sure you can make emergency calls during a power cut. This could be a mobile phone (if you have mobile signal) or a battery-backup unit that connects to your landline phone and provides power in case of a power outage.

This resilience solution should be provided free of charge to people who are dependent on their landline. If you're not eligible for a free resilience solution, you may be able to purchase one from your provider or another retailer – talk to your provider about the options available to you.

Will anything else be affected, like my telecare?

The switch to digital landlines may affect telecare devices and other equipment such as personal alarms and security alarms if they're connected to your phone line. You should contact your device supplier to check if your device will work with the new system or whether any equipment will need to be upgraded.

Although your landline telephone provider will contact you before the switch takes place, you may want to let them know about any telecare devices that you have in advance.

If you're buying a new device that's linked to the phone system, you should also check with the seller or manufacturer that this will be compatible.

If you have any other questions you can speak to your provider.

The Ford RideLondon Classique returns to Essex

The world's very best professional cyclists will return to Essex on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 May in one of the highest profile sporting events hosted by the county in 2024.

The Ford RideLondon Classique is a UCI Women's WorldTour event – the highest level of professional cycling – and sees the best female cyclists in the world race over three days for the right to be crowned champion.

Twelve months ago thousands of cycling enthusiasts lined the streets of Essex to watch more than 100 elite riders come through their streets. In 2024, which marks the tenth edition of the race, the Classique promises to be even more competitive, with the first two days of racing returning to Essex.

On Friday 24 May, thousands will pack the streets of Saffron Walden to watch the start of the race at 11am. Beginning in Market Square, the riders will roll out towards Great Chishill before making their way east towards Thaxted (arriving at roughly 12:30) heading through Finchingfield (12:45), Halstead (13:20) and Mistley (14:25) among others en-route to the finish on East Hill in Colchester (15:00).

It will not be the first time an elite bike race has come through Essex, with 2024 marking 10 years since the Tour de France raced through the streets of Finchingfield and thousands packed the streets to cheer on their sporting

heroes.

In 2024, the elite teams taking part includes 11 Women's WorldTour teams – the highest level in the sport – and includes the best female team in the world. Team SD Worx-Protime have set the professional cycling scene alight in the last 12 months, and provide fierce competition to the two-times defending champion Team dsm-firmenich PostNL.



In 2024, you can be part of the Ford RideLondon Classique, with Active Essex's Community Activation fund offering grants of up to £250 to support cycling-themed events on Friday 24 May and Saturday 25 May, as well as the mass participation ride which comes through Essex on Sunday 26 May. More information can be found on activeessex.org/ridelondon-essex.

Full details on road closures and when the race will come through your area can be found on the [Ford RideLondon website](#).



National Grid (Norwich to Tilbury) Statutory consultation

Norwich to Tilbury is a proposal by National Grid Electricity Transmission (National Grid) to reinforce the high voltage power network in East Anglia between the existing substations at Norwich Main in Norfolk, Bramford in Suffolk, and Tilbury in Essex, as well as connect new offshore wind generation.

We are consulting on our proposals for Norwich to Tilbury, which include:

- the preferred draft alignment for a new 400 kilovolts (kV) electricity transmission connection of around 184 kilometres (km) running from Norwich Main Substation to Tilbury Substation via Bramford Substation including approximately 159 km of new overhead line and approximately 25 km of underground cabling
- six new Cable Sealing End (CSE) compounds (where high-voltage underground cables join onto an overhead line) and associated permanent accesses
- a new East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) 400 kV substation, which would connect clean energy from offshore wind generation to the energy network so the energy can reach homes and businesses where it's needed.
- an alternative design at Waveney Valley, substituting approximately 2 km of pylons with underground cabling
- substation extension works at the existing Norwich Main, and Bramford substations and works within the existing Tilbury Substation
- temporary works including access roads, tracks, compounds and associated with the project's construction.

We are also consulting on the preliminary findings from our environmental studies and assessments as well as proposed mitigation for any potential impacts to the local environment, including animal habitats and the local landscape.

Our public statutory consultation is open between Wednesday 10 April 2024 and Tuesday 18 June 2024 (11:59pm).

During statutory consultation, we're holding a series of public information events, webinars, and we have published detailed information on our proposals on our website.

You can see all our consultation materials on our document library, and you can explore our proposals in detail via our interactive map.

We want to hear your views, you can provide feedback by:

completing the online feedback questionnaire [here](#)

emailing your comments to: contact@n-t.nationalgrid.com

- posting your written responses (no stamp required) to: FREEPOST N TO T
- completing a printed feedback questionnaire and return it using the freepost address.

You can also pick up questionnaires at our public information events, or at the inspection points listed [here](#). You can also contact us directly by calling us on **0800 915 2497**.

Further information can be found at www.nationalgrid.com

nationalgrid



Dates for your diary

MAY

- | | | |
|----|---|---------------|
| 1 | WI AGM and social night, Village Hall | 7:30pm |
| 8 | Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall
Annual Meeting, Parish Assembly and Ordinary Meeting from | 7:00pm |
| 9 | Little Bromley Parish Council, The Haywain
Annual Meeting, Parish Assembly and Ordinary Meeting from | 7:00pm |
| 12 | Antiques & Collectors Fair, Village Hall | 9:00am-3:00pm |
| 23 | Village Hall AGM, Village Hall | 7:30pm |
| 28 | WI Crafting Social, Village Hall | 10am-12:30pm |

JUNE

- | | | |
|----|--|--------|
| 12 | Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall | 7:30pm |
|----|--|--------|

The Great Bromley Cross Community Pub relies on volunteers to work behind the bar and keep the place clean and tidy. In particular, we would welcome an hour or two to help cleaning inside the pub during the day on a Thursday or Friday. If you can help support the pub with this, or in any way, please email Barry Taylor at thebarrytaylor@aol.com

FLOWER FESTIVAL '24 - A SMALL UPDATE

Momentum is gathering, not many weeks to go, sponsor letters distributed (if you have a local business, please support us) raffle tickets ordered, events diary filling up. Refreshments organised, we would like to offer a BBQ lunch Saturday and Sunday, any offers or ideas? Hog Roast?

If you would like to help please, please contact me! Thank you

Flower Festival Dates June 14th, 15th, 16th put the dates in your diary.

A special invitation –

The finale of the Flower Festival '24 is a Songs of Praise / Flower Festival Praise Service at 6.30pm.

All organisations in our community are invited to choose their favourite hymn, poem or piece of prose to share at our

special service led by Rev. Laura Garnham.



Village Hall W.I,
Cricket Club,
School, Cheshire
Home,
Badminton,
Choirs, Bowls
Friendship Club
please join us for
this special
service of Praise
and Thanks.

Let's make it a truly memorable occasion for our village.

Jenny

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

- 16 May
- 6 June
- 27 June
- 18 July

9.45am to 10.15am



**Post Office & Community Library
The Cross**



**Wednesdays
10.00am - 12 noon**



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.

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.

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

Are we joyful Christians?

It's easy to become depressed by what is happening in the world – wars, intolerance and hatred, and a society where many have turned their back on belief in God. In his letter to the Colossians St. Paul sets out our mission *“Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven... Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth.”* St Benedict commented “This does not mean cutting oneself off from one's daily commitments, neglecting earthly realities; rather it means reviving every human activity with a supernatural breath, it means making ourselves joyful proclaimers and witnesses of the Resurrection of Christ, living for eternity.” As we pray for peace on this earth, let us also be joyful proclaimers and evangelists of our faith.

**St. Mark's Second Sunday Praise
and Worship 6.30pm May 12th**

**Next Alpha course begins May 8th
7.30pm and continues each
Wednesday. To sign up email
office@stmarksparish.org.uk**

**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, or the noticeboards outside the churches.

Saturday 5.30pm St. Mark's vigil mass with confessions from 5.00pm **Sunday** 9.00am Holy Family, Brantham 11.00am St. Mark's

Tuesday 10.00am Holy Family mass with Eucharistic Adoration at 9.20am.

Wednesday 9.30am St. Mark's

Friday 12.15pm St. Mark's mass with Eucharistic Adoration from 11.40pm.

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 May 30th and June 27th** 10.30am to 12pm. 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

MANNINGTREE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



In April our members enjoyed a very busy month with an interesting presentation by Justin Minns, a print competition, interclub and external competitions and a field trip.

As we come to the end of our 2023-2024 programme, we are looking forward to:

- 9th May – PDI Competition – ‘The Colour Blue’ Judge: Tom Peck
- 23rd May – Images of the Year
- 30 May – AGM
- Field Trip to Canary Wharf

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.

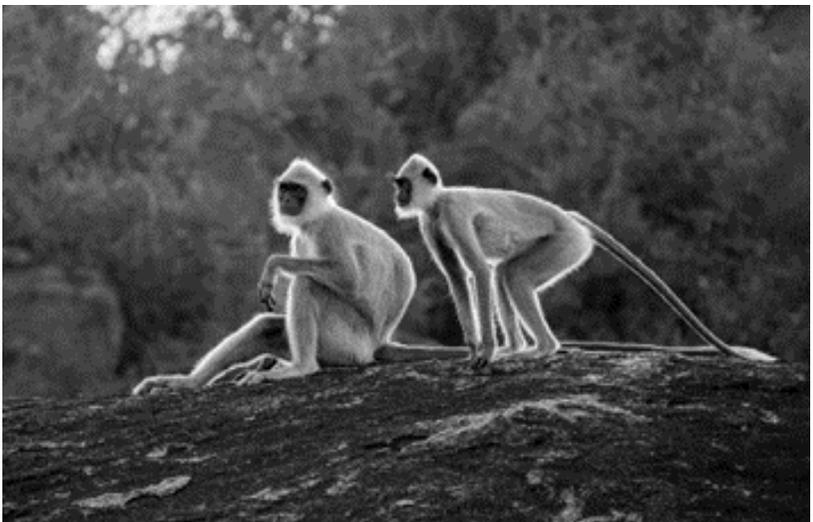
We are a small group of photography enthusiasts with a wide range of photographic experience and knowledge. The club aims to provide a friendly environment for members to enjoy the development of their photographic skills through a variety of activities in the company of like-minded individuals.

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/>

This month's featured image, 'Long Tailed Langurs On The Lookout' by Pat Ainger, was one of the winners from a recent mono print competition.



GREAT BROMLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

The cricket season is once again upon us and matches are due to start on 20th April. It has been hard for Tom the Groundsman to do the much-needed preparation of the wicket with the condition of the pitch which at the time of writing is still very wet underfoot. Fingers crossed that we get some light winds and sunshine for the next few weeks.

The Friday night children's training should restart on 26th April (weather dependant) at 6.30 and every Friday night thereafter. The Club would welcome any child (girls and boys) between the age of 5-15 to come and give it a go, with their first session free too. The bar will be open every Friday as well so we hope to see you over the season. Should you wish to have more details of our Friday sessions please contact our Colts co-ordinator Adam Cuthbert on 07795 320304.

Should there be any persons looking for a team to play weekend or midweek T20 matches please contact Ed Fairley - Club Captain on 07850 405426 for more details. We would be delighted to welcome new players to the Club.

The bar is always open at home games and spectators are always appreciated. The next couple of months home fixtures are as follows:-

- Weekend Home games 11th, 12th & 25th May
- Home games 2nd, 8th 22nd & 23rd June
- Matches start at 1.00pm.



We also have our Midweek Evening league T20 matches which start at 6.00pm on 15th & 23rd May, 5th & 27th June.

On 27th May we hold our T20 Challenge Cup, 3 games against local opposition making an afternoon and evening of cricket, bar and BBQ just what a Bank holiday Monday is all about. Again please join us and get to know your neighbours.

We have fixture cards giving all the club details, points of contact, matches etc at Becky Butchers and the Courthouse please do pick up one to find out more about your local club.

We would love to see you whether just to support, thinking of playing or wanting to get involved with your local club. The club has various opportunities for sponsorship, so if you would like to be involved, whether to sponsor a match ball, a match day tea or have an advertising board at the ground please contact Tracey Wareing on 07941 803475, we would love to hear from you.

Tracey



ANNUAL BLUEBELL SERVICE

Little Bentley Woods Sunday 5th May at 3pm

Meet at St Mary's Church,
Church Road, Little Bentley
CO7 8SE at 2.30pm for a
short walk to the wood.



Ponies and dogs etc are all welcome.

This wonderful gathering is a short open air informal service for all denominations in the middle of a private 100 acre bluebell wood.

Afterwards you are all welcome to walk around the bluebell wood, and then come to the Church Hall for tea and cream scones.

We look forward to welcoming you all.

STOUR VALLEY U3A

Make the most of life once you're no longer in full time work and come and explore new ideas, interests and skills with University of the Third Age. Across the country U3A members are meeting new people, learning, staying active, and having fun later in life. It's local, social, friendly, low cost and open to all.

We have over 40 interest groups including walking – from strollers to 5+ milers – theatre trips, garden visits, art appreciation, curry club, science group, languages, keep fit, pickleball, overseas travel there's something for everyone. Membership costs only £15 a year.

Monthly coffee mornings are held on the first Friday of the month 10am – 12pm at the Lambe School, Gaston

Street, East Bergholt. Come along, meet some members, hear more about us and decide whether you'd like to join.

Monthly lectures are held on the second Wednesday at 2pm in the Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt. Guests are welcome for a charge of £4. Our speaker on 8th May is Peter Halliday "A history of Suffolk gravestones", on 12th June we have Peter Fraser-Hopewell "Cyprus : holiday destination but a divided island" and on 10th July we have Dr Claire Benn speaking on "The Future of Artificial Intelligence".

Please take a look at our website www.u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley for more information and contact details.

EASTER AT ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Pilgrim Cross - 23rd March

Holy Week this year began with the arrival of the Student/Pilgrim Cross. A band of folk from all over the country coming together in North Essex to walk to Walsingham. For many years their special kneeler in the church tells us the Pilgrim Cross has made St. Georges the first stop on their epic walk. Twenty-four smiling, cheerful, happy folk arrived singing along the church path eager for coffee and cake about 10.30am on the morning of the 23rd of March (very early this year) carrying their back packs and supported by two minibuses.

After a short service, suitably refreshed the Pilgrims departed for Lt Bentley where they were looking forward to lunch, Great Oakley for tea and finally their resting place

Palm Sunday - 24th March

Bright and cheerful and no rain dawned the morning of Palm Sunday. A really special service this year, as not only were we celebrating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem all those years ago, but we were also welcoming a new little girl, Isobel, into our family at St. Georges.

The congregation gathered at the Lych Gate from about 10.45 joined joyfully by the family of Isobel who were celebrating with her on this very special day. Led by Candy (the donkey) after prayers at the Lych Gate by Rev. Phillip singing "All Glory Laud and Honour" and waving our palms we processed into church for the Baptism Service at the Font.

A wonderful morning service of praise. Beautiful moments throughout the morning contributed to make this a very special Palm Sunday Service.

Our thanks to Jane who very kindly brought Candy to lead our procession. Thank you to Isobel and her family who helped make this morning so very memorable.

for the night in Dovercourt before crossing on the ferry to Shotley the next morning to start their onwards journey North.

We greet them every year and are so proud to be part of their journey.



Easter Service - 28th March

Over 120 children from St. Georges Primary School walked to church at 2pm on Thursday to celebrate the Easter Story Service led by Rev. John. Parents and family were waiting for them, many arriving early at 1pm to grab a coffee before their children arrived. A great feeling of excitement, happiness greeted the children on their arrival as they very orderly took their places in the choir stalls and pews as rehearsed a couple of days earlier.

Parents and visitors were not disappointed, Years Five and Six led us through the Easter Story, beautiful, clear voices – we could hear every word! All children sang enthusiastically, Mrs Elliot leading the singing and overseeing the whole service. Well done everyone, the service was magnificent!! So very much admired were the Easter Banners all the children made to decorate the church.

Thank you, Carol, for organising this activity and displaying them in the church.



John Rutter Requiem

Good Friday evening five of the St. George's choir sang with the Deanery Choir at Lt. Bentley. Confidently conducted by Sally Pudney the congregation were treated to a very special evening enjoyed by all.

Special thanks to our own Graeme who accompanied us on the cello most skilfully. Raising money for Lt Bentley Church. It is always a pleasure to sing with the Deanery Choir.

Easter Vigil at Lt. Bromley, Easter Saturday Evening.

The Rev. Stephen Carter led our Easter Vigil Service the evening of March 29th at Little Bromley at 7pm.

Approximately thirty people gathered outside at the West Door around the fire pit from which the new Pascal Candle was lit for the first time.

Rev Nicky Young led everyone into church holding high the Pascal candle. A beautiful service followed readings, prayers, singing and a talk given by Brother Phillip, a visitor from Mirfield (patrons of St. Georges) as the candles flickered and glowed.

A warming glass of wine followed this very moving service.

Thank you to Carol and Gavin for all the help and support to make this service so successful.



Easter Day - 29th March at 11am

An unusually early in the year Easter Day Service at 11a.m and a fifth Sunday in the month!

Many families and children made their way to St Georges for this Easter Day Service, the bells rang out as the car park filled to capacity and the sun shone.

St Georges Church looked beautiful, the flower team working together to create some stunning displays on every windowsill, pew and porch. Thank you to the ladies, you are wonderful! The Easter lilies looked magnificent, thank you for your donations.

The service led by Rev. Canon Stephen began in the South Aisle in the Patronal Chapel. Stephen had managed to find some children who rolled away the stone in the Easter Garden.

The procession, then led by our Banner and Processional Cross, moved to the chancel where the Service began. Wonderful music and singing by the choir thank you Gregory.

Wonderful refreshments hot cross buns, simnel cake and sausage rolls thank you Yvonne, Sue and Anne and easter eggs for ALL!!!

Altogether sixty-four adults and four children shared this super service. A magnificent service, well done St Georges!!

The flag flew splendidly through sunshine, wind and rain. Thank you Bill for hoisting the flag for us at this special time of year.

A warm thank you to all of you who help at our village church, your support and kindness is so appreciated we could not manage without you.

Helping Hands Update

Thank you to our new group 'Helping Hands' take a look at the path between the church and Cheshire Home, our latest project to make better accessibility for wheel chair users to the church. We are clearing the overgrown pathway for them and cutting back the conifers.

"Helping Hands" help inside and outside the church, gardening, cleaning brass, restoring oak boxes, candlesticks, sweeping leaves etc. Come and help if you have a few spare minutes on the first Saturday of each month at 10am. We would love to see you, coffee and cake afterwards.

Keep our beautiful village church alive and vibrant for all our community.



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Sunshine and daylight savings, blossom and birdsong – springtime is well and truly upon us and I hope you are finding ways to enjoy the regeneration and new opportunities it brings!

The revitalisation of our floral life and the return of sunlight to many of our days mirror in part the change in seasons in the Church year as we move from the more introspective season of Lent to a more obviously light-filled season, punctuated by the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, His ascension to heaven and the coming of His Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Each of these events is significant in and of itself. First, in Jesus' physical resurrection from the dead we are shown that death is not the end of our lives: that life after death is possible. Secondly, in Jesus' ascension we see more clearly Jesus'

divine origins as He returns to His Father in dramatic fashion in full view of His first followers. Thirdly, in the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost we see God promising to dwell with His people in a powerful, personal and lasting way.

Each of these events is significant in and of itself, but together they paint a portrait of a God who is powerful (even stronger than death), a God who intervened in human history (in the person of His Son) and a God who remains present with His people (by His Spirit). These are just some of the reasons the Christian Church rejoices greatly at this time and in this season. If you'd like to experience some of this joy for yourself, please come and visit one of our services near you – you'd be very welcome!

**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

May 5th	Rogation	Parish Eucharist BCP	11am
May 9th	Ascension Day	<i>See website or notice</i>	
May 11th	Saturday	PBS Evensong & tea	3pm
May 12th	Sunday after Ascension	Parish Eucharist	11am
May 19th	Pentecost Whitsun	Evensong BCP	6.30pm
May 26th	Trinity Sunday	Parish Eucharist	11am

St Mary's, Little Bentley

April 7th	Morning Prayer 11am
April 21st	Holy Communion 11am
May 5th	Bluebell service 3pm
May 12th	Holy Communion 11am

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