



The messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

December 2025



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

It's time to start thinking about the colour scheme again! Our navy blue theme was lovely last year and so I'm tempted to go with that again, with a bit of a woodland theme thrown in too. I've got some giant acorn baubles for the tree which look amazing. I've relented and said we can put the tree up on the second weekend of December. The cats will play with the baubles nightly, usually at 3am, so the least amount of time up, the better.

Remembrance services took place across the country on Sunday 9th November, including services at the War Memorials in Little Bromley and Great Bromley. Thank you to those who made these important services possible, allowing local residents to remember and reflect, and to those who did readings, read names or laid a wreath, thank you.

If you can, please spare a thought for any lonely neighbours over this festive period. Loneliness is an awful thing, a cuppa and a chat can really brighten someone's day. Perhaps a spare seat in the car might enable them to attend a carol service and make their year.

Awareness days in December include:

- 5th - International Volunteer Day
- 10th - Human Rights Day
- 11th - Christmas Jumper Day
- 21st - Winter Solstice
- 24th - Eggnog Day

As usual, The Messenger takes a break in January but it will be back in February 2026. Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

**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. Our village is a tapestry of rich history, diverse talents, and unwavering warmth. Each contribution to this magazine is a thread that strengthens the fabric of our community.

*This month's front cover is a snowy scene from the Seven Rivers Cheshire Home archives.

MATERIAL for the **FEBRUARY 2026** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th JANUARY 2026** 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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For details of availability and costs for **ADVERTISING** in the
The Messenger please contact the Editor via the1986messenger@gmail.com
Please support the sponsors of our magazine.



more than a pub...

Opening Times

Wednesday Coffee Shop, Post Office and Library 10am to 12pm

Tuesday and Thursday 6:30pm - Friday 5pm —

Saturday 6:30pm—Sunday 12pm to 3pm

**We would like to thank all our volunteers, customers and shareholders
for their continued support throughout the this year and we wish you all
a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

Festive Period Events

Every Thursday Mobile Fish & Chip Van 6pm to 6:30

**Every Wednesday Coffee Morning,
Post Office and Library 10am to 12pm**

Thursday 11th - Open Jam Night 8pm

Saturday 13th - Mac Street Kitchen

Wednesday 17th—Final Coffee morning of 2025

Thursday 18th - Charity Xmas Quiz at 8pm

Thursday 18th - Friendship Club 2pm to 4pm

Friday 19th - Xmas Jumper Party

Christmas Opening Times

24th: 6 to 10pm * 25th: 12 to 3pm * 26th 6 to 10pm

**For more information on our Christmas Opening times throughout the fes-
tive period, please visit our website or Facebook page**

<https://greatbromleycross.pub/> info@greatbromleycross.co.uk

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

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



I was very pleased to welcome James Pirie to his first meeting as a Parish Councillor on 12th of November. I am sure that we all wish him every success and look forward to his contributions over the coming months.

I am also able to report that we have co-opted Bashir Goni to fill the final vacancy on the Parish Council, which will be ratified at our next meeting on Wednesday 10th December.

As a Parish, we receive many requests to provide funding for projects during the year together with on-going village maintenance. In previous years we have been able to draw on our reserves to make up any shortfalls that occur because of unforeseen expenses. We no longer have the reserves to do this, so it is the responsibility of the Parish Council to set an annual budget that is realistic, fair and within our income.

As a consequence of this, we have had to prioritise funding for those items that affect the greatest number of Parishioners. One of these is The Messenger magazine which will continue to be subsidised over the next year, as it remains the best way to keep everyone in the Village informed of local news and forthcoming events.

One piece of news that I am happy to report is that the Remembrance Sunday attendance at the War Memorial was extremely well attended, with five organisations laying wreaths, followed by a packed memorial service in St George's Church where vocal contributions from the church choir and St George's School were outstanding.

May I wish you all a happy Yuletide for you and your families.

Kind regards
Ian Murch

All residents are warmly welcomed to attend Parish Council meetings and speak about any issues they have.

Meetings usually* take place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm at Great Bromley Village Hall.

ADVANCE NOTICE: The January 2026 meeting will take place on Wednesday 7th.

PLANNING APPLICATION

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
<u>25/01578/</u> <u>FULHH</u> Mr and Mrs Crisell	Householder Planning Application - Front porch. Great Bromley Parish Council had no comment.	Denique, Mary Lane South, Great Bromley CO7 7UD

ARDLEIGH SURGERY

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your continued support.

Over the next few months, we'll be running an Empowerment Series from A to Z, focusing on common health topics and how you can take charge of your own care. The full list will be available soon on our website from 1st December 2025.

A – ADHD

There is currently a long waiting list for ADHD assessments and diagnosis. You have two main options:

Option 1: NHS Services

- Adults: Referred via NHS Mental Health Services
- Children: Referred via Community Paediatrics

You'll need to complete three forms before referral:

1. Information Gathering Form – required for referral
2. Weiss Functional Impairment Rating Scale – assesses functional difficulties
3. Wender Utah Rating Scale – explores ADHD symptoms, especially from childhood
4. Children: 1 form for parents/guardian to complete and 1 for the school to complete.

If the referral criteria are met, your referral will be sent, but please note that NHS waiting times are currently around 18 months.

Option 2: Right to Choose (RTC) Providers

You can self-refer online to an approved RTC provider. These services are usually conducted virtually and often offer assessments within

around six weeks.

However, please note that some only provide diagnosis and not treatment or ongoing monitoring.

B – Blood Tests

Blood test request forms are now saved in your medical record.

You can book a blood test:

- By phone, or
- Online via the link sent to you.

Blood tests are carried out at Dedham or Ardleigh Surgery, or at the Primary Care Centre (Turner Road, Colchester), Harwich, or Clacton. Appointments are available daily from 07:00–16:30 via swiftqueue.co.uk.

Don't forget to collect your blood form from reception and bring it with you to your appointment.

B – Blood Pressure

You can book an appointment with one of our Health Care Assistants to check your blood pressure. However, we now recommend home monitoring as it gives a more accurate picture than a one-off reading in the surgery.

You can take several readings a few times a day for several days, then bring your results in so we can calculate an average. We recommend the OMRON blood pressure monitor for reliability. If you bring your monitor to your appointment, our HCA will be happy to show you the correct way to use it.

PHARMACY FIRST

Please consider using the Pharmacy First service for the following common conditions:

- Acute otitis media – ages 1 to 17
- Impetigo – ages 1 and over

- Infected insect bites – ages 1 and over
- Shingles – ages 18 and over
- Sinusitis – ages 12 and over
- Sore throat – ages 5 and over
- Uncomplicated urinary tract infections – women aged 16–64

Pharmacists can assess and treat these conditions directly, helping you get care quickly and conveniently.

Important Notice

Please note that when the online platform states that only routine problems should be submitted, any urgent matters posted may not be reviewed until 08:00 the next working day.

If you start to feel unwell after submitting your request, you must attend the Urgent Care Centre or Accident & Emergency (A&E) for

immediate medical attention.

Standing orders

- Please be kind to staff.
- If you haven't already, please book in your flu vaccination.

Practice shutdown

Next shutdown will be Thursday 27th November.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and for being such a vital part of our community. We look forward to continuing to serve you in the months ahead.

Kind regards,
The Team at Ardleigh Surgery

A LIVING CHRISTMAS '25

Music & arrangements by
contemporary composers

with

THE DEANERY CHOIR

and Peter Clayton (Accompanist)

Saturday 13th December

7pm start

*Lapwood - Hazrati - Walker - Forrest
Culloton - Bullard - Chilcott
Chase - Barton - Beamish*

**St Osyth Parish Church
Church Square
St Osyth
CO16 8NU**

Retiring collection for Church funds



We would like to invite you to a

Christmas Coffee Morning

At St. George's Church,

Great Bromley, CO7 7TS on

Saturday 6th December

10am to 12 noon

*We will have: a Raffle, assorted stalls, cakes,
Refreshments, bric a brac and lots more to enjoy.*

Everyone Welcome

ADVANCE WARNING OF THE BROMLEY 10K

Hopefully for all our budding runners, the new date of **Sunday 12th April 2026** has now been put in your diary.

Entries for this race opened on the 1st November. Although over half of the spaces have gone, there are still places available.

If you would like to take part, please go to 'Little Bromley 10k Run' and it should send you to the Harwich Runners website to enter.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Carol Cordwell and the Harwich Runners



Great Bromley Village Hall



As another busy and successful year for the village hall draws to a close, the village hall management committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of our communities a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Your continuing support for this key community

facility is much appreciated and we look forward to seeing residents from both villages at some of the many activities taking place in the village hall in 2026.

Martin Frostick

villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk
01206 250263

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We will be returning to The Craft Nurseries, Ardleigh for our Christmas Lunch on Thurs 4th December at 1pm, as we were looked after so well last year.

The final meeting of the year is at the Cross Inn on Thursday 18th December at 2pm. Members are to bring a small, wrapped gift to add to our Secret Santa draw.

Our January meeting and AGM will be

on 15th January 2026. A new Secretary and a third banking signature will need to be elected due to the passing of Beryl Hurst. The annual accounts will be available and the annual membership fee of £7.50 will be due.

Finally, I would like to wish all our members a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Jane Hurst - Treasurer
07704 210628

PLANNING DETERMINATION

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
25/01183/ FULHH Mr N Miller	Householder Planning Application - Two storey front and rear extensions.	Brundells Farm Brundells Road Great Bromley CO7 7JP	Approval - Full 07.10.2025 Delegated Decision

Dec 7th

The Deanery Choir will be singing at St Nicholas Church, Harwich CO12 3DR at the 3pm Patronal service.

The choir will sing the anthem 'A hymn to the Virgin' by Benjamin Britten. Britten was born in Lowestoft, Suffolk, the son of a dentist.

He showed talent from an early age. He studied at the Royal College of Music in London and privately with the composer Frank Bridge.

Britten first came to public attention with the *a cappella* choral work 'A Boy Was Born' written in 1934. With the premiere of *Peter Grimes* in 1945, he leapt to international fame.

Over the next 28 years, he wrote 14 more operas, establishing himself as one of the leading 20th-century composers in the genre.

Dec 13th (Saturday)

The Deanery Choir will be singing at their annual event 'A living Christmas '25' at St Osyth Parish Church, St Osyth CO16 8NU at 7pm.

This concert tells the Christmas story with readings and music all of which is written by contemporary composers and arrangers.

The choir is accompanied by Peter Clayton and a leaving collection will be made for church funds. One not to miss!

Dec 14th

The Deanery Choir will be singing at St Georges



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

Church, Great Bromley CO7 7TS at the 11am communion service.

The choir will once again sing 'A hymn to a virgin' by Benjamin Britten.

This service will have music and hymns preparing us for the birth of Christ.

Graham Bell
Deanery Choir
grahambell493@gmail.com



The Friends of Little Bromley Church
would like to invite you to our

Carol Service



at St Mary's Church, Little Bromley
CO11 2PP

on **Tuesday 23rd December 2025**
at **3.00pm**

Refreshments afterwards
We would love to see you!

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity that protects historic churches at risk. We've saved over 340 unique buildings which attract more than a million visitors a year. With our help and your support, they are kept open, in use and free to all - living once again at the heart of their communities.

visitchurches.org.uk

The Churches Conservation Trust, 1 West Smithfield, London EC3A 9EE
Telephone 020 7293 0660
Registered charity no 269016 410072005

GREAT BROMLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

Senior awards night was held at The Courthouse on 18th October, an excellent night was had by all and was attended by players, partners and family. Some speeches were short, some a little longer and one even partially written by Al! A good and sometimes amusing round up of all the cricket played by all the teams captains.

Congratulations in particular go to Dan Blacker who scooped a number of awards for his contributions to the Saturday and Sunday teams. It is indeed exciting to see such a young player, having a major role within the teams and we look forward to seeing more of his talent in the years to come.

The young player of the year award however went to his teammate Alfie Westall, again for outstanding contributions and if he looks at the names of the other winners from years gone by, he can certainly be looking at an exciting future.

The Club person of the year was much deserved and went to our Chairman Clive Earley. Not only for continuing to lead the club in a very positive direction, but for his work with the junior section and for the various works including building the new score board housing and other tasks around the club.

We were pleased to present to The Courthouse a framed

photo of the senior teams in their cricket whites who they have very kindly sponsored for at least 4 years. They have indeed been extremely generous Sponsors, and the club is very appreciative.



The indoor league has now started for those that just want a little cricket on a Sunday afternoon. The club have entered sides for Juniors, Seniors and Ladies will be played at the Colchester sports park.

Tracey Wareing



St George's Church Great Bromley

CO7 7TS



Carols at the Crib



Christmas Eve at 4pm

for half an hour

Children are invited to come dressed as wise men or women, shepherds, angels or animals from the stable.

www.greatbromley.org.uk

@StGeorgesGtBrom

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

There was a great turnout for the Remembrance Service on Sunday 9th November, more than 20 people attended on a beautiful autumn morning, a special mention for Councillor Barrett for her hard work on this year's crocheted bunting and wreath, it looked fantastic! and thanks must also go to Gregory and Dorothy for hosting the event.

The Parish Council have finally got Listed status for our War Memorial, and that is for the site itself not just the monument which is great news.

The work of the parish council has increased enormously over recent months and years, as we escalate the fight against the National Grid substation proposals while simultaneously working to try to prevent the Five Estuaries, North Falls and Tarchon Interconnector substations. We are also now engaged in progressing the Neighbourhood Plan for the village, to shape future development proposals and help protect against unwanted building plans, which is also a huge amount of

work.

We have been extremely fortunate to have been supported by Dawn for several years now; as our Parish Clerk she has supported the Parish Council fantastically, and in a purely voluntary capacity, at no cost to residents or to the council.

Going forward it is clear that we are going to need greater resource and a more demanding time commitment from the role, which will inevitably mean paying for a professional clerk, and ultimately a commensurate increase in the parish precept.

In the meantime, we want to thank Dawn for her years of dedicated service to the village and for helping the parish council as we make the transition going forward.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 15th January 2026, at the Haywain from 730pm.

And finally, a Merry Christmas to all our residents and a Happy New Year.

Little Bromley Parish Council



MANNINGTREE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Last month club members took part in a PDI competition – Open Colour, and had an interesting talk by club member Ian Parker about his photography trip to Tanzania. We have a wealth of experience within the club and while we love getting external speakers in to share their experiences, we also like to make use of the knowledge held by members.

In December we are looking forward to a field trip to London and our Christmas Dinner.

Our club website has information about membership and activities together with competition results, photo albums and further club information.

Our 2025/2026 programme is also on the website. Our public Manningtree Photographic Club Facebook page also features various club news and activities.

This month's featured image by Ian Parker was the winning image from our recent Close Up and Macro competition.

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. 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/>





GREAT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

Merry Christmas from all the Surgery Team

On behalf of the whole team at the Surgery, we would like to wish all our patients a very Happy Christmas.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR SURGERY OPENING HOURS

The normal Surgery opening times are from 8.00 am to 6.30 pm Monday to Friday.

Over the Christmas/New Year period the Surgery will be closed on Thursday 25 December, Friday 26 December 2025 and Thursday 1 January 2026.

PRESCRIPTIONS

In order to assist us, please remember to order your December prescription in good time for Christmas. You can put in your request up to 14 days before it is needed, to ensure you don't run out over the Christmas period. Please remember that we do require 3 working days to process your prescription and ensure it is at your nominated pharmacy, so please don't leave it until the last minute.

SURGERY NEWS

We are very pleased to let you know that Dr Howard-Franks has now returned to the Surgery after her recent maternity leave.

ASKMYGP REQUESTS

We are receiving a considerable number of urgent requests on the wrong forms on AskmyGP.

Please remember that if you have an urgent problem, then



you need to complete an urgent request form between 7.30 am and 4.00 pm on the day.

It is very important that the correct form is completed to ensure your request is dealt with in an appropriate way. Completing the

wrong form can result in a delay, so please help us to help you by completing the correct form.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

The Patient Participation Group does not meet in December.

Sue Mitson
Operations Manager



Community Carols

with choir

St George's Church Great Bromley

**Sunday 21st December 2025
at 4pm**

Everybody's welcome!

**Collection for
The Children's Society**

Refreshments afterwards

Dates for your diary



DECEMBER 2025

3	WI Christmas Party	12:00pm
6	Festive Coffee Morning, St George's Church	10am-12pm
6	Manningtree Christmas Market, High Street	1pm-6pm
9	WI Crafting Social, Village Hall	10:00am-12:30pm
10	Knit and Knatter, Seven Rivers	2:00pm-4:00pm
10	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	7:00pm
11	Ardleigh & Dis. Horticultural Society	7:45pm
19	Great Bromley Friendship Club, The Cross Inn	2:00pm
21	Community Carols, St George's Church	4:00pm
23	Carol Service, St Mary's Church, Little Bromley	3:00pm
24	Carols at the Crib, St George's Church	4:00pm

JANUARY 2026

7	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	7:00pm
7	WI Soup and Resolutions, Village Hall	7:30pm
15	Friendship Club, Gt Bromley Cross Pub	2:00pm
15	Little Bromley Parish Council, The Haywain	7:30pm
27	WI Crafting Social, Village Hall	10:00am-12:30pm

Clacton Choral Society

welcomes you to enjoy a special Christmas concert under the direction of Caryl Newham, with organist Duncan Archard. It will include excerpts from Bach's Christmas Oratorio, part 1, with professional soloists.

A selection of carols will be sung, some new to the ear, and some with audience participation of course.

St. James' Church, Tower Road,
Clacton on Sea CO15 1LE

4pm Saturday 6th December
Seasonal refreshments

Tickets in advance at £12.50 from:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/clacton-choral-society

email: penny4david@btinternet.com

Tel: 07772 682604 and on the door.

St George's Church Great Bromley

CO7 7TS



Christmas 2025

all ages welcome!

Sunday 21st at 4pm
Community Carols with choir

Wednesday 24th at 4pm
Crib Service

Thursday 25th at 11am
Christmas Day Eucharist



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

- 4 Dec
- 15 Jan
- 5 Feb
- 26 Feb

9.45am to 10.15am



Post Office & Community Library

The Great Bromley Cross Pub



Wednesdays
10.00am - 12 noon



Did you know? Our local area has three Automated External Defibrillators. You can access these at:

- The Courthouse, Harwich Road, CO7 7JG
- The Great Bromley Cross Pub, Ardleigh Road, CO7 7TL
- The Haywain, Bentley Road, CO11 2PL

Also at The Great Bromley Cross Pub 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.

Join us at Great Bromley's Crafting Social - Great Bromley Village Hall

Next Meeting – Tuesday Dec 9th 10.00am to 12.30pm (£3 plus option £1 raffle ticket) materials available to make a Christmas Door wreath.

Our monthly crafting social is coming to the end of yet another creative and conversation filled year. Our connecting thread is that we appreciate crafts and enjoy crafting in the company of others. We each decide to either bring along our own project, be that of knitting, quilting, making greeting cards etc. or, to group together if wish to learn a craft that someone wants to share so that we



can have a go ourselves - e.g. to learn how to patchwork or how to make a paper gift box or try felting. Additionally we can work together on a community project as we have done in making shopping or toiletry bags for Manningtree Food Bank.

We also have a 'show and tell' time where we can be inspired to take up a new craft through individuals sharing a completed project and talking through how the item was made, what tools or equipment was needed, where to obtain supplies etc. Good examples are when we learned about lace making and how to spin wool.

We take full advantage of the heavily laden 'donations table', offering a chance to declutter craft and other items from home and to find new treasures including fabric, wool, books etc for a small donation

With conversations taking place and help available to





fashionings in January.

Our time also enables us to suggest ideas on possible trips together to say an art gallery or textile exhibition and maybe having a morning tea/ coffee or lunch out.

Do come along and give our community crafting social a try - you will be warmly welcomed. There is access to sewing machines, cutting board and a pressing

iron, and plenty of support to get started with something new. interpret patterns or to offer guidance, we incorporate a break whenever needed and visit the refreshment table to choose a sweet or savoury bite along with a tea or coffee. Sometimes at the end of our sessions we find that we have not made much progress at all in our projects - as it's just been a delight to spend a morning chatting about all sorts of things, whereas other times we have really focused our minds and set to and achieved a finished item - our morning sessions are a pleasure either way.

Each year we have a 'crafting challenge' open to all who wish to have a go. Previous years has resulted in unique creations on what can be made with buttons or using Denim. This year the challenge is 'what can we make using seed beads' and we are looking forward to seeing the different

iron, and plenty of support to get started with something new.

Except in December we meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 10 – 12:30pm

Kerry Franklin

**For more info: Email
gtbromleywi@gmail.com or call
Dorothy on 07791974053**



FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEAS

With sincere regret, Great Bromley Parish Council wishes to let residents know that the much-loved Festive Afternoon Teas will not be provided this December.

This decision has not been made lightly. Unfortunately, rising statutory costs and financial obligations have placed pressure on the council's budget this year, and we've had to make some

difficult choices about where resources can be allocated, now and in the future.

We're hopeful that we'll be able to bring them back at some point in the future.

In the meantime, we encourage everyone to keep the spirit of the season alive in small, meaningful ways. A warm drink, mince pie and a friendly chat can go a long way in brightening someone's day.

National Infrastructure Update affecting Little Bromley and surrounding Villages

Little Bromley and Ardleigh Parish Councils have teamed up to take on National Grid. Ardleigh PC plans to instruct a barrister to assist with preparation of arguments to the Planning Inspectorate and to present local issues at the planning hearings which are likely to take place in early 2026. To support this effort, Ardleigh PC has launched a Crowdfunding page which can be found at: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/ardleigh-legal-fund-against-pylons-substations#> to raise funds to oppose National Grid's proposals to build a huge and damaging substation (known as the East Anglia Connection Node-EACN) in Ardleigh/Little Bromley which will connect the proposed Norwich to Tilbury project to two windfarm substations and a converter station in Little Bromley. There are alternative solutions, and National Grid must be challenged about why they have refused to consider much less damaging options. It's not too late to contribute - every donation, big or small, makes a difference.

Many of the issues facing Little Bromley mirror those in Ardleigh - loss of prime

agricultural land, disruption to local businesses and transport, noise and dust pollution, impact on daily lives and property values.

November was a hectic month, as submissions to the Planning Inspectorate were due by the 27th. If you've registered, you'll now have the chance to share your views during the hearings. You can find **Little Bromley PC's submission** on our website.

On Friday 21st November the Ardleigh and Little Bromley Parish Councils held a public meeting which I hope you managed to attend. Speakers included planning representatives, Cllrs Carlo Guglielmi (ECC) & Zoe Fairley (TDC), Sir Bernard Jenkin MP and a representative from the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons campaign group. The meeting was well attended and very informative.

If you would like to be kept up to date with developments, please email littlebromleypc@gmail.com and we will add you to our contacts database.

Christine Barrett
Little Bromley Parish Council

CHURCH JOTTINGS

Hi everyone, I cannot believe that I am writing my piece for the last two months of 2025!

We have just celebrated our Remembrance Service at the War Memorial. The sun shone and our service was very well supported by our village community. Led by Canon Stephen over a hundred folk gathered at the War Memorial at 10.50am. Children from the school joined us, as did many residents of Seven Rivers Cheshire Home. A short service followed in the church, involving the Deanery Choir, the School Choir and a reading by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Ian Murch.

The church looked, magnificent, decorated by the flower ladies and members of our Helping Hands friends who also tidied the churchyard. Thank you so much.

In December 2025 we have many more exciting events to look forward to and hopefully you already have them highlighted in your diaries.

December 6th is our Festive Coffee morning, come and join us between 10am-12pm for a coffee and a mince pie, festive raffle and many other stalls to enjoy.



Looking forward to 2026, we are beginning to plan events so please "save the date" for our next Flower Festival which will be take place in June 2026- Friday 26th, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th.

Boxted Silver Band are already booked for a concert on Sunday afternoon 28th of June.

Our first planning meeting for the Flower Festival will take place on Friday 12th December 2025 at 10.00 am – please join us.

The church family would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Heathy New Year in 2026.

**Love
Jenny**



Hello Great Bromley,

I know you must be eager to see the photo of the winning cake that I promised you in last month's edition, here it is in all its glory, Jackson Pollock would have been proud to call this his own. Let's not forget this was the resident's choice; so please don't try and question their motivation, I tried and failed miserably. I can only imagine the winner was a firm favourite with them, which is nice to know that skills are secondary and it's all about personality, this means if I butter them up enough (no pun intended) I stand a chance of winning.

I'd also like to thank everyone that came to our fireworks night, the feedback was very positive, and the turnout beat all our expectations, we'll definitely make this an annual event.

It was great to see that community spirit when everyone turned up at the memorial on the 9th November for Remembrance Sunday, I'm not sure but it looked like a larger crowd than last year. T.H. had the honour of laying a wreath on behalf of Leonard Cheshire and all of us here at Seven Rivers, he said it was an emotional moment and felt proud to be asked.

Once again Christmas is fast approaching and we're running around like headless chickens, as we do every year because we forget how quickly things come round. This year we managed to arrange an in-house panto through a production company; Cinderella is this year's Christmas spectacular. Fortunately, we've managed to arrange a few trips to the theatre as well, tickets are like gold dust if you're not quick enough. All that



remains to be said, is Merry Christmas and may all your hopes and dreams come true in the New Year (cheaper presents for the kids from now on).

***Good health to you all,
until the next time. Lee***

SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER


1.00-6.00pm




**MANNINGTREE
CHRISTMAS MARKET**

MANNINGTREE HIGH STREET

Food, gifts, drinks, live music, street
entertainment, the Manningtree bangers and,
of course, Santa's Grotto

Brought to you by the Rotary club of Manningtree Stour Valley (registered
charity number 1019980) and the Manningtree District Business Chamber.
This project is part-funded by the UK government through the
UK Shared Prosperity Fund

ST MARKS ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

Everything we have is a gift from God

As Christmas approaches and we buy gifts for friends and loved ones, it's important to pause and reflect: all the gifts in our lives—our talents, possessions, children, and grandchildren—are blessings from God. Among these, God's greatest gifts are the gift of love and the gift of His Son, Jesus.

In the midst of our busy preparations, let's remember these precious gifts. As John's Gospel reminds us: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Lord, during this Christmas season, help us to meditate on the wonderful gift of your Son, Jesus.

Weekday and Sunday Masses and devotions

Please consult noticeboards and the parish website in case of weekday mass changes:

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

Sunday new mass times at Holy Family, Brantham 8am and St. Mark's, Ipswich 11.15am.

Tuesday Holy Family 10.00 mass, with Eucharistic Adoration from 9.20.

Wednesday St. Mark's 09.30 mass

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

Nativity Festival at St. Mark's Saturday 13th December 10am – 1pm

Carol concert Sunday 21st December 4pm-8pm

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. If you or a family member is in hospital you can also contact the Catholic Lay Chaplain to Ipswich hospital: hospitalchaplain@stmarksparish.org.uk

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

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

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
website: stmarksparish.org.uk

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

Dementia Café

Run in association with Abbey Field Medical Centre & Ardleigh Surgery

Every second Thursday of the month: 1:30pm-3pm

**Shrub End Community & Sports Centre
Boadicea Way
Colchester
CO2 9BG**

Parking available!

KNIT AND KNATTER

Our knitters are making everyone who lives at Chesire Home a warm scarf all individually made with love by our knitters. A warm scarf to wear on wintry trips to the shop, around the garden or a trip to the dentist or the hospital. It was decided to choose colours in the Chesire Home Logo (on their note paper), everything else has been chosen by our knitters.

We are half way through our project ...fingers crossed all our very dear friends at Chesire home will have a present from us this Christmas (last year we made a knitted crib scene for all to enjoy).

Our Knit and Knatter group meets every second Wednesday in the month



2-4pm, always enjoying cake and coffee too, all are welcome to join us

Jenny

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, LITTLE BROMLEY



Once again from the 1st December, at St. Mary's, Little Bromley we will have a **Memory Tree** up inside the church.

This Christmas tree is there for anyone who wishes to write a message to a loved one on a tag. Once you have filled it in you can then place it on the tree. The tree always looks lovely in the church. After you have filled in your tag (should you wish to), a small donation to the Churches Conservation Trust would be very welcome.

Please remember that the Church is always open and loves to have visitors. Entrance is through the back door. We also have a visitors book for you to sign (if you wish to).

DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

Great Bromley Village Hall was transformed into a vibrant celebration of light, colour, and community as we came together to mark Diwali, the Festival of Lights.

We were honoured to welcome members of the Colchester Hindu Society, who generously shared the rich cultural and spiritual significance of Diwali. Their presentation helped many of us understand the deeper meaning behind the festival.

The evening was brought to life with traditional dancing. The performances were a beautiful expression of heritage and artistry.

The feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive, with many calling it one of the most memorable community gatherings. It was a true celebration of diversity, unity, and shared joy.

We're delighted to announce that the Colchester Hindu Society will be helping to organise next year's Diwali



celebration, promising an even more spectacular event. If you missed it this time, make sure to join us next year, it's an evening not to be missed!



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends

'Jesus is the Light of the World!'

During December and into the New Year, festive light displays in our homes brighten the dark nights. I can remember as a child trying to spot the occasional Christmas tree with lights peering through windows as we drove past. Nowadays it seems the whole of many gardens and houses are festooned with brightly lit decorations.

Yet it is not just the dark winter evenings they cheer up; the joy of the decorations bring relief to much of the doom and gloom of the tragic and seemingly evil happenings from around the world. But the prologue of John's Gospel read as a lesson in church at Christmastime, says that 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1v5). For Christians, Jesus as the Light of the World, brings hope, love and light into our world.

With constant 24-hour news bulletins it can seem that all there is, is doom and gloom. As I write this early in November, there has just been the tragic stabbing incident on the train from Doncaster to London. Yet on Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' (3 November 2025) Chine McDonald, Director of Theos, the Religion and Society Think Tank, reflects there are many acts of

human kindness and courage also emerging from the devastating attack. I think these are the sparks of light that are not extinguished by the darkness of a fallen and broken world.

Chine explains that acts of courage and bravery are instinctive; in times of danger, we naturally protect the vulnerable and care for those in need. Barriers of difference that society often emphasises are wiped away in the face

of a common enemy or threat. The parable of the Good Samaritan told by Jesus in Luke chapter 10, challenges us to act like this every day, not just when a threat is present.

As we celebrate Christmas this year, joyfully surrounded by festive lights, let us also reach out in selfless acts of compassion and care to those in need around us. God reached out in the darkness and sent a Saviour to shine as the Light. The babe at Bethlehem brings light, love and hope into our world. I wish you a

happy and peaceful Christmas and a warm welcome to any of our services in this festive season. If you want to know more about the Light and Hope that Jesus offers, why not try Alpha, a course exploring the Christian faith and questions of life. Details at www.tendringdedhamparishes.org.uk with courses starting in January.

Best wishes
Revd John Saxon





St George's Church, Great Bromley

For St George's contacts, information, or to receive our email newsletter, please visit
www.greatbromley.org.uk or email us at church@greatbromley.org.uk

Dec 7th	Advent 2	Parish Eucharist BCP with choir	11am
Dec 14th	Advent 3	Parish Eucharist with choir	11am
Dec 21st		Community Carols with choir	4pm
Dec 23rd		<i>Carols at Little Bromley 3pm</i>	
Dec 24th		Crib Service	4pm
Dec 25th		Christmas Day Eucharist	11am
Dec 28th	Christmas 1	<i>Group Service at Tendring 11am</i>	
Jan 4th	Epiphany	Parish Eucharist BCP with choir	11am
Jan 11th	Bapt. of Christ	Parish Eucharist with choir	11am
Jan 18th	Epiphany 2	Evensong BCP with choir	6.30pm
Jan 25th	Epiphany 3	Parish Eucharist	11am

St Mary's, Little Bentley

Dec 7th	Morning Prayer 11am
Dec 21st	Holy Communion 11am
Dec 24th	Christmas Service of Light 6pm
Jan 4th	Morning Prayer 11am
Jan 25th	Holy Communion 11am

Tendring and Dedham Parishes (TADP) – for the group bulletin and news see
www.tendringdedhamparishes.org.uk