

# The Messenger

The Magazine of the  
villages of Great &  
Little Bromley

April 2026



# THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all

Welcome to the latest edition of our village magazine. As we move from March into April, the weather is slowly beginning to turn milder. The clocks have just changed and the longer light is most welcome. One of the most interesting quirks about the spring clock change is that the exact time chosen - 2:00 AM - was deliberately selected to minimise disruption, because it was late enough that most people were home, but early enough that it wouldn't interfere with things like last trains, pub closing times, or the date changing at midnight. This timing convention has been kept for decades across more than 70 countries.

We're approaching Easter and another round of school holidays, with many families looking forward to a well-earned break. For those sitting exams after the holidays, good luck as revision steps up a gear. It can be a long and sometimes anxious wait for results in August for young people and their parents and carers, but hopefully a rewarding one.

May will also bring the County Council elections, taking place on Thursday 7th. It's a good moment to check the details for your polling station or postal

vote so everything is in place ahead of polling day. Taking a few minutes now helps ensure you're ready to take part and have your say in the democratic process.

Awareness days in April include:

- 2nd - World Autism Awareness Day
- 11th - National Pet Day
- 15th - World Art Day
- 20th - Volunteer Recognition Day
- 23rd - St George's Day

I hope you enjoy this month's edition.

**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.

**MATERIAL** for the **MAY 2026** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th APRIL 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 [1986messenger@gmail.com](mailto:1986messenger@gmail.com)  
**Please support the sponsors of our magazine.**

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



## St George's Church Great Bromley Parish of The Bromleys

*A welcoming, inclusive and open church flourishing  
through prayer, faith and positive action.*

We are delighted to be involved in the local community and to sponsor The Messenger. It's the best way to find out about all the good things that are going on locally.

We support the Seven Rivers Cheshire Home in Great Bromley, work with St. Georges C of E primary school and we fundraise for the Manningtree Foodbank and other charities.

### **Open everyday**

If you are a new resident or haven't yet ventured into the church, St. George's is open for you every day for a quiet time or prayer. There are walk-round leaflets and other free guide books and cards.



### **Monthly e-newsletter**

Our monthly e-newsletter is in full colour with high quality photographs and articles. This QR code takes you to our website where you can subscribe to the e-newsletter. You can unsubscribe at any time.

### **Little Bromley Church**

St Mary's, Lt Bromley, (owned by the Churches Conservation Trust) is also open every day and is a beautiful and peaceful spot to visit. The Little Bromley fund has provided two new benches so you can relax and enjoy the view in the churchyard.



# Great Bromley Village Hall



At its last meeting on 24th February, the Village Hall Management Committee was briefed that, although the dog training sessions on Saturday mornings and one of the weekly fitness classes had ceased, hire bookings at the venue had increased in recent months, primarily due to more private parties taking place. It was mentioned at the meeting that the Hamilton Lodge site had recently been sold to another developer and the new developer, since identified as Charwin Homes Ltd, intended to continue infrastructure and house building on the site in the early summer. The Management Committee would make contact with Charwin Homes before any further planning applications for roadside works were submitted, to ensure that the design did not adversely impact on access to and enjoyment of the village hall grounds.

The Management Committee is planning several community events in 2026 including an Open Gardens Day, Garage Sale and Scarecrow Festival on 21<sup>st</sup> June and a Wizards and Fairies Day for children in the summer. There will be a Diwali Celebration evening in early November and it is hoped also to organise a Tea Dance at the hall this year. Further details of these events as well as any others will be given in the Messenger magazine and on social media and local noticeboards in due course.

The attention of the Management Committee is now turning towards the Village Hall AGM which this year will be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May commencing at 7pm in the Millennium Lounge. All parishioners are welcome to attend the AGM which reports on the past year and looks forward to the next. This is your opportunity to provide feedback in person on the facilities in our village hall and the way it is organised and managed.

The AGM is also your opportunity to volunteer to assist with the management of the village hall. There are currently 3 vacancies on the Management Committee and my colleagues and I would really welcome new volunteers onto the committee who are willing to help with the running of the hall, if only in a small way. No particular skills are required, however a desire to help our fine community facility to flourish and a willingness to get stuck in and take on a non-onerous responsibility would make the role more meaningful and much more enjoyable. If you are interested in joining us on the Committee please contact me for further information.

**Martin Frostick - Secretary**  
**01206 250263**

[villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk](mailto:villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk)



# LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

[www.littlebromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.littlebromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Interim Clerk:** Mrs Lizzie Ridout cILCA

**Email:** [clerk@littlebromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@littlebromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Spring has arrived and, at the time of writing, it is so lovely to see the daffodils we planted many years ago in full bloom around the village as well as the flowers in the village planters. The War Memorial has also been given a spring clean, ready for some summer planting. The spring flowers certainly brighten up the village after the long wet winter.

On 16th February, we sent an email to the village database subscribers to highlight important deadlines for feedback on projects impacting Little Bromley. You will find the Parish Council responses on the website under Notices.

Simon Bell's response on behalf of Ardleigh Parish Council and Little Bromley Parish Council regarding the Planning Inspectorate Deadline 1 Little Bromley Parish Council's response to the National Grid Targeted Consultation

Five Estuaries and North Falls Joint Substation Design Guide - Stage 2  
The Tendring District Council Local Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan is progressing well and we are hoping to organise a "Drop in and Have Your Say" event soon. We are very grateful to everyone who took the time to reply to the questionnaire circulated at the end of 2025. The Parish Council will use that feedback to help guide the consultation process.

The Parish Council recently met with members of Great Bromley Parish Council to receive an update from Tendring District Council's head of planning on the Local Plan. New

Government guidelines mean that TDC now has to allocate land for twice as many houses as they had planned for. We were disappointed to see a proposal for a new housing estate in the village of at least 17 new houses. That doesn't sound like a huge amount, but there are only 50 homes in the centre of Little Bromley, so it would represent a massive increase in percentage terms. It is also clear to the Parish Council, following our survey for the Neighbourhood Plan, that village residents only want to see new developments on a very small scale, of individual properties, or two at most. The Parish Council will fight these proposals, and hopefully, our district councillor will support us! What was even more concerning was the news that in order to meet the new housing targets, TDC is seriously considering a massive new town around Horsley Cross and over open countryside right up to Little Bromley. This would see the creation of a sprawling urban conurbation housing around 20,000 people, where currently there are none! We understand that TDC is rushing to get these revisions to the Local Plan made before the Council is abolished in 2028, but in the meantime, we shall be strongly opposing them!!

We received several complaints about speeding lorries and cars using the village road as a shortcut to and from the A120. We have been in contact with the neighbourhood policing team regarding speed checks and now await their attendance. As there is an existing Speedwatch location within the village, this will make a Speedwatch

Group set-up more straightforward should there be sufficient volunteer support from residents. If you are interested in joining a Speedwatch Group, please email [clerk@littlebromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@littlebromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk).

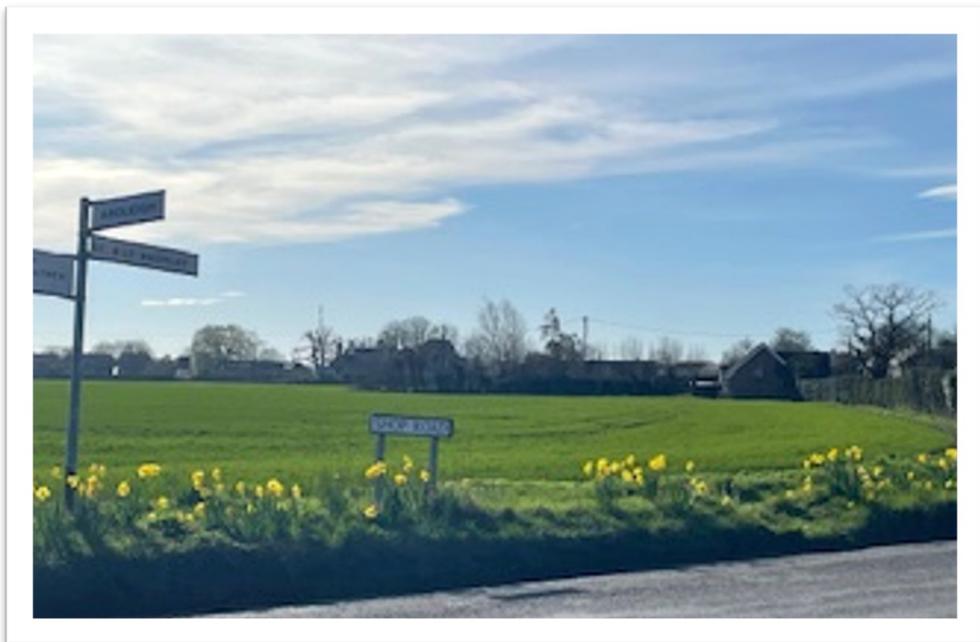
Little Bromley have joined the Parish Paths Partnership scheme. The Parish Paths Partnership is a community-based, volunteer-driven scheme, primarily funded by Essex County Council, aimed at maintaining, improving, and promoting local Public Rights of Way. The team at present consists of seven members. If you would like to join the team, please contact our Footpath Warden Graeme Knott via [clerk@littlebromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@littlebromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk) The team have undertaken training and been provided with the necessary equipment to undertake tasks like clearing vegetation, installing signposts, and repairing bridges to keep paths accessible.

The Parish Council met with Gregory Frostick to review the plans for St Mary's Church memorial garden. We were encouraged to hear that progress has been made at last. We will continue to pursue this and we hope to have some positive news soon.

The annual Harwich Runners Bromley 10k is scheduled for Sunday 12th April. This is the tenth running of this event which is marshalled by many local residents. We encourage you to support this event and if you would like to volunteer to marshal please get in touch.

Our next Parish Council meeting (Annual Meeting) will be held on Thursday 21st May at The Haywain starting at the earlier time of 7.15pm immediately following the Parish Assembly at 7pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

***Little Bromley Parish Council***



# GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

[www.greatbromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.greatbromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Clerk: Mrs Lizzie Ridout c1LCA

Email: [clerk@greatbromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatbromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)



At its most recent meeting, the Parish Council considered a number of important local matters.

The Council has submitted its response to Tendring District Council's draft Local Plan. While understanding the need for an updated plan, the Council has raised significant concerns about the scale and deliverability of the proposed housing numbers, the lack of confirmed infrastructure funding, and the impact of the two suggested garden villages at Hare Green and Horsley Cross. Key issues highlighted include pressures on local roads, drainage, utilities, and public transport, as well as the cumulative impact of existing and emerging developments in and around the parish.

The Council has also stressed the need for clearer evidence on phasing, infrastructure dependencies, and realistic delivery timescales—particularly for the Hare Green proposal, which would require a new A133/A120 junction that is not currently funded. Two small housing allocations are proposed for Great Bromley, and the Council has emphasised that any growth must be proportionate, infrastructure-led, and sensitive to village character. The full response is available in the draft minutes on the Parish Council website.

The meeting included public participation on concerns about speeding in the village, including a petition from a resident to reduce the speed limit on the B1029 (Ardleigh/Frating Road).

The Council also adopted a new IT, Digital Governance & Data Risk Management policy, building on recent

work to strengthen digital systems, improve data security, and ensure compliance with updated regulations. This forms part of the Council's wider commitment to maintaining robust and modern governance practices.

The Village Maintenance team has recently replaced the bench in St George's Close on Brook Street, using a refurbished bench sourced from Hamilton Lodge to ensure the area remains welcoming and well cared for. The team has also cleared a section of pavement along Brook Street that had become obstructed by debris, making the route safer and more accessible for pedestrians.

## Welcome to St George's Great Bromley



### 29th March : Palm Sunday

11am Procession & Eucharist  
with St George's Choir

### 4th April : Easter Eve

8pm Easter Vigil at  
Little Bromley Church CO11 2PP

### 5th April : Easter Day

11am Sung Eucharist  
with St George's Choir

[www.greatbromley.org.uk](http://www.greatbromley.org.uk)

CO7 7TS

# CHANGES TO WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

From April, residents will benefit from an improved waste and recycling system delivered by Veolia – with glass and wider plastic recycling introduced from October 2026.

**Tendring**  
District Council



Under the new deal with Veolia, fortnightly rubbish collections will continue for households with wheelie bins, while those on the black sack service will still receive weekly collections.

wider range of plastic materials making it easier for residents to recycle more materials from home.

Kerbside glass recycling will be added to the existing dry mixed recycling service from October 2026, along with a

Weekly food waste collections will also be expanded to cover more properties from April 2026, including flats, and street cleaning standards will remain at least equivalent to those currently provided.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
<a href="#"><u>26/00202/LBC</u></a>	Listed Building Consent - Single storey rear extension  Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection.	Walnut Tree, Carringtons Road, Great Bromley CO7 7XA
<a href="#"><u>26/00204/FULHH</u></a>	Householder Planning Application - Single storey rear extension  Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection.	Walnut Tree, Carringtons Road, Great Bromley CO7 7XA
<a href="#"><u>26/00327/LUPROP</u></a>	Application for Lawful Development Certificate for proposed development consisting of construction of hardstanding and drainage for agricultural purposes  Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection.	Park Farm, Hilliards Road Great Bromley

### **BEWARE - Telephone and text message scams appear to be on the increase**

**Never disclose the following details over the phone:**  
 four-digit card PIN to anyone, including the bank or police  
 full password or online banking codes  
 personal details, unless you are sure who you are talking to  
**Call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 to report incidents**

## THE REVERENDS WILLIAM & ARTHUR GRAHAM (PART 2)

As far as my research shows, William Hall Graham (1806-1857) married Helen Gilbert (1813-1897) and had six children, and the two eldest boys were William Hall (1832-1916) and Arthur Etaugh (1834-1912). The birth of a daughter in 1865 caused great confusion, when the papers were accidentally informed that poor Helen was dead! This is explained in an apology in the births column of *"Home News for India, China and the Colonies"*:

GRAHAM – June 14, at the rectory Great Bromley, the wife of the Rev. Arthur E. Graham, of a daughter.  
[The previous insertion of June 10 appeared amongst the deaths, in consequence of the words "of a daughter" having been omitted in the MS.]



***Thank to Mrs June and the late Mr Peter Wenden, we have a fine portrait of Rev. A.E. Graham***

There are some early Great Bromley cricket fixtures recorded in the papers in the 1850s, and there were two Grahams in the team in 1951. One report records Graham Snr and Graham Jnr, and I assume these were the sons William and Arthur. It was Arthur who became rector in 1860, and he appears in the news for the wrong reasons.

In April 1875 he was on trial in Colchester Town Hall, having been summoned by an RSPCA Inspector, for "cruelly ill-using and torturing a horse, by working it while in an unfit state". There is not enough space here to include the lengthy report, but the Reverend had the horse checked at a forge, where an inspector told him it was unfit yet he continued home. Apparently "when spoken to, Mr. Graham addressed him in a most insolent and overbearing manner." The Mayor in judgement said "We do not consider this case a very gross one, but still a great deal of pain and misery has been suffered by the animal, and it was quite right

to bring the case forward. The defendant will be fined 10s., and £1..6..2. expenses, or 14 days' imprisonment.” (Laughter in court! )

In those days such stories were circulated all around the country and would be quite an embarrassment, which is why Mr Graham wrote a public letter to the papers in response:

“I am comforted in believing that my personal friends will not credit that I would willingly be guilty of cruelty to any animal. To others I would say that I drove my mare from Bromley to Colchester on the day in question, that she went perfectly well till I arrived at Colchester, when she became lame. I sent her to the blacksmith, and went to see her shod myself, believing her to be suffering from corns. When the mare returned to the inn I asked Mr. Boghurst, of Frating Abbey, an eminent agriculturist experienced in horses, if he considered her fit to drive, and he replied, "Certainly." I, therefore, felt justified in driving her home, and, with the exception of going a little soft at starting, she went as well as the mare could go. She is an old favourite, and I would sooner put myself to pain than the animal. The magistrates held that the mare had been in pain, and therefore fined me. To their decision I bow, but I feel I can say, with a clear conscience, that I never was guilty of intentional cruelty.”

Rev. Graham kept pigs on the Rectory Farm and is mentioned in some swine fever outbreaks of the time.

In 1884 the death of Hannah was reported again, and this time it was sadly correct. In 1892 Arthur remarried to a Constance Hewitt of West Kensington. The couple had a daughter Barbara Constance in 1894, more about that next time.

***Dr Hugh Frostick [hugh@greatbromley.org.uk](mailto:hugh@greatbromley.org.uk) 07722 253962***

PLANNING DETERMINATION			
REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
<u>26/00156</u> <u>/WTPO</u> Mr Lacey	Works related to Tree Preservation Order (78/00028/TPO) - G1 and G2 - 16 Lime Trees. Trimming the overhang approx. 2m and balance the garden side of the trees to the same width.	Copley Dene Parsons Hill, Great Bromley CO7 7JA	Approval - Full 27.02.2026 Delegated Decision

## April 3rd - Good Friday

The Deanery Choir will be singing at **St Edmund Church, Tendring CO16 0BN** at 7pm. They will sing 'Requiem' by Cherubini and 'The Reproaches' by Healey Willan. Cherubini was born Maria Luigi Cherubini in Florence in 1760. There is uncertainty about his date of birth. His instruction in music began at the age of six with his father, Bartolomeo, *maestro al cembalo* ("master of the harpsichord"), in other words, ensemble leader from the harpsichord). Considered a child prodigy, Cherubini studied counterpoint and dramatic style at an early age. By the time he was thirteen, he had composed several religious works. '**The Reproaches**' is the traditional prayer repeated at the vigil of the Crucifixion and is a very moving and poignant work.



## April 12th

The Deanery Choir will be singing at **St Georges Church, Great Bromley CO7 7TS** at the 11am communion service.

The anthem will be 'Sicut Cervus' by Palestrina.

### Giovanni

**Palestrina** was an Italian composer of late Renaissance music. Palestrina is considered the leading composer of late 16th-century Europe. He was one of the few Renaissance composers never entirely forgotten, but it was the so-called "Palestrinian style" of counterpoint rather than his individual compositions that exerted the greatest influence.

**Graham Bell**  
**Deanery Choir**



# HOLY WEEK & EASTER

ACROSS THE TENDRING & DEDHAM PARISHES

Holy Week is a time to reflect on the life, death and resurrection of God's chosen King, Jesus. We hope these services will enable you to draw near to Him in prayer, in silence, in service, in praise and in celebration of the victory over sin He has won for us through these precious events and by faith in Him.

### Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April -

#### Holy Communion with Foot Washing

St. Mary the Virgin, Dedham - 19:00

St. Mary the Virgin, Wix - 19:00 (Hand Washing)

### Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April -

#### Stations of the Cross

All Saints, Great Oakley - 09:30

#### Hour at the Cross

St. Mary the Virgin, Ardeleigh - 10:00

All Saints, Wrabness - 14:00

St. Mary the Virgin, Dedham - 14:00

#### Cross of Christ Choir Performance

All Saints, Great Oakley - 15:00

#### Deanery Choir Service

St. Edmund King and Martyr, Tendring - 19:00

### Easter Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April -

#### Easter Vigil

St. Mary the Virgin, Little Bromley - 20:00

### Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April -

#### Quayside service (with Holy Communion in church)

Open Air Quayside Service, Quay Lane, Beaumont, CO16 0BB - 07:30

Followed by Holy Communion in Church

St. Leonard and St. Mary's, Beaumont-cum-Moze

#### Holy Communion

All Saints, Great Oakley - 09:30

St. Edmund King and Martyr, Tendring - 09:30

St. Mary the Virgin, Dedham - 09:30

St. Mary the Virgin, Ardeleigh - 09:30 (BCP)

St. George the Martyr, Great Bromley - 11:00

All Saints, Wrabness - 11:00

St. Mary the Virgin, Little Bentley - 11:00

#### Easter Praise

St. Mary the Virgin, Wix - 15:00

# ST. MARKS ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

## Do you find it difficult to forgive?

Have you ever said that you can never forgive someone? When we feel that we've been treated badly, especially by people we've trusted, it can be very difficult. What we may not realise is the damage that unforgiveness is doing to us physically, mentally and spiritually. St Augustine said that bearing resentment is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die. The Gospels are full of the mercy that Jesus showed towards sinners and, in the Lord's prayer, He asks that we forgive others as we have been forgiven. We can at least make the decision to forgive, even when the person who has offended us is unrepentant. St. Faustina said "He who knows how to forgive prepares for himself many graces from God. As often as I look upon the cross, so often will I forgive with all my heart". Let's keep in mind those final words of Jesus from the cross "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

## Weekday and Sunday Masses and devotions

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

## ARDLEIGH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

"From mighty acorns: the story of the British Oak" will be the subject of the talk by Jim Paine at Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, CO7 7RS on Thursday 9th April at 7:45pm. Free admission to members, non-members £2. Everyone is welcome.

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

**Sunday Holy Family, Brantham 8am** and **St. Mark's, Ipswich 11.15am.**

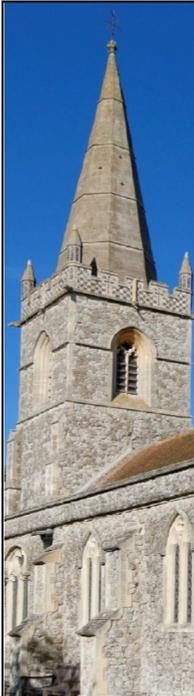
**Tuesday Holy Family** 10.00 mass, with Adoration from 9.20

**Wednesday St. Mark's** 09.30 mass

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

## 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](mailto:hospitalchaplain@stmarksparish.org.uk)



Luigi  
**CHERUBINI**  
**REQUIEM**  
&  
THE REPROACHES  
Healey Willan  
**THE DEANERY  
CHOIR**  
**April 3rd 2026**  
(Good Friday)  
Peter Clayton ~ Organist  
Sally Pudney ~ Conductor  
**7pm start**  
St Edmund King & Martyr  
1 The Street Tendring  
CO16 0BN  
Retiring collection for Church funds

# Dates for your diary



## APRIL

1	WI - Pamela Larkins: My Art Journey, Village Hall	7:30pm
5	Easter Sunday	
8	Knit and Knatter, Seven Rivers Cheshire Home	2:00-4:00pm
8	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	7:00pm
9	Ardleigh & Dist. Horticultural, Ardleigh Village Hall	7:45pm
12	Bromley 10K Run, Hilliards Road	9:30am
16	Friendship Club, The Cross Pub	2:00-4:00pm
15	WI - Afternoon Art Class	1:30pm
28	WI - Crafting Social, Village Hall	10:00am-12:30pm

## MAY

13	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall (Parish Assembly and Annual Meeting)	From 7:00pm
21	Little Bromley Parish Council, The Haywain (Parish Assembly and Annual Meeting)	From 7:00pm
26	Great Bromley Village Hall AGM	7:00pm

## JUNE

21	Open Gardens, Garage Sale and Scarecrow Festival
26, 27 & 28	- Flower Festival, St George's Church

## THE PRIORITY SERVICES REGISTER

If you are not aware of the Priority Services Register, this may be of interest to you or someone you know.

The Priority Services Register (PSR) is a free UK-wide service offering extra help during electricity, gas, or water supply interruptions.

You may be eligible if you or someone in your household relies on medical equipment, has a disability, long-term illness, dementia, mental health difficulties, refrigerated medicines, is of pensionable age, or has children under five.

Support during a power cut can include:

- A 24/7 priority contact number

- Text and voice alerts about local outages and severe weather

- Tailored support such as home visits, hot meals, welfare checks, and updates for family or friends

- In some cases, hotel accommodation and transport

- On-site community support with hot food, drinks, Wi-Fi, and charging points during major outages

To join the PSR, contact your local electricity network operator, gas distributor, and water supplier, as each runs its own register. You can find your providers using your postcode on the Energy Networks Association and Water UK websites, then apply online, by phone, or by post.

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

- 9 April
- 30 April
- 21 May

**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](http://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.

# MANNINGTREE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



In March club members enjoyed our photography marathon, a table top workshop, and a competition themed Abstract/Minimalism.

Our programme for April is as follows;

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April – Club Workshop/ Trip to Harwich depending on the weather

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Field Trip Weeley Hall Nature Reserve

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Interclub competition – Granville Fulgar Trophy

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Print Competition Seascapes and Landscapes

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April – Stowmarket interclub competition

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 Alan Moran was the winning image from our recent open Mono PDI 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 Mistle Village Hall, on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:madps@post.com)

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



# ARDLEIGH SURGERY

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your continued support.

## **Weight loss injections**

If you are considering weight loss injections privately, please check this will not affect any other medication you are taking, in particular contraception and HRT. This can have a decreased effect with using these injections and should be advised about this.

## **Social Prescriber**

Unfortunately, we no longer have a social prescriber here at the surgery. Please complete a medical request via Anima or contact reception and we can navigate you to the appropriate service if available.

## **Please Keep Medical Queries Separate from Prescription Requests**

Please do not include medical queries within your medication request. Prescription requests are processed by our prescription clerks, who are not medically trained and cannot assess clinical concerns.

Any medical issues added to a medication request may not be reviewed until after the prescription has been processed, which could delay appropriate care.

We have previously experienced a significant event as a result of this, so we kindly ask for your cooperation in helping us keep patients safe.

Thank you for your understanding.

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.

For those who can't wait, the full list will

be available soon on our website from the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2025.

## **D- Dyslexia**

The diagnosis of dyslexia in its pure and isolated form is not a GP service. In children, the school should make the referral. In adults, the referral can be made by yourself to an educational psychologist.

Contact the British Dyslexia Association (BDA):

- Offers both in-person and remote dyslexia assessments conducted by qualified assessors.
- Cost: £882 for an assessment with a psychologist.
- Process: Apply directly through their website.

## **E - Eye problems – Primary Care Eye Services**

There is a fantastic service called the Primary Care Eye Services open to all NHS patients.

A qualified optometrist will see you, usually on the same day, and can:

- Thoroughly examine your eye.
- Prescribe medication if needed.
- Refer you directly to the hospital eye team if required.

This service is free and accessible to all.

## **F- Fit notes**

Fit note not given until 7 days of self-certification. Patients can complete an SC2 form themselves. NHS GPs do not provide 'fitness to return to work' certificates. These are provided by occupational health specialists through the employer.

## **MMR Vaccine**

As from 01.01.26 all children will be offered the combined MMRV (Measles,

Mumps, Rubella and Varicella). Parents will be contacted when their child is eligible. For those who do not fall in the 12 months to 18 months in the routine schedule these will also be contacted.

This explains the new childhood imms schedule, which will be advertised to patients soon and I am sure we will have questions.

### **Standing orders**

Please be kind to staff.

If you haven't already, please book in your flu vaccination.

There are always less appointments than patients needing appointments so please fill in your ANIMA requests early.

### **Practice shutdown**

Next shutdown is 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

From 1 April 2026, we are making some adjustments to how our appointment system is managed to help us meet increasing demand and continue providing safe, timely care. Our Care Navigators may guide you to the most appropriate service, using a

navigation tool developed by our GP's. You do not need to do anything differently for now, but please continue to cancel appointments you no longer need and support us as these changes are introduced. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we make these improvements.

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*

### **Little Bentley Coffee & Cake**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month,  
Church Hall, Little Bentley  
10 - 12 Noon



Great and Little Bromley villagers  
are very welcome

## **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

In March we had a very interesting talk on nuclear submarines by Ian who served in the Navy in the 80's & 90's.

Our April meeting is on 16<sup>th</sup> April and Sarah is kindly going to speak about her dog training business and is bringing her dog along.

The competition for April is anything animal related, which Sarah will judge.

Looking ahead, we have a Theatre trip booked to the Spa Pavilion, Felixstowe on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June to see Neil Sands'

'Remember When'. There are two seats remaining on the minibus. Cost is £20 and includes the minibus, which leaves the village hall at 1pm.

New members are always welcome. Annual Membership is £7.50 and £1.50 per meeting, which includes tea/coffee, cake and raffle ticket.

For further details please contact Jane Hurst on 07704 210628.



# GREAT 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, 3 April 2026 and Monday, 6 April 2026. If patients require urgent medical care over the Easter weekend, then they should contact NHS 111 for assistance.

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.

## Surgery News

Dr Arul Nambi will be taking over from Dr Sean O'Reilly as Senior Partner at the Practice from the 1 April 2026.

I am also very pleased to let you know that Dr Natalie Anscomb will be joining the Practice as a Salaried GP from the 1 April 2026. Dr Anscomb recently completed her GP training at Great Bentley Surgery, and we are very pleased that she has decided to stay with us at the Practice.

## Blood Tests Requested by the Surgery

If you receive a message from the Surgery requesting that you book a blood test due to the medication you are taking, it is very important that you do this to ensure you are being safely monitored.

Blood tests in Colchester and Clacton are provided by East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust (ESNEFT), with main phlebotomy services at Clacton Hospital and Colchester Primary Care

Centre. **Appointments are required** for most sites, booked online via [Swiftqueue](#) or by calling 0300 303 5299. For patients that are unable to travel to a clinic we are also able to offer some routine blood tests at the Surgery.

## Dementia Café

The next Great Bentley Dementia Café will be held on Monday, 27 April 2026 from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm at The Methodist Hall, Forge Lane, Great Bentley. If you are a patient, carer or a family member, you are welcome to attend.

## Surgery Training Afternoon

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12.00 noon on Tuesday, 21 April 2026 for staff training. If you need urgent medical attention on this afternoon, please contact NHS 111.

## Patient Participation Group Meetings

The PPG will not be holding a meeting in April.

*Sue Mitson  
Operations Manager*

## Great Bromley Open Gardens, Scarecrow Trail & Garage Sale

In aid of Great Bromley Village Hall

**Sunday 21st June 12–6pm**

We are looking for people to take part!

- Open your garden
- Make a scarecrow
- Host a garage sale
- Help as a volunteer

This will be a fun community day for all. Please join in and support the Village Hall.

To take part and find out more, contact  
**Tracy on 07485 164350 or  
Annie on 07720 468344**

# CHURCH JOTTINGS

It's that time of year once again. St George's Church is holding its Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on April 12th at 12pm, following our usual second Sunday 11am service. There are actually two meetings - the first one is to elect two Church Wardens who are chosen by the people of the Parish to represent you and the community. At the same time they are officers of the Bishop and the Archdeacon and are required to support the parish priests and their families. Every person who lives in the community is entitled to attend this first meeting and have a vote - it is very important that you attend and place your vote.

The second meeting of the APCM is a little different as only members of our electoral role are entitled to vote on matters concerning the Parochial Church Council and receive an annual report. Members of the community can attend but have no legal right to vote. If you would like to join the electoral role, please contact Gregory, our Secretary.

Matters concerning finance, building matters, bell ringing, children's work and the everyday running of the church may be discussed. The Annual Report will be discussed and questions may be asked. Members of the Council will be elected and if you would like to join us please ask the PCC Secretary for a form.

It is very important that our community is involved; we value your opinions and really, really need your support. We have a beautiful church here in Great Bromley, "The Cathedral of the Tending Hundred", but the costs of maintaining the fabric of the building, heating, lighting and insurance etc continue to rise. We are so grateful for all those who help and support us.

Come and join us, you will be most welcome. If you have any questions please ask, we are always here to help and listen.

## **Flower Festival Update**

Friday 26th, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th of June 2026

Arrangements for our big fundraising event continue to gather pace. I do hope you have all the details in your diary; there are different events every day for you to enjoy. We are endeavouring also to support many local organisations too. St Helena Hospice have a stall on the Friday. Acorn Village, Seven Rivers Cheshire Home, St George's Primary School are with us all day Friday and will share in the profits we make on that day.

Our WI has volunteered to run the Hobby Cafe for all three days and are looking for helpers to ease the load. Make some cakes and wash-up etc. Many sponsors are coming forward and many of their donations are very generous. Thank you to all of them. The raffle printing, paying for the Silver Band, printing of the programme and much more. Please contact us if you would like to contribute especially cake making for the cafe and cake stall (please put a sticker on the container mentioning your ingredients). I will continue to update as the weeks progress.

## **Easter Tree of Hope and Prayer**

Our Easter Tree is beautiful. Please come and see, with a prayer, a wish, a specific moment, you are all welcome to share.

*Thank you,  
Jenny*

## LILIES IN MEMORY

### Easter Sunday April 5th 2026

I have ordered the Arum Lilies for the Easter Arrangements in the Church. If you would like to sponsor the lilies in , please pop your name on the list in the Church and pop a donation in the pot. If you would like to help with the

decorations in the church this year, please let me know. You are very welcome to join us. A basket or an Easter arrangement on a window sill on Saturday April 4th.

*Many thanks,  
Jenny*

## ADVANCE WARNING OF THE BROMLEY 10K

We are pleased to say that on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026** we will be holding our Road Run in Little Bromley. This may increase the volume of traffic through the village for a few hours.

The course will be the same as last year with different starting and finishing points. The event will start down Hilliards Road. It will then proceed through the village along assorted back roads, eventually coming down Ardeleigh Road and out on to Shop Road, where the run will finish in Paynes Lane. Please note there will also be a water station along Waterhouse Lane.

The race will begin at **9.30am**. Any support as the runners go past is always appreciated.

**Between 9.50am & 11am there will be a lot of runners going along Shop Road.**

**We would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused.**

*With many thanks for your understanding,*

*Carol Cordwell on behalf of Harwich Runners*

## ST HELENA COMMUNITY BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ

Many people find that after the death of someone close, it can be hard to know where to turn or who to talk to. St Helena Hospice in Colchester runs a monthly **Community Bereavement Café**, offering a warm, friendly place for anyone who has been bereaved to come together for a cuppa, a chat, or simply the comfort of being around others who understand. The café is supported by trained staff and volunteers who offer understanding conversation and a compassionate listening ear.

The café is **free to attend**, open to

anyone who has experienced a loss, whether recently or many years ago. If you, or someone you know, might benefit from a relaxed space to connect with others, you would be very welcome. **To book a place, or to refer someone who may find it helpful, please contact St Helena by phone or email or just show up on the day.** Sometimes just knowing you're not alone can make the biggest difference.

Call or email: 01206 984274 / [ces-coordinators@sthelena.org.uk](mailto:ces-coordinators@sthelena.org.uk)

# RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends

Easter is upon us. Over the first week of this month we complete our journey through Lent, recalling the last events of Jesus' life in Holy Week culminating in the silence and reflection of Good Friday and Easter Saturday. Along with the sunrise on Easter Sunday morning (well almost!) the celebrations begin with joyful Easter Services proclaiming boldly and exuberantly 'Alleluia Christ is Risen!' In the Sundays of the Easter season following, we use resurrection stories of Jesus from the gospels in our services that give the promise of hope to Christians the world over. (Look at chapters 20 and 21 in John's Gospel).

As I write this, there is much that needs hope in our world that is increasingly torn apart with war and conflict on the international stage; more divided with the rise of partisan politics and nationalism and more impoverished with larger numbers of people struggling to make ends meet. Where do we find hope in these troubling times?

It was much the same in Jesus' day with the Jewish people being oppressed and subjugated by the brutal Roman Authorities. A growing number of Jesus' followers had hope of a political rescue with Jesus leading a rebellion, much as had been tried before by other leaders. The events of Holy Week ending in the crucifixion of Jesus seemed to dash all hope. Yet on the Sunday, hope was re-kindled when the tomb was found empty and Jesus was alive! The promise of a better Kingdom of love, justice and peace had become a reality through the resurrection of Jesus. This is the essence of the Christian faith and gives hope to all who believe that better things are possible.

You may not know but our Diocese of Chelmsford, of which we are part, is led by the Bishop of Chelmsford, Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani. Bishop Guli was born in Iran and sought refuge in Britain with her family following the Iranian Revolution of 1980. As one of the Lord's Spiritual, she speaks regularly in the House of Lords on matters concerning Asylum Seekers and Housing in particular. In a world that needs much love, justice and peace, I invite you to say a prayer written by Bishop Guli for the needs of Iran and the Middle East before war broke out.

*Ever loving God, who hears us in our anguish and distress, and longs for us to be free. We pray for the people of Iran and the wider Middle East, at this time of fear and uncertainty. Be near to those who are anxious; bring comfort to all who are suffering. Guide those with the power to make decisions, and lead them in the ways of wisdom, compassion and moderation: that people of good-will would seek harmony and reconciliation. Join us with our Christian brothers and sisters in all places, in praying for peace with justice, through him who is the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Further information from Bishop Guli on this and other matters may be found on the Chelmsford Diocese Website at [chelmsford.anglican.org/news](http://chelmsford.anglican.org/news)

Wishing you all much peace and hope this Easter.

**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](http://www.greatbromley.org.uk) or email us at [church@greatbromley.org.uk](mailto:church@greatbromley.org.uk)

**Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>** Maundy Thursday / Good Friday - *see website / poster*

<b>Apr 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Easter Eve	<i>Easter Vigil - Little Bromley</i>	<i>8pm</i>
<b>Apr 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Easter Day	<b>Easter Eucharist (CW) with choir</b>	11am
<b>Apr 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Easter 2	<b>Parish Eucharist with choir</b>	11am
<b>Apr 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Easter 3	<b>Evensong BCP with choir</b>	6.30pm
<b>Apr 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	St George's Day	<i>see website / poster</i>	
<b>Apr 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Easter 4	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	11am
<b>May 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Easter 5	<b>Parish Eucharist BCP with choir</b>	11am
<b>May 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Rogation	<b>Parish Eucharist with choir</b>	11am
<b>May 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Ascension	<b>Evensong BCP with choir</b>	6.30pm
<b>May 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Pentecost	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	11am

### St Mary's Church, Little Bentley

<b>Apr 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Easter Communion 11am
<b>Apr 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Prayer 11am
<b>May 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Bluebell Service 3pm
<b>May 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Holy Communion 11am
<b>May 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Praise in the Garden 3pm

Tendring and Dedham Parishes (TADP) - for the group bulletin and news see [www.tendringdedhamparishes.org.uk](http://www.tendringdedhamparishes.org.uk)