



Birchanger Village Magazine

December 2024

Issue 263



The New A120 / Birchanger Junction Under Review

Due to the continuous traffic delays at the junction of Birchanger Lane, Dunmow Road and the A120 caused by traffic tailbacks approaching the M11, Birchanger Parish Council and District councillor Ray Gooding requested an investigation by Essex Highways. The request was made several months ago but at the time of publication of this magazine no solution has been decided. The request was for the installation of a yellow box and possible cameras.



Photo Courtesy of Bishop's Stortford Independent

The issue was recently handed over to the Road Safety Audit Team (RSA) for review, which is independent of the road design team. The audit team auditors hold the Highways England approved Certificate of Competency in Road Safety Audit, enabling each team to carry out road safety audits on the UK Strategic Trunk Road and Motorway network.

Ray Gooding was due to have a meeting in mid-November to discuss the RSA 3 works with the contractor along with a programme of works to complete. "Taking the aforementioned into consideration I am hopeful the yellow box junction along with other RSA comments will be completed within a couple of weeks" stated Cllr. Gooding.

New Church Signpost Blessed

The Reverend Colin Fairweather, vicar of Birchanger, blessed the newly installed Church signpost in November.

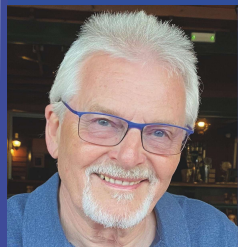


The Church of St Mary the Virgin Church in Birchanger is a bit tucked away. It's a bit of a hidden gem and that can occasionally cause problems finding it. For example, some years back, a warden had a funny turn one Sunday morning, and the ambulance that was called couldn't find the church!

There's been talk about installing a signpost ever since, so this is actually the culmination of many years of discussion and prayer.

"I hope the sign to the church will also serve as a reminder that Birchanger is not only a village, but also an ecclesiastical parish" stated Rev Colin. "It has a parish church with a duty of care for everyone in Birchanger, and not just people who go to church services. The ancient name for this duty of care is the cure of souls. It's a legal responsibility for Birchanger that I have as vicar, and that I share with the Bishop of Colchester, and the Bishop of Chelmsford".

"You'll see the signpost also points to the car park. We are always being asked where the car park is, so hopefully this will make things clearer for everyone. Thanks are due to Pam Lee, who drove this project forward, and to Mark Taylor, who made the sign and also put it into the ground".



Happy Christmas to All Our Readers



Highlights of Parish Council meeting 5th November

Offer of land along Tot Lane to Parish Council

A meeting was arranged with the owner of the land. The landowner suggested that the Parish Council may wish to build a village hall or similar structure on the small parcel of land which he is prepared to donate. The Chair pointed out that the Village already had a Village Hall and that the land on offer was within Green Belt. The Parish Council is strongly opposed to any building on Green Belt land. The Chair thanked the landowner for the offer and said that in view of the Council's comments the Council would decline the offer. The landowner thanked the Council for the opportunity to discuss his proposal and the meeting was terminated. It is believed that the land owner may have planned to develop the site and offered part of the land to build something for the village, thus negating the green belt status!

Planning Request

UTT/24/2440/HHF-99 Birchanger Lane Erection of garage [Objection on road safety grounds. ST to compile response and pass to Clerk for submission to Planning].

Road Layout Suggestion

Exit from Birchwood. A resident has highlighted that there is a sign just after the Village Hall directing traffic to Birchwood along a lane behind houses fronting Birchanger Lane. This road here is narrow with no pedestrian walkway. As traffic can go in both directions this is a potential safety hazard. There is a turning just before the Club which takes traffic to Birchwood from Birchanger Lane. The resident has suggested that the narrow road be made one way. Cllr Ray Gooding has already applied for LHP consideration and advises that this is up for discussion in January 2025.

Dog Bins

As the bin on the sand track near the barn at the end of Harrisons seems to fill very quickly It was suggested the purchase of a second bin for this site. The clerk will obtain prices.

Recreation Ground

HAGS have completed maintenance of the zipwire. Erection of the sports nets was completed on 5th October. Still awaiting a quotation from HAGS for replacement of the climbing frame.

Highways

There has been no response to the request for a yellow hatch box junction box with cameras at the junction of the A120 and Birchanger Lane. However, Essex Highways is looking into this.

There is no progress on making Tot Lane one way. RG advises that he is still pursuing this.

There has been another accident at the junction of Birchanger Lane and the B1383. Has there been any progress in devising a solution to this safety issue? Cllr Ray Gooding advised that there has been no action as yet, but he is trying to get Highways to keep this under consideration.

Footpaths have not yet been repaired and the current 8-week slot has been missed. It will be included in the next timing slot.

Please note! Members of the public are invited to attend the monthly Birchanger parish Council meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month, held in the Village Hall annex at 7.30 pm. Residents are allowed 3 minutes to voice their opinions or suggestions. All are welcome.

Don't forget, your magazine is only as good as the content it receives, so please keep sending me your news, views, notices, concerns and complaints. Advertisers are also welcome. All copy should be submitted by the 16th of the month, preferably sooner and may be edited depending on space and content. Please contact me by E-mail, phone, or letter as shown below. Thank you and Kind Regards,

Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/birchanger/

Peter Sampson



magazine@birchanger.com



07817 904333



2 Harrisons, Birchanger

VILLAGE NEWS

By Elizabeth Godwin

Christmas is Nearly Here

There is always a lot to look forward to in Birchanger at Christmas: Carol concerts and nativity plays, Christmas fairs and parties. A visit to Father Christmas and mysterious packages arriving daily all make Christmas very special for those children whose families can afford all these things. Sadly, for an increasing number, poverty or broken homes, severe illness in the family and parents splitting up are just a few things that remind children that there are things which are very wrong in their lives and which they are unable to fix.

So, if you have the opportunity to buy a present for someone you have never met before whose Christmas cannot be as warm and comfortable as yours, do it. At least someone you have never met will be happy this year.

'Moorswood' – The Perfect Home For Christmas

Christmas usually comes early to Moorswood. The house just seems to be a good place to be at Christmas. Perhaps it is the low beams? It is a tricky place to be if you are over 6ft tall. It has been in the Godwin family since 1935 and a Godwin family home for four generations. There is a date inside the chimney which appears to suggest it was built in 1450. It was originally gifted by New College Oxford for the Dons of the college to stay there on their way to Thremhall Priory, before Henry VIII managed to knock the Priory down.

New Coffee Morning at Moorswood

Come and enjoy a Christmas Coffee morning at 'Moorswood', 330 Birchanger Lane, on Tuesday 3rd December in aid of prostate cancer. Just come and meet your friends and enjoy a cup of free coffee with a homemade mince pie. Newcomers to Birchanger are particularly welcome. Come and get to know us. For those who have been here before, a big welcome back. Looking forward to seeing you then.

The Big Light Up Is Coming

Some people are now busy planning or already putting up their fairy lights for this year's decorations. The Big-Switch-On will be at 7pm at the club on Friday 6th December, with Christmas treats and Carols to welcome the start of Christmas in Birchanger. Everyone is very welcome.

Birchanger All Girls Society

The 'BAGS' welcome women to join them on the last Wednesday of every month at 8.00 pm in the village hall.

No meeting in December - Next meeting:

Wednesday 29th January 7.45 for 8.00 pm

bags@birchanger.com

Olivia: 07568 574703

Rosemary: 01279 814678

Liz Turner: 07473 508056

Burglars Love Christmas

For them it can be the most profitable time of the year. People get careless and in their rush to get everything ready, they forget to secure doors and lock the house as they rush off to the next thing. For the burglar it is easy to get into most garages and when in, he finds all the tools he needs to break into the main house. Don't let them have this opportunity, lock your garage securely and keep your tools securely locked away. At least make it more difficult for him. There are always more poorly secured houses to try. Leave a radio on when you are out and use light timer switches randomly all over the house. Leave your Christmas parcels away from the windows, hide your keys and shred your receipts. They may have confidential information on them. Fraudsters need remarkably little information to clone your identity, and they are out in force at Christmas. It seems all wrong to have to do this at this time but the reality of it all is that we do, and more!

The Cock at Stansted Goes Turkish

It was once a pub where many Birchanger residents may have enjoyed convivial evenings. But business became hard and the owners of the pub had to think again. The Cock turned into a Turkish restaurant called 'Nolaki' with a wide range of Turkish Food available as a two course or three course meal starting at £14.95. The menu will be familiar to those who have enjoyed Turkish food on holiday. Most of the old favourites are there and there are still beers such as Guinness and beers from Greene King available. Worth trying over Christmas if you would like a change from routine seasonal food. I shall be back to try something different from the menu. Both food and service were good.

Keep Your Phone Safe

If not, your asset will quickly become someone else's, probably at a knock down price. The very way we use our phones or keep them in our handbags is an invitation to steal. You chat away on your phone as you are walking and all of a sudden it is gone. Held up by your ear it makes an easy snatch.



Left in your handbag under your seat in the pub makes it very easy to remove and your credit cards with it. Browsing the stores with your handbag open makes it very easy for the contents to

disappear. That happened to my mother-in-law. One woman shoved her away and put her hand into her handbag. She didn't get anything because my mother-in-law made too much noise! The woman fled. So, keep all your bags closed. If you are taking a call while walking, go to a more secluded site in a corner somewhere, stay alert and end the call as soon as you can. It takes under an hour to steal a dozen phones or more. The criminal gangs use cycles and electric bikes so you can't hear them. They mount the pavement, snatch and are gone before you know it, leaving you to sort out the ensuing personal chaos. Stay safe this Christmas.

Burglar's Tricks

The most common trick when you are out shopping, particularly in the weeks before Christmas is the Diversion Theft. You are so busy buying Christmas presents when you receive a light bump from the side and a hand dips into your unopened bag and your wallet is gone. A fact you may only discover when you are at the next till. Something that happened to us was the attempted theft of mother in law's handbag. We were walking down a wide corridor in a department store when a pair of large women came marching towards us. One pushed me out of the way while the other put her hand into her bag. My mother-in-law might have been tiny, but she was also very tough. She immediately grabbed her bag tightly yelling that this woman had her hand in her bag. The thieves did escape but without the loot they had come for. If you feel you are being burgled or attacked in a public place, make a lot of noise. The thieves don't like that, and it is the only effective weapon you have in this situation.

Coffee Morning

Tuesday 3rd December from 10.30 to Noon

With Pim & Elizabeth Godwin at Moorswood,
330 Birchanger Lane



Free coffee and mince pies

An opportunity to meet new and old friends and to welcome in the Christmas season

In Aid of Prostate Cancer

Cancer is quite prevalent in Birchanger and there are a number of men living with prostate cancer. Voluntary donations would be welcome at this meeting, no matter how small in order to support research for a cure

All are welcome - Please come if you can.

The Revd Robert Andrew Bathurst Connection to Birchanger School



Robert Bathurst was born in Marylebone London on 22 January 1817. The son of Sir James Bathurst and Lady Caroline, He was educated at Winchester College and later graduated from New College Oxford. While at Oxford he was a cricketer for Oxford University.

The Bathurst family were steeped in the Church of England. His brother Frederick was rector of Diddington and later of Biggleswade. His Uncle Henry Bathurst was Bishop of Norwich.

Robert Bathurst came to Birchanger in 1851 at the age of 34. He appears in the 1851 census as a visitor to Theophilus Pelly at the rectory. Who left the village that same year.

In 1852 Bathurst married Jane Harkness the daughter of another cleric. In Victorian times a parish priest would be financed by the income from his "glebe" (various parcels of land farmed by tenants). In 1853 however, the Rector, the Reverend Robert Bathurst, gave up part of his glebe for a new school. (The old Birchanger school) It included the village recreation ground and the "Rectory Cottage" built next to the school.

Revd Bathurst remained Rector of Birchanger for 13 years until 1864 before departing for the parish of Brockworth in Gloucester. He died in 1906.

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BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB

Huge Prizes to be won: Xbox, Nintendo Switch, laptop, 3 course meal at the shard and so much more!

CHRISTMAS DRAW

22ND DECEMBER
7pm

Open the box- £1000 Guarantee win!

£2 a ticket
Members only



HORSE RACING NIGHT

14th December - 8pm

BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

Whisky Draw

BOXING DAY

£2 A TICKET
1.30pm



FESTIVE OPENING HOURS:

Sat 21st- Normal hours
Sun 22nd- Normal hours
Mon 23rd- Normal hours
Tue 24th- 12.00-23.00
Wed 25th- 12.00-14.00
Thur 26th- 12.00-19.00
Fri 27th- Normal hours
Sat 28th- Normal hours
Sun 29th- Normal hours
Mon 30th- Normal hours
Tue 31st- 12.00-15.00/17.00-01.00
Wed 1st- Closed

For all general enquiries

Telephone: 01279 813441 Email: club@birchanger.com
Website: www.birchangerclub.com

Follow us on Social Media
For all news and announcements



What's on in the village...



December 2024



Household Bin Collections: Bradley Common collected on Fridays. Rest of Birchanger on Thursdays. (Some exceptions)

Free Garden Waste Skip Outside the Club 15.00-16.00: Starts again in 2025

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

Note! Last day of paid garden bin collection for 2024 is 10th December

Birchanger Parish Council Meetings: Meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the church hall - **Open to the public.**

30 Church Hall:
09.30-11.00
Ayatana Yoga
16.00-18.45
Ellouise Dance
19.00 - 20.30
Apton Dance
Latin/Ballroom

31 BSSC:
New Year's Eve
Party - Food
available



1 St Mary's Church:
11.15 am Family
Service
BSSC:
Sunday Roast

2 Church Hall:
09.30-11.00
Ayatana Yoga
16.00-18.45
Ellouise Dance
19.00 - 20.30
Apton Dance
Latin/Ballroom

3 Church hall:
09.45-10.45 Ballet
Apton Dance:
17.30 - 21.00
Moorswood: 10.30
Coffee Morning
330 Birchanger Ln.

4 Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
13.00 Takeley Art
16.15-17.15
Ellouise Dance
18.30-21.15 Apton
Dance

5 Green Bin Church hall:
12.00 Line dance
16.45-20.30
Ellouise Dance
BSSC:
20.00 Bingo

6 Church Hall:
09.30 - 11.00
Apton Dance
private lessons
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise
Dance

7 Church Hall:
Apton Dance:
09.00 Apton Mini
09.45 Kids Latin 2
10.30 kids Latin 1
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw
21.00 Time Warps

8 St Mary's Church:
10.45
Communion
Service
BSSC:
Sunday Roast

9 Church Hall:
09.30-11.00
Ayatana Yoga
16.00-18.45
Ellouise Dance
19.00 - 20.30
Apton Dance
Latin/Ballroom

10 Garden Bin Church hall:
09.45-10.45 Ballet
Apton Dance:
17.30 Teen Latin
18.45 Teen Street
19.30 Adult Street
20.15 Rock'n Roll

11 Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
13.00 Takeley Art
16.15-17.15
Ellouise Dance
18.30-21.15 Apton
Dance

12 Black Bin Church hall:
12.00 Line dance
16.45-20.30
Ellouise Dance
BSSC:
20.00 Bingo

13 Church Hall:
09.30 - 11.00
Apton Dance
private lessons
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise
Dance

14 Church Hall:
Apton Dance:
09.00 Apton Mini
09.45 Kids Latin 2
10.30 kids Latin 1
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw
20.00 Horse Race

15 St Mary's Church:
11.15 Christingles
Service
BSSC:
Sunday Roast

16 Church Hall:
09.30-11.00
Ayatana Yoga
16.00-18.45
Ellouise Dance
19.00 - 20.30
Apton Dance
Latin/Ballroom

17 Church hall:
09.45-10.45 Ballet
Apton Dance:
17.30 Teen Latin
18.45 Teen Street
19.30 Adult Street
20.15 Rock'n Roll

18 Church hall:
10.00 Tai Chi
13.00 Takeley Art
16.15-17.15
Ellouise Dance
18.30-21.15 Apton
Dance

19 Green Bin Church hall:
12.00 Line dance
16.45-20.30
Ellouise Dance
BSSC:
20.00 Bingo

20 Church Hall:
09.30 - 11.00
Apton Dance
11.00 Pilates
15.30 Ellouise
Dance
**St Mary's 19.00
Carol Service**

21 Church Hall:
Apton Dance:
09.00 Apton Mini
09.45 Kids Latin2
10.30 kids Latin 1
BSSC:
21.00 Afterlife -
Live

22 St Mary's Church:
11.15 am Holy
Communion
Service
BSSC:
Sunday Roast
19.00 Xmas Draw

23 Church Hall:
09.30-11.00
Ayatana Yoga
16.00-18.45
Ellouise Dance
19.00 - 20.30
Apton Dance
Latin/Ballroom

24 Church hall:
09.45-10.45 Ballet
Apton Dance:
17.30 Teen Latin
18.45 Teen Street
19.30 Adult Street
20.15 Rock'n Roll

25 BSSC: Open
Between
12.00-14.00
St Mary's Church:
Christmas
Communion

26 Church hall:
12.00 Line dance
16.45-20.30
Ellouise Dance
BSSC:
13.30 Whisky
Draw

27 Church Hall:
09.30 - 11.00
Apton Dance
private lessons
11.00 Pilates 15.30
Ellouise Dance

28 Church Hall:
Apton Dance:
09.00 Apton Mini
09.45 Kids Latin 2
10.30 kids Latin 1
BSSC:
13.00 Meat draw
20.00 Quiz Night

29 St Mary's Church:
11.15 am Family
Service
BSSC:
Sunday Roast



BIRCHANGER SPORTS
AND SOCIAL CLUB

WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB



**NEW YEARS EVE
PARTY**
WITH DJ SARAH!

FOOD AVAILABLE | **31 DEC** | CELEBRATE WITH US!
From 9pm

Birchanger Sports and Social Club

For all general enquiries
Telephone: 01279 813441 Email: club@birchanger.com
Website: www.birchangerclub.com

Follow us on Social Media
For all news and announcements



28th December

8PM START. FREE ENTRY. MUSIC,
PICTURE & WIPEOUT ROUNDS.
PRIZES TO BE WON.



AFTERLIFE
21st December

7th December - 9pm

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

We welcome new members. To join you can either complete the online application or speak to a member of staff at the Club.
For more information visit www.birchangerclub.com



For all general enquiries
Telephone: 01279 813441 Email: club@birchanger.com
Website: www.birchangerclub.com

Follow us on Social Media
For all news and announcements





LIGHT UP THE LANE!

TRADITIONAL
BIRCHANGER

Christmas

LIGHT UP

At The Club
DECEMBER

FRIDAY

6

At 7pm

MULLED WINE, MINCE PIE'S,
CHILDREN'S CAROL CHOIR.

u3a

Stansted Mountfitchet

This December, we will be celebrating the festive season with a Christmas lunch at Bury Lodge and by hosting the inaugural meeting following our move to St Theresa's Centre with a Christmas Tea Party. Stansted Mountfitchet u3a is then set to launch the new year with two exciting events in January.

In 2025, the UK along with the rest of Europe will commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day which is celebrated on 8th May. Throughout the year, this significant event will be marked by various activities within the u3a. The first of these takes place at our General Meeting on Thursday 16th January, featuring a gripping personal story from World War II.



The presentation will focus on one of the most daring RAF missions, involving low-level bombing with pinpoint accuracy.

The mission, Ramrod 564, The Amiens Prison Raid, launched from RAF Hunsdon nearby in Hertfordshire in February 1944, was crucial in the lead-up to D-Day. Guy Thomas, Denis Sharp and Susan Sedgebeer will recount the story of the raid, featuring a first-hand account from the navigator of the second Mosquito to drop its bombs, breaching the outer wall.

For those who attended Mike Howgate's Saturday Seminar in May 2024, where he challenged the theory that birds evolved from dinosaurs, the upcoming seminar on Saturday 18th January offers the perfect follow-up. Professor David Norman from Cambridge University will present the opposing evidence, aiming to prove that birds did indeed evolve from dinosaurs. Whether you joined the previous seminar or not, this promises to be a fascinating session from one of Cambridge's leading paleobiologists.

Visitors and new members are always welcome. For more information about our events and activities, visit www.stansted.u3asite.uk/ or call 07874 385541. As our u3a continues to grow, these events reflect our commitment to lifelong learning and a vibrant community spirit.

Susan Sedgebeer

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

We are hoping for a good cold December! Early December 2022 we had hard frosts for many days on end, the ground was frozen solid and mid-month there was snow. We lost perennials and shrubs because it was so exceptionally cold that winter. Whereas in December 2023 we didn't have any frost that I can recall, followed by mild temperatures in January and rain galore over the whole winter season, such that we had to cancel most of our snowdrop open days. The early season was then blighted by the slugs and snails which had overwintered, multiplied and were voracious. So, although there are risks from frosts, we have our fingers crossed for a decent blast of freezing air!

Our winter works are progressing, with lots of effort put into leaf clearance to put into new bays to make leaf mould. We never have enough, as we have so many trees, roses, dahlias, rhubarb and fruit bushes that benefit from it. We also put out a call for manure and have spent happy hours barrowing that around the Gardens!



In December we will finish those jobs and take time to reflect on what visitors enjoyed this year, to build a good calendar of events for 2025.

To keep an eye on how we are getting on with our winter jobs, why not follow us through Facebook or Instagram or take a look at our Garden News on the front page of our website, or sign up to an e-newsletter through www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Jill Goldsmith



The Hundred Parishes Society

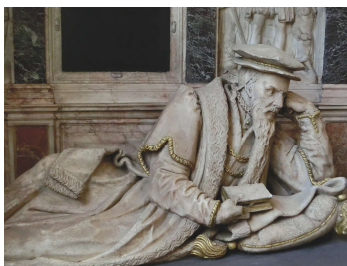
Dawn of Schools in England

Until the 19th century, education in England was mostly linked to religious institutions or funded by wealthy donors. The Education Act of 1870 made a commitment to the provision of education to all on a national scale.

The Hundred Parishes has some fine examples of schools that were founded prior to this time and continue to educate young people today.

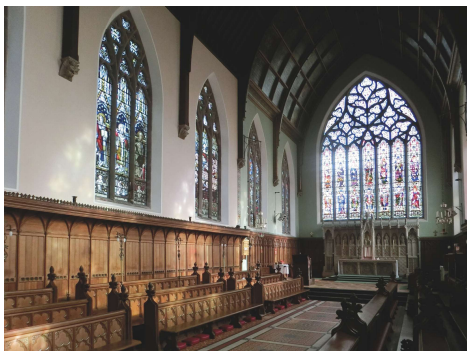


Felsted School



Felsted School was founded in 1564 by Richard Rich, the first Baron Rich. Under Henry VIII, he accumulated immense wealth whilst overseeing the dissolution of the monasteries, and he was later appointed Lord Chancellor of England under King Edward VI.

Dame Joyce Frankland, 1531-1588, lived at Rye House in Stanstead Abbots, the wife of the lord of the manor. Her son was killed by a fall from his horse. In her will, Dame Joyce remembered him by providing funds for the education of boys at many locations including the "ffree Grammar Schole" in Newport, now The Joyce Frankland Academy.



St Edmund's College in Standon parish is the oldest Catholic college in England. The main building dates from 1769. The school chapel is a Grade I listed building, built in the mid-19th century and designed by

A.W.N. Pugin whose best-known work is the Elizabeth Tower, the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament - more commonly known as Big Ben.

Some schools built after 1870 have adopted the names of notable locals. For example, Leventhorpe Academy in Sawbridgeworth was established in 1965 and named after the Leventhorpe family.



Sir John Leventhorpe died in 1625 and has one of the finest memorials in Sawbridgeworth parish church.

Ralph Sadleir School in Standon was founded in 1971 and named after Sir Ralph who was born in 1507 and knighted in 1543 by Henry VIII. When Queen Mary I came to the throne, Sir Ralph retired to live quietly in Standon.



Ken McDonald, Secretary

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

The Three Horseshoes



P. D. Tucker & P. Stapleton

Hazel End Road, Hazel End, Bps Stortford, Herts CM23 1HB

Tel: 01279 813429

Mon-Sat: 12noon - 3pm & 6 - 11pm

Sunday: 12noon - 3pm

Village Services and Activities

Service	Contact	Telephone No.
Allotments	Council Clerk	01279 814473
Alzheimer	Marian	07803 115826
Art Studio & Gallery	Heather Brown	01279 815453
Ballroom Dance	Fred Winters	01763 271942
Ballet for kids	Philippa McMeechan	01763 271010
BAGS	Rosemary Wheatley	01279 814678
Beauty Therapist	Sarah Whiting	07887 638359
Beauty - HEH Nails	Hana Hainsby	07730 619522
Birchanger Magazine	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
Butterflies Preschool	Carly Richards	01279 810800
BSSC Club	Terry Earnshaw	01279 813441
Car Service, MOT, Gas	D. Bonney	01279 813315
Car Service - Mobile	B. K. Autos	07786 461813
Chiropodist	Julie Golden	01279 873492
Dance - Apton Studio	Maxine Williams	07854 251528
Dementia	Debbie Baker	07927 011345
Garden Services	GWB Horticulture	01799 543483
Garden Services	Will Grange	07516 783138
Hairdresser Men/Boys	Emma Marks	07527 227943
Handyman	Charlie Grange	07514 783239
Holistic therapy/Reflexology	Shelley Williams	07476 279262
Landscaping Services	Mark Taylor	07941 357934
Launderette	Ian Kennedy	01279 866183
Line Dancing	Shelley	01279 864781
Neighbourhood Watch	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
Painting & Décor	David Debnam	07973 861268
Parish Clerk	Keith Williams	01279 814473
Pilates	Mandy Cousins	07713 272664
Public Safety	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
Speed Watch	Peter Sampson	07817 904333
St. Mary's Church	Pam Lee	07702 171744
Tai Chi	Cait Goddard	07415 628935
The Three Horseshoes	Paul & Paula	01279 813429
The Three Willows	Mark Boden	01279 815913
Village Church Hall	Cat Roberson	07475 092658

St. Mary's Church



Church services - 11.15 am

1st December	Family Service with Hugh Mascetti
8th December	Holy Communion with Revd Helen
15th December	Christingles with Pam Lee
20th December	Evening Carol Service 7.00 pm
22nd December	Holy Communion with Revd Colin
25th December	Christmas Communion with Revd Helen
29th December	Family Service with Pam Lee

We are in the run up to Christmas now, expectantly looking forward to celebrating the anniversary of the birth of our Lord Jesus. These last few weeks before Christmas are called Advent. As a child, I saw these few weeks as an exciting time when the whole family was getting ready for the big day and much of that time, we were involved in various preparations organised by St Michael's Great Houghton, the church where I was baptised. There was lots of carol singing with and without choir, decorating (homemade), practising readings and home baking. Most people from the village got involved even if they did not visit the church on a regular basis.

Things are certainly different now as very few people feel the need to come to church to thank the Lord for all the good things that we enjoy. I do however live in hope that at least over the Advent weeks and on Christmas day some people will visit St Mary's and join in our celebrations. At all our December services we will be singing many familiar carols that bring a nostalgia all their own. There may also be the odd one or two that are new to you. Singing is good for you; it lifts your spirits and promotes a sense of community so come and join in.

On the 1st December we will be building our Bethlehem Trail. Bring your decorated stones/cobbles to church and add them to the trail. We have our usual Evening Carol Service in church at 7.00 pm on Friday 20th December, All the old favourites for you to enjoy and some special arrangements from the choir. This and all of our services are open to anyone. Just turn up, that's all we ask.

You can also join in singing Carols at the Three Willows on Saturday the 21st December at 7.00 pm when a few of us will be there enjoying the food and atmosphere. Book yourself in for a meal and join in the fun.

Remember, St Mary's is our church, but it is a building that only becomes a church when people are in it. Come to church on the 25th December to celebrate with us the birth of Jesus. Help us keep our church alive and well for the future.

Forthcoming Events

1st December	Building our Bethlehem Trail
3rd December	10.30am Christmas Coffee Morning at Moorswood with Liz and Pim Godwin
15th December	Christingles in Church

There only remains for me, on behalf of our PCC and myself, to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Pam Lee (Church Warden)
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