

St Peter & St Paul

Little Horkesley

Parish Magazine

April/May 2023



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The Rectory

with Revd Heather Wilcox



He is not here, He is risen!

April begins in a rather playful mood, with April Fools' Day. Be it on TV, radio or in the papers, over the year, there have been some rather clever April Fools' jokes played on us, the unsuspecting public. Who can forget, Richard Dimbleby's report in 1957 on a particularly bountiful crop of spaghetti in Switzerland, due in part to the disappearance of the pesky spaghetti weevil. In 1977 the Guardian, had a play on typefaces, as it published a travel guide to the mysterious island grouping of San Serrife. The two islands, Upper Caisse and Lower Caisse, forming the shape of a semi-colon. And in 1976, Patrick Moore announced on Radio 2 that at 9.47am we would feel what he called the 'Jovian-Plutonian gravitational effect.' At that exact moment, the planets would align and gravity on earth would get a tiny bit weaker, so if you jumped in the air at exactly the right moment, you would almost float.

Just over a week after we enjoy the fooling around of April Fools' Day, we will this year celebrate Easter Day. For the disciples on that first Easter morning, it must have felt like the women were trying to pull off the most elaborate April Fools' joke, running in to tell them that the stone that covered the entrance to Jesus' tomb had been rolled away and the body gone. Though Peter and John, run to the scene, they still can't quite understand what has happened.

Later that afternoon, two disciples on the road to Emmaus, walk along in utter despair. Although they have heard the testimony of the women, telling them about the empty tomb, and the angels who told them Jesus was alive, still they cannot believe it. It sounds like complete foolishness; it is so unbelievable. As they journey on, Jesus meets them in their place of unbelief and says 'How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' and beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the scriptures concerning himself.

The testimony of the women, that first Easter morning, was not foolishness, it was not some elaborate hoax, what they had to report was real and has been the good news that has transformed the lives of millions of people ever since. And so, this Easter time, we can with joy again declare, along with the angels 'He is not here – Jesus is not dead and in a tomb – He has risen! And through his resurrection, Jesus assures us of the promise of life everlasting. Alleluia.

May God bless you this Easter time.

Heather



Christ the Lord is risen
 And, as all the world rejoices,
 Singing of his glory
 With such joyful hearts and voices,
 May you find that Easter brings you
 Peace and faith and hope anew,
 And may these blessings fill your heart,
 With joy the whole year through.

Amen



<i>Month</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Arranger</i>
April Lent	2	No flowers
	9	Sara Turner
	16	Sara Turner
	23	Fionna Morrison
	30	Fionna Morrison
May	7	Brenda Green
	14	Brenda Green
	21	Meriel Sparkes
	28	Meriel Sparkes
June	4	Julia Orme

I think, that, after a year of war in Ukraine, it is worth repeating these prayers

TWO PRAYERS REMEMBERING THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE

A Prayer for peace published by the Church of England

Almighty God from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: Kindle in the hearts of all people the true love of peace: and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A specific Prayer for Ukraine published by the Archbishops:

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war and peace, for wisdom, discernment, and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus the Prince of Peace. Amen

MERIEL'S REPORT

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR RONALD BLYTHE

An amazing Memorial Service for our friend Ronnie was held at Bury Cathedral on March 1st. I was not able to attend but watched the live stream of the beautiful service. A wonderful article of the service, written by Caroline Post, another of Ronnie's 'dear ones', can be found on pages 15 & 16, and the lovely eulogy by Julia Blackburn can be found on pages 17-20.

DAVID WORTH

Sadly, David Worth was found dead, unexpectedly, on February 7th. He lived in Little Horkesley all his life, (next door to me for 25 years). His mother was Roman Catholic so, other than his father, the family did not attend our church. However, David took great interest in the church and in the village all his life. He was often seen in the churchyard, attending to his parents' graves. He also helped with our church water supply in that he, for a number of years, turned the water supply off to the standpipe when the weather was very cold and lagged the tap to avoid problems. During Revd John Chandler's time as our vicar we had monthly coffee mornings and David attended regularly. David's father, Bob, was a bell ringer at

the old church and rung the bells in the new church when they were first hung. Barry Gibbons told me that David as always very interested in the bells and had wanted to visit the Whitechapel Foundry to see how they operated. He avidly read the Church Magazine and always made a very generous donation towards its cost.

David's funeral is on April 4th at 2 pm. We send our thought and prayers to his sisters, Ann and Jean, and their families.

May David rest in peace.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Our services will follow the usual pattern which you can see in the Calendar.

The important services at Little Horkesley are Good Friday 2 pm The Last Hour at the Cross and Easter Day when we will have a Holy Communion Service at 6.30 pm. We shall not have our usual Morning Service with the Easter Tree and Egg Hunt as it was not well-attended last year. The Easter Tree will be in the porch as part of our Easter decorations.

You will see from the Calendar there are also services at Mount Bures (Maundy Thursday 7.pm) and Wormingford (Easter Vigil at 8 pm).

ROGATION 14th MAY

Last year we tried something different, having the walk and then tea in church and it worked well so we will do the same this year. We will meet at the church at 5pm and embark on our walk through the Hall gardens, to the War Memorial and ending up back at the church. This should take about three quarters of an hour. We shall then have tea (cakes and sandwiches) at the church followed by an Evening Service at 6.30 pm. If you cannot manage the walk you can come in time for the tea.

LENT SOUP LUNCHESES

This year it was decided to have Lent Soup Lunches once a week in each of the six parishes.

We were the first church to host a lunch, so we had no idea what to do or what to expect. However, Brenda and I set tables up the day before, with flowers and candles. Sally had purchased an electric hob as we had no way to heat the soup. (Microwaves are no good for quantities of soup) We got enough bowls together and I already had enough spoons and knives courtesy of some my daughter bought

people who attended seemed to enjoy themselves. Donations were made for the charity Mary's Meals which provides lunches for children from the poorest countries in the world. The promise of a good meal attracts these hungry children into the classroom, giving them energy to learn and hope for a better future.

Those who attended the soup lunches were also encouraged to bring items for the local Foodbank.



FOODBANK

On the subject of the Foodbank we now have a permanent collection at church.

There is a box in which to put your donations in the church porch along with a list of items needed.

Colchester foodbank

COLLECTION POINT

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Please donate an item or two from the list.

Thank you!

SHOPPING LIST

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- Tinned meat/fish
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- Tinned vegetables
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- Shaving gel
- Male & female deodorant
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EASTER LILIES AND ALTAR FLOWERS

Fionna Morrison and I would be so very pleased to receive donations towards the cost of the lilies and the altar flowers.

There are so very few of us who arrange the flower now and any help, either by more volunteers or by donations, will be very gratefully received.

ASCENSION DAY MAY 18th

We have a United Holy Communion Service at our church at 7.30 pm on Ascension Day. Please support this service if you can.

CHANGES IN THE CALENDAR

As a few of the services do not follow the usual pattern in the two months which this Magazine covers please check the Calendar. It is mainly changes to the services in the evening when the normal Sundays for Holy Communion and Evensong may be altered.

MERIEL



MAGAZINE DONATIONS

Our Treasurer, Sally, is grateful to those of you who have made a donation towards the cost of the Magazine.

The suggested payment is £10 or £15 if it is sent to you. We are always pleased to receive more than this if you are able.

CHEQUES can be sent to Sally Bramall (see inside front page for details) and made out to Little Horkesley PCC.

BANK TRANSFER. The bank details are as follows: HSBC plc, sort code 40-18-51, account no. 71027395. Reference – your name.

Please do respond to this and remember to make your donation. Producing the Magazine takes a lot of work and is very costly.



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card tables and chairs at reasonable rates.***

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Re-united with Pam and Lynne

2nd Instalment

By Brenda Green

On returning to Sidney, I stayed with Pam whilst Lynne deservedly went off with her friend Val for a couple of days and nights on a walking spree near Sooke on the southern tip of the Island. Pam and I busied ourselves with various tasks, mostly in the garden needless to say, as Pam's mobility isn't as good as it used to be and she can't manoeuvre her Zimmer-frame into the back of her flowerbeds. She directed me from the lawn instead! We certainly got the greenhouse tomatoes and baby pepper plants watered each day whilst Lynne was away. Pam spent time encouraging the beans to wind themselves around their support frame and was delighted when she was able to pick the first sweet peas to put in my bedroom! The winter and Spring had been so cold and wet that everything in the garden was way behind and even the raspberries weren't doing much, to Pam's disgust! I managed to pick those that matured before the birds devoured them though.

During my stay we received a variety of invitations from friends of Pam and Lynne's to visit for afternoon tea, or to go and see an Exhibition or Quilt Show which was fun. One such event was to Jo and Mike's, who had recently moved from Calgary to Sidney. Mike was a

school friend of Lloyd's, Lynne's husband back in Calgary days. Pam had told me that Mike was a guitarist, but not quite in the way I had expected! Pam had encouraged me into taking some of my folk music with me and I then replaced a string from Pam's guitar so that I could play should Mike suggest it. Hmm! When I finally visited their new abode with Pam and Lynne I realised why. Yes, he can play but is in fact a purveyor of guitars! Once again, another amazing sight greeted me when Mike took me to see his guitar room! There were guitars neatly hung in double layer around every wall with labels attached showing prices and each guitars make and history...none in my price range I might add! Another room revealed all the guitar cases neatly stacked on shelving, labelled to the correct guitar. It seems nothing in Canada is done by halves! Jo is a marvellous cook and we were treated to a delicious afternoon tea, being able to gaze from the panoramic windows from the hillside above Sidney to the sea and islands beyond. Such an idyllic spot!

Pam continues to be interested in new recipes that she is given, sees on television Cookery programmes or cuts out from magazines. Hence, she has a vast pile contained in several poly-bags

or sleeves. Trying to find one that she wanted was a bit hit and miss in her filing system, so I decided that I would give her a winter project! I bought a wadge of hole-punched pockets and a ring-back file so that she can sort them through putting them in categories and with luck, searching may be easier? We spent some time sifting through the recipes and Pam decided that some she would never use so they were binned, thus reducing the pile somewhat! I came home with Pam's scrummy recipes for 'Butterscotch Cookies' and a 'Ricotta Cheese Galette'. The first I have had to change to Caramel Cookies as I can't find a source of butterscotch chips in the U.K., but Asda, being a Walmart store, did have Caramel chips! Whoopee! My neighbours and I have devoured several baking's of these since I came home!

On my final weekend a friend of Pam's had to rescind her invitation to take me to The Sooke Art & Craft Exhibition due to unexpected visitors announcing their arrival, but Lynne suddenly remembered that it was time for the Moss Street annual Art event! Lynne was already driving into Victoria to attend a Tai Chi meeting so could drop me off on her way and pick me up later. Once again, nothing done by halves, as the whole length of Moss Street, approx. a mile long, was now a pedestrianised area for that day and all manner of 'Art' stalls flanked the road on both sides. It was obviously the place to be as there were

crowds pouring in on every side at the top of the road which sloped gently downwards to exit on the waterfront overlooking the Juan de Fuca Strait and the Olympic Mountains in Washington State. Well, I had a field day as I gradually made my way back and forth from side to side seeing such excellent craftsmanship in all aspects of crafts, sculpture, painting, jewellery, glasswork, ceramics and even millinery! Despite it being a hot day, the leafy trees along either side gave excellent shade and the crowd were in a happy, friendly mood. Never did I hear bad language or unacceptable behaviour, so refreshing! People stood chatting to the vendors who happily showed and talked about the methods they used to produce their wares and the residents participated by inviting their family and friends to have a picnic in their gardens or on their front decks and enjoy the wonderful atmosphere. All along the way there were various activities for children to join in and some of that included a young troupe of violinists, merrily playing lively jigs, with no music in view, just from memory, with a bit of dancing thrown in for good measure as they played!! They were brilliant! Another more mature group sat on their front steps playing and singing to their ukuleles to entertain the crowds, with much applause each time they finished a number. The children's activities were often simple affairs like variable sized tin cans suspended on a wooden frame with a metal rod hung on

a longish string so that they could make a tune! Well, they **loved** making the noise of that, tune questionable! Great fun though! One little girl dressed in a pretty frock and welly boots had found a string of tin cans joined together and was running up and down the pavement behind the nearby stall clanging the tins on the string behind her giggling merrily, enjoying the fact that she had the public's attention! By the time I emerged at the far end, my feet were complaining' but it had been a wonderful way to spend the morning. As arranged, I found a seat opposite, overlooking the waterfront and ate the lunch Pam had given me and then soon saw Lynne approaching having been able to park the car further along the coast road. She too had nipped into the lower part of Moss Street and took a quick look at the artwork and was also impressed at the quality on show. I still reminisce about all the lovely work I saw.

A month seems a long time, but oh! How quickly the days disappear! On the last Sunday Lynne and I visited a lovely garden known as 'The Horticultural Centre of the Pacific' on the outskirts of Victoria, one of Lynne's favourites. It was beautifully laid out and so peaceful on a gently sloping terrain. It was obviously a place of learning too as there were

excellent resources for children to learn about plants when they visited.

Having finally packed my case and bid a sorrowful farewell to Pam, Lynne and I headed for the ferry taking me towards my return journey from Vancouver Airport. Yet again, I had already received word that my flight was delayed, but at least the rest of my journey was nothing as bad as my arrival, clocking in at Heathrow at 5.30p.m. instead of 2 p.m.! That meant my poor taxi driver had to cope with the rush hour traffic on the M25, but we made the journey without further delay. As we turned into my drive, I was aghast at the growth of weeds which had occurred in my absence despite the horrendous temperatures! Never mind, I had had a wonderful month in Canada to remember!







Ronald Blythe Thanksgiving Service St Edmundsbury Cathedral

- By Caroline Post -

On the 1st of March a service of thanksgiving was given for the life of Canon Dr Ronald Blythe CBE FRSL in the magnificent cathedral in Bury St Edmunds. It was perfect, Ronnie would have loved it! There was the wonderful mixture of Church of England pageantry and theatre and an intimate, affectionate tribute to a dear friend all accompanied by the fabulous cathedral choir and organ.

The service was attended by over four hundred and fifty, many great friends but many who only knew Ronnie through his wonderful books and his years of writing Word from Wormingford in the Church Times. All had gathered here through their love of this wonderful wordsmith.

Vicky Minet read beautifully from Isaiah 35, and David Holt, who has recently narrated the marvellous audio book for Next to Nature, read John Clare's poem The Nightingale's Nest. Lady Clare, Countess of Euston, HM the King's representative in Suffolk, spoke of King Charles' great admiration for Ronnie's work and read a piece entitled My Little Owls. This captures so beautifully the very essence of Ronnie's view of world. His acute appreciation of the every day, his love of the countryside around him, of the Church, of people and place and even of 'the lawnmower starting at first pull'!

Julia Blackburn amused us with affectionate memories of visiting Ronnie at 'his home, his island'. She remembers Bottengoms, the garden with the perfect balance of the 'wild and the cultivated' and it's higgledy piggledy interior. She describes Ronnie's childhood, his youth at the library and his adoption by the Nashes into their artistic circle of friends. She talks of his charm, of his intelligence, his determination and his generosity. How he loved everyone and everything with an equal passion.

The Right Reverend Martin Seeley, Bishop of Edmundsbury and Ipswich gave an equally generous homily crediting Ronnie for his own introduction to Suffolk through Akenfield. he spoke of Ronnie's devotion to his ministry as a lay reader, and his particularly English faith, understated, profound and grounded in the local community. He reminded us that Ronnie has been described as the Church of England's poet and likened his storytelling

with those from the Bible. He also relayed The Right Reverend Rowan Williams' own tribute.

Both speakers stood on a pulpit covered in daffodils and primroses and great branches of dancing catkins, both finished their pieces with words from a John Clare poem alluding to Ronnie now lying in Wormingford churchyard 'the grass below, above a vaulted sky'.

The service continued with Natasha Holmes, carer, cellist and a 'dear one', playing quite beautifully a piece by Imogen Holst, another dear friend of Ronnie's from his time in Aldeburgh. This led movingly into the prayers, these included two recordings which brought many to tears. What a surreal moment for us all to hear a recording of Ronnie's soft voice in the vast, soaring space of the cathedral.

'Let the blessed sunshine in, let the blessed sunshine in, open wide the window, open wide the door, let the blessed sunshine in'

The service was a very fitting memorial to a truly wonderful man who it was a true privilege to have known. He definitely let the blessed sunshine in to my life and hopefully into yours too.

For anyone who is interested the service can still be found through the St Edmundsbury Cathedral Facebook page.



**Eulogy by Julia Blackburn
at the Memorial Service for
Ronald Blythe, CBE, FRSL
St Edmundsbury Cathedral
1st Marchy 2023**

I'll begin with a description of him:

Whenever I sat facing Ronnie at his elegant little table in the corner of the room, close to the crammed bookcases, I was always startled by the way his face changed. At one moment I saw a fragile man growing older year by year and in the next I saw a boy, filled with the laughter and energy of youth.

And now a little story which says something of his approach to life and to people. I was having lunch with him at his house, the wonderfully named Bottengoms. He'd recently been to see a friend who was dying. As a gift he chose the most expensive bar of soap he could find. Guerlain. *'She'll enjoy washing her hands, day by day,'* he said. *'She's not got long to live.'*

It's odd how one gets to know someone better, or at least in more detail, after they have gone. Ronnie was often in my mind ever since I first met him in 1991, but it's only now that I begin to see him in his entirety, as it were.

I watched a film made when he was in his 50s. The slight figure of a man with a shock of hair and very narrow hips, walking through the familiar streets of Aldeburgh and talking as he walks. *'So many friends have died,'* he says, *'but I have no sense of elegy. They are living because I am living. That must be it.'*

And now he is living because we are living.

Last week I went back to Bottengoms, getting lost on the way as I always do and suddenly there was the big wooden post box with no name written on it and the anonymous, sandy and potholed track leading down and up and down again towards the house. You approach it across the garden with its perfect balance of the wild and the cultivated and here is the white painted front door to be pushed open.

The old house which had been his home, his island, since 1977. The paintings. The many books. The beautiful and precarious furniture that once belonged to John and Christine Nash - a flimsy multi-legged table looking as if it would collapse in a heap if you burdened it with the slightest touch ... a bit of the

ceiling bursting open to reveal a patch of wattle and daub, threatening to drop on your head ... the tangle of copper heating pipes of which Ronnie was so proud that he insisted they ran above the mantelpiece like works of art.

But it was the floor that was most familiar and most moving. The wonderfully higgledy piggledy pale brick floor that you sometimes still find in old churches: each brick a slightly different colour and height and no cement to hold them steady – and, with any luck a family of Great Crested newts, sleeping peacefully somewhere underneath the layer of damp sand. The first time I met Ronnie, we looked at the worn threshold to his house and at the floor, alive with the energy of time and he quoted a line from a Thomas Hardy poem, *'Here the dead feet walked in'*.

We often sat and talked. He spoke of whatever he was currently working on, and he spoke about his friends, both the living and the no longer living, often telling vivid little stories about them that made me feel I knew them too. He was always a generous and enthusiastic critic of my books when they were still in manuscript form, and he imbued me with a courage that I will always be grateful for.

Usually, I came for lunch and left after tea, but once I stayed overnight, the two of us in our pyjamas taking turns to brush our teeth at the little sink before retiring, me to a memorably lumpy horsehair mattress.

In spite of our many conversations, I realise now that he hardly ever spoke of himself, apart from the occasional drift of nostalgia for what he felt he had missed in life, even though he did not explain quite what that was. He never once mentioned his childhood.

Ronnie was the eldest of six siblings - all of them sleeping together in the one room. One night when it was very cold, his father fetched a big bundle of straw and scattered it over his children, to keep them warm like piglets in a barn.

His father was a farm labourer, although later he went up in the world and became a gravedigger. His mother had been born into the even more dire inner city poverty of Covent Garden and it seems that she and her husband had little in common. He was a drinker and a shouter, while she was a devout and teetotal Christian. There were no books in the house apart from the King James Bible, but she read those musical cadences,

those images and stories to her children from an early age and they became the foundation of Ronnie's appreciation of the immense power of the written word.

He left school age fourteen and got a job in Colchester Library where he could devour as many books as he liked. You could say his early years were a disadvantage, but in a way, they were the making of him. He did not study authors, he met them, and they became his friends and never mind if they had died two thousand years ago or took a cup of tea with him only last week.

The poet John Clare was his greatest love. They shared a knowledge of poverty and a loneliness of being and Ronnie always referred to him with such an easy intimacy, it was as if he was talking about his favourite brother, albeit one who did not have the same good fortune. Clare ended his troubled life in the Madhouse, whereas Ronnie found peace and contentment and a sense of belonging, in the sanctuary that was Bottengoms.

If you look at the early photographs - and the later ones, right up to the party celebrating his one hundredth birthday - you can see why people were so drawn to him. As a young man he was as beautiful as a rather fragile matinee idol and throughout his life he had a quality of openness and innocence and a way of trusting the path of his own destiny, which was very attractive.

Christine Nash met him in the library and recognised something in him at once. She took him under her clever and wise wing, and he became like the son that she and John Nash had lost. He was welcomed into the circle of their friends who were quick to appreciate his particular charm and intelligence. He was charming, but he also had a steely determination. He wrote as if his life depended on it and once, he had begun that task, he never relinquished it.

Nine years ago, I went to see Ronnie after the death of someone I had loved. I was seeking comfort, but to my surprise he apologised and said he could not be much help: he had never loved anyone deeply enough to have experienced the real, heart-breaking grief of loss.

At first, I was shocked, but later I realised that what he said was not only honest, it was also a clue to his nature. He was, in the very roots of his

being, a solitary man. He loved everything and everyone with an equal passion. He loved the moon moving through the night sky, the first light of the dawn; the natural world in all its complexity. He loved landscapes and churches for the stories they held and told. And he loved people, all of them, equally, honestly, and generously and yet with a certain detachment. Maybe that was the source of the nostalgia for what he felt he had missed in life.

Ronnie seemed to get younger as he got older. He celebrated his 100th birthday with a glass or two or three of sherry, and a cake made as a copy of his last book Next to Nature and I heard he was delighted to be told that 10,000 copies had already been sold, although he quickly forgot the fact. He let go of life not many days after the party, taking his leave with a quiet acceptance and an easy joy.

He is of course best known for Akenfield; a wonderful and often shocking book that speaks so eloquently of a way of life that had evolved out of the landscape he was born into; a long tradition of rural poverty that was harsh and romantic and on the brink of vanishing; but I do wonder if his most recent writing is his greatest achievement. Like the 16th century essayist Michel Montaigne, Ronnie had become able to follow the meanderings of his own thoughts as they moved from what he had for breakfast, to what Seneca said on hearing of his death sentence, to the cat, to the Holy Ghost, to a walk in the dark.

Like Montaigne, Ronnie was not afraid of dying and I think he would have understood his own death, in the words of John Clare's poem I Am.

I remember him reading it to me at our first meeting.

I long for scenes where man hath never trod

A place where woman never smiled or wept

There to abide with my Creator, God,

And sleep as I in childhood sweetly slept,

Untroubling and untroubled where I lie

The grass below – above the vaulted sky.

Meeting of the PCC on January 31st 2023

The Parochial Church Council met in the Church on January 31st 2023.

The Vicar started the meeting by recording the very sad death of Ronnie Blythe on January 14th. She said that he had been a very major figure in the life of Little Horkeley church and that he was much loved by many people in the Parish and beyond. She said that there is to be a memorial service for him in Bury St Edmunds Cathedral on March 1st and that there would no doubt be many people from the Village in attendance. Arrangements were being made for a coach to take people from the area.

The Vicar said that we were continuing with services on the basis of BCP Evensong every Sunday and Matins once a month. There would also be a United Celebration service at 10am every fifth Sunday (four/five times a year). This would rotate around the three parishes in the Benefice. There were some concerns about the loss of Evensong on some Sundays as a result of this but the Vicar said that the rationale was about building the Church community in the wider Benefice and it was agreed that we should continue as planned.

On this same theme of working together she said that there would be an opportunity in August when we had been offered the use of a marquee at Emma Barr's farm in Mount Bures on a Sunday following a wedding on the Saturday. She hoped to be able to organise a Benefice event for that afternoon.

The Vicar reported on the issue raised at the October PCC concerning the vision for the six parishes and that there had been agreement on this by the Churchwardens. She was now in the process of getting a date for a meeting with Bishop Roger and Archdeacon Ruth to discuss the options available to us.

The Treasurer, Mrs Bramall, said that she had virtually finished the accounts for the Financial Year ended December 31st 2022. She said that the main change from 2021 had been a loss on investments compared with a substantial gain in the prior year. This loss reflected the performance of investments in the wider market during a year blighted by covid and the Ukraine war.

She said that Income and Expenditure for Church activities were generally

in line with the previous year. The largest item of expenditure was the Parish Share – our contribution to the Diocese - which had remained virtually unchanged from 2021. She proposed a number of grants to charities in line with previous years to a total of over £4000. These were all approved by the PCC.

Mrs Bramall presented her budget for 2023. Expenditure is forecast to be 4% higher than in 2022 and income virtually unchanged. Cleaning and Electricity are expected to be significantly higher than in 2022. She also said that she had included a sum for the purchase of a contactless payment device to be fitted in the Church which was agreed.

David Lewis said that a Foodbank container had now been set up in the Church Porch. This was now being advertised in the Magazine and the Parish Council is very supportive of the initiative.

Brian Lord asked for volunteers to help with flag raising as and when required. He said that he had been doing this since 1969 – **over 50 years!!** - and was finding it more and more difficult. Mr Lewis agreed to help, and the PCC recorded its thanks to Brian for carrying out this task so well and for so long.

The next meeting will be on May 2nd which will include the annual meeting of Parishioners.

Will Pavry



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Pet Of The Month

Update on Ronnie Blythe's cat, Pussycat.

Dear All,

You can all breathe easy now, we have found a wonderful forever home for Ronnie's darling cat - and she is now called **Snowdrop**.

Snowdrop has now taken over the home and lives of Nick and Linda Hillyard. Linda sends me and Meriel regular photo updates of how much Snowdrop has incorporated them into her life and has them positively eating out of her paws.

All of Ronnie's 'dear ones' send out a huge, grateful thank you to Nick and Linda for opening up your home and hearts for this darling little cat. We are so happy she has settled in so easily.

Suzanne



A Heritage of Crime Prevention for the Future



Back in 1829, Sir Robert Peel (the “Father of Modern Policing”) decreed that there are nine basic principles of Policing. The first principle and mission for Police Constables is to prevent crime and disorder, and that police effectiveness is not measured on the number of arrests, but on the lack of crime!

These principles still ring true today. Reducing and preventing crime is not only better for the economy but more importantly our health and wellbeing. As dealing with the aftermath of crime and ASB can leave a lasting impact on victim of crime and the wider community. Everyday within Essex Police our Officers and Staff from our Community Policing Teams, Community Safety and Engagement Officers, Rural Crime, Business Crime Teams and Fraud Coordinators deliver crime prevention advice to help the public in reducing the opportunities for crime and ASB.

For specialist crime prevention advice, the force has a small number Crime Prevention and Designing out Crime Officers (DOCO), who provide to tactical support for all officers and staff. Designing out Crime Officers looks at mitigating crime and ASB risk not just for the present, but for the future. A carefully designed building and wider environment with security at the heart of it is better than retrofitting measures later to fix a problem that could have been foreseen.

Additionally, as part of the planning process, the Designing out Crime Officers comment on new planning applications to ensure that the opportunities for crime and disorder to be ‘designed out’ at the earliest opportunity. They review various planning applications from new housing estates, hospitals, schools, town centre regenerations to name but a few.

The Designing out Crime Officers

promote ‘Secured by Design’ (www.securedbydesign.com) to ensure that new planning applications have considered the impact of crime in their design.

Secured by Design (SBD) is the official police security initiative that’s aims at reducing the opportunities for crime and ASB. Developers around the UK can achieve SBD awards for incorporating crime prevention measures and techniques into their developments in all kinds

of building sectors. SBD also developed and maintains a product-based police accreditation scheme – the Police Preferred Specification where independently tested security products and building material can be found.

In conclusion crime prevention is not just reactive and concerned with just the here and now, its core is around creating safer and exclusive places for everyone at all times.



Horkesley Care Network



The Care Network is a registered charity which exists to offer help to those in our local community who are without transport. Should you need to get to a doctors or hospital appointment, collect a prescription, attend social activities around the villages, etc., we have a pool of volunteer drivers to help you.

Phone Lesley on 01206 271576 or Peggy on 01206 271532 and we will make the necessary arrangements.

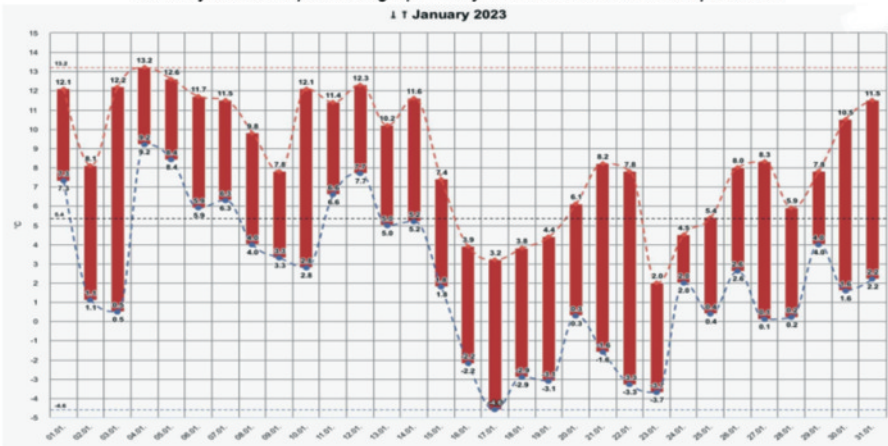
If you have a little free time and are able to help occasionally as a driver, please phone Lesley on 01206 271576 for further details.

Little Horkesley weather

By Adrian Szabo

The following weather data has been collected at Old Hall Farm, Little Horkesley. Our weather station has been continually monitoring and recording temperature, precipitation, humidity, air pressure, rainfall and wind data since 2014 so we have a wealth of information regarding our local weather which makes it easy to analyse and compare patterns and variations over the past few years.

January 2023 temperature graph- daily minimum/maximum temperatures

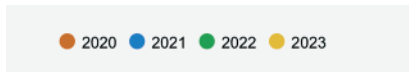
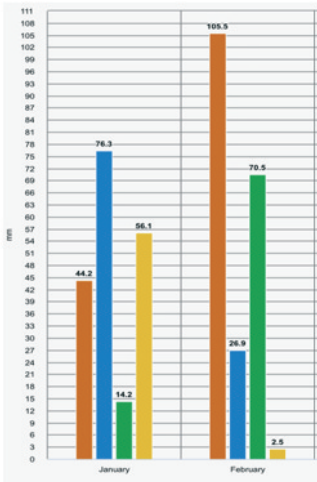
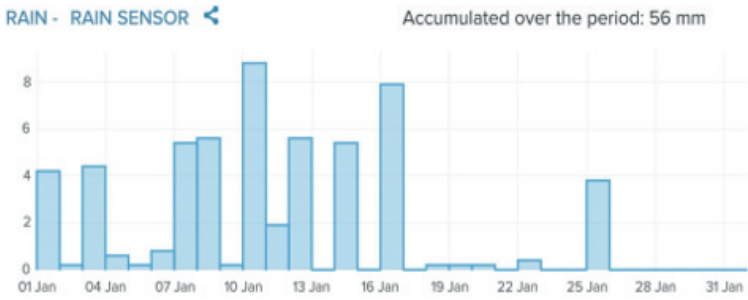


February 2023 temperature graph-daily minimum/maximum temperatures



Average temperatures for the first two months of this year have been similar to previous years: **5.1° C** for January (avg.4.6°C) and **6.2° C** for February (avg.5.6° C)

Rainfall data for January shows a total of **56 mm** which is slightly above the multiannual average of 50mm, we know that February was an extremely dry month: only **2.4 mm** rain in four weeks makes it the driest one since we measure rainfall in the village. The average monthly precipitation for February should be around 41mm.



Michael J Byles

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Sidesmen & Readers : April 2023

Date	Sidesmen	Readers	Readings
2nd April	PALM SUNDAY		
Morning	Brian Lord Will Pavry	Sally Bramall Will Pavry	Philippians 2: 5-11 Matthew 21: 1-11
Evening	NO EVENING SERVICE		
7th April	GOOD FRIDAY		
2pm	LAST HOUR AT THE CROSS		
	John Sparkes Christopher Orme	TBA	TBA
9th April	EASTER DAY		
Morning	NO MORNING SERVICE		
Evening	HOLY COMMUNION		
	Margaret Thomas Harold Thomas	Margaret Thomas Harold Thomas	TBA
16th April			
Morning	NO MORNING SERVICE		
Evening	Ann Garnett David Lewis	Ann Garnett David Lewis	Acts 2: 14a; 22 -32 John 20: 19 -end
23rd April			
Morning	NO MORNING SERVICE		
Evening	John Sparkes Sue Carbutt	John Sparkes Sue Carbutt	Acts 2: 14a; 36 -41 Luke 24: 13 -35
	<i>Intercessor: Brian Lord</i>		
30th April	NO SERVICES AT LITTLE HORKESLEY		



Sidesmen & Readers : May 2023

Date	Sidesmen	Readers	Readings
7th May			
Morning	Vicky Minet Christopher Orme	Vicky Minet Julia Orme	Acts 7: 55-end John 14: 1-14
Evening	NO EVENING SERVICE		
14th May			
Morning	NO MORNING SERVICE		
Evening	Margaret Thomas Harold Thomas	Margaret Thomas Harold Thomas	Acts 17: 22-31 John 14: 15-21
	<i>Intercessor: Margaret Thomas</i>		
18th May 7.30 pm	ASCENSION DAY HOLY COMMUNION – UNITED SERVICE John Sparkes David Lewis	John Sparkes David Lewis	TBA
21st May			
Morning	NO MORNING SERVICE		
Evening	HOLY COMMUNION Sue Carbutt John Sparkes	Sue Carbutt Brian Lord	Acts 1: 6-14 John 17: 1-11
28th May			
Morning	NO MORNING SERVICE		
Evening	Christopher Orme Ann Garnett	Christopher Orme Ann Garnett	TBA
	<i>Intercessor: Brenda Green</i>		
4th June			
Morning	Will Pavry Brian Lord	Will Pavry Sally Bramall	2 Corinthians 13: 11-end Matthew 28: 16-end
Evening	NO EVENING SERVICE		



Church Calendar: April 2023

April 2nd
11.00 am

Palm Sunday
Morning Service

April 6th
7.00pm

Maundy Thursday
Holy Communion at Mount Bures (Benefice)

April 7th
2.00 pm

Good Friday
Last Hour at the Cross at Little Horkesley
(Benefice)

April 8th
8.00 pm

Easter Eve
Easter Vigil at Wormingford (Benefice)

April 9th
6.30 pm

Easter Day
Easter Holy Communion

April 16th
6.30 pm

Easter 2
Evening Service

April 23rd
6.30 pm

Easter3
Evening Service

April 30th
10.00 am

Easter 4
United Holy Communion at Great Horkesley
All Saints



Church Calendar: May 2023

May 7th
11.00 am

Easter 5
Morning Service

May 14th
5.00 pm

Rogation Easter 6
Rogation Walk followed by Tea in the church and then a short Evening Service
– see page 5 for more details

May 18th
7.30 pm

Ascension Day
United Holy Communion at Little Horkesley

May 21st
6.30 pm

Easter 7
Holy Communion

May 28th
6.30 pm

Pentecost
Evening Service

June 4th
11.00 am

Trinity Sunday
Morning Service

Happy
Easter



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available from <https://naylandevents.org>**

Any questions or to reserve a dairy free Easter egg
(which must be requested at least 48 hours in advance),
please email lizziesfund@yahoo.com.

All proceeds to Lizzie's Fund, on behalf of The Brain Tumour Charity