

Lookout Magazine

The Parish Magazine for
Alphamstone, Lamarsh,
Great & Little Henny, Middleton,
Twinstead & Wickham St Pauls



April 2026

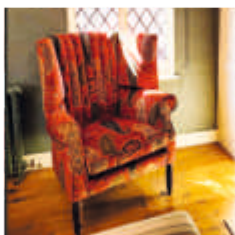
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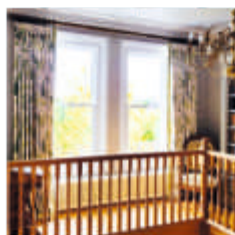
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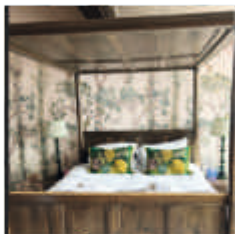
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WHO TO CONTACT

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Team Rector | Rev Gill Morgan | revgillmorgan@outlook.com 584993 Day off: Friday |
| Team Vicar | Rev Claire Wilkinson | revclairewilkinson@outlook.com 269873 Day off: Friday |
| Team Administrator | Fiona Wildblood | fiona@northhinckfordteam.org (working hours 9:00am-4:00pm Tues & Thurs) 07867 334322 |

The Church of St Barnabus, Alphamstone

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------|-------------------------|
| Churchwarden | Adrian Huggins | 269151 | |
| Magazine Contact | Melinda Varcoe | 269570 | melindavarcoe@gmail.com |

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great & Little Henny

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------|------------------------|
| Churchwarden | Jeremy Milbank | 269720 | |
| Magazine Contact | Stella Bixley | 269317 | stellabixley@gmail.com |

The Church of the Holy Innocents, Lamarsh

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Churchwarden | Andrew Marsden | 227054 | |
| Magazine Contact | Bret & Rosemary Johnson | 227988 | bretuk89@yahoo.co.uk |

The Church of All Saints, Middleton

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------|------------------------|
| Churchwarden | Sue North | 370558 | |
| Magazine Contact | Jude Johnson | 582559 | judevh11@hotmail.co.uk |

The Church of St John the Evangelist, Twinstead

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------|----------------------------|
| Churchwarden | Henrietta Drake | 269083 | |
| Magazine Contact | David Holland | 269693 | twinsteadlookout@gmail.com |

The Church of All Saints, Wickham St Pauls

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Churchwardens | Janice Rudd | 269789 | |
| | Ann Robertson | 269624 | |
| Magazine Contact | Susannah Goodbody | 269250 | gdby@goodbodys.net |

www.northhinckfordteam.org

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/northhinckfordteam

Magazine Editor: Susannah Goodbody
gdby@goodbodys.net

Magazine Advertising:
Jude Johnson 01787 582559
Flint Cottage, Church Road
Bulmer Tye
CO10 7EH
advertisinglookout@gmail.com

Magazine Treasurer: Pamela Holland 01787 269693
Email: pameladorothyholland@gmail.com

Email:

Please note all copy to be emailed to the editor by the 8th of the month, thank you

Dear Reader,

I do hope that you will find something to interest you in this edition of Lookout. As you may already have gathered, we (all the very supportive Contributors) and I are endeavouring to add as many different subjects as possible.....did you ever think you would be advised on the planting of trees? My thanks to William. So please do let us know of other articles that you may find interesting, and perhaps our Readers too. Tina Brand's 'Softening' is so descriptive of some of our lives, which I have included, and hope you too will enjoy. Do you sometimes take photographs of our lovely countryside? If so, I would so appreciate some contributions for our cover photograph please!

Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition of Lookout, and to Chantal for her cuddly sheep on the cover.

With my good wishes to you,

Susannah

Food For Thought?

Life is a mystery to be lived.

Not a problem to be solved.

(Said by a man living in a shanty town in India)

Bishop Guli, the Bishop of Chelmsford, has written a prayer for Iran and the Middle East which I share with you below:

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 goodwill 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

Smile Lines

From a church notice-sheet

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our church warden, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.



Pastoral Ponderings



Do you have a favourite colour?

I remember being asked that question at school. Our form teacher asked each of us to vote for our favourite colour, but wouldn't tell us why. I don't think she could have foreseen the consternation that followed, as a class of thirty girls debated how impossible it would be to choose just one. Surely it depended on what the colour was for? A favourite for clothes might not be right for decorating a room, choosing flowers, dyeing hair, nail varnish or shoes...

After all the lively discussion and careful deliberation, we finally wrote our choices on the slips of paper we'd been given. It turned out she simply wanted to know what colour backing paper to put on the classroom notice boards. You can imagine the collective disappointment after all that discussion!

If pressed, I think I would say that my favourite colour is green – although, obviously, it depends! What I love most is the variety and depth of its shades, but especially the brilliance and cleanness of the green of a newly unfurled leaf in spring!

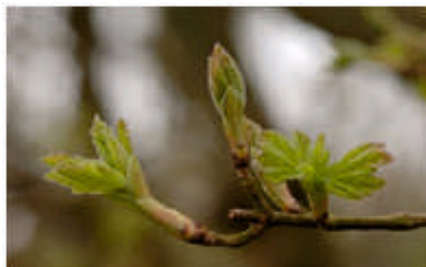
We are about to come to what may be my favourite time of year. It only lasts about a week, but it brings with it immeasurable hope and joy. It is that moment when spring truly turns a corner. One week the hedgerows are all sticks and brown, a bird's nest of tangled branches; the next, they shimmer into life, with the gentlest haze of green, like a soft halo of promise. Driving along our hedge-lined lanes at this time, is such a gift – a quiet reminder of new life and the abundance to come.

In the church calendar, we have been journeying through Lent – forty days to reflect, to pause, and to turn our hearts again towards God. We walk with Jesus through the events of Holy Week: The Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, the sorrow of Good Friday, and then, always, the joy and hope of Easter morning and the celebration of resurrection.

Perhaps that first hint of green in the hedgerows is a little like Easter itself – a sign that life is returning, that hope is never lost, and that love is always at work, even when we can't yet see the full picture.

As you notice the changing colours along our lanes and in our gardens this spring, may they be a gentle reminder of renewal, hope, and God's enduring love for us all.

Lord of new life,
thank you for the beauty of this season and the
hope it brings.
Refresh our hearts as you refresh the earth,
and help us to notice the small signs of promise
each day.
Amen.

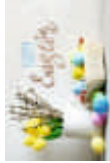


Rev Claire Wilkinson, Team Vicar.



NORTH HINCKFORD SERVICE ROTA APRIL 2026

| | 2 APRIL Maundy Thursday Red | 3 APRIL GOOD FRIDAY Hangings Removed | 5 APRIL EASTER DAY Gold or White | 12 APRIL 1 st Sunday after Easter White | 19 APRIL 2 nd Sunday after Easter White | 26 April 3 rd Sunday after Easter White |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| ALWAYS CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES AND UPDATES www.northhinckfordteam.org | | | | | | |
| Alphamstone | | | | 9:30am Holy Communion | | 9:00am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer |
| Belchamp Otten | | | | | | |
| Belchamp St Paul | | 2.00pm Last Hour | 5:30am Dawn Service at Ovington | 9:30am Holy Communion | | |
| Belchamp Walter | | | | | 11:15am Holy Communion | |
| Borley | | | | | | |
| Bulmer | 7.00pm Maundy Thursday Supper at Bulmer | 10.00am Walk of Witness | 6.00am Dawn Service Hickbush Hill. Henny | 11.15am Holy Communion | | |
| Foxearth | | | | | 9:30am Holy Communion | |
| Henny | | | | | | |
| Lamarsh | <i>If you would like to attend, please book with Katharine kkingchurch@gmail.com</i> | 2.00pm Last Hour | | | 11:15am Holy Communion | |
| Liston | | | | | | |
| Middleton | | | 10.00am Easter Holy Communion at Alphamstone | | | 10:30am at Bulmer |
| Ovington | | | | | | |
| Pentlow | | | | | | |
| Twinstead | | | 10.00am Easter Holy Communion at Borley | 11.15am Holy Communion | | |
| Wickham St Paul | | | | | | 9:30am Holy Communion |



Café Worship

Refreshments served from 10:15am

DAWS HALL OPEN DAYS 2026



Wildflowers and Roses

7th and 14th June

Autumn Colours

25th October and 1st November



All are 10:00 to 15:00 and entry by donation.

Details as always on our website: dawshallnature.co.uk/events

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Come and walk the Prayer Labyrinth

St Mary's, Great and Little Henny

(what3words:///glass.cares.lyrics)



A Prayer Labyrinth has been mown into the grass outside the church at Great Henny, and we welcome visitors and passing walkers to prayerfully walk the path.

Labyrinths have been used for centuries in Christian spirituality and beyond, as a meditative tool for prayer, contemplation or simply slowing down. The labyrinth is a spiritual tool that meets you where you are. We believe God welcomes all who seek, doubt, or wonder. Let this be a space of grace, love, and welcome—just as you are.

Everyone is welcome, this space is open to you. You don't need to say any special prayers or believe any particular doctrine to benefit from this quiet, sacred journey.

Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life." – John 14:6

SIX VILLAGES DIARY DATES 2026

W.S.P. Post Office opens Tuesday and Thursday 10.00 – 1.00pm in the Village Hall.

Bowls every Monday 2.00-4.30 in Wickham Village Hall.

For Lamarsh's regular events please see Lamarsh pages. Church Service Rota on page 6.

April

| | | | |
|----------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Thurs 2 | 10.30-12.00 | Community Caf  | Lamarsh Village Hall |
| Tues 7 | 2.00 | Craft Group | Henny Parish Room |
| Thurs 9 | 10.00 | APCM | Middleton Church |
| Sat 11 | 10.00-12.00 | VillageHall Social | Twinstead V.Hall |
| | 10.30-1.00 | Coffee & Swap | Henny Parish Room |
| Tues 14 | 10.00 | Ladies Circle | Middleton Church |
| | 10.30-12.00 | Coffee Morning | Alphamstone V.Hall |
| Wed 15 | 1.10-1.40 | Mobile Library | WSP Village Green |
| Fri 17 | 12.30-1.30 | Sandwich & Cake | WSP Village Hall |
| | 7.00 | Jazz with Jazz | WSP Church |
| Sat 18 | 7.00 | Race Night | WSP Village Hall |
| Tues 21 | 9.30-11.30 | Crafty Women | Carters Caf , WSP |
| Thurs 23 | 12.30 | St George's Day Lunch | Twinstead V.Hall |
| Sat 25 | 7.15 | QuizNight | Middleton Church |
| Tues 28 | 10.30-12.00 | Coffee Morning | Alphamstone V.Hall |

May

| | | | |
|---------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Sun 3 | 2.30 | Bluebell Walk | Henny |
| Tues 5 | 2.00 | Craft Group | Henny Parish Room |
| Fri 8 | 10.30-12.00 | Community Car  | Lamarsh Village Hall |
| Sat 9 | 10.00 | Friends AGM | Middleton Church |
| | 10.00-12.00 | Coffee Morning | Twinstead Village Hall |
| Mon 11 | 10.00-4.00 | Paper Collage | Henny Parish Room |
| Tues 12 | 10.30-12.00 | Coffee Morning | Alphamstone V. Hall |
| Fri 15 | 12.30-1.30 | Sandwich & Cake | WSP Village Hall |
| Sat 16 | 10.30-12.30 | Plant Sale | Lamarsh Village Hall |
| Sun 19 | 5.00 | Social Club Film Evening | Alphamstone V.Hall |
| Mon 25 | | The F te | Alphamstone V.Green |
| Tues 26 | 7.15 | Parish Council Meeting | WSP Village Hall |
| Sat 30 | 7.15 | Quiz Night | Henny Parish Room |
| Sun 31 | 10.00-4.00 | Open Gardens | Lamarsh Village Hall |

June

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Thurs 4 | 10.30-12.00 | Community Caf  | Lamarsh Village Hall |
| Sun 7 | 10.00-3.00 | Open Day | Dawes Hall, Lamarsh |
| Tues 9 | 10.00-4.00 | Minature Seascapes | Henny Parish Room |
| | 7.00 | W.I. Open Meeting | Village Hall, WSP |
| Sun 14 | 10.00-3.00 | Open Day | Dawes Hall, Lamarsh |
| Sat/Sun 20-21 | | Art Walk | Alphamstone |

Softening By Tina Brand

I was reading February's edition of Lookout and saw David Holland's plea for contributions: "What makes your heart sing?" In my previous life I would've turned the page. But not this time. The past twelve months have been something of a journey, and I realised I did have something to share, something that truly makes my heart sing.

Just over a year ago, my husband and I moved into Great Henny, though it had been familiar to us for many years before that. We'd walked and run these lanes countless times while living in the neighbouring village, always feeling quietly drawn here. I thought I knew it well. But I didn't realise how different it would feel to truly live here, to let the time and space wrap themselves around daily life.

Living here has been like stepping into a storybook. At first, the quiet lanes and wide-open fields felt a little intimidating - so peaceful it made me nervous. Moving from a busier rhythm of life into this gentler pace sounded idyllic. And it truly is. But slowing down, I've discovered, is not always easy.

There's something comforting about peace. When the noise drops away, you notice how fast you've been moving. Now well and truly "middle aged" (whatever that is!), I've realised how much of my life I've spent rushing. That recognition brings a touch of sadness, but there's also something quietly liberating in discovering that if you slow down, everything doesn't fall apart — in fact, quite the opposite. Learning to be a little stiller, to notice more, and to feel part of the rhythm of this place rather than racing past it has been a quiet turning point for me. Thankfully, I am slowly beginning to soften.

What has truly made my heart sing is the nature that holds this valley so generously. From sunrise to sunset, and into the night beyond. The early morning mist curling over fields where deer gather. Red kites and buzzards circling overhead. Swallows returning in the spring. Badgers, muntjac, rabbits and hares appearing quietly throughout the day, as if they instinctively know they are mostly safe here. Blackbirds offering their evening chorus, pigeons with their gentle cooing. Many people say that arriving in Henny feels like stepping back a century - a beautiful gift in our often frantic world - and I would quite agree: all wrapped up in birdsong and big skies.

And then there's the human connection. A walk with a neighbour. Someone from up the road popping in to say hello. Another kindly dropping off misdirected post. A friendly chat with a dog walker. Even the unexpected "Oh! You're our neighbours!" moment in the pub on Christmas Eve. These small, everyday exchanges are what gently weave you in.

When we first moved here, it seemed we raised a few eyebrows with our plans. I had meant to knock on doors and introduce myself properly, but life, as it does, moved quickly. For a while I worried we might be known more for paperwork than personality. A year on, I hope people are beginning to see us for who we are - simply grateful to care for

a small patch of this beautiful valley. Moving here wasn't just a change of address. It arrived at a time of change in my life more generally, a quieter season, perhaps, though not without its challenges. Having more space outside is slowly creating more space inside too.

Now that I'm slowly getting out of my own way, Great Henny is a gentle teacher, and I feel very lucky to be learning here. I'm beginning to understand that softening isn't about slowing life down, it's about finally noticing it.

Some thoughts on trees – advice from an expert

I would like to share a couple of tips on trees following a conversation I had with Tony Kirkham, who was Head of Trees and Gardens at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew. He is a world class expert on trees, a true countryman and an all round great chap. I was talking to him about tree planting and care, and I asked him for a couple of things people get wrong when they seek to create an arboretum, wood or just plant a single tree.

The number one thing he mentioned was that we nearly all plant our trees too deep in the ground; the line between the root and the wood should be slightly above the surrounding soil level. Given that the tree will probably sink a little after planting, it is easy to plant too deep. A slight mound allows rain to run away from the tree base so the root doesn't become waterlogged. At Twinstead Manor I have certainly made this mistake in the past and the trees have suffered.

The second subject we discussed was soil aeration. This has become a research priority at Kew partly as a result of the 1987 Great Storm, which devastated many wonderful trees at Kew. They had a “trophy tree” there, a magnificent old oak, which was lifted up by the wind and dumped back in the ground rather than blown over. They had thought that the tree was nearing the end of its life as it hadn't grown for many years and was looking a bit sad. However, to everyone's amazement, in the next few years it revived and grew substantially over the next few years.

After further research, they decided that soil compaction was a major factor in tree health and that regular mowing and other activity round the base can lead to compacted soil. Roots need air! Kew has a particular problem as the large number of visitors compact the soil with their feet, particularly tour groups which huddle under the trees when it rains. They are using a device which is pushed into the soil around the roots and causes a small underground explosion so as to let air into the roots; it has been a great success. Happy planting!

William Drake

The River Stour - your local natural wonder.



The River Stour trust was set up to improve access and navigation and to encourage use of the river. Since its foundation in 1968, the Trust has helped preserve the river which was falling into abandonment. We can now see large numbers of anglers, rowers canoeists and paddle-boarders enjoying the river. The River Stour Trust also recently led the 'Clean Water Initiative' which brought about the recent Bathing Water designation of the river getting at Friars meadow in Sudbury.

Over the years the Trust has been able to reinstate Flatford, Cornard, Stratford St Mary and recently Dedham Locks allowing greater access to and use of the Stour 'Navigation'. In recent years we have also had a traditional 46 foot Stour Lighter restored - the 'John Constable' which will be in regular operation with trips from Sudbury to Henny; definitely a very unique experience and great way to experience the river and its history.



The Trust runs regular boat trip from Flatford and Sudbury on our fleet of mostly electric launches that enable hundreds of visitors every year, including wheelchair passengers, to experience the beauty and wildlife of the River Stour. Iconic creatures such as Kingfishers, Grebe, Water Voles and Otters that have all been spotted on the river. If you would like to experience this amazing part of our countryside by taking a trip on one of our boats, please get in touch using the details below.

Apart from running and maintaining our trip boats at Flatford and Sudbury our volunteers also operate a much-appreciated

Tea Room at the Granary in Sudbury and help with numerous visits of local schools to our Visitor Education Centre at Cornard Lock, enabling children to learn about the rivers history and ecology. Volunteers also help to maintain the numerous jetties, and keep the river itself in good condition by clearing fallen trees, encroaching reeds, and other obstacles to navigation to benefit both the wildlife as well as all river users.

So if you just want to experience this amazing part of the countryside by taking a river trip on one of our boats, or want to get more involved by training to skipper or crew our boats, help with our river maintenance team, or in the Tearoom, or help out with our school visitors and our numerous other events, or simply find out a bit more about the River Stour Trust please contact us at:

Telephone: 01787 313199

Email: administrator@riverstourtrust.org **Website:** riverstourtrust.org

Essex Libraries

Join TLC at the Starting Reception Roadshows 2026

Essex Library Service is pleased to support TLC with the **Starting Reception Roadshows**, a series of fun, friendly and free events for families with children beginning Reception in September 2026.

Hosted at schools across Essex, these drop-in sessions offer practical tips and advice to help your child feel confident and excited about starting Primary School. You can attend whichever location suits you best, children are welcome, and there's no need to book.

Our Community Connectors will be at many of the events to share the full library offer.

Visit www.tlc-essex.info/resource/starting-reception-parent-roadshows/ to find out more.



The Mobile Library Service in Essex

The Essex Mobile Library plays a vital role in ensuring that communities across the county have access to books, information, and essential library services.

Visit www.libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/our-mobile-library-service to find out more.



Essex Book Festival 2026

The Essex Book Festival remains one of the county's major cultural highlights. Each year, more than 100 events take place in venues across Essex, from our own libraries to iconic locations such as Hylands Estate, Cressing Temple Barns, Jaywick Martello Tower and the University of Essex.



Established by Essex County Council in 1999, the festival was created to celebrate books in all their forms and to reach the widest possible audiences. Since then, it has grown significantly and is now recognised as one of the leading literary festivals in the East of England, welcoming writers and artists from around the world to share their work and ideas.

Book your tickets from Thursday 28th March 2026, visit www.essexbookfestival.org.uk/booking-details/

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Crafty Women

Enjoying Crafts Together

The days are getting longer and the daffodils are putting
on a grand show!

Why not come along on a Spring day to Crafty Women
to enjoy working at crafts, swapping ideas and helpful hints,
and some lovely chatter.

We meet on **Tuesday April 21st** at Carter's Cafe, Wickham St Pauls
from 9.30 - 11.30am

You will be most welcome

More details from Rosemary Ingram 07958 744421 rj Ingram@outlook.com



Bumps to pre-schoolers with their responsible adults are invited
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Shirley caught the flower ladies
red-handed, dealing trugs

Alphamstone

Magazine Contact **Melinda Varcoe 01787 269570**



Melinda Varcoe writes:

“Spring, spring! Bytuene Mershe ant Avril, when spray biginneth to spring! When shaws be sheene and swards full fayre, and leaves both large and longe! When the hounds of spring are on winter's traces, in the spring time, the only pretty ring time, when birds do sing, hey-ding-a-ding ding, cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-wee, ta-witta-woo! And so on and so on and so on... See almost any poet between the Bronze Age and 1805. But how absurd that even now, in the era of central heating and tinned peaches, a thousand so-called poets are still writing in the same strain!

For what difference does spring or winter or any other time of year make to the average civilized person nowadays? In a town like London the most striking seasonal change, apart from the mere change of temperature, is in the things you see lying about on the pavement. In late winter it is mainly cabbage leaves. In July you tread on cherry stones, in November on burnt-out fireworks. Towards Christmas the orange peel grows thicker. It was a different matter in the Middle Ages. There was some sense in writing poems about spring when spring meant fresh meat and green vegetables after months of frowning in some windowless hut on a diet of salt fish and mouldy bread.”

This rather jaundiced comment from George Orwell in his satirical novel 'Keep the Aspidistra Flying' has a point, I suppose; more than ever these days, when one season blurs into another, and we can get strawberries in January and daffodils in August. But springtime still seems to bring out the urge to frolic and caper in a poet, and in most 'average persons' too, I think. There's an irresistible, bubbling excitement in each new leaf observed, each tiny lamb struggling to its feet, each longer day, each glimpse of the sun.

Chocolate has nothing to do with it really, of course, but for the youngest among us that's one of the best things about Easter. For their benefit (as no adult could possibly want to indulge in the following orgy of chocolatey bliss.....could they??) I offer a recipe which will warm hearts as surely as it rots teeth!

Unrepentantly OTT Creme Egg

Brownies

20cm square tin, greased and lined

Oven at 180 degrees

185g butter

85g dark chocolate

85g plain flour

40g cocoa powder

3 large eggs

275g brown sugar

100g milk chocolate chopped

6 Cadbury's Creme Eggs, halved

Melt butter & chocolate together, put aside to cool.

Whisk together the eggs and sugar for several minutes until thick, pale and creamy.

Gently fold in the cooled chocolate mix, then the sifted dry ingredients, brown sugar and

chopped milk chocolate. Be careful not to over mix and lose the airiness.
Pour the batter into the prepared tin.
Gently press the halved Creme Eggs onto the mixture, spacing them evenly.
Bake for about 20 mins, then cool in the tin before cutting into squares.

Alphamstone Village Hall

Kathryn Parsons writes:

April! Spring is really here

Big Breakfast

Firstly a big thank you to Matt Richardson and his team for serving up an amazing breakfast in February. The big breakfast is always a well supported event and this one didn't disappoint.

Alphamstone Fete.....25th May

Although spring is lovely it always brings a slight feeling of doom for the small fete committee of " here we go again", knowing that we have a couple of months of hard work to get everything together for another successful fete.

This year it is on **Bank Holiday Monday 25th May. We need your help please!** with any or all of the following:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Donations of: | Plants |
| Raffle prizes | Cakes for the cake stall |
| Paperback books | Quiches and salads for the inside catering |
| Bottles for the bottle tombola | Good quality bric-a-brac Lucky Dip items |

Could you help with the setting up of the gazebos, or man a stall on the day for a couple of hours? Or is there any way you can help advertise the event, post flyers, put a board in your garden?

If you can help with the inside catering please text Sue Gardiner on 07910 254959.

If you can help with anything else or have any questions the please see/text Laura on 07887 685651 or Kathryn on 07986 544048.

Any donations can be brought along to the hall during any coffee morning or dropped off into Kathryn's cartlodge at Gamley Field.

Please bring any food and cakes along on the morning.

If every family in the village could help us a little it spreads the load, and means that no one feels overwhelmed, so the whole fete feels more manageable and enjoyable. Quite a lot of local villages have stopped holding an annual fete, but we at Alphamstone would really like to keep ours going as it's such an enjoyable day out, and raises money for the Village Hall and the Church. But it does take a HUGE amount of effort, so I would

really appreciate it if you can offer some help and donations so that the fete team feels supported.

On the subject of fundraising, thank you very much to Alphamstone & Lamarsh Parish Council for their **grant of £200** towards the cost of running the Village Hall. Much appreciated.

The Alphamstone Art Walk will be on the weekend of **20th/21st June**.

Are there any more local adult artists who would like to join in? If you don't have a studio we can probably pair you up with someone else, it can be in any medium. The more variety we can show the better.

We are hoping to have some demonstrations running this year as well, so it should be a really interesting weekend. If you would like to join in or know more please contact Kathryn 07986 554048 and definitely put the date in your diary to come along.

Someone today pointed out to me that it is the **Village Hall's 150th birthday** this year, I must admit that I hadn't noticed. We might have a village picnic to celebrate, watch this space!

Coffee mornings continue every other Tuesday. Lovely coffee, homemade bakes and loads of chatter, everyone welcome.

Next dates: **Tuesday 31st March, 14th April, 28th April and 12th May.**

Social Club Film Evening

Sunday April 19th, Village Hall at 5pm. Come and join the fun on the third Sunday of the month – a good film (to be announced), lots of delicious homemade goodies & tea (or wine for a small extra donation) and a great atmosphere of shared enjoyment.



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Andy Rippingale

Painter & Decorator

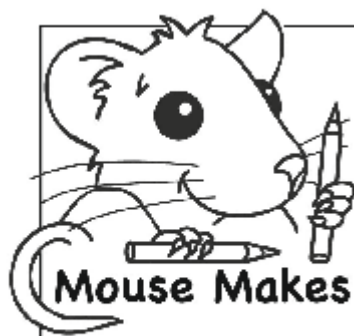
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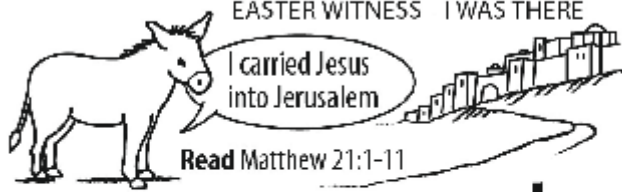
Home:- 01787 269954

andrewrippingale@sky.com





EASTER WITNESS I WAS THERE



I carried Jesus into Jerusalem

Read Matthew 21:1-11



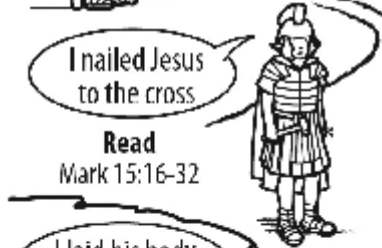
I handed Jesus over to be crucified

Read Matthew 27:11-26



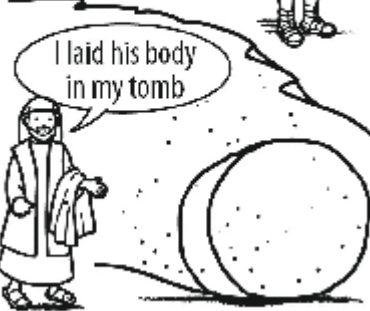
We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41



I nailed Jesus to the cross

Read Mark 15:16-32



I laid his body in my tomb

Read Mark 15:42-47



I guarded the tomb

Read Matthew 27:62-66



We saw the empty tomb

and spoke to the angel

Read Matthew 28:1-10



Jesus is alive!
He ate a meal with me!

Read Luke 24:13-35

GOOD NEWS
HOSANNA
DEATHQB
VNCOEUI
UAHNARO
MIREVSU
ALIVETDR
RISENEOK
YOTHORNS
PALMSQKA
RPILATEN
CRUCIFYG
RHQUAKE
OCJESUSL
STOMBVDY
SRYEMPTY

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS
HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS
CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS
QUAKL • DLAIH • BURY
TOMB • STONE • EMPTY
ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN
RISFN • AIVF • GOD
GOOD NEWS • CHRIS I
SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



Great & Little Henny

Magazine Contact **Stella Bixley 01787 269317**



Henny Craft Group

All welcome. Come and bring your sewing, knitting, art and craft projects to work on whilst having a chat over a cuppa and cake. There will be a charge of £3 to cover the cost of hall hire, heating and refreshments. If you are planning to attend it would be helpful if you could email: sue.trott@yahoo.co.uk so we have an idea of numbers for refreshments and setting up the room.



Future meetings held at Henny Parish Room at 2.00:

Tuesday 7th April & Tuesday 5th May

Henny Parish Room News

Address: Henny Parish Room, Clay Hill, Great Henny CO10 7NL

Registered charity no. 301315 **All tickets and information: Stella Bixley 01787 269317**

If you would like to be updated with the latest news simply scan the QR code (right) and tap the request to join.

Henny Parish Room Facebook Page -

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Henny-Parish-Room/788850521144073>

Henny Parish Rooms
WhatsApp group



Please consider using **easyfundraising** every time you shop online, via **Henny Parish Room Raising vital funds to maintain H.P.R. for our community**

Great & Little Henny Litter Pick

Many thanks to the team of volunteers who carried out the litter pick in Great and Little Henny in March.

Smile Lines

Nice

The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.



BLUEBELL WALK

Tea and cake

In aid of St. Nicholas Hospice Care

On Sunday 3rd May at 2.30pm

at Losh House Farm, Great Henny CO10 7LX 01787 269613

Dogs on leads please, and it can be muddy!!



Henny Parish Room Lottery

1st Prize £35 2nd Prize £20 3rd Prize £15

Prize winners for the March 2026 Draw

1st Prize 144, 2nd Prize 148, 3rd Prize 145

The Henny Parish Room Lottery raises vital funds to maintain Henny Parish Room for our community. If you would like to join the Henny Parish Room

Lottery contact us and we will send you an application form.

E – mail hennyparishroom@gmail.com or ring 07939 243 631.

Tickets are just £1.00 each and you can hold as many as you like.

HENNY PARISH ROOMS

Invites you to join the local villagers for **COFFEE AND SWAP**

Saturday 11th April 2026, 10.30am - 1.00pm

****** please note change of start time ******

Enjoy a homemade cake, bacon rolls and hot drinks with a catch up.

If you have surplus items to share with your neighbours you can bring them along too. Perhaps a plant cutting, seeds, unwanted crafting items, jigsaws, fashion accessories, gifts or bottles of alcohol, magazines or garden produce.

All surplus items will be deposited on a table for others to take home.

Henny Quiz Night on Saturday 30th May

7.15 for 7.30pm start at Henny Parish Room

**No bar – Bring Your Own tittle
Sandwich platters provided as usual**

Raffle

Tickets are £10 each and need to be bought in advance

Tables of 8.

Come as either a team or be happy to make up a team as individuals

To obtain your tickets please contact Stella 01787 269317 or stellabixley@gmail.com

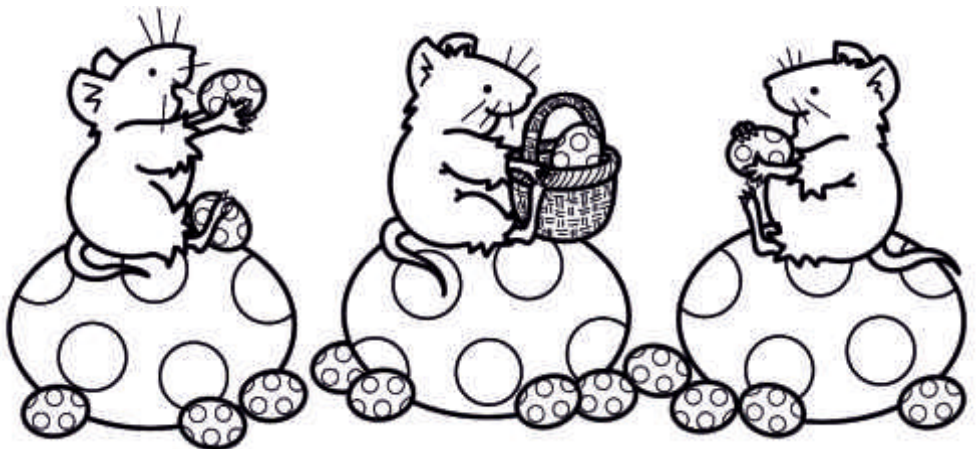
Garden Clippings

Occasionally a solitary Little Egret has been seen in the garden but recently a group of six were on the water meadow opposite the house. On another occasion a pair were perched in the weeping willow but being incredibly wary, the distant appearance of a walker on the footpath with a dog, had them hastily flying away. Their numbers would appear to be increasing in this area. In the breeding season they grow two long plumes on their heads. These were highly sought after in the 19th century for the decoration of hats and the Little Egret was hunted extensively at that time.

We have a small area of hazels which were in need of coppicing. All the larger tall stems have now been removed leaving only the younger growth. The amount of light coming into the area has dramatically increased and all the trees in the vicinity of the hazels will no doubt benefit from this major coppicing exercise. As a bonus we have hazel sticks for use in the garden as supports for plants and vegetables and the thicker stems have been cut up into logs for firewood.

The few warm, sunny days of late have encouraged the spring flowers to burst into bloom with a flourish. The pergola bank looks fabulous with an array of daffodils, primroses and blue hyacinths. The crocus we planted in the autumn have surprised us with white flowers rather than the purple we ordered but they still look attractive and we shall add some more beside the pergola pathway in the autumn to create a crocus walk.

The first sighting of a Brimstone butterfly fluttering past raises one's spirits, and the buzz of bumblebees having emerged from their winter hibernation in search of the early nectar bearing flowers, give hope of spring having almost arrived in earnest. **SB**



An Easter picture to colour in

SPRING/SUMMER WORKSHOPS AT HENNY PARISH ROOMS

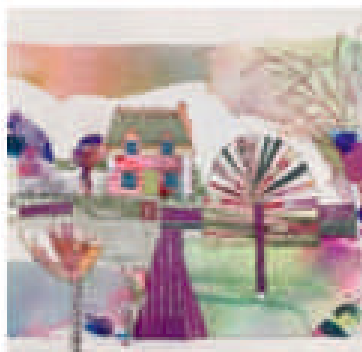
Monday 11th May (10am-4pm): **Paper Collage** (*Dot Ronaldson*)

Tuesday 9th June (10am-4pm): **Miniature Seascapes** (*Sue Trott*)

The Parish Rooms in Great Henny have plenty of space to work in. Each workshop is £55 per person, which includes the cost of materials and refreshments. If you want to book a place on any of the workshops, or would like further information (including colour photos), email Sue: sue.trott@yahoo.co.uk.

PAPER COLLAGE WORKSHOP

A joyful machine embroidery workshop inspired by children's book illustrations. These are often very graphic and stylised, and it's great fun to take inspiration from them. There will be a selection of books and images to delight and to stimulate ideas.



MINIATURE SEASCAPE WORKSHOP

A playful workshop using both machine and hand embroidery to experiment with layering up a variety of fabrics to create a miniature seascape. There will be plenty of finished examples and photographs for inspiration, and each stage will be demonstrated together with tips for alternative tweaks. Suitable for complete beginners or those with more experience.

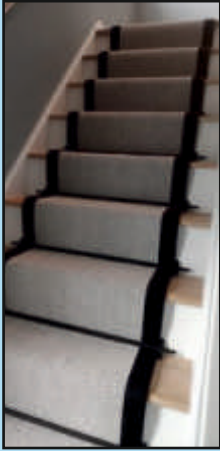


Smile Lines

Don't delay

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today, because by that time there will be a tax on it





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Sudoku Solution on page 37

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 4 | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | |
| | | 9 | | 3 | 1 | 2 | |
| 8 | | | | 9 | 1 | | 3 |
| | 2 | 5 | | | | 7 | 1 |
| 4 | | | 2 | 7 | | | 8 |
| | 3 | 6 | 8 | | | 9 | |
| | | | | | | | 2 |
| | | | 5 | 6 | | | |

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Smile Lines

Sidesman

Sidesman to newcomer at church door: "Good morning. How far down do you wish to sit?"

Baffled newcomer: "Well, all the way, of course."





HENNY SWAN WEEKDAY SET MENU

Available Monday to Friday
-Menu starts February 20
& changes on April 9-



MAIN 18.00
2 COURSES 24.50
3 COURSES 29.50

-£1.50 supplement
on the trio of cheese-

STARTERS

GLAZED PORK CHEEK, BLACK PUDDING POTATO CAKE
& ARTICHOKE PURÉE *apple ketchup, artichoke crisps*

THAI PRAWN CAKES WITH SWEET & SOUR DIPPING SAUCE
cucumber, coriander & lime salad

CONFIT RABBIT LEG, MUSHROOM & GARLIC BÉCHAMEL GRATIN
caramelised onion focaccia

VEGAN MEZZE PLATE: FALAFEL, HUMMUS & MUHAMMARRA
warmed pitta, olives, leaf garnish

CURRIED CAULIFLOWER, TIKKA HUMMUS &
MANGO YOGHURT DRESSING *lime pickle, poppadoms*

MAIN COURSES

DUO OF VENISON: PAN ROASTED LOIN &
CONFIT GARLIC MASH TOPPED SHOULDER
savoy cabbage, celeriac purée, pink peppercorn sauce

HARISSA ROASTED CHICKEN, CHORIZO & RED ONION
with spinach & ricotta ravioli in a tomato & mascarpone sauce

SMOKED HADDOCK, LEEK & SPINACH RISOTTO
parmesan, poached egg, chive oil

TERIYAKI MUSHROOMS & TOFU WITH CITRUS COCONUT RICE
soy & sesame tenderstem broccoli, baby corn

DESSERTS

PECAN, WALNUT & MAPLE TART *coffee gel, rum chantilly*

DOUBLE CHOCOLATE BROWNIE *chocolate sauce, vanilla ice cream, honeycomb*

BLOOD ORANGE & ALMOND SPONGE *crème fraiche, cherry amaretto purée*

DARK CHOCOLATE & PEANUT BUTTER MOUSSE BOMBE
banana purée, peanut brittle, caramelised banana

CHEESE TRIO & ASSORTED BISCUITS
walnut mini-loaf, grapes, fruit chutney £1.50 supplement

Game dishes may contain shot & even, filleted/pitted items may contain bones, stones or similar.

We don't list all ingredients so please inform us of allergies/ preferences.

Book or email through our website www.thehennyswan.co.uk or call 01787 267953



LAMARSH OPEN GARDENS

£6 per person for all gardens on
the day (pay at Lamarsh Hall)

refreshments available

proceeds to Lamarsh Holy
Innocents Church

email planetcaz@hotmail.com

for details and map

DATE
31ST MAY

START

**10AM-
4PM**



Smile Lines

Cured

A Sunday School teacher asked her pupils if they could describe any of the miracles that Jesus performed. One youngster responded: "Yes, He cured people who had leopards."





**The Lamarsh Lion is a Community Pub,
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Sunday 12 – 5 pm

Kitchen open:

Wednesday – Friday: 12 – 2:30 pm and 5 pm – 8 pm

Saturday: 12 – 3:00 pm and 5 pm – 8 pm

Sunday: 12 – 3 pm

Tea, coffee and cake served daily.

Closed Mondays and Tuesdays

Quiz nights every Wednesday (7:30 pm start)

Open Mic Night – First Thursday of every month (8 pm start)

Bingo Nights – Third Friday of every month (7:30 pm start)

Dogs are welcome, must be well behaved and kept on leads at all times.

Please see our website or facebook page for menus
and details of both regular and special events

www.lamarshlion.co.uk

Contact details:

Tel: 01787 227007 info@lamarshlion.co.uk

The Lamarsh Lion, Bures Road, Lamarsh, Bures CO8 5EP

Lamarsh

Magazine Contact **Brett & Rosemary Johnson 01787 227988**

Lamarsh Village Hall

www.lamarshvillagehall.com

Instagram lamarsh_village_hall **Facebook** Lamarsh Village Hall

Registered Charity Number **301351**



Broadband Facility

Ultrafast Broadband, provided by Gigaclear, is available to all Village Hall users.

Regular Events

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Community Library Free to join. Books refreshed regularly. | Every Thursday and every first and third Saturday of month. | 10.30 to 11.30am |
| Community Cafe (with Lottery Draw) First Thursday of month | 2 April (Friday) 8 May (on a Friday because of elections) 4 June 2 July | 10.30am to 12 midday |
| Pilates with Sophie Sophieparishpilates@gmail.com | Saturday mornings | 8-9am |
| Find the Flow. Yoga with Daphne. abctoolkityoga@gmail.com | Wednesday mornings | 10-11.15am |
| Iyengar Yoga with Vashti vashtidavis@hotmail.com | Friday mornings | 9.30-11am |
| Pilates with Sophie sophieparishpilates@gmail.com | Saturday mornings | 8am-9am |

Special Events

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Plant Sale | Saturday, 16 May 2026 | 10.30am to 12.30pm |
| Lamarsh Open Gardens | Sunday 31 May 2026 | 10am to 4pm |

Smile Lines

Stargazing

I can see how astronomers figure out the distance of the stars and their size and temperatures and all that. What really gets me is how they find out what their names are!





Lamarsh Lottery

March 2026 Lottery Winners

1st prize (£30) – number 74

2nd prize (£20) - number 62

3rd prize (£10) - number 120

The village lottery is drawn the first Thursday of the month at the same time as the coffee morning. Thank you everyone who has supported this. It is £1 per ticket per month and you can have as many tickets as you would like.

You've got to be in it to win it! Buy a ticket now

Email: jane@lamarshvillagehall.com

Registered Charity No. 301351

Lottery registered with Braintree Council Registration no: LOT1207



**LAMARSH VILLAGE
HALL**

PLANT SALE

MAY 16th 10.30 - 12.30

Smile Lines

Economic definitions

A recession is a period in which you tighten up your belt. A depression is a time in which you have no belt to tighten. When you have no trousers to hold up, it's a panic.



It's the Friends of All Saints Middleton....

QUIZ NIGHT

???

Saturday 25th April

7.15pm for a 7.30 start

in Middleton Church.

TEAMS UP TO 6, WHICH YOU CAN ORGANISE YOURSELF, OR BE HAPPY TO JOIN IN A TEAM WITH YOUR FELLOW VILLAGERS.

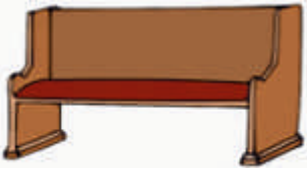
Tickets cost £10.00 a head and **MUST** be booked and paid for in advance. Don't forget to bring your own drinks and glasses, but savoury snack platters and nibbles are included in your ticket price

Contact Gill on 07847 602937 to obtain tickets.

* * * * * **RAFFLE** * * * * *

Middleton

Magazine Contact **Jude Johnson 01787 582559**



From The Church Wardens' Pew

From Sue North, Churchwarden

My report this month starts with the sad news that Joy Chinnery, a long standing member of our community and former churchwarden, died at the age of 96 on Tuesday 25 February 2026 at a nursing home in Halstead. Rev Claire and I were able visit her on the day before her death.

Here are some memories of Joy by some of those who knew her:

Remembering Joy's generosity helping with church activities. Her stories of Middleton's history/lore always brought laughs. The lovely poems she wrote and shared with us shall not be forgotten.

“Always gentle on our minds Joy!”

“Winning the boule with grandchild. It was all done in the relaxed, jovial spirit of the event and she was delighted to find she'd won”.

“Providing the bass line in the carol singing”.

“Giving Ken a run for his money and always insisting on a kiss from him when carolling”.

“She was one of the kindest and jolliest (despite at times some difficult personal circumstances) people I've ever met”.

“I know Joy was her middle name which she much preferred and it suited her so well but I'm sure lots of people will tell you that”.

“A few years ago when visiting family graves at the church I had noticed on some of the most neglected graves, the ones that no one ever seemed to visit, there was the occasional garden flowers even wild flowers, berries during the winter. I later discovered it was Joy's actions. She thought it was so sad that no one brought flowers to these graves so she picked flowers from her own garden or wild flowers picked on her dog walks and quietly put them on these graves. I always thought that was a quiet gentle and loving compassionate act”.

“Ah. What sad news. The end of a legend”.

“Such a character and even the thought of her in the village makes one smile”.

Joy was well known for scribing poems about the village and the locality and a selection is on display in the church. Here is one she composed about the history of Middleton.

Middleton

**There's a history to this village of ours, a history that must be told.
Of the soup kitchen that existed and how ice-house meadow kept food cold.
The tunnel that leads from the house to the church, where the monks were
supposed to walk.**

**This has been mentioned many a time, but it may be just idle talk.
Spirits roamed 'tis said in the rectory grounds and holy water supposed to flow
But whether fact or fiction I really do not know.**

**The squire once lived in the big old house, and woe betide man or child,
If he didn't touch his cap and behave in a manner meek and mild.
Cave Stagnum is the sign in front of the lake, warning carriages that came up
the drive.**

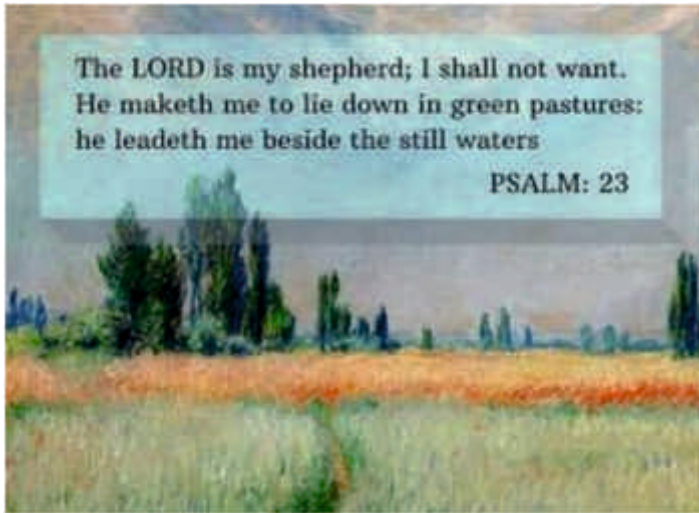
**For one day long ago, one made a mistake and into the lake did drive.
The old arch way standing in the field to commemorate the birth of the old
Prince of Wales,
It is inscribed with initials of people gone by and has weathered all storm and
gales.**

**The little school still standing with bell outside the door,
If you give it a tug it rings loud and clear, as it did in days of yore.
Inside that little church of ours you'll find lots of history,
Windows and plaques erected to the Raymond family.**

**This is a well known name indeed, a name that one often hears
Indeed Oliver lived to be 95 and was priest here for 70 years.
Have you seen the the list of priests of this parish hanging inside the door?
Including Kings and Queens of their time, from 1160 what's more
The Royal Arms too Elizabeth 1st on the chancel wall are displayed,
And many more relics of the past are to be seen in this church where our
ancestors prayed.**

**In Domesday this little village was known as Mildetuna, middle farm being the
literal translation.**

**Being midway between Liston and Althamstone. Thus named for its situation.
We are the ones who make history now, so be careful what you say and do,
It may be recorded and put on file for future generation to view.**



From Georgette MIQUEL , Grenoble, France. In homage to my dearest friend, JOY CHINNERY

"How deeply saddened I am to learn of Joy 's death. We were twelve years old when we started writing to each other as penfriends. Such a wonderful friendship can't be forgotten. I treasure so much happy memories. Joy was a very good friend, full of kindness, always happy and smiling. Everyone will never forget Joy".

From Françoise MIQUEL , Georgette 's daughter: "I wrote the poem below evoking Joy as I remember how much she enjoyed walking in the lovely Suffolk countryside".

**On the winding path, quietness
Feelings of serenity and calmness**

**In the forest full of sounds, scents, smells
Chirping birds, scamping squirrels**

**Among oaks, hornbeams, aspens
A rainbow of lights glistens**

**As spring paints the scene
Nature remains serene**

**Let's walk along the river
Soaking up beauty forever.**

Our thoughts are with her son Trevor and daughter- in- law Bernadette who have been caring for her, and thoughts are also for the rest of her family.

The Annual Church Meeting (APCM)

This will be on **Thursday 9th April at 10 am** in the church. This is an opportunity for all villagers to find out what your PCC has been doing in 2025. There are reports on finances, fabric, services and plans for the future.

You are very welcome to come and find out about the life of your church.

Friends of All Saints Middleton

Quiz night – buy your tickets NOW! At the time of writing, there are still a few spaces left for Quiz Night on 25th April - please see poster for full details and how to order your tickets. Please order without delay to avoid disappointment. We need to know numbers in advance of the night to set things up for the event (shifting pews, tables and chairs, organising food etc). So please don't leave it until the last minute to buy your tickets!

Notice of Annual General Meeting and Churchyard Tidy

The Friends of All Saints Middleton are holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the church on Saturday, 9th May at 10am. There will be coffee and pastries, and everyone in Middleton village is automatically a Friend, so come along and share your thoughts on village matters.

The Friends is run through a Committee of elected residents chosen at the AGM each year. This year, Committee member Keith Hughes is stepping down after a number of years in the role because of other commitments. All other Committee members will be up for re-election too. The Committee is seeking new members to join it, to bring new ideas and fresh perspectives. It's not a huge commitment; the Committee meets two or three times a year over tea, coffee, or something stronger. The discussion usually focuses on village events and fundraising efforts, to provide contributions for the maintenance of the church, which enables its continued use for such events and its preservation as a village asset. So if you can spare an hour or so every few months, please put yourself forward for nomination. The Committee is a friendly bunch!

After the AGM, there will be a churchyard tidy to get rid of some of the more invasive weeds – so if you are able to help, bring along your garden tools and gloves.

Ladies Circle The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 14th April at 10.00** in the church (our village hall). If you are free do join us for tea/coffee.



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for details

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07880 813632

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Also available to hire Crockery, Cutlery,
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Contact

Stella Bixley 01787 269317

Lamarsh Village Hall

This beautiful building in a picturesque rural setting is available for hire. The hall benefits from gas central heating and off-street parking. Tables, chairs, cutlery and crockery for hire too.

All enquiries to
Fiona Adedotun on 01787 228707 or
<https://www.lamarshvillagehall.com/contact>

Twinstead Village Hall

Contact us for all your events
All day and hourly rates available
Weddings, Dances, Committee
meetings, Corporate events, etc.
also hire of table glasses etc.
Ask for our hire tariff now

Phone :- 01787 829066
twinsteadvillagehall@gmail.com

Wickham St Pauls Village Hall

This modern Village Hall, situated on the edge of the Village Green, is available for hire by residents of Wickham St Pauls & neighbouring parishes for wedding breakfasts, private parties, birthdays, etc

Enquiries to

Sandra O'Sullivan: 01787 269255

Sudoku solution

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| 7 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| 6 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| 8 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 8 |
| 5 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 1 |
| 1 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 2 |
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 |

Twinstead

Magazine Contact **David Holland 01787 269693**



David Holland writes:

Last night, I was reading an article that labelled my generation, *Generation Jones*, born between 1954 and 1963. It seemed to be about a group of younger “boomers” who were born into the analog age, invented the digital age, and have had to adapt to it. Values changed as a result, but I have a feeling that I’m not alone in hanging on to one or two. Attached to values are fast vanishing skills, and as the sun finally returns at the end of a seemingly long, wet, and recently misty winter, I feel it’s time to shelve a couple of those skills for now, and to revive a couple of others.

By way of example, I was raised to choose Goodyear welted leather shoes over glued together facsimiles of good shoes. I was taught to polish them before they were seen in public, and to have them repaired when the heels wore down, or the soles wore thin. Throwing shoes out because they no longer looked new was not an option. What I found out rather than being taught, was that polishing a good old pair of shoes in solitude, and raising a fine shine on the toes and heels, is really rather good for me; time to think and reflect, as I make my shoes more reflective. “Me time”, if you like. Anyway, that value, and those skills, account for some of my shoes being three decades plus old, and still going strong. I mention this as an example of the buy quality and look after it ethic that was instilled in us “Joneses”. I am, of course speaking of indoor skills. So as the wardrobe choice moves to lighter attire, so my warmer weather, outdoor skills need dusting off.

Those warm weather skills include garden related ones, pruning roses to an outward pointing bud, removing stems that rub on one another, and making sure that the bush is firmly in the ground and hasn’t been dislodged by wind rock over the winter. Do the generation that have followed the Joneses have these skills? I hope so, but perhaps new, digital and social media skills have replaced them in terms of time filled. Is the application of these new skills good for the soul, in the way skills exercised making shoes shine, or roses flourish beautifully are? I’m not too sure, and certainly, the state of the Nation’s mental health as reported in the media does not give me grounds for confidence that wellbeing is on the up.

So, why this rambling stroll through an old man’s justification for practicing old skills? Well, in part, it's in response to



the entreatments of our esteemed Editor, Susannah, to encourage contributions from our readers on subjects such as gardening. I've lost count of the large number of gardening books that we have deposited at the charity shops. There is certainly no shortage of books that will tell members of any generation how to garden. So why would I foist an amateurish understanding of how to accomplish seasonal tasks in our somewhat testing soil on Lookout readers? I'm not going to try. But my point in writing this is to suggest an important reason why you might want to learn and practice age old gardening skills. That reason is to do with wellbeing: how you feel about life, and how you feel about yourself. Gardening for me provides an opportunity to do something that in the real world is not that important, but to do it with some skill and quite a lot of passion. To do something where if it all goes wrong, nothing that important is lost. Something where nature will forgive my failings, and reward effort more generously than perhaps I deserve. And at the end of it all, we'll have a place to sit, to ponder, to savour, and to relax, while practicing another important skill, tea in the garden, with home made cakes - done properly, and traditionally, thanks to my Pam.



If the occasional scratch from a rose thorn puts you off what I am advocating, then perhaps I'll return to an earlier theme, still to do with your wellbeing: walking. "The science" seems to say that it's good for not only body, but also mind, keeping you brain fit and active. And around here you have no excuse not to go walking, thanks to our wonderful footpath network, where a stroll down to Loshes Marsh on the Henny/Twinstead border this spring, will take you to groves of flowering wild garlic, and later, drifts of native orchids, all strewn around a public footpath. Gently uplifting is how I'd characterise it so why not get out there in the coming sunshine and find out for yourself?
D.H.



The Hennys, Middleton and Twinstead Parish Council
Notice of future meeting dates in 2026
 NB: Agendas include Public Speaking Time

- 15th January Parish Council Meeting
- 12th March Parish Council Meeting
- 14th May Annual General, & Parish Council Meeting
- 9th July Parish Council Meeting
- 17th September Parish Council Meeting
- 12th November Parish Council Meeting

Agendas published 1 week before meeting dates here:
<https://e-voice.org.uk/hennymiddletontwinsteadparishcouncil/>

Now to some uplifting events in Twinstead...

ST GEORGE'S DAY LUNCH

By Popular Demand we are celebrating St.George's Day on Thursday April 23rd in the Cricket Pavilion Twinstead at 12.30 - Soup, bread/butter, Teas & Coffee. Please wear Patriotic Colours. Donations accepted! To help with numbers please let us know if you intend coming on 01787 869066 or email: twinsteadvillagehall@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL SOCIAL/COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY APRIL 11th, 10.00-12.00

The April coffee morning will take place in Twinstead Village Hall. As always, tea, cafetière coffee, homemade cakes and sausage rolls will be available, with plenty of good company. Everyone is welcome.

The May Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday May 9th.

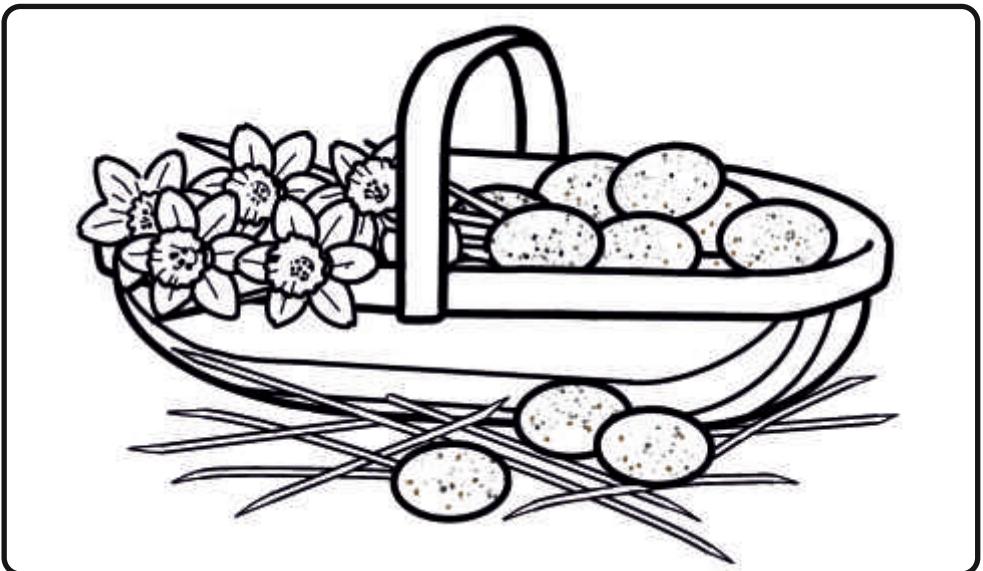
VILLAGE HALL MAINTENANCE

The Village Hall Management Committee recently applied for a grant for the replacement of the village hall flat roof. We are extremely fortunate in that the Essex Association of Local Councils has awarded us the grant. The work to replace the flat roof should take place in the late spring.

Twinstead Village Improvement Society

Results for the March 6th Lottery draw
£20 Ticket No. 38 Kennett
£10 Ticket No. 68 Hale
£10 Ticket No. 18 Woods
Congratulations everyone

An Easter picture to colour in



The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY



HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS



OH! NO!!



BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!



SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



YES - I CAN COME TO YOUR PARTY

THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.



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Smile Lines

Show and Tell

A schoolteacher asked her students to each bring in an object that represented their religion. The first student got up and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David." The second student got up and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary." The third student got up and said, "My name is Tommy. I am a Baptist, and this is a casserole."



Find us on
facebook.



Opening Hours
Mon - Sat 9.30am-3.00pm
Closed Wednesday and Sundays

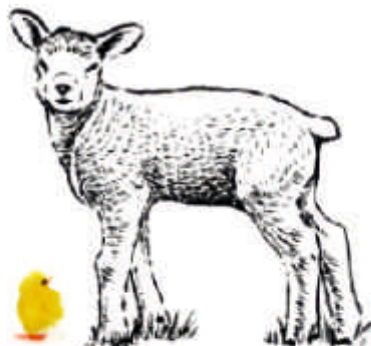


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Wickham St Pauls

Magazine Contact **Susannah Goodbody 01787 269250**



For information regarding Services and Benefice Church events please see notices at the beginning of Lookout

Flowers in church: Mrs Rudd. **No flowers during Lent**

Mobile Library: Wednesday April 15th at 13.10-13.40, beside the Village Green



Book Swap and Food Bank

This is just a reminder that we have a lot of books at the back of the church that you are free to take or swap.

We also have a box in the porch for any contributions to the Food Bank, which will be taken to the Food Bank in Sudbury. They are particularly requesting Easter Eggs please!

Helping the church to fundraise:

Could you help to raise some funds for our church, WHEN YOU SHOP ON LINE please?

With EASYFUNDRAISING, your online shopping turns into free cashback for All Saints Church Wickham St Pauls PCC.



Sign up and your favourite retailers will donate every time you shop – at no extra cost to you.

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/allsaintschurchwickham/2ZANJI/s2s/HysSEVIH/SE868/facebook/>

JAZZ WITH JAZZ

Come and enjoy an evening of Jazz with
Jazz Incorporated,
 on **April 17th at 7pm** in the church,
 with refreshments and a raffle.

Tickets £10 from Ann 01787268624 or Janice 01787269789

POST OFFICE - OPENING TIMES AND INFORMATION

The Post Office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-1pm



| Postal Service | Money | Travel |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Letters & Parcels Collect & Return Drop & Go | Everyday banking including cash withdrawal and cash & cheque deposits | Travel Money Savings Moneygram Bill Payments Utility & mobile |

Wickham W.I.

SANDWICH AND CAKE LUNCH

provided by the WSP W.I. on the third Friday in the month

WICKHAM ST. PAULS VILLAGE HALL



Friday 17th April 2026
and
Friday 15th May 2026



Serving from 12.30 to 1.30

All welcome – lifts available (phone 267854)

This event is becoming more and more popular so why not pop along and meet up with your friends from WSP.

W.I. OPEN MEETING

On **Tuesday June 9th** the WI will be holding another open meeting. The meeting starts at 7pm and the cost for non-members is £5. Everyone (ladies or gents) are very welcome. There is no need to book, just turn up.

Our speaker is Jane Hoggar who will be entertaining us with tales of the “Divas of Les Folie Bergeres”. This will be the second visit from Jane who blew us away with her performance last time. In fact she was so good we have invited her back.

Refreshments after the talks are included and you can stay or not for our WI business.

Lottery

The Lottery was won last month by Linda Sear with ticket number 19.

Temprrd Chocolate

Our February meeting welcomed Rob & Sonia Anthony, a husband & wife chocolatier team from Maldon in Essex. Their talk explained how they started in November 2020, making a few types of chocolate in their home kitchen. This was traded as Temprrd Luxury Chunky Chocolate selling online. Five years on, this amazing couple assisted only by his brother and niece sold a total of 52000 bars in 2025. All packaging designed by themselves, plastic free, each chocolate bar hand wrapped in foil and recyclable paper with flavours still added and mixed by hand. Most ingredients come from local suppliers with sustainably sourced cocoa mostly from West Africa, Indonesia & Ghana. Although online sales are still a part of their business most sales come from about eighty shops, mainly farm shops and garden centres in Essex & Suffolk.



The lucky thirty-one W.I. ladies that braved the very wet, soggy miserable February evening were rewarded by the opportunity of deciding which of the twenty one different flavours (white, milk & plain) to sample.

Wickham St Pauls Parish Council

Meetings usually take place bi-monthly on a Tuesday (except August) and commence at 7.15pm in the Pavilion, Village Hall.

Future meeting dates 2026:- 26th May, 28th July, 29th Sept, 24th Nov, 26thJan 2027. Above dates are subject to change, as the Parish Council has to be quorate in order for meetings to go ahead - please check the <https://wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org/> website and noticeboard for the latest information. You will find the agenda published one week before the meeting date. It will also be available on the Parish Council Noticeboard. To find out what will be discussed at our meetings as well as the usual information about **agendas** and **minutes of the meetings**, the website will provide information about local organisations, **planning applications, news and events** and issues that are relevant to our community.

Am I eligible to be a Parish Councillor?

To stand for election on a parish council, you must:

- be a UK or commonwealth citizen, or;
- be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, or;
- be a citizen of another Member state of the European Union;
- be a least 18 years old.

To be eligible to stand for an election for a particular parish, you must:

- be an elector of the parish, or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish, or;
- during the previous 12 months have worked in the parish (as your principal or only place of work), or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months lived in the parish or within three miles of the parish boundary

Further information from Mrs Diane Jacob (Tel. 07907631172), Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer for and on behalf of Wickham St Pauls Parish Council.



**GET INVOLVED
YOUR COMMUNITY**

**Vacancy for Parish Councillor
on
Wickham St Pauls Parish Council**



We currently have a
Councillor vacancy on
Wickham St Pauls Parish Council.
If anyone is interested, in joining us,
please contact the Parish Clerk for
further information and an
application form.

E-MAIL:
parishclerk@wickhamstpaulsparishcouncil.org

Flag Flying Programme

| | | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| 2 April | Battle of Copenhagen | (1801) | White Ensign |
| 5 April | Pitcairn Islands | (1767) | Pitcairn flag |
| 12 April | Edward William Ronald Fortt (CRFA) | (KIA 1942) | British Columbia |
| 14 April | Women's Institute meeting | (1915) | Essex W.I. |
| 16 April | Battle of Culloden | (1746) | Kings Colours |
| 23 April | Saint George's Day | (303 A.D.) | St. George's |
| 24 April | Soup and Cake Village Hall | (1915) | Essex W.I. |
| 25 April | Anzac Day | (1915) | Australian |

The St. George's flag will be flown most of the time in between other appointed flags. A full list of our flag flying days is posted on the village notice board and on the W.St.P. website.

We are happy to fly County flags requested by some of our residents.

Please remember to send me your contribution for the **MAY** edition by **Wednesday 8th April**. Thank you, **Susannah**



RACE NIGHT

Wickham St Pauls Village Hall

Saturday 18th April 2026

7pm for a 7.30pm start



Ticket: £7 entry including W.I. Buffet

Drinks will be available to purchase from the Bar

**Tickets Available From Linda Sear
07985 249030**

Smile Lines

Wheels

A boy was praying for a bicycle, and the vicar told him to persevere, as prayer could do anything. The following week, when the boy arrived for church on a bicycle, the vicar assured him that his prayers had been heard. The boy looked embarrassed. "Actually, I stole the bike, and now I'm here to pray for forgiveness".



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Maundy Thursday
on April 1st - the last
temptation of Eric

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Published 10 times per year with the July/August and December/January issues being combined issues.

| Advert Size | Cost for 10 issues per year | | Advert Dimensions (mm) |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| | B/W | COL | |
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| Outside/Inside Back Cover | | | |
| in Full Colour | — | £250 | 185mm long x 130mm wide |
| Full Page | £200 | £250 | 185mm long x 130mm wide |
| 1/2 Page | £110 | £135 | 90mm long x 130mm wide |
| 1/3 page | £75 | £91 | 58mm long x 130mm wide |
| 1/4 page | £60 | £72 | 90mm long x 62mm wide |
| 1/6 page | £40 | £48 | 60mm long x 62mm wide |
| 1/8 page | £25 | £31 | 45mm long x 62mm wide |

For fewer issues, the cost is pro rata.

Finished artwork in digital form is required, either JPEG, TIFF or PDF.

The artwork needs to be monochrome of the same orientation (portrait or landscape) and height/width ratio (aspect ratio) as the intended advert space.

If artwork is required, it can be supplied by Lookout for a separate charge.

Cost can be supplied on enquiry.

The deadline for copy to be received by Jude Johnson is the 8th of the month preceding publication. Please send all artwork to advertisinglookout@gmail.com.



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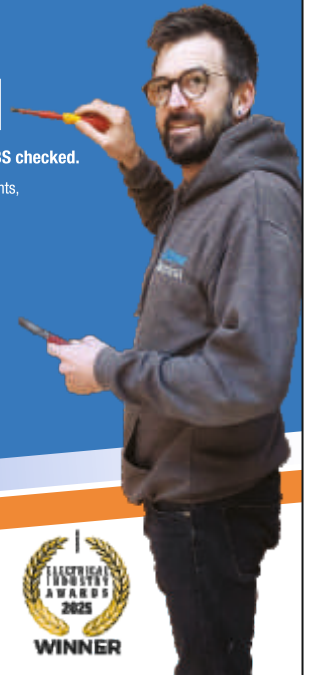
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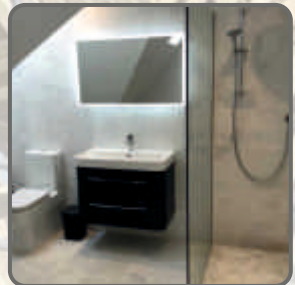


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