



DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

April 2022



DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk

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DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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**The deadline for magazine
Entries, 10th of the month**

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Can we help? Sometimes things in life can just get too much to cope with on your own... **Psalm 34:18:** The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. If you would like some support or know of any one who would,

please contact: Ann Shaw ☎ **322 192** or Sue Browne ☎ **07778 198118**

If you have been bereaved or know of anyone who has, please contact

Vee Druitt ☎ **322 000** or Ruth Higginson ☎ **322 598**

First Steps: Want to get back involved with church but don't know where to start?

Contact Liz and John Reed ☎ **323770**

SERVICES & Events April 2022

Sunday, 3rd April

9.30am	Rise N' Shine	Dedham*
11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ardleigh
5.00pm	Evensong	Dedham*

Sunday, 10th April, Palm Sunday

8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Ardleigh*
11.00am	Holy Communion CW	Dedham*

Thursday, 14th April, Maundy Thursday

7.00pm	Holy Communion with foot washing	Ardleigh
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Friday, 15th April, Good Friday

2.00pm	An Hour at the Cross	Dedham*
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Sunday, 17th April, Easter Sunday

9.30am	Holy Communion, CW	Dedham*
11.00am	Holy Communion, CW	Ardleigh

Sunday, 24th April

8.00am	Holy Communion BCP	Ardleigh*
9.30am	Morning Praise	Dedham*
5.00pm	ReVive@5	Dedham*

Our services are on  Search Dedham and Ardleigh Parishes * =
services which are live-streamed

Morning Prayer - Every Tuesday, 10.30am at Dedham Church

Online Prayer - Monday Morning at 7am and Friday Evening at 6pm

Ardleigh Friendship Group – every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month 10am to 12 noon in Ardleigh Church - outside when weather allows

ACTS Living Stones Prayer Group – every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, 6.25pm at Ardleigh Church.

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, 2nd April, 9am at Dedham Vicarage.
For bacon butties, tea, coffee and chat.

Monday Lunch Club – Monday 4th April, 12.30pm, Essex Tea Rooms. Phone 323101 to reserve a place indicating it is for the Lunch Club.

Walk and Talk Thursday 7th April, 10am - Meet at Dedham Arts Centre at 10am for a walk, or 11am for a chat.



Follow us on facebook
Dedham and Ardleigh parishes



Easter 2022

As we enter April, there are lots of things that we expect to happen at this time of year. We expect to see blossom appearing on trees, we expect to see an increasing number of plants and flowers poking through the ground. We expect the days to be longer and we expect them to begin earlier with the sound of birdsong filling the air. We expect to see and hear signs of new life all around us.

At Easter, Christians celebrate the unexpected new life that God gives to each of us through the resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ. On that first Easter Day, when some of his friends went to the tomb, they expected to find it closed and they expected to find Jesus' body there. What they encountered was so unexpected. The tomb stone was rolled away, the tomb was open and it was empty.

Jesus' friends had experienced such an intense week. It began with the celebration and adulation of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. There was the intimate meal that they shared in when Jesus also washed their feet. After praying together in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was betrayed by his disciple Judas and denied by his friend Peter. Finally, he suffered the humiliation and violence of crucifixion upon a cross.

Following Jesus' death, his friends did not expect to come to his tomb to find it empty. They did not expect to hear rumours that he was alive.

They did not expect to hear and see him themselves in the garden, in the upper room and on the road to Emmaus. Jesus' friends expected his death to be the end, because they could not imagine anything else.

God did the unimaginable, the incredible, in raising his son Jesus from the dead.

I wonder what you expect from life? I wonder what hopes you have for your own lives, for your family and friends, for your community and for the people of the world? I wonder what unimaginable, incredible unexpected things we long for God to do that would bring hope and new life where they are most needed?

God does not want us to be stuck in Good Friday, overwhelmed by evil, hate, darkness and death. God longs for us to know that life can begin again through the power of God's love. Jesus' resurrection is the unexpected new life that we celebrate in the midst of the expected signs of new life that we experience at this time of year. Jesus' resurrection is a sign of hope for God's world, a sign that evil, hate, darkness and death will not have the final word. In the words of a prayer by Desmond Tutu, in Jesus's resurrection, God proclaims to the world that:

*Goodness is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness;
Life is stronger than death;
Victory is ours through Him who loves us.*

Wishing you every blessing as you prepare to celebrate Easter

Ruth
Venerable Ruth Patten
Archdeacon of Colchester

Bishop Guli Visit



Our Diocesan Bishop,
Bishop Guli,
the Bishop of Chelmsford,
has accepted our invitation
to come to lead our joint
Dedham and Ardleigh Benefice
service of Holy Communion.

St Mary's Dedham
Sunday May 8th 2022
11 am

*All are warmly welcome to
attend and to meet our
recently appointed Diocesan
Bishop.*

Starting with this April edition we are going to add to our monthly magazine articles about our faith and our church. We very much look forward to having your contributions and would ask that you contact Liz Reed if you have any questions or have any articles to forward to the editor.

Our sincere thanks and we would ask you would all pray with us each month that

WE CAN

ENCOURAGE each other.

ENABLE and give support to each other.

ENACT by promoting through our actions Gods purpose in each of our lives.

My Living Faith

I was asked if I would write something for the Church Magazine about my faith and my immediate answer was 'absolutely no way!' After a while I thought about the request and words and sentences kept coming into my head and finally I gathered them all up and here we are.

I have believed in God since I was a little girl but who or what is this God I believe in?

The answer is I don't truly know!

Is he a super being sitting on a throne, way beyond me, in a place called heaven? No I don't think so, that is what I used to believe when I was very young and attended Sunday School. Time and years have changed that idea completely, believing in God has changed for me as my experience in life has progressed and I may have a different idea today to what I felt yesterday, it is a transient thing.

How I feel today as I am writing this article and trying to put my faith into words is that "God is love". He cares for us completely and has provided us with everything that we need to live our lives here on earth but more importantly he wants us to love our fellow man. Jesus came here to teach us that, showing how care changes people. Whenever we do something for someone else, for example doing a bit of shopping for someone who is housebound, giving a lift, walking a dog, phoning a lonely person it is an expression of love and "God is love".

The wonderful actions of so many people in this village during lockdown and the Covid Pandemic showed how much we all care for each other, there are always boxes full of food for the Food Bank in the Church Porch.....generous giving for those less fortunate.

My faith is not intellectually theological, it is a very simple belief that God exists and is everywhere with us now and love demonstrates that.



someone different leads it each week. Having different leaders means they all bring something different to the service.

We follow some written words, usually have a psalm and maybe another Bible reading, and then most weeks some thoughts on the reading from the leader – something to ponder on for the rest of the day. We also pray for those who have left thanks or prayer requests on the prayer board, and then go our separate ways by 11.00.

I don't generally worship in Dedham as I belong to another church but I have lived in the village for over 40 years, and I like to worship with my friends and neighbours and to be part of this community. If you're free on Tuesday morning, why not come along and try it out – we're all very friendly and would love to see you.

Diane Foster

I attend church regularly to thank God for all that he enables, to ask him to forgive me for the wrong that I have thought and done each week and to share my praise of him with fellow believers. Usually I feel very happy and cleansed when I leave Church.

I have my doubts many times, especially when life is tough but I think I always come down with the thought that I am better off with God than I am without him.

Jill Strangward

Is Church Just for Sundays?

Well you might think that, but church is for any day where two or three are gathered together, and it doesn't have to be in a church building, but on a Tuesday morning at 10.30 in Dedham Church a few of us gather together for a spoken service of Morning Prayer.

Sometimes there might be four of us, and other times there might be ten. We have a quiet reflective time together and

**Kelvedon Singers
in Concert
at StMary's Dedham,
Sunday 3 July
6pm, arrive from 4.45pm
for Tea & Cakes
All proceeds in aid of
new organ.
Tickets £15
inclusive tea and cake,
Interval drinks available for a donation**

The Bells of Dedham Church



There is little known about the bells in Dedham church prior to 1754 when Thomas Gardiner of Sudbury cast five new bells to make the present peal of eight.

Checking in Church Bells of Essex by Deedes and Walters of 1909 they make reference to the inventory of church goods carried out in September 1552 during the sixth year of the reign of King Edward VI. It mentions

“ It V bells weying VI score hundred and one and odd.”

Also *“We payde to fathare hasnete & John Smethe for makenge oware chymes and cloke. We payde for mendeng oware belle stokes and bawdukes & wire for ye cloke & chymes & new bell ropes.”*

Of the bells in the present ring which are older than 1754. The sixth bell was cast by Robert Burford a London bell founder circa 1410. He probably set up a furnace in the church yard or very close to it and cast the bell on site, a fairly common practice in those days.

(Incidentally the tenor bell at neighbouring Ardleigh was also cast by him around the same time). The present 7th bell was cast by John Darbie of Ipswich in 1675 and the tenor bell (number 8) cast by John Thornton of Sudbury in 1717.

Not much is known about ringing at Dedham until we get to 1818 when on Tuesday March 17th the Dedham Company of ringers rang a full peal of 5040 changes of Bob Major, taking them three hours and sixteen minutes.

The band was Henry Barker, Treble. Henry Sherman, 2nd. Thomas Chisnall, 3rd. Ebenezer Saunders, 4th. James Parr, 5th. James Saunders, 6th. John Feamner, 7th and Josiah Benneworth, conductor, tenor.

Quite a remarkable achievement for a village band of ringers at that time, however they progressed certainly with the help of the Saunders family because in 1844 six members of the Dedham Society of Change Ringers all called Saunders rang 720 changes of Treble Bob Minor.

A further four full peals were rung on the bells namely Bob Major on the 25th January 1843. Oxford Treble Bob Major on 6th December 1843, a further peal of Oxford T.B. On the 27th March 1844 and the last peal to be rung on the bells of Kent Treble Bob Major on 19th March 1845.

Sadly by this time the bells were becoming very difficult to ring because of movement of the tower and bell frame.

When bells are rung in the English full circle style they swing from mouth upper most through almost 360 degrees to mouth upper most and back again. The forces on the bell frame are equal to two times the weight of the bell laterally along the frame changing direction with every swing of the bell, and four times its weight downwards. With the Tenor bell weighing almost a ton and a total weight of bells around four tons the forces on the tower were considerable.

Unfortunately Dedham's tower as magnificent as it looks is not the best design

for a heavy ring of bells installed close to the top. It has large openings in three of the four walls at ground level, a large west window some 6 metres up from the ground and the entire east side of the tower was open to the church almost up to roof level. Basically it stands on one wall and two legs! The tower started to crack badly from the movement and by 1866 the cracks were so bad that on the advice of Mr J T Micklethwaite, Architect, all ringing was suspended. The tower remained like this until eventually repaired in 1881/2.

Most of the large archway between the church and tower was bricked up in order to strengthen the tower, but this then also started to crack and of course there may well have been possible damage from the Essex earthquake of 1884, as this caused considerable damage to many properties within a fifty mile radius of the epicentre in the Wivenhoe Great Wigborough area.

A large iron structure was installed lower in the tower in the clock room with girders going up to a frame supporting the beams on which the bell frame rests. Unfortunately who ever was overseeing this project decided to cut through all the frame supporting beams where they enter the walls thus leaving the bell frame free standing on top of the iron frame. This work being completed in 1896.

This did nothing to improve the go of the bells which became so difficult to ring that they stopped using the two larger bells, only ringing the six lighter ones. Mr Arthur Fuller of Manningtree who was church clerk for Manningtree and Mistley and who died in 1958 was the last known surviving bell ringer to have rung on Dedham Bells before all ringing ceased around 1898. Since

then the bells have been chimed hanging mouth downwards by initially having the bell ropes removed from the wheels and tied to the bell clappers. More recently a set of chiming hammers has been installed under the bells and are worked by pulling the bell ropes allowing them to be heard within the parish as they had been for at least two hundred and fifty years.

David Culham

The Deanery Choir

is a group of singers who seek to support traditional church music in the Tendring area and is performing John Stainers' Crucifixion on 15th April (Good Friday) at the little used church of St Mary's Little Bentley, Essex.



ST MARY'S CHURCH
CHURCH ROAD
LITTLE BENTLEY
CO7 8SE

JOHN STAINER
CRUCIFIXION

Friday 15TH APRIL
2022

6.30pm

The Deanery Choir
and friends

Tenor Graham Bell
Bass Peter Kenwyn Jones
Organist Rev Stephen Carter
Conductor Sally Pudney

Retiring collection for St Mary's Bell restoration fund

A Prayer for the Crisis in the Ukraine

Father God, King of all nations, we cry out to you now for the people of Ukraine. We ask you to rescue those who are vulnerable from the hands of their enemies that they may live without fear before you all their days

Luke 1:74-75

Lord have mercy. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Lord of lords and Prince of peace, our politicians are predicting the biggest war in Europe since 1945, we simply cry out to you urgently to write another story in our time. Thwart the dark machinations of evil men. Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to peacemakers seeking an equitable and less violent way. May politicians exercise the wisdom from above, which is peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, and full of mercy. James 3 :17.

Lord have mercy. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us . Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Holy Spirit, we pray for the church in Ukraine, a nation in which 70 % of the population call themselves Christians. Give our many brothers and sisters in that nation courage in this crisis that

they may proclaim the good news of your kingdom, bind up broken hearts, and bring comfort to all who mourn.

Isiah 61 : 1-2

Lord have mercy. Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

You Lord makes wars cease to the end of the earth; you break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire.

Psalms 46: 9

And so we ask you now to save the lives of many people in Ukraine. Make a peace that is strong and not weak. De-escalate this crisis. We hear of wars and rumours of wars.

Matt. 24: 6

But you Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in you. And so we address the nations now. In the name of Jesus we say: Be still and know God! He is exalted among the nations ; he shall be exalted in the earth

Psalms 46: 10

Lord have mercy. Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world , have mercy upon us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace. Amen

Pete Greig



On 3th March, together with baby formula, nappies and parishioners from Dedham sanitary products. Bags were Church, local residents Gega filled with warm clothing, and Sophie, originally from towels and blankets.

Georgia, launched a campaign to collect items to help refugees fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. **The response was overwhelming!**

Within hours donations started to pile up in the Church! Boxes upon boxes were filled with essential items such as toiletries, medical supplies, batteries, Gaga and Sophie would like to say a huge thankyou to all of you kind people who donated. Read the full story in the next edition of the parish magazine.

Paul Brebner

For the Love of Flowers

Behind the scenes of the church flower team

It has been my joy and privilege to lead the flower team for the past 6 years, having taken over from the wonderful Sally Gotelee in 2016. There are 20 lovely, dedicated and talented members of the team who diligently arrange flowers throughout the year via the rota. They also step up to the mark at the times of major services in the church calendar such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest, and also for some of the weddings that take place in the church. The church is generally always open during daylight hours and we hope that you all feel welcome to come in at any time to enjoy the flowers and experience the calm which the church offers. It is a sanctuary in this busy world.

Arranging flowers for the major services is a time when the whole team, subject to availability, come into the church. It is a wonderful and uplifting experience; coffee, tea, biscuits or a mince pie will be consumed while the team zone into their focused and creative modes. There is good companionship, often the sound of laughter and a caring and supportive atmosphere in the church while arranging for these services. Some might think that a flower team has the potential for harboring critical eyes and snifty views, but this couldn't be further from the truth.

Everyone has a different style and love what they, and others do !



We all meet 3 times a year on 'official' flower planning business, and we always invite ex-members to these meetings, who you could say are members of the un-official alumni ! We will be meeting a bit more regularly this year as we are planning a Flower Festival in October which we hope you will visit and enjoy. We always welcome new members, and although it obviously helps, you do not need to be able to arrange flowers. All you need is to be interested and keen to learn. For more information, please contact me on 01206 321286 or 07899 061840

Helen Sims



EASTER FLOWER TEAM MEETING

The group will be meeting at Dedham Hall
on Wednesday 30th March at 10.30 am
to discuss flower plans and ideas for Easter Sunday



LILIES IN REMEMBRANCE OF A LOVED ONE

The flower team will again be arranging flowers in church for Easter Sunday. If you would like to buy a lily in memory of a loved one to be included, please put your money in a plain envelope marked 'Easter Lilies' with your name and contact number, and place it in the Parish office mailbox near the entrance to the Assembly rooms.

The cost is £3 per stem, and the deadline for ordering is
SUNDAY APRIL 10TH

Dedham's Chapels

St John's Chapel, foot of Gun Hill

St John's Chapel, the earliest chapel recorded in Dedham, stood at the foot of Gun Hill. It is mentioned in 1523 in the Will of John Webbe, a major benefactor of the parish church. He left instructions to his executors to "*make substantially the highway from St John's Chapel to the Church gate of Dedham next unto the Vicarage,*" which must refer to what is now the Stratford Road. By 1671 the small building, known by that time as the Lord's Chapel stood on a triangular site owned by Palmer Firmin, who lived nearby at the Rookery. It survived until 1826 when it was replaced by a pretty thatched cottage with a trellised front and 'gothic' windows. The footpath from Dedham towards Stratford bridge ran along behind it. In the twentieth century this cottage was repeatedly damaged by vehicles running out of control on the dangerous bend at the bottom of the hill and it was finally swept away during the construction of the A12 Stratford Bypass in 1965.

The United Reformed Chapel in Brook Street

Besides those who attended the parish church there were Protestant Christians in Dedham known as Congregationalists, who refused to conform to the Church of England or recognise the authority of its priests and bishops. For them it was both a right and a duty for congregations to govern themselves independently of any higher human authority. In the early eighteenth century they worshipped in East

Bergholt but it was probably the flooding of the River Stour during the winter months that made them want to have a separate congregation here. In 1738 Mary Blomfield's house in Dedham was licensed for their meetings and five years later John and Henry Blomfield bought a site at the western end of Frog Meadow from Timothy Peacock, owner of the Sun Inn, in order to build a new meeting house. This was a stuccoed two-storey building with a three-bay classical front, pedimented doorcases and a hipped roof. A timber-framed and plastered Manse for a resident Minister (now Lindsay House) was built at about the same time. The chapel was registered on 2 September 1739 and had trustees who were local merchants, tradesmen and farmers.

At the opening service the sermon was preached by the Rev. Benjamin Nowell of Colchester and the Rev. Bazael Blomfield from Nayland acted as the temporary pastor until Dedham's first permanent minister, the Rev. Davidson, was appointed. Later pastors included the Rev. William Bentley Crathern who served for thirty-six years (1786-1822) and the Rev. John Trew who died in 1868; he was greatly loved in Dedham and an inscription to his memory can still be seen at the base of a sadly cracked headstone in front of the Craft Centre, which once marked his grave outside the Chapel.

In the time of his successor, the Rev. Ebenezer Evans (1869-77) it was decided to replace the small meeting house, which was in poor condition, to



to make more room for the growing congregation and allow for future expansion. The new Chapel was built in 1871 in the red-brick Gothic style with white brick decoration, rose windows and a small bell tower. The main space was designed with a gallery, so that it could seat four hundred worshippers and it was possible to enlarge it when necessary by “*raising the shutters*” dividing it from the schoolroom (to its west) which accommodated the flourishing Congregational Sunday School.

English Congregationalists eventually became part of the United Reformed Church and that was what the Chapel was called when I remember it. The name of a minister, the Rev. Alfred J. Basden, who served there from 1891-1906 and again from 1926-1933 can be seen on a tablet placed on the front wall of Barfield's Almshouses in Crown Street recording a legacy from his son in his memory. The Chapel had good regular attendances until the mid twentieth century but after the congregation dwindled in the 1960s and '70s it closed for worship and the building was converted to a Craft Centre in 1984. The bold quatrefoil roof lights were installed at that time and two new floors were inserted.

The Primitive Methodist Chapel on Long Road East

The original Primitive Methodists (later known simply as Methodists) were established in Staffordshire in the early nineteenth century by two men who had been expelled from the Wesleyan

Methodist Connection. They ministered to the poorest in society and therefore established themselves on the fringes of towns and villages rather than in the more prosperous centres. By 1841 the movement had spread to Essex. It took hold in the Colchester area around 1860 when Dedham's Primitive Methodist congregation had a presence somewhere in East Lane but were hampered by the lack of a suitable place to hold their services. In 1863 they bought a plot on the Heath with three cottages and garden ground on which to build themselves “*a neat and substantial connexional chapel*”. This little red-brick building which still survives on Long Road East was simple but attractively detailed with Gothic windows and decorative bargeboards.

The front was enlivened by quoins and other ornamental patterning in white brick. The sash windows at the sides had marginal glazing with coloured panes in the corners. The land cost £132.10 and construction around £200. Money was raised and the Chapel was established, governed by Trustees all of whom lived in Colchester. The foundation stone was laid on 2 November 1863. At a service to mark the occasion the Rev. O.O. Britain preached a sermon and afterwards laid the stone in the name of the Holy Trinity, depositing in a cavity prepared for that purpose a variety of relevant documents. These included a list of the trustees, the names of the builders and those of circuit ministers. Afterwards about sixty people sat down to an excellent tea provided “*in Mr. Felgate's*

barn”, followed by a well-attended public meeting at 7 o’clock. *“Although the rain fell in torrents the greater part of the time,”* it was reported afterwards, *“We will not murmur, but thank God and take courage.”*

For over a century the Chapel was well supported by its loyal members but by the mid twentieth century the cost of structural repairs and necessary improvements put a great strain on the resources of a now much smaller congregation. By 1988 numbers had fallen to around 20 and the Chapel finally closed in 2008. However the building is now used as a Meeting Room for the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church; so it is still a place of religious worship.

The Heath School

When the Church of England School was established at the Heath crossroads it was not called a Church or Chapel but it was licensed as a place of worship and services continued to be held there for a hundred and twenty years. Purpose-built in 1858 at the expense of Dedham’s Lecturer Dr Thomas Grimwood Taylor, the building consisted of a single room open to the rafters with an entrance at either end. In December 1951 after the children had left the Vicar, the Rev. A.R. Johnson, wrote in the Parish Magazine that: *“We must continue to refer to our Chapel as the Heath School until the ownership and future status has been decided. In the meantime,”* he added, *“a very generous response comes to all our efforts to improve the fabric and make the building into a House of Worship. The P.C.C. have purchased two oil radiators which promise to be quite adequate. A large*

illustrated Bible and two brass candlesticks have just been presented to us.” A whist drive held at Malting Cottage by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Hillier raised £16 towards the cost of redecorating the School. From 1953 it was jointly owned by the Diocese and the Parochial Church Council. Regular services were held and there was a weekly rota of ladies who worked in pairs to clean the building but it was not until 1969 that the Parish Magazine began to call it the Heath Church. Worship continued until 1978 when the building was sold and converted into a private dwelling, its history perpetuated by the name Old Church House.

The Roman Catholic Chapel at Upper Park

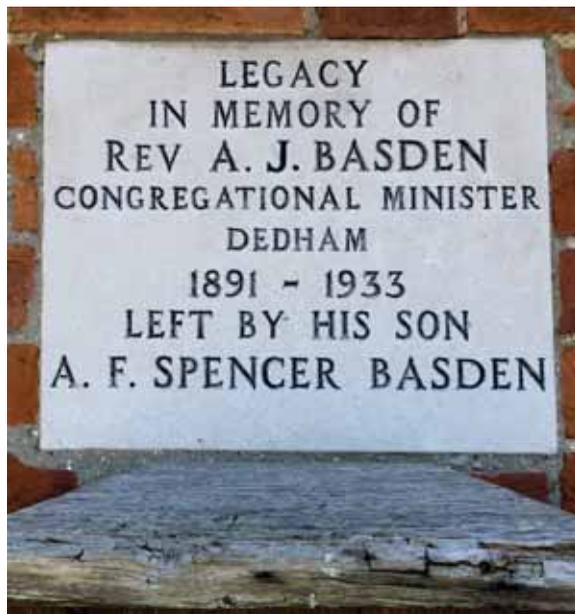
The only Roman Catholic place of worship known in Dedham was a private chapel at Upper Park on Cole’s Oak Lane which is recorded in 1871; it appears to have been licensed for marriages ten years later but is not mentioned after that. The Chapel, which was probably intended only for the use of Roman Catholic residents, occupied a room on the first floor of a building to the west of to the house. I remember it while the Watsons were living there in the 1940s and ‘50s when it was used as a lumber room, presided over by a tailor’s dummy. The cross which survives above the western gable end of the building serves as a reminder of its period of ecclesiastical use.

© Lucy Archer

FEATURE: Dedham's Chapels

I am indebted to Paul Gallifant's excellent article on "The Primitive Methodist Chapel at Dedham Heath" in the Dedham Vale Society Newsletter No. 56, Summer 2004 also very grateful to Kevin and Alison Ward for valuable information on the history of the Heath School/Church and permission to use their photograph of the building in 1978.





Update from County Councillor

Since my last update, I continue to work on the communities' priorities with Cllr Chapman and the Parish Council.

I allocated £2,000 from my locality budget to support Dedham's highway plan, which was prepared by the Parish Council and which I was pleased to submit to the Local Highways Panel on their behalf. This plan is designed to improve traffic management and road safety. The remaining costs for Highways to commence this plan are £8,500 and the Parish Council has agreed to make a contribution towards this. I will be working to secure the balance of costs from Essex County Council at the next meeting of the Local Highway Panel.

I also appreciate the frustration that can occur when Highways issues, including flooding, are not dealt with as quickly as we like. That is why at our recent budget meeting I voted for an additional financial contribution to Highways to assist and to ensure rural Highways get a fair deal. We only have a finite budget but please do let me know of any issues and I will do my best to secure the money for repairs/action. There is also a Property Flood Resilience Grant for up to £8,000 per property that the County Council provides to help address flooding problems.

In addition, I have been continuing to work on a plan with Cllr Chapman and the Parish Council to maximise the benefits that tourism brings to Dedham and the AONB while mitigating the negatives that the increase in visitors brings. Some key points I am seeking to reach agreement on across the local authorities are the following:

1. A campaign to promote safe and sustainable usage of waterways and surrounding areas, working with the Fire Service and Police to do so.
2. Support for countryside rangers to promote the countryside code and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
3. A strategy to promote

4. non-car travel alternatives to reduce excessive traffic and parking pressures.
5. A longer term objective of a tourist point that supported information on aspects of the countryside such as walks, the AONB education, countryside code etc.
6. Local rural business support network.
7. Support for litter collection and a designated toilet in the carpark.
8. A firmer response to illegal trading. I'd welcome any thoughts the community has on this.

The much needed investment in rural broadband continues and I have been contacted by Gigaclear who are planning to extend its network rollout to bring ultrafast broadband to the community.

If you have any broadband issues, please do get in touch as the County Council has options available to support rural communities.

On rural crime, I am pleased to see that the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst is consulting on a rural crime strategy. I will be working to ensure the views of the communities I represent are fed into this and I'd welcome any views you have on rural crime. Roger has been hosting public workshops on the strategy and I have requested for a session to be held in the area.

Finally, at the time of writing, ECC is consulting on its next stage of its new bus strategy. Myself and ECC more widely is committed to the promotion of sustainable transport and improvements in rural bus services. Please do let me know any views you have and I will ensure the Councillor in charge of bus services is aware.

Throughout the month, we send out local information to our email newsletter. If you would like to subscribe, please do let me know.

Cllr.Lewis.Barber@essex.gov.uk
Facebook: @cillrlewisbarber

Dedham Primary School

The first Thursday in March is always World Book Day and at Dedham Primary School, we always like to mark the occasion with some fancy dress and a treasure hunt! This year, we also had the opportunity to add Alphabetti Spaghetti to the menu! Our chosen theme was 'celebrating words' and staff and children were encouraged to come dressed as a word for the day. Staff costumes included dapper, ostentatious, idiom and coruscate (no judgement if you need to reach for a dictionary!) and children's costumes included a huge range of different words including monochrome, fragile, prehistoric and extraordinary.



The treasure hunt involved pairs of children from different year groups working together to find questions about books all over the school site. If children managed to find an answer for every letter of the alphabet, then they received their 'treasure': a World Book Day voucher to exchange for a book in local bookshops and supermarkets. We also hosted our first ever book swap and children brought in around 500 books from home which were then exchanged

for 'new' books meaning that every child was able to add a book or two to their bookshelves at home.

We are delighted to be welcoming in more visitors to school now that Covid 19 restrictions have been lifted. Children from several classes recently enjoyed a visit from



police officers from the Rural Engagement Team and they learned all about being a police officer and the equipment they use. Our reception children loved sitting in the police vehicles and playing with the siren, whilst our key stage two children had the opportunity to see a speed gun in action. In the same week, we were lucky to have some First Responders in school to teach all children from year 2 to year 6 about CPR. Children learned how to put someone in the recovery position, as well as where our defibrillator is kept and how to use it.

*Miss Laura Valentine
Deputy Headteacher*

Dedham C of E Primary School

Shooting, spreading and supporting

The garden's in full on growth mode now. Everywhere I look something is shooting up or spreading out, which of course means weeds need pulling up or hoeing off (if the weather stays dry), stems need supporting and something always - always - needs pruning.

As I'm trucking secateurs, hand fork, trowel, Japanese razor hoe (best thing ever, you should get one), tubs and white bags of cut material back and forth across the garden, there's still time to enjoy the fat buds of rhododendrons and peonies waiting to burst later in spring, as well as blossom, wall flowers, primroses and *Erysimum* 'Bowles's Mauve' in bloom. I'll pull some tender, bright pink stalks of forced rhubarb for the kitchen too and enjoy the huge amount of colour seen in the greens, purples and reds of stems and foliage.

Many of the bulbs are still going strong and, alongside the usual, two anemones are looking especially good: the soft blue *Anemone blanda* alongside the stronger jewel tones of *Anemone coronaria*. The petals of the red *coronaria* contrast with the blue of the *blanda*, but there's also a touch of blue around its boss of stamens that complements perfectly.

It's our Spring Show early this month (hope we'll see at the Assembly Rooms), so anything I like the look of could end up being cut for exhibition.

I'll also check to see which – if any – of my overwintered pelargoniums (often

called geraniums, although they're nothing alike and shouldn't be treated alike) have made it through. I've only just started growing these in pots and I'm not sure I've quite got their needs right to get them through the worse of the weather. But I learn something new in every gardening year, so will persevere.

I planted tomato seeds on the window ledge in early March and they should be ready to pot on into larger containers with split canes for support. It's still too early to plant them out but when I do, I always have spares that go to the Horticultural Society's plant sale in May. The blossom looks great as always, but I'm mindful of the late and heavy frost last May which meant my fruit crops were much less than hoped for. I doubt I'll be able to protect every tree (and certainly not the large old greengage) but will get some fleece draped over my St Edmunds Pippin apple trees, which I bought because my dad lives in Bury.

I'll also check on the hardwood rose cuttings that I've had in pots for a couple of years now. A quick look underneath to see if roots are starting to show through the pots' drainage holes will indicate whether they need potting on. I usually put a few of these into our plant sale too, so you might find some if you're able to pop along to Dedham's churchyard on the day.

Then there's lawncare. I don't love a lawn, though it certainly sets off the rest of the garden (I'm told) and I've boosted mine with a clover mix that encourages pollinators.

This year or next, I'm going to reduce my grassy areas to just a small circle and pave the rest in the hope I can maintain the smaller area to a better level of 'perfection' (hah).



First job in April is to scarify the grass, which essentially means scraping away with a spring-time rake to get as much moss (or thatch) out and let air to the roots of the grass. It's hard work, but I bought a cheap electric scarifier which is easier and quicker, and it's amazing just how much comes out. Very compacted areas that get walked on a lot will benefit from spiking with a garden fork: just drive the tines in, wiggle them gently back and forth and move six inches or so to the next spot and repeat. I'll dig out any perennial weeds (dandelion is my lawn's *bête noire*), feed it with a high-nitrogen fertiliser and, if it's dry enough, give it a mow with the blades high.

When not outside, I need to read (again) about how to grow peaches. I cannot seem to get more than the odd fruit (and competing with wasps for that one) and suspect I'm cutting back the wrong branches when I prune later in the year.

(No stone fruit should be pruned in winter).



Most peach trees suffer from leaf curl and, while there aren't any chemical sprays to control it, you can try an organic winter tree wash. You can also try shrouding the tree with a polythene lean-to (I know, what next!?) to protect it from rain which spreads the spores. You'll need to leave it open on the sides or remove it on dry days so pollinators can get to the blossom.

However you're spending these (hopefully) warmer, longer days in the garden, I hope you find something here to motivate or inspire.

Elliott Frisby
Dedham Horticultural Society
www.dedhamgardening.wordpress.com

What's it like to be an Arborist in the aftermath of Storm Eunice?



Well what can I say, the last few days have been the busiest but most exciting in my career. Although I have no actual obligation to attend any fallen tree, I do feel an inner responsibility to act quickly and efficiently. Similar I assume, to how a plumber feels when a client calls them in a panic with a leak!

The phone started ringing on the Friday of Storm Eunice and hasn't stopped since. Its been hectic but definitely interesting and I have managed to attend every client that has contacted me. My team and I worked through the storm on Friday, clearing trees from the road etc. We then continued to work all through Saturday and Sunday subsequently managing to squeeze in 11 jobs on Monday. By the time you read this, all of the local emergency jobs will have been attended to and made safe.

The thing that's interests me so much about this storm is the random nature of the most affected areas. One might assume that the most exposed trees would suffer the most, but in this storm it hasn't seemed to work out that way.

The main difference to the October 1987 storm is that 35 years ago the broadleaf trees were still displaying dense foliage, meaning each canopy acted like a huge sail. Therefore, the destruction of trees was even worse than in recent Storm Eunice where we've seen mainly conifers affected.

I sincerely hope that people reading this were not too adversely affected by the storm and I hope that you now have your electricity and internet services restored. I am aware that large areas of the Dedham vale were without power for a number of days.

Speaking personally, the most frustrating aspect of the damage caused by this storm is that over half of the trees we have attended could have been saved using good proactive tree management involving regular inspection. I hope that a positive outcome will be that there is a better understanding of how powerful nature can be. There is a definite need to act now and to try and reduce climate change otherwise unfortunately, I believe it won't be another 30 years until we have another storm like this.

My recommendations for planning your garden and trees going forward would be to make sure any newly planted trees are well staked and supported with the

correct type of straps. Always think about the suitability of what is planted with regards to location, soil type and irrigation. There's a shift in the arboricultural community from planting only UK native tree species to planting more diverse types of tree that will thrive and withstand the challenges of our changing climatic conditions.

Thanks for reading, As always here if you need us.

Harry Adams
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..more details to follow

2022 Village Quiz

Following the postponement of the Quiz in January because of Covid-19, a new date has been arranged for

Saturday 11th June

in the Assembly Rooms

All teams who had booked a table for the original date have been advised of the new date and we do have room for a few more tables if you could not make the original date or would like to bring a new team.

For more details please contact

David Druitt 01206 322000 or Jill Strangward 01206 322006

daviddruitt@gmail.com or

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Wednesday 20th April

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*Refreshments will be available once again. **Tickets £5***

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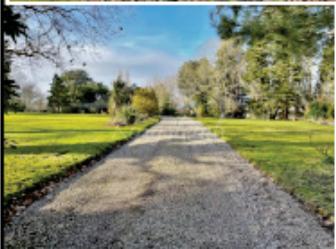
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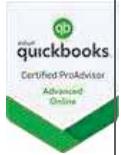
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