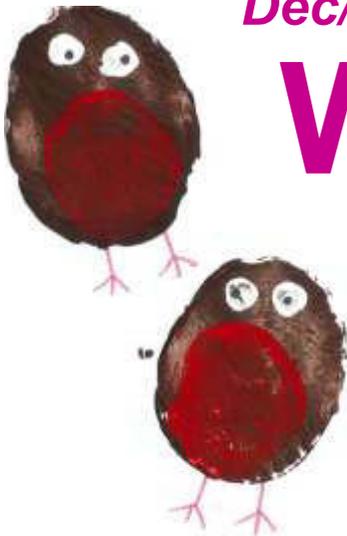




# Village

*Dec/Jan 2025/26*

# Web



# Crib Service

3pm on Christmas Eve  
St Nicholas Church ELMDON



Please join us to take part in a simple retelling of the Nativity story and see how Jesus turns what is sad into glad again.

Children, please come dressed up as angels, shepherds or wise men.

**18 January 2026 - final date for submission of articles for the February edition**



## December Services

### Sunday 7

- 9.00am Holy Communion with Carols at St Nicholas **LITTLE CHISHILL**  
11.00am Family Café Church at Chrishall Village Hall **CHRISHALL**  
4.00pm Carol Service with Nativity at Hamlet Church **DUDDENHOE END**

### Saturday 13

- 3.30pm Carol Service with Royston Town Band at Holy Trinity **HEYDON**

### Sunday 14

- 11.00am Holy Communion at St Swithuns **GREAT CHISHILL**  
6.30pm Carol Service with Parish Choir at St Nicholas Church **ELMDON**

### Sunday 21

- 9.00am Holy Communion at Hamlet Church **DUDDENHOE END**  
11.00am Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church **CHRISHALL**  
6.00pm Carol Service with Chishill Voices and Heydon Handbells at **URC GREAT CHISHILL**

### Wednesday 24 Christmas Eve

- 3.00pm Family Crib Service at St Nicholas **ELMDON**  
11.15pm Midnight Holy Communion at Holy Trinity **CHRISHALL**

### Thursday 25 Christmas Day

- 9.30am Family Celebration with Communion at St Swithuns  
**GREAT CHISHILL**  
10.45am Carol Service at St Marys **STRETHALL**

### Sunday 28

- 10.00am Morning Prayer at St Nicholas **ELMDON**

# MOONLEAF

A reflexology & Reiki practice in Chrishall which offers treatments to help with a wide range of conditions, such as sleeping problems, hormonal and menopausal symptoms, stress, arthritis, migraines, respiratory issues and muscular pain. Or it can simply be a perfect way to relax.



For more information:  
[www.moonleaf-reflexology.com](http://www.moonleaf-reflexology.com)  
07771 826077  
[info@moonleaf-reflexology.com](mailto:info@moonleaf-reflexology.com)



 **Train Local. Train Smart.** 

1:1 Personal Training &  
Functional Fitness classes in Chrishall  
✓Private, welcoming space  
✓All levels welcome | Flexible times

 07904 853727

 [vanessa@nourishandlift.fitness](mailto:vanessa@nourishandlift.fitness)

 [nourishandlift\\_fitness](https://www.instagram.com/nourishandlift_fitness)

**Book your free consultation today!**



## Penelope Jane Kitchen Design

Independent Freelance Kitchen Designer  
Giving personalised design and product advice  
Providing 3D Imagery & detailed dimensioned plans  
Free initial consultation

[penny@pjkitchendesign.co.uk](mailto:penny@pjkitchendesign.co.uk) 07738 122392



## STEPHEN CHAPMAN

### Boiler Man

**OFTEC REGISTERED**

Servicing, repairing &  
commissioning of oil fire boilers.

Contact Julie in the office:  
07519 721643 / 01438 233612  
[steveoilboilers@gmail.com](mailto:steveoilboilers@gmail.com)  
[www.stephen-chapman.co.uk](http://www.stephen-chapman.co.uk)

# PEASGOOD & SKEATES

THE FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE

Personal Care and Attention  
24 hours a day by local, qualified staff

Bespoke Service Sheets

Memorials

Pre-Paid Funeral Plans

Saffron Walden: 01799 523314

Duxford: 01223 833463

Sawston: 01223 791065

Also in Cambridge and Haverhill  
[www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk](http://www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk)

Becky Duncan Yoga  
Experienced yoga teacher

## CHANTING STORK

Classes for all levels and genders  
Build strength & flexibility  
Release stress & fatigue  
Mindfulness through movement

[www.chantingstork.com](http://www.chantingstork.com)  
[Becky@chantingstork.com](mailto:Becky@chantingstork.com)



## R FISHER & SON

Est 1959

### Chimney Sweep

All aspects of chimney work  
Master member N.A.C.S.

[www.rfisherchimneys.co.uk](http://www.rfisherchimneys.co.uk)  
**01763 838360**



## January Services 2026

### Sunday 4

9.00am *Traditional* BCP\* Communion, St Nicholas **Little Chishill**  
11.00am *Contemporary* Encounter@Eleven Café, Village Hall **Chrishall**  
6.00pm Evening Service, **URC Great Chishill**

### Sunday 11

9.00am *Traditional* BCP Communion, Holy Trinity **Heydon**  
11.00am *Contemporary* Encounter@Eleven, St Swithun's **Great Chishill**

### Sunday 18

9.00am *Traditional* BCP Communion, Hamlet Church **Duddenhoe End**  
9.30am Morning Service, **URC Great Chishill**  
11.00am *Contemporary* Encounter@Eleven, Holy Trinity **Chrishall**

### Saturday 24

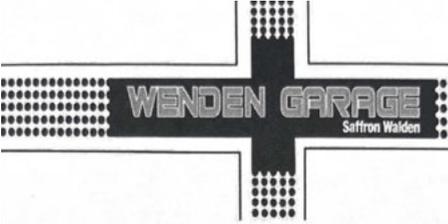
4.00pm *Contemporary* iSingSaturday\*\*, Holy Trinity **Chrishall**

### Sunday 25

9.00am *Traditional* BCP Communion, St Mary's **Strethall**  
11.00am *Contemporary* Encounter@Eleven Communion, St Nicholas **Elmdon**

\* BCP = Book of Common Prayer

\*\* iSingSaturday = a new child-led family event where we sing iSingPop songs, explore Bible stories, create awesome crafts and make new friends



**WENDEN GARAGE**  
WENDENS AMBO, SAFFRON WALDEN  
CB11 4LB

Telephone: 01799 540500  
Email: wendengarage@aol.com

Located next to Audley End station  
We look after all of your vehicle needs:  
MOT, Servicing, Brakes, Suspension  
Tyre and Exhaust fitting  
Call us to book or discuss any job

**JORDAN  
OIL BURNER SERVICES**

Established 1968

An independent oil boiler commissioning,  
servicing & breakdown company  
OFTEC Registered  
All our vans carry a range of genuine boiler spares  
Tel: 01438 355583 / Mob: 07831 364607  
[www.jordanoil.co.uk](http://www.jordanoil.co.uk)

**The Catty Shack**  
A luxury cattery in Chrishall

Julia & Phil Holmes  
Mapletons  
Crawley End  
Chrishall  
SG8 8QN



Tel 07506 289062  
Email: [hello@thecattyshack.co.uk](mailto:hello@thecattyshack.co.uk)

For full details of pricing, opening hours and photos  
please visit our website at [www.thecattyshack.co.uk](http://www.thecattyshack.co.uk)

**P.J.A. GRAY**  
Traditional Longstraw Thatcher  
*South Cambs Craft Skills Award Winner*  
Free Estimates  
Tel: 01763 838847 / 07968 635239  
Email: [gray\\_peter1@sky.com](mailto:gray_peter1@sky.com)  
Thatching local homes for over 40 years

**Come & join our adult  
language classes!**

-10% for  
retirees



Relaxed,  
friendly  
& fun!

10 week courses in  
French, Italian & Spanish  
Royston, Saffron Walden & Zoom

See website or call for details  
[www.lingualounge.co.uk](http://www.lingualounge.co.uk)  
T 07775 640794



**Columbus**  
*Construction & Carpentry Ltd*  
**Extensions**  
**Loft Conversions**  
**New Builds**  
**Carpentry Work**

Mobile: 07919 523 422  
Office: 01763 838615



**ColumbusConstruction.co.uk**

# A REALLY Happy Christmas and New Year



Our middle daughter, Rebecca and her husband Arthur had their first child, Fizz (Felicity), last week. All are doing well, but as any parent of a newborn knows, your life is turned completely upside down. Overnight the baby's needs become the centre of your attention – they have to. But whilst it's a time of monumental change, it's all for the good.

That total shift in life's focus would have been exactly the same 2,000 years ago for Mary and Joseph. On top of the usual reorientation that accompanies a first-born, they also became refugees on account of Jesus as they fled to Egypt to avoid the psychopathic, paranoid actions of the monarch, King Herod. (He had every child under two in Jesus' neighbourhood killed, fearing for his 'kingship').

However, I know that Rebecca and Arthur - and I suspect Mary and Joseph too - would unhesitatingly say about all the disruption: "It was worth it". That loss of control to gain something really worth gaining is well worth it.

And so it is for you and me. If we **really** want the best in life - the very best - this can only happen by relinquishing control of our lives - in a very good way.

As an adult Jesus said "If you grasp and cling to life on your terms, you'll lose it, but if you let that life go, you'll get life on God's terms" (*Luke 17.33, The Message Bible translation*).

As we allow God into our lives, the benefits of life on His terms are not only out of this world (corny but true), but they're also very much in and for this world – for the here and now. "I have come that you might have life in all it's abundance" said Jesus – both in the future and present.

You don't need to have it all figured out – I certainly don't. You don't need to consider yourself a believer. Just as Jesus invites you to come

as you are, so do we this Christmas and New Year – to step out of all the busyness, leave the noise behind, and rediscover what life’s really about.

We have many different types of services and events for all as we gather to celebrate this life that changed the world and still changes lives today - everyone is welcome. Details are advertised throughout this magazine, but in summary:



**Carol Services** - Come and soak up the warmth of candlelight, familiar carols and a welcoming community – or jump on the trailer for tractor carols around the pubs and villages. Hear the story of Christmas told afresh — not as distant history, but as good news for today. You don’t have to be religious; just come with an open heart and enjoy the music, the atmosphere and a message of real hope.



**Crib Service** – With a real live baby Jesus (courtesy of Fizz!) and hopefully a donkey, this is a very special moment on Christmas eve for families and children! Help us bring the nativity story to life - with shepherds, angels, and of course, a baby in a manger. It’s a joyful way to remind ourselves that Christmas began with something simple, beautiful, and full of wonder.



**Midnight Communion** - As Christmas Eve turns to Christmas Day, the church fills with stillness and candlelight. We pause to reflect, to breathe, and to celebrate the coming of light into darkness. Whether this is new to you or a long-loved tradition, it’s a moving way to welcome Christmas morning.



**Christmas Morning Celebration** - Wake up to joy! Come and share as we celebrate together the birth of Jesus - the heart of Christmas itself. *HEALTH ALERT – there’ll be a quiz of sorts and lots of (optional) chocolate!*



As we look ahead to 2026, there is the opportunity to explore faith by joining us on the **Alpha course**. I’ve run several of these courses over the years, and cannot recommend them highly enough whether you’re new to exploring faith or simply open-minded about it all. It also works if you

want to re-engage with or expand your faith – I learn something new every time!

Each session is based around **food**, a **talk** and **conversation** in an open, friendly environment.

After a time to relax and get to know your group over dinner, we have either a short talk or video on a different topic of faith. These explore the big issues around faith, unpack the basics of Christianity and address questions such as *Who is Jesus?*, *How can we have faith?* and *How does God guide us?*

The group conversations afterwards freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. Everyone is welcome regardless of background or beliefs – indeed often the greater the mix, the richer the conversations in my experience!

These conversations are a chance to share your thoughts on the topic and discuss it in your small groups no matter what your opinion.

There's no pressure to say anything, but the floor is yours if you do want to. Similarly there is absolutely no pressure to believe anything in particular.

So, do please contact me if you're interested or would like to find out more. Further details of the course can be found at **alpha.org**.



In a similar vein, we have a Men's Group that meets monthly in the Red Cow in Chrishall to openly discuss various topics. Next up is "God in politics and government" on Thursday 4th December at 8pm. We often go completely off topic, but do join us over a pint or two.

Whatever your viewpoint, you're most welcome. The January date is Thursday 8th January at 8pm.

I do hope to warmly welcome you in person over the coming weeks to any or all of these various services, celebrations and events.

May we all experience the peace, joy, and love that the Christ of Christmas is really all about.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end of the word.

# Treasure Island Tracks



Our special guest this month has had a life spent in music; teaching it, performing it and, now and then, composing it. It has been such a pleasure, but so difficult for them to choose just a few of their favourite pieces to share. They have also discovered that, to them, the performer is as important as the composition, so they have managed to combine favourite pieces, performers and composers for three times the pleasure!!!

## **1 ‘With a Song in my Heart.’ (Rogers / Hart) Ivor Raymond Orchestra**

My earliest memories are travelling to my grandparents in a Morris 8 singing with my parents and sister all the way (no radio – or heater!). A lot of the songs were from a programme on the radio called ‘Two – way Family Favourites’ broadcast at Sunday lunchtime. This was the theme tune. To this day, when I hear it I smell roast beef!

## **2 ‘Suite No 1 for Two Pianos.’ (Rachmaninov) Ashkenazy/Previn.**

When I was 7 my Granny paid for me to have piano lessons. I studied from then on and continued at Cambridge. I taught music for my whole teaching career and still play but not as well as I used to. I would like the whole suite please (she begged); if not the 3rd movement ‘Les Larmes.’ It has to be this version, as Ashkenazy is a favourite.

## **3 ‘The Silver Swan’ (Gibbons) Cambridge Singers and John Rutter**

I sang for several years, as a teenager, with a Madrigal Group at Hereford Cathedral. I have sung this with a group of Lay clerks, as in those days I did a fair boy treble impression and the choristers were not allowed to do moonlighting gigs! Later, I joined the King’s Madrigal society in Cambridge. Christmas was always ‘Carols for Choirs’, co -edited by the lovely John Rutter.

## **4 ‘Diamonds and Rust’ Joan Baez**

At school, I sang with a friend and played guitar. We raised a fair bit for charity and at Cambridge I ran my college’s Folk club and regularly guested

at several of the other colleges. This is a wonderful song, apparently about Bob Dylan, written and sung by my folk hero, Joan Baez

**5 ‘Chants d’Auvergne’ (Canteloube) Frederica von Stade**

From the moment I heard this fabulous voice I was hooked. These settings of French folk songs, heard driving around the Auvergne as I did with my family many years ago, are amazing – they sound like the place!. I sang one as part of my grade 8 voice exam. Can I have all of them too!!? If not ‘Obal din lo Coumbelo.’

**6 ‘Papa can you Hear Me’ from ‘Yentl.’ (Legrand/Bergman) Barbra Streisand.**

I have spent many happy years performing Amateur Musical Theatre, mainly at the theatres here in Cambridge. It began when I was a member of ‘Footlights’ with many famous faces but these three were particular friends and lovely people - Douglas Adams, Griff Rhys Jones and Nigel Hess. I didn’t want to pick anything I have performed, as I can sing them to myself on my island, so this is my favourite singer, two of my favourite writers/lyricists and is from a stunning score which won an Oscar for Michel Legrand.

**7 ‘Sing, Sing, Sing’ (Louis Prima.) Benny Goodman.**

Singing with a Big Band is something else! 22 of them and one of you; in my case all blokes and me. This was always the final number at dances and the male vocalist and I used to go down to the dance floor and have fun with a quickstep – NOT the Gene Krupa solo version which lasts for 12 minutes!

**8 ‘Finale – Last Exit to Brooklyn.’ (Knopfler) from the album**

‘Screenplayings.’

My sister has also had a professional life in the music industry, rising to be international marketing director for Universal. When she ‘retired’ she worked with Jamie Cullum (full time) and Mark Knopfler (marketing his albums.) ‘Screenplayings’ is an album of his film scores and I used this one for my school’s production of West Side Story (Finale). We chose it to play at my Mother’s funeral.

and IF 10 ARE ALLOWED

**9 ‘Turn out the Stars.’ (Bill Evans/Gene Lees) Karrin Allyson**

During lockdown, my husband and I chose a different artist in turn and we listened to tracks during supper. Karrin was my choice and new to Ray, who loved her. Bill Evans is my favourite jazz pianist and this was originally a piano piece written by him. I have been going to a Big Band and Jazz singers course for many years and I sang this there as a pair with the poem Funeral Blues – better known as ‘Stop all the Clocks.’ The words of both complement each other perfectly.

**10 ‘Les Chansons des Roses.’ (Morten Lauridsen) Elora Festival Singers**

If not the whole thing, part v ‘Dirait-on.’ Ray and I had this during the signing of the register at our 2018 wedding; Magical!!

If you have a streaming service, I hope you will find some of these and have a listen; I’d love to know if you find a new gem here.

**BOOK. ‘Tough Guides - How to survive on a desert Island.’ by Louise Spilsbury.**

Staying alive to be rescued seems like a good idea, so this should help.

**LUXURY. A large survival kit** – lots of fishing line, hooks, a sharp machete, rope, matches etc,etc. I’m hoping for a large box which floated ashore from my wrecked boat!!

Please see page 15 to discover the identity of our castaway ...

# Gordon Brown

We are very sad to share that Gordon Brown, a longstanding member of the community, passed away on 6 November. He was a wonderful and loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather who will be sadly missed by all.

His funeral will be held at 11am on 9 December 2025 at Holy Trinity Church, Heydon, followed by a reception at 3 Hall Farm Barns, Great Chishill, SG8 8SH. All who knew Gordon are very welcome to attend. If so we would be grateful if you could RSVP for catering purposes. Email Wendy at wmb1712@gmail.com.

**Wendy Brown**



**YOGA CLASSES**  
 Specially designed for  
 people with arthritis  
 Helping you to manage your condition  
**THURSDAYS, 11am to 12noon**  
**GREAT CHISHILL VILLAGE HALL**  
 Contact Catherine: 07880 883960  
 catherine7175@gmail.com

# The Parish Walk

The number of walkers participating, in our **annual tramp around our parish villages and churches**, swelled to 40 at Strethall, enjoying delicious fare for brunch. A determined group of 8 walkers completed the circuit, including our local historian Rosemarie Gant, poignantly regaling us with tales reflecting the lives of those villagers who had gone before.

A warm welcome was extended at each church, where the walkers prayed for the souls in each village. The tea and yummy cakes at Chrishall, marking the conclusion of our expedition, were joyfully anticipated and enjoyed! The weather was ideal, the conversation flowed, our incredible countryside is God given-we were surely blessed as we walked freely for place to place. Thank you to all who took part in any way.

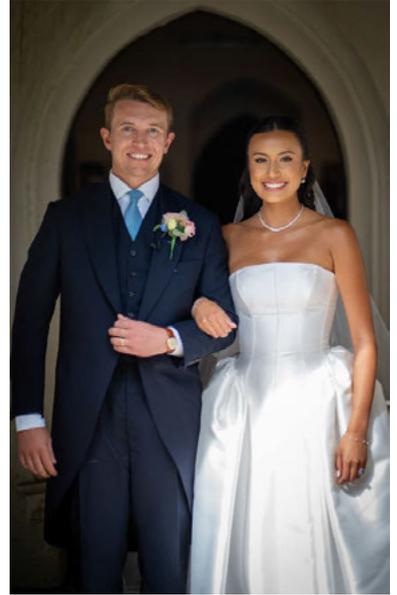


# A year in the l

## Baptisms



## Weddings



# Life of the IWP

## Parish Walk

## Remembering Loved Ones



## Concerts



And SO much more!

... Church is much better  
when you're there!

# Poppy Cascade

This year St Swithun's church in Great Chishill displayed a striking poppy cascade for Remembrance Sunday. Over 500 poppies were knitted and crocheted by local enthusiasts. Daphne Borham, a local craft lady, coordinated and sewed them to a net which was hung from the parapets by the church council team.

More hand-crafted poppies were hung in the church for the Remembrance service on 9th November. The service was led by Rev. James Webster and accompanied by The Chishill Singers led by Jamie Hall.



# Harts Suggests...

## Books to Delight Every Reader This Christmas

At Hart's Books in Saffron Walden, they know the pleasure of choosing the right book for the right person is one of the joys of Christmas. Here are a few of their favourite recommendations this season.

### **For someone who loves sport:**

*Dear England* by Gareth Southgate

Far more than a football memoir, *Dear England* is a thoughtful, heartfelt reflection from the England manager on leadership, values and what binds us together. Southgate writes with sincerity and insight, making this an inspiring read for sports enthusiasts and thoughtful readers alike.

### **For someone seeking the Christmas spirit:**

*Advent* by Gunnar Gunnarsson

A short, luminous classic from Iceland, *Advent* follows a shepherd braving winter snows to find a lost sheep. Simple, moving and full of quiet wonder, it's an ideal entry point for anyone rediscovering the pleasure of reading.

### **For someone who loves to escape into a book:**

*Love Divine* by Ysenda Maxton Graham

A beautifully observed and warmly humorous portrait of English parish life, *Love Divine* offers a gentle, absorbing escape. With its vivid characters and affectionate curiosity, it's perfect for readers who enjoy slipping into a world both familiar and quietly extraordinary.

### **For someone who likes to be amused:**

*The Jane Austen Insult Guide for Well Bred Women* by Emily Reed

Witty, sharp and irresistibly quotable, this delightful little compendium gathers Austen's finest barbs and elegant put-downs. A charming stocking filler for anyone who enjoys clever humour—and, of course, Jane Austen.

### **For someone who needs to be enticed:**

*Eurotrash* by Christian Kracht

Stylish, unpredictable and slyly comic, *Eurotrash* takes readers on a

M & W Recruitment  
YOUR FUTURE  
STARTS HERE



Your local recruitment agency, specialising  
in industrial and commercial recruitment

### Why register with us?

- Flexible opportunities to suit your lifestyle
- Supportive team to help you find the right fit
- We work with trusted, well-known employers
- No experience? No problem

### Get started in 2 easy steps;

- Register
- Kickstart your next chapter

✉ [hello@mumfordworrall.co.uk](mailto:hello@mumfordworrall.co.uk)



+44 7570 623611

2 Kiln house Yard  
Baldock Street  
Royston  
SG8 5AY

© Mumford & Worrall Recruitment 2025



## BG Boiler Servicing

Fully qualified in domestic,  
commercial, and LPG.

- ✓ Servicing and installations
- ✓ Breakdowns
- ✓ Cooker servicing and maintenance
- ✓ Plumbing and drainage

07956 001663

[BGboilerservicing@hotmail.com](mailto:BGboilerservicing@hotmail.com)



### ARE YOUR LOCKS BEHAVING BADLY?

A Local Trusted Family Business Since 1989  
We Value Old Fashioned Customer Service



🔑 Specialist in UPVC & Wooden Doors

🚗 No Call Out Charge 🛡️ All Work Fully Guaranteed

🕒 No Fix No Fee 🏆 10% Senior Citizen Discount



For More Advice & Help  
Call Christopher:

**07772 111 222**



## SAFFRON WALDEN PHYSIOTHERAPY PRACTICE

NOW IN CHRISHALL

**Dorothy Smith**

**Chartered Physiotherapist**

2 Engleric, Chrishall, SG88QZ

Tel: 07770076860

**[Saffronwaldenphysio.co.uk](http://Saffronwaldenphysio.co.uk)**



Fresh Free Range Eggs  
from our farm vending machine

Rockells Farm  
CB11 4UY

what3words: ///clipboard.roofed.blasted



strange and compelling road trip through Europe. Its blend of satire, melancholy and mischief makes it a superb choice for a lapsed or reluctant reader who needs something bold and intriguing to pull them back in.

## **Our castaway**

Our castaway is none other than former Heydon and now Great Chishill resident Maggie Mather.

Maggie began her classical vocal training at Homerton College Cambridge and the Guildhall School of Music. This was continued at the Birmingham School of Music, where she won a scholarship to study with Freda Hart. She performed with the Cambridge Footlights and has continued this with lead parts in over 25 musical theatre productions. Over the years she has also sung in folk clubs, madrigal groups, the Cambridge University Choral Society and Queens' College Chapel Choir. She is a renowned big band singer and has performed regularly at the Cambridge Jazz Club.

## **Harvest in Great Chishill**

We were absolutely delighted to have so many at both the Harvest Service and the Supper that followed immediately afterwards. Revd Michael Hogdgsen from St Andrews URC in Walton on Thames, gave a very animated and engaging service which the children in particular enjoyed. We were particularly pleased that the youngest member of the congregation read a lesson.

The windows were decorated with branches of berries, fruits, vegetables, nuts and all the other items we just take for granted. There was an exceptionally generous collection of toiletries, tins and everyday essentials for Jimmys Night Shelter together with a substantial collection from the service. It also gave us enormous pleasure delivering Harvest food parcels to those unable to join us at the supper and also the chapel flowers to those who are particularly in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

We opened the big doors to the schoolroom so that the laid tables for supper looked very inviting and cosy and people made comment that good smells wafted through to the chapel! We were unable to squeeze

another person into the schoolroom and so sat around the altar table, for what it was used for thousands of years ago.

Five different main courses with ratatouille vegetables were on offer and an amazing array of incredibly delicious puddings were so kindly brought and shared. The charming young in the congregation were fantastic and helped take orders, deliver and clear. A little sip of wine was enjoyed! and some had to be asked if they had a home to go to and that it was a school night!!! It really was a lovely evening with a wonderfully happy atmosphere.     **Angus Gent**

## In a Nutshell

**The Men's Group** meets on **Thursday 4 December** at 8pm in the Red Cow at Chrishall. We will carry over the November topic, "God in politics and government!". Not many of us could make that last meeting, and we'd like to get our teeth into it properly! Come and join us!

The regular **Great Chishill Coffee Mornings** will take place on **Wednesday 10 December** and again on **Wednesday 14 January**. Do join us for delicious home baked cakes and hot drinks and plenty of friendly chat.

**Ding Dong Merrily**. Come and join the handbell ringers at Heydon church for some favourite Christmas music and refreshments **Thursday 18th December** 10.30am. All welcome.

The **Tractor Carols** will again visit our villages on **Thursday 18 December**. See inside back cover for details.

Details of all the carol services can be found on the back cover.

*Save The Date:*

You are invited to a **Marmalade Breakfast** at Great Chishill Village Hall on **Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd March 2026**.

A Spring Fair is planned in Gt Chishill Village Hall in aid of Gt Chishill Windmill and other local groups. During the weekend we are holding a Marmalade Breakfast. If you like making marmalade, or you know someone who does, please consider donating a jar to be opened and tasted. Or if you like marmalade, but you don't make it, you're very welcome to come along and sample.

*See page 19 for more about marmalade.* More details to follow.

# Discover Chrishall



Many For nearly 1000 years our beautiful, Grade 1 listed, **Holy Trinity Church** has been the focal point of Chrishall's colourful history and heritage. Said by some to be the first place in Essex where Christianity took hold: in the Domesday Book the name of the village is stated as 'Cristehalla', meaning the home of Christ.

The building has traces of its Norman origins in its tower, nave and font. The main part of the present Church was built in the late 14th and early 15th centuries, remodelled in 1868 and most recently in 2016 to replace the floor and enable the pews to be moveable.

There are several noteworthy features in the building including the monumental brasses of Sir John de la Pole d 1379 and his wife Joan behind the font. There is also a wall plaque and brass depicting Lettice Martin, a generous benefactor to this and other parishes in the area. The effigy of Margaret de la Pole from 1366 is on the south wall beside the piano. She was the mother of John and was responsible for the building of the south side of the Church.

The Brand stained glass window is above the piano, commemorating



- Lawns, hedge cutting & weeding
- Planting schemes
- Small tree removal & pruning
- General garden maintenance

**Robin: 07580 194628**

GARDEN • RANGER • SERVICES

## SPORTS THERAPY MASSAGE & REMEDIAL SOFT TISSUE MASSAGE

Qualified sports massage & soft tissue massage to relieve muscle pain and injuries. Aromatherapy, cranial massage and Swedish massage. Experienced therapist.



**Contact Lindsey: 07775 727541**

## JP Oil Boilers

Oil Boilers & AGA's.  
Servicing & Breakdowns

**01920 438483**

Email: [info@jpoilboilers.co.uk](mailto:info@jpoilboilers.co.uk)

Visit: [www.jpoilboilers.co.uk](http://www.jpoilboilers.co.uk)

Registered  
Heating  
Business



## Lucas Harris Electrical

Your local village Electrician  
Friendly, reliable service  
No job too small

**Call: 07487 656 450**



## Richard Burns ELECTRICIAN

Repairs, Installations and Inspections

**01763 263 121**  
**07958 028 729**

[sockets@richardburnselectrician.co.uk](mailto:sockets@richardburnselectrician.co.uk)

Part P Approved  
Certified Installer

Just call to arrange  
Compliant & Quality work.



YOUR FAVOURITE COUNTRY PUB  
GREAT CHISHILL SG8 8SR

01763 838535

[PHEASANT@NUTWOODPUBS.COM](mailto:PHEASANT@NUTWOODPUBS.COM)

NUTWOOD PUBS [WWW.PHEASANTGCC.COM](http://WWW.PHEASANTGCC.COM)



Specialist  
Physiotherapists  
Keeping You Active

**01223 874433**

[pennfarmphysio.com](http://pennfarmphysio.com)

Haslingfield

Call, visit our website or  
scan for an appointment



these generous benefactors of the church and village.

The Chancel roof is a fine example of a hammer beam roof. The reredos behind the altar commemorates Capt Charles Beley DSO killed in action on the North West Frontier of India in 1888.

At the back of the Nave is the Adoration of the Magi painting. This is a copy of the altarpiece painted by Rubens for the Abbaye Saint-Michel in Antwerp.

People come here to find peace, worship God and pray. Music has been an important traditional part of Church life in Chrishall both in our services and through concerts we have hosted throughout the years.

Please join us for our **Christmas services Sunday 21 at 11.00 am** to include the wonderful Duxford based Brass band (with lessons and carols to sing along with) ; also **11.30 pm Christmas Eve** for worship, communion and fellowship.

## Marmalade

‘It’s set’! This is what we hoped to hear when our mother set about the task of marmalade making sometime in mid-January. Using a recipe handed down from her grandmother Annie to her mother Alice to our mother Ann there was always some peril involved in the marmalade not setting and then what to do with the enormous pan of boiling citrus syrup. The test was to pour a little of the boiling marmalade onto a saucer, sit it on the back doorstep to cool on a cold January night, then bring it in and tip the saucer to hopefully see that a wrinkle had formed which denoted success.

I love making marmalade and have inherited my mother’s recipe which takes three days to make. What I’ve discovered by talking to other marmalade makers over the years is that very many combinations and permutations have been developed for each stage of marmalade making and everyone makes their marmalade differently.

In her lovely book, *The Book of Marmalade*, Anne Wilson charts the origins and history of marmalade going back to ancient times when the Greeks and Romans began drying and preserving quinces. Marmalade first arrived in England from Portugal in the 15th century when in addition to trading figs, raisins and citrus fruits the Portuguese also included a local conserve confected from quinces and sugar. They called

www.GWBHorticulture.co.uk

**01799 543483 or 07866 752713**

## The Complete Garden Services Provider

Garden Maintenance      One Off Tidies  
Tree Surgery                  Fencing  
Landscaping                  Hedge Trimming  
Digger & Operator      Chipper & Operator  
Free Quotes                  Log delivery

Email  
info@gwbhorticulture.co.uk  
to find out more



Boiler & Appliance Services Ltd

- Oil boiler servicing, repair and installations
- Appliance repairs
- Household electrical repairs
- General maintenance



Give Scott a call

07856 500123  
07856@500123.co.uk  
www.scott-mackenzie.co.uk  
Serving Saffron Walden, Royston, North Herts and Cambridge



Park  
Farm  
Self  
Storage

20 ft x 10 ft storage units  
available. Single access  
security gate, CCTV and on-  
site monitoring. Based in  
Chrishall.

Please contact: Jo Wilson Mobile) 07377213469  
Email: parkfarm.chrishall@gmail.com



**07880 700660**

All domestic plumbing and central heating  
systems supplied, installed and maintained

Partner installers of Alto Energy and NU  
heat air and ground source pumps

Complete bathroom installation service

Contact us:  
info@pphl.co.uk



## Amanda Maris Osteopathy

Arthritic Pain  
Acute & Chronic Backache  
Neck Pain & Headaches RSI, Sciatica & Joint Pain

[www.amandamarisosteopath.co.uk](http://www.amandamarisosteopath.co.uk)

23 High Street Chrishall Essex SG8 8RN  
07791 416839

Daytime & Evening Appointments Available

## M.J.HICKS

- Extensions/Brickwork
- General improvements/Maintenance
- Roof/Chimney/Gutter repairs
- Garden landscape/Patios/Walls/Fencing

*No Job Too Big or Small!*

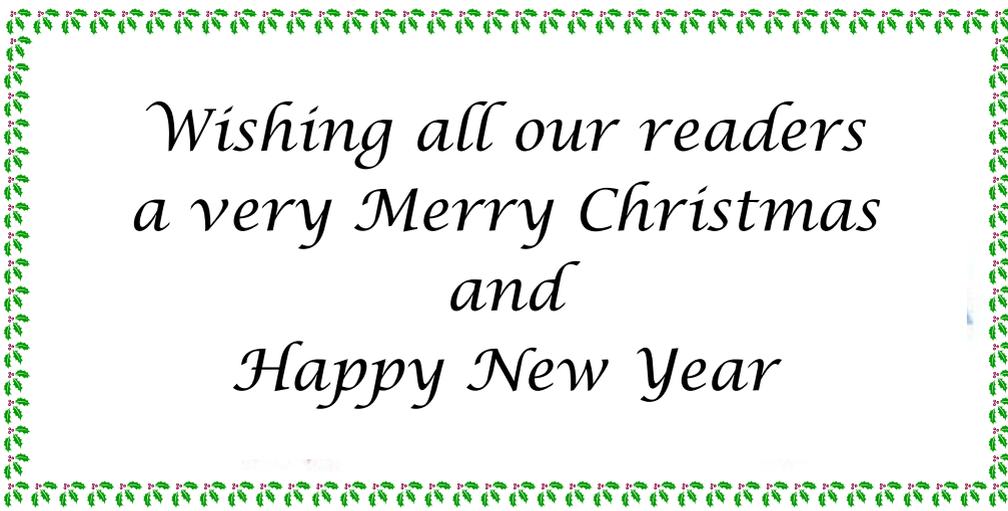
**01763 838084 mail@mjhicks.co.uk**

this marmelada because it was made from the marmelo, or quince. In the 17th century, the introduction of Seville oranges to Great Britain brought about a major change from quince to citrus in the history of marmalade making.

Not everyone was a fan of marmalade. In 1729 William Macintosh of Borlum, a Scottish laird, complained that his traditional breakfast of strong ale, toast and a dram of good wholesome Scots spirits had been replaced by 'the tea-kettle put to the fire, the tea table, silver and china with the marmalet.'

The commercialisation of marmalade took off in the 19th century. Three local examples include: fruit farmers Chivers of Histon who coupled marmalade-making with jam production and their Seville orange marmalade was marketed in 1877; Arthur Wilkin of Tiptree, near Colchester, who began jam manufacture in 1885 and soon afterwards added orange marmalade. Mr C.J. Wilkin, son of Arthur, travelled to Jamaica, USA and Australia between 1890 and 1901 and as a result introduced lime, tangerine and grapefruits into their marmalade range; in 1890 Sir Walter Gilbey of Elsenham Hall on the Essex-Hertfordshire border, used fruits grown in his gardens to prepare high quality preserves which were a commercial success and within a few months his cooks began to produce fine-cut and coarse-cut orange marmalades.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd March 2026, see 'In a Nutshell' for details of a Marmalade Breakfast Invitation. **Jill Kuenzi**



*Wishing all our readers  
a very Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year*

# Parish Contacts - *Telephone codes are 01763 unless stated*

**Rector:** Revd Dr James Webster,

The Rectory, 48 Heydon, Road, Great Chishill, Royston.SG8 8SR

email: [iwp.pariahrector@gmail.com](mailto:iwp.pariahrector@gmail.com) Mobile 07840 329279

## **Church Office:**

Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri 9am to 1pm - Church Office, Crawley End, Chrishall,

Royston, Herts SG8 8QL Tel: 837272 Email: [iwp.pariahoffice@gmail.com](mailto:iwp.pariahoffice@gmail.com)

**Parish Church Warden & Authorised Local Preacher:** Jon Wayper

Tel: 01799 732045 Email: [jwayper@hotmail.com](mailto:jwayper@hotmail.com)

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Fiona Dyer Tel: 07854 602373

Email: [iwp.safeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:iwp.safeguarding@gmail.com)

## **District Wardens:**

Chrishall – David Wilkinson 837303

Elmdon – Ned Tozer 838890

Gt Chishill – Angela Patrick Sutcliffe 837353

Hamlet – Sarah Westerhuis

Heydon – Mel Chandler 838289

07739550061

Strethall – Liz Stott 01799 521217

Lt Chishill – Elaine Knobel-Forbes

838781

**Children's and Youth Work:** Contact office - 837272

**Treasurer:** Laurence Brett Tel: 838167 Email: [laurencebrett@icloud.com](mailto:laurencebrett@icloud.com)

<p><b>Donations: Barclays Bank – Name: IWP-Trust Account</b> <b>Sort: 20-73-26 Account: 40898023</b></p>
--

**Tower Bell Ringing:** For all towers please contact the church office 837272

**Handbell Ringing:** Mel Chandler 838289 or Helen Whitehead 07914 152444

**Chrishall Primary School:** Head Teacher Tracey Bratley Tel: 838592

## **Village Web Magazine Team:**

Editor: [iwp.webeditor@gmail.com](mailto:iwp.webeditor@gmail.com)

Advertising: Guy Lawrenson [iwp.villageweb.ads@gmail.com](mailto:iwp.villageweb.ads@gmail.com)

Parish Office: 837272 - [iwp.pariahoffice@gmail.com](mailto:iwp.pariahoffice@gmail.com)

Mel Chandler 838289

Alison Wilkinson 837303





## Parish Tractor Caroling Thursday 18 December



Once again, Robert Smith has kindly offered to pull a trailer around our villages and pubs for our annual caroling. We will have musical accompaniment and singers. A warm welcome at every stop, this has become a firm favorite in the parish. Please bring a torch and warm clothes and join in at any stop. Carol sheets will be provided.

**6.30pm meet at Elmdon to sing, departing by trailer from outside the church.:**

**7.00pm call at The Pheasant**

**7.30pm stop at the Heydon triangle,**

**8.15pm gather round the tree at The Red Cow,**

**8.45pm, Elmdon, returning full of bonhomie and festive cheer!**

All timings are approximate!

**We shall be collecting for our Parish Charity of the Year: XLP.** Our thanks to our village pubs for graciously hosting the carollers

If you would like to travel on the trailer, please contact Mel Chandler (838289) or the church office (837272)



**For the curious**

Try Alpha.

**When**   
Wednesdays 7–9 pm, from  
14th January for 11 weeks

**Where**   
Mill House, Wenden Lofts,  
CB11 4UW (opposite the  
turn off B1039 for Lower  
Pond St/Duddenhoe End)

**Cost**   
Free, although food  
contributions welcome



## CAROL SERVICES 2025

We shall be collecting items for Jimmy's at all our Carol services.  
Toiletries and other non-perishable goods would be very welcome.



### Little Chishill

Sunday 7 December 9.00am  
Communion Service with carols

### Hamlet

Sunday 7 December 4.00pm  
With Nativity

### Heydon

Saturday 13 December 3.30pm  
With Royston Town Band

### Elmdon

Sunday 14 December 6.30pm  
With the Parish Choir

### Chrishall

Sunday 21 December 11.00am  
With Duxford based Brass Band

### Great Chishill

Sunday 21 December at URC  
6.00pm  
With the Chishill Voices

### Strethall

Thursday 25 December 10.45am

*Distributed free by volunteers to all the homes in the Parish of the Icknield Way Villages - Chrishall, Elmdon with Wenden Lofts, Duddenhoe End, Great Chishill, Little Chishill, Heydon and Strethall.*