

Village

March 2026

Web





The Parish of the
Icknield Way Villages

Annual District Church Meetings

St Nicholas **ELMDON**

Monday 2 March

7pm in Elmdon Village Hall

St Nicolas **LITTLE CHISHILL**

Tuesday 10 March

7pm Hyde House
Little Chishill

Holy Trinity **HEYDON**

Tuesday 17 March

7pm in the Church

Hamlet Church

DUDDENHOE END

Thursday 19 March

7.30pm in the Church

St Swithuns **GREAT CHISHILL**

Thursday 26 March

7pm in the Church

Holy Trinity, **CHRISHALL**

Tuesday 31 March

7pm in the Church

A chance to find out more about the church locally, support those who look after church life and perhaps even suggest ways to serve our community better. *'Church is so much better when you're there'*

If you would like to vote or be elected but are not currently on the church electoral roll, please contact the church office on 837272

Annual Parish Church Meeting will be held on

TUESDAY 28 APRIL

7pm HOLY TRINITY CHRISHALL

**18 March 2026 - final date for submission of
articles for the April edition**



The Parish of the
Icknield Way Villages

March Services 2026

Sunday 1

9.00am *Traditional* BCP* Communion, St Nicholas **Little Chishill**
11.00am *Contemporary* Encounter@11 Café, Village Hall **Chrishall**

Sunday 8

9.00am *Traditional* BCP Communion, Holy Trinity **Heydon**
11.00am *Contemporary* Encounter@11 Communion St Swithun's **Great Chishill**

Saturday 14

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

Sunday 15

Mothering Sunday

9.00am *Traditional* BCP Communion, Holy Trinity **Chrishall**
11.00am *Contemporary* Encounter@11 Hamlet Church **Duddenhoe End**

Sunday 22

9.00am *Traditional* BCP Communion, St Nicholas **Elmdon**
11.00am *Contemporary* Encounter@11 St Mary's, **Strethall**

Sunday 29

Palm Sunday

10.00am *Contemporary* Palm Sunday Service, St Swithun's, **Great Chishill**

Monday 30

8.00pm *Traditional* Holy Week Compline St Mary's, **Strethall**

Tuesday 31

8.00pm *Traditional* Holy Week Compline St Nicholas, **Little Chishill**

* BCP = Book of Common Prayer

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Wiggle (part one)

People Once upon a time there was a tiny black blob called Wiggle. Wiggle was surrounded by a sort of jelly, all encased in a little transparent shell. Next to Wiggle were lots of other black blobs, also surrounded by jelly and in shells, and they all lived together at the bottom of ... “The Pond”. Wiggle and his brothers and sisters were frogspawn.



It was very quiet and peaceful at the bottom of the pond, but one day the sky grew dark and the wind started blowing and a violent storm erupted. The thunder crashed and the lightning flashed and the wind thrashed the water so hard that Wiggle got separated from the rest of his family. The storm was so violent that Wiggle got swept along to another part of “The Pond”, all on his own.

As he was being swept along, Wiggle was aware of different shapes moving beyond his shell. He was especially aware of one big shape that seemed to be following him – he decided to call it The Big Shape. Although he felt a bit scared of the The Big Shape, there was something strangely comforting about its presence too.

Well, the days passed and Wiggle began to grow and grow, until he felt rather cramped in his small, little world – there just wasn't



enough room in his tiny shell any more. He wiggled and wriggled, and one day, he wriggled so hard that something incredible happened – Wiggle broke out of his shell into the huge new world of “The Pond”.

How amazing it felt. Wiggle could thrash his tail around and swim and swim to all sorts of new places. But there always seemed to be a wall, some



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threadlike weed that prevented him getting too far. And within that wall of weed, Wiggle was all on his own.

But that was OK – Wiggle felt he had plenty of space. Occasionally, up above him he would see The Big Shape coming towards him. He'd quickly dive down and bury himself in the weed, and The Big Shape seemed to move on by. There were other shapes as well, but they seemed to move right at the top of the pond. And whenever Wiggle went up to look closer, his head seemed to hit the top of the Pond, and he couldn't break through.

Wiggle continued to grow. One day he noticed some strange lumps on his body, and they grew bigger and bigger and longer and longer as the days went by. And then Wiggle noticed his tail was shrinking. And as if that wasn't bad enough, he seemed to be losing his voice – it was going all croaky.



Wiggle didn't like all these changes. "I wish I could go back to what I used to be like" he thought "just a blob and a nice long tail." He felt very alone. "If only I had someone to talk to" he thought.

Just then, he noticed through the weed a rather slender looking thing, a bit like what Wiggle used to look like, only much bigger. It was Lucius, a small pike.

"Hello" shouted Wiggle, at the top of his voice, "Can you hear me?" Lucius did seem to hear him and slowly swam towards the weed that Wiggle was behind. As Lucius got closer, Wiggle heard some rather eerie music [Jaws theme tune].

"That's strange" thought Wiggle. Nevertheless, he was so desperate to speak to someone, he said "My name's Wiggle. If I can get through this weed, can I come and chat with you and maybe play some games".

"Oh yes, I'd like that" said Lucius "I'd love to play with you".

“Great” said Wiggle, and he started to struggle through the weed to where Lucius was. He didn’t even notice that the closer he got, the louder and faster the music got.

At last Wiggle broke through the weed, but to his horror, all he could see was Lucius moving towards him, mouth wide open, baring all his fierce, sharp teeth. Wiggle tried to dive back through the weed but his feet got caught. He turned to see Lucius closing in on him, and as if that wasn’t bad enough, he could see The Big Shape appearing too. “This is it” Wiggle screamed inside “If Lucius doesn’t get me, The Big Shape surely will”.

TO BE CONTINUED ...

With every blessing

James

Pet Service



The annual Parish pet service took place at St Swithun’s Church in Great Chishill on 8 Feb. It was a joyful and heartwarming occasion, drawing villagers and visitors alike to celebrate the special bond between people and their animals. Our historic church was filled with the cheerful sounds of wagging tails thumping against pews and the occasional excited bark. Dogs of every shape and size were present, from tiny terriers to dignified Labradors sitting patiently beside their owners.

The service involved an animal quiz and gave thanks for the companionship, loyalty, and comfort that pets bring to daily life. Prayers were offered for the well-being of animals, and a blessing was given to each pet individually.

Afterwards, the congregation gathered and dogs mingled enthusiastically as owners shared stories over tea and homemade cake.



Spectacle Collection



The more eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed a **Lions Club spectacle collection box** in Heydon Church which we have agreed to on a trial basis. Many of you will be aware that the Lions run an Appliance Loan Service from a store at the back of the Saffron Walden Community hospital. You may have even used their services. You may not however be aware of their many other charitable activities.

One such activity nationwide is to collect and recycle unwanted and damaged spectacles. Once collected they are then examined by a team of Lions and other volunteers sorted and every year over 300,000 pairs usable or repairable pairs of glasses are sent directly to contacts overseas running eye clinics. The clinics are in Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Nigeria, and Nepal. In addition, volunteers from the Unite for Sight charity are supplied with spectacles to take with them on missions to countries across the world. Spectacles are also sent to the National Police Aid Charity to be sent to the Gambia for eye camps, the Army working in Mali, and to a variety of independent charities operating in countries like Nigeria, Chad, Tanzania, and Bangladesh.

Scrap metal salvaged from broken and unsuitable spectacles raises funds that support the sorting operation and enables the Lions Club to give financial support to eye-related projects in the UK and overseas. Since the project began over £675k has been generated from recycled materials with over £486k donated to sight related charitable causes. So if you have **any unused or damaged spectacles please just drop them in to the box at Heydon Church** and you can help with this valuable cause, each year helping hundreds of thousands of people to see better.

Hidden in Plain Sight

Holy Trinity Church, Heydon is a Grade II* listed building, with the site being used for religious purposes since the 12th century. There is no evidence for an ecclesiastical presence on the site before this, but there was an Anglo-Saxon settlement, shown by the presence of the Bran Ditch, and “Haidenham” recorded in the Domesday Book. Over the centuries, the name Haidenham shifted to Heydon.

The church was first built in relation to the manor, Heydon Hall, which no longer exists, but the site is occupied by Heydonbury. It is very common for parish churches to have been built in connection with the manor sites in the 12th century, as they would have been owned and funded by the lord of the manor. This first iteration of the church would most likely have just been a nave and chancel, but no part of this church survives. The earliest surviving feature within the church is the window behind the organ in the north transept, built in the geometric decorated gothic style of the 13th century. The piscina – a niche specifically for holy water next to an altar – at the east end of the south aisle is difficult to date due to damage, but is most likely 14th century. The buttresses – supportive structures reinforcing the wall in order to have openings for windows – on the outside of south aisle are also in a 14th century style, which suggests that the aisle was added to the church at this time. The windows and porch on the south side of the church are in the perpendicular style, from the 15th century. Heavy restoration and rebuilding of parish churches was incredibly common in the 15th century due to an economic boom, often related to the wool trade in East Anglia.

The blocked off staircase at the east end of the north aisle is the only surviving damage from the reformation and commonwealth. The staircase, possibly from the 14th century, certainly from the



South Aisle Piscina

same period as the nave, shows significant wear on the surviving steps, and would have provided access to the rood loft to light candles and, during lent, shroud the crucifix. Rood screens* which separated the nave from the chancel, and subsequently rood lofts – galleries at the top of rood screens allowing access to the crucifix –, were removed during Protestant reforms, starting in 1536 with the creation of the Church of England.

There are 16th century records of the church having a steeple, which was incredibly common during the medieval period. These medieval structures, however, were prone to collapse, and, at some point between the 16th century and the 19th century, the steeple disappeared from Heydon's church tower.

During the Victorian period, the church underwent extensive restoration. The entire chancel was rebuilt c.1866 in the neo-gothic style. While there is little record of it, it is highly likely that crenellations of the aisle, nave, porch, and tower were also added during this period, as it was incredibly common for Victorian restoration to involve gothic style embellishments to parish churches. In 1940 the church was bombed as a plane unloaded extra weight to make the flight back to Germany. Unfortunately, it was a direct hit, and the tower, nave, and north aisle were completely destroyed, with damage to chancel, vestry, and south aisle. In 1952 repairs to the chancel were completed, and in 1956 the rebuilding of the rest of the church had been completed. The nave and north aisle were rebuilt to match the south aisle, using the south aisle and pre-bombing images of the nave as a guide. Unusually, and most likely connected to the rebuilding of the church and the position of the road, the most used entrance to Heydon church is the north door instead of the more standard access through the south door. In a clear juxtaposition to the perpendicular style reconstruction of the north aisle, the tower was rebuilt in red brick using a traditional English garden wall bond



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25th - 27th August

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which creates an incredibly strong wall. The church is a beautiful example of the survival and rebuilding of post-war England, an incredibly well done complete rebuilding in the perpendicular style, juxtaposing the tower, rebuilt at the same time but ensuring the damage of the war was never forgotten.

The vestry in the south aisle contains a kitchenette, and there is a proposed extension to create a bathroom between the vestry and the tower. While the church is an ancient and beautiful structure, it has undergone constant change since its creation. Churches should be conserved and respected, but they are living buildings, constantly changing to reflect the needs of the people using them, without change they become obsolete and fall into disrepair.

Sophie Williams

** Rood Screens appeared in every medieval church. Until the reformation, they marked the separation of space; only Clergy members could access the chancel as it was 'too holy' for the lay folk. Usually constructed of wood with paintings of saints and angels across them. They're pretty rare to survive but there are some very famous surviving medieval rood screens. They are absolutely stunning pieces of art. St Helen's in Ranworth, Norfolk and St Edmunds Southwold, Suffolk have fine examples.*

They were removed during Protestant reforms, destroying idolatry in churches, allowing access for lay people.

Save the Date

Sunday 19 April

A performance in Heydon Church by the aLUMNI Chamber Orchestra of Cambridge, conducted by Stephen Armstrong, featuring Elgar's Nursery Suite to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

First performed in 1931, the piece was dedicated to the young Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, and to their mother.

A celebratory reception will follow the event.

Full details will appear in the April edition of Village Web.

- ❖ Lawns, hedge cutting and weeding
- ❖ Small tree removal and pruning
 - ❖ Planting schemes
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 - ❖ Enquiries welcome
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For Whom the Bell Tolls

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were: any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bells tolls; it tolls for thee.

Meditation 17 in Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions

John Donne

The initial, familiar line of this excerpt is taken from the prose work, written over 400 years ago, by the metaphysical writer John Donne, famously used as the title of a novel by Hemingway.

Donne wrote the Devotions when he was Dean of St Paul's, expressing his reflections on the human condition, having experienced a serious illness. The eponymous Bell is, of course, a funeral bell

However, whilst the reference to the tolling was an indication of his sense of impending death, it is also a reference to his profound Christian belief that all Christians are equal and connected as in Christ in one 'body'.

All mankind is of one Author, and is one volume; when one Man dies, one Chapter is not torne out of the booke, but translated into a better language.

As individuals, living on Earth, we are part of a much greater whole, so the death bell has a deep, collective meaning.

It is not just a reminder of our own frail human form, reminding us to get our lives in order, as our days on earth are limited by our fragility. The reference also has a much greater implication. We are all in this life together, part of God's plan, so the bell tolls for the sake of all who are able to hear it, as a reminder. We are all part of God's family, part of life together and after death we will be re born into a perfect peace in heaven. For Christians, this metaphor, considering us, translated after death, becoming something much better, is both wonderfully imaginative and comforting.

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Gardens in March

March is a pivotal month in the gardening calendar with longer, warmer days marking the transition from winter dormancy to the energetic growth of spring. It is the perfect opportunity to get your garden ready for the growing season. Here's a list of key gardening tasks to tackle this month:

Clear away winter debris, removing fallen leaves, dead stems and perennials and putting them on the compost heap or green bin. Divide and move overcrowded perennials to encourage vigorous growth and abundant flowering.

Prune shrubs and roses cutting back to new buds, and tidy hedges (making sure you have checked there are no nesting birds). It is not too late to put up new nesting boxes.

Look after the soil by lightly forking over to remove weeds and aid aeration. Improve its structure by incorporating compost or well-rotted manure. Adding organic matter not only enriches the soil with essential nutrients but also enhances its ability to retain moisture and improve drainage. If the weather is still wet, avoid working the soil too much to prevent compaction. Love your lawn by giving it the first cut of the year on a dry day using a high setting on your mower, aerating compacted areas with a fork and reseeding bare patches.

March is perfect for sowing flowers and vegetables indoors. They need heat to germinate but once leaves appear should be moved to a greenhouse or cold frame for maximum light.

Finally, inspect fences, supports and garden structures and clean your greenhouse, pots and seed trays.

By taking these practical steps in March you set the stage for a thriving, beautiful garden in the months ahead.



Save the Date: **Sunday 7 June**
Great Chishill Open Gardens

Run by Singers

Did you know that Chrishall Village has its own tour operator in residence? Well - sort of. "We are, indeed, licensed tour operators," explains managing director Nick Couchman. "But what we do is very specialised."

Nick and his wife Jane Osgathorp are both committed singers, active with Royston Choral Society, Priory Singers, Icknield Way Parish Choir and Chishill Voices. More than twenty years ago, over dinner in Italy with the late King's former singer, Nigel Perrin, a simple idea emerged: why not start a holiday company catering specifically for singers — and run by singers? That conversation led, in 2003, to the founding of Run By Singers.

Run By Singers arranges choral holidays which any experienced choral singer can join. They have organised courses across Europe as well as several in the UK, and demand continues to grow. "We just wanted to create the kind of singing holiday we would enjoy going on ourselves," Nick continues. "And that's what we do."

Asked about favourite destinations, Nick hesitates. With around fourteen locations each year, it is difficult to choose. Venice - where singers performed in the world-famous St Mark's Basilica - remains unforgettable. Assisi is equally special, being the base of the very first Run By Singers holiday.

They bring something special to every place they visit –their music. There is always at least one public concert on every course – and that concert is always free. The repertoire is often church music, though variety is important. A Lincoln course this year explores songs from the musicals, and a recent gospel course proved hugely popular. Run By Singers was also the first company to bring UK singers to Vienna for a very special midnight performance of Mozart's Requiem on the anniversary of his death — a fitting tribute to the composer's genius. This year, the company will be the first UK choir to sing in Bayreuth's brand-new concert hall, performing Brahms' German Requiem — a course already heavily oversubscribed. If you don't want to go all the way to Germany, this magnificent work will be performed by Royston Choral Society in Royston Parish Church on Saturday 28 March 2026.



“Singers take their music seriously”, Nick observes — but they also like to enjoy themselves. Shared meals, exploring local culture, and good company are as much a part of the experience as the music itself” he explains “Most days, I think I have the best job in the world.”

Heydon Films

Last of three films for Winter
Friday 27 March – The Hunt
(Denmark 2012): Psychological drama;
a false rumour surrounding a
kindergarten teacher causes division in a
small community. Prize winner at Cannes
and Oscar Foreign Language nominee.
Danish with English sub-titles, 115min
Entry: £5.00 for wine and cake – all
proceeds to Heydon Church funds.
Location: Mission Hut, 14 Chishill Road,
Heydon. Time 7.30pm for 8.00pm; to
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Treasured Tracks

1. **Bohemian Rhapsody – Queen.** Quite simply the best track ever written and the first single I ever owned (after nagging parents for it for a very long time).
2. **Miss You Nights – Cliff Richard.** Memories of being dragged to many Cliff Richard concerts as my mother was a HUGE fan but my father refused to go accompany her to any show. I always waited for this song as it seemed magical with the glitterball.
3. **The Old Rugged Cross – Elvis Presley.** My father had been a young chorister and had been offered a scholarship to Salisbury Cathedral Choir School but my grandmother refused to let him go. This was always his favourite hymn and he insisted we have it at his funeral.
4. **Bring Him Home – Les Miserables 25 Anniversary Concert** (Colm Wilkinson, John Owen-Jones, Simon Bowman, and Alfie Boe). This song always gives me goosebumps. My favourite musical and this is my favourite track.
5. **Jump – Van Halen.** My now husband once did a sponsored parachute jump with some work colleagues at the parachute centre where I was a member. Later that day we all went to a work arranged disco and this was played especially for us.
6. **Shine – Take That.** No selection of mine would be complete without at least one Take That song. I struggled to decide which, especially with Said it All, Greatest Day and Rule the World also being my favourites.
7. **Conquest of Paradise – Vangelis.** Just a beautiful stirring piece of music.
8. **The Lord’s My Shepherd – Stuart Townend.** This slightly more modern version has become one of my favourite songs especially with the harmonies.

Luxury: A never ending supply of Badu Curry Mixes (the curries that were at the Great Chishill Artisan Fair), to make anything (even fish) taste good.

Book: I have a bound set of ‘*The Graphic*’ newspapers from 1879 that belonged to my Grandad. I would love to have this book with me. It has fantastic hand drawn pictures of battles during the Anglo-Zulu war.

This months castaway is our Parish Administrator, Andrea Quigley

Vale: Gwyneth Page

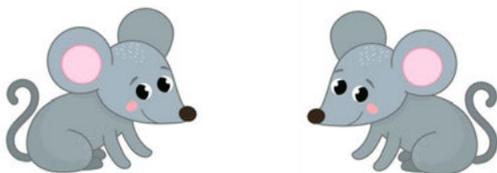
24/8/45-24/01/26

We must record the death of Gwyneth, mother of Liz Halliday and widow of John, who preached here several times during interregna. Gwyneth was a ray of light, always positive and interested in others. She was a welcome visitor to Gt Chishill coffee mornings even when, as her illness progressed, her mobility was challenged.

The Service of Thanksgiving for Gwyneth, on 7th February, was full of joy; reflecting her deep love for our Lord and her faith in the life ahead in heaven.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Liz, Gavin, Nathan, Abigail and Robert and all of Gwyneth's dear family.

Church Mice



Every term-time Tuesday, a small group of babies, toddlers and the adults who look after them, meet in the morning in **Chrishall Village Hall** and we have a lovely time together. It is a delightful way to spend the morning. So, if you would like to spend your Tuesday mornings in a gentle and caring environment, then pop along from **9.30 to 11.00**. You'd be warmly welcome.

Gt Chishill Coffee Morning

Wednesday 11th March, 10am - 12 noon

Everyone warmly welcome to meet and enjoy coffee, cakes and friendship in our beautiful church.

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.parihsrector@gmail.com Mobile 07840 329279

Church Office:

Mon, Wed and Fri 9am to 1pm - Church Office, Crawley End, Chrishall, Royston,

Herts SG8 8QL Tel: 837272 Email: iwp.parihoffice@gmail.com

Parish Church Wardens:

Jon Wayper 01799 732045 Email: jwayper@hotmail.com

Liz Stott 01799 521217 Email: lizstott13@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Fiona Dyer Tel: 07854 602373 Email: iwp.safeguarding@gmail.com

District Wardens:

Chrishall – David Wilkinson 837303

Elmdon – Ned Tozer 07831346974

Gt Chishill – Angela Patrick Sutcliffe 837353

Hamlet – Sarah Westerhuis

Heydon – Mel Chandler 838289

07739550061

Strethall – Liz Stott 01799 521217

Lt Chishill – Nicola Perring 07984309497

Children's and Youth Work: Contact office - 837272

Treasurer: Laurence Brett Tel: 838167 Email: laurencebrett@icloud.com

Donations: Barclays Bank – Name: IWP-Trust Account

Sort: 20-73-26 Account: 40898023

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

Advertising: Guy Lawrenson iwp.villageweb.ads@gmail.com

Parish Office: 837272 - iwp.parihoffice@gmail.com

Mel Chandler 838289

Alison Wilkinson 837303



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Thank You!

ALL OUR DISTRICT
CHURCH WARDENS

Thank you to the devoted District Church Wardens across all seven churches of our parish for your faithful leadership, steady guidance, and tireless service. Your behind-the-scenes dedication keeps our worship spaces welcoming, organized, and prayerful. We are deeply grateful for your commitment, wisdom, and generous hearts in strengthening our church communities every single day.

MOTHER'S DAY

The Caring Chain: this Mothering Sunday we will be thinking of how we are cared for - by God and our carers, especially our mothers - and we shall bless them richly with flowers and more! Come and be part of that blessing on **Sunday 15th March, 11.00am at Hamlet Church, DUDDENHOE END.**

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.