

APRIL 2025 VILLAGE VIEW

PAROCHIAL INFORMATION: BRADWELL-ON-SEA

Rector Rev Steven Poss 779620

Churchwardens: Theresa Reed 776247

David Thorpe 776846

Head teacher St Cedd's School: Ruth Wright 776219

Parish Magazine Manager

Roger Scurrell 776341

Church Flowers

David Thorpe 776846

Flowers at St Peter's Chapel

David Thorpe 776846

Bell Ringing - Tower Captain:

Laurie Main 776438 John Pryke 776260 St Thomas Bradwell Fridays 7.45

Sunday ringing 9.30 am

Thursday Club

Sheila Edwards 776353 St Thomas' Chapman Room - 1st Thursday of month 2.00 - 4.00

 Rainbows
 5 - 7 yrs

 Brownies 7 - 10 yrs

 Guides - :
 10 - 14 yrs

 for information phone 07757636446 or

email

enquiries@girlguidingessexne.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding

Representative Graeme Evre

Tel: 01621776961/07985520634

Pastoral Assistant

David Thorpe 776846

Bradwell Women's Institute

Secretary:

Mrs T Reed 776247

Village Hall 2nd Wed 19.30

Age Concern 01245) 264499 Two Rivers Association for Age Con-

cern

St. Cedd's School Parent-Teacher

Association

Secretary: Contact School 776219

Clerk to the Parish Council

Kelly Andrews. Email: clerk@bradwellonsea-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council meetings Village Hall, 3rd Monday 7.30pm

Parish Council Chairman

Matthew Neall 776956

P.C.C. Secretary

Jayne Hill 776317

Othona Community Warden Richard & Debbie Sanders

776564

St Peters Chapel Chaplain

Rev S Poss 779620

District Councillor

Matthew Neall 776956

Bradwell Quay Yacht Club

Secretary: Mr R. Price (01621)890173

Village Hall Trustee's Booking Secretary:

Mr R Scurrell

Chairman:

Mr R Scurrell 776341

776341

Bradwell Flower Show Committee Secretary:

Teresa Fowler 776588

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Bradwell Bay Football Club

Youth football team contact Krysta Collins. Practice Village Hall Field Saturday 9am

The Medical Centre

Tillingham 778383

The Trinity Medical Centre

Mayland 745400

If any of the above information is incorrect or you wish to publicise your organisation then please contact Roger Scurrell on 01621 776341 or email stthomaspcc@btinternet.com

From the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter for when it comes on Sunday 20th April.

Until then, we continue our Lenten journey with our Lent course, Living Hope with times in this magazine, and this year's Lent Appeal is supporting the Christian charity Housing Justice in their work across England and Wales to alleviate homelessness.

These projects are: Citadel is a volunteer-led homelessness prevention project run by Housing Justice which supports people experiencing, or at risk of homelessness, to find and/or sustain their tenancies and establish a home.

Housing Justice also operates a Lodgings Programme for newly-granted refugees while they find a job and more permanent accommodation. Faith in Affordable Housing Justice works with churches of all denominations to release surplus land and redundant buildings for the creation of new truly affordable housing. The Winter Night Shelter Network Housing Justice has helped over 1,000 churches to respond to homelessness in their local area by supporting them to set up and operate a winter night shelter for people who would otherwise be rough sleeping. With an estimated 3,898 people sleeping rough each night in England and homelessness and rough sleeping on the rise, the work of faith and community projects like those run by Housing Justice are vital. Without this work, it's estimated the rough sleeper count would be 22% higher.

Making a donation We welcome donations from individuals and churches as well as other groups and organisations. Donations can be made online or by bank transfer. If you would like to make a donation to The Bishop of Chelmsford's Lent Appeal by bank transfer, please use the following details: Chelmsford Diocese Board of Finance Barclays Bank Sort Code: 20-20-35 Account Number: 60269603 Reference: Lent Appeal 25 Donations will be accepted until 1 July 2025.

Looking ahead to Easter, I hope you will be able to join us for the Easter celebrations, including our Maundy Thursday service on Thursday 17th April, at St Nicholas Church in Tillingham at 7pm, and our Good Friday Walk to the Chapel and service, on Friday 18th April, which begins at St Thomas Church in Bradwell at 12.45 and at St Peter's Chapel in Bradwell at 2pm.

Details of all our services are in this magazine, but we welcome the Bishop of Chelmsford, Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehgani to our sunrise service at 6am on

Easter Sunday 20th April, at St Peter's Chapel in Bradwell, as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the hope this brings to us.

We have been thinking about the theme of 'Hope' in our Lent groups, looking at the different reflections on topics such as 'Seeds of Unity', 'A beautiful and messy awakening', Kingdom, faiths and diplomacy', 'A vision for hope in politics', 'Wild paths of peace' and 'Hope in suffering'.

As we met to discuss these different reflections, we looked forward to the Easter Hope of the resurrection, which brings to us God new life and forgiveness in Jesus, so that we can move forward in Hope in our lives.

God bless,

Reverend Steven

Lent Course 2025



This Lent we are encouraged to put down deep roots of hope by connecting with God who is with us at all times. God invites us to bring to him our own journey through everyday life. In the disappointment of daily setbacks and the pain of deeper hurts, we discover that God is present with us. And God promises a future where all things are healed and made new. Living Hope offers us the opportunity to deepen our hope in God and be part of what God is doing to bring hope in the world. The course is based on the book by Cathrine Fungai Ngangira and Belle Tindall – <u>Wild Bright Hope: The Big Church Read Lent Book 2025</u> (SPCK).

The course will run on the following days:-

Week 4 Cancelled

Thursday 3rd April at 7pm at Dengie Village Hall

Week 5

Wednesday 9th April at 7pm at St Lawrence Church Centre

Week 6

Wednesday 16th April at 7pm at St Thomas Church in Bradwell

Bradwell WI



Wednesday 12th February at the Village Hall

A Blooming Good Evening with Jane and Janet

Our March meeting was a vibrant and entertaining evening as we welcomed two wonderful guests, Jane Cowell and Janet Thorogood, with their demonstration, 'Spring Ideas with Flowers.'

From the moment they started, Jane and Janet had us all laughing with their hilarious anecdotes, proving that flower arranging isn't just about the end result— it's



about enjoying the process too! Their lively banter and practical tips made for an evening full of entertainment and inspiration.

Using supermarket flowers such as roses, tulips, daffodils, and fuchsias, alongside foraged foliage like olive branches, moss, and conifers, they created stunning arrangements with ease. They also shared a great insider tip—supermarket car parks can be a surprisingly good source of foliage, as long as you have permission!

At the end of the evening, the beautiful arrange-

ments were raffled off, much to the

delight of our lucky winners. Jane and Janet's parting advice? Just have a go! It was a fantastic evening, and we can't wait to see what our next meeting brings!

Our next meeting is on the 9th of April in the village hall, where we will be joined by Rob and Sonia from TEMPRD Chocolate in Maldon!



New members are always welcome; there is just a small fee of £5 for non-members, so please feel free to come along! If you have any questions about what we get up to, you can contact Sue Pirret on 07824696807 or sue@dailygrindimports.com

Alice Nightingale

The Othona Community.

The next few months will be a time of change at the Othona Community. The current Wardens, Richard and Debbie Sanders, will leave at the end of May and be replaced by new people bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm. This has always been the case at the Community here and has enabled growth and new ideas to flourish whilst still retaining the ethos of the community that was envisaged by our founder Norman Motley in 1946.



An essential part of the Community are the volunteers that willingly give their time and effort to keep the place running enabling us to run very affordable breaks for families and those who struggle to afford time away. Some volunteers live locally and very kindly come here on a regular basis to help in the gardens, the kitchen and even with cleaning, others come to stay residentially either for a specific event or period of time. We regularly have European volunteers for 6 months and had two French volunteers last year. It is a real pleasure to have this everchanging community of volunteers and core team, and we value their help immensely. The hope is that their time here is also of benefit to them and thankfully that is often the case. We currently have Debbie with us, who kindly wrote this piece about her time here:

I have been a volunteer at Othona since early January and it's the first time I've ever lived in a community. Currently moving from France back to my home town of Bromley, Kent I had three quiet months ahead and seized the opportunity to spend a few reflective weeks here in beautiful Bradwell-on-Sea.

In early January it was freezing cold but the sun shone and the landscape was sparkling and stunning in the frost. I never knew this part of Essex was so isolated and beautiful so it's been a great discovery. The hugely tidal Blackwater Estuary changes every time I wander from the community to the beach. I love to check how much of the concrete boats I can see from the sea wall and am amazed at how sometimes they look stranded in the mud and at other times almost completely hidden by the sea.

The natural environment around Othona is a source of great joy as spring arrives and, after the arrival of the pure white snowdrops we are seeing daffodils, primroses, purple violets and many other early flowers emerging from their winter hibernation. Nature provides new surprises every day and it's wonderful being with people who love and appreciate the natural world as much as I do.

As the sunrise gets earlier the birdsong and cooing of wood-pigeons makes it easier to wake up and feel inspired for the day. I observe our community bird-feeder as I eat breakfast and marvel at how many birds we see, big and small and how quickly they get through the fat balls, nuts and seeds we put out. Sometimes the muntjac deer come on to our lawns to graze and we see pheasants and rabbits cross our path. Just 10 minutes relaxing on our terrace reveals so much wildlife and natural wonders.

I'm very sorry I cannot stay here to enjoy all the different seasons but will certainly be drawn back to visit Othona in the near future.

We always appreciate offers of help from local volunteers, if you have time to spare and a willingness to help with gardening, maintenance, cooking or cleaning then please get in touch (<u>bradwell@othona.org</u>)

We have an exciting programme coming up in April:

April 4-6 Wild Edges Retreat with Fiona Koefoed-Jesperson

April 17 – 22 Easter- A Landscape Liturgy led by Paul Lucas

April 25 – 27 Festival of Song

April 28- May 1 Spring Watch

May 23 – 26 Essex Green Weekend

The full programme can be found on our website- www.othonaessex.org.uk.

Prayer for April 2025

Living Lord Jesus, We, your Easter People of today, thank You for the Easter People of the Gospel accounts.

For the women, who loved You so much that they went to the tomb, early in the morning, while it was still dark. Thank you especially for Mary, who wept, then rejoiced, then ran to tell the others, "I have seen the Lord!"

Thank you for Thomas, who doubted, then devoted his life to You, his Lord and his God; for the disciples who ate breakfast on the beach with You; for Peter, who was forgiven and re-commissioned by You.

Thank You for them and Your witnesses through all generations. Thank you for Your true and living written Word, proclaiming You, our true and living Lord, who lived and died and rose again to offer us forgiveness and life.

Thank you, Lord that because You live, we have hope and assurance, whatever challenges the world might bring.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Hallelujah!

By Daphne Kitching

News from RAF Bradwell Bay

We are striving towards building our new website, which will be much more information led. We have a new Facebook page RAF Bradwell Bay Preservation Group, all posts must be approved to keep the relevance to RAF Bradwell Bay.

Currently, as discussed last month our planning is going towards the commemoration of the end of WW2, the end of the war was celebrated on 8th May 1945. National celebrations will take place, including a nationwide ringing of church bells across the country at 6.30pm.

It does surprise how few people realise the significance of the bells. The ringing of church bells was banned during the war. The bells warned of the country being invaded and so alerting citizens and civil defence of the invasion. You may remember an episode of Dad's Army when the church bells were rung, and Corporal Jones was panicking while shouting Don't Panic the Germans are here! Ringing of the church bells in towns and villages will play a significant part of the national celebrations.

The operational record books of both the RAF Bradwell Bay station and the Squadrons based there at the time, talk of celebrations going on. I can't believe that our intrepid RAF Personnel imbibed in an excess of alcohol, but the orbs seem to be sympathetic to people being a little below par following the celebrations. On VE Day celebrations were held throughout the day. A Thanksgiving Service was attended by the whole station, at which the Station Commander gave a short address describing the meaning of VE Day. The rest of the day was regarded as a holiday and in the evening, an all-ranks dance was held which was attended by most of the Station. Free drinks and refreshments were provided by P.S.I. and Mess Funds.



VE Day Parade at RAF Bradwell Bay



We are holding a VE Day cockney party at the Green Man on 9th May - watch our Facebook page RAF Bradwell Bay Preservation Group for details and of other events going on.

The RAF Bradwell Bay Preservation Group seeks to preserve the history of the RAF in Bradwell on Sea. We are planning for a museum near the memorial.



You can help by donating via our website ww.rafbradwellbay.co.uk

May Village View

All copy for the May Village View should be sent to Roger Scurrell by phone (776341), posted through the letterbox of 6 St Thomas' Row, Bradwell, or by email to the address below, all by April 15th.

Copy may also be submitted as a text or Microsoft Word or Publisher file, either on CD or, better still, by email to stthomaspcc@btinternet.com. We ask you to limit your article to 300 -350 words and please include a picture.

We apologise but no articles will be accepted after April 15th.

If you belong to an organisation that does not yet submit articles for the Village View we would like to hear from you even in longhand if you do not have access to a computer. Any news you have is always very welcome.



APRIL SERVICES

Time	Service	Church	Readings
4th	Friday		
12:00	Communion with Lunch	St Lawrence Church	
6th	Passion Sunday		
10:00	Communion	St Thomas Bradwell	Isaiah 43.16-21
10:00	Morning Worship	St Nicholas Tillingham	Philippians 3.4b-14
10:00	Morning Worship	St Lawrence Centre	John 12.1-8
15:00	Evening Service	St James Dengie	Psalm 126
12th	Palm Sunday		
10:00	Communion	St Nicholas Tillingham	Isaiah 50. 4-9
10:00	Café Church	St Thomas Bradwell	Philippians 2; 5-11
10:00	Communion	St Lawrence Centre	Luke 23; 1-49
18:00	Evening Service	St Lawrence Church	Psalm 41
17th	Maundy Thursday		
19:00	Maundy Thursday Service	St Nicholas Tillingham	ТВА
18th	Good Friday		
11:00	Said Communion	St Lawrence Church	Isaiah 52; 13 – end of 53
12:45	Walk with the Cross	St Thomas Bradwell to	Hebrews 10; 16-25
		St Peters Chapel	John 18; 1-end of 19
14:00	Good Friday Service	St Peters Chapel	Psalm 22
20th	Easter Sunday		
06:00	Easter Dawn Communion	St Peters Chapel	
10.00	Easter Communion	St Thomas Bradwell	Isaiah 65; 17-end
10:00	Easter Communion	St Lawrence Church	Acts 10; 34-43
10:00	Easter Morning Worship	St Lawrence Centre	John 20; 1-18
10:00	Easter Morning Worship	St Nicholas Tillingham	Psalm 118; 1-2, 14-24
18:00	Easter Service	St James Dengie	
27th	Easter 2		
10:00	Communion	St James Dengie	
10:00	Café Church	St Thomas Bradwell	Exodus 14; 10-end
10:00	Morning Worship	St Lawrence Centre	Acts 5; 27-32 John 20; 19-end
10:00	Morning Worship	St Lawrence Church	Psalm 150
18:00	Evening Service	St Nicholas Tillingham	

Time	Service	Church	Reading	
4th May	Easter 3			
10:00	Communion	St Thomas Bradwell	Zephaniah 3; 14-end	
10:00	Morning Worship	St Nicholas Tillingham	Acts 9; 1-6	
10:00	Morning Worship	St Lawrence Centre	Luke 21; 1-10	
15:00	Evening Service	St James Dengie	Psalm 30	

Diary of 2025 Events

Below are a list of dates that are happening throughout 2025. If you or your organisation have dates that you would like advertised, please email details to stthomaspcc@btinternet.com for inclusion. It is hoped to publish events every month for the coming three months and every Quarter for the year ahead.

April

6th Thursday Club St Thomas Church 2pm, 9th Women's Institute, 18th Good Friday, 20th Easter Day, 21st Bank Holiday, 30th Nature in our Neighbourhood

May

1st Thursday Club, 7th Bradwell Women's Institute 100 year Celebrations, 28th Nature in our Neighbourhood

June

 ${f 5}^{th}$ Thursday Club St Thomas Church 2pm, ${f 11}^{th}$ Women's Institute, ${f 25}^{th}$ Nature in our Neighbourhood

July 3rd

Thursday Club St Thomas Church 2pm,**5**th Pilgrimage, 9th Women's Institute, 23rd Nature in our Neighbourhood

August

2nd Flower Show

September

10th Women's Institute, 24th Nature in our Neighbourhood

October

8th Women's Institute, 29th Nature in our Neighbourhood

November

12th Women's Institute, 29th Christmas Fair, 26th Nature in our Neighbourhood

December

10th Women's Institute,

Bradwell-on-Sea Village Hall Trustees 100 Club



Charity Number 803054

The Bradwell Village Hall 100 Club draw results for March 2025 are as follows.

1st Prize, Ticket 43, Miss Pauline Stinson, £20.00
 2nd Prize, Ticket 52, Mr David Russell, £10.00
 3rd Prize, Ticket 3, Mr Rob Smith, £5.00

The next draw takes place on the 1st April you would like to join the 100 Club

What can I eat for Easter?

What can I eat for Easter? Can't eat beef.....mad cow. Can't eat chicken..... bird flu. Can't eat eggs..... Salmonella.

Can't eat pork.....fears that bird flu will infect pigs.
Can't eat fish...... heavy metals in the waters.
Can't eat fruits and veggies...... insecticides and herbicides.

Can't eat potatoes, pasta, bread, rice......nasty carbs. Hmmmmmmm! I believe that leaves......chocolate.

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23rd April: St George, our Patron Saint who isn't English

The English have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who, just possibly, may not have existed at all. But that didn't stop St George being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that St George was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that St George was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the Middle Ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual

element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'.

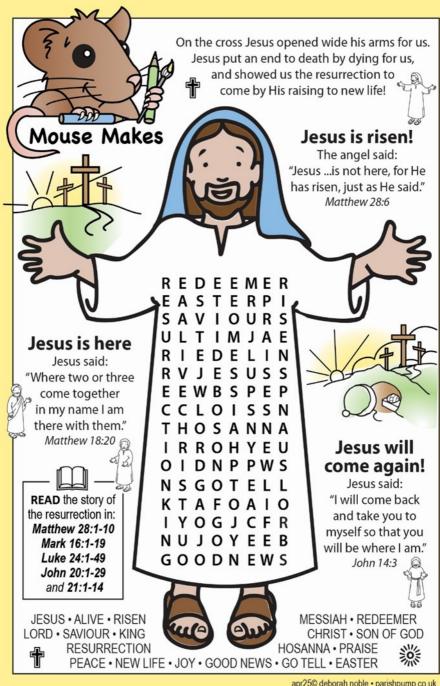
However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers - 'Onward, Chris-

tian soldiers!' The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' - one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause. Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty - they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our admiration.

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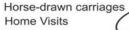
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Rev Steven Poss Jane Pudney **Gerry Lewsey**

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Village View

Eunice 778904 St Lawrence Singers Friday at 5.45-7.00pm, Church Centre **Table Tennis** Tuesdays 3-5pm at Village Hall

P.C.C. Secretary

Victoria Eley V.eley@icloud.com

Rainbows 5-7 vrs**Brownies** -7 - 10 yrs

Bridge Club Mondays at 1.30pm, Church Centre

St Lawrence Social Club

Shirley Masterson 07956799989

Diddydots Pre School

Monday-Friday 8am - 2pm Term Time Village Hall

Guides -: 10 - 14 yrs for information phone 07757636446 or 1st Wednesday of Month at Village Secretary Gwen Adams 778386 Wendy Butterwick's Keep Fit

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 7.30pm-8pm, Village Hall

enquiries@girlguidingessexne.org.uk

Coffee Morning

Tuesdays at 10.30am in the Church Centre

Age Concern

01245) 264499 Two Rivers Association for Age Concern

District Councillor Linda Hayward

Clr.linda Hayward@maldon.gov.uk Wendy Laybourne Clr.wendy.laybourne@maldon.gov.uk

Wednesday Board Games

2.00-4.00pm, St Lawrence Church Centre

Mobile Library

Every three weeks Thursdays East End Rd outside church 11.40-12.10

Parish Council Chairman

Marian Gibson Clrgibson@ stlawrence-pc.gov.uk Kevin Money

Fridays Hobbies and Leisure

10am, Church Centre

Local Policing Team phone Non Emergency 999 Emergency

Clerk to the Parish Council

Kevin Money

Clerk@stlawrence-pc.gov.uk Council meet 4th Wednesday of each month in Village Hall

St Lawrence Art Group

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The Dengie Medical Centre

778383

Eunice Siggins 778804 The Trinity Medical Centre Mayland 745400

Church Flowers

Rev S Poss 779620 Bookings Marion Gibson 778102 William Fisher Medical Centre

Children Society

Eunice Siggins 778904

The Friends of St Lawrence Newlands Church

Carole Taylor 772523 779267 John Barnes

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If any of the above information is incorrect or you wish to publicise your organisation then please contact Eunice Siggins on 01621 77778904



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