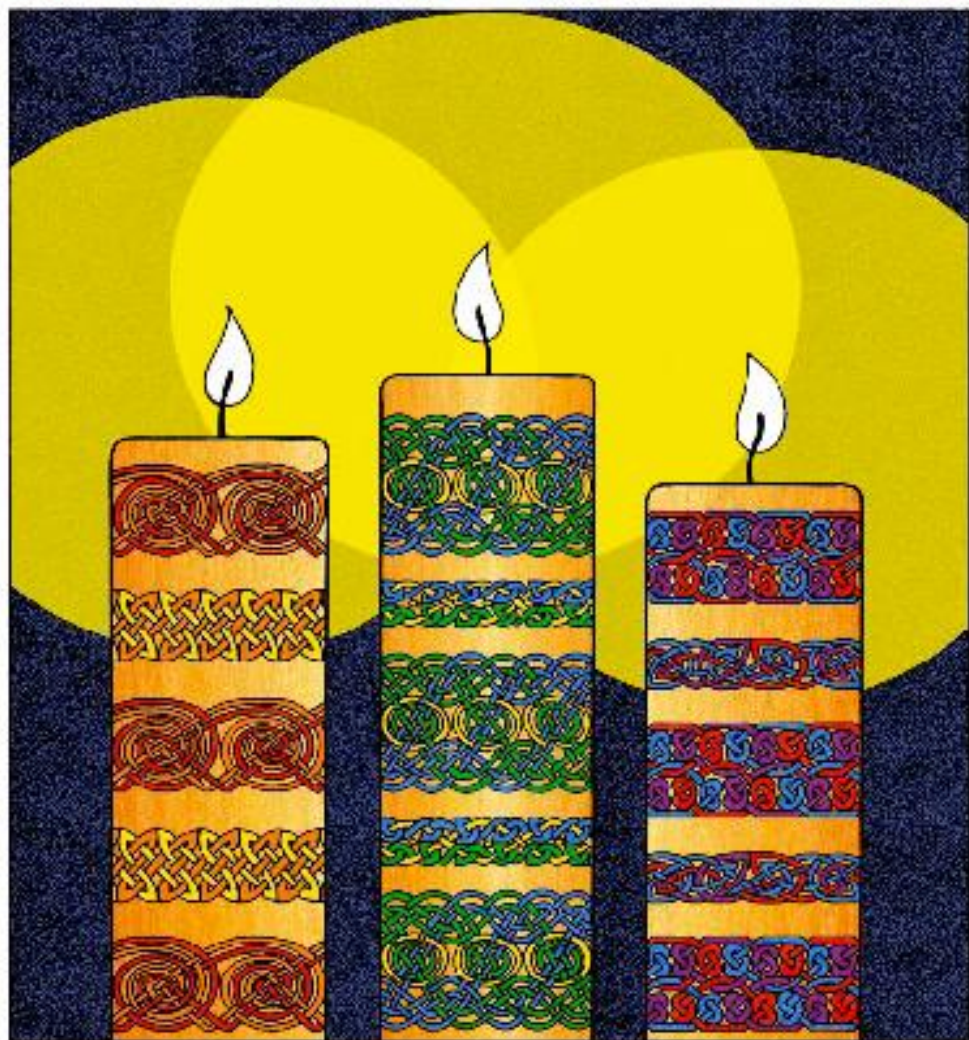


# VILLAGE VIEW

A Magazine of News for the Villages of Bradwell-on-Sea  
and St Lawrence

DECEMBER 2020



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David Thorpe 776846**Bell Ringing - Tower Captain:**  
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Village Hall 7-10 yrs  
Marie 776554**Bradwell Women's Institute**  
Secretary:  
Mrs Pat Bruce 779725  
Village Hall  
2nd Wednesday 7.45pm**Age Concern** 01245) 264499  
**Two Rivers Association for Age Con-**  
**cerns****St. Cedd's School Parent-Teacher**  
**Association**  
Secretary: Contact School 776219**Maldon & Burnham Standard**  
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Mrs Jean Allen 776547**Clerk to the Parish Council**  
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4 Butercup Way, Southminster,  
CM0 7RZ  
Parish Council meetings Village Hall,  
3rd Monday 8.00pm**P.C.C. Secretary**  
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Fridays  
5-11 years, 6.00 to 7.30pm  
11 years—up, 7.30 to 9.00pm  
For information tel:  
Lynn Roughley 776555  
Cherie Archer 776443**Badminton/Table Tennis**  
Village Hall  
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John Noble  
[jhn\\_bradwell@hotmail.com](mailto:jhn_bradwell@hotmail.com)  
Friday: 10am Ann Barrett  
[theannbarrett@gmail.com](mailto:theannbarrett@gmail.com)**Mobile Library**  
Every three weeks Thursdays  
East End Rd. Bradwell  
10.55—11.25am.**The Medical Centre**  
Tillingham 778383  
Out of hours 111**The Trinity Medical Centre**  
Mayland 745400  
Out of hours 111**Neighbourhood Watch**  
**Co-ordinator**  
Cherie Archer 776443**Local Police Team**  
Phone Non Emergency 101  
Emergency 999**Crime Stoppers**  
Anonymous Crime Reporting  
0800555111**Bradwell Bay Football Club**  
Youth Football Team Contact Krysta  
Collins Practice Village Hall Field  
Saturday 10am**If any of the above information is incorrect or you wish to publicise your organisation  
then please contact Roger Scurrell on 01621 776341**

From the Rector

# Comfort and Joy



Dear Friends,

**2020 has been quite a year and has gone so fast! It only seems like yesterday, we were enjoying some kind of summer.**

**As we enter into December, even though it is winter and we are still living in challenging times, the Church of England's Christmas theme for this year is Comfort and Joy.**

**Comfort and Joy** holds together the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration after a uniquely difficult year, with an acknowledgement that for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with loved ones, it may be the Church's and the Christian's role, both nationally and locally, to provide consolation, rather than assume everyone will be ready to join in jubilation. We also have to anticipate there may be further spikes.

This Christmas the Church and the Christian will need, in the words of St Paul in Romans 12.15, to 'Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep'. We will aim to celebrate where we can together in one place, but also embrace a wider community that wants to join in the celebration but may not be physically able, or emotionally ready, to do so. We hope that **Comfort and Joy** will enable us to build a campaign that both enables us to reconnect with the rich and joyous traditions of the past, and to offer God's consoling love in the present, Amen.

May you have some kind of love, and Joy and Peace this Christmas.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Reverend Steven



## Confirmation Celebration!



It was a great joy during these challenging times to celebrate with Amanda, Elaine, Jon, Vickie and Karen, all from St Lawrence, their Confirmation on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October at St Mary's Church in Burnham on Crouch with Bishop John. Because of the restrictions, the Church was not full, but that provided a lovely and special atmosphere for us and enabled them all to truly enjoy their moment.

May God bless them all.

Reverend Steven Poss

## A Contribution to Science

Throughout the world there are many research projects looking at changes in bird populations. Sadly, many species are declining, for all sorts of reasons – but all is not gloom and doom. There are chances for anyone to be involved in contributing information on the fluctuation of avian numbers in our own gardens.

One well-known project is the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. This will take place over the last weekend of January next year, and involves recording the maximum number of each species seen in the garden during just one hour sometime that weekend. More information on the RSPB website – [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk).

Less well-known is the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Garden Birdwatch. This is along the same lines as the RSPB project, but it's continuous, week after week. It really takes no time – simply record the maximum number of each species seen together during the week. If one day there are two bluetits on the bird feeder, make a note (on-line log sheets are available). Then if the following day there are two on the feeder and two more in a bush, update the record to four. Full details are at:

<https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/gbw>.

On initially registering with the BTO details of your garden and surroundings are entered. Records of mammals and butterflies and reptiles can also be kept, but this is entirely optional. Once registered, each Sunday morning an email will remind you to submit your record for the previous week. It is very easy.



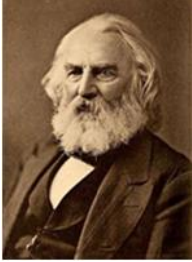
Only birds actually using the garden are recorded – a flock of starlings flying over is ignored – at least as far as the record is concerned. But back in September I was delighted to enter 51 swallows one week – all perched on the power lines across the garden. They were indeed using my garden to rest and watch for insects on which to stock up, before setting out on their mammoth journey. The buzzard which settled, momentarily, in a tree to check out his chances of breakfast was mentioned in dispatches at the BTO. But just as important as the unusual birds are the wrens and robins and sparrows, and all the rest, without which we would be so much poorer.

Brian Clayden

## ***I heard the bells on Christmas Day***

To close our year of poems we have some words which are familiar to us in the form of a carol of hope and joy rather than as a poem written in the face of tragedy and melancholy, although both close on a note of faith and rejoicing.

The poem consists of seven verses opening with



*I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And mild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.*

The mood of joy is replaced in verse four which reminds us of the fact that it was written during the American Civil War when *'From each accursed mouth the cannons thundered in the South'*. It is not until verse seven that faith and hope overcome hate to proclaim that the right will prevail. A brief glance at the life of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the poet, suggests the explanation for this change.

Born in 1807 into a prosperous family who were descended from original 'Mayflower' settlers, he was an accomplished linguist and translator and held a professorship at Harvard, specialising in French, Spanish and Italian with the later addition of German after living in Heidelberg in 1835. He retired in 1854 to concentrate on his writing.

Having lost his first wife after a miscarriage he remarried but tragedy struck again in 1861 when his wife's dress caught fire and she died of severe burns. In an effort to save her Longfellow himself sustained injury including burns to his face. Thereafter he always wore a beard which concealed the scarring. The melancholy into which he had sunk was increased further in November 1863 when his elder son was wounded in fighting in Virginia. A bullet entered his back, grazed his spine and passed out of his body without killing him although it ended his military career. It was on Christmas Day that Longfellow wrote the poem. The first version of the carol dated from 1872 and it has been set to different tunes recently and recorded by Bing Crosby in 1956.

Longfellow became the most popular American poet of his day and also had success overseas. He has been criticized by some, however, for imitating European styles and writing specifically for the masses. He died in 1882 and the esteem in which he was held in England was illustrated by the erection of a memorial bust in Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey, in 1884, the first American to be so recognized.

## The Othona Community in December 2020

Bradwell-on-Sea is an unusual village. There is only one other like it, and that is the village of Burton Bradstock, on the Dorset Coast. When the Othona Community's founder Norman Motley first entered the Chapel of St Peter's on the Wall, Bradwell, he said "I knew that we were home". Eighteen years later, when Norman was investigating a disused retreat house as the option of a second Othona Community centre in Dorset, he commented, "The very first look convinced me that this was for us". Interestingly, he used the terms "we" and "us" not "I" and "me," when recognising our two villages as places where the Othona Community would be based. Was it just the places, or was it something about the people of our two villages that created an atmosphere of welcome, inclusion and love, that has sustained these Communities within communities all these years?

Norman died nearly 40 years ago, and we must rightly move on, with a vision of Christian community that springs afresh from each generation. No longer do we have instruction to all those aged 14+ that they must attend daily lectures, although the old Lecture Hut still stands. It has been recreated into an Education Centre beside the sea, fit for all the school children, individuals and groups who are fascinated to learn about the local wildlife and to observe and paint in its art room, once the Covid situation is behind us. We still look forward, and although I hesitate to share with you the intended late Advent Weekend and Christmas and New Year opening, because all may change, you are encouraged to look at the Othona Essex website or telephone the Centre for an update of December activities. Our team is still here, as Bradwell is their home, with Tim, Debbie and Richard on furlough, living alongside our Volunteers – including those from Europe who have had a most unexpected year's experience of the UK.

But Norman does still inspire us – and who would not be inspired by such words as he wrote for Christmas 40 years ago: "God cares and is involved with us, and in us, and we see the extent of His caring in the presence of 'the only begotten of the father' Jesus Christ, 'full of grace and truth' as St John puts it. If God be with us, who can be against us? This is not a question of hiding our heads in the sand and using an escapist religion to shield ourselves from the impact of reality. Rather it is a realization that not only is all not lost but, on the contrary, the best is yet to be....we shall not be overcome. The opportunities of caring and doing are limitless, and there is a sense that this age, disturbing as it is, is a great age in which to be living." ("Letters to a Community" by Norman Motley.)

Options for opening are limited but Othona Bradwell is now offering you a **Paycation**.....like a vacation, but you pay for a day or two's imaginary holiday with your Othona friends, to support the Community you love, according to your

means. Only with generosity like this will Othona be able to survive and thrive – Thank You! Details and opportunities to donate are on the website.

Tim Fox is Warden/Manager, with Debbie and Richard Sanders. Want to visit?—See Website [www.othonaessex.org.uk](http://www.othonaessex.org.uk) - then ring Othona at Bradwell (it's down East End Rd and through East Hall Farm) on 01621 776564. Free Parking for all visitors to Othona—just ask for an exit token to leave through our wind-powered gate.



# othona

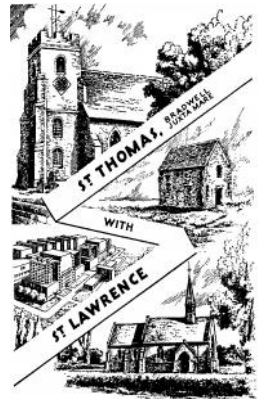
## Bradwell-on-sea

### Village View

All copy for the January Village View should be sent to Roger Scurrall by phone (776341), posted through the letterbox of 6 St Thomas' Row, Bradwell, or by email to the address below, all by December 12th.

Those living in St Lawrence may give copy to Shirley Lea at 51 Main Road (779403) or email to [bronwen.cook@btinternet.com](mailto:bronwen.cook@btinternet.com) by this date. 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](mailto:stthomaspcc@btinternet.com). We ask you to limit your article to 300-350 words and please include a picture apologise but **no articles will be accepted after December 12<sup>th</sup>**.

If you belong to an organisation that does not yet submit articles for the magazine 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.





The children at St. Cedd's C of E Primary School supported Children in Need by dressing in yellow or spots! Together, we raised £78 for the charity. The children had thoughtful discussions around what our donation would support and how we can feel proud that we are helping children in need.



We were also able to support the Poppy Appeal, with money raised to support another great cause. Again, the children discussed Armistice Day during Collective Worship. The school fell silent at 11am to mark the occasion.



St. Cedd's Church of England Primary School  
East End Road, Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex, CM0 7PY  
01621 776219 [admin.stcedds@dcvst.org](mailto:admin.stcedds@dcvst.org)

## .SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Time	Service	Place	Readings
<b>6th</b>	<b>Advent 2</b>		
9.00	Joint Benefice Com- munion Service	Zoom Service	Isaiah 40; 1-11 2 Peter 3; 8-15a Mark 1; 1-8
10.30	Joint Benefice Com- munion	Online	
10.30	Communion	St Lawrence Church	
<b>13th</b>	<b>Advent 3</b>		
9.00	Joint Benefice Com- munion Service	Zoom Service	Isaiah 61; 1-4,8-11 1 Thessalonians 5; 16- 24 John 1; 6-8,19-28
10.30	Joint Benefice All Age Worship	Online	
10.30	Communion	St Nicholas Tillingham	
<b>20th</b>	<b>Advent 4</b>		
9.00	Joint Benefice Com- munion Service	Zoom Service	2 Samuel 7; 1-11,16 Romans 16; 25-27 Luke 1; 26-38
10.30	Joint Benefice Com- munion	Online	
10.30	Parish Communion	St Thomas Bradwell	
<b>24th</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>		
18.00	Crib Service	St Nicholas Tillingham	Isaiah 62; 6-12 Luke 2; 1-20
23.30	Midnight Communion	St Thomas Bradwell	
<b>25th</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>		
9.00	Christmas Service	St James Dengie	Isaiah 52; 7-10 John 1; 1-14
<b>27th</b>	<b>St John</b>		
9.00	Joint Benefice Com- munion Service	Zoom Service	Isaiah 61; 10 - 62.3

10.30	Joint Benefice All Age Worship	Online	Galatians 4; 4-7 Luke 2; 15-21
10.30	Communion	St Lawrence Church Centre	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Jan</b>	<b>Christmas 2</b>		
9.00	Joint Benefice Communion Service	Zoom Service	Isaiah 60; 1-6 Ephesians 3; 1-12 Matthew 2; 1-12
10.30	Joint Benefice All Age Service	Online	
10.30	Communion	St Lawrence Church	

Details to the online services will be available on the Church web site .

Thursdays at 9.00am

Communion at St Peters Chapel

Church web site <https://e-voice.org.uk/bradwellchurch/sunday-services/>

### The story of mince pies

Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.



## Gardening in December

- ◆ Tidy and weed veg and flower gardens and spread a layer of compost over the soil to keep weeds down and nourish your plants next year. Prune dormant shrubs by a third is a good guideline for winter pruning.
- ◆ Prune grape vines in December, as doing this later can cause the vine to bleed sap and weaken the plant. It was always said that if you want some fresh air after your Christmas dinner go up the garden and prune your grapevine. Training and pinching out of new shoots and thinning the fruits is carried out in spring and summer.
- ◆ Cut rose bushes down by half to prevent the winter storms rocking them in the soil, roses do not like to be loose that's why they prefer heavier soils.
- ◆ Tulip bulbs can be planted right up to Boxing Day.
- ◆ Winter-prune your Wisteria, cutting back summer side-shoots to 2 or 3 buds.
- ◆ Leave the faded flower heads on your hydrangeas until the spring, as they will provide some protection to the buds further down the stems.
- ◆ Broad Beans seeds can be sown under glass in December. Also, you can plant garlic bulbs outdoors. Traditionally this is done on 21st December the shortest day of the year.

## Plant of the Month

### Cyclamen

We will often receive an indoor cyclamen plant at Christmas, but sometimes they can be difficult to keep as they will often wilt and struggle in the heat of a Christmas house. The secret is to be careful where positioning them as they need a cool bright spot; an east window is often best. Also be careful with the watering as if over-watered they will droop looking like they need more water. They always say with cyclamen, 'Do not water when they ask, only water when they beg!' Hence wait till the compost is dry and the leaves start to wilt, then stand the pot in a bowl of water for a while. Do not allow the plant to sit in water after you return it to its normal position.





## Outdoor Cyclamen

What a delight modern small cyclamen are that they can be planted outside. They always look great in winter planted tubs. When container planting use multi-purpose compost. I would suggest planting the cyclamen with the soil line of the plant about 20mm above the soil in the tub, this usually stops the plant rotting at ground level. Unlike indoor cyclamen do not let them dry out. Hopefully they will flower for weeks. They are even popular with the bees.



David Thorpe

## How Father Christmas got where he is today

One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. These days he seems to frequent shopping malls and garden centres. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.



Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

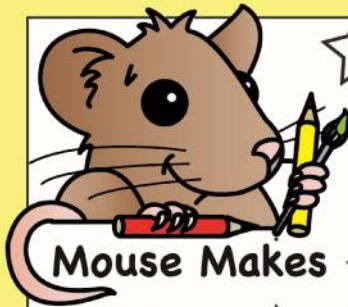
In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life-work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.



"I bring you **good news** that will bring great **joy** to all people. The **Saviour** has been born today! ...

*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased!*"

from Luke 2 vs. 10,11,14

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**

Read the Christmas story in Luke 1:1 - 2:21



A picture to colour for Christmas. Colour in one star each day as you count down to Christmas!

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**PAROCHIAL INFORMATION:****ST. LAWRENCE**

Rector	Revd Steven Poss	779620
Churchwardens:	Jane Pudney	772345
	Shirley Lea	779403

**Parish Magazine**  
Shirley Lea 779403

**St Lawrence PCC Secretary**  
Victoria Eley v.eley@icloud.com

**Parish Council Chairman;**  
Garry Lewsey  
gerald.lewsey@yahoo.com  
Clerk to the Parish Council:  
Karin Money  
slparishclerk@gmail.com

**District Councillor**  
Penny Channer 740607  
Michael Helm

**Stone Sailing Club**  
(Weekends) 779344

**Church Flowers**  
Margaret Cowell 779219  
Janet Cowell 779310

**St Lawrence Singers**  
Friday at 5.45 - 7.00pm  
Margaret Garlick 779328.

**Monday**  
**Pebbles** 10.00 - 12.00noon  
Mothers and toddlers get together  
(Dads welcome) for tea, coffee and  
a chat  
Clive & Lesley Bennett 776298

**Bridge Club**  
1.30pm & Friday 7.30

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month**  
**St Lawrence Social Club**  
Secretary Gwan Adams 778386

**Rainbow Guides**  
5-7 years for information phone  
07757636446 or email  
sqnic:  
[ies@girlguidingssexns.org.uk](mailto:ies@girlguidingssexns.org.uk)

**Tuesday**  
11.00am **Coffee Morning**  
Maureen Storey

**Wednesday**  
**Women's Institute**  
2nd Wednesday 7.30pm  
President: Cathie Bonnich  
Secretary: Carol Kallisher 778370

**Thursday**  
**St Lawrence Art Group**  
10 - 12noon Stone Sailing Club  
Bob Durks 778392

**The Friends of St Lawrence**  
**Newland Church**  
Carole Taylor 778523  
John Barnes 779267

**Church Centre Activities**  
All Church Centre bookings:  
Shirley Lea 779403

**St Lawrence Village Hall**  
**Fund**  
Contact: K. Tarkelsen 778742  
Tara Pringle 779063

**Mobile Library**  
Fridays 11.45am to 12.30pm  
South Woodham Library (01245)  
29555

**The Medical Centre**  
**Tillingham** 778383

**William Fisher Medical**  
**Centre** 772360

**If any of the above information is incorrect or you wish to publicise your organisation then please contact Shirley Lea on 779403**



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