

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

A photograph of a riverbank with large, leafless trees and their reflections in the water. The trees are bare, with intricate branch structures. The water is dark and still, reflecting the trees and the sky. The sky is a pale blue. The overall scene is serene and quiet.

February 2020



DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1876

FEBRUARY 2020

The deadline for magazine entries is the 10th of the month

DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk

Antony Wilson Vicar

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☎ 322 425

DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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

please contact: Ann Shaw ☎ 322 192 or Christine Mingay ☎ 230 723

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

Vee Druit ☎ 322 000 or Ruth Higginson ☎ 322 598

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

Contact Liz and John Reed ☎ 323770

Throughout the magazine local telephone numbers omit ☎ 01206 area code unless otherwise stated.

SERVICES February 2020

Note: Ardleigh Services are to be held at Ardleigh Methodist Church

Sunday 2nd

8am	Holy Communion	Dedham
9.30am	Rise N Shine	Dedham
11am	Morning Prayer	Ardleigh
5pm	Evensong	Dedham

Sunday 9th

8am	Holy Communion	Ardleigh
11am	Holy Communion	Dedham

Sunday 16th

8am	Holy Communion	Dedham
9.30am	Matins	Dedham
11am	Eucharist	Ardleigh
3pm	Sunday@3	Ardleigh

Sunday 23rd

8am	Holy Communion	Ardleigh
9.30am	Morning Praise	Dedham
5pm	Revive@5	Dedham

Ash Wednesday, 26th February

6pm	Holy Communion	Dedham
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Sunday 1st March

8am	Holy Communion	Dedham
9.30am	Rise N Shine	Dedham
11am	Morning Prayer	Ardleigh
5pm	Evensong	Dedham

BCP: Book of Common Prayer / CW: Common Worship

Weekly Midweek Services

Tuesday Morning Prayer at Dedham at 10.30am / Thursday Evening Prayer at Ardleigh at 5pm

Alpha Course,
Every Tuesday at 12.30pm or 7pm, Dedham

Men's Breakfast,
Saturday 1st February, 9am,
The Vicarage

Dedham Lunch Club,
Monday 3rd February,
12.30pm, Essex Rose

Sunday Night Skeptics at the Sun Inn, Dedham
Sunday 23rd February, 8pm

Ardleigh Friendship Group
every 2nd & 4th Tuesday 10am-12pm during winter

Ardleigh Methodist Church

Lent Quiet Day,
Bradfield Church,
Sunday 7th March,
10am to 4pm

From the Register

Funerals:

30th November 2019 - Iris May Pilch (Interment)
12th December 2019 - Stephen Michael Wood
(Burial)

Weddings:

21st December 2019 - Brodie Watson & Daisy Cropper



FLAG DAYS:

Thursday 6th
February
Queens
Accession

Assembly Rooms FEBRUARY

Starlight Dancing

Mondays 9.00-12 am

Tom Stapleton

Choral Academy

Mondays 4-7pm

Tuesdays 5.15-8.15pm

Art Classes Tuesdays 9.30-3 pm

Sounds Right Thursdays am

Brownies Thursdays 5.30-7pm

Dedham Youth Club

Fridays 7.30pm

Antiques Fair

Sunday 2 February - All Day

Horticultural Society Meeting

Wednesday 5 February 7.30 pm

Dedham Art Society

Thursday 6 & 20 February 2-4pm

Dedham Films

Wednesday 19 February - 7pm

CRUK Quiz

Saturday 22 February - 7.30pm

DUCHY BARN

Watercolour Group:

Monday mornings

Coffee Mornings:

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

10.30 -12pm

Bridge in Dedham:

Wednesdays, 2pm-5pm,

Thursdays, 7pm-10pm

Youth Club:

Fridays, 7.30-9.15pm

MEET UP MONDAYS

@

THE SUN INN, DEDHAM



DO YOU FEEL LIKE THE WEEKEND HAS DRAGGED?
ARE YOU FED UP WITH YOUR OWN COMPANY?
MAYBE YOU ARE NEW TO THE AREA?
YOU ARE INVITED TO COME ALONG & ENJOY
A FREE CUPPA & SOME FRIENDLY CHAT.
WE'RE HERE FOR TEA, COFFEE AND CAKE AS PART OF
#MEETUPMONDAYS #DONTBEONYOUROWN

10.30AM - 12PM EVERY MONDAY

If you would like a lift to church
contact

Ann Shaw ☎322 192 or

Ruth Higginson ☎322 598



Follow us on facebook

Dedham and Ardeleigh parishes

For information and to make a booking
for the **Assembly Rooms**
please contact:

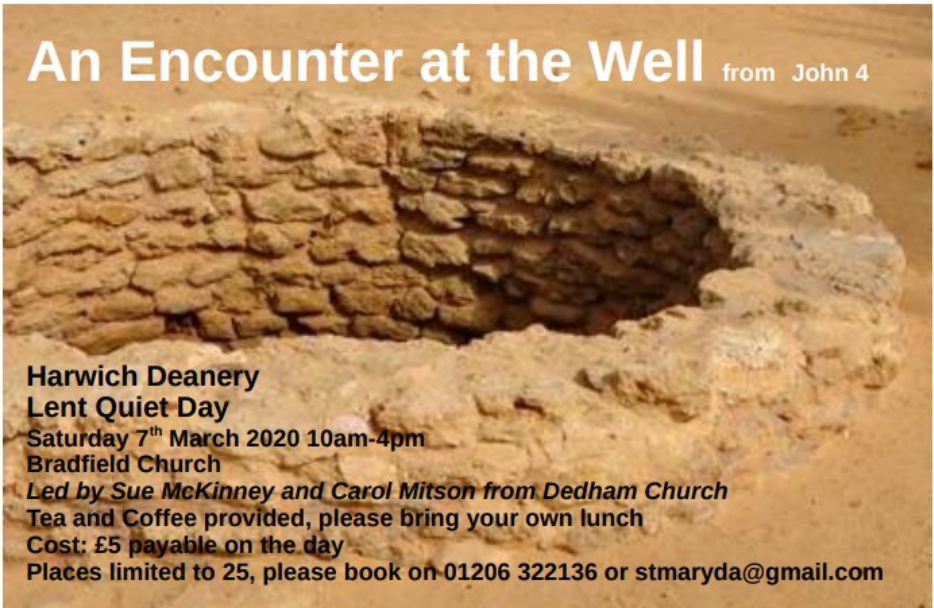
Tracy Woods ☎323921 ✉

dedhamassemblyrooms@gmail.com

The Barn can be hired for small
private events, parties etc

Details of hire can be obtained from
Anne Rowledge ☎322394

An Encounter at the Well from John 4



Harwich Deanery

Lent Quiet Day

Saturday 7th March 2020 10am-4pm

Bradfield Church

Led by Sue McKinney and Carol Mitson from Dedham Church

Tea and Coffee provided, please bring your own lunch

Cost: £5 payable on the day

Places limited to 25, please book on 01206 322136 or stmaryda@gmail.com



DATE FOR THE DIARY

Back by popular demand! The Friends of Dedham Church
are holding a

Horse Racing Evening with a difference

Dedham Assembly Rooms

Saturday 16th May 2020

Tickets £15.00 per person - maximum 8 per table.

Fish & Chip supper and bring your own drinks.

Contact either Jill Strangward on 01206 322006 or
jillstrangward@gmail.com or David Druitt on 01026 322000
or daviddruitt@gmail.com for tickets or more information

An eye for an eye a tooth for a tooth?



Cham Wings Airlines Flight 6Q501 landed at Baghdad International Airport from Damascus at 12:36 a.m on 3rd January and the first to disembark were the Iranian General Qasem Suleimani and his entourage. Waiting at the bottom of the gangway was Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis an Iraqi official in charge of militias and close to Iran. Two cars carrying the group headed into the night shadowed by American MQ-9 Reaper drones. At 12:47, the first of several missiles smashed into the vehicles, engulfing them in flames and leaving 10 charred bodies inside.

Five days later Iran launched missile attacks on US targets in Iraq in response to the US assassination of their General. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Tehran had taken what it considered to be proportionate measures and did not seek an escalation of war.

In the intervening 5 days the world had watched and wondered whether we

were on the brink of another war in the Middle East. British forces were put on alert and Navy ships sent to protect merchant vessels.

As I write things seem to have settled back into the normal state of affairs for relations between the US and Iran namely a stand off.

I'm sure we were all expecting a response from Iran, and to be honest we wouldn't be surprised if there is more to come. After all isn't this the way we expect things to work in the world - one person takes violent action and the offended responds with a similar or even more violent act?

And isn't this sort of behaviour sanctioned, or even encouraged in the Christian bible? *An eye for an eye a tooth for a tooth?* It's true that this verse comes from the book of Exodus in the context of rules for dealing with personal injuries inflicted on others

...if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise...

But these rules were written in a cultural context where it was common for the injured party to respond with disproportionate force if they were wronged so that things often escalated. How fortunate it seems that they have not escalated in recent days, despite the alarming verbal rhetoric from both sides. By commanding that retribution should be kept to *an eye for an eye* God was instructing his people that punishment for an injury should be proportionate to the injury itself, and should not exceed or escalate the situation. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus dramatically changes the challenge with these words to his disciples found in Matthew's gospel

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth. 'But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the

other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get?

Jesus challenge is for a revolutionary different way of living, a way of life that none of us can follow without the help of God's Holy Spirit, but a way of life that if put into practice would turn our world on it's head - for the better.

Reverend Antony Wilson



Save the date



VE DAY

75TH ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8 - 10 MAY 2020

more details of an exciting weekend programme of events to follow...

Constable Country Medical Practice

Volunteer Transport Scheme:

Volunteer transport schemes exist to help patients when they need to attend the practice for an appointment. These schemes are aimed at patients who have poor mobility, are unable to use public transport and no friend or relative is available to help them. Our reception team can provide details of the schemes.

An increasing number of our patients need such assistance but our transport schemes need more volunteer drivers. If you are interested then please provide your details to the practice to be passed on to the scheme coordinators who would be happy to discuss how the scheme operates.

New Appointment System: If you need to speak to a doctor about a medical problem then you will be placed on a call back list and the receptionist will inform you if the doctor will call you either before 1pm or after 1pm. Sometimes, due to unforeseen circumstance and medical emergencies, the doctor may try to call you at a time other than specified, so it would be appreciated if patients can be as accommodating as possible.

Once you have booked a call back appointment, please keep your phone with you or remain close to a phone until you have heard from the doctor. They will try the number provided twice, but if they are unable to get through then the patient may need to rebook a call back appointment.

Training Days: Please note that the practice will be closed from 1pm on the following dates for staff training:
Thursday 6th February 2020 & Wednesday 4th March 2020

On these afternoons the Capel St Mary building will be open to enable access to the pharmacy but the Practice reception will be closed. East Bergholt reception will be open.

Please note that there will be no clinicians at either building after 1pm as they will be attending training off-site. Our phone lines will be closed for the afternoon. If you need medical assistance please contact 111. If your need is urgent then please dial 999 or attend your local A&E.

Pete Keeble
Practice Manager

Gardening Notes

Get ready, get set...

At last spring is on the horizon and February is a chance to start getting ready for green shoots, grass growing and the inevitable rise of the evil weed.

I generally don't find pruning very complicated but there's always an exception and, for me, it's clematis. There's plenty of instruction in books and online for which group (there's three) to prune (or not) when, but since I've lost pretty much every label on my clematis plants and haven't made a note when they were flowering, pruning them is all a bit of a gamble. Still, if I do it wrong (and this is true for pretty much all gardening, it only means I'll lose a season of flowers – although I will probably face even greater confusion this time next year.

The key thing to remember is that the right time for pruning clematis depends on whether the plant flowers on old or new wood. Some produce young shoots and flower on them in the same year, while others flower on shoots grown the previous year. So watching when they flower usually tells you when to prune them.

February is the best time to prune group 3 clematis, including varieties of *Clematis viticella* and low growing, herbaceous varieties such as the beautiful pink *Clematis* 'Alionushka' in my sister's garden, which flower from summer to late autumn on stems grown this year. Because of this, you can afford to cut away a large amount of

the plant's old stems down to a pair of strong buds 20-30cm above ground level. Check on them regularly to fan out and tie in new shoots as they start growing.

Summer-flowering deciduous shrubs can also be pruned now. Usually these also flower on the current year's growth and include *Buddleja davidii*, *Ceratostigma*, *Hydrangea paniculata*, *Lavatera*, *Leycesteria*, *Perovskia* and *Caryopteris*. As I wrote in November, I've already cut back my towering varieties of *Buddleja* by half, but now I'll chop them hard to 30cm, just above a healthy bud or growing shoot. Being brutal like this – stooling them, if you want to be technical about it – will stimulate better growth and flowers in the summer. If you'd like the plant to grow taller than three metres, then prune back to 60cm and if you leave the job until May you will get flowers later in the season. You might need some loppers or a sharp pruning saw for some of the thicker stems.

Do not hard prune *Buddleja alternifolia* or *Buddleja globosa*, which bloom on stems made last season and are already beginning to produce flower buds that pruning now will remove. If you grow *Salix alba* subsp. *vitellina* or *Cornus sanguinea* for their winter stems, stooling them will ensure you get young, colourful growth to enhance the display.

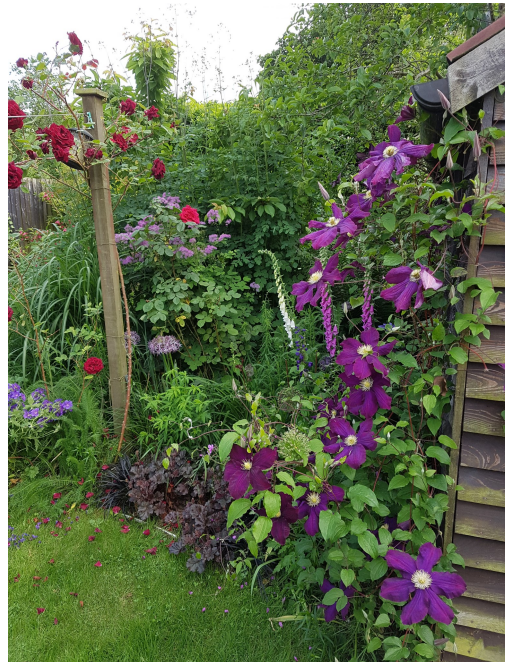
Towards the end of the month, I'll also look at some deciduous grasses in the border with several varieties of *Miscanthus* – 'Ferner Osten', 'Flamingo' and 'Malepartus' – adding height and structure as well as winter interest. They're looking a bit tired now, so prune back individual stems to ensure that you don't cut off the new green shoots. I can cut back clumps of *Deschampsia cespitosa* 'Schottland' now too, but don't do this for other deciduous grasses, like *Pennisetum orientale*, until late April as they produce

new growth later in the season and the old stems will protect the crown until then.

Whatever you are pruning, at the end of the month plants will benefit from homemade compost or a balanced fertiliser, such as Growmore or blood, fish and bone, to feed the growth they are starting to put on.

Finally, with any time you've got left check your tools, give them some care and make sure your essential garden machinery is in working order. Start yanking up perennial weeds before the weather warms and clear away leaf litter to remove hiding places for slugs and snails. Have fun!

If you missed our first speaker evening of the year on 5 February, make a note in your diary and join us at 7.30pm on 4 March when Tom Cole talks to us about propagation, just in time for the start of a new growing season.



Elliott Frisby

Dedham Parish Council

Tea and tablets: Back by popular demand is another 'Tea and Tablets' session to be held on Thursday 6 February at 2pm in the Duchy Barn. Do you get confused or frustrated when using your iPad, tablet or mobile phone? Does everyone else seem to 'get it'? Are you worried about being left behind at the beginning of this new decade? Fear not! A selection of friendly, helpful, not-in-the-first-flush-of-youth 'experts' are on hand to help! Why not bring along your own device and enjoy some good company and a cup of tea whilst getting a bit of one-to-one help? If you have been before, great, we'd love to see you again! If not, it would be lovely to meet you. You can phone Cllr Jane Meakin on 01206 322014 if you would like to find out more – or just turn up.

2020/21 budget: At its meeting in January the Parish Council discussed the budget for the forthcoming financial year. It was resolved to set the precept for 2020/21 at £42,068. This equates to a 'Band D equivalent' charge of £45.38 per property, an increase of £0.02p per annum. The full details can be found on the Parish Council website, or contact the Clerk for a copy of the budget report.

Parish Council elections: In May the term of the current parish council comes to an end. If you are interested in standing for election for the parish council please feel free to contact the parish clerk or any member of the current parish council to find out more. We will be organising an informal event for anyone interested in finding out

more about the work of the parish council in the near future. If you have some free time and are interested in what happens in your village, please consider standing.

Next meetings are on Monday 3 February and Monday 2 March, 7.30 in the Duchy Barn

www.dedhamparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Clerk – Emma Cansdale

01255 871483

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Past Meetings:

A speaker meeting took place on **Wednesday 8th January 2020 - The Mysteries of Easter Island** by Chris Parfitt, retired teacher, looked at life on this remote island today and explored its unique history revolving mainly around the famous statues and some of the theories surrounding them.

Future Meetings & Diary Dates:

12 February - The Life and Times of an Essex Bad Girl: From prison to a successful Brand by Tracy from the Giggly Pig Co and just how did she manage to change the direction of her life into being a pig farmer and successful sausage producer.

11 March - Bees and Flowers: Master Beekeeper Jeremy Quinlan will talk on the contest between them to gain benefits from the relationship explained.

8 April - Colchester Roman Circus & The Fenwick Treasure: Philip Crummy, Director & Principal Archaeologist, Colchester Archaeological Trust, speaks about the two most interesting archaeological discoveries in Colchester in recent years.

Coffee Grinders meet on the last Friday of each month from 10 - 12 noon at the

Lambe School Gaston Street East Bergholt. This meeting especially welcomes new members but gives all members the opportunity of meeting activity group leaders and committee members whilst enjoying a cup of coffee. Please see our website for updates www.stourvalleyu3a.org.uk

Membership: Our main purpose is to encourage lifelong learning for those who are no longer in full time employment and emphasis is always placed on making learning active and fun as well as helping in developing friendships. We have a wide range of groups including language study, country walking, computer studies and gardens, churches and historic buildings visits. In the main, membership is drawn from communities in the lower Stour Valley and adjacent areas including Brantham, Capel St Mary, Dedham, East Bergholt, Holbrook, Lawford, Manningtree, Raydon, & Stratford St Mary. We are affiliated to the ThirdAge Trust, have over 400 members and 40 active groups. For further information please visit www.stourvalleyu3a.org.uk where our membership secretary Val Pretty may be contacted.

Meeting Venue: The Constable Hall Gandish Road East Bergholt CO7 6TP at 2 for 2.15pm. Annual membership costs £12 and this entitles members to attend the meetings that take place on the second Wednesday of each month, except December. Whilst Visitors are welcome to join us on a limited number of occasions, paying a donation each time, Members are given priority, for safety reasons, due the halls limited capacity.

Remember it's never too late to learn! Join over 400,000 members across over 1,000 U3As throughout the UK today!



Stour Valley Men's Probus Club

Recent Meetings: We didn't hold a meeting on New Years Day and so our first meeting in the New Year was on Wednesday 15 January when our Member Michael Hole gave a most interesting talk on "Second World War Prisoner of War Camps".

Future Meetings: Following on from last month's talk on Prisoner Of War Camps in WW2 on 5 February Carole Wheatley will enlighten us on "Internment in Guernsey during the Second World War" and two weeks later on 19 February Colin Hopper will present "The Story of London Bridge".

On Wednesday 4 March Maureen Clarke will talk to us about "The plight of street orphans in India" and we will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 18 March.

Meeting Venue: We meet at the convenient St John Ambulance HQ, Manningtree CO11 1EB

New members are welcomed: Our Club endeavours to be simple in structure, be free of the constraints and obligations of service clubs, and involve members to a minimal cost. New Members are always very welcome at all meetings of the Stour Valley Men's Probus Club, just join us at 10am on a meeting date. The club is directed primarily to providing fellowship between members who are compatible with each other, and provide the opportunity for development of acquaintances. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Manningtree at 10 for 10.30am. Please contact President Dave Carman on 01255 880202 for further details.

But how can we know the Holy Trinity exists?

The Vicar fields tough questions over a beer or two

Late on a dark Sunday evening, Antony Wilson, Dedham's vicar, is looking contemplatively into a pint of bitter. He is facing a small group of skeptics that he has asked to meet him in the Sun Inn once a month and the argument is getting lively.

It started with a question from a Christian with doubts about the book of Genesis. If the creation story is not true what should we make of it? Yes indeed, said a more hard-bitten skeptic – if the first Book of the Bible is wrong, why should we accept the rest of the Old Testament to be the Word of God?

Antony countered mildly that Genesis I was not a scientific document. It should be read more as poetry. Indeed, he said, the image of the earth before creation as “without form and void” might be seen as similar to the modern idea of the universe at the time of the Big Bang. This did not satisfy the skeptics. One thought it should be possible to be a Christian while regarding the Old Testament as a collection of myths, and tribal history. A milder skeptic who had abandoned theological studies because of his doubts, moved the conversation to the Bible's account of the creation of animals and of man. Poetic or not, this seemed to be inconsistent with Darwin's Theory of Evolution.

Antony said he accepted that Evolution took place within species, but he believed each species had been created



by God. The skeptics, unsurprisingly, disagreed. However, a Humanist wisely moved the discussion on from the origins of man to questions of how men should behave. As she explained, Humanists do not generally believe in God, but they do believe in a system of ethics in line with Christian teaching.

This proved a less contentious topic. Antony said that kindness and moral behaviour was embedded in the Christian faith: why should complete unbelievers choose to be good?"

The humanist answered that it was part of her belief system, based on rational principles, that we should all behave well towards our fellow men. One former skeptic, who had recently been Confirmed as a Christian, said he thought faith had made him a better person and had certainly made him more contented. The former theological student said he had been looking for ways back to the faith despite the conflicts with science, and this was

related to the question of how we should live. Even Hard Bitten conceded that a sense of right and wrong (or what the philosopher, David Hume called “benevolence”) did seem to be ingrained in many people. However, he did not think Christianity was the only, or always the best, guide to morality. For example, the Church’s past teaching on women’s rights and homosexuality was now widely questioned.

Sunday Night Skeptics

at The Sun Inn,
Dedham
8pm, 23 February
for conversation and
questions about faith
and reason



Antony said we should remember that moral and social ideas had been very different in past ages. This led to a short debate on the extent that church teaching should be considered as absolute (and divinely inspired) or modified by the times.

The Christians (who roughly equalled the number of skeptics at the first three meetings) wanted to emphasise the strong central core of Christian teaching. Antony said one of the most important things was trust. Hard Bitten said there were many circumstances when it would be unwise to trust others. However he then came under pressure from the group to explain how

a reductionist godless view of the world could help people to live together in harmony and goodwill. He replied, rather lamely perhaps, that he had no doubt of the difference between right and wrong and could find human ideals in literature as well as philosophy.

Despite these differences, there was much common ground in later discussions about the immense cultural heritage of the Christian church and its ability to promote social cohesion. One skeptic said that Christian music, liturgy and art had been very important in her life, even though she could not believe in God and the Trinity.

Discussions about how Christian belief – or alternatives to it – could promote happiness and good behaviour proved also to be fruitful and thought provoking. Antony said that true happiness could be experienced through faith. Clearly those without faith cannot argue with that. On the other hand, one of the skeptics countered that radical uncertainty does not have to be as bleak and unsatisfying as the Christians present seemed to think. Many unbelievers, he said, delighted in the wonders of Nature; and the excitement of seeing her mysteries disrobed by science. Still, science did not reveal absolute truths.

How then, asked one of the Christians, could a person be truly satisfied if he was distrustful and unsure about everything ? Plenty to talk about over the next few beers.

Max Wilkinson

A dream of the Good Life and self sufficiency



Sue starling with one of her friends.
The quest for independence from
food shops has been hard work -
but worth it

Anyone in the know who sees the notice SORRY ALL GONE outside 11 Kiln Cottages in Dedham will be disappointed but not surprised.

Sue Starling's delicious eggs are a reminder of the real thing when most of us imagine that to-day's watery, supermarket version is what to expect from an egg.

Sue's eggs from her 25 hens are quickly snapped up but she is much more than an egg-lady. Kiln Cottages on Crown Street may look like a suburban terrace, but the Starlings' back garden opens out into a modest two-acre smallholding

Sue, aged 53, is a town girl from Colchester with no farming background. But when her two sons, Joshua and Thomas, were grown up, she gave up her regular job as a carer to follow a dream that she and her husband Ashley could become self-sufficient. Ashley, a former game-keeper, now works in the construction industry and is often away on contracts, leaving Sue to cope.

It started slowly. They bought the land five years ago. "First of all for the dogs and then we thought we'd get a couple of chickens and a couple of goats - I've always liked goats - and it all went a bit crazy after that."

In addition to their own two-acres they also rent land nearby and have 30 sheep, two bantams, ten yearlings, and 20 goats – seven of which are pygmies and treated as pets. The 25 hens each lay an egg a day in good weather. "On a cold day, like this they produce fewer- they are not happy birds!"

So far they just about make money from their egg sales, which almost pays for food for the animals: "We produce meat mainly for ourselves. The animals go to the abattoir in Clacton and the meat comes back frozen and jointed. We give some to family and friends - I'm only allowed to sell it to family and friends."

She even has a freezer in her conservatory as well as a large freezer in a garden shed : "We have mutton, lamb and pork chops and vegetables for

ourselves: marrow, pumpkins, potatoes, runner beans (not successful this year because of the wind) beetroots, tomatoes, blackberries, raspberries, gooseberries.

“And one of the first things we did when we got the field was to plant fruit trees - apples, plums, cherries, pears but they’re not mature yet.”

So why do Sue’s eggs taste so good?

“Because the hens are outside, eating bugs and whatever they find in the grass, just walking

around. Birds get easily stressed if they’re confined.”

After her job in “care” with adults and children, it is clear, Sue is now caring for animals. “It is the life – it honestly is. Caring for animals really brings out the best in people.”

She speaks of young sheep as “first time mums”. When she talks about the hard work of lambing, she says: “My ladies were kind to me by not keeping me up too late.” She loves her goats “as pets”, though she is not particularly fond of pigs. “But when you sit down and eat that pork it’s so much more delicious than what you can buy - our Oxford Sandy Blacks are a traditional pig you couldn’t get in the butcher’s.”

She is often asked: when you have delivered and brought up an animal, how can you then eat it? “I say, I love the meat so much I have no qualms

whatsoever.” But there is also a feeling of respect. “We regard waste as a sin and disrespectful to animals we have cared for. So we respect what we are eating.” Sue even extends this attitude to using scraps of sheep’s wool for making elegant toy animals.

So far they do not make a profit out of their hard work “Everything we make goes straight back – and that is why my

husband is still working. The eggs more or less pay for the other animals’ food. We

had to buy a field shelter because we had more sheep, and this came out of my savings.

“We do what we do because we enjoy it and because of what we get out of it personally. We spend very little on food – I make my own bread if I get the time.”

Sue works phenomenally hard and admits there are days when she is tired: “But it is not overwhelming. My husband was away last year when we had the ‘Beast from the East’ with cold winds and freezing temperatures. I thought it was going to be an easy day but all my canvases had caved in with the snow so I spent the whole day repairing and fixing the poly tunnels.

“But when I finally got in and made myself a cup of coffee I felt I had really achieved something. And that’s what I get out of it .”

Anthea Hall

**“It is the life - it honestly is.
Caring for animals really brings
out the best in people.”**

Dedham Pharmacy

This account is based on research carried out by the late Phyllis Phillips, which she generously made available to me in 2007. For photographs and further information I am indebted to her husband, pharmacist Jack Phillips and to Christine Lowden (née Gooch), whose family owned the Pharmacy until 1962.

We know that there was a pharmacy in Dedham as early as 1869, when George Samuel Manthrop was listed in the first full register published by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain as the “already established” owner of a business in Dedham. He remained here until 1876, when he moved to Stoke Newington, London. In 1875 the chemist in Dedham was Charles John Kirkham, who was succeeded by William Hobbs Gooch in 1881. Surviving bill-heads from his dispensary dated 188_ show that as well as drugs he sold bibles and porter in casks, while psalters had been advertised at an earlier period. His business included the pharmacies in both Dedham and East Bergholt.



Gooch's Chemist in Royal Square in the late 1940s

The Gooch family owned the chemist's shop at Churchgate House in Royal Square for more than eighty years as well as the adjacent Duchy House, which was built to replace an existing cottage. The old cottage had been fronted to the north facing the square but the new house faced east, which allowed the Drift footpath to be widened to take vehicular traffic. This gave access to Duchy Cottage which they also owned.



William Rastrick Gooch (second from left) with staff and relatives outside his shop, c. 1946

One of William Hobbs Gooch's three sons, William Rastrick Gooch, who had gone into partnership with his father, succeeded him on his death in 1913. He continued the business with his wife Ann who was a nurse. In the winter the shop was heated by an open coal fire. The wall behind the counter was still covered by rows of small wooden drawers labelled in gold with the names of the ingredients which were used for making up prescriptions before the advent of proprietary medicines. Behind the shop was the dispensary

where Mr Gooch still mixed some of his own prescriptions such as skin creams. By the time he died in 1950 he had sold the business in East Bergholt. His widow retrained as a chiropodist and kept the Dedham shop going for a further twelve years with the help of locums and managers.



Phyllis and Jack Phillips outside the Pharmacy in the early 1970s

In 1962 the business was bought by Fred Harvey who ran it with his wife Phyllis for ten years, keeping the shop essentially unchanged. I remember glass-fronted cabinets, the drawers behind the counter and in the window two of the carboys or large glass bottles filled with coloured liquid which are still to be seen in some traditional pharmacies. Medicines sold under their own name included delicious cherry cough mixture with a picture of Dedham church tower on the label. The shop was crammed with an excellent variety of merchandise and space was somehow found for scales for babies and a penny-in-the-slot machine for customers to weigh themselves.

In 1972 the shop was sold to Jack and Phyllis Phillips who ran it as a flourishing business for the next twenty-five years. Since prescriptions were no longer made up from separate ingredients and dispensing had become a matter of selecting and issuing medicines they decided to update the interior and in the 1980s carried out a complete re-fit with smart mahogany furnishings. Then in 1994 they gained much-needed extra space by moving the shop to its present location in the High Street. Here it expanded into the larger premises of the former Spearing's grocery, which was vacant after a short spell as a Martin Hogg's China Shop.

Three years later the Phillipses sold to Jayesh Kotecha, who ran the business for twenty years. He also purchased the Pharmacy in East Bergholt, bringing the two shops back into the same ownership. He subsequently combined the Pharmacy with the Dedham Post Office, which he set up in at the rear of the shop in 2005 when the Hood family's stewardship came to an end. This dual arrangement continued under the ownership of Mandeep and Pardeep Sandhu, who bought the business in 2017 but reluctantly closed the Post Office in 2019. They continue to run the Pharmacy, which remains a friendly, welcoming and greatly-valued shop in the centre of the village, as it has been for so many years.

© **Lucy Archer**
14 January 2020

Chris Clark, a life well lived in Dedham

Chris has been a Dedham boy all of his life. He was born in 1949 at the Anglesea Road hospital in Ipswich rather than at home because he was 1 month early, the youngest in a family of four and the only one born after the second world war.

Before the second world war his father Robert (Bob) worked at Brooks (Mistley) and was a member of the Manningtree Territorial Army. He joined up at the outbreak of war, leaving his wife, Chris' mother Dulcie (Dell) at home with three children under five. Bob was taken prisoner in the desert along with Attfield Brooks from the Mistley firm. Bob was a Cook Sergeant with responsibility for the troops' rations and told his family how he and his colleagues were captured as the German Panzer tanks appeared over the sand dunes and of the bravery of a teenage cockney soldier called 'Jonny' Johnson, armed only with a 303 rifle, who wanted to shoot at the approaching tanks. Bob was in a PoW camp for four and a half years and left when the Germans abandoned the camp in the face of the approaching Russian army. He and two other local lads walked for miles across Germany and Chris tells one of the few stories shared by his father about stealing some shoes from outside a church which turned out to belong to the local priest. His own shoes were worn through. In common with many families, the experiences of the men on the front line were rarely spoken about. Two other vignettes from a past generation echo down the years: the prisoners in the camp said that they never heard birdsong because the Russians erected nets to trap the birds to eat as their rations were more meagre than those of other nationalities. The other was the tragic story of a Dutch traitor who gave away to the Germans the location of a diverted sewer destined to

become an escape trench. He was found out because he always had plenty of cigarettes as a reward for his duplicity and was subsequently shot by his own people.

Chris's father returned to Brooks (Mistley) after the war and Chris remembers catching a bus there as a child from the Heath School (at the Heath Crossroads for those who don't remember it; the old 87A which used to come down Long Road to Bargate Lane corner and on to Lawford and Mistley) on a Saturday morning when his father used to stoke all the fires at the Maltings. When Chris's father's stepmother died, her home in Brook Street, Manningtree was cleared and Chris recalls taking four soda syphons back to the off licence which used to be in the High Street in Manningtree and getting ten bob in return. His father's preferred mode of transport at the time was a motorbike and sidecar – he bought his only new one, a Panther, in 1965, from Pride and Clarke's in London. He later graduated to a Reliant Robin, to the embarrassment of some of his family! You didn't need a full licence to drive a three wheeler.

Chris lived his early life at 1 Clayhall Cottages at the top of East Lane, which was rented from the Moorhouse family. He lived there until his family were one of the first to move into the newly built houses in Forge Street in 1950.

When it came to move from East Lane to Forge Street, the family enlisted the help of Dick Poyser, then the owner of Hill Farm in Long Road (prior to the Langridges), who brought his tractor and trailer to transport the family's worldly goods the mile and a half to Forge Street. At the time there was a shop on the corner of Bargate Lane then run by the Smiths, prior to being taken over by the Bryants.

At one stage in Forge Street there were around 100 children of school age and under! Chris recalls being collected by tractor and trailer when he was a youngster to go potato picking at Halsall's in Langham; 'Anyone for rabbit warren' shouted the farmer as he arrived at the end of Forge Street. Some thirty years late the Clark family exercised their right to buy their property in Forge Street and Chris bought number 12 with his father in 1980 for £6,750. At the time Chris was living in Newberry Cottages on Long Road whilst working for Clovers as a miller. He later took redundancy from Clovers and went to work at the Hercules Powder Company, which was later take over by Shell. After Chris's father died, Chris built a new-fangled 'Granny annex' at number 12 so that he and his wife Joan could move in and look after his mother who struggled to light the solid fuel Parkray stove on her own!

Until Chris and Joan moved out of this house to a bungalow in Colchester a few years back, their family were the longest serving residents of Forge Street to be living in the same house. Number 12 was notable for being the first house in the village to get gas, a fortnight before Arnold Hood at the Post Office because Chris had a contact at the Gas Board!

Many residents will remember Chris for his long and dedicated association firstly with the Dedham Youth Club (from 1983) and then with the Dedham Sports Club and Dedham Old Boys Football Club. The British Legion Club on the Duchy Field was originally the Reading Room which was built in 1911: the occasion of the formal opening of the Reading Room saw the first telegram ever to be sent to Dedham. A new flat roofed Sports Club building was built on the same site in 1969 by Keeble and Bush, Langham builders, and opened by

Bobby Robson, the Ipswich Town Football Club manager.

During the late 1980s and early 1990s Chris, along with the late Peggy and Les Brookes, was the driving force behind the Dedham fete, primarily organised to raise funds for a new Sports Club building, opened in 1991, by the then Anglia TV celebrity cook Patrick Anthony and still going strong. Chris recalls that Mr Anthony was entertained to lunch by Trevor Gilbert in one of our local restaurants as a thank you for his services. It is unclear who paid!

In 1991 Chris set up the Carpet Bowls Club, also still going strong!

Chris has lived a largely blameless life.....except for one or two minor brushes with the long arm of the law! In 1970 he apparently crossed the central double white lines on the old A12 when overtaking a tractor and was fined £15. The fine was probably at the top end of the range because he left the police officer who pulled him over in no doubt as to the unfairness of his actions given that three cars in front of him which performed the same manoeuvre were not stopped! Around ten years ago he was travelling through Newton Green, near Sudbury, in pursuit of a spare part for the Sports Club's grass cutting tractor when he was admonished for travelling at 34mph in a 30mph limit. He subsequently completed a 'speed awareness' course.

Many local friends will know that Chris has been diagnosed with a terminal illness.....but that was five years ago. He tells me that he asked his consultant for fifteen extra years and he looks set to achieve this!



THEATRE

Friday 31 Jan to 1 Feb

She Said, He Said, They Said. an evening of musical theatre, University Centre, Colchester, Headgate Theatre, Colchester, 7.30pm.

Les Liaisons Dangereuses by Christopher Hampton, Paper Lantern, Headgate Theatre, Colchester, 7.30pm.

Tuesday 18 Feb

The Ballad Of Maria Marten - story of a Suffolk murder, Eastern Angles Theatre Company - with Matthew Linley Creative Projects and the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough, New Wolsley Theatre, Ipswich, 7.45pm. and , Odeon Colchester.

Fri 21 to 22 Feb

A Night at the Musicals - young actors/ singers, Theatretrain, Colchester, Headgate Theatre, Colchester, 7pm.

Sat 22 to 23 Feb

Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet, Protocol Theatre, Headgate Theatre, Colchester, 7.45pm.

The Gift, Eclipse Theatre & Belgrade Theatre Coventry at Theatre Royal Bury, Bury St Edmunds, 7.30pm.

MUSIC

Saturday 1 Feb

Gilbert and Sullivan evening, with the octet and friends, Edmund Octet, All Saints Church, Bury St Edmunds, 7.30pm.

Saturday 8 Feb

Like The Stars In The Sky, choral music for Farleigh Hospice, tickets at

the door., Colchester Chamber Choir, Coggeshall Church, 7pm.

Singing day workshop Verdi: Requiem, Stowmarket

Chorale at Woolpit Village Hall, 10am.

Russian music, Wolsley Orchestra, The Apex, Bury St Edmunds, 7.30pm.

Sunday 9 Feb

String Quintet, Flute, Oboe & Piano, Kingfisher Ensemble, The Cut Arts Centre, Halesworth, 3pm.

Purcell, Haydn.

Young Musicians' Concert, Stour Valley Arts and Music, Constable Hall, East Bergholt, 4pm.

Tuesday 11 Feb

William Baldry (St Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich), Colchester Moot Hall Organ, Moot Hall Colchester, 1pm.



Wed 12 to 15 Feb

Dare to be different, Colchester Operatic Society, Headgate Theatre, Colchester, 7.45pm.

Saturday 15 Feb

Coull String Quartet with Richard Edgar-Wilson (tenor) and Andrew Leach (piano), Ipswich Chamber Music Society, Ipswich School, 7.30pm.



Beethoven: piano concertos and wind octet Beethoven Wind Octet Beethoven 3rd Piano

Concerto, Prometheus Orchestra, Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh, 7pm.

Sunday 16 Feb

Tallis, Pärt, Byrd, Croce, The Tallis Scholars, Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden, 3pm.

String Orchestra, Kingfisher Sinfonietta, Lion Walk Church, Colchester, 2.45pm.

Beethoven: piano concertos and wind sextet, Prometheus Orchestra, Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh, 4pm.

Monday 17 Feb

Metamorphoses: clarinet, viola and piano trio Monday 16 March 2020 7:30pm, Bury St Edmunds Concert Club, Unitarian Meeting House, Bury St Edmunds, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 19 Feb

Sondheim & Me, Joanna Eden & George Double Trio, Headgate Theatre Colchester, 7.30pm.

Anna Noakes, flute and Christine Whiffen, harpsichord, Music in Felixstowe, Orwell Hotel, 11.30am.

Sunday 23 Feb

Old Time Music Hall, Music in Felixstowe, Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club, 7pm.

Saturday 29 Feb

James MacMillan: Seven Last Words From The Cross, Ipswich Chamber Choir, St Mary-le-Tower, 7pm.

Ebonit Quartet (saxophones), Pimlott Foundation, Old House, Great Horkesley, 5pm.

Sunday 1 Mar

Concert, Bury St Edmunds Friendly Orchestra, All Saints Church.

Family Concert, Ipswich Symphony Orchestra, Ipswich Corn Exchange, 2.30pm.

OPERA/MUSICAL

Tuesday 28 Jan to 1 Feb

Made in Dagenham, Norfolk and Norwich Operatic Society, Theatre Royal Norwich, 7.30pm and matinee.

Saturday 1 Feb

Bernstein: Porgy and Bess, Metropolitan Opera New York-LL, Firstsite, Colchester, 5.55pm.

Sunday 2 Feb

Puccini: La Bohème, Royal Opera House - LL, Firstsite, Colchester, 2pm.

Tuesday 4 Feb

Kinky Boots The Musical, Adelphi Theatre - LL, Odeon Colchester, 7pm.

WHATS ON: DEDHAM FILMS

Wednesday 19 Feb

Puccini: La Bohème - Opera & Ballet International, an Ellen Kent production with Elena Dee the Korean soprano, Regent Theatre Ipswich, 7.30pm.

Fri 21 to 22 Feb

Bugsy Malone, Children's Theatre Company, New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich, 7pm.

Mon 24 to 29 Feb

Once, New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich at various times.

Saturday 29 Feb

Handel: Agrippina, Metropolitan Opera New York - LL, Firstsite, Colchester, 5.40pm.

BALLET/DANCE

Friday 31 Jan

Enowate | Dickson Mbi Enowate | Dickson Mbi, DanceEast, Jerwood DanceHouse, Ipswich, 7.30pm.

Tuesday 25 Feb

The Cellist / Dances At A Gathering, Royal Ballet - LL, Odeon Colchester, 7.15pm. and , Firstsite.



TALK

Thursday 6 Feb

The Mountbattens - their lives and loves, presented By ihe author Andrew Lownie, New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich, 7.45pm.

For details see: www.eamaa.org/

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Wednesday February 19th 2020

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There are now many on the general market and St Mary's has signed up as being a Fairtrade Church and continues to actively promote this. There are food products, goodies and gifts on sale in Church every month and to find out more about availability or just general information, please call 07595618779 or 07760124399.

If you do not already do so, it's not too late to start this new year by adjusting your shopping lists



Bell Ringers needed!!

Are you prepared to get up early on a Sunday morning and join an enthusiastic group of bell ringers? Do come along and give it a try one Sunday at 9.00am. We're a mixed aged group and very friendly! We meet at the bottom of the towers steps and ring for around 20 minutes. No bell ringing experience needed! **Anne Lipscomb Bell captain. Mobile: 07979694058.**

Medical cannabis: weeding out the facts



**An insight into drug trials in medicine
and the facts behind the use of cannabis
in medicine**

Professor Richard Appleton

Consultant and Professor in Paediatric Neurology
Alder Hey Children's Hospital and the University of Liverpool

**Saturday, 28th March 2020 at 7.30pm
Parish Rooms, Stratford St Mary**

£8.00 a ticket which includes wine

**All proceeds to Stratford St Mary's Church Fabric Fund
Tickets are available on the door or in advance from Hall Farm Shop
or Stratford St Mary Post Office (Vale Garage, Upper St)**

Medical cannabis: weeding out the truth

'Medical cannabis' describes any cannabis-based medicine used to relieve symptoms in a medical condition. All are based on a part, or parts of the cannabis plant which contains hundreds of natural chemicals, the two most important being cannabidiol (CBD) and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). CBD does not have the psychogenic ('high') effects associated with cannabis. Medical cannabis has had only limited success in the treatment of multiple sclerosis, severe cerebral palsy and cancer. The past seven years has seen much research into the potential benefits and safety of

cannabis (CBD, not THC), in the treatment of epilepsy.

Most research has been undertaken using the 'randomised controlled trial' (RCT), the gold standard when assessing the effectiveness and safety of new medicines before they can be prescribed to patients. RCTs have been undertaken in the UK, the rest of Europe and the USA in two severe types of epilepsy. I helped design and participated in two trials in children in the UK. Results of these trials showed that CBD (called Epidyolex by the pharmaceutical company), was statistically significantly more effective than placebo in reducing the frequency

of epileptic seizures. There are many non-pharmaceutical grade medical cannabis products, most of which contain significant amounts of THC (far more than in Epidyolex), as well as impurities and none have undergone an RCT. It is these products, obtained from many countries, that families want to give their children with severe epilepsy and which has led to intense media-coverage. Clearly, there must be justifiable concern over their safety, particularly in children. At the moment, none can be approved and licenced by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the USA and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in UK/Europe. Epidyolex was approved for limited use

in the treatment of children and adults with two severe types of epilepsy in 2018 (USA) and 2019 (UK/Europe). The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recently 'allowed' Epidyolex to be prescribed in these epilepsies. However, significant obstacles may still prevent it being prescribed to eligible patients. Consequently, confusion and concern continue and particularly over non-RCT tested cannabis in the treatment of epilepsy.

(I will discuss drug trials and medical cannabis in more detail at a Church fund-raising talk in Stratford St Mary on 28th March 2020).

Richard Appleton

Guide Dogs

Trainee guide dog John who attended church until last July when he left



us to attend guide dog school has progressed very well and will have started training with his new owner on January 20th. We saw him working with his instructor the week before and on meeting him afterwards he was extremely excited to see us and play. What a difference 18 months make!!

Marjorie Culham



STOUR CHORAL SOCIETY

Messiah

Handel



Lindsay Gowers - Soprano
Anna Maria Hyman - Mezzo Soprano
Mitesh Khatri - Tenor
Peter Grevatt - Bass

Stephen Smith - Organ
Jonathan Abbott - Trumpet
Glyn Sweeting - Trumpet
Ben Steinitz - Timpani

Music Director - Susie Hyman

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Stour Choral Society Spring Concert

Stour Choral Society will be performing Handel's Messiah on Saturday 28th March at Mistley Parish Church starting at 2.30 pm

Don't miss this exciting event when the choir will be performing under the baton of Musical Director Susie Hyman. Soloists will be Lindsay Gowers (soprano), Anna Maria Hyman (mezzo soprano), Mitesh Khatri, (tenor) and Peter Grevatt (bass), Organist, Stephen Smith, trumpeters Glyn Sweeting and Jonathan Abbott and Timpanist Ben Steinitz.

Tickets, priced £12 will be available from Howells Hardware Store, High Street, Manningtree, Choir members,

Composed in just twenty-four days, Handel's Messiah is a work of sustained inspiration, power and seemingly inexhaustible invention. More than 250 years have passed since its first performance, yet its status as one of the great icons of European music remains undiminished, and it continues to speak to millions of people of many cultures and faiths around the world.

Accompanied by the Kingfisher Sinfonietta, Clacton Choral will perform Parts Two and Three of this magnificent work, on Saturday 4th April 2020 in St.Paul's Church, Church Road, Clacton on Sea CO15 6AU.

Part Two is the dramatic heart of the work, telling of Christ's passion, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension. Here we find a wide range of emotional expression, from the crowd's derisive taunts in 'He trusted in God', to the heart-breaking alto aria, 'He was despised', which will be sung by Sarah Stephens. Bass soloist Peter Grevatt expresses the fierce rage in 'Why do the nations?' and the tenor aria is sung by Michael Bell in the moving 'Thou shalt break them'. This part ends on a gloriously optimistic note, with trumpets, drums and chorus blazing out their triumphant 'Hallelujah!'

Part Three consists entirely of commentary, principally on the resurrection and the theme of Christian redemption. In a work that abounds in superb music, this section contains some of Handel's most inspired writing, beginning with the radiant soprano aria, 'I know that my redeemer liveth' which will be performed by Beverly Lockyer. Equally superb is the bass aria, 'The trumpet shall sound', with its spectacular trumpet solo. However, it is in the towering final choruses, 'Worthy is the Lamb' and 'Amen', that Handel truly surpasses himself with music that carries all before it, in an exultant affirmation of

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faith. Throughout, Handel's writing for orchestra and solo voices is masterly, the fruits of a lifetime's musical experience. Arguably, though, it is the choruses that raise *Messiah* onto a different plane, thanks to Handel's unerring ability to grasp the dramatic potential of each text and the astonishing power and variety of his choral writing.

This concert is not one to be missed. For tickets, **available in advance only** and priced at £10 including programme, please phone 01255 424568 or email johnkedge@tiscali.co.uk www.clactonchoral.org.uk

Please note that no tickets will be sold on the door.



The presentation, in the Duchy Barn, was for her service in the allied military headquarters before and after the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

A full account appeared in the November issue of the Parish Magazine.

Marjorie West, a Dedham resident and former member of the Womens' Royal Naval Service, is officially presented with the Légion d'honneur medal by Colonel Arnel Dirou, France's Defence Attaché in the UK.



ORIGINAL OIL PAINTING

Of ST MARY the VIRGIN CHURCH – DEDHAM

The draw for the oil painting, by local artist Hugh Beattie, of Dedham Church has taken place and the winning number was held by John Reed.

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