



DEDHAM

Parish Magazine

May 2026



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DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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**The deadline for the JUNE 2026
Magazine entries is the 11th MAY 2026.**

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Cover Photo: Easter flowers, Choir
Stalls and Altar, John Goldsbrough

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: Ruth Higginson **Tel: 322
598.**

***If you would like a lift to church
contact Sharon Sarson Tel: 07876
114418***

If you have been bereaved or know of
anyone who has, please contact
Vee Druitt **Tel: 322 000** or Ruth
Higginson **Tel: 322 598**

***If you need any further support,
please contact the Parishes Office
Tel: 322 136 and your call will be
returned.***

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

Sunday, 3rd May

8am Holy Communion (BCP) Ardleigh
 9.30am Cafe Church Ardleigh
 9.30am Rise n Shine Dedham*

Sunday, 10th May

9.30am Holy Communion Ardleigh
 11am Holy Communion Dedham*

Sunday, 17th May

9.30am Holy Communion Ardleigh
 9.30am Morning Praise Dedham*
 5.00pm Revive@5 Dedham*

Sunday 24th May

9.30am Morning Praise Ardleigh
 9.30am Holy Communion Dedham*

Sunday 31st May

9.30am Holy Communion Ardleigh

Ardleigh Friendship Group: every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month: 10am to 12pm - Ardleigh Church.

Ardleigh Craft Group: every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month: Meeting at Ardleigh Church from 10am to 12pm. Please contact Ardleigh Churchwarden if you are interested in joining the group.

Little Steps Pre-School Group: every 4th Friday of the month: 9.30am in Ardleigh Church.

Men's Breakfast - Saturday 2nd May 9am - Breakfast, Bacon, Buns and Bible.

Monday Lunch Club – Monday 11th May 12.30pm, Essex Tea Rooms. Phone 322192 to reserve a place.

Walk and Talk - Wednesday 13th May 10am or 11am, Dedham Church and The Marlborough. 10am for a walk, or at 11am for just a chat. Phone 0771 245 6198 for more details.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral/Interment/Memorial

April 8th - David Thomas Hills.

Opinions expressed in contributed articles are those of the contributor and do not necessarily represent the position or opinions of the PCC or the Editorial team.

* = Services which may be live streamed.

Morning Prayer - Every Tuesday 10.30am at Dedham Church

Dear Friends,

I have a confession to make: I love May! If it's not the signs of spring, the long weekends and the beginning of the wedding season, it's the warmer weather, the gentle humming in our villages as we all begin to relax and engage our neighbours on the street, in the pub or on a walk after hibernating for months on end.

But the backdrop to all these wonderful things seems somewhat darker this year. The number of conflict zones seems to be increasing, whether in the Middle East or on the eastern border of Europe. And then there's the domestic situation which seems to offer little hope, despite big promises made by our leaders.

Where do you go when things take a turn in life, moving from happiness and hope to darkness and despair? Do you turn inward and try to cultivate peace in your soul, whether through mindfulness, nutrition or meditation? Or do you look for an escape – somewhere you can 'switch off' and just enjoy some peace and quiet, whether a rural idyll or an unspoilt beach far away?

The backdrop to Jesus' ministry was beginning to darken as He faced up to the fact that He was going to be killed and began to share that with His first followers. When they were tempted to despair He encouraged them with these words: "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

When we look around and the things that bring us happiness in this world seem to be diminishing, or when the backdrop to them threatens their peaceful enjoyment, we don't need to give in to despair or to lose hope. Jesus, through His death for our sins and His

resurrection to restore us to a right relationship through faith in Him, has overcome the troubles that will inevitably come our way in this fallen world.

Come and join us at a service near you to hear more of this solid ground for hope in an increasingly fragile world. We look forward to welcoming you!

*Best wishes,
Phillip*

IN YOUR MAGAZINE

This edition of the magazine includes a number of items from the 1876 Magazine. This year is the 250th anniversary of the birth of John Constable.

There is a major event in Dedham Church on Saturday 11th July to celebrate the anniversary. Dedham Church also features as part of the Constable audio trail of the 4.5 mile circular walk

John Goldsbrough



**Our services are on YouTube.
Search Dedham and Ardleigh Parishes.**



**Follow us on Facebook,
search - Dedham and
Ardleigh Parishes.**

**Dedham and Ardleigh
parishes website -
QR code**





TV, fame and success couldn't satisfy me, but falling in love with God changed everything'

Bargain Hunt and Antiques Roadshow star David Harper was sceptical of Christianity for most of his life. But after witnessing his daughter's "miraculous" recovery from serious depression, he launched an eleventh-month investigation into the faith. The results astounded him. I've always believed there's more to life than what we can see. So I've had this burning desire to find answers.

There were atheists in my family growing up, which gave me an in-built bias against Christianity. I started exploring all sorts of other things instead, like Eastern religions, meditation and worshipping nature. I was looking for the exotic. Christianity felt too ordinary.

I thought the answer was being known for being an antiques guy on the TV. But it all felt a bit meaningless. I was not happy or satisfied. What's the point in buying a new car, making some money, getting a new TV show? It doesn't matter how famous you are, how rich you are, how good-looking you are or how popular you are. It makes no difference to anything. I always had this niggle in the back of my mind: What's it all for? It was a constant journey for 50 years. I've always believed there's more to life than what we can see. So I've had this burning desire to find answers.

Surprised by joy

[My adult daughter] was going through a terrible time. She was deeply troubled and depressed. Doctors and therapists attempted to cure her, but nobody could help. When she found Jesus, her life was transformed. I watched her change over 15 months. I call it a miracle, because she changed from a very unhappy person to a deeply joyful person.

In December 2024, we spent Christmas together, two weeks in close quarters and talking lots. She kept telling me it was Jesus.

Because I write history books I thought, I'll apply the same methodology to Christianity. I'll do some research, and I'll write up some notes. That afternoon, I started diving down some very deep rabbit holes that I did not know existed. And I didn't stop for eleven months.

Looking at the evidence

Every day, whether I was filming or not, I'd be in my hotel room researching and writing. I wasn't expecting to come across so much evidence.

I started with: "Who made the universe?" Someone said to me: "Oh, it's so complicated. There are so many different opinions." Well, within about five minutes, I realised there are only two opinions, and only one can be right. The universe was either created by a mind and intelligence much greater than us, or it was an accident – created out of nothing for no reason. I very quickly came to the conclusion that it could only have been created by a mind. It doesn't make any logical sense for 'nothing' to create everything.

I investigated the resurrection. The facts, the documentation and the eyewitness accounts are indisputable. I came to the conclusion that the resurrection was a true historic event.

The turning point

Then, I was watching Professor John Lennox on YouTube. The interviewer asked him: “Could you be wrong about Christianity?” He said: “Yes, I could be wrong, but I don’t think I am, because of the evidence I’ve seen throughout my life.” He gave the example of a young girl who was one of his students six months ago. She was very unhappy, terribly depressed. He saw her only recently, and she was full of joy. He said: “What’s happened to you?” She said: “I found Jesus.” And he said: “That’s the only proof I need.”

That hit me so hard that I broke down. Because yes, there is a mountain of hard evidence for Christianity. If people want the historicity of it, it’s there to be found. But the real truth is in the spiritual transformation. That was when this information in my head – this belief that Jesus is real – fell into my heart, and I fell in love with God. It was dramatic beyond description.

I’d discovered what my daughter discovered – I became born again. Now I too am a changed person.

I wake up and the first person I speak to is Jesus. The last person I speak to at night is Jesus. He’s there constantly. Having God in your life makes you laugh. It gives you joy, because you realise that God is the most important thing in the world. Once you realise you love God more than anything else, everything falls into place.

The meaning of life

Sometimes I think to myself: Gosh, I wish I’d found this earlier. Having Jesus in my life is so life-enhancing. It’s unbelievable. No amount of material wealth could ever, ever buy it. I’ve been searching all my life – careers, travelling, attempting to become famous, writing history books – always searching for

something, and not discovering anything that was satisfying, until this remarkable person called Jesus entered my world.

I’ve become a very loud born-again Christian.

The fact that I’ve become a very loud born-again Christian means people are getting fed up of me talking to them about it! But I’m not going to stop. Some people have predicted it may well affect what I’m doing on television. And you know what? If I lost all my TV work tomorrow, it wouldn’t bother me for one second. I won’t lose a wink of sleep. This sounds dramatic, but I feel now that I don’t work for myself. I don’t work for the BBC. I don’t work for anyone other than Jesus.

Why did no one tell me?

I want to explain to people you don’t need to be special, you don’t need to be clever. It doesn’t matter where you come from, what age you are. There is something in life that is plain to see once you remove the blindfold, and it will transform your life. I think it’s an obligation for all Christians to at least drop those seeds into people’s minds. Don’t keep this great thing to yourself!

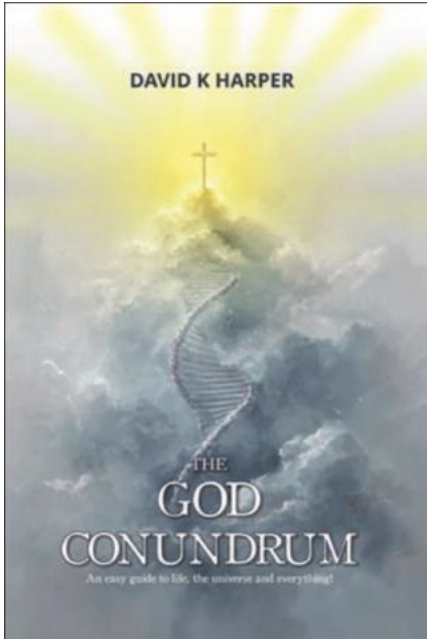
I don’t understand why more people don’t know this! I don’t understand why nobody told me this before! I feel a sense of a responsibility to gently tell people that there is so much more to life than worrying about jobs and relationships and what people think about you. There’s a responsibility for all of us to spread what we’ve discovered. Jesus is described as the good news. I mean, that sums it up beautifully, doesn’t it? It is good news.

David Harper was speaking to Lydia Bennett on Premier Christian Radio’s Faith, Hope and Love programme. To hear the interview in full, visit the website.

www.premier.plus

A Journey to Faith

The God Conundrum: An easy guide to life, the universe and everything by David Harper (Independent) is out now.



Revive@5 *looking OUTWARDS*

19 April: A journey to faith - David Harper
17 May: God's heart for the lost - Phillip Young
21 June: Life in the Spirit - Paul Harcourt
19 July: Sharing the Gospel - Paul Weston

Come and encounter God through contemporary worship, prayer and timeless truths applied to our world today
Refreshments from 4.30pm, service at 5pm
St. Mary's, Dedham CO7 6DE

MISSIONS BAKE SALES



All the mission sales are in front of the church unless otherwise stated.

The dates for the 2026 Mission Stall are as follows:

Saturday 9th May is our first real mission stall. The Horticulture Society Plant Sale is also outside the church 9am-12pm.

Saturday 27th June 10am-12pm.

Saturday 25th July 10am-12pm.

Monday 31st August 10am-4pm, bank holiday.

Saturday 26th September 10am-12pm. Venue - The Duchy Barn

Saturday 31st October 10am-12pm.

Ruth Higginson



Member Editor 2026
Association for Church Editors



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

May 10th

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St George's Church, Great Bromley CO7 7TS** at the 11am communion service. The anthem will be 'None other Lamb' by William Jeater and arranged by Dan Forrest. William Jeater was a little known composer from Wandsworth, London and died in 1919. Dr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978) is widely recognised as one of the leading American choral composers of our time. He has been described as having "an undoubted gift for writing beautiful music that is truly magical", with works hailed as "magnificent, very cleverly constructed sound sculpture" (Classical Voice), and "superb writing...full of spine-tingling moments" (Salt Lake Tribune). Dan's music spans a wide spectrum of genres and difficulty, ranging from extended major works for chorus and orchestra and significant concert choral repertoire to more accessible works for church and community choirs, as well as instrumental works ranging from wind ensemble pieces to solo instrumental sonatas.

May 31st

Some members of the Deanery choir will be singing at **St Mary's Church, Frinton CO13 9BX** at the 6.30pm Festival evensong service. This service has become a regular feature in the Deanery calendar and will include major choral works for everyone to enjoy. All are welcome to this delightful choral feast!

Graham Bell, Deanery Choir

DEDHAM CHURCH CHOIR

Anyone who has been attending church services in recent weeks may have noticed on arrival that the Church Choir has been rehearsing.

The choir has been somewhat depleted recently due to the personal circumstances of various members, and we have found that a weekly rehearsal during the week has not been viable, especially in the colder months, when we have been heating the church especially for rehearsals.

Instead, we are trialling a short rehearsal 45 minutes before the services (8.45am for a 9.30am service, 10.15am for an 11am service and 4.15pm for Evensong at 5pm). If you would like to join us in the choir, and have been previously put off from doing so due to having to give up an evening in the week to attend practice, then now would be a good time to come on board.

We all have our particular service preferences, so why not consider becoming a 'Matins Chorister' an 'Evensong Chorister' etc. For more details, Antony Watson would be delighted to hear from you, or to answer any queries. Previous experience is not necessary, nor is the ability to read music.

We are very keen to keep a choir going at Dedham. Please consider this important ministry. You will be warmly welcomed.

Antony can be contacted on 01206 322425.

Antony Watson

HUNNABALL
Family Funeral Group



PRAISE IN THE GARDEN

With Rt Rev Dr Guli, Bishop of Chelmsford
Music by the Colchester Salvation
Army Band

Sunday 31st May 2026 @ 3pm
(gates open at 2pm)

Little Bentley Hall, Church Road,
Little Bentley, CO7 8SD.

Followed by tea and cake in the garden, and then everyone is free to visit these wonderful Gardens & Waterways which are considered one of the finest private gardens in East Anglia.

**BOOK NOW FOR
CATERING PURPOSES**

**nigel@garden-shows.com
07802-282193**

Donations and Help on the day welcome (Home Baked donations must include the ingredients list for allergen purposes)

With special thanks to our hosts
Christopher & Virginia
Palmer-Tomkinson
and our sponsor Hunnaball
Family Funeral Group.



In aid of



**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16TH
MAY 2026**

We believe in life before death

Some interesting facts and figures

Aims:

We seek to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ, who commanded his followers to love their neighbour and work for a better world.

We stand with the most vulnerable and excluded people of the world – both in times of crisis and for the longer term.

We give people survival essentials when they are without shelter or refuge, and help them find the strength and resources they need to flourish and protect themselves from shocks and disasters.

We support people to stand up for their rights and to build stable, secure lives they can enjoy living.

How is each £1 of Christian Aid's income used? In the financial year ending 31st March 2024, for every £1 we received, we spent:

84p in our life-changing work including: working for long-term change, responding to humanitarian emergencies and using our voice to call for global change.

16p in our fundraising and awareness raising to attract new supporters to make all the above work possible. For every £1 we invest, we secure more than £6 in return.

Is Christian Aid political?

Poverty is political – there's no way round that. When people go hungry, yet there is food enough to feed them, then something is wrong. When people are poor at a time when there has never been more wealth, we must ask why and who is responsible, and campaign for leaders to change their policies.

We are never party political. We are interested only in pressing for policies that can best help the poor – not in who makes them. All we care about is eradicating poverty and injustice and the causes of these.

To make this happen, we will talk to, and challenge, whoever we need to.

How does Christian Aid ensure that funds spent overseas aren't wasted as a result of corruption?

Our money goes directly to our local partners – the people working on the ground – and not to governments. That way, corrupt governments can't misuse our funds.

To ensure our partners aren't corrupt and that our money is spent effectively, we have a detailed process for evaluating partners and projects that is as robust as any system implemented by financial institutions around the world.

Whenever we are alerted to a misuse of funds – which is extremely rare – we investigate immediately. If the root causes of the partner's corruption are not addressed, we stop funding it.

The City of Colchester Band

Musical Director : Jayne Barnes

Present a
Summers Evening Concert

Dedham Parish Church
6pm on Saturday 6th June 2026

£10 at the door or call Jill Strangward 01206 322006 to
reserve a seat : all funds go to the running of the church

GREYFRIARS
COLCHESTER
1866 2026

CONSTABLE AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

Dedham is at the heart of Constable Country, part of the Dedham Vale National Landscapes. The paintings of Constable have been the inspiration for protecting our countryside and in this year celebrating 250th anniversary of his birth, Greener Dedham, a local community organisation is supporting a major event in the parish Church in support of their Eco-Church initiatives on Saturday July 11th from 7pm.

This event will bring together local musicians, well-known local speakers on the environment and Constable and performers to discuss the importance of protecting our local countryside and to remind us of the legacy of one of Britain's greatest painters in promoting the beauty of our landscape.

Emma Roodhouse from Ipswich and Colchester Museums will talk about the plans for Constable 250. Susan Owens will talk about her recent book Constable Year and Professor Jules Pretty will remind us of the need to protect our environment and recognise the threats of climate change. The talks will be interspersed with relevant pieces of music and reciting of relevant poetry.

Further details about how to book for the event can be found at: constable.eventbrite.com

Constable 250

There are a wealth of activities highlighting the work of John Constable this summer. The main focus is a series of exhibitions at Christchurch Mansions in Ipswich including having the Haywain as the centrepiece of an exhibition on Walking Constable's landscape from July 11th. Further details from:

<https://ipswich.cimuseums.org.uk/constable250/>

Our View

There are also a series of events based in and around East Bergholt entitled In Our View which is a programme of village events to celebrate the views and landscapes that inspired the work of the village's most famous son.

<https://www.eastbergholt.org/in-our-view/>



Dedham Parish Magazine - May 1976

DEDHAM C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL JOHN CONSTABLE CELEBRATIONS

The Dedham Primary School will be celebrating the Bi-centenary of the Birth of John Constable during the week commencing Monday, 7th June. Members of the public are invited to visit the School to see Historical and Artistic exhibitions on view between 9.30 am. and 3 p.m. Also, daily lessons, games and dancing in costume from Georgian England, between 1.30 p.m. and 3 p.m. every afternoon.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 11 am. the children will parade from the School at Parsons Field to the Village Church in costume and will play games in the field.

Every evening there will be activities at the School to which all are invited. Full details can be seen on the posters in the church porch and around the village.

On Friday, the 11th June, commencing at 7.30 pm, the School Choir will be joined by choirs from five local schools to sing music mainly from the 18th century at the Parish Church of St. Mary.

CONSTABLE

AND THE COUNTRYSIDE



Saturday 11th July 2026 | 7pm | Tickets £12
Dedham Parish Church

A fascinating evening of words and music in beautiful Dedham Church. Talks by Susan Owens, Emma Roodhouse and Jules Pretty will focus on Constable and his connection with the Dedham Vale countryside, and on that landscape today. Proceeds from the event will support the Eco-Church initiative at Dedham Parish Church. The programme includes organ music and a cello performance in honour of Constable's love of the cello. Refreshments available.

Scan the QR code for tickets or visit:
constable.eventbrite.com

GOLDING CONSTABLE'S KITCHEN GARDEN - JOHN CONSTABLE (1776-1837)
COLCHESTER & IPSWICH MUSEUMS | IPSWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL COLLECTION

Event supported by:

Greener
DEDHAM

250
CONSTABLE



CONSTABLE AUDIO TRAIL

INTRODUCTION

Listen to Emma Roodhouse, curator of the Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service, and John Day, who runs the East Anglian Traditional Art Centre, chat to Ben Heather from Suffolk County Council's Green Access Team about John Constable's life, work and legacy around East Bergholt, Dedham and Flatford. The area lies in the Dedham Vale National Landscape, a nationally significant area, which was primarily designated because of its cultural significance. The landscape has not changed that much since Constable's time.

To enjoy this audio experience ensure you click the headphone symbol on your navigation screen in the app and enable audio guide. This will automatically play audio along the route as you wander. Alternatively listen to the complete recording of Walking with Emma Roodhouse and John Day. QR code plaques are placed at each of the way points on the trail.

<https://www.discoverysuffolk.org.uk/audio-trails/constable-trail-flatford-road/>



Follow this circular 4.5 mile walk through East Bergholt village, Dedham and Flatford. Listen to the audio as you walk, making sure to pause to enjoy the wonderful views and sites as you walk in the footsteps of John Constable. The route will take you along St Edmund Way on the riverbanks of the River Stour to Dedham Bridge, visiting Dedham church where you can stop and view The Ascension, one of only 3 religious paintings by Constable, and returning via Flatford Hamlet, the site of Flatford Mill, Willy Lott's House and Bridge Cottage.

EASTER FLOWERS IN DEDHAM CHURCH

Dedham Church was looking splendid at Easter this year. A special mention for all members of the Church flower team who worked hard to produce such a wonderful display





Dedham Parish Magazine - April 1876

Short Chapters on the History of Dedham.

CHAPTER III: DEDHAM IN ROMAN TIMES

The first serious effort on the part of the Roman government to reduce Britain into permanent subjection was made in the reign of the Emperor Claudius, A.D. 43, and in the course of that year, after everything had been prepared by his generals in order that he might enjoy the glory of a triumph, the emperor himself came to the island. He commanded in person at the capture of Camulodunum, the city of Cunobelin, now Colchester; and on his return to Rome, after a stay of sixteen days, he assumed the name of Britannicus, which was also given to his son born in the previous year. The which we are writing the history, now fell under Roman dominion; and a body of veteran soldiers was established at Camulodunum, which thus became what was called a colony of the imperial state, Colonia Camulodunum.

Among the first acts of the Roman government would naturally be the formation or the improvement of the roads, by means of which they retained the military command of the conquered districts. The Roman 'streets' (stratae via, paved roads) took the place of the tracks which had served the purposes of native communication. One of the chief of these streets, leading from Camulodunum to the city of Venta, in the district of the Iceni,

near Norwich, passed through Dedham, and crossed the Stour, where the name of Stratford (that is, the ford at the street) preserves its memory. At this point, about Stratford bridge, is believed to have been the Roman station called Ad Ansam (at the handle or loop), which perhaps took its name from a reach in the river.

During the Roman rule in Britain, which lasted nearly four centuries, the proximity of the colony of Camulodunum must have generally secured the obedience of the district of which Dedham forms part; but on one great occasion, soon after the Roman conquest, A.D. 61, a storm of insurrection swept over the country to which Roman Dedham cannot have been a stranger. The veterans who were settled as colonists at Colchester treated the country as their own, and turned the British owners without ceremony out of their houses and estates. The Trinobantes were therefore ready to join in the insurrection of Boadicea, Queen of the Iceni; and the native forces drove the Romans for a time before them. The colony of Camulodunum, which was then a town without walls, was overpowered, after the Roman soldiers had held out for two days in the temple of Claudius, who having been deified by the senate at Rome, appears to have been a special object of worship in the colony which he had founded. Before the end of the year the Britons were defeated with great slaughter, and the Roman authority restored, not to be again disturbed in this neighbourhood for more than three hundred years.

The annals of the Roman Empire in Britain belong to the domain of general history. About the commencement of the fifth century the Romans finally withdrew their soldiers, and their retirement was followed by a period of war and disturbance, in which the Britons suffered alike from the

attacks of the Picts on the north and of the Saxons from beyond the sea, and which only terminated with the expulsion or subjugation of the ancient inhabitants of the soil, and their replacement by new settlers of German origin.

It is difficult not to suppose that in the flourishing days of Roman Colchester there were some Roman villas, residences of magistrates or wealthy provincials, in the picturesque country on the banks of the Stour at Langham and Dedham; but I am not aware of any remains of such houses having been discovered. Probably the buildings were of timber, and such traces are not so likely to be found here as in other districts where more durable materials were employed.



Dedham Parish Magazine - May 1876

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Contributors to the Gold Watch presented to the Rev. J. G. Mills, on Easter Day, 1876.

MY DEAR FRIENDS:

Dedham, April, 1876.

I take this opportunity of expressing my deep and heartfelt thanks for the very handsome and gratifying gift with which you presented me on Easter Day. It was entirely unexpected by me, and is, has been, and always will be a source of great pleasure. The kindly expression of feeling, of which it is the symbol, forms a strong bond and link between myself and Dedham, which I trust may never be

weakened or severed, I can only add that words are inadequate to express the pleasure and gratification which your kindness has given me.

Believe me to be,

Yours very sincerely,

J. GRANT MILLS.

PARISH CHURCH.

SERVICES FOR MAY.

Monday, May 1. St. Philip's and St. James'. Shortened Service, at 8 a.m.

Thursday, May 25. Ascension Day. Morning Prayers and Holy Communion, at 11 a.m. Shortened service, with Sermon, 7.30 p.m.

BAPTISMS.

April 2. Reginald Joseph, son of George and Emma Sharp.

April 9. Gertrude Harriet, daughter of Henry and Emma Spurgin.

MARRIAGE.

April 17. Mr. James Herbert Simpson, of Rugby, to Lucy, daughter of Mr. Daniel Fenner Bacon, of Colchester.

BURIALS.

April 2. Elsie Cole, aged nine months.
 " 3. Frederick Booth, aged 46 years.
 " 7. Harriet Phillips, aged 79 years.
 " 13. Laura Bodwell, aged 46 years.
 " 14. Samuel Cooper, aged 71 years.

NUMBER OF COMMUNICANTS.

April 2.	5th Sunday in Lent ...	101
" 13.	Thursday before Easter	42
" 16.	Easter Day	109

... leads with her The Flowry May...

May is a feast – a ‘flowry’ feast – as the garden erupts with blossom and flowers while keeping much of the fresh greenery of April. Spring is in full swing, the risk of frost is fading and it’s a busy month with planting, sowing and caring for rapidly growing plants. Whatever kind of garden or outside space you have, there’s plenty to enjoy and do.

On the allotment, I’m harvesting spears of asparagus and stalks of rhubarb – I love both, but the shorter season of asparagus makes the taste that much sweeter. I’m not a huge vegetable grower (nor a grower of huge veg), but around the middle of the month I’ll harden off my tomato plants so I can plant them into growbags in a sunny corner of the garden. I like to cut the growbags in half and stand each half on end to make two deep pockets of compost. It means I can bury my tomato plants nice and deep to encourage stronger roots for healthy growth.

If you’ve been growing tender plants like tomatoes under cover, it’s important to gradually get them used to being permanently outside – the process of ‘hardening off’. Over about a week, I’ll bring them outside during the day but put them back under cover at night. I start with a few hours in the middle of the day, then add an hour or two either side as I go through the week. Making the time to do this helps the plants establish more quickly when they are put into their final position.

We’re well into seed sowing season now and as radishes are about the only salad crop I like, I’ll scatter a seed mixture for a quick crop in 3-4 weeks. If I sow every 2 or 3 weeks, I can get a fairly continuous harvest these delicious, crunchy, peppery, bite-sized treats. It’s important to keep the soil consistently moist to avoid dry, cracked veg.



Cosmos - credit Meg MacDonald on Unsplash

I can also direct sow more cosmos seeds having started some under cover in April. I may have spoken before about how great cosmos is – I use it as filler to soften the planting of dahlias among other perennials in my borders. Pinch out the leading shoot when the plants are between 8-12 inches tall as this will encourage branching and give you more flowers.



I also want to think about next year and sow some biennials this month. These spend their first year growing healthy roots and their second putting out leaves and flowers. I usually transplant foxgloves from the allotment where they have self-seeded from the wild, but this year I'll grow some from



Foxgloves

seed too. Most of the ones from the allotment are the wild pink form (you can tell by looking at the leafstalks which have a pink/red blush to them), so I'll sow seeds to give me the white 'alba' version as well as the variety Sutton's Apricot. Another biennial to try is honesty; I've never grown it before, but it comes in white as well as the more common purple.



Support your Peonies

If you were inspired by Andrew Babicz, our April speaker on container gardening, now is a great time to plant summer containers and hanging baskets. Choose a good quality multi-purpose compost and add some water-retaining crystals or vermiculite (either is especially useful if your containers are in full sun and may dry out quickly). Once planted, it's a good idea to feed baskets and containers fortnightly with liquid tomato food as the compost's nutrients will run out quickly.

Another great option – especially for a window box or balcony container – is herbs. Chives and parsley will be very happy outside as will basil in a warm, sheltered spot, while thyme and rosemary love full sun and as much of it as possible. If you want to grow some mint, plant it in its own pot as it can spread quickly and overwhelm anything else trying to share its space.

Elliott Frisby

dedhamgardening.wordpress.com - QR code





SONG SUNG BLUE (12A)
Directed by Craig Brewer 2025

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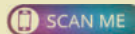
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Dedham Art Society

SUMMER EXHIBITION



Duchy Barn Dedham

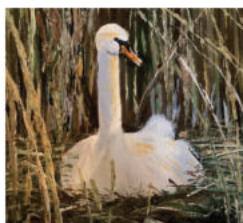
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Friday 22nd May, 6pm to 7:30pm

Then open daily Saturday 23rd
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ALMSHOUSE VACANCY

Samuel Barker's Almshouses Registered Charity No 208641

Applications are invited to occupy a vacancy that has occurred at one of the Almshouses in School Lane, Dedham

The Trust regulations require that residents shall be single women of limited means, not less than 55 years of age, in good general health (a medical certificate may be required), able to maintain themselves, and who are or have been inhabitants of the Parish of Dedham. Preference will be given to applicants who meet these criteria.

Applications should be made in writing, include two references, and be addressed to the Secretary to the Trust:

Fiona Dominic
Gardeners Cottage, Gun Hill
Dedham, Colchester CO7 6HP

DEDHAM PHARMACY

Spring booster COVID vaccinations started on 13th April. Please book via NHS online or call 119 to find your nearest clinic with available appointments.

<https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/covid-19-vaccine/>



ARDLEIGH SURGERY -PRACTICE UPDATE

We wish to inform patients that, with effect from 1st April 2026, The Colte Partnership has been formally dissolved. Ardleigh Surgery will continue to operate as an independent GP practice under a newly constituted partnership comprising Dr Radrie Cole, Dr Philippa Outtridge, Dr Kelechi Anumnu, and Dr Michelle O'Carroll. This change relates to the legal and organisational structure of the practice only. There is no change to the services provided, and patients will continue to receive care in the same way as previously. Access to appointments, prescriptions, and clinical services remains unchanged. All clinical and administrative staff remain in post, and the practice continues to operate in line with NHS contractual requirements and regulatory standards. Patients remain registered with Ardleigh Surgery, and no action is required.

From 1st April 2026, we are making some adjustments to how our appointment system is managed to help us meet increasing demand and continue providing safe, timely care. Our Care Navigators may guide you to the most appropriate service, using a navigation tool developed by our GP's. You do not need to do anything differently for now, but please continue to cancel appointments you no longer need and support us as these changes are introduced. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we make these improvements.

Extended Access - Our extended access is currently based at The Mayflower Medical Centre in Harwich. We will be offering both F2F and telephone appointments within this service.

Practice shutdown- Next shutdown is Tuesday 19th May 2026.

GENEALOGY DISCOVERY DAY

Saturday 2nd May 2026, 10.30am – 2pm

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We have to be honest about the items we collect, so below are the items we cannot use. This is not about what we want but about what the people can use.

Broken tools (or those with woodworm) - Ladders/Step Ladders - Lawnmowers - Printers/Scanners/ Typewriters - Disability Aids - Bikes.

Our collections will take place on **Saturday 30th May and Saturday 6th June from 10am till 3pm**. The collection location will be outside Screwfix at Unit 1, Causeway End, Station Road, Manningtree, CO11 2LH. With kind permission of Rose Builders and Screwfix.

Additional Details: Contact Pauline Dean for more information.

pauline.dean99@gmail.com

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www.stourchoralsociety.co.uk





MAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The annual meeting of Dedham Parish Council will take place on Monday 11th May at 6.30pm in the Duchy Barn.

The Residents Annual Parish Assembly will take place on Monday 18th May at 6.30pm in the Duchy Barn.

The agendas will displayed on the DPC website nearer the time.



Dedham Sports Club occupies an enviable position at one corner of the Duchy field, with views across to the church.

It is home to Dedham Old Boys Football Club, Dedham Cricket Club, Dedham Table Tennis Club and Dedham Tennis Club.

However, the club is run by volunteers and really needs some additional support to allow us to continue and to expand our role at the heart of the sporting community.

At the beginning of the year the building sustained a serious flood from a burst pipe, with the result that we have sustained increased costs and reduced income and it has taken us several months to get back up and running,

There are some outstanding maintenance tasks that need to be tackled, including minor repairs and re-decorating.

We have a number of people who have registered with us as social members and we are pleased to announce that the club is open again on Friday evenings for all members to enjoy a drink at the bar.

We will shortly take delivery of a new pool table, funded by a grant from Dedham Parish Council. We hope to see you all again soon. If you would like to join us as a social member, you would be very welcome and your modest annual fee will be a welcome boost for our finances, which suffered during our enforced period of closure.

Please let us know what additional facilities or services you would like us to provide. Perhaps even more importantly, if you are able to offer any of your time, however little, we would very much love to hear from you.

We particularly need help with facilitating private hire bookings which are an important source of income for us (showing prospective hirers the building, locking and unlocking and making sure everything is clean and tidy).

As well as practical support with bookings we know that we need to develop an automated booking system, so if anyone can help with that, please let me know. Or perhaps you would be able to offer occasional help behind the bar? It could be fun, and training can be provided!

Nicola Baker

Email: nicola_baker@tiscali.co.uk

Tel: 07860173214

DEDHAM ART SOCIETY

We are a friendly and welcoming amateur art group who love painting together on a regular basis. From time to time we invite guest tutors, and at our other sessions we enjoy sharing ideas, supporting one another, and learning together in a relaxed atmosphere. If you'd like to find out more about the Dedham Art Society, please Email dedhamartsociety@gmail.com or visit our website: www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk.

If you're interested in coming along to a session, please do get in touch by email.

Dedham Art Society – May 2026 Thursday Painting Sessions

Thursday May 14th, Assembly Rooms, 2pm–4.30pm

Members' painting together session –
Collage

Thursday May 28th Assembly Rooms, 2pm–4.30pm

Members' painting together session –
Water-based Media Capturing Light

Dedham Art Society
Summer Exhibition

Fri 22nd – Mon 25th May, 2026
Duchy Barn, Dedham
Official Opening, All Welcome on
Friday 22nd May ~ 6pm to 7:30pm
Then daily, Sat 23rd, Sun 24th & Mon 25th May ~ 10am to 5pm

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We have over 40 interest groups including walking (from strollers to 5+ milers), theatre trips, garden visits, art appreciation, curry club, international dining, science group, languages, keep fit, pickleball, overseas travel, bridge, Sunday Singles lunch there's something for everyone. If we don't have a group you are interested in, you are welcome to start one up. Membership costs only £15 a year.

Monthly coffee mornings are held on the first Friday of the month 10am – 12pm at the Lambe School, Gaston Street, East Bergholt. Come along, meet some members, hear more about us and decide whether you'd like to join.

Monthly lectures are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.15pm in the Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt, CO7 6TP. Guests are welcome for a charge of £4.

Please take a look at our website <https://stourvalley.u3asite.uk/welcome/> for more information and contact details.

MAY 2026

- Sunday 3rd - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Wednesday 6th - 7.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, DHS talk, Photographing Wildlife in the Garden
- Saturday 9th - 9am-12pm Dedham Church, Dedham Horticultural Plant Sale.
- Saturday 9th - 9am-12pm Dedham Church, Mission Bake Sale.
- Sunday 10th - 11am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Monday 11th - 12.30pm, Essex Rose Tea Room - Monday Lunch Club.
- Monday 11th - 6.30pm, Duchy Barn. - Dedham Parish Council Annual Meeting.
- Thursday 14th - 2pm-4.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, Dedham Art Society.
- Sunday 17th - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Morning Praise.
- Sunday 17th - 5pm, Dedham Church - Revive@5.
- Monday 18th - 6.30pm, Duchy Barn - Annual Parish Assembly.
- Wednesday 20th - 7.30pm-10pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms - Dedham Films, SONG SUNG BLUE
- Friday 22nd - 6pm-7.30pm Duchy Barn - Dedham Arts Society Summer exhibition, official opening.
-

- Saturday 23rd to Monday 25th - 10am-5pm Duchy Barn - Dedham Arts Society Summer exhibition
- Sunday 24th - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Thursday 28th - 2pm-4.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, Dedham Art Society.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday

- Meet up Mondays - The Sun Inn, 11am to 12pm.
- Social Table Tennis, Dedham Sports Club, 10.30am.
- Watercolour Painting Group, Duchy Barn, 10am to 12pm.
- Mobile Post Office - Royal Square 13.30pm to 15.30pm.

Tuesday

- Coffee morning - The Duchy Barn, 10:30pm to 12pm.
- Morning Prayer - Dedham Church, 10.30pm.
- Mobile Post Office - Royal Square 9pm to 11pm.
- Dedham Baby and Toddler Group Dedham Sports Club, 10am to 12pm (Term time).

Wednesday

- Bridge in Dedham - Assembly Rooms, 1.30pm-5pm.

Thursday

- Coffee morning - The Duchy Barn, 10:30am to 12pm.

Friday

- Dedham Youth Club - The Duchy Barn, 7.30pm to 9.15pm.



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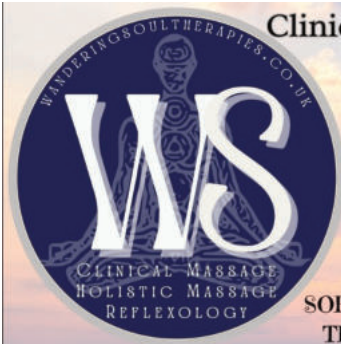
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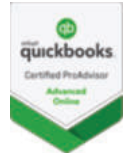
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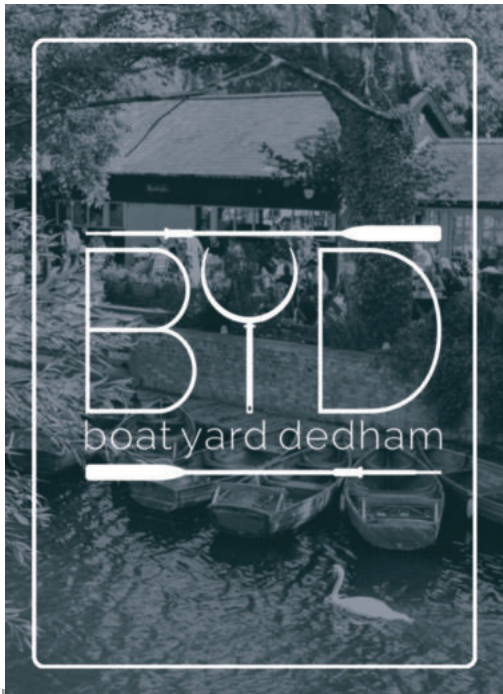


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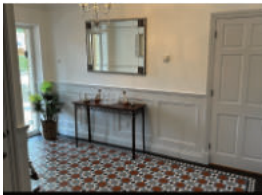
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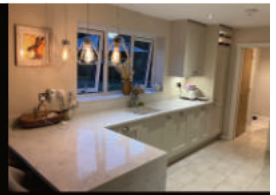
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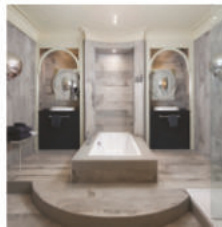
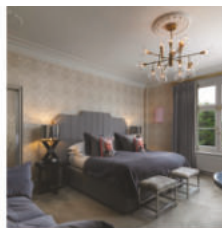
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