CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Martin Broom writes

DEDHAM FOOTPATH GROUP

Friday 10th July—A three to four mile evening walk will leave at 6.30pm from Chapel Cottage, Long Road East, Dedham, with refreshments on return. Leaders Martin and Pauline Broom \$\mathbb{22578}\$.

Betty Callaghan writes GOOD NEIGHBOURS

We enjoyed a pleasant afternoon with light banter and discussion of a possible trip to Bury St Edmunds. The next meeting will be on Friday, 10th July. Competition: Animal Ornament.

Caroline Ratcliffe writes

EAST ANGLIAN AIR AMBULANCE

To celebrate our 15th Anniversary, we are launching a fundraising Tea @ 15:00 Campaign to encourage supporters to host a tea party to celebrate the EAAA's achievements.

For more information call your local fundraising team on \$\mathbb{\text{20845}}\ 0669999 or www.eaaa.org.uk/tead-15-00-r/

Audrey Mattack writes
LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Audray Mattack writes

Our annual Garden Party will, this year, be held at Audrey's home in Bargate Lane on Wednesday, 29th July at 3pm. You will be contacted in due course to arrange transport.

Graeme Forsyth writes

STOUR VALLEY MEN'S PROBUS

Future Meetings

Phil Hadwen will speak on

"Seaplanes at Felixstowe" on I July and Andy Schooler on "A nice cup of tea & a sit-down on 15 July. Our popular Summer Lunch takes place at the Venture Centre on Sunday 26 July. There are no meetings in August and we return again on Wednesday 2 September.

New Venue – Please note, we now meet at the St John Ambulance HQ, Manningtree.

New members

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 welcomed by Stour Valley Men's Probus Club, we meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Manningtree at 10.30am. Please contact Secretary Brian Rolfe on \$\mathbb{2}393665\$ for further details.

Rachel Goodwin writes

DEDHAM MINDFULNESS GROUP

The Dedham Mindfulness Group meets on the first Wednesday of every month, with the first meeting on 1st July in the Duchy Barn between 8-9pm. This is an opportunity to find out about the benefits of Mindfulness and to hear ideas about how to develop a regular practice. An experienced facilitator will also lead a 15 minute meditation. Contact

DedhamMindfulness@gmail.com, follow on Twitter at @MindfulDedham or Facebook at Facebook.com/ MindfulDedham

This magazine can be read in colour at www.dedham-parishchurch.org.uk

DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH

www.dedham-parishchurch.org.uk

e-mail: dedhamparishchurch@outlook.com

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Max Wilkinson 'What's On' Listings		
Martin Hole	Adve	ertising \(\psi \)
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11:30am—1:30pm Tuesday		
9.30am - I I.30am Thursday		
Parish Secretary Claire Arculus		
Asst. Secretary Be Burleigh, Louise Davison		
5		

Financial Administration Sara Marshall, Katrina Ablett

DEDHAM C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL www.dedham.essex.sch.uk

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DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE July2015

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.30 a.m.

Holy Communion BCP Ist Sunday in month

10.30 a.m.

Family Service

Ist Sunday in month

Morning Worship CW 2nd & 5th Sundays Holy Communion CW 3rd Sunday in month

Morning Prayer BCP 4th Sunday in month

5 p.m.

Evening Prayer BCP Ist Sunday in month

5 p.m. Re:Vive @5 4th Sunday in month

JUNIOR CHURCH

Family Service

Ist Sunday in month

In groups on other Sundays

DEADLINE FOR AUG/SEPT EDITION: 15 July 2015

CHURCH NOTICEBOARD



SPECIAL SERVICES OF WORSHIP:

No special services this month

TOWER FLAG DAY THIS MONTH



From the Registers



FUNERALS

17 June - Mary Gertrude HOOD (aged 89)

BAPTISMs

7 June - George Mark ST LEDGER



Great things can grow from a small decision...

Please Remember
DEDHAM PARISH CHURCH
in your Will

GOD IN THE ARTS

'He gave us eyes to see them': 'Herdsman with Cows by a River' by Albert Cuyp

'What is this life, if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare?'

Those words of W H Davies provide the theme for this year. This month we sense the

GOD IN THE ARTS

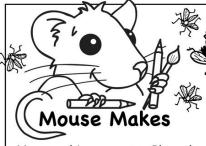
animals looking at us in 'Herdsman with Cows by a River' painted in 1650 by the Dutch artist, Albert Cuyp.

It is a very ordinary scene of nature. Yet there is a radiance and a tranquillity that strike us as we see the herd of cows standing in the still waters. Around them there is a lot of movement: birds fly in the sky, boats are sailing off into the sunset and two fishermen are busy at their work to the left of the canvas. But the cows and their herdsman are quiet and contented, relishing this moment of the day closing, and contemplating the world going by. In many of Albert Cuyp's paintings the sun bathes each scene in a golden light. Here the clouds are gathering in the sky as the sun sinks down in the west, but there is still a glowing calmness brought by the light of the sky above.

In this month of July we are probably planning holidays. Some holidays can be a frenetic rush, others are those occasions when we simply sit back and relax, letting what we see around us bring refreshment and renewal. It

The herd of cows in Albert Cuyp's painting have spent the day doing just that — grazing and ruminating in the fields nearby. The herdsman has brought them to the river to relax in the water. Soon they will take the journey home to the farm and the safety of the cowshed. Tomorrow will bring them the opportunity to graze anew in the gift of another day. Walt Whitman wrote in one of his poems, 'I think I could turn and live with animals, they are so placid and self-contain'd, I stand and look at them long and long.' As we stand and look at the cows in this painting, perhaps we may realise that whether at work or on holiday, in Sunday worship or Bible reading at home, God can feed us through His world around and in His word in Scripture. As long as we take the time and the care to savour the delights He offers us.

CHILDREN'S PAGE



Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said "The Lord, the God of Israel says, 'Let my people go into the desert so they can have a festival to honour me.'"

But Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord? Why should I obey him? Why should I let Israel go? I not know who the Lord is so I refuse to let Israel go."

Pharaoh punished the Israelites but Moses prayed to the Lord and the Lord said, "I will use my great power against Pharaoh, and he will let my people go."

So the Lord turned the river Nile

land with frogs, sent a plague of gnats, then a swarm of flies, then disease on all the animals, then a skin disease, then a great storm of hail, then a plague of locusts, then darkness that covered the land...

Each time Pharaoh would not let the people go until Lord killed every first born man and animal in Egypt and Pharaoh's own son died. Then Pharaoh made the people leave Egypt with all their sheep and cattle. "Go", he said "And say a blessing for me too."

into blood, then he covered the

The Ten Plagues ORMOS AARONPRAY GNATSWARM

the story in the grid above?

LORD • GOD • MOSES • AARON

ISRAEL • PRAY • HONOUR

FESTIVAL • PHARAOH • EGYPT

RIVER NILE • WATER • BLOOD • FROGS

DUST • GNATS • SWARM • FLIES • GO

DISEASE • CATTLE • SHEEP • SORES

STORM • HAIL • LOCUSTS • LAND

DARKNESS • THREE DAYS • DEATH

FIRST BORN

The string of the str

READ the full story in Exodus chapters 5 to 12

LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

100 years ago: on 26th July 1915 that Sir James Murray died; the first editor of the Oxford English Dictionary.

80 years ago: On 30th July 1935 that the first ten Penguin paperbacks were published in the UK.

70 years ago:- on 29th July 1945 that the BBC Light Programme radio station was launched, broadcasting mainstream light entertainment and music. It became Radio 2 in 1967.

50 years ago:- on 8th July 1965 that the Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs escaped from Wandsworth Prison and fled to Brazil. In 2001 he returned to the UK, and was re-imprisoned. Released in 2009, he died in late 2013.

30 years ago:- on 13th July 1985 that Live Aid, the two simultaneous concerts in London and Philadelphia, plus other venues including Sydney and Moscow, raised millions of pounds for famine victims in Africa.



20 years ago:- on 16th July 1995 that Amazon.com opened its website to the public.

15 years ago:- on 23rd July 2000 that American golfer Tiger Woods, 24, became the youngest player to win the Grand Slam.

10 years ago:- on 14th July 2005 that Dame Cicely Saunders, British physician and founder of the modern hospice movement, died.

NEWSROUND

Jill Strangward writes

LAST NIGHT AT THE PROMS

Last night at the Proms live at the Assembly Rooms, Dedham on Saturday Lydia Polom writes 12 September at 7pm.

Bring your own picnic and join in the singing and celebrations of this very British event.

Tickets are available at £10 each from lill on **322 006**.

All proceeds going to COLCHESTER SAMARITANS.

Sue McKinney writes

OPEN THE BOOK FOR DEDHAM SCHOOL.

Open the Book is a scheme approved by Ofsted and the National Curriculum for telling Bible stories in a creative way in Primary schools. The Head Teacher and a few others from Dedham Church are looking to start presenting the scheme in September. If you would like to be involved please contact me on **2323 565**. On Sunday 5th July at the 10.30 service there will be a presentation of one of the stories so please come along on that day.

TOOLS WITH A MISSION (TWAM)

TWAM is an Ipswich-based charity that collects and refurbishes tools and other equipment to send out to developing countries, to enable people to earn a living after receiving training. If you have things that you no longer need then TWAM would be very pleased to receive them. For further information go to www.twam.co.uk,

pick up a leaflet in the Church or contact me (Sue McKinney).

LIVE WELL. DIE WELL

Last month was the sixth annual Dying Matters Awareness Week. running from the 18th to the 24th May, the initiative of the Dying Matters Coalition encouraging as many people as possible to talk about death, dying and bereavement and to make plans for the end of life. As part of this week, St Helena Hospice launched a new campaign 'live well, die well' in conjunction with the North East Essex NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, to raise awareness of the My Care Choices Register—a way of recording someone's preferences around the care they want at the end of their life. It's only accessible by people responsible for a person's care - like their GP, community nurse or hospice nurse.

The register is for those who have a condition making it likely they are in the last year of life, have a severe chronic disease for whom a deterioration may be life-threatening or those who are in frail overall health and at risk of sudden deterioration.

There are currently 1,616 people on the My Care Choices Register. If reading the above, you feel you may benefit from recording your choices around the care you would like to receive, please make an appointment with your GP to discuss your suitability.

WHAT'S ON: MUSIC & OPERA

ROMAN RIVER FESTIVAL

An ambitious and varied programme (17 Sept to 8 Oct) includes:

- Fri 18 Sep: 8 pm Mark Padmore (tenor); Fordham Church.
- Sat 19 Sep 6 pm Chiaroscuro Quartet, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven; Fingringhoe Church.
- Sun 20 Sep 6 pm Sally Matthews (soprano); English Songs; Copford Church.
- Wed 23 Sep: 8 pm Amaia Azcona Cildoz (soprano), S. American songs; St Martin's, Colchester.
- Fri 25 Sep: 7.30 pm The Sacconi Quartet; Firstsite, Colchester
- Sat 26 Sep: 4 pm The Messiah, a Thu I Oct 8 pm Soloists from chamber version of Handel's oratorio; St Peter's Church, Colchester. 8.30 pm Shostakovich & Schnittke piano quintets; St • Sat 3 Oct 6 pm Elena Urioste

Martin's. Colchester.

• Sun 27 Sep: 2 pm Julia Doyle sings Purcell; Colchester Castle. 5 pm The Moot Hall organ with Colchester Chamber Choir: 8 pm Will McNicol (guitar) & Luke Selby (drums); St



Elena Urioste. artist in residence

George's Hall, Colchester.

• Tue 29 Sep: 8 pm Elena Urioste

- (violin) & Tom Poster (piano); Layer Marney Tower.
- the Britten Sinfonia; Gounod, Ligeti, , Mozart; Stoke by Nayland Church.
- * Cathedral: Dan Soper, organ.
- ❖ Sun 13 Sep: 3 pm Cratfield Church: Hieronymus Quartet with Bartholomew LaFollette.
- ❖ Sat 19 Sep: Churchgate Sinfonia: Bach to the baroque; Unitarian Meeting House, Bury.
- * Sun 20 Sep: 3 pm East Anglian Academy: Young Artists' Showcase; Framlingham Church. 7 pm Lavenham Sinfonia: Mozart: Lavenham Church.
- ❖ Wed 30 Sep: 11.30 am Music in Felixstowe: Richard Reaville (tenor); Orwell Hotel, Felixstowe.

- ❖ Thu I Oct: 12.30 pm Coggeshall Church: Pauline Curtis (Mezzo soprano). 7.30 pm The King's Singers; Ipswich School.
- * Fri 2 Oct: 7.30 pm National Youth Jazz Orchestra & Ipswich School Big **Band**: Ipswich school:
- ❖ Sat 3 Oct: 7.30 pm lpswich Chamber Music Society: Andrew Leach (piano); Ipswich School.
- **❖ Sun 4 Oct:** 2 pm **Ipswich school**: family orchestral concert.

For details: www.eamaa.org

Snape Proms - Aldeburgh

The Proms (I to 30 Aug) combine jazz, soul, folk, Hollywood and classical music (all at 7.30 pm). The series includes:

- ◆Sat 8 Aug: Dutch Swing College Band; Dixieland.
- ◆Sun 9 and 10 Aug: Borodin String Quartet.
- ♦ Fri 14 Aug: Edwin Sanz 'San Augustin' Salsa Orchestra.
- ♦Sat 15 Aug: Gabrielle: contemporary soul. Classic



- Gabrielle: 15 Aug
- Orch; popular music. ◆Sat 22 Aug: BBC Concert Orchestra; cheerful English

Pappano.

- music.
- ◆Sun 23 Aug: Café Society Swing.
- ◆Sat 29 Aug: Brighouse and Ras-

◆Tue 18 Aug: Benjamin

◆Thu 20 Aug: London

conductor: Antonio

Philharmonic Orchestra.

♦Fri 21 Aug: BBC Concert

Grosvenor, piano.

- ❖ (Piano).
- ❖ Fri 14 Aug: 7.30 pm Music in Felixstowe: songs from shows and movies; Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club.

Suffolk Villages Festival

- ❖ Sat 29 Aug: 6.30 pm Portrait of Monteverdi; Stoke by Nayland Church.
- ❖ Sun 30 Aug: 6.30 pm Essex Baroque Orchestra: Bach cantatas, and orchestral works; Stoke by Nayland Church.
- ❖ Mon 31 Aug: 6.30 pm Henry Purcell's King Arthur, Nayland Church.
 - www.suffolkvillagesfestival.com

- ❖ Sat 15 Aug: 7.30 pm Essex Youth Chamber Orchestra; Coggeshall Church.
- ❖ Sun 16 Aug: 3 pm Cratfield Church: Aguinas PianoTrio.
- ❖ Sun 23 Aug: 3 pm: Christine Whiffen, harpsichord; Framlingham Church.
- ❖ Fri 28 Aug: 7 pm Music in Felixstowe: String Quartet; Haydn, Smetana, St Nicholas's, Harwich.
- ❖ Sat 29 Aug: 7.30 pm Coggeshall Church: Swing Express Band. Sun 30 Aug: 3 pm Cratfield Church: Lecture-recital: Vienna
- * Sat 12 Sep: 7 pm: The Last Night of the Proms, by satellite from the Albert Hall, charity concert; Dedham Films Live - Assembly Rooms.

Fred Merrin writes

ARDLEIGH SURGERY NEWS Named accountable General Practitioner

The Government is contractually requiring general practices to allocate a named accountable GP to all patients. However, we are not required to inform patients individually but to advise patients by means of our website and practice leaflet that a named GP has been allocated. This does not alter the arrangement whereby patients can choose which GP they wish to consult.

If a patient wishes to know the name of their accountable GP please contact the practice. If you wish to express a preference as to which GP you have been assigned this can be accommodated.

Car parking

Can patients please note that the car parking at the surgery is restricted to disabled patients and parents with ill babies. Able bodied patients should, therefore, use the public car parking which is only a few minutes away. Patients are also requested not to use the staff car park at the rear of the surgery for parking or for turning around their car as staff cars have been damaged; two in the past year.

Joy Moran writes

HADLEIGH COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GROUP

The group is operating a hop-on-hopoff bus, providing a car free day out in glorious Constable Country. You can catch the bus from Hadleigh, Raydon

and Holton which will take you to Manningtree station or arrive there by train The service starts on Tuesday 7th July and runs each Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday until Saturday 29th August.

Jill Strangward writes

CREAM TEAS AT THE VICARAGE

Do please come along and enjoy a cream tea with friends, and visitors to the village, on Thursday 6th August 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm.

All Funds going to Dedham Parish Church. For further details phone lill Strangward on 2322 006.

LIFTS TO SUNDAY MORNING **SERVICE**

If you would like a lift to the 10.30 a.m. service on Sundays or would like a visit, please contact The Parish Office and a member of the Pastoral Team will respond. The team members are Lynne Al-Sad, Ruth Higginson, Anne-Marie Partrick, Ian Sutherland, Ann Shaw and Heather Tetchner.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Thank you to everyone who donated to Christian Aid Week during the service on Sunday 17th May. A total of £233.80 (including gift aid) was raised, which is fantastic!

MISSION CAKE STALL

There will be a Mission Cake Stall from 10am to 12pm on Saturday, 25th July. Contact Ruth Higginson on 🖀 322 598 if you would like to help.

PARISH COUNCIL

Nicola Baker writes

FLOWER TUBS

The planters on the War Memorial and in Brook Street have been planted up for summer. We would like to thank Marc Everett & Troy Francis at Horizon Landscapes for their support. This year an additional three tubs have been funded by Dedham Parish Council and placed near the Craft Centre. If there is anyone who could volunteer to help water them regularly, please get in Kevin Taylor writes touch.

HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES IN ARDLEIGH ROAD

been noticed in Birchwood Road and very keen to keep Royal Square Ardleigh Road - we would be pleased available for short term parking only. to receive details of any 'sightings', We have tried to manage this on a particularly of regular offenders.

PLAYGROUND REFURBISHMENT

The upgrade of the children's High Street facilities. playground in the Drift is underway. Sadly these voluntary restrictions The formal re-opening will take place in have not been successful due to a few early July.

MILL POND

some improvement works to the area overstayers will be penalised. The around Mill Pond thanks to a grant scheme will be managed via Colchester from the Dedham Vale AONB / Stour Borough Council. Valley Project and funding from We believe that a 2-hour parking Colchester Borough Council from the restriction will considerably benefit all proceeds from the car parking charges. Dedham residents needing to "drop in"

Year 3 children from Dedham Primary School spent an enjoyable afternoon identifying plants, sketching the area and helping to plant some native wildflower seeds.



ROYAL SQUARE PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Since the introduction of car park An increasing number of HGVs have charges the Parish Council has been voluntary basis to enable residents to drop into the village centre and use the

consistent overstayers. As a result, from mid-July the Square will be part of The Parish Council has undertaken the normal warden patrol and

> to our village centre and traders with increased footfall.

> Next meeting; Monday 6 July, 7.30pm in the Duchy Barn clerk@dedhamparishcouncil.org.uk **全01255 871483**

WHAT'S ON: FILM, THEATRE & MUSIC

❖Wed 19 Aug: 7 pm Dedham Films: The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel dir. John Madden; Dedham Assembly Rooms.

FILM

- * Fri 21 Aug: 7.30 pm Ansell Centre, Hadleigh: What we did on our Holidays.
- ❖ Wed 26 Aug: 10.30 am Ipswich Film Theatre: Great Cities of Art: Vienna.

Wed 16 Sep: 7.30 pm Dedham Films: Woman in Gold dir. Simon Curtis 2015; Assembly Rooms.

Village Film Festival

2 to 18 Oct: in Dedham and nearby villages, 25 films, 7 venues. www.dedhamfilms.co.uk

❖Wed 23 Sep: 10.30 am lpswich ❖ Film Theatre: Cities of Art: Florence.

THEATRE

- ❖ Sun 2 Aug: 5 pm Pantaloons Theatre: Treasure Island, adapoted from R. L. Stevenson's novel; Landguard Fort, Felixstowe; and at Fingringhoe Wick on 9 Aug at 7pm.
- ❖ Sat 8 Aug: 7.30 pm Headgate Theatre, Colchester: Northanger Abbey, DOT Productions' version of lane Austen's novel.
- **❖ Wed 26 Aug** (& 12th Sept): pm Royal Shakespeare Co - live

- link: Shakespeare's Othello; Firstsite, Colchester.
- **❖ Wed 16 Sep:** 7.45 pm Headgate, Colchester: Quartet by Ronald Harwood, to 19 Sep.
- * Sun 27 Sep: 6 pm (& 2 pm) Headgate: Hats off to Laurel and Hardy, a variety show.
- **❖ Wed 30 Sep** (& I Oct): 7.30 pm Propeller Company: Merchant of Venice, condensed version of Shakespeare's play. Norwich Playhouse. 7.45 pm Eastern Angles Theatre Co: Parkway Dreams, documentary play, musical



❖Thu 10 to 19 Sep: 7.30 pm Colchester Operatic Society CO2 (for junior members, aged II to 23) at Mercury Theatre, Colchester.

Blonde

to 3 Oct; Sir John Mills Theatre, lpswich.

MUSIC

❖ Sun 2 Aug: 3 pm Concerts at Cratfield: Navarra String Quartet; Cratfield Church.

Thu 6 Aug: 12.30 pm Coggeshall Church: Peter Dollimore

In the Assembly Rooms, Dedham







It's Impossible not to enjoy this big-hearted and sweet-natured British family movie from Andy Hamilton. David Tennant and Rosamund Pike are Doug and Abi, the troubled parents of three boisterous kids; they're heading up to Scotland for the 75th birthday of Doug's unwell dad, Gordy (Billy Connolly), which means staying with Doug's uplight brother, Gavin (Ben Miller), and his depressed wite. Wargaret (an excellent Amelia Bulmore). This means maintaining all the secrets and lies of families, and Gordy finds the only people he really gets on with are Doug's young children. Very impressive and likable film, sending you home laughing.

Admission 7 pm - Film begins 7.30 pm Tickets £4 available from Shakespeare House Gallery or online at dedhamfilms, c o.uk





Wednesday 1 July 2015

Man and Superman (National Theatre Live Encore)

nd Superman (National Theatre Live Encore)

By Bernard Shaw and directed by Simon Godwin

A romantic camedy, an epic fairytale, a fiery philosophical debate, Man and Superman asks fundamental questions about how we live. Ralph Fiennes takes the role of Jack Fanner in this exhibarating reinvention of Shaw's withy, provocative classic.

Admission 6.30 pm – Screening begins at 7 pm
Tickets £10 available from Shakespeare House Gallery or online at
dedhamfilms.co.uk

Retreshments available before the film or screening and during the film interval

Contacts: Jax Horswill 322 328 or dedhamfilms@gmail.com
To find out more about the films, live screenings or Dedham Films visit
www.dedhamfilms.co.uk



Dedham Lecture 2015



Dr Rowan Williams

Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge and former Archbishop of Canterbury.

అంతు

TERESA OF AVILA & THOMAS MERTON

TWO ANNIVERSARIES

8pm Tuesday 29th September

For further information:

web: www.dedham-parishchurch.org.uk email: office@dedham-parishchurch.org.uk



The Lecture, which is free, will take place in **Dedham Parish Church** and is arranged by the Dedham Ecclesiastical Lectureship Trust.



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NOTICEBOARD

The Garden Café at The Munnings Art Museum Castle House, Castle Hill, Dedham



The café is now open for coffee and tea (from 10am -5pm), as well as light lunches, sandwiches, cakes, scones (from 12:30pm) and afternoon tea (3pm-5pm). All ingredients are sourced from local artisan producers wherever possible and the daily menu is produced to order.

Entry to the museum is not required to visit the café, but customers are encouraged to make time to visit the wonderful collection.

info@thegardencafeatmunnings.com 07900 683093

Also available for outside catering events.

The Castle House Trust is a registered charity no. 310671

THE FRIENDS OF DEDHAM CHURCH



The Friends of Dedham Church are organising a trip to
The Churchill War Rooms and
The Imperial War Museum on
Tuesday 18th August 2015

The cost of the visit will be £36.00 to Members and £40.00 to nonmembers

The coach will leave Dedham at 8.00pm

For further details please contact
Beth Mitchell on \$233949 or
Maria Johnston on \$222913

Laura Valentine writes

Since returning from my second visit to Gatunduri Primary School in Kenya, friends, colleagues and children have all eagerly asked, "How was your trip to Kenya?" and it is such a difficult question to answer! If I were to say challenging, inspiring, thought-



provoking, entertaining, tiring, life-changing, uncomfortable and humbling I would only be scratching the surface!

Here are some of my experiences:

At times during the day, classes are left completely unsupervised for the children to get on with independent learning; which they do! The children are keen to learn, having a high regard for education, and many said they wanted to be engineers, doctors and pilots when they grew up. The top achievers were given prizes of plastic bowls and jugs at a special Education Sunday service.

Illness and death are dealt with so matter-of-factly. I watched children being taught about the symptoms and prevention of cholera, currently a big problem in certain areas of Kenya. The teacher told me that teaching the children is the only way to get the message home to their parents.

I gave the teachers stickers to give to the children for good work. By the end of the day, the reception class had sparkly stars and smiley faces on their own smiley faces!

The football team were delighted with their 'new' kit. Having just bought a new kit for Dedham, we donated our old kit to the Gatunduri football team. They were chuffed to bits and I learned that the children were also to wear the kit to a local athletics event the following day.

We look forward to welcoming Gatunduri's senior teacher, Martha Muthoni to Dedham in September. Between now and then, both schools will be continuing to work on our joint projects which this year include storytelling and understanding global warming.