



DEDHAM

Parish Magazine

April 2026



# Dedham Parish Magazine

First Published in 1876

150 years

April 2026

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**The deadline for the MAY 2026  
Magazine entries is the 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL  
2026.**

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**Cover Photo:** Sophora microphylla  
'Sun King', 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.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Good Friday**  
 10.00am Hour at the Cross Ardleigh  
 2.00pm Hour at the Cross Dedham\*

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Sunday**  
 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) Ardleigh  
 9.30am Holy Communion Dedham\*

**Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April**  
 9.30am Holy Communion Ardleigh  
 11.00am Holy Communion Dedham\*

**Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April**  
 9.30am Holy Communion Ardleigh  
 9.30am Matins Dedham\*  
 5.00pm Revive@5 Dedham\*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April**  
 9.30am Morning Praise Ardleigh  
 9.30am Holy Communion Dedham\*

\* = Services which may be live streamed.

**Morning Prayer - Every Tuesday**  
 10.30am at Dedham Church

**Annual Parochial Council**  
**Meeting Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April after**  
**the 9.30 service.**



**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**




**Ardleigh Friendship Group: every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month: 10am to 12 noon - Ardleigh Church.**

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

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

**Monday Lunch Club – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 12.30pm, Essex Tea Rooms.**  
 Phone 322192 to reserve a place.

**Men’s Breakfast - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 9am** - Breakfast, Bacon, Buns and Bible.

**Walk and Talk - Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 10am or 11am, Dedham Arts and Craft Centre.** 10am for a walk, or at 11am for just a chat.

**FROM THE REGISTERS**

**Funeral/Interment/Memorial**  
 11<sup>th</sup> February - Graham John Kitson - Memorial Service.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Robert Scott - Interment.  
 12<sup>th</sup> March - Doreen Mary Harrison - Funeral.  
 14<sup>th</sup> March - Peter Roberts - Interment.

**Wedding**  
 17<sup>th</sup> March - Rennie Allen and Frank Wilson

*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.*

Dear Friends,

Easter is upon us. Over the first week of this month we complete our journey through Lent, recalling the last events of Jesus' life in Holy Week culminating in the silence and reflection of Good Friday and Easter Saturday.

Along with the sunrise on Easter Sunday morning (well almost!) the celebrations begin with joyful Easter Services proclaiming boldly and exuberantly 'Alleluia Christ is Risen!'

In the Sundays of the Easter season following, we use resurrection stories of Jesus from the gospels in our services that give the promise of hope to Christians the world over. (Look at chapters 20 and 21 in John's Gospel).

As I write this, there is much that needs hope in our world that is increasingly torn apart with war and conflict on the international stage; more divided with the rise of partisan politics and nationalism and more impoverished with larger numbers of people struggling to make ends meet. Where do we find hope in these troubling times?

It was much the same in Jesus' day with the Jewish people being oppressed and subjugated by the brutal Roman Authorities. A growing number of Jesus' followers had hope of a political rescue with Jesus leading a rebellion, much as had been tried before by other leaders.

The events of Holy Week ending in the crucifixion of Jesus seemed to dash all hope. Yet on the Sunday, hope was re-kindled when the tomb was found empty and Jesus was alive! The promise of a better Kingdom of love, justice and peace had become a reality through the resurrection of Jesus. This is the essence of the Christian faith and gives hope to all who believe that better things are possible.

You may not know but our Diocese of Chelmsford, of which we are part, is led by the Bishop of Chelmsford, Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani. Bishop Guli was born in Iran and sought refuge in Britain with her family following the Iranian Revolution of 1980. As one of the Lord's Spiritual, she speaks regularly in the House of Lords on matters concerning Asylum Seekers and Housing in particular.

In a world that needs much love, justice and peace, I invite you to say a prayer written by Bishop Guli for the needs of Iran and the Middle East before war broke out.

*Ever loving God, who hears us in our anguish and distress, and longs for us to be free. We pray for the people of Iran and the wider Middle East, at this time of fear and uncertainty. Be near to those who are anxious; bring comfort to all who are suffering. Guide those with the power to make decisions, and lead them in the ways of wisdom, compassion and moderation: that people of good-will would seek harmony and reconciliation. Join us with our Christian brothers and sisters in all places, in praying for peace with justice, through him who is the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Further information from Bishop Guli on this and other matters may be found on the Chelmsford Diocese Website at [chelmsford.anglican.org/news](http://chelmsford.anglican.org/news)

Wishing you all much peace and hope this Easter.

*Best wishes,  
John Saxon*

## IN YOUR MAGAZINE

This edition of the magazine includes a number of items from the 1876 Magazine as well as the British Newspaper Archive items from 1876.

As we belong to the Association of Church Editors (ACE), we have been given permission to use items from Tom Gordon's Reflections and Hymns at <https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com/>.

Tom Gordon is a former Church of Scotland parish minister and hospice chaplain who is now retired and living in East Lothian. He is also a member of the Iona Community. He writes a daily blog with a quote, reflection and short prayer.

*John Goldsbrough*

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“Judge not the preacher.”

George Herbert, *The Temple* (1633)

The English diarist, Samuel Pepys, wrote in his diary for March 17, 1661:

A good, honest and painful sermon.

The 17th of March 1661 was a Thursday. So either Samuel Pepys was at church on a Thursday, which would be unusual; or he was referring to a sermon from the previous Sunday, with his reflections somewhat delayed; or (my preference) he'd been involved in a discussion that Thursday on a regular pastime of church-goers – dissecting the most recent sermon.

The novelist, Anthony Trollope, offers this line in *Barchester Towers*:

There is, perhaps, no greater hardship at present inflicted on mankind in civilised and free countries, than the necessity of listening to sermons.

Necessity? Well, not anymore. Hardship? Well, it depends. But the truth is, that a sermon – or a homily, or a sermonette, or a reflection – as part of an act of worship is surely worthy of comment and discussion.

Now, this is not a treatise on homiletics (that's the study of sermons, folks) though we know that a sermon can serve different purposes at different times, or even at the same time. It can move people emotionally; lift the spirits; inform; challenge; clarify; encourage; offer comfort. I'm sure it will have been no hardship for you to listen to a sermon that does any of these things. But surely, above all, a sermon is worthy of discussion. And that, I believe, is what Samuel Pepys was doing on a random Thursday.

It's suggested that a sermon is “A Starter for Ten”. (For my overseas friends, that's the opening question in a round of a TV quiz show, *University Challenge*, the correct “starter” answer leading to an additional series of questions for your team.) A sermon should be a starter, a stimulus to discussion, with the preacher or others, or even in your own head.

After worship one Sunday a lady said to me, “Your sermon was rubbish, son.” As I crumbled before her eyes, she continued, “But let's talk about it. Maybe you might have said ...” It was the best homiletics seminar I've ever had. I wonder if this perceptive lady ever got round to noting in her diary, “Better this week. A good, honest and not-so-painful sermon.”

Copyright - Tom Spencer

<https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com/>



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

## April 3rd Good Friday

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St Edmund church, Tendring CO16 0BN at 7pm.** They will sing 'Requiem' by Cherubini and 'The Reproaches' by Healey Willan. Cherubini was born Maria Luigi Cherubini in Florence in 1760.

There is uncertainty about his date of birth. His instruction in music began at the age of six with his father, Bartolomeo, maestro al embalo ("master of the harpsichord"), in other words, ensemble leader from the harpsichord). Considered a child prodigy, Cherubini studied counterpoint and dramatic style at an early age. By the time he was thirteen, he had composed several religious works. 'The Reproaches' is the traditional prayer repeated at the vigil of the Crucifixion and is a very moving and poignant work.

## April 12th

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St Georges Church, Great Bromley CO7 7TS at the 11am communion service.** The anthem will be 'Sicut Cervus' by Palestrina. Giovanni Palestrina was an Italian composer of late Renaissance music. Palestrina is considered the leading composer of late 16th-century Europe. He was one of the few Renaissance composers never entirely forgotten, but it was the so-called "Palestrinian style" of counterpoint rather than his individual compositions that exerted the greatest influence.

*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 11.00am 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*



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER

ACROSS THE TENDRING & DEDHAM PARISHES

Holy Week is a time to reflect on the life, death and resurrection of God's King, Jesus. We hope these services will enable you to draw near to Him in prayer, in silence, in service, in praise and in celebration of the victory over sin, death and hell He has won for us through these precious events and by faith in Him.

### **Maundy Thursday 2nd April -**

#### **Holy Communion with Foot Washing**

St. George the Martyr, Great Bromley - 19:00

St. Mary the Virgin, Dedham - 19:00

St. Mary the Virgin, Wix - 19:00 (Hand Washing)

### **Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April -**

#### **Stations of the Cross**

All Saints, Great Oakley - 09:30

#### **Hour at the Cross**

St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh - 10:00

All Saints, Wrabness - 14:00

St. Mary the Virgin, Dedham - 14:00

#### **Cross of Christ Choir Performance**

All Saints, Great Oakley - 15:00

#### **Deanery Choir Service**

St. Edmund King and Martyr, Tendring - 19:00

### **Easter Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April -**

#### **Easter Vigil**

St. Mary the Virgin, Little Bromley - 20:00

### **Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April -**

#### **Quayside service (with Holy Communion in church)**

Open Air Quayside Service, Quay Lane, Beaumont, CO16 0BB - 07:30

Followed by Holy Communion in Church

St. Leonard and St. Mary's, Beaumont-cum-Moze

#### **Holy Communion**

All Saints, Great Oakley - 09:30

St. Edmund King and Martyr, Tendring - 09:30

St. Mary the Virgin, Dedham - 09:30

St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh - 09:30 (BCP)

St. George the Martyr, Great Bromley - 11:00

All Saints, Wrabness - 11:00

St. Mary the Virgin, Little Bentley - 11:00

#### **Easter Praise**

St. Mary the Virgin, Wix - 15:00

## DEDHAM HELPING SCHOOLCHILDREN IN SIERRA LEONE

There is a strong and growing relationship between Dedham and the UK charity Sierra Leone Education & Development Trust (SLEDT). SLEDT supports the secondary and tertiary education of very bright children from desperately poor homes in Sierra Leone.

Many residents and churchgoers donate regularly and many have given one off donations which directly results in many bright children receiving a full senior education in Sierra Leone.

SLEDT warmly thanks the supporters from Dedham and I am grateful for this opportunity to provide an update.

Many sponsored children are sleeping on the floor in one or two room home without electricity when we meet them.. SLEDT provides a mattress and a solar lamp. SLEDT also supplies the school uniform, books, lesson fees and exam charges. The families cannot afford these basic items and their children would join half the children in Sierra Leone who do not attend secondary school without the help of SLEDT.



Isata Dumbuya with her books for starting at secondary school.

Isata Lives in Kossoh, a poor suburb of Freetown. Her parents are farm labourers when they can get work.



Augustine Jawara achieved an exceptional score in his primary school exam. He is wearing his new school uniform and carrying his books and his sports kit. Augustine's father abandoned his son when he was four years old. His mother works as a market trader and Augustine helps by selling cold water on the street.

The sponsored children are very intelligent achieving a grade in the National Primary School Examination which places them in the top 4%. An education from a good performing secondary school gives them the opportunity of a fulfilling life.

The track record of the scheme is eye catching. Currently 86 children are on the scheme attending high achieving secondary schools in Sierra Leone. The first pupils coming through the scheme are all in further education or in good jobs. SLEDT supports the university education of the pupils in a separate scheme. The students are building the lives of themselves and their families and also contributing to the development of Sierra Leone.



Class 6 at a primary school in Lunsar, preparing for their National Primary School Exam in March. They are using text books supplied by SLEDT. In previous years the pupils studied for the exam without the help of text books but this class will be better prepared.



Five bright pupils from Maynard Primary School are studying at top secondary schools from September with the support of SLEDT. The photo is the current class 6 who will be taking their national exam in the Spring. The school is in a poor area on the outskirts of Freetown.

Wells Hall Primary School in Great Cornard has twinned with James Memorial Primary School in Lunsar, Sierra Leone. The pupils from both schools have greatly enjoyed exchanging letters and gifts and making new friends. Pupils in Sierra Leone are mainly taught using blackboards. The children from Wells Hall School carried out various

fundraising activities to fund new blackboards at James Memorial School.



SLEDT spends no money on premises, salaries or any overhead costs. Every penny raised goes directly to support the education of a bright child who probably would not otherwise attend secondary school.

It costs £25 per month to support a child in secondary education in Sierra Leone. If you wish to make a donation or monthly standing order to SLEDT or would like further information and a discussion please let me know on 07984 349909 or [andyhigginson729@gmail.com](mailto:andyhigginson729@gmail.com).

The SLEDT website is at [www.sierraleoneaid.org.uk](http://www.sierraleoneaid.org.uk)

## Old Spectacles.

Many people in Sierra Leone struggle through life struggling to see properly. Thank you to many residents who have donated their old spectacles. The spectacles are shipped to the Christian run Eye Hospital in Lunsar. The prescriptions on the donated glasses are read by an eye doctor and his team before they are dispensed to patients who cannot afford to buy glasses. If you have any old unused spectacles please drop them in to the box in the church porch.



## **Dedham Parish Council Meeting Report – Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

### **Public Forum**

Several matters were raised by residents during the Public Forum. Concerns were expressed regarding the continued presence of water on Castle and at the junction with East Lane. There were also multiple comments about dog fouling, particularly along Crown Street. Residents additionally raised concerns about the quality and reliability of the local bus service.

A hedge outside one of the Kiln Cottages was reported to be very overgrown and in need of attention. A resident also asked whether it would be possible to introduce disabled parking bays in the High Street, in addition to those already available in the car park. It was agreed that the Infrastructure Group will review this request. Pothole issues in several locations were also noted. The Council agreed to investigate all of the issues raised and report back.

### **Post Van**

The Post Van service has now resumed its regular schedule: Monday mornings from 9:00–11:00am and Tuesdays from 1:30–3:30pm.

### **Royal Visit**

The recent visit by the King and Queen to Dedham was reported to have gone very well despite challenging weather conditions and the short notice given for

the event. An email was received from the Lord Lieutenant's Office thanking the Council for its assistance in supporting the visit.

Special thanks were given to the local school for their singing during the event. It was noted with regret that the British Legion contingent were unfortunately not introduced to the King and Queen. Particular thanks were also extended to Councillors Haines and Harrison for their work organising car parking and activities in the High Street.

### **Sports Club Update**

Various repair works have recently been undertaken at the Sports Club, including plumbing repairs to enable the facility to reopen. Some electrical work still remains to be completed, and the drains by the Club have been cleaned. In the meantime, the football club is playing at an alternative ground until March.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should work with the Sports Club to organise a well-publicised reopening once all works are complete. The Council also agreed to proceed with a proposal for a strategic meeting between the Sports Club and the Parish Council.

### **Dedham – Munnings and Constable Update**

Training has begun for the oral history project relating to Sir Alfred Munnings and his connections with Dedham. Planning is also underway for the Constable 250 event in Dedham, scheduled for 11 July.

## Infrastructure and Community Areas

The group will discuss the development of a street trading policy at a future meeting.

### Media Project

It was agreed to progress ideas for a video project in collaboration with the Communications Group.

*Douglas Bourn*  
*Chair of Dedham Parish Council*



**Dedham Parish  
Council Meeting  
Report – Monday  
2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026.**

## Public Forum

During the Public Forum, residents raised a concern regarding the Dedham sign near the Mill Lane car park, which requires repair. The matter was noted by the Council.

## Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Additional signs have now been installed in various locations around the village to address the issue of dog fouling.

## Report from Colchester City Councillor Thomas Rowe

Councillor Thomas Rowe reported that wheelie bins will begin to be introduced in certain areas in the coming weeks. It was noted that when the scheme is implemented in Dedham, some

exceptions may need to be considered due to the nature and location of certain properties.

## Parish Plan

Letters have been sent to local charities, clubs and societies as part of the Parish Plan process. It was agreed that the Council will further consider the creation of a directory of local clubs and societies to be published on the Parish Council website.

## Sports Club Update

Most of the repair work at the Sports Club has now been completed, and the Council agreed to meet additional associated costs. It was also agreed that the reopening of the Sports Club should be actively promoted once all works have been finalised.

## Munnings and Constable Update

Training for the Munnings oral history project has commenced.

Planning for the Constable 250 celebrations is continuing. The Greener Dedham Group are organising an evening event on 11 July which will include talks about Constable, poetry readings, music and singing by pupils from the local school.

## River Update

A multi-agency meeting is scheduled for 24 March to discuss river-related matters. The Stour Trust is also considering dredging sections along the side of the river in order to support continued river transportation and help raise the navigation level.

## Policies

The Council approved the Reserve Policy, IT Policy and Data Retention Policy.

## Planning

A report from the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) highlighted concerns raised by Essex County Council (ECC) regarding a consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The consultation relates to a specific policy which could have significant implications for local authorities and neighbourhood plans. Following discussion, the Council agreed to support the position of the RCCE and ECC, and a letter of support will be sent.

## Policy for Street Trading in Royal Square

A draft policy prepared by the Infrastructure Group regarding street trading in Royal Square was agreed as an interim measure, pending further discussion and review.

### Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 13 April 2026, due to the bank holiday on 6 April 2026.

*Douglas Bourn  
Chair of Dedham Parish Council*

Scan to access the Parish Council website.



## DEDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL VISIT



On Monday morning, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Parish Councillors, Arin Andrews and Shelia Beeton, visited Dedham Primary School and took part in their assembly. Also in attendance were John Palmer (Road safety signs sponsor) and John Taverner (Community Speed Watch).

We spoke about the importance of road safety and awarded prizes for the 3 winning artists. The visit went down well and the pupils appreciated being awarded prizes. £20 book vouchers each.

## CITY OF COLCHESTER BAND



### Preparing for the Dedham Royal Visit

Following on from their successful concert in Dedham church last year The City of Colchester Band will be giving another concert in the Church on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> June in the evening. More details in the May magazine

## MISSIONS BAKE SALES



The dates for the 2026 Mission Stall are as follows:

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May is our first real mission stall. The Horticulture Society Plant Sale is also outside the church 9-12 noon.  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 10-12 noon.  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 10-12 noon.  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 10-4pm bank holiday.  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 10-12 noon.  
Change of venue - The Duchy Barn.  
Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 10-12 noon.

*Ruth Higginson*

University of Essex Choir  
Britten Pears Chamber Choir  
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

An evening of  
**Sacred Splendour**

Joseph Haydn  
*Missa in angustis  
"Nelson Mass"*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
*Regina coeli*

George Frideric Handel  
*Dixit Dominus*

Conductor Ben Vonberg-Clark

Saturday 09 May 2026, 7:00pm  
Snape Maltings Concert Hall,  
Snape, Suffolk IP17 1SP

Tickets: £33, £27, £17, students & under 18s £10  
Book at: [www.brittenpearsarts.org](http://www.brittenpearsarts.org)

University of Essex | BRITTEN PEARS ARTS | University of Essex Choir | Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

### About the University of Essex Choir

We are a friendly choir, welcoming singers of all abilities to experience the joy of singing with a large ensemble. Our dynamic Musical Director, Ben Vonberg-Clark, ensures that every rehearsal is enjoyable and accessible to all. Established for over 40 years, the choir has earned an enviable reputation for the quality of its performances of the great choral works as well as lesser-known pieces. The choir performs with professional soloists and orchestras in a variety of venues that include the University of Essex campus, Chelmsford Cathedral, and in the world-famous concert hall Snape Maltings. Everyone is very welcome and you don't need to be a member of staff or student at the University to join us. We rehearse on a Thursday evening every week from October to May.

<https://www.essex.ac.uk/choir>



## Dedham Parish Magazine - March 1876

**Short Chapters on the History of Dedham.**—The editor, D. P. M., has much pleasure in informing the readers of the Magazine that Mr. Nichols, of Lawford Hall, has kindly promised to contribute a series of papers, entitled "Short Chapters on the History of Dedham." The first two chapters we insert this month.

### CHAPTER I: DEDHAM BEFORE HISTORY.

It is needless to say that this small part of the earth's surface of which we are preparing to write the history, existed long ages before it was known as Dedham, before Essex had become the land of the East Saxons, and before the country of which Essex forms a part was known by the name of England, or even by its older name of Britain. The river which we know as the Stour, flowed nameless for many and many a century from the high lands on the borders of what we now call Cambridgeshire, and gradually scooped out the winding valley which forms the boundary between Essex and Suffolk.

The country through which the Stour passes is scarcely a land of hills, but it may well be called a land of dales, the general level being intersected and varied by the principal valley of the Stour, and by its various tributaries. All these valleys are the result of long years of water wear, during which the brooks, some of which are now scarcely to be found, have shaped out little by little those picturesque undulations from which this beautiful neighbourhood derives its charm.

In early times, when the land had already assumed its present configuration, we may conceive the estuary of the Stour, which now reaches only to Catawade, carried much farther up into the country, as far at least as Nayland. When the first human settlers found their way hither, the slopes that bound the river valley were doubtless thick with forests of oak and box and birch, in which wolves and foxes roamed undisturbed. Caesar, when he came to Britain, found the same timber as in Gaul, except the beech and the fir. The names of Oakley and Boxsted show what sort of wood flourished here in later days. We cannot tell what tribe of men first turned the virgin soil of Dedham. For aught we know one race may have ousted another in long succession, before the first inhabitants whose name is remembered settled in these regions. The history of this part of the world commences with a time when our country was known as Britain, when this corner of Britain was occupied by a nation or tribe, called the Trinobantes, and when our island was first made known to the world by the expedition of Julius Caesar, like New Zealand in the last century by the explorations of Captain Cook.

### CHAPTER II: DEDHAM IN BRITISH TIMES

At the time of Caesar's two invasions of Britain (B.C. 55 and 54), the region near the coast in the direction of the neighbouring continent, in which region we may suppose Dedham to be included, was very thickly peopled by a race which had passed over from the mainland, their country was closely studded with houses, their fields cultivated for corn, their flocks abundant. Here at any rate the elements of civilisation were not wanting. In the interior the people were more savage, they did not grow corn, but lived on flesh and

milk. The Trinobantes, who held the country now known as Middlesex and Essex, were among the most settled of the British tribes; but they were for the time under subjection to Cassibellaun, a chief whose country lay farther west on the north bank of the Thames. On the submission of the Trinobantes to Caesar, he restored their native prince Mandubratius, whose father had been killed by Cassibellaun. The Romans made no permanent conquest of Britain at this time; it was not until some ninety years later (A.D. 43), that any part of the island was brought directly under Roman dominion.

Dedham is within a walk of one of the most important British cities, Camulodunum. The name of two kings, who reigned there between Caesar's invasion and the final establishment of the Roman dominion, Tasciavan and Cunobelin are known to us from their coins. The latter is the original of Shakespeare's Cymbeline. His sons Cataractacus and Togodumnus were conquered by the Romans, under Claudius; Camulodunum was taken by that emperor in person (A.D. 43), and made a Roman colony, Colonia Camulodunum, whence the Saxon name of Colneceaster, and the modern Colchester. I do not know of any British remains which have been found at Dedham. In the neighbouring parish of Lawford, within sight of the Dedham valley, are the ruins of a tumulus, which probably formed the sepulchre of a British chief. It was opened some half a century since, and two urns removed. The spot is now marked by a group of Scotch firs, which forms a striking object in the surrounding landscape.

It would be very interesting if any of the numerous readers of this Magazine would communicate any information they may have as to remains of antiquity in the parish.



## Dedham Parish Magazine - April 1876

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has been established forty-four years. Supported by voluntary contributions, and by the energies of humane and good people, it has accomplished a great reformation. The legislature, at the instance of the founders of this Society, has passed from time to time enactments providing punishment, by fines and imprisonment, for persons committing outrages upon domestic animals; and this Society has prosecuted many thousands of such offenders, and last year upwards of 1200 were convicted by its exertions. Besides these operations, it has published and circulated millions of tracts, pamphlets, and small books; it has caused many useful and interesting lectures to be delivered and, after long and ardent labour and signal success, cruelty in a thousand forms still abounds! Since the formation of the Colchester and Essex Branch at the commencement of 1874, no less than eighty convictions have been obtained in this district, and in the best cases the offenders were imprisoned without the option of a fine. The Inspector reports that since he has been stationed in the district, there has been a marked improvement in the treatment of cattle, and many cruel practices have entirely disappeared.

Editor: On page 18 there is a newspaper report of a conviction for animal cruelty in Dedham.



## Dedham Parish Magazine - April 1876

### OPENING OF THE NEW BRIDGE OVER THE STOUR. DEDHAM, March 18th, 1876.

Mr Editor – I have an old fashioned idea (for "old" I suppose it is) in these days of rapid locomotion, that all things which affect one member of a parish should be felt more or less by all, and in like manner the general interest in things around us should be made known to all. Your Dedham Magazine therefore may be brought into requisition for my purpose, should you think this letter worthy of insertion,

Our parish may have but few, if any, points of grandeur, but it certainly has much of quiet, peaceful beauty. What can be prettier or more fragrant than our flower fields in summer, our meadows green, and all the rich and varied foliage which surround the many seats" of those who dwell within its boundary, and though last, not least, our beautiful church tower, which has weathered the storms of more than 300 years; but with all my love of home, I can scarce agree with one I knew in years gone by, who having to walk daily from a neighbouring town, told me he always thought, as from a hill he overlooked the valley of the Stour, Surely there can be no be no sin there."

I have wandered from my subject as far as my friend did from the truth I want to tell you of a bridge, the fairest bridge that ever spanned our river.

On Saturday, the 11th March, 1876, after a luncheon at a friend's house in the parish, the following gentlemen proceeded to the bridge by the Rookery Road, in an irregular procession attended by Messrs, Stock and Aytan (the county surveyors for Essex and Suffolk).

Suffolk was represented by the Hon, and Rev. F. De Grey, of Copdock, Sir Charles Rowley, Bart, Tendring Hall, and Captain Morse, of Copdock;

Essex being represented by Edgar Disney, Esq., The Hyde, Ingatestone, and W. H. Penrose, Esq., of Dedham.

There were also present other friends, amongst whom I noticed F. Nicholls Esq., Lawford Hall, R Nicholls Esq., The Rev J. G. Mills, H. R. Edwards Esq., Hillands. And of course a bright array (on road and river) of the gentle sex, ever ready to lend their presence and adorn the scene,

The barricades, on the arrival of the carriages, soon disappeared by the many willing hands of Messrs. Saunders, the contractors, when the procession passed across, and declared the bridge open to the public.

A minute inspection above and beneath, followed, when very high praise was given to the contractors for the way in which they had carried out the work. A few particulars respecting this new bridge may prove interesting;

It consists of a single span of 77 feet. The weight of iron employed is from 60 to 70 tons, and consists of six cast iron arched ribs, tied together with straining pieces, and wrought iron rods and bolts, finished with balcony railings.

The roadway, 21 feet 6 inches wide, is carried on brick arches turned from rib to rib; giving a total weight of about 140 tons, and built with sufficient strength to carry 80 tons across it.

Its predecessor was, as we all know, a wooden structure, and had stood our friend for over 80 years  
We must leave thee, fair bridge of more beauty and more strength, to bear the burden of the day, and may that time be long. How long we know not; but doubtless many generations will have come and gone before thy life has closed.  
And now I close, Mr. Editor, as  
Your obedient servant, A PARISHIONER

**The British  
NEWSPAPER  
Archive**

**Bury Free Press  
18<sup>th</sup> March 1876**

STRATFORD ST. MARY  
OPENING OF THE NEW BRIDGE. -

The new bridge over the Stour, between Stratford and Dedham, was opened on Saturday last for public traffic in the presence of Sir Charles Rowley, Bart., the Hon. and Rev. F. de Grey, Capt. Morse, and other Suffolk and Essex Magistrates. Mr. W. H. Penrose, of Dedham, most hospitably entertained the party at luncheon, after which the worthy Magistrate and his guests proceeded to the bridge, when the barrier which had been put up to prevent the public passing over it was removed, and the Magistrates rode over it, and the bridge was declared open to the public.

It is the widest bridge in the county of Suffolk. It is a one-arch iron bridge of 80 feet span, 13 feet high above the water, and giving a roadway 20 feet wide, and is a very handsome structure, doing great credit to the County Surveyors of Suffolk and Essex, Mr. H. M. Eyton and Mr. Henry Stalk, by whom the plans were prepared.

It cost something over £2,000 and is a substitute for an old pile bridge, which was built 80 years ago. The Essex half

was made two feet higher than the Suffolk half, and consequently there had to be a slope in the curve so as to make both ends meet in the middle, and the architects, in preparing plans for the new bridge had some difficulty in dealing with the road on the Suffolk side.

The public using the road much will no doubt very greatly appreciate the new bridge, which will certainly be a great convenience not only to those driving along the road, but to those who have business to transact on the Stour. During the six months that the work has been in progress, provision was made for the road traffic by a temporary bridge.

**The British  
NEWSPAPER  
Archive**

**Building News  
24<sup>th</sup> March 1876**

An iron bridge has been thrown across the river Stour, between Stratford St. Mary and Dedham, to replace one of timber built 80 years since, the piles of which had rotted through, letting the structure down 6in.

The new bridge is 80ft. span, and - 20ft. wide; it was built from plans by Messrs. H. W. - Eyton, and H. Stock, county surveyors for Suffolk - and Essex, by Messrs. Saunders, of Dedham, the contract price being £2,250.

Editor: The contract price is equivalent to £226,556 today.

The wooden bridge that this Iron one replaced was built in 1795 by Essex County Surveyor John Johnson (1732-1814), with Essex and Suffolk County Councils jointly liable for maintenance costs. It was relocated to the east of earlier crossings, this time with brick abutments at either end. (Source: Lucy Archer article, Three Bridges)

*The British*  
**NEWSPAPER**  
Archive

Essex Standard  
7<sup>th</sup> April 1876

## CRUELTY AT DEDHAM.

Charles Everson, a lad in the employ of Mr. Evans, butcher, of Dedham, was charged with cruelly beating and ill-treating a pony, the property of his master, on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. - The Royal Society's Inspector (Mr. Mackenzie), prosecuted.

Capt. Farnell, of the Grove, Dedham, said between two and four o'clock on the day in question he was walking with his gun beside the river when he heard some one beating a horse with a stick. He went in the direction from whence the sounds proceeded, and on reaching the road, saw the defendant and another lad in a cart.

The former was beating the pony unmercifully with the stick produced, and for a distance of 150 yards he never ceased his violence.

There were a great many ladies in Dedham, the gallant Captain said, who saw cruelty of this description, and no one had up to this time had the courage to bring a case forward. Police Constable Creasy corroborated.

The Bench fined the defendant 40s., and 9s. 6d. costs, or a month's hard labour; The CHAIRMAN remarking that the Bench were of one mind in thanking Capt. Farnell for the courage, if courage it could be called, he had shown in coming forward to make the present charge.

If others were disposed to follow his example a good deal of the cruelty which they knew went on, would be very soon put a stop to. A fortnight was allowed defendant for payment

*The British*  
**NEWSPAPER**  
Archive

Essex Standard  
10<sup>th</sup> March 1876

Dedham v. Harwich Club.

On Wednesday afternoon the return match between the Dedham Grammar School and the Harwich Club was played on a meadow adjoining Mr. Watts' farm at Upper Dovercourt. The weather was anything but favourable, a strong wind blowing, and about half time a drizzling rain set in, which continued to the close of the game. Up to half time the game appeared to be evenly contested, but on changing ends there came also a change in the game. The Dedham boys played well together, and from a corner kick which they gained the ball was being carried by the wind right under the tape but instead of being allowed to pass without being touched, one of the Harwich team attempted to catch it, He succeeded in touching it only, but not in stopping it, and thus a goal was scored for the School. Shortly afterwards another goal was scored for the School who thus won the match by two goals to none.

Editor: In July 2001 issue of the Parish Magazine, the Dedham Old Boys Football advertised a Five-a-side competition celebrating their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. So this year should be the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. However the current Football Club logo indicates that 1877 was the date of the first match, but these 1876 newspaper reports show earlier matches.



**STOUR CHORAL SOCIETY**  
**Mozart Requiem**




Susanna Rose *music director*  
 Stephen Smith *accompanist*  
 Anna Maria Rose *soprano*  
 Joanna Arnold *contralto*  
 Daniel Joy *tenor*  
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**SATURDAY 25th APRIL 2026**  
**2.30PM**  
 Mistley Parish Church, CO11 1ER

TICKETS: £15 (under 18 free)  
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 Choir members, 07511 908213 or  
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**April 3rd 2026**  
 (Good Friday)

Peter Clayton ~ Organist  
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 Retiring collection for Church funds

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**EAST BERGHOLT**

**Free Entry**, with retiring collection in aid of the church's work.  
 Light refreshments will be available in the interval.

For more details, please scan the QR code



**GENEALOGY DISCOVERY DAY**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026, 10.30am – 2pm

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### “All the world sweats with the bead of summer in its bud”

April can be a busy month in the garden. We're halfway through spring now, the garden has woken up, and everything seems to be waiting to burst into the peak of its beauty.

The greenhouse is getting full now and I'll need to get small plants out of it as soon as I can to make room for the melons, cucumbers and dahlias that need



Sweetpeas - credit Sara Kozak\_Unsplash

a few more weeks under cover. This means hardening off the sweet peas that are now several inches tall. I'll gradually introduce them to outdoor conditions over a week or so by putting them outside in a sheltered spot by day but put them back under cover for the night. After a week of such treatment, I can

plant them into the border, gently tying them to a tall support to scramble up.

Over the Easter weekend I'll give the lawn a light mow (weather permitting) with the blades set high and apply a high nitrogen spring feed to promote strong growth and help the lawn recover after the winter. The warmer weather means I can also reseed any areas that need it. If it doesn't rain within 48 hours of doing both, I'll need to get the sprinkler out.

If you grow potatoes, Easter is also traditionally the time to plant them out as the risk of frost has lessened and the soil is warming. However, with the holiday falling so early this year, it might be best to hang on a couple of weeks.



Dahlia Sprout

Last month, I started my dahlias into growth by potting them up, just covering the tubers with compost and giving them a quick water. Then I put them in a frost-free place with plenty of light: an unheated greenhouse or cold frame works well but have some horticultural fleece ready in case of a cold snap. Now that it's April, lots of my dahlias have put up shoots and you can take cuttings to bulk up your stock. Wait until the shoot is 7-8cm long and push the compost aside so you can see where the stem of the shoot meets the tuber. Then take a sharp knife and cut into the tuber

– just under the stem – to separate the shoot from the mother plant. It's important to take a bit of the tuber with the stem.

Cut away the lower leaves of the stem and if they are large, cut the top leaves in half. Pinch out the very tender tip too, all of which will help reduce moisture loss. Put the cuttings around the edge of a pot and gently firm them in. Give them some water and they should root within 2-4 weeks – a propagator or a plastic bag over the top will help stop them drying out. When you see fresh leaf growth or roots from the bottom of the pot, you know you've been successful. Dahlias can go outside and into beds and borders when all possibility of frost has gone but you can also grow them in pots. If you give them a go, don't forget to enter our Autumn Show!

Provided shrubs like forsythia, flowering quince and flowering currant have finished doing their thing, I can give these a prune to shape the plant. This will also prompt fresh growth that will carry the flowers next spring.



Peonies

Finally, I'll start putting a range of supports into beds: peonies will need their cages that prevent the weight of their big, blousy flowers from bending or snapping stems. My tomato plants should be ready to go into the growbags that will hold them all summer and, like them, tall-stemmed delphiniums and lilies will need tying to canes.

Although there's plenty to do this month, don't forget to take a walk around the garden to do some casual deadheading of any spring bulbs that are now going over and to admire everything else that's happening. From budding plants to the remaining daffodils, tulips and blossom, there's plenty to enjoy this time of year.

*Elliott Frisby*

[dedhamgardening.wordpress.com](https://dedhamgardening.wordpress.com) - QR code



**COMING UP**

**Seasonal container gardening**

Andrew Babicz, London Gardens Society

**1 April 2026, 7.30pm**  
**Assembly Rooms, Dedham**

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The 2025-26 season will draw to a close this month with our last regular film screening on Wednesday 22nd April at 10:00 am – fittingly a musical by one of the world's top film directors has been chosen to the occasion.

Film showings will resume in October 2026 and run until Spring 2027 for next year's season. Please look out for details in the forthcoming editions of the Dedham Parish Magazine.

In the meantime, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our spectators for their support, together with our whole team of volunteers who have served teas and coffees, baked cakes and brought cookies, assisted me with set-up (etc.) throughout the season – making each film showing such a smooth-running, enjoyable and memorable event.

My thanks also to members of the Duchy Barn Committee and Church PCC, particularly Colin Biggins and Vee Druitt for their unstinting help in making this venture possible.

A reminder that films being screened are advertised on flyers and posters in St Mary's Church and in the Duchy Barn as our copyright licence precludes the advertising of films outside church buildings. Please do drop in to either building to collect a leaflet and read about the films we shall be screening in the future.

And ... if you are free on Wednesday 22nd April between 10am and 1pm, please come along.

We'd love to see you there!

Wishing you a very enjoyable summer,

*John Groslin*



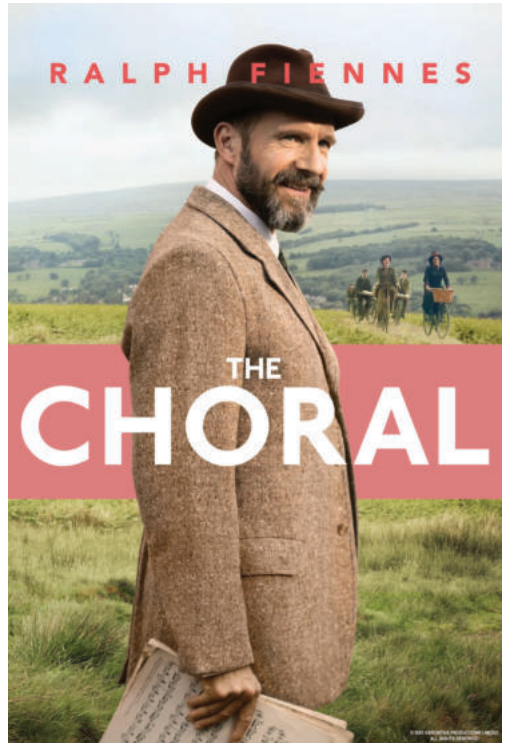
**THE CHORAL (12A) Directed by Nicholas Hytner 2025**

**Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 2026,  
Dedham Assembly Rooms  
7:30 PM - 10:00 PM**

1916. As war rages on the Western Front, the Choral Society in Ramsden, Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. The Choral's ambitious committee, determined to press ahead, decides to recruit local young males to swell their ranks.

They must also engage a new chorus master, and despite their suspicions that he has something to hide, their best bet seems to be Dr. Henry Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) – driven, uncompromising, and recently returned from a career in Germany.

As conscription papers start to arrive, the whole community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives is to make music together.



Tickets £5 will be available online on our website or in person at St Helena Hospice shop in Dedham High Street or on the door or our Box Office on 0333 666 4466

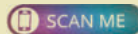
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## JOB OPPORTUNITY

Dedham Primary School is seeking to appoint a MIDDAY ASSISTANT to join our friendly,

dedicated and enthusiastic team. Duties will involve setting up equipment ready for the beginning of lunch, supervising play and engaging with children during lunch break and clearing up equipment at the end of lunch.

11:50am-1:20pm three days per week (Monday-Wednesday) term time only (38 working weeks per year).

All positions will involve appropriate checks and clearances.

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You don't need experience with horses or the disabled to join us. The volunteers all bring different skills – the common factor is empathy, a commitment to give a little bit of time and a desire to help others. There are a variety of roles available: helping with the horses, supporting the riders, undertaking repairs/maintenance or assisting with paperwork and correspondence.

We are a friendly group, so if you fancy learning more about this opportunity, give the Centre a call and arrange a visit to see us and our work. The Shelley Centre changes lives – of both the riders and the volunteers - introduces new friends and for many gives life a new purpose. Maybe it could do the same for you?

Telephone: 01473 824172

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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. On 11<sup>th</sup> March, Andrew Baker, acclaimed cruise ship lecturer, will return to talk on, "The Anatomy of the NHS", and on 8<sup>th</sup> April Bernard Lockett's subject will be "The Heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan".

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

## 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](mailto:dedhamartsociety@gmail.com) or visit our website:

[www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk](http://www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk).

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

### Dedham Art Society – April 2026 Thursday Painting Sessions

#### April 16<sup>th</sup>, Thursday - Assembly Rooms, 2.00–4.30pm

Members' painting together session –  
Life Study with Clothed Model

#### April 30<sup>th</sup>, Thursday - Assembly Rooms, 2.00–4.30pm

Members' painting together session –  
Painting Miniature (4" × 4" or smaller)

---

### One-Liners

The pessimist complains about the wind

The optimist expects it to change

The realist adjusts the sails

*Unknown.*

## APRIL 2026

- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> - 7.00pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, DHS Meeting - Seasonal Container Gardening.
- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> - 11am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> - 12.30pm, Essex Rose Tea Room - Monday Lunch Club.
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> - 6.30pm, Duchy Barn. - Dedham Parish Council Meeting.
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - 7.30-10pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms - Dedham Films, CHORAL.
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> - 2.00-4.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, Dedham Art Society.
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Matins.
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> - 5.00pm, Dedham Church - Revive@5.
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> - 10am, Duchy Barn, Films@Duchy Barn.
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> - 2-4.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, Dedham Art Society.

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Monday

- Meet up Mondays - The Sun Inn, 11am to 12pm.
- [Social Table Tennis returns.](#)
- Watercolour Painting Group, Duchy Barn, 10am to 12pm.
- [Mobile Post Office - Royal Square 13:30 to 15:30.](#)

### Tuesday

- Coffee morning - The Duchy Barn, 10:30 to 12pm.
- [Morning Prayer - Dedham Church, 10.30pm.](#)
- Mobile Post Office - Royal Square 09:00 to 11:00.
- [Dedham Baby and Toddler Group Dedham Sports Club, 10am to 12pm \(Term time\).](#)

### Wednesday

- Bridge in Dedham - Assembly Rooms, 1.30-5.00pm.

### Thursday

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

### Friday

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



Member Editor 2026  
Association for Church Editors



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Freehold

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"She has settled in well, due in large part to the efficiency and friendliness of all the staff."

L W | Daughter of Resident |  
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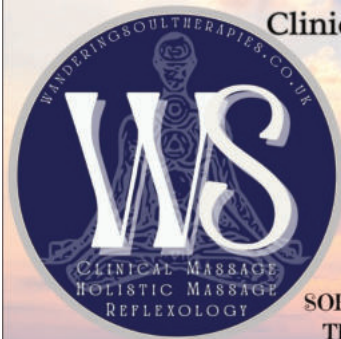
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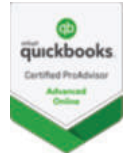
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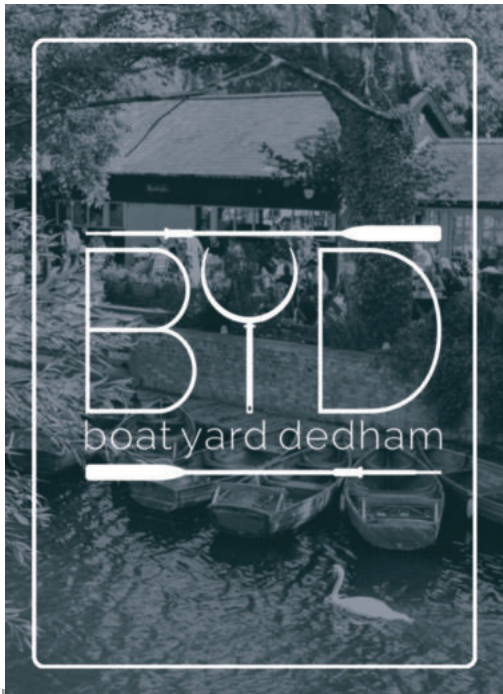
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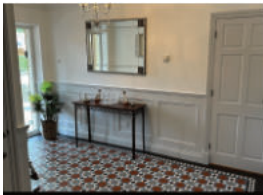
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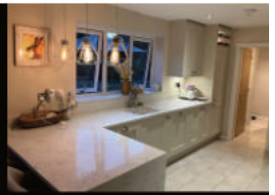
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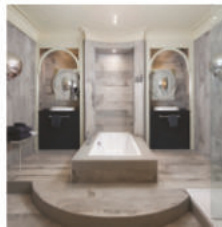
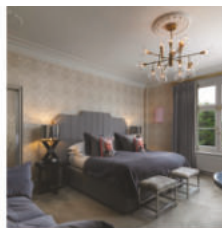
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