



DEDHAM

Parish Magazine

September 2026



Dedham Parish Magazine

First Published in 1876

150 years

September 2026

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DEDHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

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Can we help?

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

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.



Member Editor 2026
Association for Church Editors

The deadline for the OCTOBER 2026 Magazine entries.

10th SEPTEMBER 2026.

Contents/Editorial

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Cover: Detail from Fen Bridge by Marion Jones, Dedham Art Society

IN YOUR MAGAZINE

The poster creation abilities of AI are shown in the posters for the Big Breakfast and the Last Night of the Proms. AI is also useful in resizing adverts so that they match our size requirements. Once again we are advertising for an Advertising Co-ordinator, check out the Advert on Page 23. Dedham Parish Council have a new website - dedhamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

As their new website doesn't include much of the Dedham specific information that has been built up over the years, I have created a website which includes the Dedham village items. Please check it out on e-voice.org.uk/dedham and let me know what you think.

John Goldsbrough

Sunday, 6th September

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Cafe Church
9.30am Rise n Shine
5pm Evensong

Ardleigh
Ardleigh
Dedham*
Dedham*

Sunday, 13th September

9.30am Holy Communion
9.30am Holy Communion

Ardleigh
Dedham*

Sunday, 20th September

9.30am Holy Communion
9.30am Morning Praise

Ardleigh
Dedham*

Sunday, 27th September

9.30am Morning Praise
9.30am Holy Communion - Harvest
Festival Service

Ardleigh
Dedham*

* = Services which may be live streamed.

Morning Prayer - Every Tuesday
10.30am at Dedham Church

**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 5th
September 9am** - Breakfast, Bacon, Buns
and Bible.

**Monday Lunch Club – Monday 7th
September 12.30pm, Essex Tea
Rooms.** Phone 322192 to reserve a
place.

**Walk and Talk - Thursday 10th
September 10am or 11am, Dedham
Church and The Marlborough.** 10am
for a walk, or at 11am for just a chat.
Phone 0771 244 6198 for more details.

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS

6th August - Reginald Appleby
6th August - Christopher Sweet



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**



Dear friends,

I hope you've all enjoyed some time away over the summer break and, for those of you with children beginning a new year at school, a new course at university or maybe even a new job at this time, may things begin well!

Our country has recently begun a new chapter with Andy Burnham becoming Prime Minister. Regardless of our political convictions, Christians are encouraged to pray for those in positions of authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Leading a nation is no easy task and those who carry such responsibility need much wisdom, constant humility and supernatural strength.

Leadership is a perennial theme in the Bible. I've recently been reading through the book of Judges in the Old Testament. It's a fascinating book, but no "easy read!" In it, time and again we encounter leaders who, despite moments of courage and faith, also have deep, deep flaws. Gideon trusted God wonderfully at first, yet later led people astray. Samson was blessed with remarkable strength, but too often made foolish choices. Jephthah's rash decisions brought tragedy right when blessing was in view. As I've considered their (and others') lives and legacies, I'm reminded that even the best human leaders will ultimately disappoint us, because they are just as broken and fallible as the people they lead.

The final verse of Judges sums the book up: *"In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit"* (Judges 21:25). It's not simply saying that Israel needed a king – it points us to a much deeper need. We all long for someone who will lead with perfect wisdom, unwavering goodness and unfailing love.

That is exactly who we find in Jesus. Jesus is the King we have always needed.

He doesn't lead by seeking power for Himself but by giving Himself for others. He knows us completely, yet loves us deeply. He is perfectly just, wonderfully compassionate and utterly trustworthy.

When we place our lives in His hands, we discover forgiveness, peace and a sure hope for the future. Under His loving rule, people don't merely survive – they thrive, becoming the people God created them to be.

So this month, let's pray for Andy Burnham and for all those who lead us at every level. But more than that, let's look to Jesus, the one leader who will never fail us.

Whatever changes this world may bring, His kingdom is secure, His promises are certain and His invitation is open to each and every one of us.

*With every blessing,
Phillip*

MISSIONS BAKE SALES



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

The remaining dates for the 2026 Mission Stall are as follows:

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

Saturday 31st October 10am-12pm.

Ruth Higginson

A NEW FACE FOR LEPROSY: INSPIRING EXHIBITION IN DEDHAM

Visitors to Dedham Church have been discovering a powerful new perspective on one of the world's oldest diseases through the New Face for Leprosy exhibition, by leprologist Professor Diana Lockwood and photographer Tom Bradley.

The free exhibition showcased striking photography and personal stories from people affected, who have received treatment and support from Lepra's projects in India. The images seek to challenge the myths and stigma surrounding leprosy while celebrating the resilience of those affected. The exhibition ran from 7–28 June 2026 and welcomed visitors from across Essex and beyond.

For more than 100 years, Lepra has worked to diagnose, treat and support people affected by leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases in India and Bangladesh. Although leprosy is curable, stigma continues to have a devastating impact, often leading to discrimination, isolation and poverty.

The Dedham exhibition encouraged visitors to look beyond the disease and see the individuals behind the diagnosis. Through compelling portraits and real-life stories, it highlighted the importance of early diagnosis, treatment and community support, while demonstrating the life-changing difference that charitable donations can make.

Lepra extends its sincere thanks to everyone who visited, volunteered or helped promote the exhibition.

Together, supporters are helping to build a future where no one is defined by leprosy and everyone has the opportunity to live with dignity, hope and inclusion.

For more information or to donate to Lepra, you can scan this QR code.



Claire Arculus



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area



SEPTEMBER

September 13th

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St Georges Church, Great Bromley CO7 7TS** at the 11am communion service. The anthem they will sing will be 'Rejoice in the Lord alway' by John Redford. John Redford was a major English composer, organist, and dramatist of the Tudor period.

From about 1525 he was organist at St Paul's Cathedral. He was choirmaster there from 1531 until his death in 1547. Many of his works are represented in the Mulliner Book.

Redford is notable as one of the earliest composers, rather than improvisers, of organ music, having notated a significant quantity of keyboard music, all of it liturgical in function based on plainchant melodies; a few vocal works by him also survive.

As he held the post of Almoner and master of the Choristers, Redford was responsible for the arrangement of the choristers performances, including writing and directing plays and interludes.

September 27th

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St Mary's Church, Great Bentley CO7 8QG** at the 6.30pm Choral evensong service. They will sing the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis setting by Charles Villiers Stanford and the anthem 'Lead me Lord' by Fred Bock.

Sir Charles Villiers Stanford was an Anglo-Irish composer, music teacher, and conductor of the late Romantic era. Born to a well-off and highly musical family in Dublin, Stanford was educated at the University of Cambridge before studying music in Leipzig and Berlin. He was instrumental in raising the status of the Cambridge University Musical Society, attracting international stars to perform with it.

*Graham Bell,
Deanery Choir*

grahambell493@gmail.com



CHORAL EVENSONG

WITH

THE DEANERY CHOIR

SEPTEMBER 27TH 2026

6.30pm Start

Organist - Peter Clayton Conductor - Sally Pudney

Ferial - Bock - Stanford

St Mary the Virgin Church
Great Bentley CO7 8QC

THE KNITTED BIBLE

In August, a friend and I went to an exhibition at St Mary's Church, East Bergholt to which she said "would blow my mind!" It certainly did, both in the sheer number of beautifully knitted pieces as well as the presentation of biblical scenes presented in easily understood 3D formats.

We were told that the exhibition would be in the church a few more days and then would be sent elsewhere in the country – we understand there is a waiting list of over a year if we wanted to have the display in our church in Dedham.

I found this piece of information about the Knitted Bible on line, taken from the Mail and written by Sue Bosomworth.

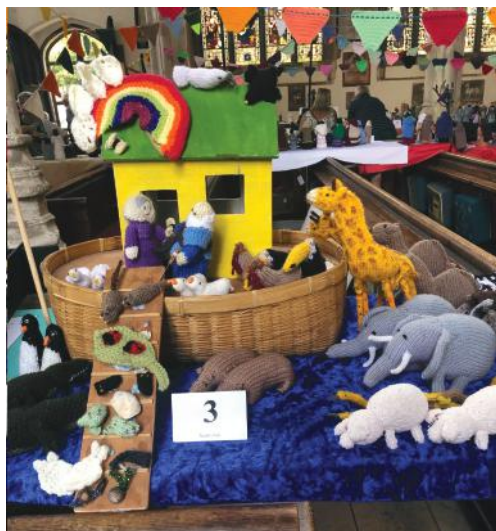
The Knitted Bible on Tour

What started out way back in 2008 as a knitted display of "The Last Supper" by the crafters of St George's United Reform Church in Hartlepool, became over a period of time, a mammoth undertaking of creating 36 scenes depicting some of the best-known stories from both the Old and New Testaments. Complete with scenery, characters, and a printed reference to the chapter and verses of the Bible, each scene fully gives the essence of the story, bringing it to life in a way that is easily understood.

I returned to take another friend who as a keen knitter was able to appreciate the complexity involved in producing the figures or other pieces involved in each of the Biblical scenes.

Here are some photos I took of a number of the of the Biblical scenes which I hope will bring the Knitted Bible to life for you all if you were not able to visit and see this wonderful display.

Noah's Ark:



So much detail – I loved the two ladybirds displayed on a leaf!

The story of Joseph and his brothers:



His amazing technicolour dream-coat !

The wedding at Cana:



Notice the wine goblets full of red wine after Jesus had changed the water into wine.

Blessing the Children:



Please see the prayer that goes with the story.

Palm Sunday:



The Bible story is written out on a card; look at Jesus so wonderfully depicted on the donkey.

The parable of the Good Shepherd:



I found this scene so moving; so many knitted sheep in the flock, reminded me so much of mankind; each of us so different in so many ways. Jesus the Good Shepherd; there for us all, loving us and taking care of us, noticing and rescuing one who goes missing and returning one of us to the fold - said so much to me, in such a simple representation of a beautiful Bible story.

Liz Reed

FINDING HOME: FROM CANADA TO DEDHAM



When I moved from Canada to England, I expected many differences. Canada and England are both places where people are generally friendly and polite, but they are different in unique ways.

Canada is a country of incredible space and wilderness. Which means that houses are built spread out. You needed a car to get almost anywhere because of the huge open spaces. So the mail is not delivered to your door. It was a seven minute walk (or one minute drive) to get our mail, which was at the end of the housing estate in a cluster mailbox. It would sometimes feel isolating, though nature was always nearby.

One of my favourite Canadian stories happened when I was at the vet. Another pet owner arrived and mentioned that a bear had wandered into his garden that morning. He had gone outside to try to scare it away and was annoyed it wasn't hunting season so he couldn't shoot it. He thought the bear might come back because new houses were being built in the area that had previously been the bear's habitat. Then he joked, "Well, if I don't make my appointment next week, you'll know the bear got me!"

The British famously love to "talk" about the weather; in Canada you "live" through weather. In the year before we moved to England, we experienced a

major ice storm in Ontario and Quebec. Freezing rain coated everything, bringing down trees and power lines, and many people (including us) were without electricity for days. In the summer smoke from Quebec wildfires travelled south, turning the sky ashy. I remember going to work and I could smell the smoke! Canadians need to be prepared for mother nature. But, the one thing I don't miss are the mosquitoes!

England feels different because of all the human history. It's fascinating to me that the buildings and houses have been there for hundreds of years. One of the things I love about Dedham St Mary's is sitting in the church and reading the names around me on the gravestones, the pews and the memorials. Some carry the names people who lived here long before the country of Canada existed. Sometimes I wonder: will my name one day be written on one of those stones? It is a slightly strange and perhaps morbid thought, but I think it is really a question about belonging.

I recognise that Dedham has already given so much to my family. Through the youth group, children's church and the welcome we have received. That is one of the things I have come to appreciate most about living near Dedham. Canada will always be part of who I am. I miss the lakes, the forests and the wilderness. But England, and particularly this part of Essex, has become home. It is a place where my family is building new memories while becoming part of a great community. Also, I don't mind the weather!

Michelle O'Carroll

THE DEDHAM EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Charity number 310831

The Dedham Education Foundation provide grants to young people for educational purposes.

The Trustees invite applications from residents in the Parishes of Ardleigh, Bradfield, Dedham, Great Bromley and Stratford St. Mary for financial grants that are available in the following categories:

Secondary Schools & Sixth Form Colleges

Applicants must be **at least 12 years old on the 1st August** in the year of application.

Universities & Colleges of Further Education

Applicants must have lived in one, or more, of the five Parishes for **at least 2 years** prior to the application date.

Closing date for applications: 15 October 2026

How to apply for a Grant

Please read and complete our online application form:

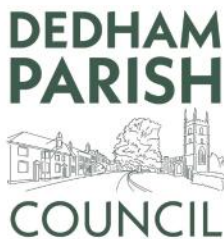
→ <https://forms.gle/rRTXW3adWAQXNgyP7>

For a paper application form, or further details, please contact the Clerk to the Foundation:

➡ dedhamefclerk@gmail.com

☎ 07989 579227

 Dedham Educational Foundation



DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT – MONDAY, 6th July 2026

Bladder Cancer

A resident raised concerns about evidence of bladder cancer in the village. It was noted there was no evidence of problems with water quality in the village. The Council agreed to follow up by contacting hospital's oncology department

Tables Outside the Old Bakery

Concerns were raised about alleged unlawful trading involving tables at the Old Bakery. It was clarified that the tables were being used temporarily for staff welfare purposes due to the hot weather.

Highway and Footpath Maintenance

Several residents raised ongoing issues with potholes around the village. Several highway and footpath maintenance issues were discussed. A number of potholes around the villages were mentioned and it was noted the Council are aware of these and have been reported to Essex Highways. There was also concern about some footpaths not being cut back on a regular basis. This is being investigated.

Sports Club/Parish Council

There was a very productive and constructive meeting held between the Sports Club and the Parish Council. Cllr Bourn summarised the meeting and there had been discussions of future developments of the sports pavilion.

Football on Sundays

Cllr Bourn and two other parish councillors met with residents regarding the proposal of football on Sundays. It was noted that the residents who attended the meeting raised objections to Sunday football.

These included foul language, parking problems, clashes with church services and potential impact on general use of the playing fields.

Although the Parish Council owned the land upon which the football was held, there was no formal agreement. It was agreed that the Council contact the Football Club regarding the matter requesting they cease playing on Sundays whilst consultation is taking place to clarify on status of rights of clubs to play on Sundays.

River/Meadows update

Cllr Bourn summarised the meeting of the Dedham stakeholder meeting (40 people) which addressed ongoing issues concerning use of the meadows beyond the 28 days legally permitted time, parking in the area, anti-social behaviour and jumping off the bridge.

The landowner had exceeded his 28 days and had been informed of this but there is likely to be an appeal. There has been increased parking warden presence in recent weeks.

A Meeting had been held with Suffolk and Essex Police to discuss anti-social behaviour and young people jumping off the bridge. Meetings are also planned with Suffolk Highways to discuss options for making it difficult to jump off the bridge.

Concern was expressed that although members of the Council and local residents were aware of numerous anti-social behaviour incidents, both Suffolk and Essex Police had very few recorded incidents.

The Council welcomed the work undertaken by the River Stour Trust on the banks of the Mill Pond. It was agreed to send a donation of £100 for their work

Play Equipment on Sports Field

Following previous discussions with the council, a group of local parents conducted a consultation regarding the development of the village play park. A report was presented of the comments from residents.

It was highlighted that the play area is highly valued, heavily utilised, and considered crucial for local children's development. The Council formally thank the parents involved and support the report's general recommendations, which include adding more seating for parents.

In order to progress these discussions, it is proposed to establish a dedicated Task and Finish Group which included 2–3 Council members and local parents.

Padel tennis discussion update

Work on preparing a feasibility study for this proposal is ongoing.

Internal Audit Report

The report had been received with a number of recommendations which are being followed up.

Planning report

The planning group reported on discussions on recent planning applications and stated they had no major comments on any of the proposals.

Infrastructure

Trading Bay policy for Royal Square

It was agreed that the trading bay is utilised for four days (Monday to Thursday) and on Friday for local voluntary groups to utilise the square for community purposes only. The usage of

the bays would be from 8.30 am to 8pm. A formal consultation process would need to take place before this can be progressed. Also it would require NEPP to monitor the usage of the bays

Service Level Agreement for Youth Club

Council agreed to funding agreement with the Youth Club.

Vandalism of playground equipment and RoSPA report

There has been some vandalism of the climbing tunnel in the play area which has been followed up and temporary repair undertaken.

Cycle Racks

There had been requests for additional cycle racks in Royal Square but the space options were limited. It was agreed that it might be worth talking to the pubs in the village to see if they can help with cycle racks.

Mobile Phone coverage

There had been a meeting with other parish councils affected by the lack of signal with Sir Bernard Jenkin/Cllr Rowe. This is being followed up.

Water on Castle Hill

Some of the problems are a result of roots of the trees. Highways are being contacted.

Litter Bin for outside Co-op/Essex Rose

The Council agreed to look into re-locating one the bins to the High Street.

Next meeting

7th September 2026 at 6:30pm in the Duchy Barn.

Cllr Douglas Bourn



**Extraordinary
Meeting Dedham
Parish Council
meeting 20th July
2026**

PUBLIC FORUM REGARDING USE OF DEDHAM PLAYING FIELDS ON SUNDAYS

The public and other interested bodies were invited to discuss the playing of football matches on Sundays and practice matches during the summer. Residents gave their opinions on the suggestions of Sunday football. These were summarised as follows:

General Concerns:

Several residents expressed objections and concerns regarding the proposed football activities, particularly the introduction of Sunday football and the associated impacts on the local community.

Noise and Disturbance:

A resident living adjacent to the playing field objected to the level of noise, stating it has a direct impact on their property and garden.

Other residents also raised concerns about excessive shouting and offensive language during matches, distinguishing this from the normal noise associated with children's sports.

Concerns were also expressed about the effect of this behaviour on nearby families, and children using the playground, and those wishing to enjoy other recreational facilities such as cricket and tennis.

Traffic, Parking and Access:

A resident speaking on behalf of 11 households (representing 18 residents) from Southfields and The Drift highlighted concerns over access to Southfields during match days, parking pressures, and obstruction of emergency vehicle access. The owner of a nearby field, previously used for overflow parking by football clubs, opposes its use for football parking and may withdraw permission for all future parking arrangements of the other clubs if football parking continues.

Process and Communication:

Concerns were raised regarding the transparency of the decision-making process. Questions were also raised about interim football arrangements that appeared to have been agreed without the Parish Council's knowledge, including matches that had already taken place. Residents called for future discussions and agreements to be held openly and in public.

Sunday Football:

Many residents stated their opposition to Sunday football, citing the village's tradition of maintaining Sundays as a quieter day.

Football Club Developments:

Reference was made to announcements by Dedham Football Club, including the merger with another team and the recruitment of players for Saturday and Sunday football. A timeline of these developments was outlined, with concerns expressed that changes were progressing ahead of formal community consultation.

Residents stressed that the playing field is a shared community asset intended for a range of recreational activities, including walking, picnics, and informal recreation, and should remain

accessible and enjoyable for all members of the community.

Comments in Support of Sunday Football:

Some residents commented that they had no objection to Sunday football and believed it was important to support initiatives that encouraged physical exercise and leisure activities. It was also noted that before any decision was taken the views of residents outside of the immediate area around the playing fields need also to be taken into consideration.

Village Impact:

Concerns were also raised about wider impacts on the village during weekends, including reports of increased police presence and broader public order issues, although it was acknowledged these concerns were not solely attributable to football activities.

Dedham Old Boys Football Club response:

The Chairman of the club explained that the football club has been established since 1871 and has never previously needed to seek permission to play weekend football. While the club recognises its responsibility as part of the local community and makes every effort to be considerate, it cannot control player or spectator behaviour once a match has commenced. Match officials are responsible for managing conduct during games, and any concerns regarding behaviour should be reported to the referees.

He emphasised its commitment to working collaboratively with the community to address concerns. He stated that Sunday football is essential to maintaining the club's viability, as many players participate on both Saturdays and Sundays. He also noted that, given the diversity of players' religious beliefs, it

would be inappropriate to determine participation based on religious observance.

The club aims to expand by developing junior and women's teams, ensuring its long-term sustainability. It is financially stable, raises its own funds, and does not seek financial support from the Parish Council. The Chairman highlighted the club's contributions to the village, including supporting the sports club by funding facilities and equipment.

He also stressed that restricting Saturday football would not resolve the underlying issues and highlighted the positive social benefits the club provides, including opportunities for ex-service personnel and individuals with disabilities to participate in sport. He confirmed that the club has safeguarding, respect, and complaints policies in place, with the complaints procedure to be published online and shared with residents where appropriate.

Finally, the Chairman noted that discussions regarding these matters had been ongoing for several months rather than only the previous two weeks. He encouraged all parties to consider the long-term future of the facility, warning that without sufficient football activity it could become underused.

He also emphasised the ongoing challenge of recruiting volunteers, explaining that increased volunteer support would improve the club's ability to monitor behaviour and address community concerns, and invited residents to work with the club to help promote positive conduct.

Additional comments by the Chairman of the Sports Club:

The Chairman stated that he wants all the sporting clubs to thrive but recognises that they need to engage with the community and work with them to provide solutions to their concerns. They are considering the option of filming all games which could also be a deterrent to foul language.

Plans to consider Agreement Between the Football Club and the Parish Council:

It was noted that the Parish Council, as the owner of the football field, had notified the Football and Sports Clubs of its intention to draft, for discussion with the football club, a conditional agreement for the use of its land on Sundays and other times as may be appropriate.

It was confirmed following further comments that to date no such discussions had taken place as additional information had now been gathered.

The Council recognised that there was a need to seek legal advice concerning the Council's responsibilities and status with regard to the playing fields.

Interim Arrangements Regarding Football on Sundays:

No interim arrangements have been made and will be subject to further discussions with relevant bodies and consultation with residents.

To progress matters it was suggested that the Council establish a Sports Field Working Group and that one of the activities of this group will be to ensure a full community consultation regarding the future use of the playing field. The terms of reference for this group will depend on the outcomes of the legal advice.

Legal Advice:

As the Council had agreed that it needed to seek legal advice, another extraordinary meeting will be required to approve this as it was not on the agenda and requires use of public funds. An Extraordinary meeting to be held on 27th July at 7pm to agree the basis for employing legal advice.

Interim Arrangements:

Pending legal advice and completion of the community consultation, the Council agreed that the current position (status quo) should continue.

Cllr Douglas Bourn

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

3K 10K 10K TRAIL

AJ WELLNESS CLUB

DEDHAM RUN

BBQ - BOUNCY CASTLE - RAFFLE - REFRESHMENTS - MUSIC

Enjoy the 3K fun run, take on the 10K road race or why not try our **NEW** 10K trail route through beautiful Constable Country!

WWW.DEDHAMRUN.CO.UK

RAISING FUNDS FOR DEDHAM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Organ Recital

Saturday, 3rd October 2026, 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Dedham



An organ recital to be given by the
Organist, Christopher Moore.

Christopher is a highly accomplished organist based in Suffolk, who has enjoyed an extensive local and international career. The recital will last approximately 1 hour.

*Free admission, retiring collection in aid of the **Organ Fund**.
Refreshments will be available afterwards.*

GIVE YOUR GARDEN GOOD BONES

Welcome back to another year of gardening with the Dedham Horticultural Society. In this year's editions of the Parish Magazine, I'm going to explore ten simple principles of garden design. Don't worry though, I'm not suggesting digging up the whole garden!

Like me, you've probably got a garden that has evolved over many years and in large part you're very happy with it. It has plants you treasure, but it also has gaps where something has never really worked (or maybe it died this summer) and the occasional planting decision you now regret.

Each issue, I'll briefly look at a design principle and suggest small, achievable ways that might help improve our gardens.

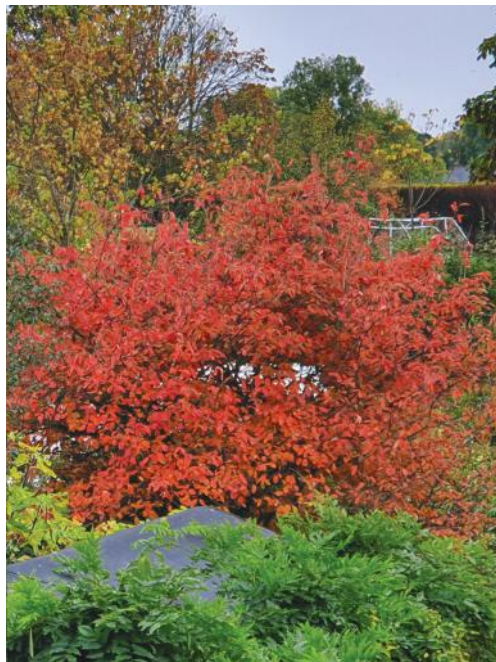
I'll share some seasonal plants and things to try, so that over the months we can look at our gardens with fresh eyes.

September is a great time for the first step in improving an established garden: considering your structure, the bones of the garden. Look around and imagine it without all the flowering plants. What's left? Trees, shrubs, hedges, fences, walls, paths and evergreen plants give the garden a framework on which hangs the herbaceous perennials, annuals and bulbs and a succession of colour and interest that changes through the seasons.

I'll walk round my garden and look for areas that already have good structure and those that look empty. For instance, a large evergreen bush died back last year so I removed it in spring. This left a huge gap and completely changed the view in that part of the garden.



Amelanchier in the Spring

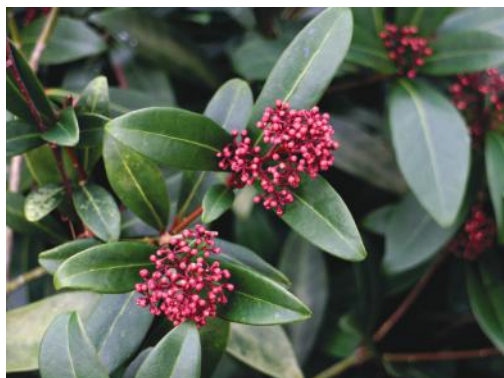


Amelanchier in the Autumn

For now, I've filled it with a rust-finished obelisk that supports a new white clematis.

When you walk around, think about whether a bare corner would benefit from a well-chosen shrub, if an exposed fence could be softened with a climber or if the view from the house could be transformed by a small tree.

I've an *Amelanchier* in a sunny spot which brings delicate white blossom in spring and autumn colour, but you might decide on a compact crab apple that will give both blossom and fruit. For a shadier area, choose an evergreen such as *Skimmia japonica* 'Rubella' which will provide useful year-round structure.



Skimmia japonica 'Rubella'

If you've lost a shrub, you don't have to replace it with an identical plant. Its loss provides an opportunity to rethink the space. Perhaps the garden needs something taller, something evergreen or something that flowers at a different time of year.

Mark possible changes by putting a cane where you think a new shrub might go and live with it for a few weeks before autumn planting begins. If it looks right, plant. If it doesn't, you've saved yourself an expensive mistake.

September is also the month to edit. Look critically at established shrubs. Has something become too large? Is a plant blocking a path or window? Is there a mass of greenery that needs breaking up? Sometimes good design means removing something instead of adding something. Here are a couple of ideas you could try this month to improve structure in your garden.

Choose one important view of your garden, maybe from the kitchen window or back door, and take a photo. When you look at it, your eye will often spot problems that you don't notice when standing in the garden.

Secondly, find one weak point in your garden's structure and decide whether it needs a plant, a pruning job, a move or maybe nothing at all.

As autumn approaches, this is an excellent time to plant many trees and shrubs while the soil is still warm. Don't buy simply because a plant is attractive. Buy because it solves a problem in your garden.

The Horticultural Society's speaker programme kicks off again on 7th October at the Assembly Rooms.

Suffolk Master Composter, Helen Carey, will talk to us about the benefits of composting and encourage us to try it at home. Admission, including free tea or coffee, is only £2 for guests or non-members – and entirely free for members of the Society.

dedhamgardening@gmail.com.



Elliott Fisby

Autumn Show Saturday 5 September

Download a schedule
at dedhamgardening.com
and plan your entries



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2026-27 SEASON STARTS ON 4 OCTOBER

Season tickets for the five concerts and one talk are available

Exciting programme for the new season with the finale having the return of the renowned Brodsky Quartet who have been playing for over 50 years and have come back to our society on several occasions. We hope you can come to our events and enjoy the variety we have on offer! Details below.

Sunday 4 October 3.30pm at St Mary's Church East Bergholt CO7 6TG

Alvor Ensemble (flute, harp, viola): Mozart - Ravel - Vaughan Williams - Debussy.

Sunday 18 October 3.30pm at St Mary's Church East Bergholt CO7 6TG

Sacconi Quartet: Caroline Shaw - Walton - Beethoven op 132. *Generously supported by John and Carole Ashton.*

Sunday 1 November 3.30pm at St Mary's Church Mistley CO11 1ER

Mithras Piano Trio: Mozart - Enescu - Brahms. *Generously supported by the Musicians' Company.*

Sunday 17 January 3.30pm at the Constable Hall East Bergholt CO7 6TP

Kasparas Mikuzis, piano: Bach - Ravel - Scriabin - Barber - Fauré - Prokofiev
Generously supported by the Countess of Munster Trust.

Sunday 7 February 3.30pm at the Constable Hall East Bergholt CO7 6TP

Young Musicians' Concert and afternoon tea. Extra Event. Tickets @ £8.00.
Generously supported by Alan Swerdlow and Jeremy Greenwood, who first inspired and supported SVAM's educational programme.

Sunday 28 February 3.30pm at the Constable Hall East Bergholt CO7 6TP

SVAM Annual Lecture: Emma Roodhouse, *Gainsborough 300: Landscips, Portraits and Music.*

Sunday 21 March 3.30pm at St Mary's Church East Bergholt, CO7 6TG

Brodsky Quartet: Tanaka - James Macmillan - Beethoven quartets op 18/3 and 135.
Generously supported by Jane Jewell.

Full details of our programme for the whole of the 2026-27 season are online and brochure will be available from Grier and Partners. For membership and ticket information see www.svam.org.uk or call 01206 298426.



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Charity registration No: 207264

Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen for a new resident in one of our properties in Crown Street, Dedham. The property is likely to be available from 1st December after some refurbishment.

Under the terms of the charity relating to these particular properties applicants must be in need of housing, aged over 60 years, currently living in the parish of Dedham or specific neighbouring villages, including Ardleigh, Stratford St Mary, Langham and Lawford. (See website for further information).

The vacant property has an upstairs bedroom, with all other facilities downstairs.

Residents must be capable of independent living, caring for themselves without assistance.

For further details and an application form please contact the clerk to the Charity by emailing:

Clerk.duntons@gmail.com
www.duntonsalmshouse.com

Closing date for applications is Friday 23rd October 2026

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ROMAN RIVER FESTIVAL 2026 ST. MARY'S CHURCH, DEDHAM. FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER

Alissa Firsova - Piano
Daniel Rowland - Violin
Sébastien van Kuijk - Cello

Three outstanding international musicians come together for an evening of powerful and atmospheric chamber music. Moving from the intensity of Rachmaninov and Prokofiev, to the stillness of Arvo Pärt and the contemporary voice of composer-pianist Alissa Firsova, before ending with Beethoven's dramatic and haunting Ghost Trio.

Rich in contrast and emotional depth, the programme brings together music that is intimate, expressive, and deeply absorbing.

Programme

Sergei Rachmaninov - Trio élégiaque No. 1 in G minor

Sergei Prokofiev - Violin Sonata No. 1 in F minor

Interval

Arvo Pärt - Spiegel im Spiegel

Alissa Firsova - In Spiritu

Ludwig van Beethoven - Piano Trio in D major "Ghost", Op. 70, No. 1

Tickets

Front Row £35, General Admission £30

Further Back £20

Under 30s (General Admission) £15

Doors open at 6.30pm. The concert begins at 7pm and will run for approximately two hours, finishing around 9pm. There will be a 20-minute interval. Drinks will be available before the performance and during the interval, and audience members are welcome to take drinks into the concert.

St Mary's Church in Dedham is a magnificent 15th-century Perpendicular Gothic church built during the height of the East Anglian wool trade. Famous for its striking 131-foot tower, the church is closely associated with the painter John Constable and houses his celebrated work *The Ascension*.

The church has a wheelchair-accessible main entrance providing step-free access into the nave, along with a fully adapted accessible toilet with baby-changing facilities.

The small parking area directly outside the church is prioritised for Blue Badge holders and visitors with limited mobility, subject to availability. Some parking may be available along the church wall or roadside in the village. Failing this, Dedham Riverside Car Park is a short walk away on Dedham Road (CO7 6DH).



Alissa Firsova

GUIDE DOGS



A date for your diary.

Everyone is warmly invited to a special service to celebrate 95 years of Guide Dogs for the Blind in this country on Sunday October 25th 3pm at St Mary the Virgin Church, Ardleigh. Come and meet our wonderful dogs and hear the difference they make to their owners lives. Meet, greet and make new friends over refreshments after the service.

Marjorie Culham BCM

ARDLEIGH SURGERY UPDATE

We hope you all have had a wonderful summer.

We are delighted to welcome three new GP trainees who joined Ardleigh Surgery in August 2026. These doctors are in their final year of specialist training to become fully qualified GPs. They will be supervised by Dr Cole and Dr Outtridge, who are the GP trainers at the practice.

As part of their training, the GP trainers will review and discuss the trainees' consultations to ensure they continue to receive the highest standard of education and support.

If you are offered an appointment with one of our GP trainees, we would be very grateful if you would consider accepting it. They are experienced doctors undertaking the final stage of

their GP training, and your support plays an important role in helping to train the next generation of family doctors.

We are also sad to announce that Sister Laura Harrison will be leaving Ardleigh Surgery to pursue a career as a consultant Nurse at the hospital. She has been a valued member of our team, and she will be greatly missed. We wish her every success in her new role.

Our annual flu vaccination programme will begin towards the end of the month. If you are eligible for a flu vaccination, please book your appointment when invited.

Finally, a reminder that the practice does not provide the MenB (meningococcal B) vaccine for travel or private requests. If you require this vaccination, it is available from many community pharmacies on a private basis.

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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 – September 2026 Thursday Painting Sessions

Thursday September 10th
Members' painting together session –
Moonlight Painting
Assembly Rooms, 2.00–4.30pm

Thursday September 24th
Members' painting together session –
Floral
Assembly Rooms, 2.00–4.30pm

Thank You from the Dedham Art Society

The Dedham Art Society would like to thank everyone who visited and supported our Summer Exhibition at the Duchy Barn this year. Despite the heatwave, over 300 people joined us across the late May Bank Holiday weekend, and with your support we raised £100.70 for Dedham Therapy Farm through art sales and donations.

Congratulations to our joint winners of the DAS Trophy for the Most Popular Painting: Summertime by Fen Bridge, Flatford by Marian Jones and St Paul's Cathedral by Billy Hamersley.

You can read more about these paintings and previous winners here:

<https://www.dedhamartsociety.co.uk/dastrophy-past-winners/2026-winners>

We are especially grateful to GoodMove Moving and Storage Limited for sponsoring the transportation of our exhibition boards, and to Kingsleigh Residential for sponsoring our promotional boards throughout the village. Our thanks also go to The Norfolk and Norwich Art Circle, The Munnings Art Museum, The Marlborough Pub, Dedham Hall, Milsoms Hotel, The Essex Rose Tea Rooms, Hall Farm, and the many other local businesses and residents whose support helped make our first Duchy Barn exhibition such a success.



Fen Bridge - Marian Jones



St Paul's Cathedral - Billy Hamersley.



There will be no film shown in September. The next screening will be Wednesday October 21st. We look forward to seeing you again then.

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

<https://www.dedhamfilms.co.uk/>

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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.

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SEPTEMBER 2026

- Saturday 5th -2pm-4pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms - Dedham Horticultural Show.
- Sunday 6th - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Rise & Shine. 5pm - Evensong.
- Sunday 6th - 5pm, Dedham Church - Evensong.
- Monday 7th - 12.30pm, Essex Rose Tea Room - Monday Lunch Club.
- Monday 7th - 6.30pm, Duchy Barn - Dedham Parish Council Meeting.
- Thursday 10th - 2pm-4.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, Dedham Art Society.
- Saturday 12th - 7pm-10.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, Last Night of the Proms - Live.
- Sunday 13th - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion.
- Sunday 13th - Dedham Run.
- Sunday 20th - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Morning Praise.
- Thursday 24th - 2pm-4.30pm, Dedham Assembly Rooms, Dedham Art Society.
- Saturday 26th -10am-12pm Duchy Barn - Mission Bake Stall. Note change of venue.
- Sunday 27th - 9.30am, Dedham Church - Holy Communion. Harvest Festival.

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, 10:30am to 12pm.
- [Morning Prayer - Dedham Church, 10.30am.](#)
- Mobile Post Office - Royal Square 9am to 11am.
- [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.

September 21st - The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day")

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Since sharing the news of Peter's passing, we have been deeply touched by the kindness shown by so many.

From heartfelt messages on social media, cards and flowers, to the thoughtful gifts that have arrived, every gesture has been received with enormous gratitude and has brought great comfort to Peter's family, and to all of us who knew and worked alongside him.

Peter touched the lives of so many with his kindness, wisdom, generosity, and friendship. He will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

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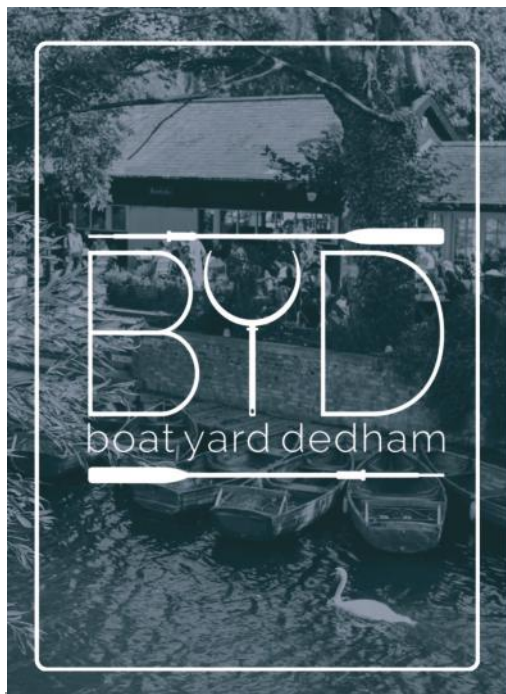


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