

The Native



December 2023
The Parish Magazine for Brightlingsea

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SHOP LOCAL especially in the run-up to Christmas. Our local businesses not only provide real personal service all year round, but give valued support to our many charities and good causes in their fundraising efforts by donating raffle prizes and giving sponsorship to events.

We are so lucky to have a range of independent and individual shops offering a lot more choice than many people might imagine. It's lovely to see several new businesses have opened along the High Street this year. Here's a great time to show our appreciation by giving them our custom and help to keep our town centre vibrant.

Sat 2 & Sun 3 Dec Great Bentley **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL** in St Mary's church. Sat: 10 am – 4 pm. Sunday 11 am – 4 pm. Stalls, light lunches & refreshments.

3 Dec A CHRISTMAS CAROL – performance by candlelight promoted by Winterfest, at Colne Yacht Club 2.45- 5pm. Tickets on the door for a donation to be split between Cancer Research UK and Winterfest. Mince pies, mulled wine or hot chocolate available from 2.00pm.

CHRISTMAS CHEER by Waterside Artists at the Museum. **25 Nov – 17 Dec.** A showcase of local artists' creations offering lots of ideas for original presents. Open Saturdays 11 am – 5 pm; Sundays 2 pm – 5 pm. Also Friday 1st December for Late Night Shopping 3 pm – 8 pm, and on Sunday 10 December 11 am – 2 pm Folk Art Card Making Workshop. Commission from sales donated to the Museum

Congratulations to **COLCHESTER FOOD BANK** which has received the King's Award for Voluntary Service – the equivalent to an MBE: a well-deserved award for all the hard work that goes into this amazing outreach to those in need.

Please continue to donate tins and packets of food as, sad to say, the demand continues to rise. As we approach the Christmas season, they also welcome a few festive items to add to the parcels.

Advance Date: **31 Jan – 3 Feb** Brightlingsea Panto group presents **JUNGLE ADVENTURE** at the Community Centre – a panto with a difference. Tickets on sale shortly.

SCOUTS' CHRISTMAS POST. For just 25p a card, send your greetings cards to friends within Brightlingsea (up as far as the old church). Post-boxes at Spirals, Bargain Stores, and both Co-ops. Last collection 3pm, Monday 19 December. Delivery by 24 Dec. Please check you write the full address on the envelopes.



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St James'

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DECEMBER: WORSHIP AND PRAYER

St. James' will be open for personal prayer Mon to Fri. 8am - 2pm

- 3 Dec** 8am Holy Communion,
10am All-Age service 11:15 Zoom
- 10 Nov** 8am Morning Prayer
10am Holy Communion 11:15 Zoom
- 17 Dec** 8am & 10am Holy Communion *at All Saints*
10am Sparklers Sunday Group *at St James'*
11:15 Zoom
- 24 Dec** 8am Morning Prayer
10am Holy Communion 11:15 Zoom
11:30pm Midnight Mass at St James'
- 25 Dec** 10am Christmas Family Worship
with communion
- 31 Dec** 8am Morning Prayer
10am Holy Communion 11:15 Zoom
3:30pm "Gate of the Year" service
- Tue** 9am Prayers - Being Quiet with God
- Wed** 10am Holy Communion
9pm Compline service



Prayer Requests can be conveyed via the Church website, Church Facebook page, email to revjudithgibbons@outlook.com or by calling our prayer request line on 01206 825 479 and leaving us a message.

NOTABLE DATES

- 3 Dec** Advent Sunday
6 Dec St Nicholas
24 Dec Christmas Eve
25 Dec Christmas Day
26 Dec St Stephen, martyr
31 Dec New Year's Eve

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Saturday	12pm-2pm	4.30pm-10pm
Sunday	Closed	Closed



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FROM THE VICAR

CHRISTMAS

“In the bleak midwinter...” All right, not that bleak yet in terms of temperature perhaps, but it can be bleak in other ways: loss, grief, poverty, broken dreams, poor mental or physical health and loneliness can make it so. We light lights in the dark, we sing into the teeth of the winter wind, we give gifts at the time when nature’s gifts are mostly absent. We love harder, perhaps, or try harder to show it. We can also hurt each other more, because it matters.



So how can we ensure those on our hearts know they are loved this Christmas? What about those we don’t know but who might be in need of Christmas cheer? The dread of giving the ‘wrong’ thing is as much part of the season as mistletoe and mince pies.

We all receive and give love in different ways, and a clue to what someone’s preferred way might be is to watch what they give out: we tend to give what we’d like to receive.

Some need love as quality time. They might ask if they can hang out or do a Christmas activity or might invite you to something. Giving them an experience you can do together, or sharing a meal or just visiting or going for a walk together will give them joy. For the stranger, giving them an easy way to connect or be involved in community through personal invitation or maybe inviting them to share a meal.

Some need love as gifts and choosing something thoughtful can really make their Christmas. It’s agony if you express love best through gifts and don’t have any money or resources, so giving money or the opportunity to make or create something thoughtful might hit the spot if they are struggling. For the stranger, lots of charities put together kits to help the homeless or those in refuges or for children in poverty: you could help warm the heart of someone in need with a gift.

Some will go all out to serve and help others (look for who’s in the kitchen on Christmas day!) and may value help with chores or a project more than gifts, or get a kick out of those promise cheques you can print and fill out to be exchanged for this or that help in the future. For the stranger, volunteering at a community Christmas meal or as a driver or helping at a Foodbank is a way to serve - or offering to help an elderly person struggling with the wintry weather.

Some need touch: a hug, a handshake, an active contact sport, someone to sit next to. If you’re far away, a warm blanket or luxury scarf, heat-up beanie, huggable plushie or the gift of a massage session might light them up. For the stranger, there are charities knitting hats for premature babies or fiddle toys for adults with dementia or warm blankets and teddies for those taken into hospital.

Some thrive on affirming words, feeling loved when complimented or spoken to

kindly and positively. Pin badges, mugs or clothing with affirming quotes, or a letter, a well-worded card or a call to let them know what you appreciate about them, will really fill their love tank full. For the stranger, it can be as simple as complimenting someone's Christmas jumper, singing voice during caroling, or hard work for others - or thanking them for being a good neighbour.

And God? What does God want for Christmas?

"What can I give him, poor as I am?" the caroler sings. On one level, God wants what every parent wants: for his children to love each other and work together and come together and choose what is good and kind. But we can also apply the loose formula mentioned above and look at how God gives in order to work out what God would most like to receive. What does God give us at Christmas? Himself, in the form of the Bethlehem baby.

It may or may not surprise you to realise that God would rather have **you** than anything clever or holy you might spend ages dreaming up. Don't wait to be perfect: your time, your gifts, your service, your presence and your conversation in prayer will delight God just as you are. "What I can I give him: give my heart." God will receive you with joy. If you want to know more about what that looks like, please talk to me or to Rev. Judith Gibbons about it.

Have a generous Christmas and may you all feel and share the love of the season.

Every blessing, Caroline

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CHURCHES

TOGETHER IN BRIGHTLINGSEA

EXTRA SERVICES IN BRIGHTLINGSEA FOR CHRISTMAS 2023

MONDAY, 11 DECEMBER

St James' 3pm Afternoon Tea Service "Preparing for Christmas"
(dementia friendly)

TUESDAY, 12 DECEMBER

United Church 2.30 pm Annual Town Carol Service

SUNDAY, 17 DECEMBER

United Church 10.30 am Toys & Carol Service

Comm'y Centre 10.30 am Oasis Church Carol Service

St James' 6.30pm Carol Service, Hymns and Readings

MONDAY 18 DECEMBER

The Swan 6.30pm Carols in the High Street at The Swan

TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER

St James' 12 noon and at 7:30pm 'Blue Christmas Service' a quiet,
contemplative service to celebrate Jesus' birth

FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER

Colne Yacht Club 6pm Carols on the Hard, outside Colne Yacht Club
by Churches Together Brightlingsea

CHRISTMAS EVE, SUNDAY 24

St Sabina's 8.30pm Carol Service

(Richard Avenue) 9pm Mass for Christmas Eve

St James' 5.30-6:30pm Children's Nativity performance

11.30pm Midnight Mass for Christmas

CHRISTMAS DAY, MONDAY 25

St Sabina's 9am Christmas Mass

United Church 10am United Christmas Service

St James' 10am Christmas Family Worship with communion

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CHURCH DIARY

Mon 4 Dec BEREAVEMENT COFFEE 2pm in St James'

SATURDAY COFFEE offers a warm welcome each week from 9am-noon
including 23 Dec & 30 Dec

Sat 16 Dec BIG BREAKFAST from 9-10.30am. Full English or light-bites

Thu 21 Dec ACTIVITY DAY at All Saints' (Christmas Theme) All age. 10-noon. Also a Quiet session 12.30 – 2.30pm - places must be booked for the quiet session through the Church Office.


Thu 28 Dec LEGO STAY AND PLAY 1 – 5pm in St James'. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

ST JAMES' CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

What a wonderful result! £1753 raised – Well done to all those involved in organising the event, as well as to those who came and supported us on a rather wet morning. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

The Vicar & ministry team and the Church Parochial Church Council send their best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year to our readers, our advertisers and the community of Brightlingsea

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Bishop of Colchester says

The Bishop of Colchester formally blessed the refurbishment of All Saints' Church at a recent service of celebration, praising the tireless work of the Project Group and the Friends of All Saints for their tireless efforts in delivering this remarkable achievement for the town.



With a special liturgy written by the Vicar, there was an opportunity for all that is new and renovated to be blessed- including liberal sprinklings of holy water.

This included every inch of the extension, the new icon in the Lady Chapel (made by Sallie Berriff who was there) and the Tower.

Items were brought up by to represent the whole life within the community ranging from everyday objects (including

There was music and a special hymn contained this verse

*For the beauty, built to last
Of this place of prayer & praise
Wood and metal, stone and glass
Acts of service, gifts of grace
Lord, we thank you. Bless
All we dedicate this day*

Bishop Roger toured the new facilities and provided his blessing accompanied by liberal sprinklings of holy water.



s “Bless this Church”

congregation members
of the church and project
ing from art and crafts to
g cup, saucer and loo roll)

pecially written dedication

t;
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d glass;
ace;
we pray;

new
blessing
rinklings of

He was impressed by the extent of the works and how well they fitted in to the historic fabric of the church whilst bring the facilities up to date.

There will inevitably be more repairs needed, and we are trying to ensure that we fund-raise or apply for other grants, as we continue the project. In the meantime we are moving on with the programme of events at the Church, starting with the return of the Christmas Tree Festival on 9 & 10 December.



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Fri 1 Dec SOUP LUNCH for Christian Aid

12.30 pm – 1.30pm in St James'. Choice of homemade soups, roll & cheese, tea/coffee for minimum £3 donation for Christian Aid. Next lunch Fri 5 Jan.



Mon 11 Dec OPEN HOUSE at 38 High Street 10.30am. All welcome.

Tue 12 Dec ANNUAL TOWN CAROL SERVICE 2.30 pm at the United Church Everyone is welcome to join this traditional service of carols and readings as a gentle preparation for Christmas. Refreshments to follow.

Tue 19 Dec CTB FRIENDLY LUNCH @ Victoria Café 12 for 12.15pm. If you plan to come along, please let Vivien know so there are enough chairs round the table.

Thu 21 Dec FRIENDSHIP CLUB @ United Church 10am to noon: dementia-friendly, run by Age Concern. A warm welcome with tea, coffee, biscuits, chat and table-top activities.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE 25 NOV - 10 DEC

Red Chair project: You will find an empty Red Chair close to the '16 Days' display in St James'.

Every 11 minutes, somewhere in the world a woman or girl is killed by an intimate partner or family member and this chair is a visual symbol of the void left by each one of those women no longer enjoying a full life. Please hold them and this whole issue in your prayers.

Dear God,

We come into your presence and thank you for each moment and breath you have given us.

We thank you for families where we can be nurtured and loved.

We are conscious that many people have their joy and security robbed because they experience abuse and violence from people who should be providing security and support.

We especially pray for women who are facing abuse and its dreadful consequences.

Be with each one and restore hope, we pray.

John J. Smith

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BRIGHTLINGSEA 20TH ANNIVERSARY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The days are counting down fast to the festival's return to All Saints'.

As mentioned last month, the Shuttle Bus will run both days over the weekend approximately every 20 minutes, leaving St James' and picking up at Fiveways Co-op (a handy park & ride) then up to All Saints', returning to the town centre with the same stops. Although no charge is made, a donation in the box on the bus is welcomed.

SATURDAY GALA CONCERT featuring 'Bel Canto' will start at 7.30 pm (doors open at 7.00pm). Tickets £15 from Little Boat Gifts, include a drink on arrival and a supper grazing box.

CAROLS WITH CHRIS on Sunday evening at 6 pm will provide the traditional free Festival Finale, when a packed church can sing their hearts out with favourite carols.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

The Christmas Tree Festival team.

BRIGHTLINGSEA MUSIC SHOWCASE

On Sat 4 Nov, St James' Church became the host to some fantastic music performed by young musicians of the town.

Three Brightlingsea music teachers (Roslyn Ure - Singing Teacher, Melanie Bridle - Piano Teacher and Darryl Mayhead - Guitar Teacher) got together to provide an opportunity for their pupils to perform live music in front of an audience of family and friends of all those taking part.

We had a variety of styles of music from a range of ages. Some just starting out and some more experienced.



It was a real treat to hear those playing or being accompanied on the church's baby grand piano. All those who attended had a great time listening to music and eating cake. The proceeds of this went towards the St James' Roof Repair fund. *[Ed: as witness the buckets in the chance!!]*

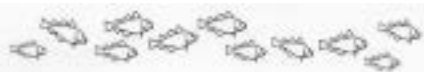
Rozlyn Ure

☐ Come along to the **RAISE THE ROOF** musical singalong, **Sat 13 Jan** 7pm at St James'. Tickets £5 from Spirals (for the Roof Repair Fund.)

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to turn down the heat
to preserve what we have*

*Is there time enough
to share and to care
to end drilling and
destroying
to save our scorched cities*

*Is there time enough
to replant all the trees
to save corals and bees
to mean what we say*

*Will there be time enough
to love one another
to plan for the future
to create a new life*

*Will there be time enough
to sleep easy at night
to bask in the sun
to grow up and learn*

*Will there be time enough
to grow sunflowers and
bake*

*to watch the sun set
to fall in love and not hate*

*Will there be time enough
to do all the washing
to pay all our bills
to cancel the milk*

*Will there be time enough
to exchange a smile
to touch one another
to breathe in together*

*Will there be time enough
to say our goodbyes*

*Is there time enough
to say stop*

Or is it already too late?

Claudia Campbell

HOUSE GROUPS

- **Monday 11 Dec** 7.30pm at 34 Hurst Green
- **Tuesday 5 Dec** 10:30am 9 Seaview Gardens
- **Wednesday** no December meeting. Next one, 31 Jan

New people are always very welcome to join any of these.

CRADLE ROLL

Happy birthday this month to children up to 5 years old who were baptised in our churches.

Evie-May Aldridge

Alice Edith Fuller



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NEWS FROM THE HOLY MOWERS

OUR SPECIAL PRESENT!

Worth waiting for! A year ago we ordered a new shed, to replace the two old sheds that had been blown apart by storms and put back together again several times.



We carefully stored our equipment, wheelbarrow, rakes etc under cover under a tree in the middle of the churchyard. The works were going on repairing the tower and scaffold covered the sheds base. There was then a delay for the manufacturer because of the difficulty sourcing the wood. Eventually the shed was ready to be delivered but by then the works on the church were delayed - several times. The manufacturer very kindly stored our shed until the works were complete and the scaffold removed.

Once they got the go-ahead they quickly brought and built our lovely new shed. There is no lock on the door. Too many times it has been broken into so we would rather allow any one to enter the shed, and if they want an old wheelbarrow or rake they can help themselves!

Our expensive equipment, mowers, strimmers, blowers etc are all kept at home for safe keeping.

All we need now is guttering, and water butts so that we have a constant supply of water, if any visitor needs water for their flowers.

Join us on a Thursday if you are free. We might be huddled in our new shed, just to get out of the rain.

Sheila

“GATE OF THE YEAR” SERVICE 3.30PM 31 DEC

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.’

And he replied:

‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.’

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And he led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Young and old, families and single people, regular and irregular churchgoers - all are invited to St James' on Sun 31 Dec at 3.30pm for a special service of hymns, prayers and readings to mark the year's turn.

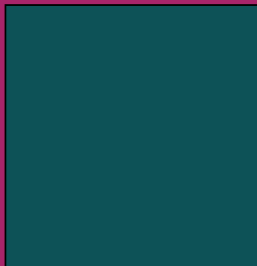
As an outward sign of Brightlingsea's community spirit, you are also invited to bring any left-over mince pies, Christmas cake, chocolate Yule log or biscuits to share over tea and coffee afterwards.



JOHN FOWLERS

SOLICITORS

Our specialist legal services include: Wills, Probate and Estate Administration, Estate Planning and Elderly Law, Court of Protection, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Residential and Commercial Conveyancing, Employment Law for Businesses and Individuals, Landlord and Tenant, Civil Litigation, Debt Recovery, Mediation, Personal Injury, Family Law including Divorce and Financial Matters and Criminal Law.



Our ambitious and well respected law firm first opened in Brightlingsea in 1924. We have grown steadily over the years and now have offices in Colchester, Clacton and West Mersea as well as the original Brightlingsea office. With nearly a century of experience behind us, our specialist team of Solicitors and Lawyers have the expertise to assist you with all of your legal needs. Our extensive knowledge of private, commercial, collaborative and Legal Aid law enables us to provide you with a tailored personal service to meet your unique needs.

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In addition to providing excellent service to you, John Fowlers Solicitors are committed to supporting local and national charities through Will drafting schemes and donations. We are also proud to support community groups, local sports teams and other organisations, as we feel it is our duty to give something back to our local community.

Find out how our local specialists can help you by visiting our website: www.johnfowlers.co.uk

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

FLOODLIGHTING THE TOWER AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Marking an occasion - a birthday, a wedding, an anniversary, Christmas, in memory of a loved one, or any other occasion.

DECEMBER

- 1 For all those who were listed during building works when the tower was not illuminated**
- 5 In loving memory of Michele Wickham, a wonderful Mum, wife, daughter and friend, who will remain in our hearts always**
- 5 George Prowse; with many and loving memories on your birthday - a wonderful husband, Dad, Grandpa and Greatgrandpa. Thought of once a day - all day xxx**
- 8 In loving memory of Margaret Knock (nee Ruffell)**
- 12 Peter Holyman, Loving Dad, Grandad and Great-grandad**
- 14 Thinking of you, Steve Taylor, my wonderful husband, on what would have been your 80th birthday. Love as always, Yvonne, children and grandchildren.**
- 16 Remembering my dear husband, John Bryan, on our wedding anniversary; forever in my thoughts**
- 16 In loving memory of Catherine Vondora Francis on her birthday**
- 22 Remembering Gladys Nunn on her anniversary**
- 22 Remembering Beryl Ross. Happy birthday Mummy, love you**
- 24 Remembering our dearest Mum, Nanna and Great Nanna, Joan French, who left us 3 years today. Loved and missed by us all**
- 25 In loving memory of a dear son, Clifford Eagling**
- 29 In loving memory of Neil Turner, sadly missed by Mum, Dad and family**
- 31 In loving memory of Ben van Rijn on his birthday**

To mark a date send £8 cash or cheque [payable to "The Friends of All Saints' Church, Brightlingsea"] to pay for lighting up the tower, together with the text of your dedication, to Janet Russell at 38 High Street CO7 0AQ

The Parochial Church Council and The Friends of All Saints' are more than grateful to all who have contributed to the ongoing fund to replace the current floodlights, as well as to the rest of the work at the Church. Such generosity!

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WORKHORSE
Generation

ONE
SHARED
VISION

WORKHORSE GENERATION is the new charity support 'hub' created by Workhorse Group, who W H SHORT are part of.

With our team of charities we aim to help the younger generation as they start their working lives. To build confidence and knowledge, to let them know there are people who want to listen and to educate the generation of today on how to support the generation of tomorrow.

To find out more about this initiative and to keep up to date with our projects and those of our charity and well-being partners, please visit:

www.workhorsegeneration.org

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* Collection only from our Ipswich warehouse. Subject to acceptance and availability. T&C's apply.

DECEMBER RECIPE

CHEAT'S PÂTÉ

As Christmas is often a time of sharing with friends and family, food needs to be easy to prepare and easy to serve, often as part of a buffet table. This recipe requires no cooking, but chilling in the fridge. The quantity listed below serves about 6 people, but you can double up the recipe to make a bigger dish which will look good on a serving table.

Ingredients

180 g butter	1 tablespoon chopped parsley
3 tablespoons olive oil	1 large tin of tuna
Juice of 1 lemon	OR 2 tins of sardines
1 small onion	OR scraps of smoked salmon (200g)
3 tablespoons sherry	Garnish of choice (cucumber/ anchovies/olives)
Black pepper	

Method

1. Melt the butter in a microwave.
2. Put the oil, butter, lemon juice, onion, sherry, pepper & fish into a blender and liquidise until smooth.
3. Stir in the chopped parsley.
4. Turn out into small individual serving dishes or one large one.
5. Chill for a couple of hours or more.
6. Decorate with garnish before serving.

Recipe supplied by Elizabeth Foss-Smith

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Wed 13 Dec BRIGHTLINGSEA BEARS 1- 3 pm offers a warm welcome to toddlers with mums and carers. This group meets fortnightly on Wednesdays in St James'.

SPARKLERS Sunday group meets on the third Sundays 10 -11 am in St James'

LEGO CHURCH - Thursdays 5.30 -7pm in St James' (ages 9 – 13)

TEENS2TWENTIES – Wednesdays 7 – 9pm in St James' (ages 14 -29)

CHURCH LADS AND GIRLS BRIGADE meets on Fridays in St James' – 6 pm younger group: 7.30 pm older group

THE NATIVE

Copies of The Native are available at Spar, Spirals, Wine Well and Lucas Estate Agents, as well as St James' church where you will find a blue box for voluntary donations.

Also available on the parish website www.allsaintswithstjamesb-sea.co.uk

Cover: Twelve Days of Christmas Tree - by Brightlingsea EHA

Deadline for January issue – please submit items by **15 December**

Please send any articles of future interest to Carole Maytum via the Church Office. Email: brightlingseaparish@btconnect.com

PARISH CONTACTS

If you wish to seek confidential advice, request prayer for the sick or infirm, or receive the sacraments, please contact:

Rev Caroline Beckett, The Vicarage, Richard Avenue, Brightlingsea CO7 0LP Tel: **01206 308726** Email: revcarolinebeckett@gmail.com

Vicar's Day Off Friday (*Please respect this – Caroline needs time to recharge.*)

Curate Rev Judith Gibbons (Working days Wed-Sun
Email: revjudithgibbons@outlook.com

Church Office Victoria Place, Brightlingsea, CO7 0AB Tel: 302378

Parish Administrator: Fiona Hunter will be in the Office at the following times: **Mon, Wed, Fri from 9.30am – 12.30pm**

Sacristan Mary Bugbee Tel: 01206 302629

Email: brightlingseaparish@btconnect.com

Parish Website: www.allsaintswithstjamesb-sea.co.uk
and www.facebook.com/CofEBrightlingsea

Baptisms Catherine Graham Mob: 07484 112600

Jennifer Gallant Tel: 305060

Weddings Linda Salmon salmonlinda978@gmail.com

Funeral Enquiries The Church Office

Churchwardens Sheila Crow Tel: 306574

Bob Goodenough Tel: 303749

Churchyard Records Sally Goodenough Tel: 303749

Electoral Roll Lyn Forster Tel: 304843

Sparklers & Bears Ruby Summers Tel: 304481

Church Lads & Girls Brigade John Dines

Johnnyboy22@hotmail.co.uk Facebook: @brigade.brightlingsea