

The Native

July 2026

The Parish Magazine for Brightlingsea



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the waters
19th June

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£6 for 3 months; £12 for 6 months; or £24 for a full year.

To sign up please contact the Church Office on 302378 or email saintjames2024allsaints@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CORNER

5 & 6 Jun BUILDING UP TO MURDER Another murder mystery evening by the Seaview Players at the YMCA 7 for 7.30pm. Tickets £5 from Little Boat Gifts. Bring a team and have fun solving the mystery!

13 & 14 Jun OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND for St Helena Hospice. All Saints' churchyard is participating on Saturday only; Our Eden Youth Project will be open on both days.

Sat 20 Jun CARNIVAL DAY on the Recreation Ground, Regent Road, including Car Boot Sale.

Any information please call Tracey on 07813 721614

26 -28 Jun FLOWER FESTIVAL, St George's Church Great Bromley – Theme: Hobbies. Craft Café each day, plus various activities daily.

Sat 27 Jun SUPERSALE St Sabina's Church 9:30am. Usual stalls, refreshments, home-made cakes and raffle

Sat 27 Jun FARMERS MARKET with ART & CRAFTS, PLUS CAR BOOT SALE, Community Centre 10am – 2pm

Sun 5 Jul WOMEN IN HARMONY Summer Charity Concert in St James' 5.30pm All proceeds to St Helena Hospice and Alzheimers Society.

Tickets from Little Boat or from Ticketsource: £10 adults; £5 children 5 -15; under 5s free.

SUMMER DATES 2026 REMINDER

14 Jun BLESSING THE WATERS at The Hard

13 & 14 Jun OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND across town

20 Jun BRIGHTLINGSEA CARNIVAL Recreation Ground

18 Jul BRIGHTLINGSEA REGATTA

1st & 2 Aug BRIGHTLINGSEA FREE MUSIC FESTIVAL

9-15 Aug PYEFLEET WEEK Brightlingsea Sailing Club

29-30 Aug FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL Western Prom Green

31 Aug TOWN HORTICULTURAL & PRODUCE SHOW, Community Centre

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ACCESS TO ST JAMES' CHURCH: The next phase of the work to upgrade St James' Church starts in June and will run through to October. The path from the front of the church to the church car park will be closed to allow access for contractors and for public safety. Please check the notices in the Church for details.



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CHURCH DIARY

SATURDAY COFFEE weekly in St James' 9.30am–noon.

Mon 8 Jun OPEN HOUSE at 38 High Street 10.30am. All welcome.

Wed 10 Jun AFTERNOON TEA SERVICE 3 pm in St James'.
Theme: **Pentecost**. Short service of bible readings, prayers and songs, with tea, cake and fellowship. Dementia friendly. All welcome.

Sun 14 Jun FOREST CHURCH 2.30pm in our usual space at the bottom of All Saints' churchyard.

Sat 21 Jun BIG BREAKFAST 9–10.30am in St James' – full English or light-bites. Thanks to our new volunteers, the Breakfast continues into 2026. There is still opportunity to join the team.

Sat 20 Jun QUIZ NIGHT 7 – 9pm in St James'. Teams up to 8. £5 per person - pay on door. Come with a team or come and join one. Bring Your Own snacks & drink.

Sat 27 Jun PRIZE BINGO AFTERNOON 1 pm – 3.30pm in St James'. £5 per person, pay at door. Free tea/coffee, biscuits & cake. Raising funds for our Teens2Twenties youth group activities.

PLAYING HOST TO THE BISHOP'S CURATE TEAM

Brightlingsea's historic All Saints' church played host to a special event as the Bishop of Colchester, Bishop Roger invited curates from his episcopal area to meet together.

The Colchester episcopal area covers more than half of Chelmsford Diocese - stretching from Harwich to Harlow.



Sat 6 Jun SPRING BAZAAR in St James' 10am – noon. Tell your friends.

Please have you any saleable items to fill the stalls: Cakes etc; Raffle prizes; Gifts & Jewellery; Toys & Puzzles. Plants and garden produce welcome. You can leave items in the box in church. No clothing, electricals, or CDs/DVDs thank you.

Stallholders: we will be in church at 2pm on **Fri 5 Jun** to sort out donated items. Offers or queries to Kathy Tidman **01206 302482**.

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St James'

THE CHURCH AT THE 'HEART' OF THE HIGH STREET

JUNE : WORSHIP AND PRAYER

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

Sun 7 Jun 8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion 11:30am Online service (Zoom)

Sun 14 Jun 8am Morning Prayer
10am Holy Communion 11:30am Online service (Zoom)

Sun 21 Jun 8am BCP Holy Communion *in All Saints'*
10am Holy Communion *in All Saints'*
10am Sparklers Sunday School
Group *in St James'*
11:30am Online service (Zoom)

Sun 28 Jun 8am Morning Prayer
10am Holy Communion
11:30am Online service (Zoom)

Tue 9-9:30am Parish Prayers
in St James'

Wed 10am Holy Communion

NOTABLE DATES: Jun

- 4 Corpus Christi
- 5 World Environment Day
- 6 - 14 Big Green Week
- 21 Fathers' Day
- 24 John the Baptist
- 29 St Peter & St Paul





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FROM THE VICAR

MOVING, MOVING, MOVING!

As I write this, I have just returned from taking our young people to the Lightship in Tollesbury for a Fellowship Afloat residential weekend and am just about to depart for a pilgrimage with other Church members to Holy Island, Lindisfarne for 5 days. The washing machine in our house has been very busy!

One of our number has already left on a long sailing voyage around the UK. Others are returning from, or preparing for, holidays. Year 6 and year 11 children are preparing to move up to secondary school or into college or work, while A-Level students are thinking about work or University. Some of our older folk are moving into houses without stairs, or closer to family, or into care homes. My son is in the middle of the chaos of moving house because he has grown up and is about to get married.

Moving, moving, always moving. Life never stays still, does it? And someone put the year on fast forward because by the time you read this, we will be in June already!

Hebrews 13:14 in the Bible says, "here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come." We can't make our home in this world permanent because time and tide move us onward: permanence will have to wait for the life to come. In this life, change is inevitable.

So, we have to keep moving, but we get to choose how, and who our companions are on the way. We choose the forks in the road we take and our attitude to what comes our way. Sometimes we might get a bit lost, or even need to retrace our steps, but we can never truly go backwards. As one of my favourite pin badges puts it, "Don't look back, you're not going that way!"

As you move through the summer, take time to move towards good things and make some memories. Be kind to those on difficult journeys or facing changes they do not want and have not chosen. Enjoy the new as you come across it. As human beings we are not always good at change, but one guarantee is that life will give us practice!

Who are your companions on life's journey? Choose good ones, because they can influence your destination. And don't be afraid to tackle challenges, because often the view from the mountaintop is worth the climb.

If you are going on journeys your current family and friends can't share, look out for the things that will make great stories to tell them when you are together again. And don't forget to be kind to your fellow travellers, whether they are lost tourists or friends you just haven't shared the road with yet.

Every Blessing, Caroline

Seventeenth Century Nun's Prayer

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people.

And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen.

ALL SAINTS' UPDATE

We were really encouraged by the good feedback and attention from across the town for our Maritime Heritage weekend, with great networking opportunities for all.

Repair of the bells has started with the tubular bells already dismantled and awaiting transportation to bellhangers' workshop for restoration, work has started installing the new steel beams in the bell chamber from which the very old bells will be lowered, the builders are aware of the security protocol.

Weekend tower tours will continue although not entering the ringing bell chambers. The font and floor of the baptistry have been protected with a wooden cover. We were successful in obtaining a £4000 grant from the Leche Trust for the bells, and have two other applications under consideration elsewhere.

The upkeep of the Brasses is underway with faculty applied for, and grants on their way.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Sat 8 Aug The return of All Saints' **SUMMER FAYRE** 10.30 to 3.30

Please can you support by

- donating prizes for a Tombola and the Raffle;
- volunteering help on the day for an hour or so
- offering to bake for the refreshment table and for the cake stall.

Anything donated can be left with Janet Russell to keep at mine until the day. Contact her on **01206 305552** or e-mail janetrussell38@uwclub.net.

12 & 13 Sep "All Saints' in Stitches"

24 & 25 Oct Art exhibition "Autumn Colours"

TOWER TOURS

Jun 7, 13, 14, 27; Jul 4, 18; Aug 15, 16, 30 - must be booked in advance.

Usual start time is 2pm and the tours cost £7 per adult and £4.50 for children (only those over 8yrs allowed). Please be confident you can comfortably meet the access requirements of the tower before booking.

Full details can be found at www.friendsofallsaintsbrightlingsea.com/tower-tours/ Bookings via email and phone as above.

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NAUTICAL... AND VERY NICE!

The Maritime Weekend at All Saints' Church at the start of May proved a great success, with many people turning out to discover more about the town's nautical heritage and how our community has been shaped by the sea.

The weekend included displays and talks from the Pioneer Trust, Brightlingsea Museum, the Friends of All Saints', the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, and the RNLI.

The events were topped by a special performance by the Marenzio Singers entitled Time and Tide, featuring many songs of the sea.



A magical evening of music - and the love of food!

There is an old Italian saying that when translated means 'At the table, one does not Age'. Meals are a time to connect with loved ones, making moments spent together feel timeless and cherished.

At our recent fundraiser for St. James' church, we certainly made memorable moments, at our 'Italian

Evening', by shoring up old friendships and making new ones.

Pasta is forgiving, isn't it? We all slurp pasta and laugh at it. You can't eat it with decorum and neither should you.

A good pasta drowning in a homemade fresh sauce is to be savoured and inspiring, sometimes a little spicy, sometimes sharp on the tongue and sometimes hearty and fulfilling.

It's like a traditional Italian home really, and for some of us that may well describe our own beloved families and the relationship we have with our friends.

We were delighted to be in

the good company of soprano Katy Bingham-Best and her tenor husband, Steven and their friend, Mark, the pianist.

They treated us to an abundance of Italian operatic favourites such as 'O Mio Babbino Caro, Nessun Dorma and O Sole Mio.'

We happily munched away as they served up song after song, fulfilling our appetite for good food, good wine and good music.

We savoured every moment and the warmth and laughter in the room just wrapped us up like a good ravioli parcel in a red wine sauce. 'Enough!' I hear you say- 'Buonnissimo!' say !!



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COME AND JOIN THE DIN FOR THE BLESSING OF THE WATERS

Come along to Brightlingsea's Town Hard on **Sun 14 Jul** at 12 noon to witness and be a part of Brightlingsea's maritime version of 'beating the parish bounds'.

Bring along a whistle, horn, drum or even an old pan and wooden spoon so that you can join in with making the noise of the Traditional 'Din'!

It all starts outside St James' Church at 11.45am where the Deputy of the Cinque Port of Brightlingsea assembles visiting coastal mayors, civic dignitaries and the clergy.

After being announced by the Town Crier the procession, dressed in colourful robes and chains of office, heads down Sydney Street towards the Wreck House.



Here the dignitaries are greeted by the Harbour Master who escorts the procession to the Town Hard. A short service is held on the steps before the Bishop of Colchester blesses boats and people.

The Droit Gatherer then guides the dignitaries to the historic Oyster Smack Pioneer (CK18) and other traditional working vessels. Once everyone is aboard, at 1.00pm the flag-

covered flotilla of historic working boats and fishing vessels heads out to Brightlingsea Creek to assert our rights to these waters.

The audience are invited to make as much noise as possible (the traditional Din) to see them on their way.

Further information: www.blessingofthewaters.co.uk

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REFLECTION

CHARGING UP FOR THE DAY

Many people nowadays have acquired the habit of putting their mobile phone 'on charge' overnight, so it is up and ready to do all they need it to do through the day. Well, starting the day by making contact with God will also help us to cope with what the day brings to us. It need not be lengthy; simplicity works well.

Prayer is the victory of mind over mattress. John Perkins)

As C S Lewis said, "The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals.

"And the first job each morning consists in shoving them all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in. And so on, all day.

"We can only do it for moments at first. But from those moments a new sort of life will be spreading throughout systems because now we are letting him work at the right part of us."

Lord, let your blessing be upon me as I begin this day with you.

Confirm me in the truth by which I rightly live:

Confront me with the truth from which I wrongly turn.

I ask not for what I want, but for what you know I need,

As I offer this day and myself for you and to you

In Jesus' name. Amen



Iona – adapted

15 – 21 Jun REFUGEE WEEK, leading up to **REFUGEE SUNDAY** on 22 Jun when we can pray that a permanent and settled home can be found or provided for displaced persons.

Remembering that our own Holy Family were once displaced for no fault of their own, we pray for those suffering through conflict, violence and intolerance.

HOUSE GROUPS continue once a month:

Tue 16 Jun at Chris Bloor's home, 34 Hurst Green at 7.30pm.

Wed 17 Jun and 22 Jul Note: there will be a change of venue (to be advised) because of the reordering work. We will not meet in August.

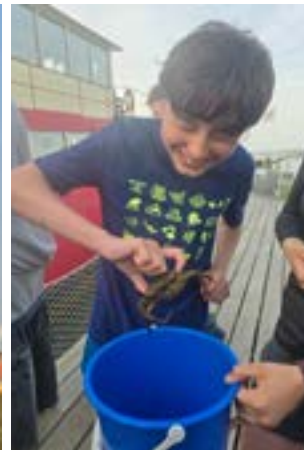
Newcomers are always welcome to join these sessions, even is just to check if they suit you.

Enjoying a boat full of adventure



Some of our young people made the most of a Fellowship Afloat residential weekend in last month, staying in the a converted 1950s Trinity House Lightship in Tollsbury.

Set amongst the salt marshes of Woodrolfe Creek, this lively Christian community provides a wealth of experiences and activities from the chance to 'climb Jacob's ladder' or the opportunity to try archery, climbing, crabbing and to build connections with each other in a new environment.



FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE...

Mondays STEPPING STONES/ TOY LIBRARY in St James' 9.15 – 11.15am. £2.50 per child. Only during school term times.

Tue 2, 16 & 30 Jun 2026 BRIGHTLINGSEA BEARS meets in St James' 10am till 11.15. Providing a warm welcome to toddlers and their mums/carers.

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

Thursdays LEGO CHURCH for 9 – 13-year-olds meets weekly at 5-7pm in St James'.

Fridays CHURCH LADS AND GIRLS BRIGADE meets in St James'

Sun 10 Jun FOREST CHURCH will be held every 2nd Sunday in the month, all at 2.30pm, in our special corner down All Saints' churchyard.

Future Dates: **12 Jul, 9 Aug, 13 Sep, 11 Oct, 13 Dec**

Sun 20 Jun SPARKLERS Sunday group for children meets on the third Sundays in St James' from 10 -11 am. Bible stories, songs, prayer and crafts. New members always welcome



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CHURCHES TOGETHER BRIGHTLINGSEA

Fri 5 Jun SOUP LUNCH 12.30 – 1.30pm in St James'. Choice of home-made soups with roll & cheese and hot drink. Proceeds to Christian Aid. Newcomers always welcome. Next date: **3 July**

Thu 11 Jun and 25 Jun COLNE COMMUNITY FRIENDSHIP GROUP at the United Church Hall, Chapel Rd. Now runs on the second and fourth Thursdays 10.30am - 12.30pm. £2.50 per session, includes coffee & cake, board games, speakers, community support.

Tue 16 Jun CTB FRIENDLY LUNCH @ Victoria Café, 12 for 12:15pm. If you plan to come along, please let Alison know so there is enough table space.

These lunches are held in the Victoria Cafe, always on the third Tuesday of the month. Newcomers welcome.

WILDLIFE CORNER

A small family of blue tits is claiming ownership of the porch at All Saints' and welcomes visitors with merry chirping, while the squirrels are enjoying all the churchyard can offer.



WATER, WATER ... is the huge challenge for all our wildlife as temperatures keep rising.

A lot of their smaller sources of water are drying up. Please be aware and provide some water in shallow dishes, plant saucers, including some with a few small pebbles where bees and butterflies can alight safely for a drink.

Small mammals including hedgehogs will be grateful for your kindness. Don't forget to keep an eye on the containers as the heat can soon evaporate them especially in full sun.

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

FLOODLIGHTING THE TOWER AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

JUN

- 1 Remembering our Mum, Nana and Great Nana, Kathleen Lewis on her birthday.
- 6 Remembering Frank Tidman on his birthday, with love.
- 7 With loving memory of our cousin Lyn Mathems on her birthday.
- 20 With love on our anniversary, love Ivy xxx
- 21 In loving memory of Neil Turner on his birthday. Love from Mum, Dad, Sister and family.

To light the tower at All Saints' Church, please get your request in **by the 6th of the previous month**. Minimum donation £8 per entry.

Requests for this special form of remembrance should be directed to Claudia Campbell via the Church Office at St James' Church, or by email: claudiacampbell@hotmail.co.uk; or by mobile: 07753 660 779

Payment to be made either by cash or cheque payable to "The Friends of All Saints' Church, Brightlingsea" addressed to Claudia Campbell, c/o The Church Office, St James' Church, Victoria Place, CO7 0AB.



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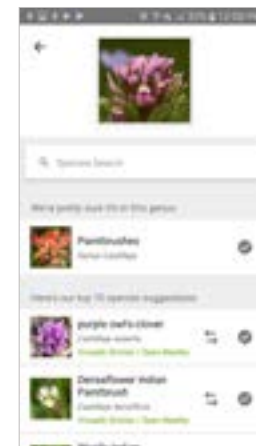
TAKE A WALK ON THE WILDLIFE SIDE...

Tue 9 Jun Brightlingsea Nature Network are teaming up with All Saints' Church for their annual 'Love your burial ground' wildlife survey as part of the national Love Your Burial Ground Week (6-14 June).

All are welcome - no booking required and no experience is necessary. Meet at All Saints' at 10am.

The team from Brightlingsea Nature Network will help you brush up on your plant and animal identification and, if you have a smartphone, you can use the iNaturalist app to help you be sure what is what in the churchyard (and beyond!)

For more information about Love Your Burial Ground Week go to www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk



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JUNE RECIPE

VERA'S NUT CAKES

With the holiday season upon us, I was lucky enough to visit Switzerland last month and was reminded of a nut cake recipe given me by a Swiss friend.

It really is easy to do and delicious to eat – we serve it with fresh fruit and cream.

Ingredients

- 150g ground hazelnuts
- 50g ground mixed nuts
- 50g breadcrumbs
- 200g caster sugar
- 6 eggs (separated)
- rind & juice of 1 lemon

Method

1. Prepare 22cm cake tin with baking paper
2. Whisk sugar and egg yolks
3. Stir in nuts & breadcrumbs
4. Whisk egg whites
5. Fold into mixture with metal spoon
6. Mix in lemon rind & juice
7. Fill tin and bake at Gas Mark 5 / 190C for about 35 mins.

Recipe supplied by Elizabeth Foss-Smith

COME WITH A CHEERFUL VOICE

ST JAMES' SINGERS now practise weekly in St James' at 7.30pm on Thursdays, except for the third Thursdays when PCC meetings are held.

New voices will receive a warm welcome, especially more male singers. Come and help us 'make a joyful noise unto the Lord' (Psalm 100).

CRADLE ROLL

Celebrating the birthdays of those children who were baptised in our churches

Rowan David Beau Carrington

Gracie-Mae Vanessa Gardiner

THE NATIVE

Copies of The Native are available at Spar, Spirals, Wine Well, Little Boat Gifts, Flo's Flowers and Lucas Estate Agents, as well as St James' Church.

Also available by subscription - contact the Parish Office for details.

Cover: Postbox Topper - The Blessing of the Waters

Deadline for July issue – please submit items by 18 June

Please send any articles of future interest to Carole Maytum via the Church Office. Email: saintjames2024allsaints@gmail.com

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Administrator: Fiona Hunter will be in the Office at the following times: **Mon, Wed, Fri from 9am – 12pm**

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

Email: saintjames2024allsaints@gmail.com

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

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: **07454 244914** Email: revcarolinebeckett@gmail.com

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

Associate Priest Rev Judith Gibbons (Non-working days Mon & Thu) Email: revjudithgibbons@outlook.com

Church Warden Jane Girdlestone Tel: **01206 307730**

Sacristan Mary Bugbee Tel: **01206 302629**

Baptisms Catherine Graham Mob: **07484 112600**

Weddings Linda Salmon salmonlinda978@gmail.com

Funeral Enquiries The Church Office

Churchyard Records Sally Goodenough Tel: **01206 303749**

Electoral Roll Elizabeth Foss-Smith Tel: **01206 305120**

Sparklers & Bears Ruby Summers Tel: **01206 304481**

Church Lads & Girls Brigade Facebook: [@brightlingsea.brigade](https://www.facebook.com/@brightlingsea.brigade)