

The Link



QR code for
The Link

Quendon & Rickling Parish NEWS and Church

April 2026

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Spring Work on Maces Farm



Priest in Charge of the parish of Quendon and Rickling, Coordinating Chaplain Stansted Airport (2 days per week)

The Rev'd. Peter Allen, The Vicarage, 5, Meadowford, Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3QL

Telephone: L: 01799 732059; M: 07878176551 **Day off:** Friday

Churchwardens -

Quendon: Mrs Christine Osbourn 01799 543367

Rickling: contact church.jo@yahoo.com

Treasurer -

Quendon and Rickling: Mrs Sandra Arnold 01799 543075

From the Vicarage Study

Rev. Peter Allen,

Priest-in-Charge of Newport with Widdington, Quendon and Rickling.

As April unfolds, we find ourselves once again at the heart of the Christian story: Easter. It is a season filled with familiar words—resurrection, new life, hope—but these are not just gentle, comforting ideas. They are bold, even defiant claims about the world we live in.

The first Easter did not happen in a peaceful or easy time. It took place in a world marked by uncertainty, fear, and injustice. The disciples themselves were anxious and unsure of the future. And yet, into that reality came the extraordinary news that death does not have the final word, that darkness does not overcome the light.



That same message speaks powerfully into our own world today. When we look around, it is easy to feel overwhelmed by conflict, division, and the many challenges facing our global community. Closer to home, too, we all carry our own concerns—about family, health, work, and what lies ahead.



Easter does not pretend that these struggles are not real. Instead, it offers something deeper: the assurance that even in the midst of difficulty, new life is possible. Hope, in the Christian sense, is not wishful thinking. It is a steady confidence that God is at work, even when we cannot yet see the outcome.

In the resurrection of Jesus, we are reminded that endings can become beginnings, that despair can give way to joy, and that love is stronger than fear. This is a hope not just for individuals, but for the whole world—a hope that calls us to live differently, to be people who bring light, kindness, and compassion wherever we can.

Perhaps this April, the invitation of Easter is simply this: to look for signs of new life. In the natural world around us, in small acts of goodness, in moments of unexpected grace. And as we notice them, to hold on to the quiet but powerful truth that hope is alive.

May this Easter season bring you peace, encouragement, and a renewed sense of hope for the days ahead.

With every blessing, Revd Pete

Church Services in the Benefice

2nd April Maundy Thursday

6.30pm simple soup supper Church House Newport followed by Maundy Thursday service in church 7.30pm

3rd April Good Friday

10am Newport Good Friday Messy Church
2pm – 3pm Quendon Reflections by The Cross

4th April Easter Eve

7.30pm Newport Songs for reflection

5th April Easter Sunday

9.30am Newport Easter Celebration Service

11.15am Quendon Easter Eucharist

11.15am Widdington Easter Eucharist

Sunday 12th April

9.30am Newport All Age Service

11.15am Quendon Morning Worship

Sunday 19th April

9.30am Newport Communion

11.15am Widdington Communion

Sunday 26th April

9.30am Newport Morning Worship

11.15am Rickling Communion

3.30pm Newport Messy Church

Quendon Churchyards - Can you Help?

Quendon Church is surrounded by an ancient graveyard and another is sited separately on the other side of the drive. They comprise a precious village asset containing a record of many of the former inhabitants of the village. They offer a tranquil place in which to relax, walk, and be surrounded by our past, but they do require maintenance.

Even with our unpredictable and changing weather patterns, the grass still requires mowing and other care, and the paths and hedges need tidying. These are not especially difficult tasks and rewards include receiving complimentary comments from users and of course the satisfaction at the end to admire your handwork!

Six of us took responsibility for this last year, but we are now down to five at the most. None of us get any younger and the more of us there are, the less there is for each to do.

The current scheme is for each participant to be allocated a 3 week period (negotiable of course according to other commitments) during which he or she undertakes responsibility for keeping the churchyards trim and spruced.

Please join us in keeping these facilities, which are open to all, safe and tidy. It isn't hard, machinery is provided (self-propelled mowers, a string trimmer and miscellaneous other tools), and it's a grand way to keep fit and "do your bit" for the community!

Contact Robert Arnold by e-mail; robert@arnold-q.uk or telephone: 01799 543075.

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You can report non-urgent incidents or suspicious activity and crimes that have already happened online at https://www.essex.police.uk/ and click on the appropriate button ("Chat" feature is bottom right of screen). Alternatively phone 101 but online contact is preferred.	
Fraud and other cyber crime Report Fraud replaces the previous Action Fraud service and the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, offering a more streamlined service where the public can tell the police about cyber crime and fraud as well as providing a Report Fraud Victim Service which offers dedicated, and specialist help to victims. You can report suspicious e-mails, text messages and telephone calls, fake web-sites and even fake advertisements. Report Fraud is at https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/	0300 123 2040
CRIMESTOPPERS To give information anonymously phone or report it online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org	0800 555 111
<i>The information you provide is very important to us, so please make sure that we can use it effectively, by reporting it correctly through the proper channels. Thank you.</i>	

Parish Information

Welcome Packs

The Parish Council provides a Welcome Pack of information for new residents to the Village. If any newcomers to the village have not received a copy of the pack, do please let the Clerk know on the contact details below and a welcome pack will be provided. If an e-mail address is provided the pack can be sent digitally.

Allotments (Quendon Hall Estate):

Peter Warwick, No.5 Thistley Crescent, Green Road, Rickling
Telephone: **01799 543526**

Highway Problems

The Essex Highways website is available for anyone noticing a problem to report it:
<http://www.essexhighways.org/Report-a-problem.aspx>
A tracking facility for all reported faults is available.

Contact our Parish Council

Details of Parish Council meetings may be found on the village web-site:
<https://www.quendonandrickling.co.uk>
and on village notice boards. All are welcome to attend.

The Parish Clerk is Keith Williams

Email:

quendonandrickling.clerk@hotmail.com

Telephone: **01279 814473**

Contact our District Councillors

Email: cllremanuel@uttlesford.gov.uk

Telephone: **01799 543487**

Mobile Telephone: **07801 039550**

Email: cllrhargreaves@uttlesford.gov.uk

Telephone: **01799 540411**

Mobile Telephone: **07854 687748**

See also DCs' regular reports in *The Link*.

Contact our County Councillor

Cllr Raymond Gooding

Essex County Council

County Hall, Duke Street

Chelmsford, CM1 1LX

Email: cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk

Telephone: **01279 813103**

Mobile Telephone: **07778 643759**

Contact our Member of Parliament

Kemi Badenoch, MP

House of Commons,

London, SW1A 0AA

Email: kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

Telephone: **02072 191943**

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25th & 26th APRIL 2026

From the Parish Council Chair

Dear Q&R Villagers,

I'm not necessarily a betting man, but I'll take 'a punt' on the question on most people's lips; "when will we hear about 'THE planning application?'" Unfortunately, the answer at time of writing, is we don't know! That said, having recently spoken to a UDC councillor on the planning team, it could be a couple of months. The Parish Council will be tracking the UDC website for notice of when the committee is scheduled to sit, we believe it's usually a week or so before the actual date.

The village should be congratulated on the many passionate and insightful comments written on the UDC planning portal which we hope will carry sufficient weight when the planning committee reviews the application. I understand the meeting is an open forum which the public are able to attend. There will be an opportunity for a limited number of villagers to speak at the planning meeting.

PC activity continues and includes contact to Highways about the rogue traffic island at the north end of the (B1383) village. As the grass has started to grow, we have scheduled verge cutting and strimming around the village. As areas are cleared, it has revealed the amount of rubbish that has been thrown into the hedgerows so we will be looking to organise a litter pick. We have litter pickers and bags available if you have time on your Village walks. Just let the Parish Clerk know and we can supply them to you.

Gari Spearpoint

District Councillors' Report

Cost of heating oil

The main road and the core of Quendon have mains gas, but I understand the south of Rickling Green and Brick Kiln Lane and beyond does not. The government's recently announced support fund is to be administered by Essex County Council and there is a link to it on the UDC website (see qr code).



'A new Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) will replace the Household Support Fund from 1 April - this new grant will benefit from the over £50 million of national support that the government has announced to help families struggling with soaring heating oil costs.'

The new scheme doesn't start till 1st April but there is already a Household Support Fund which runs to March 31st.

Still waiting ...

The list is shrinking. The government's decision on Unitary Councils should be announced before the start of the County election period which is 30th March. The decision is referred to as 'the government is minded to' because it needs legislation in parliament so it can't just be done by ministerial dictat, even if that in reality is the

outcome. As a major decision it cannot be announced during the election. A delay till May would take at least six weeks out of the schedule for the many projects required to action the vast reorganisation, and councils after elections are in a state of flux while new councillors and leaderships work out their roles. It is even a possibility it could be cancelled or delayed. Delay would be the worst outcome as it would mean two more years of ‘discussions’ about how to do everything.

Pegasi, awaited

The UDC website has gone quiet, but statutory consultee responses continue.

ECC Highways response is a most thorough appraisal and noted many compliance failures including parking space numbers below the policy requirement, inaccessible parking spaces, visibility splays based on 20mph when it is national speed limit, and many other matters. Including *‘The pedestrian route to the SE corner of the site is shown crossing an attenuation pond – amendment will be required’*

The ECC Education submission is a little different. It states *‘Having reviewed the proximity of the site to the nearest Primary school, Essex County Council will be seeking a Primary School Transport contribution as there are no current safe walking routes from the proposed development to the nearest Primary School. The cost of providing this is £192,221.70’*

Although Highways correctly query the proposed shared access to the Green, of the many criticisms of the application, requiring transport to the primary school cannot be one of them.

ECC Education state there is no shortage of primary, secondary or SEND places and therefore would not require a financial contribution. For primary this is likely because ECC consider Newport, Clavering and Rickling to be a single school for calculating its capacity requirements.

The chart is from the ECC 10 year plan, which shows falling demand.

D. Mid-west (Newport)

Current PAN: 75
Current Capacity: 513

Reception Place Forecast

Year	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34	34/35
+/-	18	10	22	14	14	14	13	13	13	13

Clavering Primary, Newport Primary, Rickling CE Primary

Number on Roll (NOR)

Year	NOR
25/26	451
26/27	463
27/28	442
28/29	443
29/30	444

Project Pipeline

School	Year	Description	Places
No expansion projects currently in pipeline			

The grouping allows ECC to ignore concentration of demand in one locality by considering that it is acceptable to bus primary age children to distant schools. This is objected to in the Neighbourhood Plan but we have no power to override the Education Authority.

County Elections

We do however have an ECC voting opportunity in May. We are in the Stansted division. Results from the last election were: Ray Gooding Conservative, votes 2547, Bianca Donald Residents for Uttlesford, 1984, Ayub Khan Lib Dems, 1372, Debra Gold Green Party, 407 and Samantha Naik Labour, 395 votes.

The division boundary has been changed since the last election and Elsenham and Henham moved into the Thaxted division.

Candidates known so far are Bianca Donald for R4U, who is a teacher and a UDC councillor, Ray Gooding, current County Councillor, and Goeffrey Sell who is Libdem group leader at UDC.

Councillor Surgeries

These are in Dorringtons every Friday from 10.30 to 11.30. If we have to cancel these, we will post on the village facebook.

Our contact details are:



cllremanuel@uttlesford.gov.uk
01799 543487 or **07801 039550**

cllrhargreaves@uttlesford.gov.uk
01799 540411 or **07854 687748**



Other News from Uttlesford District Council

You can get email newsletters and alerts on a whole range of topics via Keep me posted – sign up and find out more at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/keepmeposted.

07874-385541



www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A

Had he lived Freddie Mercury would be in his 70s. Many in the u3a are his contemporaries and this was demonstrated when Danielle Barnett began her presentation called “Freddie’s kind of Magic” with a recording of Freddie singing. Joy crept into the room and radiated through the sizeable audience, until everyone was clapping along to the stirring sounds of Queen. Danielle, a super enthusiastic presenter, supplied a review of a life that produced an iconic soundtrack for the time.

Another large audience sat entranced by the expertise of Dr Helen Fry, who gave a talk on the incredible Intelligence work that took place under the leadership of MI6

Colonel Thomas Kendrick during World War Two. Helen's historical research uncovered the fascinating work carried out at Trent Park, Wilton and Latimer House, where German military elite prisoners were held. They were treated extremely well, little knowing that the walls surrounding them "had ears" and they were being bugged continually. Deep below them, their conversations were listened to closely and the vital military information gleaned from their conversations substantially affected the war effort.

Yet more interesting talks are in store at the u3a. To give examples of the variety, talks will include: 'Wildlife of Britain and Europe' by photographers Graham and Mary Brace and Mike Dodsworth on 'The Witches of Essex'. The treats at every monthly meeting, can be seen on the u3a website. The website also presents information about the 40 different activities available through the u3a. To give but one example, the Gardening group, in April, will be visiting the gardens of Benington Lordship - an ancient private home with wonderful landscaping and an impressive diversity of plants.

For more info visit our website or 07847 385541

Julia Cook

Quendon & Rickling 100 Club

Congratulations to the latest winners

March 2026

1st Prize	J Hutchin	£28
2nd Prize	A Bishop	£18
3rd Prize	P Waites	£8

Quendon & Rickling 100 Club generates a source of funds for the Village Hall and both our two churches, All Saints, Rickling and St Simon & St Jude, Quendon.



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Horses were once very important in everyday life. This changed quickly with the advent of tractors, trucks and the motor car.

Horses were used extensively in agriculture; they also hauled delivery carts and buses and everything in between. Some of us may remember the horse-drawn milk float or the coalman and rag-and-bone man. There were blacksmiths, smithies and forges in most towns and villages.

We still have blacksmiths who work in metal, making gates, weather vanes, tools and farm implements, as well as shoeing horses. A farrier is a specialist in equine hoof care.



**Much Hadham Forge
Museum**

Whilst blacksmiths and farriers are quite rare today, there are reminders of this aspect of our heritage around The Hundred Parishes, for example in the names Forge Green at Hildersham, Anvil Cross in Great Hallingbury and Smith's End Lane in Barley. The area has five pubs called The Three Horseshoes – a name which probably came about because they had a nearby farrier, ready to deal with a customer who arrived with a horse that had lost a



Barkway Old Forge



Matching Green Forge Cottage

shoe.

Today, dwellings with names like The Old Forge or Anvil House often reveal their earlier lives.

Much Hadham Forge is still in use, part of Much Hadham Forge Museum. The museum usually opens Friday to Sunday, April to December, 11am to 5pm. It is housed in a series of listed buildings, dating from the 15th to 19th centuries. The forge itself dates from the 17th century; today's blacksmith runs forge experience days.

Ashdon once had three blacksmiths in the village. Now, one of Ashdon Museum's excellent displays is a representation of a blacksmith's shop with all the tools and equipment that he would have used. The museum is open April to October from 2pm to 5pm on Sundays and bank holidays and is well worth a visit.

Ken McDonald



Braughing Old Forge



High Easter weather vane



Castle Camps former forge



Newport and District Flower Club

As I write, the sun is shining – at long last – the daffodils are in bloom and the leaves on the bushes and trees are starting to burst. Spring is around the corner! To welcome the start of our year, the lovely and very talented Gill McGregor showcased her talents once again at our February meeting. Gill first began to compete in flower arranging competitions at the age of 11, managed a West End London florist at the age of 20 and at 22 was already teaching. She has demonstrated all over the

world, still teaches and shares her floral design and arrangement ideas in the many books she has written. As a testament to her popularity, Ugley Village Hall was bursting at the seams! Her wonderful arrangements filled the hall and delighted members and visitors alike. Some were lucky enough to go home with one of her designs, won in the raffle. Our March meeting was on Wednesday 18th March and was led by another talented NAFAS demonstrator and club member, Lorraine Gagen. This meeting was a workshop and Lorraine showed us how to design our own crescent arrangement to take home. Further report next time. April 15th will be our annual AGM followed by a fun quiz with sweet and savoury nibbles. Visitors always welcome. To contact us, please use the NEW email address shown below. You can also follow us on Facebook at Ugley Bunch Flower Club.



**One of Gill McGregor's
arrangements**

7pm for 7.30pm start – third Wednesday of the month

Ugley Village Hall, Cambridge Road, CM22 6HR

Sandra Honour Email: ugleybunchflowerclub@gmail.com

Maces Farms April 2026

Finally, it's starting to feel like spring. With the rainfall easing and the sun beginning to warm things up, it can only mean one thing—it's time to catch up on farm jobs.

Since last month, we've applied the first dose of fertiliser to much of our autumn-sown crops, and they have now received their second application. The tractor has travelled reasonably well, despite a few wet patches lingering from the heavy rainfall in January and February.

The wheat is looking good, and thanks to the recent drier spell, disease pressure has remained low to moderate. Our next step will be to apply additional

nutrition along with a growth regulator. This helps keep the plant's energy lower in the stem, reducing the risk of lodging later. A

lodged crop can be difficult to harvest and may lead to yield loss. We want the plant to focus its energy on seed production rather than excessive height, so it's always





about achieving a well-balanced, upright crop that can maximise sunlight interception.

The oilseed rape has progressed rapidly and is further ahead than usual. This could lead to a longer flowering period, which is great for yield potential—but not so great for hay fever sufferers, me included.

We're also preparing to plant our spring crops soon, including oats and a legume cover crop. Seedbed preparation will be key, so patience will be important as we wait for the best possible conditions.

As you can see from the picture, maintaining our newly planted hedges is proving to be a challenge due to deer damage. We'll need to put up additional protection to keep them at bay.

Enjoy the Easter Spring sunshine



Mark Gemmill Mgemmill@pegasi.co.uk

GARDENING CLUB
SAFFRON WALDEN MUSEUM

Into Gardening?
Like Volunteering?

Join us on the 2nd Friday of every month at 9.30am.

Help rejuvenate Saffron Walden Museum's gardens
Contact Jane (07900 250517) with any questions.

Spring Fayre

Saturday 9th May 2023
Clavering Village Hall
10.00am - 1.30pm

Entrance fee will be 50p

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Jean: 01799 590759
Andrea: 01799 590425
Carolyn: 01799 521985

Donations cannot be accepted after 20th April 2023

stclarehospice.org.uk
Facebook: [stclarehospice](#) Twitter: [stclarehospice](#)

Saffron Walden Museum

Visiting the Museum

Our standard opening hours are:

Tuesday-Saturday 10-5pm; Sundays & Bank Holidays 2-5pm

Closed Mondays (apart from bank holidays)

Wednesdays are currently reserved for pre-booked group visits by schools and other parties in term time.

www.saffronwaldenmuseum.org

Object of the Month



Two toads in a jar

These two toads are classified as wet or fluid specimens. They have been in the collection for over 100 years and have recently been conserved and re-displayed. But what is the benefit of preserving specimens in this way, and how is it done?

Fluid-preserved specimens are plants or animals (either whole or part of) that are preserved in a liquid storage medium. The fluid acts as a preservative, which stabilises the specimen and stops it from decaying. Fluid preservation has the advantage of preserving the entire organism, so it can also be dissected for anatomical studies.

The preservative solution and the storage container create a protective and stable environment. If maintained well, fluid-preserved specimens should last for hundreds of years. However, if not maintained, this protective environment can fail. If this happens, the specimens can dry out and get damaged. This is the condition that the toads were in before conservation.

Last year, the museum was delighted to host the world-renowned natural history conservator Simon Moore for a four-day fluid specimen course. During this course, a range of wet specimens were conserved to preserve them for the future.

Community Cases

We have been out and about throughout the district updating our mini-exhibition community cases. With cases in Stansted Airport, Dunmow Library, and Stansted Mountfitchet Library, plus our roving case,



you can see glimpses of our collection all across Uttlesford. See some treasures from across the world in Stansted Mountfitchet, and learn about archaeology in Dunmow. What would you like to see and learn about, and where would you like to see the cases next? We always welcome new ideas, and if you think that your community group, business, school, or club would like to host a case, why not drop us a line at museum@uttlesford.gov.uk

Emergency Life-saving

Should someone suffer a cardiac arrest or show symptoms of a heart attack e.g. pains in the chest, then your first action should always be to phone the ambulance service on 999. The service will refer you to our Automated External Defibrillator which is at the front entrance to Quendon & Rickling Village Hall. Another is sited outside Reception at the front of Rickling School. Anyone can save a life by using one of them until an ambulance arrives. In addition you can seek help from any of the volunteers listed below.



Name	Home Telephone	Locality
Robert Arnold	01799 543075	Northern end - Cambridge Road
Sandra Arnold	01799 543075	Northern end - Cambridge Road
Chris Phillips	01799 542351	Middle - Cambridge Road
Sue Phillips	01799 542351	Middle - Cambridge Road
Wendy Stannard	01799 541869	Middle - Cambridge Road
Paul Carrol	07889 344869	Southern end - Cambridge Road
Joanne Hales	07903 596011	Rickling Green
Janice Hart	01799 541196	Rickling Green/Brick Kiln Lane/Rickling
Ann Merrit	01799 542110	Rickling Green/Brick Kiln Lane
Sue Joannou	07805 037586	Rickling Green
Jacolin Lampon	07710 281382	Southern End - Cambridge Road

For further information see www.communityheartbeat.org.uk/

Remember: Using the defibrillator can't cause injury. Doing nothing can.

What's On

Where no organiser is shown for any event in Q&R Village Hall, contact the Hall Manager, Christine Osbourn on 01799 543367 for details

Event	Date	Time	Place	Notes
Saffron Searchers	1st Monday/month	20.00-22.00	Q&R Village Hall	
Dance Exercise	Tuesdays	10.30-11.30	Q&R Village Hall	Christine Alexander
U3A Choir	2nd/4th Wednesdays	11.15-13.15	Q&R Village Hall	
Pilates	Tuesdays	19.00-20.00	Q&R Village Hall	Vikki 07810 826465
Pilates	Thursdays	09.30-10.30	Q&R Village Hall	Vikki 07810 826465
Pilates	Thursdays	18.30-20.30	Q&R Village Hall	Vikki 07810 826465
Carpet Bowls	Wednesdays	pm	Quendon Bowls Club	John Pampling 07724071959
Social Evening	2nd & 4th Fridays	19.00-23.00	Quendon Bowling Club	
Maundy Thursday Simple supper	2nd April	18.30	Newport Church house	
Maundy Thursday Service	2nd April	19.30	Newport Church	
Reflections by the Cross	3rd April	14.00 - 15.00	Quendon Church	

What's On (cont.)

Easter Eucharist	5th April	11.15	Quendon Church
Morning Worship	12th April	11.15	Quendon Church
Communion	26th April	11.15	Rickling Church

The Link is published on behalf of Quendon & Rickling Parochial Church Council, who do not necessarily share or endorse any opinions expressed by contributors or advertisers. It is created, printed and delivered entirely by volunteers. Advertising supports the maintenance of our church buildings and their grounds, but largely covers the costs of production.

The Link is delivered free of charge to every household in the villages of Quendon and Rickling and is available online at: <https://www.quendonandrickling.co.uk>

All correspondence for *The Link* should be addressed to the editor, Sandra Arnold, by e-mail: thelink@arnold-q.uk, or at Talbots, Cambridge Road, Quendon, CB11 3XJ; otherwise telephone 01799 543075

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