

Creeksea Chronicle Copy



The Passing of Queen Elizabeth the Second

Across the country the bells of Britain tolled out the passing of Queen Elizabeth the Second on Friday 9th September at 12.00 noon. Among them was the ancient and newly restored bell of All Saints' Church, Creeksea. The bell, made in 1799 by Thomas Mears at Whitechapel, had been removed on July 5th had been scheduled to be returned later this month. A surprise call from Whites of Appleton, the restorers, offered an opportunity for the bell to be rehung on the 7th of September. This was joyfully accepted, and the bell was rehung ready for the weekend's services.

On the announcement of the Queen's death bellringers throughout the country were put on alert to be ready to toll the passing of her majesty at noon on the 9th of September

That morning the Bartholomew Bear Club had been enjoying their weekly meeting at All Saints. The Remembrance book was opened for them to write their comments and condolences and Alice Harvey, who in childhood had been shown how to ring the bell by former wardens Evelyn Mulford and Ray Norcup, undertook to toll the newly hung bell. She followed the ancient custom of ringing three times three to acknowledge the passing of a woman and then 96 for the years of her majesty's life. Then she was briefly joined by Liz Wastnage, from Creeksea hall, before continuing to toll the bell until 12.20.

Your Parish Church

All Saints' Church Creeksea is often called one of the county's best kept secrets, a hidden gem. Tantalising glimpses over hedgerows may reveal its cedar shingled spire and the warm glow of its red tiled roof, but actually discovering the church is another matter. Really it couldn't be simpler. Find the entrance to the Burnham Golf Club in Ferry Road and you will see a narrow road next to it. This is the road to the Church and to Creeksea Hall. Over the centuries the people of Creeksea have walked, ridden on horseback, driven in carriages, cycled, and arrived in an array of motor vehicles along this road to worship at the little church on the hill. A church that has been the centre of the community and a beacon of hope and light for all these years.

Throughout this time the people of the tiny village of Creeksea have treasured their church and have attracted many worshippers from Burnham and surrounding villages. Today All Saints still provides that sense of community, with a warm welcome to a broad family of worshippers.

Over the past 20 years the church has gradually brought new technology and comfort into the building, taking great care to retain and maintain the wonderful atmosphere of tradition and stability. Under-pew heating, and thick pew cushions, a concealed Audio-Visual system, a new hall with toilet and facilities for refreshments and food enable the church community to offer a wide variety of events, from a monthly Luncheon Club, a Film Club, Coffee, Cake, and Company to Scrabble and Scones. Each week in term time the Bartholomew Bear Club meet for stories, and lively activities for carers, babies, and toddlers, with prayer and support a part of the mix.

Regular services are a weekly 9.30 Morning Prayer on Wednesday and on Sunday an 8.30 Prayer Book Communion followed by a 10.15 service which is either a family service/play & praise, morning prayer, or Holy Communion from the Common Worship service book.

There is something for everyone at All Saints from the calm antiquity of the Book of Common Prayer to lively and noisy children's worship and there is always a warm welcome.

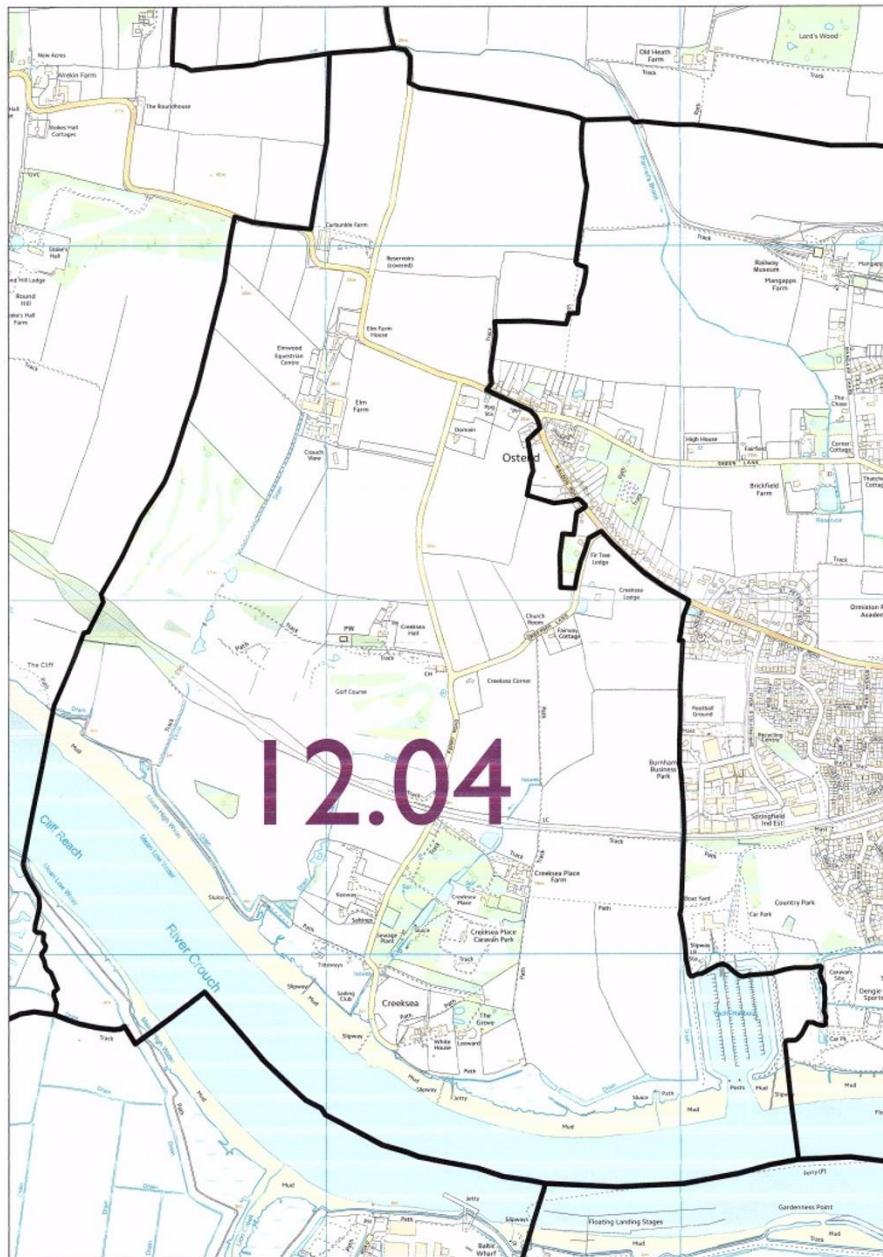


Criccheseia to Creeksea - a Rural Village

When William the Conqueror subdued England the first thing he wanted to know was 'how much am I worth?!' To find out he instituted a huge survey of almost all of his new realm - known as the Domesday Book. And little, tiny Creeksea was there amongst all the entries - then a settlement of 6 households - but with a slightly longer name Criccheseia. The land was farmed by smallholders, Swein, Pointel and Modwin, with two slaves, and their overlord was now Bishop Odo of Bayeux. As well as ploughland, there was pasture for 20 sheep and woodland for 20 pigs - other livestock included 4 cattle.

Over the years Creeksea gradually altered with improvements in farming techniques. By the 19th Century it was a thriving village with two pubs, a ferry, a Dame School at the Leathern Bottle and thriving farms. There was a halt on the Railway line at Creeksea, for loading milk churns from the farms and allowing wealthy commuters to alight to return to their country houses - Creeksea Place and Creeksea Hall. As the Dame School closed another school opened at the newly built School Room in Creeksea Lane, belonging to All Saints' Church. With agricultural slumps in the early 20th century the fortunes of the village changed again, with the loss of some of the wooden cottages in places like Tinker's Hole, and also the great Tithe Barn and the Rectory on the corner by Elmwood. On the 1st of April 1934 the Civil Parish was abolished and merged with Burnham. Since then, Creeksea has retained its identity through the Church in particular and through all the leisure activities offered from horse riding, sailing, golf and walking as well as gym facilities the Parlour Cafe. Creeksea Place is now a thriving

wedding venue and the village has grown with the building of a new estate by David Wilson Homes and the proposed Burnham Waters retirement development. And so, a new chapter begins in the history of this tiny village and its Church of All Saints.



A Busy Church Community

From the Bartholomew Bear Club through to Flower Festivals, from Choral Evensong to Play & Praise there is something to do for everyone at All Saints. Here the community get together to worship God and provide events and services that will bring people together and share talents and skills.

We've had festivals commemorating our nation's history or the wonder of weddings. We celebrate Harvest with a beautifully decorated church. There's a bar-b-que on the Saturday evening with a quiz just for fun, and then, on Sunday, a riotous family service followed by lunch in the hall and then a Harvest Songs of Praise with readings and favourite hymns in the evening, followed by wine and nibbles.

Then one Sunday you might come in to find an elephant in the pew, several dogs greeting each other in the aisles, and the odd giraffe, rabbit or bear lounging in a pew – yes, it's the Pet Service and that includes all those much-loved mice and monkeys, lambs, and kittens that the children know are just as real as the pets that others bring. And all of them receive a blessing.

At the end of November, we look forward to Christmas with our Advent Candle Calendar table decoration for families to take home and light each day as a count-down to Christmas. There are Nativity Plays and Carol Services during the Christmas season as well as the wonderful and moving midnight service on Christmas Eve. To lighten the darkness of winter, at the very end of January, we have a special Christingle Service to celebrate the feast of Candlemas – remembering Jesus is the light of the world.

After Candlemas the evenings grow lighter and we can look forward to Pancake Day – and the Great Big Pancake Service on the Sunday after Shrove Tuesday rapidly followed by Mothering Sunday, as we travel through Lent on our way to Easter. Palm Sunday – the triumphal ride of Jesus into Jerusalem is echoed in our procession from Elwood Equestrian Centre to the Church followed by a Palm Sunday Play & Praise. Holy Week, which follows Palm Sunday, leads us through to Easter with services including morning prayer, communion, and compline to the Good Friday Reflection. Easter Sunday is the greatest celebration of the year with the church transformed into a garden of flowers.

But as well as the services of the church there are a host of social activities too. They were interrupted by Covid but now we are looking forward to restarting the Pensioners' lunch, Coffee, Cake and Company, Film Club and Scrabble and Scones. There is something for everyone – find out by visiting our Facebook page All Saints Creeksea and see what's going on at the little Church on the Hill.



Especially for Children

Families are at the heart of our worship at All Saints. On Friday mornings at 9.30 happy voices, running feet and the sound of loud and happy music means that the Bartholomew Bear Club is meeting. It's for carers and pre-schoolers, from tiny babies to tots ready to start school. A story, songs and a prayer introduce a wonderful craft for everyone to join in – a giant Christingle to decorate the church for our Family Christingle Service or a magnificent display of hearts for Mothering Sunday. At the end of the morning there is a lovely wind-down time with music and bubbles, outside if its fine. A happy ending to a lovely morning. As well at the Bartholomew Bear Club each month there are two services especially for young families as well as specials and activities through the year. Our Facebook page All Saints Church, Creeksea, is updated regularly by Alice Harvey who leads the Bartholomew Bear Club. A group for Creeksea Kids & Dads has just started, meeting on the occasional Saturday to spend time together with crafts and chat. There are no fees or charges for the Barty Bear Club, as its affectionately known, it is our gift of time and space to spend together.



Bartholomew Bear Club

Alice Harvey runs the Bartholomew Bear Club which is on each Friday of term time from 9.30 in the morning.

Poppies for Remembrance Sunday

We thought it would be nice if we could try and replicate the idea of the poppies coming out of the window at the Tower of London, So I have with the help of a group of wonderful lady's been knitting poppies so we can put a display of them in church for the Remembrance Sunday.

If anyone would like to make some and have them put on display with them all that would be great,

This is not a one time thing I intend to use these poppies every year in one way or another,



Art Show in August – Meeting Jessica Davies



Following the great success of her Art Show in August Jessica Davies is planning to hold a workshop at All Saints' Hall this October. Look out for all our future events on the All Saints' Church, Creeksea, Facebook page.

Jess's early years were spent living in the Severn Estuary, a childhood magically enhanced by shifting light, water, and clouds. As she speaks, the words fall from her lips with a soft Welsh accent, tumbling with brightness of reflected light as she reminisces about her schooldays. Then she could not stop drawing – sitting in the butler's lift [dumb-waiter] in the cloakroom – sketching coats and hats and scarves – a sketch so evocative that one can almost smell that wet wool and leather scent of early years, mingled with the indefinable yet instantly recognisable aroma of school. She once drew her way through a school quiz, no question answered but the page covered with studies, lamps, sinks, blackboards, sketching her own hand, wristwatch on the inside of her arm, on the back of the page.

After university, a teaching career in biology, marriage to Mike and the birth of three daughters, Jess turned again to drawing and painting for relaxation. She began to exhibit at the Bakehouse Gallery in Steeple where her pictures of local scenes soon attracted the attention of those delighted by her representations of the countryside around. She began to show her paintings at shows around the country and before Covid had an exhibition at the Maeldune Centre in Maldon.



Forthcoming Events

The weekend of the **22ND & 23RD of October** will be our annual **Pet Weekend**.

There will be a fun day for the children on the **Saturday** with Arts and Crafts and Noah's Arks! Starts 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Then on Sunday at 10.15am, bring along your pets (cats, dogs, dinosaurs, teddy bears) for a blessing at our annual pet service.

On the **13th of November** we have our **Remembrance Service** at 8.30am and 6.00pm. These are held at All Saints Church.

As we start the run up to Christmas come and join us on the **27th of November** for the **Advent Candle Calendar Service**. This will be held at 10.15am at All Saints Church.

December the 3rd we have the **Festive Fayre** in Burnham by the Clock Tower. There will stalls and events.

December the 4th at 3.30pm is the **Creeksea Nativity** followed by a Christmas bring and share high tea for the children in the hall.

Our last full Nativity Service was held before Covid and was a beautiful afternoon, full of love and laughter that really set the whole festive season off to the best start. We really hope you will all be able to join us for this wonderful tradition.

We shall be at the Festive Fayre with the Nativity Scene and Christmas Goodie bags from Churches Together in Burnham will be handed out

On the **11th of December at 10.15** we will be holding a **Christmas Tree Service** followed at **18.00** by a **Carol Service**.

On the weekend of the 21st will be **the Elmwood Nativity**. The time to be confirmed.

December the 24th will see **the Crib Service and Midnight Service** followed on Christmas Day with the **Communion at 8.30am and the Family Praise at 10.15am.**

Play & Praise – our children services of Play and Praise take place on the 4th Sunday of each month.

The Barty Bear Club is a group for preschool children and their grown-ups. Held in the Church Hall on a Friday morning between 9.30am to 11.30am. It is a great place to meet and socialise with other mums, nans, grandads, and dads. Specialising in tea and biscuits, there is also stories, songs, and dancing and lots of crafts to make and do. Suitable for any and every age of preschool children and free to attend.

We look forward to seeing you and your little one soon.

