



THE PARISH LETTER

*'No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.'*



I know from working with 4 and 5 year olds that if you want to put on a splendid school nativity play for a hall full of parents, siblings, aunts and uncles, nans and grandads you'd better get yourselves organised early and so it was with that resigned feeling of familiarity that I sat down during the first week of November to allocate roles in my class. The speaking parts, the support acts and the roles for the children dressed as sheep because they are likely to wander off if something far more interesting catches their eye. However, preparing so early can hinder ones enthusiasm for the approach of Advent and Christmas.

Similarly, the friends who speak of doing their Christmas shopping in the January sales, those who may have left it as late as July in order to have everything wrapped before their summer holiday or the folks who have decided one marathon day of toil in the out of town shopping centre will be painful but oh so satisfying.

Am I alone when I dream of a calm, quiet, reflective approach to Advent where I savour each day, meditating on the season of waiting that lies ahead, experiencing that period of anticipation and patience that will lead me gently into Christmas as darkness falls on Christmas Eve, the streets quieten and children are tugged up in bed. Is this too much to hope for?

The Word became Flesh and made his dwelling among us (John 1:14).

In our endeavours to get ahead, to be prepared, to tick off the lists, we are in danger of losing the importance of living in the present moment, of taking the time to stop and listen to those around us, those we love and to look for where God is at work in our lives. If we can't slow down how can we allow God the space to break into our busy-ness. Christmas demands a time of preparation if we are to take seriously the need to be challenged by Christ's coming in the midst of us.

I cannot take credit for these eight simple words but I do rather like them.

No Jesus, no peace. Know Jesus, know peace.

Christmas blessings.

Rev Julie.



EPHAPHANY: THE SHOWING. THREE WISE MEN? THE MAGI? THREE KINGS?



The Journey of the Magi, 1894 by Tissot

It's Matthew who has devoted attention to these visitors to the infant Jesus, he calls them wise men, we of course, have heard of other titles, and legends, and other would be visitors, such as another wise man called Artaban, who brought with him a sapphire, and a ruby, and a pearl of exquisite beauty, then there was 'Babooshka,' from Russia I believe, who searched for the baby. They are known also as the Magi, which in Greek refers to a variety of people, including fortune tellers, priestly augurs, magicians and astrologers, and because of their connection with the star in this story it is safe to conclude that Matthew identified them mostly with the last group. Possibly they came from Babylonia or Persia where the word magus originated from. Most certainly they were gentiles, for if they had been Jews they would have known better than to ask King Herod about a national leader who would challenge his dynasty. It is not clear why they wanted to pay homage to a Jewish king or what they had learned about him from the observations of his 'star'.

Names have been given to these wise men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, these names are of unknown origin. In Eastern Christianity they have different names. Regardless of what they were called, these figures clearly excited the imagination of Christian interpreters and artists from very early times. Partly this is because they were the first gentiles to recognise Jesus, and according to Matthew they are the very first worshippers.

The best known carol about them is 'We three Kings of Orient Are' not one of my favourites, mainly because it was 'done to death' when I was a young chorister, and the second line was, - 'one on a bus and two in a car'!!! . Actually the curious thing is that the joke is on us with those words, because I do believe those far away gentlemen as they worshipped the infant Jesus, were representing us. How did you get to church this Epiphany I expect it might not have been in a bus, unless it was a minibus, but I certainly will have arrived to my place of worship in a car! And on our way home shall we in our wisdom tell all that we meet about this baby who grew to be the Saviour of the world?

Best wishes to you all,

Avril



Mothers UNION
Christian care for families

**ALL SAINTS' MALDON
MOTHER'S UNION
November 2017**

The Mothers' Union Meeting on Tuesday 7th November was a real "All Saints Family" occasion, as our speaker was our own Revd Canon Graham, and we were also extremely pleased to welcome Denise Brazier back with us.

Graham talked about Vocation, and how God had been present in his life from a very young age, in Edinburgh, despite not growing up in a church-going family. Whilst at University he had not been drawn to any of the student Christian groups, but subsequently came to a conviction that ordination was the path God wanted him to follow.

This has led him to Durham, where he and Liz were married, and where the Bishop at the time was wrongly reported as querying the Resurrection (Graham put us straight on what the Bishop had actually said), to Nantwich in Cheshire, and eventually to Essex; his last parish before retirement having been Danbury. Graham brought some "archive" photographs, which included the occasion of the Christening Service at St John the Baptist Church, Danbury for the surrogate twin sons of Tony and Barrie Drewitt-Barlow, (known to the Press as the "Gay Dads"). Despite the media furore, Danbury Mothers' Union were supportive, because, as Graham pointed out, the service was for the two children, receiving them into the church family.

Graham was thanked by Merie, and given a donation collected for CHESSE, the Chelmsford charity for the single homeless (and the one chosen in commemoration by the family of the late well-loved Danbury Dentist Michael Daly, who had been Graham's dentist).

Merie pointed out our Christmas celebration on the 5th December. We shall be having a Secret Santa followed by supper and games. Our Carol Service is at St Mary's on 12th December at 4.00pm.

Sue Frederick and Jackie Barnes

'SHORELINE 5'

During Passiontide next year All Saints will be embarking on an unusual venture: a Morality Play in the form of a dramatized reading, with a contemporary 'take' on the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. It will be challenging for both actors and audience, and it is designed to make us think hard about what kind of society Jesus might be born into today. Canon Graham, who is directing, writes: 'I've wanted to write something like this for many years, but there simply wasn't the time when I was in full-time ministry. I'm very grateful to Canon Stephen for giving his support to this project. A great many people are going to be involved: and there will be some well-known faces in a context you won't expect.'

The play will be performed on Wednesday 21st and Friday 23rd March 2018, and will last in the region of 60 minutes. There will be more details to follow.....



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE.



Photo taken from the Norwich Cathedral Website

The Christingle is the focus of the service and reminds us of Christ in our world as a central figure and guide. The Service highlights the work of the Children's Society and gives us an opportunity to think of their work and commitment to children in our society that need help and friendship for various reasons.

This year the Christingle Service will be held on Sunday 10th December at 3pm. We will be joined by Liz Digby who will speak to us about the work of the Society and after the service we will share a drink and cake or biscuit.

There are candle boxes in Church for the collecting of money for the work of the Society, which will be presented during the service. We will be giving out A Christingle to everyone and we hope this might be used as a decoration in homes reminding us of Jesus being born as the Light in Our World.

Christingle Making Workshop

This will take place on Saturday 9th December, starting at 9am in the D'Arcy room where the Coffee morning will also be held from 10am---12.

All materials for the making of the Christingles and instructions will be to hand so do come along and join in the fun!

Further details from Elaine Brown.



Churchwarden's Chat

We are now in the church season of Advent, from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning "coming", a time of expectant waiting and preparation for Christmas.

Advent Sunday (3rd. of December) is also the beginning of the liturgical year, when the colour within the church changes to purple.

Customs of the Advent season include the lighting of the Advent wreath candles, one additional candle being lit each week, on the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. Each candle is linked with the readings for that Sunday, beginning with readings about the Old Testament patriarchs, the second Sunday's readings relate to the birth of Christ (sometimes known as the Bethlehem candle), the third candle stands for John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the coming of Jesus's ministry. This particular Sunday is known as Gaudete Sunday. The fourth Sunday's candle stands for the Annunciation and is known as the Angel's candle, or Mary's candle. Sometimes there is a fifth candle, a white Christ candle, placed in the middle of the other four and lit at the Christmas Eve service. Another custom, popular with the children, is the Advent calendar, especially if it contains a daily chocolate gift!

Special services during Advent start with our candlelight service 'From Darkness to Light', 4pm. on the 3rd. of December and then the family service of Christingle on December 10th. at 3pm. when everyone receives their Christingle orange, representing Jesus as the light of our bounteous world. Proceeds from this service goes to The Children's Society; collecting 'candles' can be collected from the back of church, to be given in during the service. Finally our Carol Service will be on 17th. of December, at 6.30pm.

Advent is therefore a time of preparing for Christmas, including the buying of presents for family and friends and decorating our homes, but should also mean a time of thinking about the coming of Christ and all that means to us.

Debbie and I will be away from All Saints this Christmas, as we will be visiting family in the north, including family over from Australia. However I will be thinking of my church family here in Maldon, and wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas.

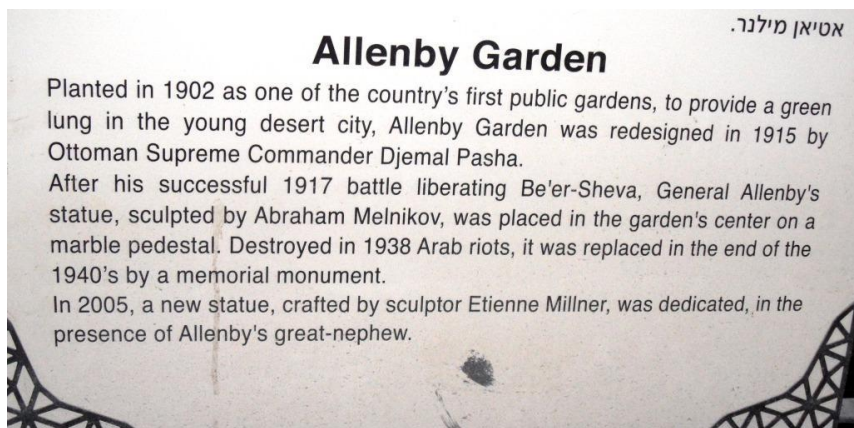
Jenny, Churchwarden.

PALESTINE TOUR

As a member of the Essex Branch of the Western Front Association I take part in various talks and tours in regards to the battlefields of the First World War.

Recently I had the opportunity to go to Palestine as I have a Great Uncle buried in Ramleh war cemetery. Our party of 19 people travelled from Heathrow Airport to Ben Gurion airport and then for the coach journey to Tel Aviv and a one night stay at a hotel where we met five more for the tour. There being two English guides, an Israeli guide and the coach driver.

The following day as per itinerary we headed south towards Be'er-Sheva with a stop on route to visit an Anzac Memorial site south of Gaza City. Unfortunately we were stopped by military police at a road block because the previous week there had been some 'Hamas' activity in the area, so a buffer zone was in place before the memorial. After much discussion between our English Guide and military HQ, plan 'B' had to be adopted. After lunch drove to Buqqar Ridge which was the site of Maj. Lafone's posthumous VC. Back in Be-er-Sheva we visited Allenby Gardens named after the Commander in Chief of the Palestine campaign, then on to our hotel.



Tuesday saw us visit a site with Turkish trenches still to be seen which were captured on the 31st October 1917 by the 60th London Division south west of the city. In the afternoon moving to the east of the city we visited the site of the successful Australian Light Horses Charge into Be-er-Sheva. Then onto the C.W.G. cemetery and also a photo shoot at the old Turkish train station.

Wednesday we left our hotel and travelled towards Jerusalem stopping at Tel Es Safi and Muggar Ridge to discuss a Yeomanry Charge and the site of

an old junction station to discuss the use of armoured cars in the campaign. Climbing the hill towards the Holy city we stopped by the way of a diversion at the Israeli Tank museum at Latrun which has over 100 tanks and AFVs on display. This place is an important site of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Dropping off our cases at our hotel our Israeli guide took us on a site seeing tour in the Walled City of Old Jerusalem where in narrow streets different religious denominations lived side by side all be it in their own quarters, there were Copt Christians, Roman Catholics, Jews and Armenians but with some Holy sites visited by all.

Thursday headed north from Jerusalem along the motor way that divided the Israeli side of the West Bank from the Palestinian side. Palestinians are not allowed to take motor cars on Israeli roads although they have their own road outside the walled divide. Went to the Tomb of Samuel at Nabi Samwil that is considered the burial site of the Prophet Samuel and which became known as 'The Mountain of Joy' after 1099 as it was from this summit that the crusaders first glimpsed Jerusalem. On our way back to the hotel visited Jerusalem C.W.G. cemetery where a poppy wreath was laid on behalf of all Essex Regiments that took part in conquering Jerusalem which was on strict

orders by the C.O. Allenby to be taken without a shot being fired from rifle or artillery, but at the point of the bayonet.

Friday leaving the hotel to travel back to Tel Aviv airport we stopped at Montefiore Windmill which was built by Messrs. Holman Brothers of Canterbury and shipped abroad crated up. With our group was Edward Holman who is the Great Grand Son of the founder. Our last visit was to Ramleh C.W.G cemetery where I found the grave and headstone of my Great Uncle who came from Hall Road, Heybridge and laid a poppy wreath in his memory this being the main reason for my visit.

Although it was a most enlightening few days, I have never seen so many young people (lads and lasses)

carrying automatic rifles as if they were handbags.

Barry Anthony





ARMISTICE DAY IN FRANCE

Armistice Day, 11th November, is a national holiday in France and is commemorated at 11 o'clock at War Memorials in thousands of towns and villages throughout the country. The memorials are often in a town square or beside a village church and we decided to take part in whatever was happening in the local village where we were staying.

Shortly after 11.00 the Mayor came out of the little town hall carrying a wreath, followed by a small procession of two standard bearers and the deputy mayor who made their way across the street to the war memorial outside the south side of the church. There were quite a few local people there who, in true French fashion, had greeted everyone else present, including ourselves. The Mayor, having placed a red, white and blue wreath at the war memorial, then read out a long history of the two World Wars and after that a long list of names, presumably those on the war memorial. After



each name everyone said 'Mort pour la France'. Finally everyone sang the French national anthem, followed, to our surprise, by our National Anthem! We had noticed that the Union Flag was also placed beside the memorial as well as the Tricolore and the British present were easily identified by the red poppies we were wearing. The bleuet de France, or cornflower, is the symbol of memory for victims of war in France and is worn by some people. The cornflower like the poppy continued to grow in land devastated by the thousands of shells which were launched daily by the entrenched armies of the Western Front.

The one thing that we noticed was so different from what we are used to in

England was that there was no Christian or religious reference or hymns sung at all. Services do take place in some churches, especially in large towns but in France any sign or indication of religious association is now forbidden in a public place. Another different custom is that following the wreath laying ceremony everyone present gets a free drink, in our case at the bar across from the church!

Peter and Cynthia Chignell



PARISH CHAT

December 2017

Happy Birthday to Linda Anthony for 20th December

...and Happy Birthday if you are celebrating your birthday in December!

From Yvonne. A big Thank you to all my friends at Church for the flowers, and the Cards and best wishes sent after my accident. The horrendous bruises and black eyes are now turning yellow and purple so I am fit to be seen in public again. Thank you all once again.

Yvonne Kneller



*Mike & Julie wish you all a very
Happy Christmas xx*

Truemen in Singapore are well. Angie has got a promotion already and is in charge of lower school English (same job as in Plume). Derek is busy relief teaching and exam marking. We managed to sell our holiday home in Italy and get back what we paid after 11 years of happy holidays, Brexit notwithstanding! Joelle graduates next June and we will come over to UK, so it will be lovely to call in to see you all again. Have a most blessed Christmas and fruitful New Year.

Derek Trueman



*'He who has no Christmas in his heart will never find
Christmas under a tree'*

This is Julie's last "Parish Chat" and on your behalf I would like to thank her for her contributions over the years. Peter.

“ .. THE BELLS .. THE BELLS .. ”



I've read that church bells have only been rung in England the way we ring them now since the 17th Century, and it is peculiar to the UK. Only the British ring bells by swinging them up and down using the clapper to strike the bell each time it reaches the top of it's swing, other countries tap the sides of their bells. Not that it matters to me really. My problem is holding the rope properly and getting the timing right so that I don't clash with the bell in front or the one behind. Being too enthusiastic doesn't help much either – you end up hitting the 'stay' which is bad news, if it breaks “run” is all you can do. There is several hundredweight and up to a ton of metal up there, winding the rope up! All this only became a problem for me after a friend suggested that I might like to take up bell ringing with him last year. Since then I've tried to master the art – little by little – every other Monday night, until the day Peter C. said “.. Right, we'll get you to come on Sunday morning and see how you get on with other ringers!”

Now I have had a bad back for some time. Years in fact. Not a serious problem, although it did keep me awake some nights (and Yvonne!). I had prayed about it and even went to All Saint's laying on of hands service several times during the past two years. Just recently the old back has got noticeably better and Yvonne's sleepless nights a thing of the past. Whether due to my prayers, or Stephen's hands or bell ringing I do not know.

What do you think?

Mike Kneller



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Lunch at All Saints

Soup – hot food- cakes

12:00 to 1:30 pm

**Wednesday
6th December**





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SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

- 3rd Dec** **Advent Sunday**
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) In Church.
10:00 am Worship for All Eucharist
4:00 pm Advent Candlelit Service
- 7th Dec** **Thursday**
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 10th Dec** **Second Sunday of Advent**
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church
3:00 pm Christingle Service
6:30 pm Town Carol Service in All Saints'
- 11th Dec** **Monday**
11:00 am Holy Communion at Hailey House.
7:00 pm Light Up a Life Service
- 14th Dec** **Thursday**
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 17th Dec** **Third Sunday of Advent**
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church
6:30 pm Nine Lessons and Carols.
- 20th Dec** **Wednesday**
11:00 am Carol Service at Longfields
- 21st Dec** **Thursday:**
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)

SEE PAGE 19 FOR ALL THE CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- 28th Dec** **Thursday Holy Innocents**
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 31st Dec** **First Sunday of Christmas**
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church..
4:00 pm Said Evensong and Sermon



Christmas Services at All Saints

Sunday 10th Dec.

3:00 pm Christingle Service in aid of the Children's Society
Followed by refreshments.
6:30 pm Town Carol Service

Sunday 17th Dec.

6:30 pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
The traditional carol service with Choir and Congregational carols and readings from the Authorised (King James) version of the Bible.

Sunday 24th Dec., Christmas Eve.

No 8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am The Eucharist (said)
3:00 pm Children's Crib Service. Children are invited to come dressed as an angel, shepherd, Wise Man or animal in the stable.
5:00 pm The Service of Light, a Candle Light Carol Service. - a short service for All ages.
(The collections at both services will be shared between charities chosen by the PCC)
11:30 pm Blessing of the Crib and first Eucharist of Christmas

Monday 25th Dec Christmas Day

8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) A reflective said service
10:00 am All Age Eucharist for Children and Adults. An informal communion service where children are invited to bring one of their presents to show the congregation

Tuesday 26th St Stephen, Boxing Day

11:00 am Holy Communion

Christmas 201



JEAN & KEN

WISH ALL OUR FRIENDS
AT ALL SAINTS
A HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND NEW YEAR



“A Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to our
All Saints Family, with
love from
Richard, Adrienne and
George Knight xxx”



Jo Craig

Sends Greetings to all
at All Saints with
St. Peter for a peaceful
and joyous Christmas



Eddie and Gift
Send their greetings
and good wishes to
you all, for a Happy
Christmas and
Peaceful New Year



**Jackie & Alan Marjoram
& family**

would like to wish
all their friends
at All Saints' Church
a very Happy Christmas
and peaceful New Year



**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
VICARAGE**

Stephen and Sue wish you
Christmas, and look forward to
in church for our Christmas

Greetings

17



**Anita and Brian
Withrington**
Wish you all a Very
Happy Christmas and a
Peaceful and Healthy
2018



Avril and Fred
Send Greetings from
Yorkshire to all our friends
at All Saints
And wish you a very
happy Christmas
And a peaceful New Year



Helen Robinson would
like to wish everyone at
All Saints a
Very Happy Christmas
and
New Year



Tony and Stephanie Doe
send very best wishes
of the season to all our
friends at All Saints -
another happy year
with you all

FROM THE

a happy
to seeing you
s worship!



Merry Christmas and a
peace filled New Year
to everyone.

With love and blessings,
Rev Julie, Nic and Family.



Christmas Greetings 2017



**Jenny and Debbie
Clinch**

Wish you all a Very
Happy and Blessed
Christmas
And may 2018 be a
Happy and Peaceful
Year



Peter & Vivien
Send Christmas
Greetings to you all,
especially contributors
to this magazine, with
the hope that the
contributions will
continue during 2018.

Mike and Yvonne wish
everybody at All Saints' a
very Happy and Healthy
Christmas

*Chris and Jill Nelson and Family
Wish All their Church family a
Very Happy Christmas and a
Healthy 2018*

**We extend our grateful thanks to all who have posted
greetings messages this year and wish everybody in our All
Saints family the happiest of Christmases and
a joyful New Year.**

Editor





DIARY FOR DECEMBER

Mon 4th Dec	10 am to 12 noon Maldon Pioneers Drop In
Tues 5th Dec	10 - 12 noon meeting Point 10-00 am Prayer Group 8:00pm Mothers' Union
Wed 6th Dec	12 noon - 1-30 pm All Saints Lunches 7-00 pm Parish Office
Thu 7th Dec	9-15 am Sunshiners Maldon Ladies Outing 7-00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7-30 pm Choir Practice
Sat 9th Dec	10 am Church Coffee morning 10 am Christingle Making 2pm to 4 pm Messy Church
Mon 11th Dec	10 am to 12 noon Maldon Pioneers Drop In
Tues 12th Dec	10 - 12 noon Meeting Point 10 am Maldon Court Rehearsal
Thu 14th Dec	9-15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies Christmas Tea 7-00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7-30 pm Choir Practice
Fri 15th Dec	9:30 am Maldon Court Carol Service 2 pm Alzheimer's Carol Service
Tue 19th Dec	9:30 am All Saints' School Rehearsal 10 - 12 noon Meeting Point
Wed 20th Dec	9:30 am All Saints' School Carol Service 7 pm Parish Office
Thu 21st Dec	2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7-30 pm Choir Practice



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ALL SAINTS CHURCH AND ALL SAINTS SCHOOL COMBINE

Sunday 5th of November was a special day for many children and adults around the country for “Gunpowder, Treason and Plot”, but for many children and adults in Maldon it was a special day for an entirely different reason. That Sunday being the Patronal Festival for All Saints, our Vicar, Canon Stephen Carter was delighted to receive an invitation from Mr. Philip Brown, Headteacher of All Saints Primary School in Highlands Drive, Maldon, to hold a service in the school. The Church and School have a very close relationship and the school does have four services each year in our church and canon Stephen and other members of our church often spend time in the school with the children.

The service was held in the school hall and many people from the church congregation and from the school staff, parents and children were in attendance for the 10 o’clock service. After an introduction by Mr. Brown the service was taken by the Reverend Julie Willmot, Assistant Curate. The general format of the service had been arranged by the school RE teacher, Mrs. Margot Spurling and music was provided by the school band under the guidance of their teacher, Julia Chilver.



Revd Julie and some of the congregation enjoying the service

We had hymns, enthusiastically led by the Revd Julie who encouraged us all to join in with the singing and where necessary, actions too! We had readings from pupils and members of the school staff and with an intriguing account of the origins of Saint Nicholas from two members of the church congregation, Jill Nelson and Mary Stebbens. I think



many of us learned more about St. Nicholas than we had ever known before. Deputy Head Teacher, Corinne White, gave us a very interesting insight of a project which the school is involved in, the aim of which is to raise money for two schools in Zambia and to create and encourage friendship between the schools. A brief account of this project is shown below.

It was a most entertaining service and one which reinforced the already strong bond between church and school. Revd Stephen, in a very short address at the end of the service, remarked that the success of this joint effort had been really worthwhile and he hoped that it could be repeated on an annual basis. To all those present, Stephen said what many of us felt, and I think we will all look forward to a similar service next year.

After the service the school provided refreshments which were very well received and gave us all a chance to talk with friends or ask questions of the church and school staff.

Helen Chambers from the school has sent me this note regarding the Zambia project:

Vinjeru Secondary and Flying Kites Primary School, in Kipiri Mposhi – Zambia, aims to provide high quality educational opportunities which enable children and young people to realise their potential.

All Saints School is very pleased to be part of the initiative to create and develop links between the school communities. Ross and Bertie Power, from Fullbridge Church, are Trustees of the Vinjeru Trust and provide a link between us and Zambia.

A group of All Saints student ambassadors work with a member of our staff to learn more about and communicate information about Vinjeru and Flying Kites to their peers. They presented an assembly about Vinjeru and Flying Kites School as part of our ‘friendship’ week and also made a short film clip to introduce All Saints School to their new friends in Zambia. Many All Saints students also wrote postcards to the students at Flying Kites and were thrilled to receive replies.

Recently, at our Harvest Festival, we launched an entrepreneurial project to raise money for the Flying Kites School. From a £20 start up fund for each class, the children and staff gave their time and talents to create an impressive range of products which were sold at the school market. Our ambassadors are presently thinking carefully about how to best spend proceeds from this on gifts for their friends in Zambia.

Ken Downham

Photos by Ken Russell



Messy Church at All Saints'



Messy Church has grown in numbers again, and for our November gathering we had 17 children, 11 helpers and 18 parents. A great time was had by all and the theme was the Holy Spirit, God being always around us and fitting things in our lives together. Rev. Julie did a great job of the Worship time and our meal together.....a very important part.....was well received by all.

Our next Messy Church is on Saturday 9th December 2-4pm and the theme is CHRISTMAS. Everyone is welcome whatever your age, come and see what we do, you will be amazed.!

The dates for the Messy churches are as follows:

December 9 th ,	January 13 th 2018,
February 10 th ,	March 10 th ,
April 14 th ,	May 12 th ,
June 9 th	July 14 th .

We always finish our afternoon sharing a meal together. Everyone whatever your age is welcome.

For further details and to offer help, please contact Elaine Brown.

Elaine

A SILVER ANNIVERSARY THANK YOU

Tony and Stephanie Doe wish to thank everyone at All Saints for their cards and good wishes on the occasion of their Silver Wedding which was celebrated with a blessing in church at the morning service on Sunday 29th October. Stephen took such care in planning our part of the service, Barbara did our own 'order of service', Alan made the intercessions special by including the Taize chant, we were able to choose our own hymns, and Stuart played and the choir sang our favourite anthem by John Rutter.

To make the occasion even more special we were joined by some of our family, and afterwards we all enjoyed a slice of cake (cake-maker chosen by Gwen) with so many of you.

We are truly blessed in being a part of our wonderful church family.

Thank you.

Tony and Stephanie Doe.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In response to Father John Thackray's letter last month I would like to share a mere parishioner's thoughts on gardens and the insight, for me, that I can gain into God's love and care for this planet. His creation, from being in a garden, whether sitting quietly in a sunny spot or working up an appetite digging up the harvest. There are so many similes and referrals to nature in the Bible, old and new testaments, from God reminding Noah and his family - and us - of his provision for our flourishing existence on the earth to John's exhortation that the Father is the gardener and in him we can trust and have confidence. (John 15:1) Those who follow God will send their roots into soil near water and will bear fruit. (Jer.17:8) He instructs those with plenty to share with those in need; work while we can, save what we can, share what we can and trust God to meet our needs.

So for me the regular act of communion as worship and thanksgiving does not make me feel as close to God as the thoughts and prayers that wander through my mind whilst in my garden. I hope that God would find both acceptable and not a heresy!

Sincerely,

Vivien Clark

Book Reviews

Some Small Heaven – a spiritual path through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. **By Ian Adams, BRF, £8.99**

In this Advent book, seasonal meditations with various striking reflections and images combine. Advent is a time of waiting, which can occur in our lives at any time. Learning how to wait in Advent will enable us better to understand how to negotiate the waiting times whenever they come.

Christmas can nurture within us an openness to new possibilities. We are helped to capture the wonder of God coming towards us, making a home in us.

Epiphany is a time of revealing, and so this invites us to look up and look out and see larger patterns at work in our world, to see the holy child Jesus as a gift for all. In seeking light we discover how we too can be bearers of light.

Taken from the Parish Pump website.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Time to write your Christmas cards again – what designs have you picked to send this year? Are they religious ones?

Look in the shops at all the different designs, traditional and modern. Traditional religious cards have usually included the nativity – Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. But what else would you count as religious? The Three Kings? The Bible doesn't say they were kings, or that there were three; just that they were Wise Men, who travelled far to bring special gifts for the baby Jesus.

Do you know why there are so many robins on Christmas cards? The first postmen in Victorian times wore red and were called robins, so robins were shown as delivering cards.



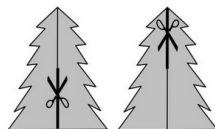
Whatever kind of card you send this year, be sure to include a kind message with love for your friends. Our love is a tiny echo of God's love for all the world.

CARD or DECORATION

Here is a simple 3-D Christmas tree that you can use as a decoration or a card. You will need green card, crayons, glitter or paint, scissors and sticky tape.

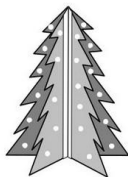
Fold a piece of card in half, then cut it in half. Put the two pieces together and fold them in half again.

Draw half a Christmas tree opposite the fold. Cut along the line and you will have 2 identical trees. Fold the trees in half, very lightly, hardly creasing the centre line to mark the centre of the tree. Cut a slit along the bottom half of the centre of one tree



of the other tree. Slip the two trees together along the slits. To help the tree to stand firmly, use sticky tape to fasten the parts together where they meet.

Decorate the tree. If you are using it as a card then leave an area free of decorations so that you can write on it.



*What goes red white red white red white?
Santa rolling down a hill.*



Reading the Signs



a parable of Jesus



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS THAT...



...WHEN THEY SAW THE SKY TURN BLACK....



...THEY KNEW IT WOULD RAIN, SOON.



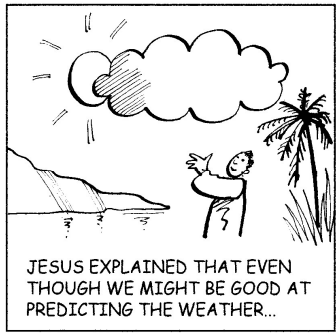
AND WHEN THE WIND CAME FROM THE SOUTH...



...THE WEATHER WOULD SOON IMPROVE.



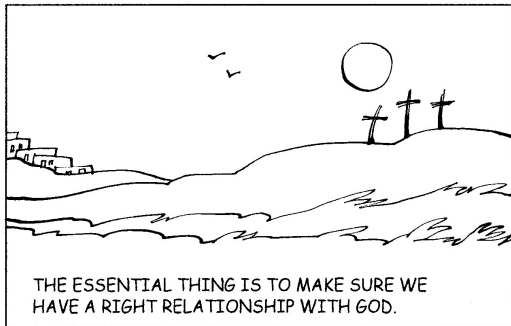
THERE MIGHT EVEN BE A HEATWAVE!



JESUS EXPLAINED THAT EVEN THOUGH WE MIGHT BE GOOD AT PREDICTING THE WEATHER...



...IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN OUR OWN FUTURES.



THE ESSENTIAL THING IS TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.



Continuing our correspondence between Eustace, rector of St James the Least, and his nephew.... Taken from the Parish Pump website.



On keeping warm in church

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

It was delightful to have a family from your church visiting ours last week, but perhaps if it happens again, you may suggest a certain dress code to them. That the man arrived without wearing a tie was probably forgivable, but I do think you should have warned them about the temperature. Your church building may be warmer than a nursing home, but the only time that hot air is blown over the heads of our congregation, is when the archdeacon preaches.

Thus, by early December, our congregation knows to come to church equipped with overcoats, scarves, gloves and thermal socks. And the Verger's regular disappearance into the side chapel during Services isn't on urgent ecclesiastical business, but to warm himself up with copious swigs from his hip flask.

So, your poor visitors suffered from the cold. In fact, by the time of the sermon, were they to have been laid horizontally, they would have been indistinguishable from the marble effigies of the Earls of Stowe lying in state in the north aisle. As they limped out at the end of the Service, totally numb, my offer of a sherry at the Rectory was more medicinal than social.

December is almost always the month when I gracefully concede defeat regarding the church boiler. True, the congregation has been dropping hints to me since Harvest about the autumnal nip in the air, or of the flowers keeping well in church because it is cool there, or even the slightly more pointed remark that it will soon be time for the heating to be turned on. But all are studiously ignored. I live in an arctic 17th century Rectory, and am hardened to it.

But when members of the congregation start arriving bearing travelling rugs and flasks of hot tea, I begin to realise that the time approaches to fire the boilers up. Then on the Sunday when Colonel Richards lights up his primus stove next to him on the pew, I know it is appropriate to announce that next Sunday the church will be heated – although 'heated' is rather more an aspiration than a reality.



Should any of our congregation be tempted to pay a visit to your own church, I will tell them to dress for a Mediterranean August – although the men will certainly wear a tie. One does have standards to maintain.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE



I took this photograph after the Service of Prayer and Remembrance for All Souls-tide on Sunday the 5th November which shows the lighted candles being left to burn down.

It is at this special service that we are able to remember all those whom we love, and can see no longer, as they continue on the journey to Eternal life.

The names of all who have departed this life were read out, then we lit candles in their memory. The light from the Easter-tide Candle is first taken to the larger candles on the small Altar and it is from these that we could light our candles and place them in the Remembrance tray of sand.

This is a very special service and is held annually and long may it continue.

Cliff Hunter

SANTA COSTUME

Margaret Hall has a Santa costume that she is willing to hire out. for a donation to All Saints'. The costume is suitable for use at children's parties or at adult fancy dress parties.

Margaret would require a returnable deposit of £10 and a donation to ALL Saints' as the hire charge.

If you require any further information or would like to hire the costum, please contact Margaret on 07799245830



Nine out of ten say that mission is for all

A survey carried out by Church Mission Society has found that nine out of ten Christians say they believe 'everyone is called to mission' and the job of spreading God's message should not be left to 'professional' Christians like vicars and full time Christian workers.

However, the survey also revealed that Christians are being held back from getting involved in mission, by fear [27%] or a lack of training and preparation [17%].

Church Mission Society urges that 'churches and mission agencies must work together' to set Christians free from the fear, and equip the 90 per cent of Christians who believe that mission is their calling.' More details at: www.churchmissionsociety.org/missionis



After-eight Social Club
for the mature and young at heart...
are holding 2 fabulous festive dances in December!

Christmas Party Dance



SATURDAY 23rd DECEMBER

West Maldon Community Centre

Dancing to music from Barry Hayes

Including sausage rolls and mince pies!

Admission: Members £6 - Non members £8

New Year's Eve

Cold Norton Village Hall



Dancing to the sounds of Mike's Music

Admission: Members £8 - Non members £10

There is no bar at either of these venues
please bring your own drinks and nibbles!

Everyone welcome!

Doors open 8pm

The after eight social club runs various activities every
month of the year including quiz nights, meals out, coffee
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Find us at www.aftereightsocialclub.co.uk

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ALPHA COURSE

There will be an **Alpha Course** starting on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at Maldon Elim Church.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help with this course Andy Newsome would be pleased to hear from you.

For further details of the course or to volunteer to help, please contact Andy Newsome on 07855 541 194 or email <andrewnewsome@hotmail.com>

FROM THE REGISTERS



FUNERALS

22nd Nov **PATRICIA JUNE CORBIN** aged 86, of Wantz Haven.
24th **IVAN JOHN HINTON** (aged 88) of Wentworth Meadows.

N.B.

**COPY DEADLINE FOR JANUARY MAGAZINE
17th DECEMBER**



Prayer Diary

DECEMBER 2017

1	The Salvation Army
2	All charities planning care for those less fortunate than ourselves
3 1st Sunday of Advent	All who make music for worship
4	Those who are terminally ill
5	All Infant and Junior school teachers
6	Places of conflict throughout the world
7	Those who have lost their faith
8	British Red Cross
9	The Dean, Chapter and Staff of Chelmsford Cathedral
10 2nd Sunday of Advent	The work of The Children's Society
11	All Postal Workers
12	All who live in our Parish
13	Workers in the hospitality industry
14	The work of Chelmsford CHES
15	All street pastors
16	Those addicted to alcohol
17 3rd Sunday of Advent	All who will attend our Church during the Christmas season
18	Our preparation for Christmas
19	The housebound and elderly
20	Those who will be alone this Christmas
21	Distant friends and relatives
22	Children estranged from their parents
23	Christians in the Holy Land
24 4th Sunday of Advent	Volunteers working with Crisis at Christmas
25 Christmas Day	Our family
26 St Stephen	The homeless and the deprived
27 St John	All shop workers
28	Religious broadcasters
29	All who are in residential care
30	All who work on public transport
31	For peace in the world in 2018

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