# ALL SAINTS MALDON









# PARISH NEWS

February 2018

Photographic contributions for the front of this magazine sent to the editor will be most welcome.

£1

_ <del>_</del>	February 2018	
CHURCH SERVICES		
Sunday Services	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Sung Parish Eucharist (except first Sunday of the month). 4.00 pm Evensong and Sermon second and third Sundays of the month	
1st Sunday in the Month	10:00am Short all age service of stories songs and prayers. 11:15am Parish Eucharist (CW) 6:00 pm Evensong at St Mary's	
Last Sunday	6:30 pm Prayer and Praise Service	

#### JUNIOR CHURCH

Each Sunday at 10:00am.in the D'Arcy Room in Church 4th Sunday Freedom Footsteps in the Vicarage

## WEEKDAY SERVICES

**Morning Prayer** is usually said in church at 8.30am on

Monday - Friday.

**Evening Prayer** is usually said in church at 5.30pm on

Monday - Thursday

**Thursday** 11:00am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)

followed by coffee and biscuits

#### **Cover Photos:**

- 1. Christmas at All Saints' By Mike Ovenden
- 2. Commissioning of Barbara Gale by +Stephen. Photo by Vicky

**Tropman** 



## **EDITORIAL**

As I sit here trying to put together this magazine whilst looking out at a blue sky, in temperatures in the low twenties, I think back to the articles I used to receive for our magazine, which for one reason or another I no longer receive. I am, however, extremely grateful for the material I receive from the regular contributors and to those sending me photographs, long may it continue. I must also mention Parish Pump (which Avril put me onto originally), the excellent website that enables me to fill spaces in the magazine as well as including regular articles such as *Eustace*, *Rector of St James the Least, and his nephew*. So, if you have any items of news or of interest please let me have them!

I marvel at the situation where I can sit here in Tenerife, with my computer, receiving emails and contributions over the internet including from the Trumans in Singapore and then email the finished magazine to Barbara in Maldon for her to (hopefully) print. How would I manage without the internet and of course Barbara. *Peter, Ed.* 



# FROM THE VICARAGE

# THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE WINTER CRISIS

There has been much in the press about the challenges facing the NHS at this time of year. The Prime Minister has apologised that in many hospitals non-urgent surgery has had to be cancelled. The ambulance service in some parts of the country seems to be at breaking point. In our own county we read of a woman who had to wait five hours before an ambulance responded to her call after she suffered a stroke. Every Winter, we see images of patients waiting for hours on trolleys in corridors; and ambulances stacking up outside hospitals. Dr Sarah Wollston, who is a doctor and a conservative MP, has spoken of the ever increasing scale of demand on our Health Service. As



Chair of the Health Select Committee, she is calling for MPs to move beyond political point scoring, to work for a cross-party consensus to achieve adequate funding for the NHS.

#### SPEAKING PERSONALLY

The reality of the NHS is that, though it has a national logo, it is delivered on a regional basis. There are huge variations on the quality of service provided. Everyone has their own stories to tell: both positive and negative.

My own experience and that of my family has been very positive. Six years ago, I had brain surgery in a London hospital. The surgeon was Neil Kitchen, one of the leading neuro-surgeons in the country. Five months in hospital was followed by six weeks of radio therapy, for which I was transported daily from Maldon to London by the ambulance service. I then had surgery on my vocal folds, again performed by one of the top men in his field, John Ruebin. This enabled me to speak again and to swallow, after 10 months not being able to eat. I was then able to return to my ministry. It was all made possible by the NHS. Then in April 2017, Nick had two months at the Royal London Hospital, following a car accident which left him with severe head injuries. The prompt response of the emergency services and the subsequent three weeks in Intensive Care saved his life. This was followed by 3 months of rehabilitation in Hommerton. The after- care for Nick continues in those 2 London hospitals, in regular visits, where we have been given nothing but courtesy and excellent care. I know that not everyone has been as fortunate as me and Nick, in their experience of the NHS. But for both of us, it would be true to say that the NHS has given us our lives back, and for this we are both profoundly grateful.

#### THE BEVERIDGE REPORT

In 1942, William Beveridge presented his report to Parliament, which was to result in the creation of the "Welfare State" and the foundation of the National Health Service. The Archbishop of Canterbury, at the time, William Temple said, "this is the first time anyone has set out to embody the Christian ethic in an act of Parliament" We can see how the concept of a National Health service, available to all, regardless of ability to pay, was inspired largely by Christian principles. There is fierce debate between politicians and health professionals about how the NHS should be best be reformed. But for the past 70 years, there has been a consensus that the principle of a National Health Service is something very precious to British society. It seems to me that the choice facing us is a simple one. With an



aging population and continuing advances in medicine, are we prepared to use more of our income to fund our National Health Service? I believe that for many of us, this is such an important issue, that we would be. *Stephen* 

#### LENT GROUPS

This year, by popular request, we will be running a course on prayer.

Though each session will have a speaker on various aspects of prayer, there will also be an opportunity to actually do it! The groups will commence on Wednesday February 21st from 10.30am-12.00, in the D'Arcy Chapel. We hope, as in previous years, to have some of our friends from Churches Together in Maldon to join us.

- 1. February 21st "An Introduction to Prayer" (The Reverend Penny Sayer, Bradwell Area Turnabout Minister)
- 2. February 28th "Praying in the Free Church Tradition" (The Reverend Mark Ambrose, Minister Maldon URC)
- 3. March 7th "Praying with the Bible" (Sister Moira, of the RC order of Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre)
- 4. March 14th "Praying for others" (The Reverend Julie Willmot)
- 5. March 21st "Praying with the Liturgy" (Canon Mark North, Rural Dean Maldon and Dengie)

For those unable to join in the morning groups at All Saints, there is an invitation from Fr John to join in the evening groups to be held at St Mary's.

There will be 5 sessions commencing on Tuesday February 27th at 7.30pm.

The groups will be lead by Fr John, Fr Robert Wiggs and Adrienne Knight.

The subject is "The Gospel of Christ and the expansion of human consciousness".

Because this is in conjunction with the diocesan Lent Modules, it is important that those wishing to take part contact Fr John:

(johndickens129@btinternet.com)

There will be no charge for members of the All Saints congregation. *Stephen* 



# **'SHORELINE 5'**

# All Saints' Church Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 8.00pm Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 8.00pm

**Shoreline 5** is a modern Mystery Play, set in three alternate dimensions. The name represents an isolated island beach, the final 'safe haven' from radiation following an encroaching nuclear holocaust. This is where a small group of survivors find themselves, under the care of a guardian. The guardian has been placed there by God ('Central Command' of the spiritual dimension) to shepherd these rescued souls.

The opposing dimension to Shoreline 5 is that of the One World Government, the secular powers of destruction known as the Illuminati. They deliberately distort and manipulate dark energies ('powers and principalities') in order to provoke a final conflict which will bring about total annihilation. They even enlist a distorted presentation of the gospel to further their ends.

Most poignant of all are two central figures in the drama, Planet Earth (Gaia) and Josh (Jesus). Their stories link to our own feelings of helplessness about the inexorable forces in charge of our world, and which so often appear to gain the victory over us.

Members of our choir, as well as two narrators, provide commentary on the action as it unfolds. Although the subject-matter is chilling there is also a good deal of humour.

Many of our church family are involved in this unusual re-telling of the Easter Story. As it will be performed in Passion Week it provides a different opportunity to reflect on biblical material that we all know well and which is accepted as belonging to a predetermined time and place. **Shoreline 5** however relocates that story and explores contemporary themes in a striking way.

Please come along; and do tell your friends about it. It will be very much part of our All Saints Easter Journey in 2018 – a journey I hope you will want to be part of.

Canon Graham, director.



# **EUCHARIST WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING**

The 11.15am Eucharist on Sunday 4th February will include the laying on of hands, anointing and prayers for healing. The Reverend Julie will be the celebrant and Canon Graham the preacher. If you would like anyone remembered in the service please either put your prayer request in the box in the "prayer corner" by the votive candle stand; or inform Graham or Julie before the service .

Stephen

## ASH WEDNESDAY

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. There will be a Sung Eucharist at 7.30pm, at which the preacher will be the Reverend Penny Sayer. For those who wish, the imposition of ashes will be available as the traditional sign of penitence with which we begin this season of preparation for Easter.

As well as the Eucharist at All Saints' in the evening, there will be Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Andrew's Heybridge, taken by Fr John Dickens.

# A Ward Chaplain for St Peter's

#### Barbara Gale has written to me saying:

"On Tuesday I was commissioned as Ward Chaplain for St Peters, by Bishop Stephen at a service in the Faith Centre at Broomfield Hospital. The Bishop also licensed the new Trust Chaplain, and two ward chaplains."

We extend our congratulations to Barbara who, we are sure, will carry out her duties in the same dedicated and efficient manner that she does at All Saints'.

(See the photo taken by Vicky Tropman on the cover page.)

# **Curiosity**

A teacher was finishing a lesson on the joys of discovery and the importance of curiosity. 'After all,' she declared, 'Where would we be today if no one had ever been curious?'

One child quietly spoke up from the back of the room. 'In the garden of Eden?'



# **Letter from Yorkshire**

Dear Church Family,

I trust as we go into February, you are all hale and hearty. I notice that Easter is already upon us, for on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December last, I came face to face with some hot cross buns!!! I understand that some stores are producing them as all year delicacies! I say, don't let them tempt you till the time is right, shall we make it our resolution for the rest of this year?

Fred and I succumbed to a virus just before Christmas which meant we missed all the celebrations at our church, for, I'm afraid, the 'coughing chorus' was going night and day in our bungalow.

Never—the-less we had some great news, ('great', being the operative word) our first **great** grandchild was born on Christmas day! What joy!, he is called Jace, Robin, John. Whilst I fully realise the privilege of being a great grandma, I suppose being in the generation that I am, makes me think of great grandmothers in the days when I was a child, they really were 'ancient' then, but only the other day when we were out to lunch at a place called the Happy Forester, I went to the counter to place our order, the young man asked for our table number, and typically me I replied "twenty one, it's my age",- without hesitation he said, "I thought you were younger than that!! "I told him he would go far!! There are some very nice people about don't you think?

Our Priory Church is now closed for a couple of months, whilst they install some up to date lighting, it is dark in there, for the ceiling is extremely high, and the windows are stained glass and also high up, it is a medieval building and draws lots of visitors. For the time being we shall be worshipping in the Priory Rooms which is a bit congested to say the least and I miss the Priory peacefulness, because like All Saints Maldon its walls are steeped in prayer, and there are times when the peace of prayer surrounds you. But as I always say to myself, it doesn't really matter where you pray so long as you pray, for the Lord God is everywhere, you've only got to look at the bible, to see that, there was the Garden of Eden, the burning bush, the cave, and so on, perhaps we ought to have a quiz, to find how many places we can find where people have spoken with God through the bible pages.

Until next time, love and blessings to you all.

From Avril

#### Work

First friend: 'Who are you working for these days?' Second friend: 'Same people. The wife and four kids.'





# Deputy Warden's Waffle

How time flies! It goes faster and faster the older you get! Remember how long a day seemed at primary school till your mum was at the gate to take you home? And how long the summer holidays seemed or the waiting for that magical morning

when Father Christmas had visited in the night? Well there is a theory that suggests that the more years you have under your belt, the smaller fraction of your life each year becomes and I rather subscribe to that. Even doing not a lot - as Peter and I, lounging in the sun in Tenerife day after day as we are as I write this - find our holiday flying by. All the traditions and beautiful services of December leading up to Christ's birth are behind us and we now plan for a new year. I think the very acts of planning are a big part of accelerating time!



Here in Tenerife we have the attended Anglican Church of St. Francis for about 20 years. We look forward to seeing folk and hearing their news and they in turn invite us to share in readings and prayers during services. Last vear attended a joint service for Churches Together, where I have to say I struggled with the majority being

Spanish, Swedish or German. This year I am joining in with an aerobics class twice a week in our complex's pool - it is in English!

Must just include our congratulations to Avril and Fred on becoming great grandparents! News to Peter for the Magazine found its way here, so email has made our world a much smaller place when it comes to keeping in touch, don't you think? Also congratulations to Derek and Angelina, in Singapore, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary recently

So I hope January's rather gloomy days have not left you too storm battered as we look forward to the days drawing out, the daffodils blooming and the sun sharing light and warmth with us again. In the meantime, light, warmth, friendship and support is with us within our lovely family at All Saints in all its many faces. Spend time with us and find out for yourself.

Love and blessings to you all,

Vivien, Deputy Churchwarden



## FORGIVENESS AT ANY PRICE?

## By Dr R Chia, Ethos Institute, Singapore.

One of the great Christian virtues is to forgive others. We are commanded to forgive because we worship the God who forgives (Matthew 6:15 'if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses'. But in practise it is also one of the hardest virtues to accomplish...sometimes, don't you agree? Some say it is human nature to harbour a grudge, resentment or revenge and thus forgiveness is almost impossible in many cases. Others say it is the "mark of a man" (there's that sexism again!) to be magnanimous, or 'unforgiveness is like drinking poison yourself and waiting for the other person to die' (M Williamson)!

Consequently I was surprised to read an article the other day in a Christian magazine that stated quite categorically that, instead of the long held view that forgiveness should be given unconditionally, "The majority of Christian theologians and spiritual writers maintain that forgiveness should only be extended to offenders who are truly repentant". Can this be so, I ask myself?

The evidence quoted for this are the numerous passages in the Bible that 'underscore forgiveness is premised on repentance'. For example, in Luke 17:3 we read the words of Jesus: 'Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents forgive him'. Here the subjunctive 'if' (Greek: ean) sets the condition for the forgiveness, ie repentance. Matthew 18: 15-17 helps us to look at the same theme but from another angle. Here Jesus gives specific instructions on how to deal with someone who has sinned. Several attempts must be made to convince the person of his sin, but if all this fails and he refuses to repent, 'let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector', ie a heathen and someone despised by the Jews.

Adding weight to this school of thought, Dietrich Bonhoeffer pointed out that 'Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance'. Unconditional forgiveness also devalues the theological and spiritual significance of repentance.

On the other hand, proponents of unconditional forgiveness point to Jesus' words on the cross (Luke 23:34 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do...'). Similarly, the first Church martyr Stephen cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'. But these statements only suggest that Christians must always be willing and ready to forgive their opponents if they repent. Proponents also often argue also that if we refuse to forgive the offender until he repents, we will be weighed down with hatred and mired in bitterness. While this may be true of some people, it is not necessarily the case. Christians are called to love everyone unconditionally, even their enemies, regardless of repentance, but it is possible to love



someone in the biblical sense (ie with agapic love), with a love that is never resentful, even when an unsettled issue continues to persist. Such advocates have wrongly conflated the command to love others (which is unconditional) and the command to forgive one's offenders (which is conditional). Or they have wrongly assumed that to love someone in the biblical sense necessarily requires Christians to automatically forgive their offenders first.

Thus the ultimate goal of forgiveness is reconciliation, the healing of relationship. This is just not possible if there is no repentance on the part of the wrongdoer, that is, if the offender denies that he has committed an offence or if he does not show this thorny issue, always being in the unconditional camp until I recently read this article, so it would be interesting to hear your viewpoints on this important Christian ethic. Submitted by D Trueman

# LOST LAMB



I'm a poor little lamb that has lost it's way. (Baa baa baa)

Sue Frederick's neighbour has returned this toy lamb which was mistakenly taken home from the 3 pm Crib Service on Christmas Eve by a grandchild. If you are (or know who is) its owner please ring Sue on 840951 to reclaim it.





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That's why we don't just support local partners in installing toilets. We also create lasting change by training people in the communities to build, fix and maintain sanitation services, so that entire communities can unlock their potential and lead healthy, dignified lives.

Meet some of the inspiring people transforming their communities by designing, building and cleaning the toilets that help save lives.



Ernest, toilet builder, Burkina Faso



### SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

1st Feb Thursday

11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)

4th Feb 2ND BEFORE LENT (SEXAGESIMA)

8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) In Church.

10:00 am Worship for All 11:15 am The Eucharist Said

6:00 pm Evening Prayer at St Mary's

6th Feb THE ACCESSION OF HM THE QUEEN (1952)

8th Feb Thursday

11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)

11th Feb NEXT BEFORE LENT (QUINQUAGESIMA)

8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)

10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church 4:00 pm Evensong and Sermon

14th Feb Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Sung Eucharist (Preacher: The Rev Penny Sayer)

15th Feb Thursday

11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)

18th Feb First Sunday of Lent

8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)

10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church

4:00 pm Parish Eucharist

19th Feb Monday

11:00 am Holy Communion at Hailey House

7:00 pm Holy Communion

21st Feb Wednesday

11:00 am Holy Communion at Longfields.

22nd Feb Thursday:

11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)

25th Feb Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)

10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church..

6:30 pm Prayer and Praise

N.B.

# COPY DEADLINE FOR MARCH MAGAZINE 21st FEBRUARY



### **DIARY FOR FEBRUARY**

Thu 1st Feb 9-15 am Sunshiners

2-4 pm Maldon Ladies

7-00 pm Junior Choir Practice

7-30 pm Choir Practice

Mon 5th Feb 10 am to 12 noon Maldon Pioneers Drop In

7:00/7:30 pm Holy Communion/PCC

Tues 6th Feb 10 - 12 noon meeting Point

10-00 am Prayer Group

8:00 pm Mother's Union

Wed 7th Feb 12 noon - 1:30 pm All Saints' Lunches

7:00 pm Parish Office

Thu 8th Feb 9-15 am Sunshiners

2-4 pm Maldon Ladies

7-00 pm Junior Choir Practice

7-30 pm Choir Practice

Sat 10th Feb 10 am Church Coffee morning

2pm to 4 pm Messy Church

Tues 13th Feb 10 - 12 noon Meeting Point Thu 15th Feb 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies

2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7-30 pm Choir Practice

Mon 19th Feb 9:00 am Men's Breakfast (Rose and Crown)

10 am to 12 noon Maldon Pioneers Drop In

Tue 20th Feb 10 - 12 noon Meeting Point Wed 21st Feb 10:30 - 12 noon Lent Group 1

7:00 pm Parish Office

Thu 22nd Feb 9:15 am Sunshiners

2-4 pm Maldon Ladies

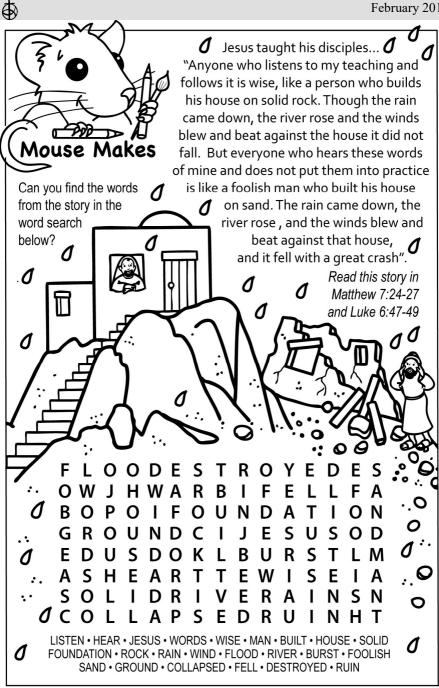
7:00 pm Junior Choir Practice

7-30 pm Choir Practice

Sat 24th Feb 10 am Church Coffee morning

Mon 26th Feb 10 am to 12 noon Maldon Pioneers Drop In

Tues 27th Feb 10 - 12 noon Meeting Point Wed 28th Feb 10:30 - 12 noon Lent Group 2



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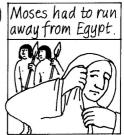
It can be read in the Bible in Exodus 2:13-4:23,4:27-5:2

# A short story from the Bible

Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrewslave, and hid the body.



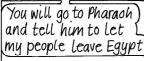


















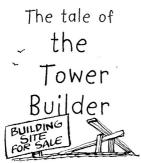
Aaron and Moses met up



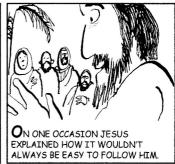


Your God means nothing to me. I will never change my mind. Your people can never leave!













YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO

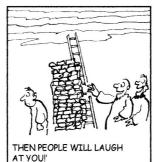














WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.: IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.



# **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/Candlemas**



In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

Article taken from Parish Pump, picture from www.mymerrychristmas.com





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During the Christmas holiday period we watched the BBC recordings of The Barchester Chronicles originally made by the BBC in 1982. It was a serial based on the books 'The Warden' And 'Barchester Towers' written by Anthony Trollope and was a tale of church life as it affected the various Ministers involved in the fictional community of Barchester. The cast included many of the finest actors of the day and featured Donald Pleasence, Nigel Hawthorne, Alan Rickman Geraldine McEwan and Susan Hampshire. It was indeed a story about the good and not so good traits of people involved in church life and about the intrigues that they were intentionally or otherwise involved in. Eventually good prevailed!

The cathedral used in many scenes for the production was Peterborough Cathedral, so I took time to look up some facts about this beautiful church. Known as the cathedral church of St. Peter, St. Paul and St. Andrew and also as St. Peter's Cathedral, it is the seat of the Anglican Bishop of Peterborough. Built between 1118 to 1237 it has a Nave length of 147 metres and was the original burial place of Catherine of Aragon, first wife of Henry VIII, and of Mary, Queen of Scots. The original church on the site was founded around 655 AD in the reign of the Anglo Saxon King Peada who was from the Middle Angles and as a monastic settlement was one of



the first centres of Christianity in Central England. The church lasted over two hundred years until it was thought to be destroyed by Vikings. In the mid 10th century monastic revival a Benedictine Abbey was created and endowed in 966. It was dedicated to St. Peter and came to be called a 'burgh', hence the town surrounding the abbey was eventually named Peter-burgh.

The abbey survived until 1116 when it was destroyed by an accidental fire. It had previously been damaged during the struggles between the Norman invaders and local hero, Hereward the Wake, post 1066, but it was repaired and flourished until the destructive fire necessitated the building of the a new church. The new church was built in the Norman style although some parts of the two original buildings remain. In the Lady chapel is an ancient stone carving; The Hedda Stone. The carving portrays twelve monks, six on each side, commemorating the destruction of the monastery by the Vikings and the death of the Abbot and Monks when the area was sacked in the mid 800's. The new building was begun by Abbot John de Sais in March 1118 and some eighty years later the building was completed up to the western end of the Nave including the central tower and the decorated wooden ceiling of the nave. The ceiling still survives. After completing the western transept and adding the Great West Front portico in 1237 the masons switched over to the new Gothic style. Apart from changes to the windows, the insertion of a porch to support the free-standing pillars of the portico and the addition of a 'new' building at the east end around the beginning of the 16th century, the structure of the building remains essentially as it was on completion eight hundred years ago. The completed building was consecrated in 1238 by Robert Grosseteste, Bishop of Lincoln. The trio of arches forming the Great West Front, the defining image of Peterborough Cathedral, is unrivalled in medieval architecture. The line of spires behind it topping an unprecedented four towers evolved for more practical reasons, chief of which was the wish to retain the earlier Norman towers which became obsolete when the Gothic front was added.

The still existing records of twelve century monk, Hugh Candidus, list the Abbey's relics as including at that time many artefacts claimed to be from Jesus' birth and other items from St. Peter, St. Paul and St. Andrew, to whom the church is dedicated. Most of the items were lost during the Dissolution of the Monasteries. There is much more history and interesting things to be explored regarding Peterborough Cathedral, too much to put in here, but having read about this wonderful building, it is firmly on our list of visits to be made when the Spring weather arrives, and all thanks to watching an old BBC production!

Ken Downham



# Messy Church at All Saints'



Messy Church has grown in numbers again, and is well supported. A great time was had by all at our recent gathering, 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 10th February from 2-4pm. 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:

February 10<sup>th</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>, June 9<sup>th</sup> July 14<sup>th</sup>.

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* 

# Book Reviews

# The Living Cross - Exploring God's Gift of Forgiveness and New Life

By Amy Boucher Pye, BRF £8.99

Here are daily reflections and prayers to help us to experience the living power of the cross of Christ through biblical and modern-day stories of wrongdoing and forgiveness. The journey through Lent can deepen our response to God's love and, as we allow the Holy Spirit to do His work, we can see spiritual transformation in our lives today.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website.

NB Amy Boucher Pye is a regular contributor to "Our Daily Bread," which is available free from Audrey Hunt.



# Barnabas Aid and Persecution of Christians Especially in Iran

We all know about Nazanin Zachariah-Ratcliffe the lady imprisoned on false charges possibly for another 16 years. She may or may not be a Christian, but persecution of Christians in Iran is quite common.

Apparently under the rule of the mullahs Iran is a large for all Iranians - especially Christians. And many Christian priests have been killed. Two bishops and the Reverend Dibaj were murdered in the 90s.

Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani was initially sentenced to death for "apostasy" because he had turned away from Islam to Christianity. Subsequently the charges against him and he along with three other Christians are now serving a 10 year prison sentence.

And is it any wonder that President Trump and others are concerned about the current situation in Iran, whose leaders support terrorism in Syria, the Yemen and elsewhere in the Middle East and at the same time depriving its citizens of a reasonable standard of life.

Sadly Muslim EXTREMISTS persecute Christians in other countries e.g. Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Central African Republic, China, Egypt, Eritrea, Holy Land, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgystan, Laos, Libya, Maldives, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Yemen and even in the U.K.

A Pakistani Christian from Derby was beaten up by Pakistani Muslims on the 20th October for displaying a cross in his car and two Remembrance Day poppies on the front of it. Enough is enough although fortunately not all Muslims are baddies.

Submitted by Geoff Dickman

## **Special needs**

After booking my 85-year-old grandmother on a flight from London to Amsterdam, I called the airline to go over her special needs. The representative listened patiently as I requested a wheelchair and an attendant for my mother because of her growing confusion, her arthritis and impaired vision to the point of near blindness. My apprehension lightened a bit when the woman again and again assured me that she understood and that everything would be taken care of. I thanked her profusely. 'Oh, you're welcome,' she replied. I was about to hang up when she cheerfully added, 'And will your grandmother want a rental car?'



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

# On the perils of parish cook books

The Rectory St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Thank you for your contribution to our proposed parish cook book, "My favourite weekday dinner at home" – although I have to say that baked beans on a baked potato was a little unadventurous, even if I suspect, sadly, true.

It is remarkable how many of my parishioners, when they know they will appear in print, apparently dine sumptuously every evening in their own homes. I could not help but feel that Miss Carruthers' "weekday" recipe for "Gratinee de Coquilles Saint Jacques" was taking imagination rather too far, when everyone knows she lives on scrambled eggs on toast on a tray in front of the television.

Asking the bishop to write the preface for our cook book has not turned out entirely successfully, since the greater part of it extolled the virtues of fasting. I suspect this may have something to do with his attraction to lean, muscular Christianity and his disapproval of my ample waistline. And when attending a social occasion at the bishop's palace, "lean" would definitely be my description of the size of the sherry he pours.

When you buy a copy of the book – which I am sure you will do as an act of solidarity – do not attempt to follow Colonel Humphrey's recipe for a Madras curry. His father acquired a taste for it when he was serving in India and, regrettably, he brought the recipe back to England. It is guaranteed to reduce the bravest of men to tears; the Colonel's four pink gins before dinner seem to give him a certain anaesthetic protection.

The editor returned my own recipe, mentioning that the "two large glasses of red wine" specified in the list of ingredients was not mentioned in the recipe. I had thought it was perfectly obvious that they were there to be drunk while making the meal.

The project is to raise funds to repair our medieval tower, which our architect tells us is largely held in place by its own weight. It is rather comforting to think that we shall preserve it for another generation by selflessly eating our way through roast pork, beef Wellington and chicken cooked in a wide variety of unpronounceable French sauces.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



# **ASH WEDNESDAY – mourning our sins**

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12 - 18, Matthew 6: 1-6,16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website



# St Nicholas Church, Canvey Island Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018 9 am to 3.30 pm

# Opportunity to attend two workshops

Course in Christian Studies
Faith In The Workplace
Licensed Lay Ministers
Pastoral Assistants
Locally Authorised Preacher
Evangelism Enablers
Lay Pioneer Ministry
Spiritual Support
Church Army
Chaplaincy
A Workshop for Young People
Ordained Ministry

## Also, there will be an opportunity to hear vocation stories.

Lunch will be provided so, to assist with catering please notify:

Mrs Amanda Robinson, PA to the Bishop of Bradwell,

Diocesan Office, 53 New Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1AT

Or e-mail arobinson@chelmsford.anglican.org or call 01245 294466

#### Stating:

Your name; Your Parish: Contact Telephone No.; Email Address; Dietary intolerances or allergies:





## RAMBLING GROUP

#### (Ten to Ten) Saturday walk January 13th

Today we meet in Maldon and car shared to Sandon park and ride were we met up with three more of our group, making a total of 11.

We started the walk in Central park and followed the signs to Writtle, which took around forty five minutes an easy mud free walk on pavements. We walked through the village towards the agricultural college and stopped at the Wilkins tea rooms for an early lunch which was much appreciated.

After lunch we went back to Writtle as one of our group had not been inside the church, it was looking especially welcoming with a back ground light behind the alter with fresh flowers.

From there we walked through the churchyard heading towards Highlands Park, just before we got to the car park in Highlands we crossed the field towards Widford church, luckily the ground was not too wet, from Widford we crossed the road and took a quiet road which then took us to the Miami round about, after using the underpass we came to the top of Moulsham Street had a quick look around the grounds of the museum, when Sandra took from her rucksack a selection of home made goodies and shared them around, many thanks from us all Sandra.

Arrived back in parkway to catch the bus back to the park and ride we had walked a total of seven miles.

The next walk will be on Saturday February 10th walking in Tolleshunt Knights, if you would like to join us you will receive a warm welcome contact Sue 01621 854056 or Carol 01621 927597 for more details.

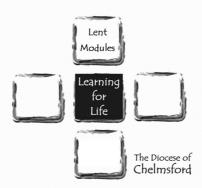
Carol Gowers

# Love

'Love is when a little old woman and a little old man are still friends, even after they've been married forever.' Tommy - age 6

•••••





# The Lent Modules 2018

A series of short courses running across the diocese between Ash Wednesday and Good Friday 2018.

Courses cost between £7.50 & £40 and themes include:

Enabling Evangelism; Primed for Prayer;
History of the Reformation in England;
The Gospel of Christ and the Expansion of Human Consciousness; Evangelism & the Third Age;
Christ Pictured; Meeting with God;
The Church, the Enlightenment & Revolution;
Witnessing in the World of Work;
Living the Liturgy; People who met Jesus;
Pilgrimage – Yesterday and Today; Life Balance;
Stress & Relaxation; Bible Society LYFE;
Lost Sons – Gods long search for humanity;
The nature and character of God – an exploration of the Trinity

For further information, brochures, posters and booking forms please contact:

Diane Hardy at the Diocesan Office: Tel: 01245 294449 Email: dhardy@chelmsford.anglican.org or download from www.chelmsford.anglican.org





# **Press Release**Contrasting Easter Music, with Witham Choral

After the popular Christmas concert given by Witham Choral in December our thoughts turn to Easter when we will be presenting a concert of contrasting music at Witham United Reformed Church on Saturday 10 March at 7.30 p.m. Members of the Colchester Philharmonic will accompany the choir in a rich treat of seasonal music.

Musical Director Patrick McCarthy told us: "We will be performing Part 2 of Handel's magnificent Messiah which culminates in the famous Hallelujah Chorus. We are also delighted to be presenting a moving version of The Seven Last Words of Christ by local composer, Alan Bullard, entitled Wondrous Cross. Alan has included negro spirituals and familiar hymns in this accessible piece and we are looking forward to bringing it to Witham. I am also very pleased to welcome back mezzo-soprano Elaine Henson as soloist."

Tickets are £10 with £5 for those in full-time education. They are available from the Visitor Information Centre at Witham Town Hall and from choir members. Details from 01376 513713.

www.withamchoralsociety.org.uk

# Where did the church roof go?!

As the value of lead continues to rise, so heritage buildings such as churches are increasingly becoming prey to organised gangs who, in some instances, have made off with entire church roofs, according to specialist insurers, Ecclesiastical.

Although the Scrap Metal Dealers Act of 2013 'continues to be a powerful weapon', according to the Home Office, still the 'volume and severity of incidents of metal theft will also increase', warns Ecclesiastical. As Robert Fells of the British Metals Recycling Association puts it: 'The number of crimes has reduced, but they have got much bigger.'



# Lunch at All Saints

Soup – hot food- cakes 12:00 to 1:30 pm

Wednesday
7th February



#### FROM THE REGISTERS



#### **FUNERALS**

Jan 2nd **VIOLET MAY STEBBINGS** aged 103 of Brewster House Jan 3rd **GERALD JAMES CHAMPION** aged 83 of Wentworth Meadows

Jan 5th **DEREK ARTHUR POPE** aged 87 of Gate Street Jan 8th **NATALIE ANNE LEWIS-HOYLE** aged 28 of Beeches Road Jan 11th **RHIANNON LOUISE BAILEY** aged 19 of Willow Walk Jan 22nd **ROBERT DUDLEY SHANKS** aged 86 of Washington Close Jan 23rd **MARIAN JOAN MOYE** aged 74 of Dorset Road

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# Prayer Diary

	FEDRUARI ZUIO
1	Ven. Elizabeth Snowden, Archdeacon of
	Chelmsford
2	Rev Penny Sayer, Priest in Charge at 'The
	Woodhams'
3	The Ambulance Service
4 Second Sunday 'fore Lent	Licensed Lay Ministers
5	Those who are terminally ill
6	All pharmacists
7	The housebound
8	Members of our Mission Committee
9	Those addicted to drugs
10	Those who lead and attend 'Messy Church' today
11Sunday next before Lent	Authorised Local Preachers
12	Residents of Care Homes in our town
13 Shrove Tuesday	Hospital Domestic Staff
14 Ash Wednesday	All General Practitioners
16	Youth Chaplains
17	Those who are persecuted for their beliefs
18 First Sunday of Lent	Hymn and Worship Song writers and composers
19	Our Royal Family
20	Our troops serving abroad
21	Members of our Standing Committee
22	Members of our Worship Committee
23	Members of our Estates Committee
24	Members of our PCC
25 Second Sunday of Lent	Those who teach our Young People in Church
26	All Firefighters
27	Our Police Force

Those struggling to cope with depression



### PARISH DIRECTORY

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PARISH NEWS Peter Clark

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email: pjandvclark@gmail.com

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# **ACTIVITIES**

ACTIVITY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Choir Practice (Thur 7:30pm)	Dr. Stuart Pegler	01621 850530
Junior Choir (Thur 7:00 pm)	,,	"
Junior Church		
Freedom Footsteps	Sue Carter	
Sunshiners (Pre School Group		
Thursdays 9:15 am)	Gill Nelson	01621 852119
Tower Bell Ringers	Peter Chignell	01376 571170
-	Dennis Johnson	01621 842410
Handbell Ringers	Susan Duke	01621 851623
Flower Group	Betty Smith	01621 854143
Bible Society	Joan Downham	01621 854655
Mothers' Union`	Marie Keeble	01621 856354
Childrens Society	Elaine Brown	01621 853238
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and		
Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	Cliff Hunter	01621 852013
Meeting Point	Barbara Gale	01621 928538
Maldon Pioneers	Mike Frederick	01621 840951
Maldon Ladies Group	Vivien Clark	01621 740374
Ramblers Club		
Prayer Group		

If you require information regarding Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Senior Section please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested or call 0800 169 5901.

# **PARISH OFFICE**

Requests for Baptisms and Marriages should be made at the Parish Office situated in the Church - entrance via the main entrance door from the High Street - on 1st and 3rd Wed of the month between 7:00 and 8:00 pm

# All Saints' Maldon



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