

ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

March 2020

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

£1

**CHURCH SERVICES****Sunday Services**

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
 10:00 am Sung Parish Eucharist (except first Sunday of the month).
 6:30 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

WEEKDAY SERVICE

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: All Saints' farewell to Stephen and Sue
 Photo by Mike Ovenden



WELL BEYOND THE VICARAGE

Now that our fond farewells have been said to Canon Stephen and Sue we come face to face with the end of an era at All Saints. The end to a succession of priests who have served our parish faithfully - more recently Canons Arthur Dunlop, Peter Mason, and David Atkins - whose photographs are on display in the 'rogues gallery' which adorns many a clergy vestry. This farewell is special however. It is a poignant goodbye to the era in which All Saints has had an incumbent of its own. The end of a historical chapter dating back hundreds of years. Upon this honourable chapter the curtain now closes.

We should not underestimate the degree to which this history will inform our sense of loss. There are very real challenges in sharing an incumbent. With St Mary's we will now be one benefice, but with two churches of distinctive identities. Whoever is appointed as Priest-in-Charge will have to demonstrate a particular flexibility to enable effective ministry to take place in both. Someone who can also unite us in a vision that can take the benefice forward in our mission to the people of Maldon, with its growing commuter communities.

Times of transition are when we sense our insecurities most. Some Christians like to wrap them up in flowery phrases about 'doing great things for God' before they have gone through the necessary stages of grief and adjustment. There is no quick fix. Trust and co-operation between us have to grow in measured, sustainable ways; otherwise we base our shared future purely on the language of pious hopes. Whoever is called to be our new parish priest will have to be a person who recognises this. Not that the vision of a shared spiritual future cannot be exciting; but that many of us are apprehensive about it.

As we journey through Lent we remember that Christ spent 40 days in the wilderness. His ordeal recalls many former experiences in the Bible: Noah in the Ark, the children of Israel wandering on the Sinai peninsula (40 years in their case!), and the fasts of both Moses and Elijah. The three accounts in Matthew, Mark and Luke focus on the Spirit sending Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the 'the Accuser', the 'Satan'. But rather than the kind of temptations which Jesus underwent, when we enter into the wilderness as churches, we are faced with different kinds of test. I have identified three. The first test is that of being faithful to the difficulty. The second is that of charity – making allowances. The third is accepting change.

Staying faithful means resisting the temptation to run away. Some people do this. They transfer to other churches where they already know a vicar they like, and some make their new home there. That is their choice



and they are free to make it. But sometimes the most difficult – and necessary - thing is to stay.

Making allowances is what we are all taught during an interregnum. It involves the exercise of humility. For instance, you will experience the ministry of different clergy and not all of them will be to your taste. Rather we should be grateful that a priest is available to come and take the service. Hearing the Word and receiving the Sacrament are more important than the minister who presides (this very point is made in the Thirty Nine Articles to be found at the back of your Book of Common Prayer).

Acceptance. Sometimes we will be cross that our usual service-time or even a whole service cannot be accommodated as we expect. Instead, see it as God's way of preparing us for inevitable change. There are two churches, there will be one priest. Retired clergy can only offer what they are prepared to give: they are not under obligation. We must all adjust our expectations – with charity and grace. Also, a vacancy is a time which places extra strain on churchwardens, PCC members, the treasurer, administrators, lay ministers and yes, your verger. They know you are worried – but patience and goodwill go a long way in easing the burden.

Archdeacon Elizabeth is very experienced and highly supportive. She will be working hard to ensure, with our parish representatives and those from St Mary's, that the best person is appointed to this complex and demanding post. Do your best to trust the process (I know that trust and The Church of England do not always go together very often!).

God always travels with us, however much his presence is unseen or veiled. It will be a strange Lenten season this year. But we can temper some of its desolations with a sense of expectation. The Resurrection promises new life. But new life, as the disciples discovered, comes with a jolt. Prepare to be startled – but hopefully not dismayed.

Canon Graham

N.B.

COPY DEADLINE FOR APRIL MAGAZINE

22nd MARCH



A Final Letter From the Vicarage

THANK YOU

Sue and I would like to express our thanks for the wonderful "send off" which the parish gave us on February 2nd. The service and what followed were perfect. Thank you all. Though, of course, tinged with sadness for us at leaving Maldon; the service was primarily one of thanksgiving for the many blessings we have received in Maldon, and throughout my ministry. Sue and I have so much to be grateful for: and our final Eucharist enabled us to express that. The memory of the music, the liturgy and the warmth of the service is something we will always treasure. We were so happy to have Richard and Debi and Nick and Hannah with us, together with other family members and friends from my former parishes in Lexden and Shoebury.

We were grateful to Jenny and to the Mayor for their kind words after the service. We were bowled over by the generosity of your farewell gift. Sue won't mind me saying that she shed a tear when we opened the envelope. The kindness of your gift is indicative of all the kindness and generosity we have always been shown by you all. All Saints is a giving church, in all sorts of ways.

At the time of writing, we still have the parish cheese and wine to look forward to on the 7th February. Words can't express our appreciation for all you have done for us, and for your love and care over the past 10 years. For us, you are not parishioners, but friends.

Thank you.



With our love
Stephen and Sue.

Dear All,

Just a brief 'Thank you' for our amazing send off! We had such a lovely last week on 'official business'. The Sunday service went beautifully and thanks to all who helped and made it run so smoothly, PMT levels with himself were very good!. The presentation after was very touching and I'm still reeling from the 000s on the cheque you presented us with!! What with that and the cards and other presents we feel totally spoilt and will, in time, be doing some spoiling of ourselves! The Friday party was also perfect; food and my favourite wine plus an opportunity to have a good natter with so many of you and more pressies!!

Thank you all for the trouble you went to and for all the love and support you have expressed throughout our tens years here. We will miss you all, but do come and help us explore Manningtree, it really isn't that far!

Many thanks and lots of love from Mrs Vicarage, Himself and Tomkin xxxx



Stephen's Last Sermon at All Saints'

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Luke 2 “ Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace” (or in the more familiar words of the Prayer Book, “Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace”)

The words of an old man, holding a baby in his arms. I am sure many of us can picture this image. In my study, I have a photo of my grandmother holding Richard in her arms soon after he was born. As they look at each other, you can see that unique bond that exists between the very young and the very old.

We have seen striking evidence of that bond in the Up Project in All Saints School. Children are going regularly into Longfields Care Home, to talk with the residents, play games and share craft activities. It has had a remarkable effect for all concerned.

Even those who are very confused, and those with dementia, seem to become animated with the presence of the children. It has been moving to see these relationships develop. Between the young, who have not yet shouldered the burden of worldly cares and ambitions; and the old ones, who have seen it all.

For many people, old age can be the most challenging time of their lives. This is wonderfully portrayed in the

figure of Victor Meldrew. We can all recognise Victor Meldrew. He is the person who gets to retirement disappointed, unfulfilled, frustrated, and experiencing old age as a time of bitterness and disillusionment. Victor Meldrew's bad temper is all to do with his sense of feeling diminished by age. He can't accept his loss of status, and failing powers. When old age is accompanied by illness and frailty, it can make people feel even more desolate. Expressions like, “past it” or “over the hill” or indeed “one foot in the grave” are the language of a society which idealises youth and vigour.

But we should not regard the old, nor should they regard themselves, as “past their sell by date”. They should not see themselves as faded and useless, like a vase of withered flowers. But for the old, if they are to find peace, there has to be a coming to terms with the past. A letting go: but also a moving forward. There is an answer to their predicament: and it can be found in the response of the old man Simeon to a 6 week old baby.



Most casual observers, looking at the crowds of visitors entering the Temple, would hardly have spared a second glance for a working class couple with their child. But Simeon's eyes were enlightened. He had been waiting for this moment all his life. And now it had come in a way he could not have expected. He knew that in that child in his arms, all his hopes had been fulfilled. And in that moment, his life was transformed.

To all those who are struggling to come to terms with growing older: for those who feel caught up in a pattern of change and decline, the response of Simeon shows a way forward. To wait and watch for God in your life. To consciously prepare for his coming. To watch and wait, in childlike simplicity- with faith and trust: and hope for the future. Remembering the old man, holding the infant Christ in his arms.

And from that Gospel picture, to learn three things. Firstly, to come to terms, whatever our stage in life, with what we are and who we are. To take stock of our life, and to be able to say, "Yes Lord. This is me, with all my strengths and all my weaknesses: with all my successes and failures; with all my achievements and disappointments, with all my hopes and anxieties. Help me to see my life in your light: and in the light of eternity."

Secondly to learn from Simeon. To

learn from the one who had waited so long for God's promise to be fulfilled. To know that whoever we are, and whatever we are, God has a purpose for each of us. Something unique, that no one else can do. Part of his plan for us, that was there even before we were born.

And thirdly to learn from Simeon that great watchman of the Lord. And before we are summoned to our own personal *Nunc Dimittis*, to look at our lives, and to recognise those things which we must let go. The things that we cannot cling on to. For paradoxically, as we learn to let go, we will be liberated and enabled to grow and move forward into the future. And in that is our peace and our fulfilment.

"Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples. A light to lighten the gentiles and the glory of thy People Israel"

*Reverend Canon Stephen Carter,
2nd February 2020*



Church of England launches energy rating tool for churches – as Synod considers new ‘net zero’

The Church of England is launching an energy rating system similar to those used for household appliances. The aim is to help monitor the carbon footprint of its almost 40,000 buildings, as General Synod has recently voted on a major new proposal to reach ‘net zero’ CO2 emissions.

The hope is for all parts of the Church of England, from parishes to national bodies, to aim for ambitious year-on-year reductions in emissions to reach ‘net zero’ by 2045 at the latest.

In a first step, parishes are being offered a new rating tool, which calculates their energy consumption. It will take into account factors including the type of power they use, whether they are on ‘green’ tariffs, the size of the building and usage.

The Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, the Church of England’s lead bishop for Environmental Affairs, said: “The Church of England has buildings in every architectural style and material from the past 1,500 years, posing some unique challenges when it comes to energy efficiency.

“However, churches are not museums; they are living buildings which serve their communities every day of the week, and being greener isn’t about doing less, it’s about equipping parishes to get smarter about energy consumption.

“Christians are called to safeguard God’s creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. Faced with the reality of catastrophic climate change, which will affect the world’s most vulnerable people the soonest, radical and immediate action is our only option.”

A paper sent to Synod members before February’s General Synod also outlined the potential impacts of climate change directly affecting the Church. It warned parishes that, as impacts start to accelerate, more churches will need to be prepared to play missional roles in their communities, including offering sanctuary in extreme weather events, as was seen at the church of St Cuthbert, Fishlake, following flooding of the River Don last year.



MORNING PRAYER

During Stephen's time at All Saints he said Morning and Evening Prayer each weekday in the D'Arcy Room. The Standing Committee have decided this would be nice to continue but on a smaller scale and so from 3rd March Morning Prayer will be said every Tuesday at 9am in the D'Arcy Room.

At this short service the prayers that are left in the box or on the Prayer Tree will be offered. It is important for people who leave prayer requests to know that they are being prayed for.

We hope that in this busy and hectic world you would like to join in our Morning Prayer.

The next generation of campanologists

This photo was taken last month, beside All Saints' unique triangular bell tower, of the Essex Young Ringers Association during their visit and bell practice.



photo
John Watkins



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 25: 14-30

Jesus told a story to help his disciples to be ready for the end of time. 'A rich man was about to go on a journey...'

He gave his servants money to look after, depending on what they could do.

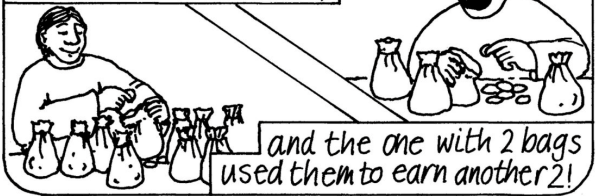


He gave 5 bags of coins to the first, 2 to the second, and 1 to the third.

As soon as he had gone, the first two servants started to work.



The one with 5 bags of coins used them to earn 5 more,



and the one with 2 bags used them to earn another 2!

The third servant dug a hole and buried his bag.



When the master came back, he called his servants to him...



The first two showed him they had doubled his money, and he was very happy with them.



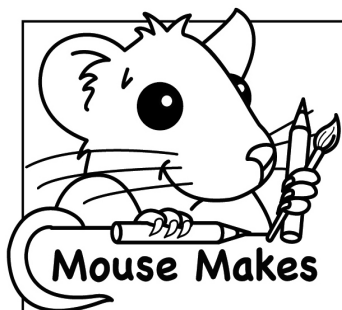
You are a hard man who expects us to work. I was afraid so I just hid it.

If you knew what I expected, why didn't you do it?



Get out of here!



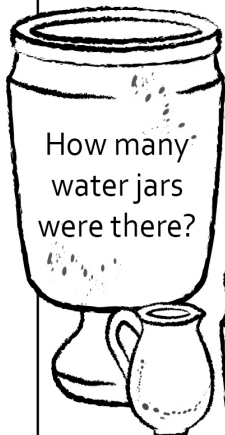


Jesus, his disciples and his mother Mary had been invited to a wedding. The wedding was to last a week, but too soon the wine had all been drunk.

READ *John 2:1-11* to find out what happened.



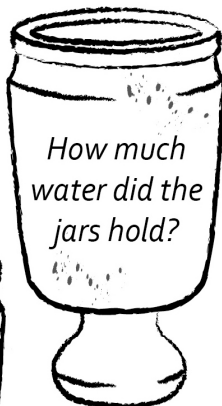
Where was the wedding?



How many water jars were there?



What were the water jars made of?

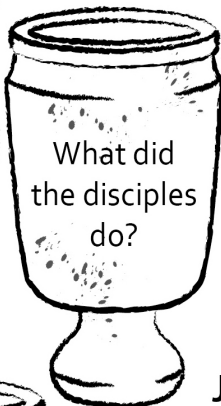


How much water did the jars hold?



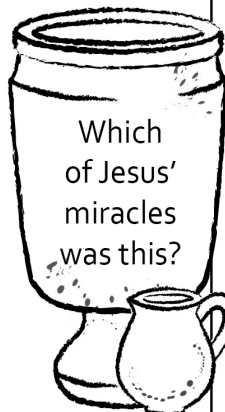
What were the water jars for?

What did the steward tell the bridegroom?

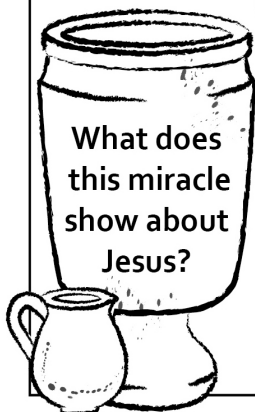


What did the disciples do?

What had happened to the water when it was taken out?



Which of Jesus' miracles was this?



What does this miracle show about Jesus?

J G A L I L E E W A W
 J A D I S C I P L E S A
 W S E R V A N T S O O D T T
 I T S S C A N A X U M D O E
 M O U I F I R S T T A I N R
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SERVANTS • RAN • OUT • SIX • STONE • WATER • JARS
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The Doctor and the Patient



JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS



BUT SOME WERE EXTRA SPECIAL. THESE WERE HIS 'DISCIPLES'.

JESUS ONCE ASKED A TAX-COLLECTOR CALLED 'MATTHEW' TO BE ONE OF HIS TEAM



YES!



MATTHEW AGREED TO FOLLOW JESUS

JESUS WENT TO HAVE A MEAL AT MATTHEW'S HOUSE

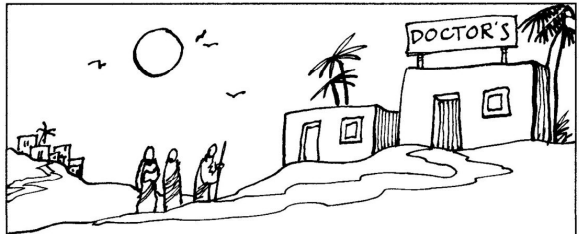


BUT MANY PEOPLE COMPLAINED ABOUT THIS. THEY THOUGHT MATTHEW WAS A BAD MAN - AND JESUS SHOULD IGNORE HIM.



JESUS' REPLY WAS VERY STRAIGHT FORWARD.

HE EXPLAINED THAT MATTHEW NEEDED HELP, NOT CRITICISM.



"IT'S NOT THE WELL THAT NEED A DOCTOR - BUT THE SICK!"
see Luke 5:27-32



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)



Friday 6th March 2020



Rise, take your mat and walk

Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' to join this day of prayer.* Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this year's service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. They encourage us to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' with them as they continue their often turbulent journey towards full reconciliation. World Day of Prayer is an international inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday 6 March 2020, people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Zimbabwe. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas - before finishing in American Samoa more than 36 hours later. * For further information and resources, together with details of services in your area see the WDP website: wwdp.org.uk

There will be a service at

The Maldon United Reformed Church
Market Hill
at 10:30 am on Friday 6th March

All Are welcome

Further details from Frances Pattern



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LENT BIBLE STUDY



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Starting on Wednesday March 4th at 10.30am for five weeks

All Saints Church Maldon

Date	Bible passages	Topics	Leader
4th March	Acts 1 & 2	Ascension Pentecost Christian Living	John Dickens St Mary's
11th March	Acts 3-4:31	Healing of the lame man - Peter's defence and arrest	Asa Hum- phreys Heybridge
18th March	Acts 4:32- 6:7	Common owner- ship - Escape from prison - Election of el- ders/deacons	Rob Sefton Elim Church
25th March	Acts 6:8- 8:40	Martyrdom of Stephen - Simon the Magician - Philip and the eunuch	Ted Mint Broad Street Green
1st April	Acts 9 & 10	Conversion of Paul - Peter and Cornelius	Andy Mugford Fullbridge

22 March – Mothering Sunday: 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers – all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' – as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people

apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families – which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

TEN to TEN

All Saints Rambling Group walk from the White Horse PH Mundon Sat 8th Feb

Considering the weather that followed over the weekend we were very lucky on this Saturday. We had sunshine and blue sky as 10 of us set off from the White Horse PH, soon picking up the lane that leads to the lovely old St Mary's Church, now cared for by the Friends of Friendless Churches. We passed the field of petrified oaks and followed St Peter's Way down to the seawall on Mundon creek. It was high tide when we got up on the path with lovely views across to Maylandsea. It was difficult to believe there was a big storm to come the next day, everything was so calm out there. We cut along farm tracks back to Mundon and having walked about 6 miles, we were all ready to enjoy our lunch in the pub where we were made very welcome. Thank you to John and Sandra for a very enjoyable walk. The next walk will be on Saturday March 14th around Little Totham. For more information ring Peter on 01621 854108.

Sue Smith



Deputy Warden's Waffle

I think it would be fair to say that on Sunday 2nd February we were all either moved to tears, or had a lump in our collective throats. Yes, Stephen's last Sunday service with us---and what a service it was. As well as our regular 10.00am Eucharist, it was of course Candlemas, or Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

I think it would be true to say, the congregation was a little larger than is usual, for the 10.00am. We, had both Stephen's, past curates with us, Reverend Jo Jones, and Reverend Julie Willmot, the choir had swollen as well, and sung splendidly the hymns, all chosen by Stephen, as well as the anthem, "View me, Lord, a work of Thine" by Thomas Campion. Friends from The Woodhams, and Lexden.

The Mayor of Maldon , Flo Shaughnessy, was present, and after the service, when we all enjoyed coffee and cake with a wonderful picture of Stephen on it, Flo said a few very fitting words about Stephen. Stephen and Sue were presented with a cheque, with words of appreciation of all they have done, and all they meant to us. The whole morning was oh so bitter/sweet, obviously sad that we are having to say 'goodbye' to our much loved Stephen and Sue, but sweet because we know that they are only moving a little way up the coast, and we know that the right decision has been made.

Friday 7th saw the wine and cheese, and love and friendship gathering for the congregation -- for us to share with Mr and Mrs Vicarage, a more personal moment with them. After a few more gifts and flowers, Stephen said he was going to preach to us one last time, he asked us to support one another, help the Wardens, look joyfully to the future and seize the opportunity of working together with St. Marys, to forge a strong church together.

We will, we must, we certainly owe it to Stephen, and Sue, to keep their legacy alive, they have given each of us so much over the last ten years, we must work together to insure All Saints church continues to be the welcoming church in the middle of the High Street.

We wish Stephen a long and happy and stress free retirement , no more PCC meetings, or governor meetings, !! And anyway they are not really gone are they, Stephen and Sue will always remain in our hearts , and rumour has it that a little bit of Stephen will remain in Maldon for ever-he is to have a road named after him!!

Vicky –deputy warden



Paul J King

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All Saints' Farewell to Stephen

Sunday February 2nd, apart from being Candlemas, was notable for one thing for many of us, for that was the day that Canon Stephen was the celebrant at his last service in All Saints Church as our Vicar before entering into retirement. What could have been a sad day was turned into a joyous one due to the number of people who turned up to join in the love that was echoing through the church in tribute to Stephen and Sue.



I was fortunate enough to be a sidesman on that morning and had the pleasure of welcoming many people into our church who had been parishioners of Stephen in his previous posts. There were people from Shoeburyness and from Lexden who made the journey in rather cold conditions to pay their respects to Stephen and partake in the service.



There were also people from the churches of St. Margaret at Woodham Mortimer and St. Michael's at Woodham Walter where recently, for a relatively short time, Stephen had these parishes under his wing and was their Priest-in-charge. The two local parishes together with that of All Saints at Purleigh are now the responsibility of the Reverend Julie Willmot who was also in our church to support Stephen. Julie had also taken the 08.00 service (I suspect to give Stephen a 'lie in' and to give him time to prepare for the 10.00 service). Another priest well known in All Saints was also present, and this was the Reverend Jo Jones, also supporting Stephen in carrying out duties during the Candlemas service. Our own full clergy team were also on hand as were our super Choir. Altogether there was over 250 people in the church for the service which is rather more than we normally expect.



The gospel for this service was Luke 2:22-40 telling how Jesus had been presented at the Temple as a small child and Stephen's sermon based on this gospel dealt with the

Ken and Sue



lessons that can be learned and the hope that can come to those of us who are not so young any more. In the Temple had been an old man, Simeon who held Jesus and realised that this was the highlight of his life. Canon Stephen then talked about the many great joys that can come in old age and that we should never give up but look for the good things we can experience and take part in. I will not go further here as the complete sermon is published elsewhere in the magazine. I must confess however to having had a 'moment' such as Stephen described when Stephen's grandmother held Stephen and Sue's son Richard, in her arms and a bond was formed. When my own granddaughter was just days old I cradled her closely and I felt an intense bond at that moment and one which has never been spiritually broken.

We sang some hymns during the service all of which had been chosen by Stephen and all of which most of us knew well and sang well, led of course by the choir who were all in good form. Among the hymns were: Great is thy faithfulness; Guide me O thou great redeemer and Love divine. The choir anthem was 'View me Lord, a work of thine'. At the end of the Eucharistic service the traditional Candlemas service was held with the clergy and all the children present being clustered around the font.

The service, which can be seen in full on the church website, was a fitting one to be the last given by Canon Stephen as the Vicar of our church and judging by the comments and compliments given by the congregation when leaving, it was just what was wanted on that special day. The most memorable line attributed to Simeon in the Gospel was 'Lord, you are now letting your servant depart in peace'. In a slightly different way many of us felt that sentiment applied here and after such a service we could now let Stephen, with Sue, leave our church with a job well done and in peace and with love from us all

Ken Downham



All Saints' Flower Festival



2020

The Flower Festival group will be celebrating the new decade by arranging a festival. This will take place from **Friday May 22nd until Monday May 25th**. Our theme will be celebrating marriage and wedding Anniversaries.

Many friends from other churches, our own church, flower groups, schools and uniform groups will be joining us to create a wonderful display.

As in past years there will be an opportunity to sponsor a pew end arrangement or other displays.

More information will be put in the April edition of "Parish News". We know how well our church family works together, please start by spreading the news —

thank you.

Betty





St George's Church Centenary 1920-2020

St George's Church in Heybridge Basin celebrates its Centenary on **4th March 2020.**



This fragile building owes its creation to the Bentalls family; an aerodrome from the early days of flight; and the unfortunate death in the Great War of Second lieutenant Ernest Hammond Bentall.

All are welcome to the following special events -
1st March – 8th March 2020

Sunday, 1st March: 5.30pm Taizé Service

5.00pm Pre-service talk by Josephine Wood -The music of Taizé *Songs of Everlasting Praise*

Wednesday, 4th March:

7.00pm Rededication Service: Taken by an RAF Chaplin.

5.00pm Pre-service talks with slides:

- A Century of Life in the Basin - Molly Polden
- A Century of Life in St George's - Peter Manley

Friday 6th, March

7.00pm Talk by Professor William (Bill) Tamblyn -

- *A Century of Congregational Singing*

Sunday 8th March

11 am - Rev. Stuart Batten (former resident) – Communion Service

Commemorative booklet £2 to members of CTiM

Refreshments after pre-talk

Contact: Joy Norman 01621 857004; hjoy_norman@yahoo.co.uk;

Revd Asa Humphreys: asa_humphreys@hotmail.com

SERVICES FOR MARCH

1st Mar	First Sunday of Lent 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Worship for All 11:15 am Parish Eucharist (Said) 6:00 pm Evensong at St Mary's
5th Mar	Thursday 11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
8th Mar	Second Sunday of Lent 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church 6:30 pm Evensong
9th Mar	Monday 11:00 am Holy Communion at Hailey House
12th Mar	Thursday 11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
15th Mar	Third Sunday of Lent 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church 6:30 pm Evensong
19th Mar	Thursday 11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP1662)
22nd Mar	Fourth Sunday of Lent: Mothering Sunday 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church 6:30 pm No Service
25th Mar	The Annunciation 10:00 am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
26th Feb	Thursday 11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
29th Mar	Passion Sunday 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church 6:30 pm Choir Cantata

DIARY FOR MARCH

Mon 2nd Mar	10:00 am - 12 noon Maldon Pioneers 7:30 pm PCC
Tues 3rd Mar	10:00 am Prayer Group in the St Katherine Room 10:00 am - 12 noon Meeting Point
Wed 4th Mar	12 - 2pm All Saints Lunches
Thu 5th Mar	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies in the D'Arcy Room 7:00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Mon 9th Mar	9:00 am Men's Breakfast at Rose and Crown 10:00 am - 12 noon Maldon Pioneers
Tue 10th Mar	10:00 am - 12 noon Meeting Point
Thu 12th Mar	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7:00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Mon 16th Mar	10:00 am - 12 noon Maldon Pioneers
Tue 17th Mar	10:00 am - 12 noon Meeting Point
Wed 18th Mar	11:00 am Service at Longfield 7:00 pm Parish Office
Thu 19th Mar	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7:00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Sat 21st Mar	2 - 4 pm messy Church
Mon 23rd Mar	10:00 am - 12 noon Maldon Pioneers
Tues 24th Mar	10:00 am - 12 noon Meeting Point
Thu 26th Mar	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7:00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Sat 28th Mar	Put your clocks forward by one hour tonight
Mon 30th Mar	10:00 am - 12 noon Maldon Pioneers
Tue 31st Mar	10:00 am - 12 noon Meeting Point



We are the Body of Christ

We were very sorry that the first Evensong of the vacancy (9th February) had to be cancelled. Storm Ciara had already caused a roof tile to be blown off one of the buildings in the Kings Head Centre, and there were branches broken off trees and blown across roads. We thought it might be dangerous for anyone trying to make their way to the church in the dark with such strong winds and the possibility of being hit by flying debris. However, I had prepared a sermon for the evening based on a text from Ephesians, and I thought it would be good to share it with you. The readings for Evensong were: Amos 2: 4 – end and Ephesians 4: 17 – end.

I thought it very apt that our New Testament was from Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus. In this letter, Paul sets out his doctrine of the church being the body of Christ. I wondered if Stephen had timed his retirement to coincide with the lectionary, so that we would be reminded that any flourishing church needs all its members to contribute, and that everyone has a role to play in the life of the church. I always thought one of Stephen's many great gifts was to bring out the talents of people - allowing others to contribute and flourish, while he took on the role of supporter and encourager. So, in many ways, he brought this epistle to life here in All Saints.

The church in Ephesus was very important to Paul - scholars estimate he spent, in total, about three years there during his missionary journeys. It is thought to have been the most important city visited by Paul, after Rome. The Temple of Diana was sited in Ephesus and it was a centre of influence for the worship of Diana, so it was important to Paul that he helped a growing Christian community to work together to build a strong church.

Earlier in the letter, Paul talks about the gifts of grace given by God to his people to ensure everyone has a part to play in the life of the church: prophets, apostles, teachers, evangelists, and pastors. All have different gifts but are bound by unity: unity in one body, with Christ as the head; unity in the Spirit; unity in one calling; unity through a belief in one Lord, one faith, and one baptism.

When we read the list of gifts – prophet, evangelist, pastor and so on - we might think that the modern church doesn't have those roles. When we think of a prophet our minds turn to the Old Testament prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah or Amos. But a prophet is someone who reflects God's word to the people and applies it to the society they are living in. Amos, when he rails against those who "*trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth*" (Amos 2:7) was observing society and calling out the things he saw which were contrary to God's will. And we perhaps know people who observe and call out the injustice and poverty in our own society today; poor physical and mental health is often exacerbated by institutions and societal conditions - think of how Universal Credit impacts people, or poor living conditions, access to good nutrition. We may know people who encourage us to think about how our individual and collective lifestyles impact the environment. These



the poor into the dust of the earth” (Amos 2:7) was observing society and calling out the things he saw which were contrary to God’s will. And we perhaps know people who observe and call out the injustice and poverty in our own society today; poor physical and mental health is often exacerbated by institutions and societal conditions - think of how Universal Credit impacts people, or poor living conditions, access to good nutrition. We may know people who encourage us to think about how our individual and collective lifestyles impact the environment. These may not be prophets like Jeremiah – speaking out to kings and leaders - but they are people who by their example, by their thoughtful words, and by their actions, make us think differently. Those who observe the world and our community and call on us, the church, or other organisations to take action and do as God would will us to do are our prophets of today.

We know we have teachers among us – those who lead junior church and Worship for All, Prayer and Praise; those who participate in Bible study (because we after all learn from each other).

Our modern day pastors could be those who care for others - visiting and praying for those who are ill, housebound, and lonely; those who offer hospitality.

Our evangelists might be those who visit and keep contact with baptism families, couples preparing for marriage, or go into our local schools to take services, take on a foundation governor role, or to take the Open the Book stories to them.



We have all these gifts in our church today. So what better time to come together, acknowledging and celebrating our gifts, to build up our common life than now - when we most need to support each other and our community?

And Paul tells us not just what we can do through our gifts, but how to behave towards each other – as he writes : *“And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven you. “ (Ephesians 4: 32)*

We have been given a great gift in having had Stephen here for over 10 years. His encouragement was a tremendous support to me and, I know, to many others. We only need to think of the legacy he has left behind: the lay ministry that leads us in our non-Eucharistic services, the hospitality, outreach, and prayer life of the church. People who for the first time have taken a step to do something they would ever have done before – reading in church, leading intercessions, serving, taking a pastoral role. All these things we can build on to support and encourage one another. Maybe it’s an offer to make cakes for a fundraiser and the thank you that follows; or ‘thank you for manning a stall’, or ‘your prayers really helped me today’, or even ‘that was an interesting point in your sermon’. It’s when someone offers to help or does something unasked and unnoticed; when you hear a gentle word you can reflect on; or just



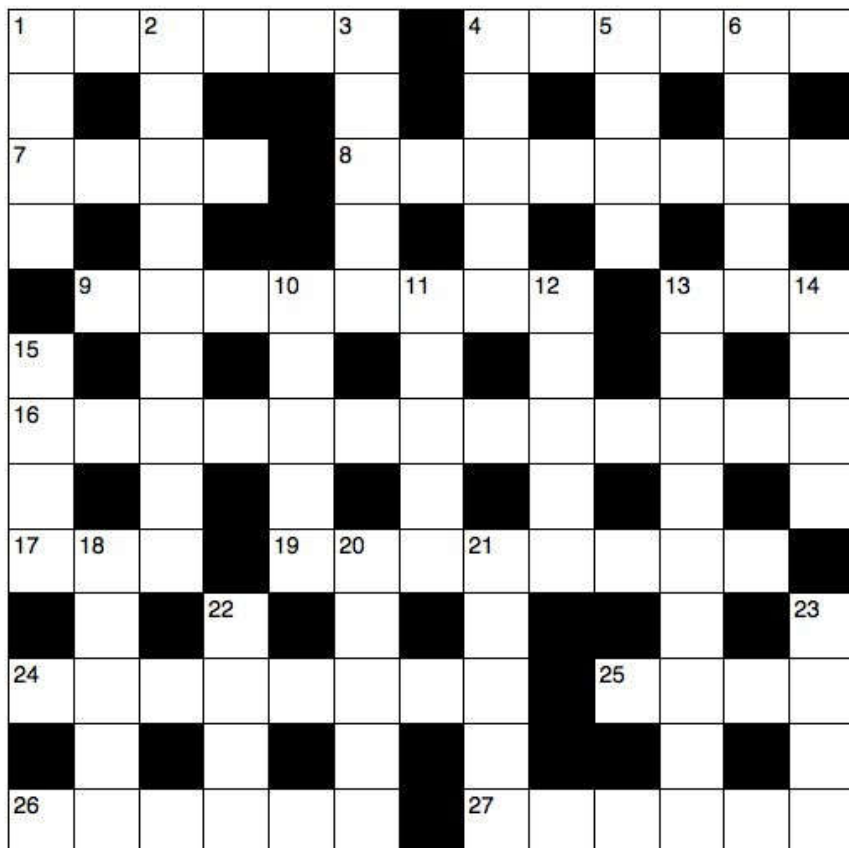
word you can reflect on; or just continuing to come to worship together and to support each other in building up our common spiritual life.

We are grateful for the gifts from God which allow us to experience all things in the light of his grace. When we come together as God’s people, in mutual love and support, in faith and unity, we get a glimpse of how God might ‘work his purpose out’ through his people on earth.

And so we continue to support, encourage and pray for each other, for our church-wardens and PCC, and for those who are helping us find our next incumbent. Amen.

Adrienne Knight

THE CROSSWORD





Try this crossword puzzle—it's very easy shouldn't take you long and the answers will be in the April '*Parish News*'.
editor

CLUES

Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
- 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
- 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
- 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth(Luke 2:1) (8)
- 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus'(Philippians 2:5) (8)
- 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this(Luke 8:16) (3)
- 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
- 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
- 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
- 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
- 25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
- 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
- 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
- 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
- 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
- 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
- 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
- 6 To put forth (5)
- 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
- 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
- 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5)
- 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha'srequest (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
- 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke22:34) (4)
- 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
- 18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
- 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
- 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
- 22 Does (anag.) (4)
- 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

LENT LECTURES

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CRISIS: A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

A five week course with input from each of our Bishops to encourage us to reflect on our situation and our calling to live distinctively Christian lives in response to the climate crisis

All lectures run from 7.30pm - 9.00pm (refreshments from 7pm)

Tuesdays 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 March 2020 at:
St. John the Evangelist, St. John's Close, Colchester CO4 0HP

Wednesdays 4, 11, 18 and 25 March 2020 at:
Chelmsford Cathedral

Wednesday 1 April 2020 at:
Meadgate Church, The Orchards, Mascalls Way, Great Baddow CM2 7NS

Thursdays 5, 12, 19 and 26 March, 2 April 2020 at:
St. Paul's Church, Maryland Road, Stratford, London E15 1JL

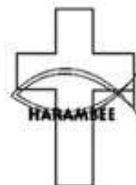


www.chelmsford.anglican.org/lent-lectures-2020

“Visions 20/20”



**A concert by
HARAMBÉE**



7th March 2020 @ 2:00 p.m & 7:30 p.m
Maldon Methodist Church



“Visions 20/20” looks at a few of the visions given to people as recorded in the Bible and how they might impact on us today.

Entrance Program for 2:00 p.m: Adult £4, Child / Pensioner £3
Entrance Program for 7:30 p.m: Adult £6, Child / Pensioner £4,
Family (2A + 3C or 1A+4C) £20

Box Office: Harambée c/o 20 Mariners Way, [Maldon, CM9 6YW](#)
Tel: Julia 01621 859778



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



The Rectory
St. James the Least

On the Nonsense of Having a Lavatory at Church

My dear Nephew Darren

This year, the rigours of Lent have taken second place to a far more pressing matter: the installation of a lavatory at St James the Least of All. Personally, I entirely disapprove of this additional sign of decadence in our moral fibre; we have survived perfectly happily for the last 800 years without one, so why is there such an urgent need now? And being surrounded by acres of fields, there seems to be a completely acceptable alternative.

It also spoils the pleasure I used to take, informing ushers at weddings, having liberally refreshed themselves at our local pub before the Service, that we have no facilities and that they would just have to wait. Their look of pained resignation, developing to clear signs of repentance as the Service progressed, was most cheering. It also meant that wedding parties did not linger after the Service but disappeared with commendable speed to safe havens.

I anticipate that now we have the thing, a sub-committee will form to devise a commissioning Service for the person who will be in charge of its maintenance. I can already foresee Lady Bartlett proposing an appropriate set of robes for the office holder – although it will need some tact to select suitable insignia on the sleeves.

In fact, the project has not been entirely successful; we still need to have a lock fitted and so at present, occupants have been advised to sing hymns loudly. A hymn book has been installed as an aide memoire.

The greater difficulty arises from our antiquated plumbing system. A member of the congregation can leave a Service perfectly discreetly; they can enter the lavatory unseen by anyone, but on flushing, water is drawn through pipes running the length of the inside of the building with a thunderous roar.



I am sure that in your worship centre you will have lavish cloakrooms furnished with colour co-ordinated walls and towels, baby-changing facilities and video monitors relaying everything going on in the service. But we are made of sterner stuff, and I maintain that our congregation should be grateful that they now a lavatory at all. And to think that someone suggested it should even have heating!

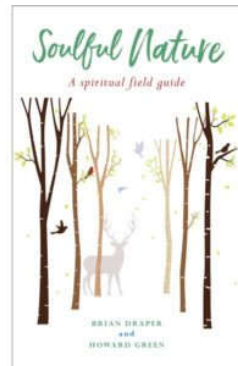
Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Book Reviews

Soulful Nature – a spiritual field guide

By **Brian Draper and Howard Green**,
Canterbury Press, £14.99

In our busy, pressured world, the natural world can be a powerful counter-balance, offering wisdom for the challenges, pain and dislocations of life as well as for beauty, wonder and healing.



Soulful Nature encourages you to get outside and make deeper connections with creation and its creator. The authors chart walking journeys through rural landscapes and town streets over the course of a year, showing how the natural cycle of the changing seasons can awaken us to the rhythms of our own lives.

Each chapter explores a different landscape, zooming in on the small details of the natural world as well as panning out to the wide-screen beauty of time and place. Simple and practical spiritual exercises are provided throughout.

Taken from the Parish Pump website.



EAT SEASONALLY ??

Eco-warriors who lead protest marches may have good intent, but what are they doing at home? Are they block-paving their gardens or eating avocados, for example?

Alan Titchmarsh, writing in his recent column in *Gardeners' World*, points out: "We cannot berate members of the Royal family and global superstars for flying hither and yon in private jets if we buy strawberries in January, for they, too, will have necessitated the burning of fossil fuel to reach our table."

Titchmarsh says that if we really want to make a difference, we should eat seasonally. "I yearn for a return to ... English apples and pears in autumn and winter, strawberries and raspberries in summer, and asparagus from April to June.

And while he would not deprive anyone of "a slice of lemon for their G&T," he does worry "about the growing consumption of avocados, which is causing the destruction of Mexican rainforests to make way for avocado plantations."

So instead of avocados this month, why not consider some artichoke, beetroot, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage (both Savoy and white), carrots, chicory, cauliflowers, endives, fennel, or spinach, to name but a few of the vegetables in season in March?



Witham Choral brings Haydn's Creation to the Public Hall

Witham Choral and the Colchester Philharmonic, conducted by Patrick McCarthy, will be bringing Haydn's *Creation* to Witham Public Hall on Saturday 4 April 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

"The *Creation* is a wonderfully elegant, tuneful and descriptive work," Patrick told us, "and it is very much a choral favourite among choirs and audiences alike."

Talented soloists Gill Wilson (soprano), Tom Stapleton (tenor) and Alan Loader (bass) will be helping to tell the well-known story, representing the Archangels and Adam and Eve. Chairman, Stephen Northfield said, "I am looking forward to singing this very accessible piece and am sure our audience will love it."

Tickets are £15 (Senior Citizens £14 and those in full-time education £5) are available from the Public Hall on 0345 0178717 or info@withampublichall.co.uk, from Witham Tourist Office on 01376 502674, from choir members and on the door.

For more details visit Witham Choral website www.withamchoralsociety.org.uk



WITHAM CHORAL presents
HAYDN
THE CREATION

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL 2020

Colchester Philharmonic
Conductor Patrick McCarthy

With Gill Wilson (Soprano)

Tom Stapleton (Tenor)

Alan Loader (Bass)

7:30pm Doors open 7:00pm

Witham Public Hall

Collingwood Road, CM8 2DY

Tickets £15 (Senior Citizens £14

Full-Time Education £5)

From Witham Public Hall 0345 0178717

info@withampublichall.co.uk

& Witham Tourist Office 01376 502674

From choir members or at the door



www.withamchoralsociety.org.uk





MEN **2** SING

"In Harmony"

A relaxed evening with Essex's
premier contemporary male choir

Featuring songs from

ELO, Tears for Fears, Elton John, Billy Joel, Queen, A-ha
and many others

Saturday 28 March 2020
doors 7.30pm

Danbury Sports and Social Club
Main Road, Danbury, Chelmsford. CM3 4NQ

Tickets £12

Danbury Sports and Social Club

or call

01702 612117

With Special Guest



Sue Cawley

Cabaret Singer

Sponsored by Andrew Skinner

www.andrewskinnerwealth.co.uk



www.men2sing.org.uk

Follow us on





After Eight Social Club

**Saturday 15th February
Dance Night!**

**Maldon Town Hall
Doors open 7.30pm**

**No bar - please bring own drinks
Optional Fish & chips can be ordered and paid
for on the door**

Admission: £6 members, £8 non-members

Saturday 21 March

Postal Museum - Coach trip

**Unique exhibition and story of the London postal service
including an optional trip underground on a narrow
gauge railway. Café on site for lunch if you
choose. Two venues 'The Mail Rail' and 'The Postal
Museum' You can do either or both.**

£29 per person

**If you are interested please put your name down
as soon as possible.**

For further information contact Mike on 01621 856219

www.aftereightsocialclub.co.uk



Dates for the Diary

- Apr 26 10:00am Archdeacon Elisabeth to officiate at the
Eucharist
- Apr 27 Church AGM
- May 10 10:00am Bishop of Bradwell to officiate at the
Eucharist
- May 22-25 Flower Festival
- Jul 18 7:30 pm Concert by men2sing in church
- Dec 4-6 Christmas Tree Festival

*Please let me have your dates for future events.
Don't assume that I will know them. Ed.*

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

Jan 12th **Nathaniel David Whenman** of Emperor Close
Jan 19th Theo Andrew James Crozier of Repertor Drive



Funerals

Jan 7th Patrick John Frederick Cross aged 88 of Plume Avenue



Prayer Diary - March 2020

1	First Sunday of Lent	
2	St David's Day	Wales, and churches dedicated to St David
3		Tearfund
4		Paramedics and all Ambulance Staff
5		The Healing Ministry
6		Missionaries throughout the world
7		Church of England Schools
8	Second Sunday of Lent	Children in care
9		Churches in our Deanery
10		Our Police Forces
11		Foster Parents
12		Royal School of Church Music
13		Our Choir
14		Right Revd. Stephen Cotterell - Archbishop of York (Designate)
		Christian Booksellers
15	Third Sunday of Lent	Our Archbishop
16		Retired Clergy
17	St Patrick	Ireland, and churches dedicated to St Patrick
18		Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Group
19	St Joseph of Nazareth	All fathers
20		Our Junior Church
21		Those who lead and attend 'Messy Church'
22	Fourth Sunday of Lent	
	Mothering Sunday	All Mothers and our Mother Church; for the work of The Mothers' Union and Women's Institute
23		Christians throughout the world
24		Chelmsford Cathedral Staff
25	The Annunciation	All who are bearing children
26		All Midwives
27		Our Area Bishops
28		All employed in Hospices
29	Fifth Sunday of Lent	
	Passion Sunday	Our Ministry Team
30		All Priests and Ministers of the Church
31		Our Parish and the Parish of St Mary

PARISH DIRECTORY

VICAR	Vacancy
HON. ASST. PRIEST	Rev. Canon Dr. Graham Blyth Tel: 01621 854068
AUTHORISED LOCAL PREACHERS	Mrs Adrienne Knight Tel 01621 841329 Alan Marjoram Tel 01245 243868
VERGER	Ken Russell Tel: 01621 853470
CHURCHWARDENS	Dennis Johnson Tel: 01621 842410 Mrs Jenny Clinch 4A Belvedere Place Tel: 01621 840057
DEPUTY CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs Vicky Tropman Tel: 01621 857291 Mrs Vivien Clark Tel: 01621 740374
HON TREASURER	Eddie Sewell Tel: 01621 851961
PCC SECRETARY	Julie Ovenden Tel: 01621 858803
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ORGANIST and CHOIRMASTER	Dr Stuart Pegler Tel: 01621 850530
RECORDER OF THE CHURCH	Kenneth Downham Tel: 01621 854655
PARISH NEWS EDITOR	Peter Clark Tel: 01621 740374 email: pjandvclark@gmail.com
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Elizabeth Blyth Tel 01621 854068 Email: elizabeth.blyth@gmail.com

Website www.allsaintsmaldon.com



ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Choir Practice (Thur 7:30pm)	Dr. Stuart Pegler	01621 850530
Junior Choir (Thur 7:00 pm)	”	”
Junior Church	Elaine Brown	01621 853238
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	01621854655
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		
Messy Church	Elaine Brown	01621 853238

To register your daughter's interest in joining either:
Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers
 please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk 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

Holy Communion will be taken to the sick and housebound on request.

All Saints' Maldon



Open every day

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