

ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

October 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 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

Evening

Morning Prayer is usually said in church at 8.30am on Monday - Friday.
Prayer is usually said in church at 5.30pm on Monday - Thursday

Thursday 11:00am Holy

SERVICE

Cover Photos:

**The church awaits the congregation for the 10am Eucharist.
By Canon Graham.**



THE PARISH LETTER

We are painfully aware of Covid 19, of how it is affecting our lives and those of millions of others as well. It seemed for a short time after the lockdown was lifted that the disease was becoming more manageable. Schools, trains, buses, restaurants, shops, pubs, offices and factories were all able to open up in a limited way. When this happened a lot of ideas came from scientists, politicians and various others as to what could be done after the pandemic lessened. There was a sense in which *Covid 19* had made us all think of our priorities and of how we could improve our lives. This would mean that there should be many acceptable changes possible. This made me feel that we should as a church be involved with any potentially important changes.

Sadly such speculation about change has lessened since there has been an increasing problem with the spread of the virus. However, this should not stop us from being optimistic about the future in the expectation that an effective vaccine will be available soon. So our present problems should not dissuade us as a church from thinking, praying and planning for our future involvement with the various ideas that have been put forward.

The experts suggest that there are a number of problems to be addressed. We might perhaps choose to look at the environment. As far as this is concerned we have had many stark warnings about the consequences of our misuse of the world's resources. This was brought home very forcibly by David Attenborough's recent programme on television 'Extinction: the facts'.

James Dyke, a senior lecturer in global systems at Exeter University, put it this way:- "The programme is both beautiful and ugly. Uplifting and crushing. Wonderful animals are shown and in the next scene scientists explain how they will soon vanish forever."

All this, the programme went on to explain, was due to a number of factors. It noted, for example the destruction of habitats such as the Amazon Rain Forests, the mass killing of wild animals both for pleasure and for greed and the ravages of various environments by global warming. There is also evidence of such destruction seen on other programmes which for example have shown the shrinking of glaciers in the Antarctic. We have seen film of the huge cliffs of ice crashing into the sea and have been told that this will eventually accelerate rising sea levels. These will in turn threaten the lives of people who live in the low lying areas around the world. There is evidence



too of the melting permafrost in Siberia. This will consequently release huge quantities of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, so hastening global warming. There is also evidence of the increasing frequency of drought, storms and flooding with their adverse effects on agricultural production.

Our understandable reaction to this is that problems are so vast that there is absolutely nothing we can do as individuals. However, many experts such as David Attenborough and the young Swedish environmentalist Greta Thunberg say that it is only by the combined action of millions of individuals that the world can be changed. We as a church can contribute to this locally in Maldon.

I am sure that if we tried we could formulate a really effective programme to educate ourselves and others in local and environmental matters. Here are some ideas:

1. In Church;
Prayer vigil,
Annual service with environmental theme
References in the magazine and link
- 2 Arrange public meeting through the church with;
Local environmental groups such as RSPB and
Essex Wildlife Trust
With Political Parties
With MDC Councillors and Officers
- 3 Set up groups to;
Raise money for environmental charities
Organise correspondence to politicians and newspapers
Review planning
- 4 Horticultural Dimension
Support thr Friary Garden
Influence the annual allotment and gardening competition
Exchange ideas about our own gardening.

Change will come and we will have to work out if All Saints' is going to have any part of it.

Paul



EASTER VESTRY AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING



A REMINDER - SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER

At last the church AGM, which has been postponed for so long due to the Coronavirus, has now been rearranged.

Rev Peter Begley, our Area Dean, will be coming to All Saints to celebrate the Eucharist at 10am on **Sunday 11 October 2020** and will chair the Church AGM immediately following the service. Please be there!!

Sorry

Our minister, an avid golfer, was once taking part in a local tournament. As he was preparing to tee off, the organiser of the tournament approached him and pointed to the dark, threatening storm clouds which were gathering. "Sir," the organiser said, "I trust you'll see to it that the weather won't turn bad on us."

Our minister shook his head. "Sorry," he replied. "I'm in sales, not management!"



ON FEAR-MANAGEMENT

We are all familiar with the issues round ‘anger management’, especially in matters of sentencing in the local courts or in relation to the behaviour of office staff. Uncontrolled anger can have serious consequences, from grievous bodily harm to emotional abuse: probation services and trades union reps are often involved in rehabilitation or attempts to patch things up. But it does not always work. Bullies can remain bullies: hardened criminals still lawbreakers.

But the Covid-19 pandemic has led to a new challenge: fear management. Lockdown left many people isolated and alone with their fears (not just those relating to the disease). Fear also attended coming out of lockdown at first, whether it was connected with venturing into shops and supermarkets, coffee-shops and restaurants, or returning to worship here in church. All of us have had to deal with the uneasy balance between risk and fear. We have had to weigh up our chances and resign ourselves to the fact that our world is not always a safe place. We now do this automatically almost every day.

Of course with the numbers of cases rising the very real threat of the pandemic has not gone away: it’s just that we are more used to getting on with our lives in the constant presence of our unseen enemy. Gradually a greater degree of confidence has followed. Some of us, of course, are inclined to behave irresponsibly (social distancing having almost disappeared in some places), while others remain cautious, limiting their outings to a few familiar locations. The way in which each of us arrives at these decisions shows that our brains are working overtime, alert (for the most part) to the possible consequences of what we do. The nature of the disease is that a good deal of our actions must include consideration for others.

A fellow-priest raised an important issue on social media a month ago. Why had the church said nothing spiritual about fear? Yes the church was always rigorous in its advice to parishes about government guidelines, but why was this other dimension about how most of us were feeling, absent? The hymn ‘Just as I am’ mentions ‘fightings and fears, within, without’ and sees them very much as part of the Christian life. But was the message coming from the Church of England (possibly others too) that we do not discuss fear because that would be ‘letting the side down?’ Are Christians not supposed to be afraid? Whereas in fact many of us have probably felt terrified at times recently.

Yes, we can find plenty of biblical texts, especially from the epistles, which seem to cast fear aside with bravado: eg 2 Timothy 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-control.” This can feel simply daunting if you are living in war or surrounded by riots, fires, earthquake, flood, plague or famine. Yes technically one is not supposed to live dominated by fear; but there are situations where our natural ‘fight or flight’ mechanism kicks in, and we experience all kinds of unpleasant sensations from sheer terror to an overwhelming sense of doom.

I must admit that during the rare times I have seen bishops or clergy discussions on ‘Zoom’ or elsewhere (I am allergic to all of these) I have been struck by how upbeat



they are. The talk is usually about new opportunities for ministry and recent successes. At times you would not think one was in the middle of a catastrophe (though on the day I write this, the Archbishop of Canterbury has at last shared some sensible thoughts in *The Telegraph* and belatedly affirmed local clergy and their parishes).

But we are still left with living with ourselves as Christians during this time of much greater awareness of human mortality. And what if 'No, it is *not* alright because I may be going to meet Jesus soon?' We may not be ready. Or we may dread dying an unpleasant death. Or we may fear dying alone, separated from family or friends. Of course you and I can worry about these things when life is fairly normal: but now it is as if they are flashing in neon lights at the forefronts of our consciousness. We need pretty strong mental blackout curtains to shut them out.

Even being still in God's presence is a challenge. Fear can easily torpedo our prayers. I think in these circumstances we just have to pray as we can and where we can. Sometimes our visitors to private prayer just pop in to light a candle or to spend five minutes. That is enough. Adding God to one's anxiety is not going to help at all.

Some people believe that Christians have a worse time of it because we worry about what comes after death. Those without faith just see death as a natural process – not without fear – but as biological fact without any significance to the deceased. The Resurrection on the other hand promises new life, but under the shadow of judgment. The Christian must be made worthy to stand before God's throne, however much they are already loved and accepted. Unless we are naïve or triumphalist, the steady progress of the human soul is of immense importance to us.

So, yes, you could say that death is not an uncomplicated prospect.

We all feel we have different things to fear – most of all perhaps any sense of abandonment (though guardian angels come into their own when they escort us from this life). But there are promises of sharing in the glory of God, being united with Christ, meeting once more those we have loved (and somehow being polite to those we have not). No more sorrow, tears or pain sounds a pretty good deal to most of us. But living without fear is not really an option in our physical state. It can be reassuringly absent at times. But these are interludes in the drama of existence, 'the changes and chances of this mortal life'.

Fear management is not about heroics at all. It is remembering that usually your feelings (however awful) are not going to kill you. They will pass, though not without difficulty. Perhaps others can give you strength, as can laughter and solidarity. Many people are kind and supportive (avoid the ones who are not). Christians are allowed to have all the feelings common to humanity: do not trust the ones who parade some assumed superiority in dealing with them. In us Christ's power is 'made perfect in our human weakness'. The Son of God himself felt fear. And he didn't just magic it away. If we cannot exactly make friends with our fears, we can offer them in prayer to a God who understands. And maybe that can be enough for us to hold onto.

Fr Graham



At Maldon & District Citizens Advice, we can help you to find a way forward, by giving free, confidential advice in all subject areas.

Since lockdown began, we have been delivering a full advice service, mainly by telephone and also email and web chat, responding to the rapidly changing issues facing local residents. We are now gradually able to reintroduce face to face appointments for those interviews where that would be most beneficial, having made alterations to our room to ensure a safe environment. Each month in the magazine, we plan to highlight a topical issue.

Redundancy

The subject most commonly raised by our callers in August has, sadly, been redundancy. If you are facing the possibility of losing your job we can work through this with you including: whether or not you have been fairly selected; what process your employer should be following; offers of other roles; notice period and redundancy payments.

Of course, any job loss has a knock-on effect on other areas of life. We can help you look at how to deal with financial commitments such as rent or mortgage payments and what benefits might be available until you are back in work. Our benefit system is complicated and there may be choices to be made about what to claim. In this case, we can carry out calculations to help you decide what to do as well as guiding you through the claims process.

Our website has a great deal of relevant information including; check if your redundancy is fair (EWS) at:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/work/leaving-a-job/redundancy/check-if-your-redundancy-is-fair/>

Preparing for after redundancy (EWS) at:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/work/leaving-a-job/redundancy/preparing-for-after-redundancy/>

While we are always careful not to advise both parties in a dispute, if you are an employer with a small business, we would welcome your getting in touch. We have specialist employment advisers who can discuss legislation and best practice and thereby avoid potential claims.

Please contact us for advice on any subject by: ringing 01621 875774 – leave a message and an adviser will return your call that day; or by emailing bureau@maldoncab.cabnet.org.uk

Lucy Bettley



Our Financial Position.

Since the national lockdown the revenue to our church has been drastically reduced, due to both several months of no collections and of not being able to hold any fund raising events. Also there has been no income from baptisms, weddings or funerals.

It is anticipated that the amount lost to All Saints' by the end of the year will be £17000! This means as a church we will struggle to meet the day to day running costs of the building, as well as a substantial reduction in the amount, as a parish, that we can send to the Diocese for the Parish Share.

The former covers heating, insurance and materials (eg Communion wafers, oil and candles, cleaning materials and sanitisers) and the latter is used to cover the cost of having a priest (although we are in vacancy, the diocese does pay the cost of our visiting clergy).

As the national situation seems likely to extend into 2021, our financial position won't improve quickly. The PCC therefore ask you to examine your present giving where possible and perhaps make a one off donation or increase your weekly giving.

Jenny and Dennis (Churchwardens) and Eddie (Treasurer).

This is the article published in the 20th Sept. edition of the Link.

Possible Lost Income Due to the Shut Down

Services

Baptisms	£300.00	
Wedding Fees	£1800.00	
Funeral Fees	£1900.00	
D'Arcy Room Lettings	£2800.00	
Christmas Eve: 3pm	£565.00	
5pm	£1041.00	
Midnight	£421.00	£8827.00

Fund Raising

Summer Fayre	£942.00	
Christmas Fayre	£3082.00	
Christmas Tree Festival	£650.00	
Lunches	£1200.00	
Harvest Supper	£174.00	
Bistro Supper	£300.00	
Candle Stand	£2500.00	£8878.00
Total		£17705.00



Deputy Warden's Waffle

You'd have thought this summer would have dragged with all the usual happenings put on hold and no social gatherings to organise or go to - or holidays! - but on the contrary time has flown by, schools are back and Autumn approaches. It is great that the Open the Book teams are able to go into schools virtually thanks to Andy Mugford and we are blessed by the Sunday services both virtual and real, thanks to Mike Kneller and Father Graham. It is so good to be able to see so many of our church family on a Sunday morning again. For those who are unable to come for any reason, take care; we do miss you and look forward to seeing you soon.

We have been in our new home over 3 months now and because we are doing some alterations, boxes remain unpacked and most rooms seem to have the wrong stuff in for the time being but we are enjoying lovely walks along the sea wall at Tollesbury with the dogs. However our domestic arrangements are insignificant compared with the plight of so many all over the world with lives turned upside down due to the pandemic and global warming. How do we respond to the cries for help from so many charities, including All Saints, themselves suffering from restrictions due to both and ongoing wars and famine?

Our family is celebrating a number of significant events this Autumn which after living in the same house together for many years we now have to check for social distancing before getting together to celebrate. Our grand daughter Abi has achieved a 1st. Class BSc honours degree in Physiotherapy from Brunel University, Will is to be 21 and Niki and Rob, their parents, celebrate their Silver Wedding, which took place in All Saints. We give thanks for all of them.

Sadly we also have to give thanks for the lives of friends who have died recently, especially remembering Lilian Gibson a lifelong member of All Saints. It is a tough time for their families. We can only share in our hearts with them at this time.

Stay safe everyone

With love ,

Vivien.



Paul J King

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References available.



WHO'S SWEETS ARE THEY ANYWAY?

At a recent Sunday Service, the sermon given by the Celebrant, Father John from St. Mary's, was about the parable of the labourers in the vineyard (Matthew, chapter 20, verses 1-16), which had been the gospel reading for the day. This parable had also been explained by Canon Graham in his on-line service also on the same Sunday. It was interesting to have this parable featured by both Priests who both took the same general tack and as expected came up with the same lesson to be learned.

For me, the lesson was not to be selfish, share what good fortune we have with others and do not be jealous if someone has more than we have. I have often been in the position, where others have had more than me, certainly during the wartime when anything and everything was hard to come by and to see another child with sweets when I had none made me very envious and made me wish that I had the sweets and the other child had none. Fortunately, as one grows older and regardless of personal wealth or lack of it the desire to have more than the other chap grows less and indeed it is always good to see that someone else has something they want, particularly if it is another member of your family or perhaps a close friend. It is then only a short step metaphorically to sharing with complete strangers or not being jealous of them having as much or more than oneself.

Both Father John and Canon Graham emphasized the fact that it is right and good to try to make sure that we treat everyone as equal, but it is also very difficult to do so when we might think that some have done more and so be more deserving than those who have



Red Vineyards at Arles by Vincent van Gogh (1882)

www.wikiart.org

perhaps done less. Even now I find the concept of the parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard a difficult one to accept as my natural inclination is to reward according to effort. Maybe, that is why the two priests put this challenging concept to us. It has certainly made me think, and I have re-read the parable several times to clarify it in my mind. Perhaps, that was the point of the talks from John and Graham. To make us think! If so it has worked on me (and I do try to be last when goodies are being handed round)!

Ken Downham



.....

Ten Commandments

A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honour thy father and thy mother', she said: "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered: "Thou shalt not kill."

.....



TEN to TEN Rambling Group

5th September 2020

As we have only recently re-started the rambling group, post lockdown, we have decided to go for shorter walks and, due to the difficulty of groups meeting up inside, are currently not stopping for lunch at a pub or café. Hence, this month's walk was a five mile circular walk starting and finishing at Danbury common.

Setting off through the woods, we crossed the main A414 and headed off down the lane and up the other side to the sandy ridge through Lingwood common. Following the pleasant undulating path, it was lovely to see the heather in full bloom and to occasionally catch a glimpse of the view through the trees. On reaching the lane, we continued on this for a short way before taking the path across the extensive Riffhams estate. Here, during our coffee break, we had a view of the magnificent grade II listed manor house, built by Major John Spencer in 1815, shortly after inheriting the estate from the Clerke family.

Crossing the *very* busy main road again, we entered Danbury park and made our way past Danbury Palace to Danbury lakes. Originally a hunting park, Sir Walter Mildmay built a mansion here in 1560 but this was replaced by the current mansion in the 1800's. Used as a wartime maternity hospital, it was subsequently purchased by the Church of England as an episcopal palace, later sold to Anglia Ruskin University and is now divided into residential apartments.

Carrying on through the lanes, we made our way back, over Danbury common, to our starting point after an enjoyable walk in perfect weather!

Our next walk will be on Saturday 10th October, meeting at 9.50am at Buckhatch Nursery and Garden Centre, Hanningfield Road, Rettendon Common, CM3 8EW. Leaders will be John and Sandra, 01245 222530

Peter Holmes



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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12:40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always ready for his return at the end of time by telling the story of two servants

The good servant



My master could be away a long time; I will work as if he was here.



When the servants came for their food, he had it ready



He made sure everyone got their full amount every day



Then his master came back



I am putting you in charge of everything I have



The bad servant



My master could be away a long time; I can do what I want!



When the servants came for their food, he chased them away!



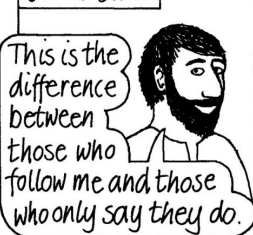
He had friends come round, and they ate and drank as much as they liked.

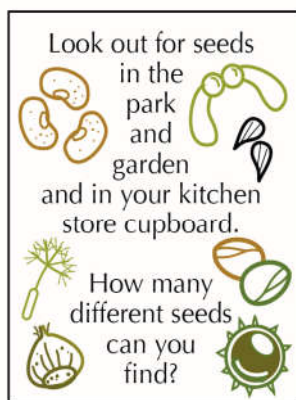
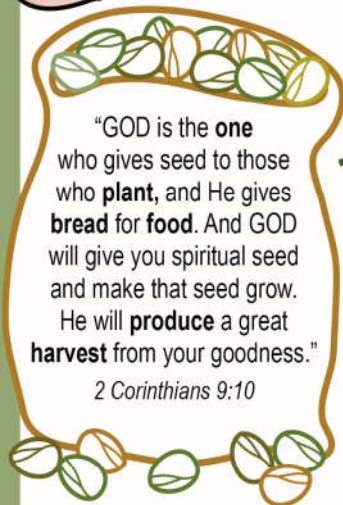
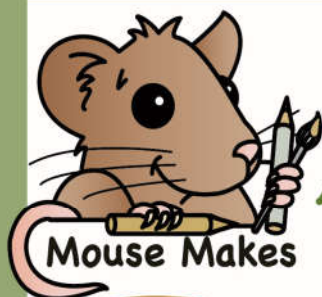


Then his master came back



Jesus said





Jesus said:
"The kingdom of heaven
is like a _____ seed
that a man took and sowed in
his **field**. It is the _____
of all the seeds, but when it
has grown it becomes a tree,
so that the wild _____ come
and nest in its branches."

Read
Matthew
13:31-32

Jesus said:
"You do not need more **faith**. There
is no 'more' or 'less'
in faith. If you have
a bare kernel of faith,
say the size of a poppy
seed, you could
say to this
sycamore
tree
"Go
jump
into
the
lake"
and it
would do it."
Luke 17:6

So the one who
plants is not important,
and the one who **waters** is not
important. Only **GOD** is
important because He is the
one who makes things grow."
1 Corinthians 3:7

Find the
words
in **bold**
on this
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The tale of the RICH FOOL



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS

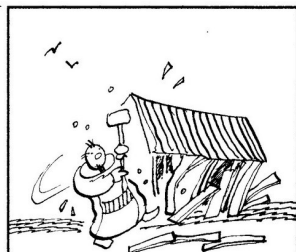


ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A MAN
WHO HAD LOTS OF LAND WHICH
GREW WONDERFUL WHEAT.

I HAVEN'T ANYWHERE TO
KEEP ALL THIS FOOD



I KNOW! I'LL PULL DOWN
MY BARN AND BUILD
BIGGER ONES



THE MAN DEMOLISHED HIS
OLD BARN...

...AND BEGAN TO BUILD
NEW ONES.



SOON I'LL BE THE RICHEST
MAN IN THE TOWN!



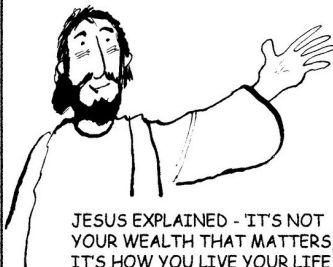
I'M SO LUCKY - I CAN
EAT, DRINK AND BE
MERRY!



BUT THAT VERY NIGHT,
THE MAN DIED!



WHAT GOOD WERE HIS
RICHES NOW?



JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S NOT
YOUR WEALTH THAT MATTERS,
IT'S HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE
THAT'S IMPORTANT

ASHLEY AND CAROL SAUNDERS

A message from Ashley.

The cycle ride in Support of Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis was successfully completed, a joint effort with Mike Gibson. There was a good send off from West Square, except that I had forgotten that Mike might join me, however, after a mile or so he caught me up!. We made good time and met up with some of the Pulmonary Fibrosis Support Group in Great Dunmow where we indulged in coffee and cake, it's compulsory. On the return journey another, compulsory stop in Terling- guess what- yes more coffee and cake. Arrived back at the Prom just before 2.00p.m. to meet a few more members of the PF group and local friends.

The total amount of donations stands in excess of £2000.00 at time of writing,so a big THANK YOU goes out to all who have supported this cause.

Ashley Saunders



Some of the party seeing Ashley off from West Square.



Ashley and Mike arrive safely back at Maldon Prom.



Noah and the Ark - 2020 version

In the year 2020, Noah was living in England when the Lord came unto him and said, “Once again, the earth has become too wicked to continue. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing. You have six months before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights.”

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his garden, but no Ark. “Noah”, He roared, “I’m about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?”

“Forgive me Lord”, begged Noah “but things have been difficult. I needed Building Regulations approval because the Ark was over 30 square metres. I’ve been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is a development of the site even though in my opinion it is a temporary structure, but the roof is too high.

“The Local Area Access Group complained that my ramp was going to be too steep and the inside of the Ark wasn’t fully accessible. Getting the wood has been another problem. All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest set up in order to preserve the Spotted Owl. I tried to convince them that I needed the wood to save the owls – but no go!

“When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA sued me for intending to confine wild animals without the proper paperwork. The County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority have ruled that I can’t build the Ark until they’ve conducted an Environmental Impact Study on your proposed flood. The Trade Unions insist that I can’t use my sons to build the Ark; I can only employ members of the Shipbuilding and Allied Trades union. Finally, Customs and Excise have seized all my assets, claiming I am going to attempt to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

“So, forgive me Lord, but it will take me at least another ten years to finish this Ark.”

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. “No need for me to destroy the world after all,” observed God. “The government has the matter already in hand.

Taken from the Parish pump website



HOW TO TEST FOR THE CORONA VIRUS

*A friend of mine, in the Male Voice Choir I sing with, sent me this procedure for Self Testing for the Corona Virus.
Can't wait to try it!!! Ed.*



How to test yourself for
Coronavirus:

Step1: Pour a glass of wine and
try to smell it.

Step2: If you can smell the wine,
then drink some and see if you
can taste it

Step3: If you can smell and taste
it, you can confirm that you don't
have Coronavirus.

Last night I did the test 9 times,
and was negative, thank
Goodness.

Tonight I'm going to take the test
again because I woke up this
morning with a headache and feel
like I'm coming down with
something.

I'm so nervous



Prayer for the sick

I was listening to my new curate pray and I realized one of his phrases didn't come out quite right. He said, "...and Lord, we pray for those who are sick of this church."



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

Beware what lurks in the church vestry...

My dear Nephew Darren,

I am unsurprised that the cleaning lady took exception to you dismantling your motorbike in the church vestry. Clergy vestries are the final repositories of rotting hymn books, ancient cassocks with a certain aroma, buckets with holes in, which are kept “just in case” and dead animals in various states of decomposition; but they are no place for bike chains, disc brakes and inner tubes.

I will concede that vestries seem to attract all those objects no one quite knows what to do with, but which parishioners can’t bear to throw away. Flower arrangers creep into my vestry, looking for space for boxes of twine. Decorators arrive with cribs and Easter gardens they are hoping to store. And even the choirmaster occasionally sidles in, trying to slip some anthems past me. I repel them all with vigour, and a firm broom.

One thing I can’t keep out of the vestry are the portraits of all my predecessors, who stare down at me reproachfully. The most recent, in colour, stare smugly, knowing that I am still being compared to them, and falling short. Earlier incumbents, in black and white, look mildly reproachful, reminding me that *they* all held doctorates from Oxford. The hand-drawn portraits from pre-1870 are the worst – they all look as if they drank vinegar for breakfast and argued Pelagianism over lunch, just for fun. I am already rehearsing my own look of pained forgiveness for my leaving photo that will stare down on my own successor, and perpetually irritate him.

It also seems to be a tradition that retiring clergy donate their robes for their successors, probably because it spares them a walk to the dustbin. So, a five-foot, 18 stone incumbent will leave a cassock for his six-foot, ten stone successor. There will also be a spare 1960s nylon surplice hanging on the back of the vestry door, to remind you that should you ever forget your own, then this is the horror you will be obliged to wear throughout Evensong.

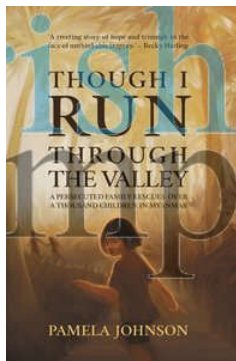


Notices on the walls will tell you that marriage fees in the 1920s were seven shillings and sixpence, that Communion wine can be obtained from a shop that closed down a generation ago and there will be a copy of the prayer of thanksgiving to be used on the Relief of Mafeking.

My only advice is to remove your bike before it gets bundled up with the Scouts' tents – and lost forever in the churchwarden's shed.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Book Reviews

Though I run through the Valley By Pamela Johnson, Authentic, £9.99

At a time of ethnic cleansing and military dictatorship, being a Christian in predominantly Buddhist Myanmar brought huge risks and danger. Yet despite persecution, one family chose to use the weapon of love to combat evil.

'Though I Run Through the Valley' tells the incredible story of three generations of Karen Christians living out their love for God and each other by rescuing over 1000 children who have been orphaned, abandoned or made destitute by their country's upheaval. Theirs is not a story of merely evading the enemy and surviving, but instead one of seeking out the vulnerable and teaching them how to thrive.

Daring to trust God against all the odds, this is the powerful story of one family's sacrifice over many years to protect and show the love of Christ to many lost children in Myanmar.

Taken from the Parish Pump website.

N.B.

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER

MAGAZINE 25th OCTOBER



HOLY DAYS

18th Oct: Thank you, Dr Luke! *By David Winter*

‘Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the bed that I lie on’ – my grandma taught me that one. At least it meant I never forgot the names of the writers of the four Gospels. This month Luke, the writer of the third of them, has his feast day – 18th October.

He was, we learn from the letters of St Paul, a ‘physician’ – an educated man and probably the only one of the writers of the New Testament who was not a Jew. In modern terms, he was Turkish. Paul took him as one of his missionary team on a long journey around the Middle East, and they clearly became close friends. Under house arrest later in his life Paul could write, ‘only Luke is with me’.

However, it is his Gospel which has established him as a major figure in the history of the Christian Church. Mark’s Gospel may have more drama, Matthew’s more prophetic background and John’s a more profound sense of the mystery of the divine, but Luke offers us a Jesus who is utterly and believably real. This man turned no one away, reserved his harshest words for hypocrites and religious grandees, cared for the marginalised, the poor, the persecuted, the handicapped and the sinful. His Gospel is full of people we can recognise – indeed, in whom we can often recognise ourselves.

He was also a masterly story-teller. Try, for instance, the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Read it (this time) not as a sacred text but as a brilliant piece of story-telling: subtle repetitions (‘your son, this brother of yours’), believable characters, drama and profound emotion. There is the older brother, so cynical about his sibling’s alleged reformation, the ‘prodigal’ himself, so hesitant about throwing himself on his father’s mercy after the folly of his earlier behaviour, and there is the father, of course, abandoning the dignity of his role in the family and actually running to welcome his wretched son’s return.

There are more women in Luke’s Gospel than in any of the others, but also more poor people, more lepers, more ‘sinners’ and tax-collectors, more ‘outsiders’ who are shown to be ‘inside’ the love of Christ. This, for many of us, is the great Gospel of inclusion and compassion. Here is a Jesus for the whole world and for every one of us. Thank you, Dr Luke!

Taken from the Parish Pump Website



REFLECTED FAITH: MUSIC AND SINGING

The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series on symbols in our churches.

Many churches are holding Sunday, weekday and pastoral (Baptism, Wedding and Funeral) services again in their buildings. However, for most of us no singing is allowed; and this often means no music is being played.

Whilst the churches were closed, one of the key things about worshipping together that people missed was the communal singing and the listening to the organ or other instruments. If we look at the time taken to sing in each service (approximately a third of the whole service) and the amount musicians are usually paid, we can see the level of importance churches give to singing together.

So, although we understand the science behind the ‘no singing rule’ (breath is exhaled more forcibly so reaches further) it is still very strange to be in our normal church buildings but not to be able to sing. Singing hymns and songs helps us to learn about our faith, to pray and to express our praise – but what is it about singing together that lifts our hearts in our time of worship?

There are plenty of said responses during most services, but they don’t have that same lift! Is it the physical breathing aspects, the sounds we aim to make, or indeed the way our voices join and blend together? All through the Bible there are passages telling of times of singing: of musicians leading processions towards a place or time of worship. There are many exhortations in the Psalms to the people to come together, ‘singing with joy and thanksgiving’.

The Bible also talks about a time to put down our instruments and refrain from singing. Let’s hope and pray that our time for restraint will pass quickly and we will soon rejoice together with thanksgiving, joyful and loud singing! This month: How can you best sing to the Lord? It is usually easier to sing along with a video of people singing than to a recording alone. Have a look for suitable videos to join in with their singing, a recording if that’s not possible, or even a hymn book. Perhaps video call a church friend and sing the first verse of a couple of your popular songs and hymns together.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website



Dates for the Diary

Due to the current situation we are not including Dates for the Diary

Lunch at All Saints

Soup – hot food- cakes

12:00-2:00

**No Lunches Until
Further Notice**



From the Registers

BAPTISM

27th September Phoebe Pear Powlesland



FUNERALS

24th September Rita Penny aged 85 years of Orchard Road

28th September June Peters aged 74 years of Norfolk Close



Prayer Diary

OCTOBER 2020

1	Emergency Relief Charities
2	Christian Aid
3	Charities for the homeless
4 Trinity 17	Church Officers and members of our PCC
5	Those trying to cope with bereavement
6	Those who do not have enough food and drink
7	Bereavement Counsellors
8	Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists
9	Workers in the hospitality industry
10	Youth Chaplains
11 Trinity 18	Chelmsford Street Pastors
12	Those recovering from Surgery
13	Social Workers
14	Those suffering from Diabetes
15	Those fighting drug addiction
16	Those studying for the Ministry
17	All Doctors
18 Trinity 19: St Luke	Churches dedicated to St Luke
19	Medical Missionaries
20	Age UK
21	People facing redundancy
22	Those caring for others at home
23	The Bible Society
24	All who provide work in our town
25 Last Sunday of Trinity	Retired Clergy
26	All School Teachers and other staff
27	Local Government workers
28 Simon and Jude	Churches dedicated to St Simon and St Jude
29	Emergency and Rescue organisations
30	Mothers struggling with young children
31	All members of our extended families



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
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	(Joanne Maloney membership1stmaldon@gmail.com)	
Meeting Point	Barbara Gale	01621 928538
Maldon Pioneers	Mike Frederick	01621 840951
Maldon Ladies Group	Vivien Clark	01621 869667
Ramblers Club		
Prayer Group		
Messy Church	Elaine Brown	

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



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Vacancy

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