



# ALL SAINTS' *MALDON* PARISH NEWS

March 2024

## ALL SAINTS'



### **March 3rd Lent 3**

8.00am Holy Communion Revd Jordan  
9.30am Sung Eucharist Revd Jordan  
4.00pm Evensong Adrienne

### **March 10th Mothering Sunday**

8.00am Holy Communion Fr John  
9.30am Worship For All Hannah, Mary &  
Revd Jordan

### **March 17th Lent 5**

8.00am Holy Communion Revd Jordan &  
Revd Heather  
9.30am Sung Eucharist Revd Jordan &  
Revd Heather

### **March 24th Palm Sunday**

8.00am Holy Communion Fr John &  
Revd Heather  
9.30am Sung Eucharist Revd Heather

### **March 27th Wednesday Holy Week**

7.00pm Compine Lay Led

### **March 28th Maundy Thursday**

7.30pm Sung Eucharist Revd Heather

### **March 29th Good Friday**

11.00am Family Service  
2.00pm The Last Hour Revd Jordan

### **March 30th Easter Eve Saturday**

7.30pm Easter Vigil Revd Heather &  
Revd Jordan

### **March 31st Easter Day Sunday**

8.00am Holy Communion  
9.30am Sung Eucharist

# Church info

## MARCH 2024

## ST GILES'

**March 3rd**

**Lent 3**

9.30am MP&P Irene & Gerald

**March 10th**

**Mothering Sunday**

9.30am Holy Communion CW Fr John Rev Heather

**March 17th**

**Lent 5**

9.30am Holy Communion CW Fr John

**Palm Sunday March 24th**

9.30am Holy Communion CW Revd Jordan

**Tuesday March 26th**

**Holy Week**

7.00pm Compine Lay Led

**Easter Day Sunday March 31st**

9.30am Holy Communion Revd Heather



## ST ANDREW'S

**March 3rd**

**Lent 3**

9.30am Holy Communion CW Fr John

**March 10th**

**Mothering Sunday**

9.30am Holy Communion CW Fr John Rev Heather

**March 17th**

**Lent 5**

MP&P Lynne

**Palm Sunday March 24th**

9.30am Holy Communion CW Revd Jordan

**Monday March 25th**

**Holy Week**

7.00pm Compine Lay Led

**Maundy Thursday March 28th**

7.30pm Holy Communion CW Revd Jordan

**Good Friday March 29th**

14.00 The Last Hour Rev Heather

**Easter Day Sunday March 31st**

11.00am Holy Communion CW Rev Heather



## ST GEORGE'S

**Monday March 4th**

9.30am Holy Communion Fr John

**Monday March 11th**

9.30am Holy Communion Revd Jordan & Revd Heather

**Monday March 18th**

9.30am Holy Communion Revd Heather

**Monday March 25th**

9.30am MP&P Rev Julia



NB. LAST DATE FOR ITEMS FOR MARCH EDITION OF THE  
PARISH NEWS FEBRUARY 15th EMAIL: [bigglesworth@btinternet.com](mailto:bigglesworth@btinternet.com)



## PARISH NEWS CONTENT

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 Church Info March               | 28 Easter, The Most Joyful Day .. |
| 5 The Parish Letter               | 30 St James The Least ..          |
| 8 Church of England News          | 32 Through The Furnace            |
| 12 All Saints' News & Views       | 34 The Coventry Passion Cross     |
| 18 The Big Questions              | 35 Crossword                      |
| 21 World Day of Prayer            | 36 My Page                        |
| 21 Answers to The Crossword       | 38 Prayer Diary March             |
| 22 Down The Hill ...              | 39 Parish Directory               |
| 24 What's the Big Idea            | 40 Activities                     |
| 25 Quiz on the Book of Numbers    | 40 From The Registers             |
| 26 Strictly Come Easter           | 42 Finally ..                     |
| 26 Easter Faith in Atheist Russia |                                   |
| 27 Mothering Sunday               |                                   |

# The Parish Letter



**When I was growing up I had piano lessons from about the age of 11 to 16. Having started on the violin at primary school, finding I preferred the piano was huge relief to everyone. What I really liked was that all the keys were already there, no sliding up and down a string in an effort to find the right note. To paraphrase Eric Morecambe, on the piano I could play all the right notes, but not necessarily in the right order.**

I was also fairly diligent, practising pretty much every day. And although I liked it, I remember quite clearly how sometimes practice went well, and sometimes it was frankly dreadful. For days in a row I would sit at the keys and nothing would go right. Scales and pieces I could play reasonably well the week before were just all over the place. Then a few days later it would all come together and it would be better than before. But the days I was struggling to get anything right, it just felt hopeless.

I was reminded of this when I thought about prayer. Sometimes, prayer flows easily and naturally. At other times it can feel like a struggle. The sense of being close to God disappears; the trust that prayer will be answered is lost; it might be hard to focus on the things we want to pray for; the words do not come; there is just no flow. Apparently though, I am not alone. Many Christians find prayer difficult at some point in their lives (and then feel worse precisely because it feels difficult). After all, it should be easy, shouldn't it?

Well, often it is. Perhaps we have a regular rhythm to our prayer, so it is very set-

ted. Or perhaps due to opportunity and circumstances, prayer comes spontaneously, urgently, desperately even. It may come when something beautiful or joyful happens in our lives, or a great pressure has been lifted. Equally, it may come readily when we are at our lowest, when there is no other hope and nowhere else to turn.


But at some point, almost all of us will find it difficult to pray. We may be at a low point knowing we need to pray but simply cannot; we might be angry or have lost trust in being answered, or it might be too painful or overwhelming to even think about articulating what we want to pray for. None of this is that unusual. I wonder if it is precisely when we are struggling to pray that God hears our need most clearly. God promises us grace and understanding when we are stumbling around and that gives me confidence that I don't need to find the perfect prayer; I just need to try to stay connected. And I am also grateful that around the world, there are other Christians who are able to pray for us, with us and in our place when we cannot. John Pritchard, former Bishop of Ox-

ford, paints a picture that the millions of prayers offered by Christians every day form a constant river of prayer and praise flowing majestically to God. When we struggle to pray, we can simply get into our coracle and be taken on the current. Any prayer we offer is a drop of water in the river. The river is going there anyway and will carry us, however unholy we are feeling that day.

On 1<sup>st</sup> March we have the opportunity to

join with others around the world in the World Day of Prayer which this year has been developed by women in Palestine. When the country and theme were chosen by the international committee, they could not have known that the women of Palestine would have been in such a perilous and tragic situation. Many in Palestine and in the wider region may very well be struggling to pray. May they be carried on the river of prayer.

God bless, Adrienne



CHURCHES TOGETHER  
in  
MALDON  
Presents

# A Lent Conversation for everyone

## How God's Story becomes My Story

An intriguing insight into what some might call 'the quirky' ways God calls his people. Come, join the conversation, and take the opportunity to share your thoughts. **Soup lunch available!**

**Venue:** The Octagon, St Marys Church Maldon  
Church Street, Maldon. CM9 5HN

**Tuesdays**  
**Dates:** 27th Feb. 5th, 12th and 19th March

**Time:** 12:30pm - 2pm

A good companion for our conversation is Jane William's book  
**The Merciful Humility of God**  
Books are available to buy at £5 per copy, order before or on the day.

**Contact: 07712615739 : [anne.sardeson@maldonurc.org.uk](mailto:anne.sardeson@maldonurc.org.uk)**

# Avanti Photographics



***Wedding Photography*** — Natural and Creative

***Family and Pet Portraits*** — Taken on Location  
or in a Studio Environment

***Bespoke Frames***, Memorabilia and Canvases

***Birthday Parties*** and ***Special Events Photography***

For more information or to book an appointment  
please call me on 07485 467 976



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

news

### **Support for Russian priest who prays for peace**

Thousands of Russian Orthodox Christians have been urging Patriarch Kirill of Moscow to reinstate a very popular priest in the capital, the Revd Alexei Uminsky, who has refused to recite an official prayer for Russia's victory over Ukraine.

An open letter, which attracted more than 11,000 signatures, including the heads of local charities, says:

"The decree banning this priest from serving will deprive thousands of people of spiritual support – a great tragedy for many believers, for children's hospice patients, for hundreds of prisoners and thousands of homeless people."

Uminsky had repeatedly warned that he could not endorse the invasion of Ukraine.

Now Russia's online news agency, Gazeta.ru, says that Fr Uminsky was banned from ministering under a decree issued by the Moscow Patriarchate, for suggesting in a YouTube interview that Christians should "pray for peace, rather than victory".

The Russian news agency went on to say that Uminsky has long been seen as "a thorn in the Kremlin's side" for his anti-militarism. He was branded a 'criminal in a cassock' by the Russian Orthodox Church's own TV channel Spas, after calling for mercy for the opposition leader Alexei Navalny, during his prison hunger strike.

For the moment, Uminsky remains banned, and may face defrocking as a priest. More than 300 Russian Orthodox priests, who signed an appeal against the



Ukraine invasion of 2022, have since been silenced, or forced to emigrate.

### **Dramatic decline of religion on TV**

There is less television being devoted to religion and ethics than there used to be. A *lot* less.

The latest statistics from Ofcom, the industry regulator reveal a dramatic reduction in television programmes about 'religion and ethics' broadcast by the public-service broadcasting networks (PSBs): BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5.

Comparing 2022 with 2011, peak time hours of 'first-run' UK origination output fell by 85 per cent; while peak-time hours of 'all origin' output (that is, including bought-in material) fell by 76 per cent. Channel 4 dropped from being the most prolific network to providing no output at all; and the BBC output fell by 65 per cent.

Roger Bolton, a former BBC and ITV executive and independent producer, wrote recently in the Church Times:

"All this has happened without a peep from Ofcom or the boards of the PSBs, who are supposed to protect the public interest. There have been no peeps, either, from religious leaders. They seem to be asleep, or preoccupied with their own internal issues, unaware of this wanton destruction."

"In my opinion, television commissioners ... underestimate the power of religion and the continuing interest in it. They also seem to forget that people are moral creatures, often keen to do the right thing, but wishing to discuss and debate what that is."

(From Church Times, 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024, p14)

### **Worldwide persecution of Christians on the increase**

More than 365 million Christians worldwide now face persecution and discrimination for their faith.

Entire Christian communities face extinction in some parts of the world. Those in sub-Saharan Africa are especially at risk, because of increasingly authoritarian regimes and violence.

So warns the latest global study of persecution.

The World Watch List 2024 is compiled by the charity Open Doors. It rates the top 50 countries where it is most dangerous to be a Christian. This year, something new has emerged: the countries listed have not changed since 2023, and there are no new countries to the list, but the level of violence experienced by Christians globally has grown exponentially in just this past year.

Open Doors reports a *sevenfold* increase in reported attacks on churches, Christian schools, and Christian hospitals. In 2022 there were 2,110 such attacks. In 2023 it was 14,766.

Attacks on the homes of Christian have also soared – by 371 per cent.

A staggering *one in seven* Christians worldwide now faces a high level of persecution and discrimination.

This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year that the World Watch List has been compiled and published. The countries are scored by various factors: pressure levels in private life, family life, community life, and national life, and on church communities, as well as violence levels. This year's list covers the period between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

The chief executive of Open Doors UK, Henrietta Blyth, says that Christian minorities in East and West Africa face an existential threat from jihadists and autocratic regimes. Jihadists are viciously attacking Christians across sub-Saharan Africa: Somalia, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Mali, to name just some countries.

In Nigeria, things have got particularly bad, where Islamist extremism is threatening many Christian communities. In fact, the murder of Christians in Nigeria accounts for a staggering *82 per cent of ALL Christians killed for their faith worldwide*. Last year 4118 such murders were recorded, though many more were never even reported.

Open Doors has praised UK government efforts to become a global leader in standing up for the freedom of religion and belief, but it urges that the position of

the Prime Minister's special envoy, currently held by Fiona Bruce MP, should be turned into a permanent, statutory post.

#### **CAP responds to Ofgem's call for input on standing charges**

CAP has written a letter responding to Ofgem's call for input on standing charges.

For people on prepayment meters especially, standing charges can be problematic. Over summer, when people may not be using their gas for heating yet, they are still required to pay a daily standing charge. This can mean that when temperatures drop and people want to heat their home, they are faced with a high debt to repay before they can do so.

CAP would like Ofgem to note that the levels of most standing charges are currently too high, and can lead to longer periods of self-disconnection. More needs to be done by suppliers, Ofgem and the Government to support low-income households afford their energy use.

#### **Church of England welcomes Listed Places of Worship funding**

Church of England Cathedrals and churches were among nearly 5,000 religious buildings to recently receive a share of up to £42 million in Government funding aimed at helping with the conservation of listed places of worship.

The Listed Places of Worship (LPW) Grant Scheme gives grants covering the VAT on repairs to listed buildings used as places of worship. Beneficiaries of the scheme over the last year included Leicester Cathedral, which received more than £600,000 for restoration work; Chichester Cathedral, dating from the 11th century, received more than £195,000 for its roof and lighting projects; and the 12th-century Collegiate Church of St Mary in Warwick, which was granted more than £141,500 to repair its ancient tower.

Emily Gee, Director for Cathedral and Church Buildings for the Church of England said: "Our churches and cathedrals

provide spiritual, pastoral and practical support to their communities, and are key to the cultural heritage of the country.

"Their presence boosts local economies and provides jobs and volunteer roles, and in many cases, they are the only publicly open building in their local place, where other amenities have closed. "More than three quarters of our nearly 16,000 church buildings are listed, meaning they are of great significance to our nation's heritage.

"We are enormously grateful for the Government's Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme and the support that it provides in helping our church buildings remain central to the life of this country."

#### **Ministry Experience Scheme 'key' to C of E goal of reaching more young people**

The Ministry Experience Scheme (MES) could play a key role in helping the Church of England achieve its goals of recruiting more people to work in ministry to children, youth and families by 2030, a conference has heard. The Revd Helen Fraser, Head of Vocations for the Church of England, spoke of her hope that the MES Future Youth programme - training in children and youth work for young adults as part of a year-long ministry placement, will grow following its pilot launch in six dioceses this year.

The Revd Helen Fraser said: "We often think vocation just means ordination but vocation actually is all that God calls us to - it just means 'call' and that can be as simple as Jesus saying to His disciples 'come follow me' - that is a vocation, all the way through to something very much more specific," she said.

She went on: "For some people that will be the really clear and right outcome. But please keep an open mind and a broad mind if that is not clear to you yet because there are lots of different expressions of ministerial vocation that will all, over time, help us to be the

Church that God is calling us together to be.”

MES Chair and Chair of the Future Youth Steering Group, the Bishop of Jarrow, Sarah Clark said: “It is always a great joy for me to hear the stories of so many young adults utterly alive in their faith in Jesus Christ, actively exploring their vocation while serving their local church and community with love.”

**Church Commissioners publishes report on human rights best practice for investors**

The Church Commissioners for England has explained how it is holding company management accountable to its investor expectations on human rights in a new Human Rights report.

“Social inequality presents a systemic risk to economies and diversified portfolios. Companies can best understand and address their links to inequalities by meeting their responsibility to respect human rights,” said Dan Neale, Social Lead, Church Commissioners for England.

“During 2023, we worked towards a more systematic approach to human rights issues in our portfolio, with the aim of mitigating risks to broader society – and risks to long-term returns.”

The report calls on companies to provide better data on human rights, and for investors to systematically integrate human rights data into their investment and stewardship activities.

Maldon Choral

*A Celebration of  
Mozart*

*Requiem*

*Sparrow Mass*

*Ave Verum Corpus*

**Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

*All Saints Church, Maldon*

7.30pm

*Director: Ashley Thompson*

*Organist: Ed Sutton*

*Guest soloists*

Tickets £15 (Accompanied children free)

Available from Maldon Books, on the door or

Ticketsource: 0333 666 3366 [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

Registered Charity number: 287984

## The Licensing of The Rev'd Heather Atkinson



It was a cold, dark and very wet February 22<sup>nd</sup>. and the High Street pavements reflected the new street lights that had only recently been fitted as we made our way to All Saints' church for the long awaited Licensing of our new Priest in Charge. The Rev'd. Heather Atkinson's licensing by the Lord Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt. Rev'd. Dr. Guli Francis-Dehqani, and her installation by the Archdeacon of Chelmsford, The Venerable Jonathan Croucher is a legal requirement as well as an act of worship and marks the beginning of the ministry of Heather and a new stage in the life of our parishes. As the mission and ministry of the Church is the joint responsibility of all baptised people, so they come together with their new

minister and the bishop to celebrate their ministry and offer themselves afresh to God.

The service began by the Area Dean, Rev'd. Peter Begley, welcoming us all and inviting everyone to stand for the opening hymn – *'All People that on Earth do Dwell'*, while the ministers entered from the St. Katherine's Room. Bishop Guli greeted the congregation and introduced the service. The Archdeacon lead The Heather to the Bishop and said "Bishop Guli, after due consultation and prayerful consideration, Heather Mary Ann Atkinson has been nominated and has accepted to be Priest in Charge of Maldon All Saints' with St Peter; Heybridge St Andrew with St George; Langford St Giles. I now present her to you to be licensed."

The Bishop thanked him and all those who with prayer had been involved in the appointment to these parishes, and asked, "Heather, do you believe, so far as you know your own heart, that God has called you to serve here?" She answered "I believe that God has called me."

"Will you commit yourself to the mission and ministry of the people in this place, to further the Kingdom of God?"

"With the help of God, I will."

The Bishop addressed the congregation "People of God, will you welcome Heather and support and uphold her in her ministry, now and in the years to come?"



“With the help of God,  
we will.”  
“Will you stir up the gift  
of God which is in you,  
to work with Heather for  
the building of God’s  
Kingdom here?”  
“With the help of God,  
we will.”

After the Collect and the  
hymn ‘Love Divine, All  
Loves Excelling.’ there  
was a reading of (Mark  
12: v28-34) followed by  
Bishop Guli’s sermon on  
the theme ‘Love thy  
neighbour as thy self.’



After the Declarations and Oaths were made and signed by Heather, the Bishop signed the Deed of Licence.

The people stand. The Bishop reads the Deed of Licence and gave it to Heather.  
“Receive this cure of souls, which is both yours and mine; in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”  
To which the congregation replied “AMEN”  
Heather knelt in silence and Bishop Guli anointed her with oil of Chrism saying,  
Heather, remember your baptism into Christ. Remember your ordination in the Church of God. May God who anointed Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit anoint and empower you for the blessing of God’s people.”  
To which the congregation replied “AMEN”

(to be continued next month—The Installation)



**A big thank you**

Last year All Saints' bell ringers raised over £450.00 during December for Homestart, Maldon (see last month's Parish News).

Derek has received this letter in response:



Helping to give children the best possible start in life

## **... to All Saints' Maldon Hand Bell Ringers**

5<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Derek,

Firstly a huge thank you for inviting me to collect a cheque for £500.00 from the All Saints' Maldon Hand Bell Ringers last Weds 31<sup>st</sup> January from the donations you had received over the Christmas period. What made it such a special evening was your ringing of 'In an English Country Garden' and it was an evening I will never forget.

It was an absolute pleasure to meet you all and to have the opportunity to tell you more of what we do as a charity to support parents, to build their resilience and confidence to overcome the challenges they face in order to help them enjoy and improve the future opportunities for their children. The interest of your members and understanding of the difficulties which families face and the need for our support was heart-warming. It was also lovely to see one of your members at The Art at the Park at Braxted Park fundraiser for our charity on Sunday.

Your donation will help us to continue to provide support to local families across the Maldon district. If you would like to be added to our circulation list of local supporters where you will get information on what we are doing, please do let me know.

Once again on behalf our staff, volunteers and most importantly the families and children we support thank you for your very kind donation, it will make a real difference.

With warm best wishes

Sarah Sarah St-Pierre Chair of Trustees

## TEN to *TEN* the Rambling Group



Our next walk will be at 'Ten to Ten' on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March

This month's walk was a circular walk around Wickham Bishops and was intended to take in the footpath which follows the River Blackwater through Benton Hall golf course. However, the recent heavy rain meant a last-minute re-think! Starting from St. Bartholomew's Church, we set off along Mope Lane, passing some very large (and no-doubt expensive!) 'executive' homes. We started down the path leading to the golf course but it quickly became apparent that the river had over-flowed its banks and most of the course (and the footpath) was inundated with several feet of water.

Retracing our steps, we headed for Blue Mills bridge where the main Witham road crosses the river. Going along the lane opposite, we passed Glen Acres the magnificent gardens of which were covered in a carpet of snowdrops and hellebores – a beautiful sight on a bright winter's day. Continuing across field paths, we enjoyed lovely views across to Witham before arriving on the lane which took us to Braxted Village. Here we stopped off at the Braxted bakery for some welcome refreshments. Before returning to Wickham Bishops, we couldn't resist a look at the narrow-gauge railway, complete with engine and carriages, which passes round the adjacent farm. This has similarities to Mangapps farm railway in Burnham but on a smaller scale; a slightly incongruous sight in a farm setting.

Our next walk will be at 'Ten to Ten' on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March and will be the Two Rivers walk, starting from Hatfield Peverel and heading towards Paper Mill lock in Little Baddow. For more information, please contact Sue Smith on 01621 854056.

### A TEMPO BIFFO:

The celebrated soprano Gundula Janowitz once addressed her accompanist with these words: "I shall place my handbag on the piano. If you make more than two mistakes I shall hit you with it."

Anon.

## Janet in Longfield Care Home

There have been so many of our friends in the All Saints Church community who have supported Janet and me that I wanted to write a few words and send my thanks.

It was just 5 months ago that the family gathered around Janet at the Sunday morning Service to help her transition from care at home for Alzheimer's to care at Longfield Care Home in Farnbridge Close. I could no longer provide 24 hour care at home, but the separation has been difficult after 54 years of marriage. Janet is unaware of the circumstances in which she now finds herself. However, with the excellent and loving care of staff at Longfield I am confident that Janet is receiving the care she needs.

She is blessed with visitors who are welcome at any time in the Care Home. Friends from Church and family members see her on a regular basis and I visit each day, usually in the evening. This has enabled me to adjust to living on my own as I can occupy myself during the day and look forward to sitting with Janet in the evening. We sit together for an hour or so, listening to music, usually Frank Sinatra, eating snacks, usually fruit. When I arrive Janet is ready for bed in her dressing gown and then when I want to leave I tuck her into bed and creep out quietly. Its an odd lifestyle, but we are both adjusting and coping as well as can be expected with it. I enjoy my Sunday roasts with Janet in the Care Home and particularly enjoyed the Valentines dinner, wonderfully laid on by staff at Longfield. The photo shows us together on this occasion.

Thank you for your prayers and kindnesses expressed with love and support to us. We do appreciate it.

David







## COMING UP

- 1** Coffee Morning  
Saturday 2nd March  
10.00am -12o'clock.
- 2** Beetle Drive  
Saturday 13th April at  
5.30pm  
With Sausage & Mash
- 3** Bring & Share Brunch  
Sunday 19th May  
after the 9.30 Service.
- 4** Table Top Sale  
Saturday 3rd August.  
In the Churchyard
- 5** Harvest Supper  
Saturday 5th October.

**Colin and Elaine Brown's  
new address;  
42, Highlands Drive.  
MALDON**

## W CRAWFORD Painting & Decorating

*City and Guilds.*

- All work undertaken, interior & exterior
- Coving, paper hanging, painting
- Any odd jobs considered
- No job too small

**FRIENDLY & RELIABLE SERVICE**

Public liability insurance  
For free estimate call  
Warren on:- **01621 855564**

## Wall & Floor Tiling

Mobile **07947705028**

## PC MISBEHAVING?

Get your PC problems fixed!

### PC Care for PCs and Macs

For all your problems  
including



Virus removal,  
performance tuning, software,  
hardware & network installations  
& repairs

*Your local computer support*

Nick Smith  
01621 893290 or  
07986 405838

**PC  
CARE**  
essex

pc.care.essex@gmail.com  
www.pccareessex.co.uk

# All Saints' school answers the **Big** questions -

what would you answer?

Bible Hero Esther the brave and true –

## **Who do you know who is brave?**

I think that Jesus was brave because before he was going on the cross he went to his house and prayed to his father/GOD. He did it for us, always pray. - **David**

I am brave because I went to Go Ape with my cousin and it is like a bunch of bridges and courses in the trees and I was on the highest level of the course and there was a tight rope with little ropes to grab on to and I was really scared but I was brave and did it anyway and I got to go on the big zipline at the end weeeeeeeeeee!!!!!! - **Tilly**

I think Boudicca because she was so brave because she was a Celtic warrior and she had to do a lot of dangerous battles and she drank a deadly poison. - **Georgia**

Bible Villain Cain the jealous brother –

## **When have you been jealous of someone else?**

Bible Villain Cain the jealous brother – When have you been jealous of someone else? When I have been jealous is when people have been to Disneyland. I have been very jealous about people going to that place. This is how I have been jealous, my mouth-drops, it's not fair!!!! - **Phoebe**

I was jealous when I went to a birthday party and you're sad because you're just watching them open their presents and you're waiting and waiting for them to open them all. I was jealous when my brother got a toy from the shop and I did not so I asked dad if I could have one but he said the shop was closed so we went home. - **Mia and Zachary**

I feel jealous when my baby brother gets all the attention from nearly everyone but when I get jealous I play Roblox by myself alone but also I get that he has all the attention because he is very cute, like he will always be. - **Faith**

## OTHER NEWS IN SCHOOL

### Year 5 Fair Play House Residential Outdoor Education Centre

On Monday the 5th of February at 10:00am we arrived at Fair Play House which is in Wickham Bishops. When we arrived we put suitcases and bags down and we were introduced to the house. We were then told our rooms and our room was called Stone. All the rooms there are named after local rivers. In our room with us were William and Archie B. Our lunch for the day was burgers and hot dogs which were yummy!!!! In the afternoon we did our first activity which was bushcraft. Firstly we learnt how to start a very small fire using a bit of cotton wool and flint and steel. Then we found the

right sticks to start a big fire. On our big fire we made bread on sticks. It took roughly around 30 minutes to cook and we were allowed to put chocolate sauce in the middle. Then we eventually built an animal shelter but mainly for rabbits because our shelter was built around a rabbit hole. We had a great time doing bushcraft but we smelt a lot like fire at the end of the day. For dinner we had fish and chips which, like lunch, was yummy!!!



Late at night we did... the night walk!!! It was quite nervy, the only light we had was our torches as we walked along a dark path through the trees and we even went the wrong way at one point! But luckily we eventually made our way back safely. At the end of the day we went up to bed at 9:10pm and that was lights out.

The next morning we did breakfast duty with Archie, William, Freddie and Levente. We had to put out knives and forks and also we put out cereal and milk. Breakfast was at 08:00am and a lot of people went up for extra toast. We went up 4 times and got 6 pieces of toast which were delicious. After breakfast the breakfast group had to clean up the tables and me (Lucas) and William swept up the floor. It took a long time and when we went to our rooms afterwards we had a room inspection, we thought our room was in very good condition.



After that we had our first morning activity which was caving. We had to walk past the bushcraft and then we were there. It was quite tight but very fun. There was a scary bit when we turned the lights off from our torches so we did it in complete darkness! We enjoyed the caving very much and didn't want to get out!! For lunch we had sandwiches which tasted good.

Soon after that we had our afternoon activity which was the high ropes. First we tried to climb to the top of a 40 feet pole that wobbled! I (Zach) only got to 10 feet which I was disappointed about but then I think I did well on the second challenge. And last we did our final activity which was a bonus challenge. I climbed 45 feet and jumped off in 1

minute and 3 seconds.

When we got back we had some time in our room and then we did the big Fair Play House quiz. Us two, William and Archie were all together in our four and we won!! As the sun had gone down we ate dinner which was pasta bolognese. At 7:30pm we watched Chicken Run which was good and then time for bed.

As our last day came we had to make it count. Our activity was the woodland challenge and to get there we travelled there on a minibus. We did lots of teamwork challenges but sadly it was time to leave.

We had a lot of fun at Fair Play House. We felt a little nervous about being away but mostly we were excited and happy. It was lovely seeing our families again when we got home but a bit of a shock because we had been with our friends for such a long time. I (Lucas) worked out me and Zach had spent over 100 hours together.

Thank you to all the staff for taking us and to the Fair Play House staff for a lovely trip.

***By Zach and Lucas***



**Keeping the county warm**

 Contact BFS for prompt delivery of your domestic heating oil direct from our local Danbury Fuel Services depot. You'll find no better service, no better value.

**Fuel Services** T 01245 425251 [www.bfsfuelservices.uk](http://www.bfsfuelservices.uk)

# World Day Of Prayer



Logo since 1982

## The World Day of Prayer

The World Day Of Prayer is a worldwide, women's, Christian, ecumenical organisation whose motto is "informed Prayer and Prayerful Action".

Every year around 200 countries celebrate the first Friday in March by having services during which prayers are made on behalf of the chosen country which this year—ironically— is Palestine.

The Women's World Day of Prayer started in the US in 1887—it spread into Canada in 1922, and to the United Kingdom in the 1930's. The movement grew after the second world war and was joined by the Roman Catholic Women's 'May Day of Prayer' in 1967 after the Second Vatican Council.



## Answers to the Crossword

**ACROSS:** 1, Wine. 3, The alert. 8, Ooze. 9, Passover. 11, Garden Tomb. 14, Cannot. 15, Elisha. 17, Gethsemane. 20, Own house. 21, Lisa. 22, Flogging. 23, Stye.

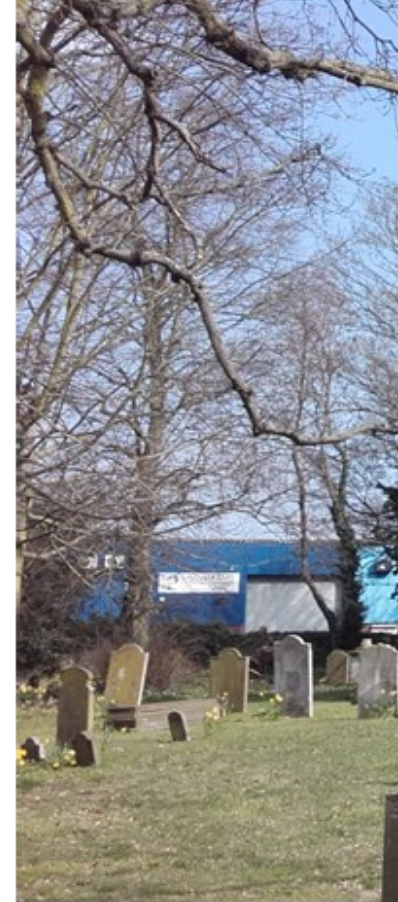
**DOWN:** 1, Wrong act. 2, Nazarene. 4, Health. 5, Assemblies. 6, Envy. 7, Turn. 10, Before long. 12, Iscariot. 13, Take care. 16, The Son. 18, Loaf. 19, Unto.

# 'Down the Hill'

## 10 THINGS YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH HEYBRIDGE

Hidden behind the trees off the main road running through Heybridge lies the parish church of St Andrew's. Hidden it may be but it has a notable place in the history of the Maldon area.

- 1** St Andrew's was dedicated shortly after **1160 in the reign of Henry II** on the site of a larger, cathedral size, Saxon church built by King Aethelstan. He is often referred to as the first king of England and was the grandson of Alfred the Great. The walls of the Church are of flint rubble, boulder clay and pudding stone with some Roman bricks and it is thought that some of this material was re-used from the original Saxon church
- 2** Its position was important. Located nearby was a Saxon port giving access to the sea from the River Blackwater. A few yards away, the main road to Colchester crossed the river and this was later spanned by an impressive, five arch stone bridge thus the name **Highbridge**.
- 3** Visitors are often struck by the stumpy nature of the church some thinking it must be of Saxon origin. Its appearance is due to the collapse of the original tower around 1450 when it was undermined by floodwater from the Blackwater. The original tower would have been over twice the height.
- 4** The south porch conceals the main door of the church described by Pevsner as one of the finest Norman doors in the country. The ironwork is original and some **800 years old**.
- 5** The Sanctuary was added in the 15th century and the original priest's door blocked up with a 13th



century coffin lid understood to be that of a crusader. The ornamental stem consists of the Greek characters Alpha and Omega.

**6** A perfect time to visit the churchyard is in late winter when the ground is covered with snowdrops to be shortly followed by daffodils **all carefully tended by groundsman Terry**.

**7** The roll call of vicars dates back to 1214 and starts with William de Eaversham who was probably a Norman cleric as were the next three on



it is thought that some of this material was re-used from the original Saxon church

the roll. This raises the possibility that services were conducted in Latin, the vicar spoke Norman French as his first language, and the congregation would probably have spoken Middle English.

**8** Between 1516 and 1522 the three original bells were housed in the rebuilt tower. The bell by the main door, known as the John Darbie bell, was installed in 1684 and was in use until 1928 when it became cracked. The inscription reads: **Vox Augustine Sonet in Aure Dei: Augustine's - voice**

**rings in God's ears.**

**9** Throughout the 15th and into the 16th century the '*mystery plays*' were a popular form of theatre. The Heybridge play of 1530 travelled around mid Essex to other towns such as Tollesbury, Coggeshall, Terling, Felsted and Woodham Ferrers. Two years later Heybridge put on what became to be known as its '**Great Play**'. It took place "on the Sunday before **Whytensundaye** in the year of our Lorde 1532" and it generated £5.17.10d from surround-

ing towns, £2.17.4d from within the parish and gifts of "700 and a half of cheese, 12 lambs, 3 sheep and two cawys".

**10** The church is once again open to all on a Wednesday and a newly prepared **Walkabout Guide is available** to guide visitors through all the treasures of this historic church.

**Kevin Norman**

**More from  
'Down The Hill'  
next month**

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues a new series which will run for the next two years

# What's the Big Idea

An Introduction to the Books of the Bible



This is the second of a new series aimed at providing an overview of the Bible. This month we consider the next two books, Leviticus and Numbers ...

## Leviticus and Numbers

These books are concerned with Israel's wandering in the desert, on their journey from slavery in Egypt to the promised land of Canaan.

Leviticus focuses on the regulations about worship, ceremonial cleanness, moral laws and holy days. The key theme is that of *holiness*, as every detail of our lives is affected by the presence of a holy God. The aim of the sacrifices, feast and Sabbaths was to enable the people to enter God's presence. We should see the instructions and practices in Leviticus as pointing to Jesus. He totally fulfilled the law through the sacrifice of His life, as Easter reminds us. He demonstrated the love and holiness of God, so that we can share His life: *'Be holy, because I am holy'* (1 Peter 1:16, cf Lev 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7).

The book of Numbers tells the story of Israel's journey through the wilderness. The people were coming to terms with their *identity* as God's people and the *call* to serve Him. They didn't always respond with faith, gratitude and obedience, but with unbelief, ingratitude and rebellion. As a result of their refusal to enter Canaan (ch 14), they were condemned to spend the rest of their lives in the desert. However, God in His grace allowed their children to enter the Promised Land. The book reminds us that the Church is called to be a community that honours God, learns how to deal with sin in ourselves and others, and lives out love and justice in daily life.

***'The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.'***  
(Numbers 6:24-26).



# A Quiz on the Book of Numbers

1. How many chapters are there in the Book of Numbers - 34, 35, 36?
  - *The Ten Commandments,*
  - *A Brass Serpent,*
  - *Aaron's Rod*
2. "Bemidbar," the Hebrew title of the book "Numbers" means what
  - *In the beginning*
  - *In the wilderness*
  - *Accounting*
3. What does the book of Numbers describe
  - *the priestly rituals and rules for conduct*
  - *the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt*
  - *the numbering of God's people?*
4. How many years will the Israelites wander in the wilderness - 30, 40, 50?
5. What tribe was given the responsibility of doing the work of the tabernacle - *Asher, Judah, Levi?*
6. In Numbers 16, a man named Korah led a rebellion against Moses. How did God end this rebellion
  - *They were all stricken with leprosy.*
  - *They were eaten by worms.*
  - *The ground opened up and swallowed them?*
7. Why does God prohibit Moses from entering Canaan in Numbers 20
  - *because he spoke to the rock*
  - *because he threw the rock*
  - *because he strikes the rock?*
8. What did Moses hold up in Numbers 21, to heal the people who had been bitten by poisonous snakes when they looked at it
9. When the twelve spies were sent to Canaan, how many returned with a good report - *Two, Twelve, One?*
10. 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.' What are these verse from Numbers 6 called -
  - *The Shema,*
  - *The Mezzuzah,*
  - *The Aaronic Blessing?*

---

## The Answers:

- Q1 36  
Q2 In the wilderness  
Q3 The numbering of God's people  
Q4 40  
Q5 Levi  
Q6 The ground opened up and swallowed them.  
Q7 Because he struck the rock instead of speaking to it  
Q8 A brass serpent  
Q9 Two  
Q10 The Aaronic Blessing

The Pentateuch is made up of the first five books of the bible - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy they were known as the book of the law.

# STRICTLY COME EASTER

## **But it wasn't a dance, was it? Or was it?**

Jesus chose to enter Jerusalem on a little colt, the foal of a donkey. (Matt 21.5)

This must have made the Romans laugh; 'When we crown an emperor, he rides in on a beautiful white charger with the people casting laurels in his path, and this one reckons he's a king? Ha!'

'Yes and then he is lifted up onto his marble throne,' said another as the cross was raised into place.

'And don't forget the two consuls that sit one each side of him...hey, wait a minute.' The centurion went quiet as thoughts tumbled around his mind. 'Give this emperor a cup of wine. See what he does.'

Jesus refused the cup.

Exactly what our emperor does at his coronation,' remarked the soldier. "Takes it and hands it back without drinking.'

They stood back and took in the sorry spectacle. Jesus, having entered Jerusalem on a humble donkey, palms strewn in his path, was lifted onto a wooden cross, with a criminal similarly positioned on either side, a drink offered and declined.

(Mark 15.23)

...The process was not wasted on these executioners as one may have put it, 'We thought we were putting a criminal to death but instead...

## **WE HAVE CROWNED AN EMPEROR.**

So, not a dance? Or had Jesus choreographed the whole ceremony as a parody of what happened on Earth was happening in Heaven.

We'll let the Centurion have the last word:

**' TRULY THIS MAN WAS THE SON OF GOD.'**

*Geoff Derrett*

## **Easter faith in atheist Russia**

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, 'He is risen indeed!' It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people that God does not exist when they have already encountered Him?

Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>

# Mothering Sunday

There is an old Jewish saying:

**God could not be everywhere, 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.



— Christ is risen —  
**EASTER**  
the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and it lasts for seven days,

from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for the first Good Friday: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 30 AD or Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22<sup>nd</sup> March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25<sup>th</sup> April, which last happened in 1943.



Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from *Eostre*, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like *Eos* and *Aurora*, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

## Jesus' appearances after His Resurrection

*The following list of witnesses may help put all those references in order....*

- 1 Mary Magdalene**  
(Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18)
- 2 Other women at the tomb**  
(Matthew 28:8-10)
- 3 Peter in Jerusalem**  
(Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5)
- 4 The two travellers on the road**  
(Mark 16:12,13)
- 5 Disciples behind closed door**  
(Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25)
- 6 Disciples with Thomas**  
(John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5)
- 7 Disciples while fishing**  
(John 21:1-14)
- 8 Disciples on the mountain**  
(Matthew 28:16-20)
- 9 A crowd of 500**  
(1 Corinthians 15:6)
- 10 Jesus' brother – James**  
(1 Corinthians 15:7)
- 11 Those who saw the Ascension**  
(Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8)

The Romans typically put to death the leader of a banned organisation and the group then gave up and disappeared. Jesus, the leader had been put to death. The disciples similarly were in disarray and on the verge of disappearing ie, the two on the Emaus Road. They had given up and were going home, and the other's were in hiding.

How, then, did this 'Jewish sect' turn the world upside down and kick start Christianity?

*(Any answers will be published next month - Edit.)*

# St James the Least of All

## On why pews SHOULD be uncomfortable

The Rectory  
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Visits from your parishioners to our church are always welcome. But I did not expect them to return to you complaining because our pews are uncomfortable.

Pews are *meant* to be uncomfortable. The unshakeable belief of our congregation is that the more uncomfortable the pew, the holier the worship must be. By the same token, an 8am Service is more fervent than one at 11am, since it is much more socially inconvenient. If you add on enduring sub-zero temperatures and damp, then sainthood clearly beckons. Your people may be used to lolling in upholstered chairs in tropical temperatures, but I am sure such comfort places their souls in grave peril.

Our pews were built 500 years ago, when people were several inches shorter and many pounds lighter, and so could accommodate themselves on them perfectly adequately. The fact that a twenty-first century body is in constant danger of sliding off the seat and requires knees to be folded somewhere near ears at least helps to keep minds focussed – apart from Colonel Wainwright, who still manages to sleep peacefully throughout Mattins every Sunday.

I could point out that your chairs make kneeling almost impossible – although I suspect that posture is not encouraged in your church, as people would then be unable to read the words on your overhead projector or wave their arms about quite as easily during the hymns. While the majority of our congregation find the Anglican crouch perfectly adequate, you can see those who flop to their knees on hearing “let us pray” from the clouds of dust sent up from suddenly compressed hassocks, which were purchased to commemorate Queen Victoria’s Accession.

I may also point out that our box pews are very useful for modern times. Once a family is seated, with the door firmly shut, then any toddler is penned in and unable to use the aisles as a racing circuit. Medieval carpenters were clearly forward-thinking people. Admittedly, box pew doors do tend to stick, and few manage to look dignified while they wait for step ladders to be brought before they can climb out.

If only you would remove your chairs and substitute benches without backs, turn off all heating and replace carpets with slate slabs, I am sure your congregation’s religious zeal would soar.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



# A.G. Smith

Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons



Serving our local community since 1912

- Private chapel of rest
- Mercedes Benz hearse & limousines
- 24 hour service
- Hand crafted memorials
- Home visits by appointment
- Prepayment funeral plans



**Maldon - 01621 854 293**

7 Spital Road, Maldon, CM9 6DY

**Southminster - 01621 774 557**

Hallmark House, 44 Station Road, Southminster, CM0 7EW

[agsmithfunerals.co.uk](http://agsmithfunerals.co.uk)

# THROUGH THE FURNACE

A monthly serial by F.E.Reade

"When are you to start?" asked Margaret, speaking at last.

"Next week. The sooner I go the sooner I shall come back," and again he smiled, the old fascinating smile, "I mean to be a terrible plague to you," he added; "I want you to help me about my outfit."

"I will do all that I can," replied she.

During the next week they were constantly together, and Margaret sewed and shopped and packed and did everything for him.

"I shall miss you dreadfully, my tower of strength," said he on the last night, in his most affectionate tone. "I don't know what I should have done without you these last few days; you will write to me often, won't you, and be ready for me when I come back?"

"Yes, I shall be ready, said Margaret.

## CHAPTER VI

"And is there no hope for my son, Margaret?" It was Mrs. Pervis who spoke, one grey December afternoon. They were together in Newlyn's sitting room, for Margaret was now accustomed her leisure time there. She thought that it would do the room good to be used, and, when she sat there alone, she would build many a castle in the air about the future, when its rightful occupant would sit once more in the easy chair and talk to her in his gay, affectionate way.

During the last few days her castles had taken more definite form. Her last letter from Newlyn had been full of hope. He was very much better, nearly well, in fact, and he should soon be starting for home.

As Margaret looked up to answer Mrs. Pervis' question, her hand felt instinctively in her pocket to touch the letter which lay

there.

"I am very sorry, Mrs. Pervis," said she, gravely, "but I have always tried to show your son that I cannot give anything but regard and respect."

"Respect sometimes grows into love," suggested Mrs. Pervis.

"It could not in my case," replied Margaret, firmly.

"Do you mind telling me, my dear, if you are engaged to Mr. Newlyn? As Mrs. Pervis, fixing her clear eyes on Margaret's face.

The girl blushed crimson. "No, not engaged," she answered, with downcast eyes; "he does not mean to marry—but we are close friends. He will soon be coming back again, and his home is here. He leans on me for everything—I could never leave him."

"Then you remain single for the sake of a man who cannot marry?"

"Yes," said Margaret, in a whisper, "I shall remain single all my life for his sake."

"Ah, in that case I see there is indeed no chance for John," replied Mrs. Pervis, with a sigh, "and he try to forget you. It seems a pity, though, that you should refuse an honest love, and throw away the substance for the shadow."

"It is no shadow to me," said Margaret, quickly, "this friendship is the happiness of my life."

"Well, my dear, I can only hope that it may prove to be so," said Mrs. Pervis, gently, as she kissed her and wished her goodbye.

During the months of Newlyn's absence Mr. Harvey had often looked sadly at his daughter and wondered at the change that had been wrought in her. She was no longer the calm, cheerful, vigorous young woman that she had been a year ago. She had lost colour and flesh, and she



would often speak in an impatient, irritable manner which showed that her nervous system was out of order. Mr. Harvey was also quite a different person to what he had been twelve months before, but whereas Margaret had lost, he had gained. He was a humble, single-hearted Christian man, making use of all the privileges of the Church, and doing his best to correspond in his life to the grace which he constantly received through the Sacraments. His success in business had given him self-respect and self-reliance in worldly matters, and he was the Vicar's right hand in all parish affairs.

Another letter from Newlyn announced that he was leaving Donaldson, and intended to travel down to Montreal, and take ship from Liverpool without delay.

"I am quite well enough to work now," ran the letter, "so I do not think that I ought to put my aunt to any further expense. I am coming home to you, Margaret, and shall expect a warm welcome."

The days passed by very slowly to Margaret, but still they passed, and the end of each day brought him nearer. At last telegram came. The ship had arrived, his train was fixed, he was really coming.

This home coming seemed to her quite different from the others. It was now eight months since she had seen him, and he was coming back in comparatively good health. Everything would be different now. He would no longer need to be nursed and tended. She felt that she might even be shy of him at first. Yet his frank, affectionate letters showed that he was unchanged, and had he not said that he was coming home to *her*? Surely he meant that they were still to be close companions and dear friends, and that their lives were to be lived side by side.

The eventful evening came, and when his knock sounded at the door, agitation drove every trace of colour from her cheek, and her knees trembled under her as she went to answer the summons.

There he stood, looking broader and even taller, for he had lost his invalid

stoop.

He took both her hands in his and spoke in a strong, cheerful voice. "Dear Margaret, how glad I am to see you; but how is this," he continued, looking at her closely under the light of the hall lamp, "you are pale and thin; what have you been doing to yourself?"

"I shall be better now," she replied in a low tone.

"Yes, I must stir you up and take you about," said he, heartily, "and put a little colour into those pale cheeks."

He went in to greet Mr. Harvey, and talked gaily all super-time about his travels. When the meal was over he turned to Margaret, and said quite openly:

"Please come upstairs as soon as you can. I want you."

Margaret delayed a little, for a strange timidity had seized her, and when, at last, she went upstairs and they were alone he seemed embarrassed also. They talked in a disjointed kind of way for a little while, and then he jumped up from the chair and said abruptly:

"Margaret, I have something to tell you." His face was flushed and his tone eager, "Do you remember my saying that I should never marry?"

"Yes," replied she, with a deep blush.

"Well, the doctor on board ship told me that I might. I asked him for a particular reason. Can you guess it, Margaret?"

"I should not like to guess," she replied with downcast eyes, but a happy smile curved her lips, and her heart beat to suffocation. There could only be one reason, she thought; he wanted her to belong to him for ever.

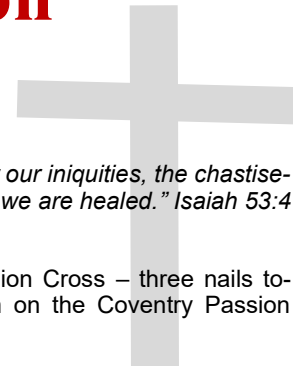
"Then if you cannot guess the reason, I must show it to you," said he.

He put his hand into his breast pocket, drew out something and laid it before her on the table. It was the photograph of a young and beautiful girl.

Margaret looked at it in silence, and her heart, that had just been beating so rapidly, seemed to stop and turn to stone in her bosom. She could not speak.

Continued next month

# The Coventry Passion CROSS



*"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement that bought us peace was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:4-6*

Coventry Cathedral uses as its emblem the Coventry Passion Cross – three nails together forming the Cross of Christ. Here is my reflection on the Coventry Passion Cross; what does this design mean to you?

The first nail is the carpenter's nail and focuses us on the purpose of the nail. We are reminded that Jesus worked as a carpenter before entering His ministry. As He sat there in His carpenter's workshop, smoothing and working the wood with love, did He contemplate the rugged cross on which He would one day be crucified? As He hammered nails into wood, did He ever accidentally hammer one into His finger, and as He felt that pain, did He foresee the nails of His crucifixion? As He carried large logs to His workshop to make tables, chairs, and doors, did He contemplate the cross he would one day carry to Calvary?

The second nail is the nail of **Passion**, it represents the nails in Jesus' hands and feet that He accepted because of His passionate love for us.



The third nail is the nail of Promise, like the promise He made to the dying thief on the cross. It was that if we believe in Him, then we will reign with Him in paradise. This is the nail that Christ offers to you and to me. Will you accept this nail as a sign of His passionate love, His forgiveness of your sin and promise of eternal life for all who will come to Him? If so, why not pray the following prayer this Eastertide?

### Pray

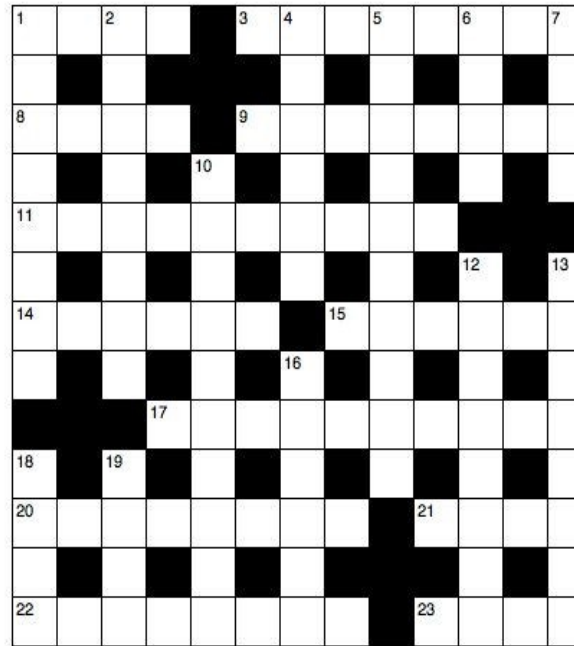
*Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that You have a plan and a purpose for my life, thank You for Your passionate love for me, thank You that Your blood was shed for my sins, thank You for Your promise of eternal life. As I think about that nail of promise, I receive Your passion, Your grace and Your forgiveness, may I fulfil Your plan and purpose for my life, In Jesus name, Amen.*

P.P. 24/04

# CROSSWORD for Easter 2024

## Across

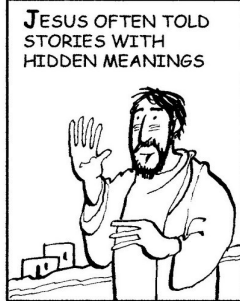
- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)  
 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on —' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)  
 8 Seep (4)  
 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)  
 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)  
 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)  
 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12–13) (6)  
 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)  
 20 'Only in his home town and in his — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)  
 21 Sail (anag.) (4) 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)  
 23 Eye sore (4)



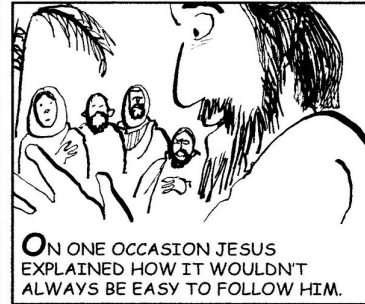
## Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)  
 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that —, Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)  
 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)  
 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)  
 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)  
 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)  
 10 ' — —, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)  
 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)  
 13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)  
 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)  
 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)  
 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)

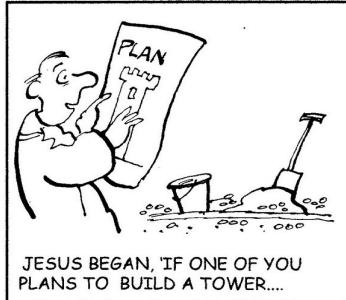
The tale of  
the  
Tower  
Builder



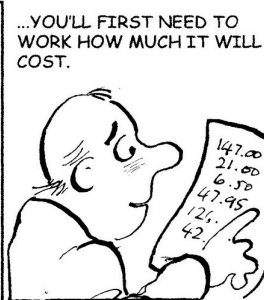
JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



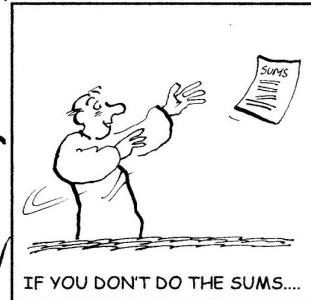
ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....



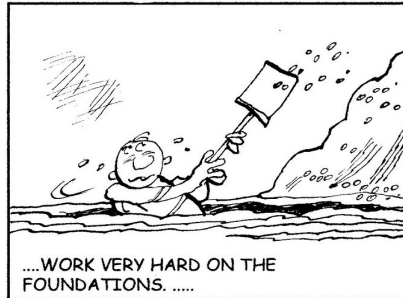
...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



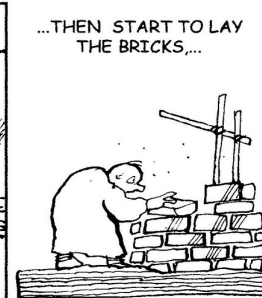
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....



...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START, ....



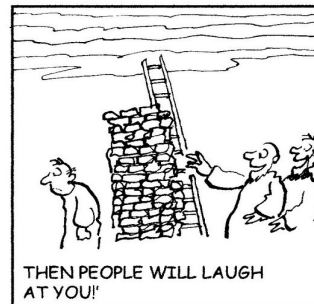
....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS. ....



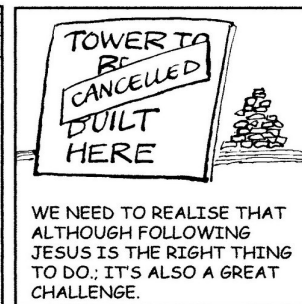
...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,....



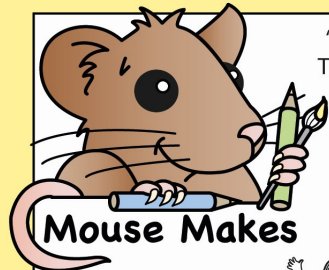
...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



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



**Mouse Makes**

*Matthew 21:1-11*

1. Which city did Jesus ride into?
2. What did he ride on?
3. What did the crowd shout?
4. What did clothes did they put down?
7. What did they cut down to spread on the road?

*Matthew 26:17-29*

15. What feast did Jesus celebrate?
12. Who did he celebrate it with?
11. What did Jesus break to eat?

*Matthew 26:36-75*

6. What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
18. Who denied Jesus?

*Matthew 26:14-16*

- 8d. Who betrayed Jesus?
10. How many silver pieces was he paid?

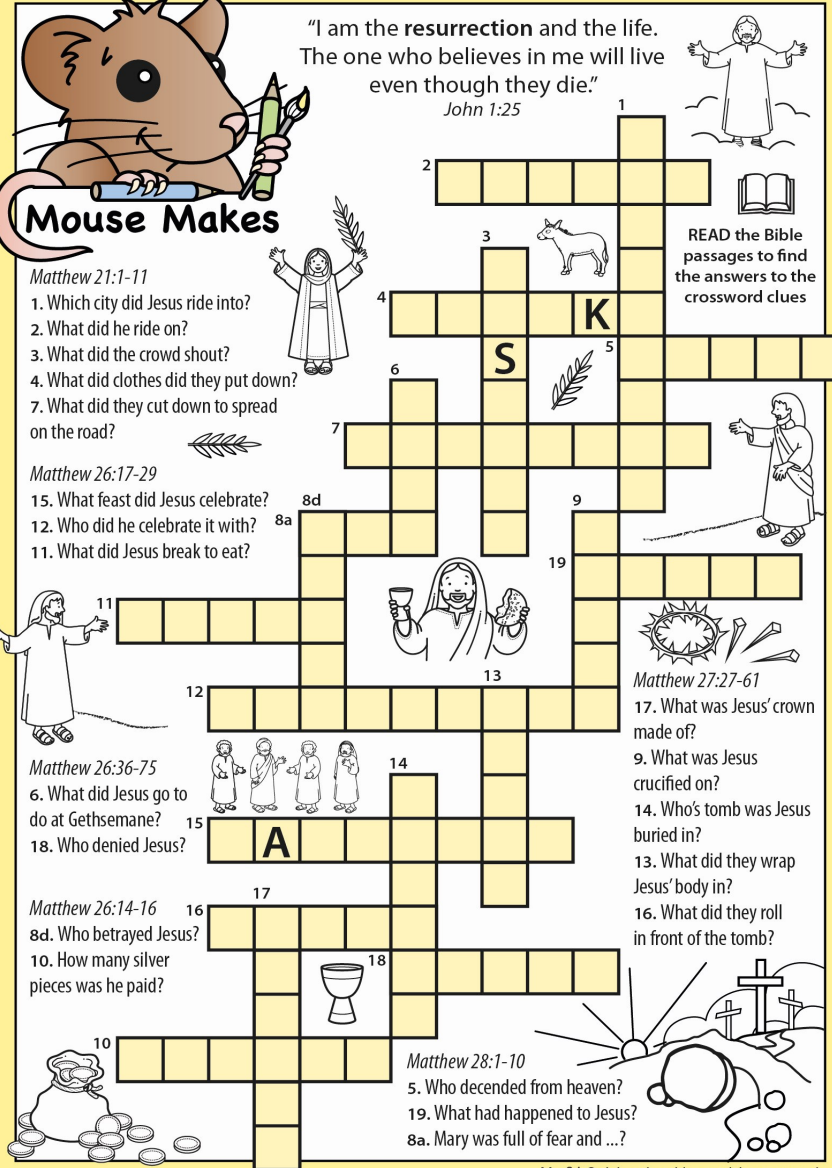
*Matthew 28:1-10*

5. Who descended from heaven?
19. What had happened to Jesus?
- 8a. Mary was full of fear and ...?

*John 1:25*

"I am the **resurrection** and the life. The one who believes in me will live even though they die."

READ the Bible passages to find the answers to the crossword clues



# Prayer Diary March 2024

1	St David	Wales, and churches dedicated to St David
2		Tearfund
3	3rd Sunday of Lent	Christians throughout the world
4		The Healing Ministry
5		Missionaries throughout the world
6		Church of England Schools
7		Care home workers
8		Children in care or estranged from their parents
9		All teachers
10	4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	All Mothers and our Mother Church; for the work of The Mothers' Union and Women's Institute
11		All fathers
12		Foster Parents
13		Churches in our Deanery
14		The Archbishops of Canterbury and York
15		All Priests and Ministers of the Church
16		Ireland, and churches dedicated to St Patrick
17	5th Sunday of Lent Passion Sunday	Chelmsford Cathedral Staff
18		Care home residents
19		Our Police Forces
20		Paramedics and all Ambulance Staff
21		Christian Booksellers
22		All staff employed in the Diocesan Offices
23		Retired Clergy
24	Palm Sunday	Our Ministry Team as they prepare for Holy Week and Easter
25	Monday of Holy Week	All Midwives
26	Tuesday of Holy Week	All employed in Hospices
27	Wednesday of Holy Week	Our Parish
28	Maundy Thursday	Churches in our Missionary and Ministry Unit
29	Good Friday	The witness of all Churches in our Diocese
30	Easter Eve	Those to be Baptised or Confirmed today
31	Easter Day	Christians throughout the world

## PARISH DIRECTORY

VICAR	Revd Heather Atkinson
ASSISTANT CURATE	Rev Jordan Palmer All Saints Vicarage, Church Walk, Maldon CM9 4PY Tel 07535 001840 jordanmpalmer@outlook.com
HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIESTS	Rev John Dickens Tel 01621 858136  Rev Noelle Taylor Tel 07779 491723
AUTHORISED LOCAL PREACHERS	Mrs Adrienne Knight Tel 01621 841329  Alan Marjoram Tel 01245 243868
CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs Vicky Tropman Tel: 01621 857291  Colin Brown 01621 850484
DEPUTY CHURCHWARDEN	Mrs Jenny Clinch Tel: 01621 840057
HON TREASURER	Eddie Sewell Tel: 01621 851961
PCC SECRETARY	Mrs Julie Ovenden Tel: 01621 858803
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	Mrs Barbara Gale Tel 01621 928538
ORGANIST and CHOIRMASTER	Dr Stuart Pegler Tel: 01621 850530
RECORDER OF THE CHURCH	Mike Gibson Tel 01621 784354
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Mrs Elizabeth Blyth Tel 01621 854068 Email: elizabeth.blyth@gmail.com
CHAIRMAN ESTATES COM	Dennis Johnson Tel: 01621 842410
PARISH NEWS EDITOR & WEB SITE MANAGER	Mike Kneller Email: bigglesworth@btinternet.com

Website [www.allsaintsmaldon.com](http://www.allsaintsmaldon.com)

## ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Choir Prac/Thur (7:30pm) Choir Prac/Sat (11.30am)	Dr. Stuart Pegler	01621 850530
Junior Church	Elaine Brown	01621 850484
Sunshiners (Pre School Group Thur 9:15 am)	Mary Stebbens Gill Nelson	07561115145 01621 852119
Tower Bell Ringers	Dennis Johnson	01621 842410
Handbell Ringers	Derek Hall	01621 741690
Flower Group	Pauline Boyt	01621 855642
Childrens Society	Elaine Brown	01621 850484
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	Zoe Franklin <a href="mailto:1stmaldonallsaintsscoutgroup@gmail.com">1stmaldonallsaintsscoutgroup@gmail.com</a>	Email:-
Maldon Pioneers	Mike Frederick	01621 840951
Ramblers Club	Sue Smith	01621 854056
Prayer Group		
Messy Church	Elaine Brown	01621 850484

To register your daughter's interest in joining either:  
Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers please visit  
[www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) or tel: 0800 169 5901.

### From the Registers





01621 859 484  
07990 972 676

SH  
SIMON HOLDING  
EST. 1997

TRADITIONAL AND MODERN UPHOLSTERY CURTAINS AND BLINDS  
BESPOKE FURNITURE SOFT FURNISHINGS JACARANDA RUGS  
BESPOKE LEATHER FRENCH CLUB CHAIRS VOYAGE MAISON RETAILER  
WALLPAPER AND HANGING SERVICE

www.simonholding.co.uk Unit F, Stock Chase, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex CM9 4AA

**iPC Solutions**  
computer sales and repairs

**We buy, sell and repair**

- ◆ Virus & Spyware Removal
- ◆ Collections & Repairs Done in Your Home
- ◆ Gaming PC's Built & Supplied
- ◆ Laptop Screen Replacements
- ◆ 3D/CAD Workstations Built & Supplied

☎ 01621 857085    ✉ ipcsolutions@live.co.uk  
 ☎ 07751087687    🌐 www.ipcsolution.co.uk

# FINALLY inability does not equal INACTIVITY

P.P. 24/04

It is perhaps a well-polished truth, but one well worth remembering again: when it comes to salvation, “We were justified by faith alone, through grace alone, *but we are not sanctified by faith alone*”.

In other words, we are made acceptable to God only through the death and resurrection of Jesus, who dealt with our sin. But then the Bible calls on Christians to take their transformation into Christlikeness very seriously. Repentance and conversion and receiving the Holy Spirit into our lives is just the beginning. Now we need to do all we can to allow the fruit of the Spirit to grow in our lives.

From now on, our daily walk is never alone: we are to keep in step with His Spirit, and to ‘work out’ our salvation in our daily lives. In other words, *obedience* to God is fundamental in our Christian pilgrimage.

St Paul stressed this again and again. In Romans 12 he set forth 23 directives to clarify what we must do as we cooperate with the Spirit in our transformation. St Peter adds (2 Peter 1:10,11) “...make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”.

When we truly want to “know Christ and the power of his resurrection”, we will see

the Holy Spirit beginning to transform us. As Augustine wisely noted about the walk into a sanctified Christlike life: “Without us, God will not; but without Him, we cannot”.

As someone once put it: “Each morning we must raise the sails of our boat and go where the Spirit leads. He brings the wind and He governs the speed and direction, but we must cooperate by ensuring that we join Him on the journey.”

Est 2005

## **Barnes Gardening Services**

All aspects of general gardening undertaken

- Pruning
- Weeding
- Lawn Mowing

One-off garden clearance or regular maintenance.

Also

- spring cleaning,
- ironing and
- basic decorating

Fully insured  
No job too small

Call Lorraine on  
07754 791 387



## Care in the heart of your own home

Are you or an elderly loved one looking for extra care and support at home in **Maldon** or the surrounding areas? Then our local carers are here to help.

Novus Care is regulated by the Care Quality Commission and can provide a qualified carer to support your loved one in their own home from just a **visit per week to around the clock live-in care.**

For more information or to arrange a care assessment please call: **01268 960286** or email **hello@novus-care.com**



## A.G. Smith

Est. 1912

### Memorial Stonemasons

- Personal hand carved designs
- New memorials on display in showroom
- Additional inscriptions
- Cleaning & Restoration
- Free no obligation quotations



**agsmithfunerals.co.uk**    **01621 502 262**

**LOCALLY HAND CARVED STONE MEMORIALS**



# ALL SAINTS *MALDON*

[www.allsaintsmaldon.com](http://www.allsaintsmaldon.com)

## PARISH OFFICE

For weddings & Baptisms please email [allsaintschurchmaldon@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintschurchmaldon@gmail.com)  
A member of our team will contact you to arrange to meet you at a mutually convenient time to discuss your requirements, and make the necessary booking.

*This cover is sponsored by*

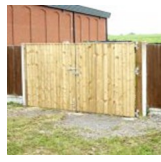


## South Wood Timber

*Hands on timber supplies*

*We are an established timber yard in Great Totham  
Who supply timber & fencing to the public and trade.  
Also, Bespoke Quality Sheds & Stables*

**Home & Garden  
Construction & Farming  
Local Delivery Service Available**



**Graded Timber**



**Treated Sawn  
Timber**

**Broad Street Green Road,  
Great Totham, Maldon CM9 8NU  
01621 891999 \* [www.southwoodtimber.co.uk](http://www.southwoodtimber.co.uk)**