



ALL SAINTS' *MALDON* PARISH NEWS

April 2024

ALL SAINTS'



April 7th

2nd Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion Revd Heather
9.30am Worship for All Revd Jordan,
Revd Heather
& Adrienne

April 14th

3rd Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion Fr John &
Revd Jordan
9.30am Sung Eucharist Fr John &
Revd Jordan
6.30pm Evensong Alan

April 21st

4th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion Fr John
9.30am Sung Eucharist Revd Noelle
3.00pm St Georges' Day Parade
Revd Jordan,
Revd Heather & Alan

April 28th

5th Sunday of Easter

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

Thanks to:

Liz for the front cover photo & Easter Glow
Mike O. for the Licensing Of Revd Heather photos
Irene A. for Down the Hill photos

Church info

APRIL 2024

ST GILES'

April 7th
2nd Sunday of Easter
9.30am MP&P Irene & Gerald

April 14th
3rd Sunday of Easter
9.30am Holy Communion CW Revd Heather

April 21st
4th Sunday of Easter
9.30am Holy Communion CW Fr John & Revd Jordan

April 28th
5th Sunday of Easter
9.30am Holy Communion CW Fr John & Revd Heather



ST ANDREW'S

April 7th
2nd Sunday of Easter
11.00am Holy Communion CW Fr John

April 14th
3rd Sunday of Easter
11.00am Holy Communion CW Revd Heather

April 21st
4th Sunday of Easter
11.00am MP&P Lynne & Revd Jordan

April 28th
5th Sunday of Easter
11.00am Holy Communion CW Fr John & Revd Heather



ST GEORGE'S

Monday April 1st
9.30am Holy Communion NO SERVICE

Monday April 8th
9.30am Holy Communion Revd Heather & Revd Julia

Monday April 15th
9.30am Holy Communion Revd Heather & Revd Julia

Monday April 22nd
9.30am Holy Communion Revd Jordan

Monday April 29th
9.30am Holy Communion Fr John





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The Parish Letter

In last month's Parish News, Adrienne, in her letter, recounted her younger years, and that set me thinking.

I recall that I did not like to read, not for pleasure anyway. Of course, I learnt to read at home with my parents, and eventually went to school where I became a fluent reader. But reading was of necessity. To progress to the next book in the reading scheme, one had to move through the current book, chapter by chapter, eventually reaching the last page of the book.

The goal had been achieved, and the reward was to progress to the next book in the scheme. Of course, all the books in the reading scheme were mostly of a fictional nature. I think they were 'Janet and John' books.

As time progressed, it was necessary to read – not necessarily for

pleasure – but to educate oneself; to discover facts about everything one wanted or needed to know.

Whether fiction or non-fiction, all books have chapters, some long, and some much shorter. We talk about life-events falling into chapters of our lives, and we also refer to life-changes as 'turning over a new leaf.'

Whether it is 'turning over a new leaf' or 'beginning a new chapter,' it makes little difference. It is really the start of a new beginning.

As a church we are entering a new chapter in our 'book of life' in this place. Last month Revd Heather Atkinson was licensed to become Priest in Charge of this; St Andrew's Heybridge; and St Giles Langford parishes. This will be a chal-



lenge for her and the parishioners of the three parishes.

I'm sure that Heather will have lots of different ideas about how we move forward in spreading God's kingdom to the thousands of newcomers to this corner of Essex. We, of course, with our local knowledge, will need to advise and assist her in making her – and our – ideas work.

New chapters and new beginnings, so where do we begin? Easter represents the ultimate new beginning. The women at the tomb had one practical question, 'Who will roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb'?

We all need to look again at the empty tomb to understand what God did for us through Jesus Christ. We are celebrating, again, the Good News that Jesus Christ is risen. We must share this Good News with all.

Let us, together, work through this new chapter. Who knows what the ending will bring!

Blessings!

Alan



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

news

General Synod: Presidential Address by the Archbishop of Canterbury

In his Presidential Address at the February sessions of the General Synod, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, spoke of the suffering across the world. The following are some short extracts from his address:

“In September 2023, Antonio Guterres, Secretary General the United Nations declared the world is coming off its hinges. How should we the followers of Jesus Christ respond?

“Church of England Bishops at consecration commit to all sorts of things, some probable, some improbable, but they don't commit to suffer. By contrast, the Chaldean Church tells its Bishops that they will be the first to suffer...

“And to add to what the Secretary General of the United Nations said, as

Lord Cameron said recently, when he looks around at the world today as Foreign Secretary, all the lights are flashing red. We live in a world of suffering. And unlike in the past, it is a world where we are aware of the suffering.

“In Europe, the Ukrainian Russian war is frozen. And the suffering of the people in Ukraine has increased, not least because it has been replaced as the principal concern by the havoc and horror of the Levant and all that is going on in that area.

“But there is much more. Sudan... Myanmar...northeast India... the South Pacific... the Philippines... Korea... Pakistan... Nigeria... Mozambique ...

“Pope Francis a few months ago described what is already happening as a third world war. Right or wrong, he is describing a state of global uncertainty

and great change.

"Like all such periods, minorities are blamed for uncertainties, conspiracies are assumed where there is uncontrollability and leaders are criticised where the future is hard to see.

"In 1939, George Bell wrote an article on the behaviour of the Church in a time of war. 'What should the Church do in a time of war?' it was entitled.

"His simple conclusion was that the right strategy... is to be even more the Church. We must be even more the Church with all our challenges and difficulties and as we work through them ...

"Suffering and enemies are faced best in communities that trust across divides, rather than in self protecting, and reinforcing huddles, because the very act of trusting across the divides builds our resilience and our ability to see the best in others...

"At the end of April, we will have a meeting of primates of the Anglican Communion in Rome. There we will look at what the Communion could do to remain in a variable geometry of unity, but also an unvarying commitment of love in Christ. Those two expressions vary in geometry of unity and unvarying commitment of love in Christ offer us all a way forward in holy obedience to God.

"God is our refuge. God is our refuge, not our politics and our organisations. They are realities of any structured life, of any institution, they're not evils, but God is our refuge, they never will be.

"God is greater than our fears, than our enemies and in our failures. God is unbreakably faithful to covenant and promise. When that is our comfort and peace, then in this world, at this time, off its hinges, we can in all our troubles, be truly the Church we should be, truly God's Church in God's world.

Ukraine is paying for our security 'with money and blood' – Archbishop Justin

General Synod has issued a call to reaffirm support for Ukraine, as the Archbishop of Canterbury said he could not be "neutral" in the face of the ag-

gression of Vladimir Putin.

Archbishop Justin Welby, who visited Ukraine ahead of the second anniversary of the Russian full-scale invasion, said the country is "paying for our security with money but also with blood".

He also said the current international situation is possibly more dangerous than at any time, other than the Cuban Missile Crisis, since the run-up to the Second World War.

He was speaking as Synod overwhelmingly supported a motion calling on all UK political parties to affirm their continued support for Ukraine and supporting the work of churches and others working for "peace, justice and reconciliation" in Ukraine.

Safeguarding independence: next steps discussed by General Synod

General Synod has voted on the next steps following the publication of independent reports on safeguarding from barrister Sarah Wilkinson and Professor Alexis Jay, former chair of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA.

The next steps include setting up an internal team to engage with Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors/Diocesan Safeguarding Officers and others in dioceses and cathedrals. A survivor and victim focus group will also be set up, to hear the views of victims, survivors, and their advocates on the proposals.

Synod also voted to support apologies, expressed by the Archbishops, to survivors impacted by the matters described in the Wilkinson Report, and to apologise to all members of the former Independent Safeguarding Board.

General Synod backs code of conduct for Parochial Church Councils

General Synod has voted in favour of a motion asking the Archbishops' Council to explore a Code of Conduct for Parochial Church Council (PCC) members and lay volunteers.

The motion, brought by the Diocese of Chelmsford, sought to address an

imbalance of accountability in relationships where lay volunteers currently face no significant consequences for persistent departures from acceptable standards of behaviour.

Introducing the motion, the Revd Dr Sara Batts-Neale from Chelmsford Diocese said: "When [things] do go wrong, there is currently no way to change the composition of a PCC. There is a lack of clear accountability.

"We seek a review into a code of conduct to encourage healthy cultures, and to give a possible remedy for intransigent behaviours that damage people, the church, and hinder our ability to share the good news of Christ Jesus."

General Synod backs action to tackle biodiversity crisis

The General Synod has backed a series of measures to promote biodiversity on C of E land, from churchyards as havens of wildlife and plants, to the stewardship of agricultural and forestry land.

Members of the Synod welcomed progress already made by the Church Commissioners, the National Church Institutions, dioceses, parishes, cathedrals, and schools to manage their land for climate and nature.

The Synod approved further action to increase biodiversity including work towards drawing up environmental policy and land management plans for Dioceses and the recording of biodiversity in church green spaces.

The Synod also backed a request for the Church Commissioners to report back within three years on their progress in enhancing and supporting biodiversity across their agricultural and forestry land..

General Synod backs call for 'crucial resources' to remain available for racial justice work

The General Synod has heard that more work needs to be done for the full inclusion of Global Majority Heritage (GMH) people in the Church of England.

Synod members commended the outcomes in *From Lament to Action*, the report from the Archbishops' Racial Justice Taskforce. It sets out a series of recommendations for the Church on racial justice in the areas of participation, governance, training, education and young people.

Introducing the debate at the Synod, the Bishop of Dover Rose Hudson-Wilkin said the C of E cannot just pay 'lip service' to racial justice, but needs to ensure the right resources are available for this work.

"I do not believe that there are no GMH clergy with a vocation or a calling to become a diocesan, to become incumbents, deans, archdeacons. I am not convinced that there are no GMH individuals with a desire to be diocesan secretaries or TEI principals."

General Synod backs legislation to prevent bullying by lay officers

General Synod has asked for legislative proposals to allow lay officers found guilty of bullying to be disqualified from holding office.

The motion was brought by the Ven Mark Ireland, Archdeacon of Blackburn. It wanted to address an imbalance of accountability in relationships, where lay volunteers currently face no significant consequences if found to have exhibited bullying behaviour.

Whereas clergy are subject to the Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM) process, there is currently no proportionate and accessible means by which laity can be held to account for their actions.

The archdeacon spoke of the impact upon the mental health, physical health and sense of Christian Community of a parish when a churchwarden or lay officer is exercising controlling or bullying behaviour.

The archdeacon said that bullying behaviour is not tolerated in other areas of society. Other organisations have clear policies and procedures in place, for when instances of bullying and harassment do occur.

This motion was separate to an earlier motion agreed by General Synod, regarding abusive members of parochial church councils and lay volunteers.

The archdeacon said: "Bullying and harassment are unacceptable behaviours in any environment – and especially in the Church.

"Yet since I first raised this difficult and sensitive issue, I have been inundated with stories from victims and survivors, stories which have moved me sometimes close to tears.

Synod affirms work as key to 'human dignity and purpose' in the face of AI revolution

General Synod has affirmed the place of work as a key component in "human flourishing," in an era when Artificial Intelligence is driving a "new fast moving industrial revolution".

The debate heard that work has been a vital "God-given" element of human life since the Garden of Eden. But it is currently being transformed by the combined impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, inflation, the rise of the gig economy, and AI.

Synod overwhelmingly approved a motion brought by the Diocese of Oxford which affirmed the "dignity and value of purposeful work – whether paid or unpaid."

The Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft, said: "We were placed in a garden and charged with a God-given task from the very beginning. Work is related intimately to human dignity and purpose."

But he went on to warn that: "The theological value of work faces new and powerful challenges and needs to be articulated afresh in the public square.

"A new fast moving industrial revolution is gathering pace, without safeguards to protect human purpose and dignity in work, let alone agreement about how to share the inevitable costs alongside the undoubted benefit."

Archbishop Justin spoke of science and technology as "a lion that can and must be tamed for the common good of the world".

General Synod calls for redoubling of efforts to create new churches on estates

The C of E needs many more leaders from working class backgrounds and deprived communities, the General Synod was told.

The Synod also re-committed the C of E to setting up a church on every significant social housing estate.

Members also backed moves to double the number of young active Christians on housing estates. It wants young people from estates and low-income communities to be trained as children's and young people's leaders, among other forms of ministry.

Living in Love and Faith: 'the work goes on' Bishop Martyn tells General Synod

Firm proposals for a settlement to enable the C of E to move forward together amid deep differences on questions of sexuality and marriage will be developed over the next few months, General Synod has heard.

The Bishop of Leicester, Martyn Snow - the lead bishop for the 'Living in Love and Faith' process – spoke of the growing desire in parishes for the C of E "to reach agreement and get on with serving our nation."

This General Synod was the first since the prayers of dedication, thanksgiving and seeking God's blessing for same-sex couples (known as Prayers of Love and Faith) came into use during public worship in the Church of England.

Separate proposals for special standalone services for same-sex couples to be formally authorised under canon law are also under consideration, alongside questions including clergy entering same-sex marriages and whether new structures may be needed to hold the Church together in a new context.

ALL SAINTS' NEWS & VIEWS



The ministry team and other licensed ministers including the church wardens join Heather, and stand before the Bishop.

The Licensing of The Rev'd Heather Atkinson Feb 22nd 2024

(Part II) The Installation

After the Bishop had anointed Heather with the oil of Chrism the ministry team, the other licensed ministers and the churchwardens from all four churches joined her standing before the Bishop.

Then the Bishop said to them; "Ministry is the work of the whole people of God. Members of the ministry team, you have specific responsibilities to serve and lead God's people in these communities. Will you welcome Heather to the team, and work creatively and faithfully with her, meeting regularly for prayer, study and fellowship, and doing all in your power to support each other in fulfilling the ministry

of Christ and working with the people of God in this place?"

"With the help of God, we will."

After making this declaration, the ministry team then returned to their seats, and taking the pastoral staff, the Bishop commissioned and blessed the new minister and the ministry team, saying:

"I commission you to work together with all God's people, so that Christ may be made known and His kingdom established.

The God of all faithfulness strengthen you for your ministry and commitment to one

another;

the God of all grace give you vision, courage and joy; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and upon all your work done in His name, now and for ever.”

“AMEN”

The Installation

The Churchwardens lead the Archdeacon and Heather to All Saints’ heavy oak South entrance door and the standing congregation turned to face it as well. Then the five churchwardens presented the keys of the churches to Heather:

“Heather, receive these keys in token of the responsibility which we share; and may the Lord preserve your going out and your coming in, now and always.”

“AMEN”

The Archdeacon then led Heather to her **stall** in the church, and placed her in it, saying:

“Heather, I **install** you as Priest-in-Charge of the parishes of Maldon, Heybridge and Langford. Pray for your people, lead them in worship and service, and encourage them in their witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

The Dedication of the Ministers and People

The churchwardens and lay readers with their symbols of ministry, gathered around Heather and the Archdeacon said:

“Gracious God, we praise and glorify you, because in your infinite love you have formed throughout the world a holy people for your own possession, a royal priesthood, a universal Church, that sharing in the ministry of our Saviour Christ, we might be witnesses of what He has done for us.”

“Gracious God, we praise and glorify you.”

The churchwardens presented the symbols. First, water for baptism, and said, “Heather, be among us as a woman who rejoices to bring new Christians to baptism and to share with them the Living Water, Jesus Christ Himself.” The congregation responded **“Together, by God’s grace we will grow in our faith and**



Churchwardens lead the Archdeacon and Heather to the church door and the congregation turn to face it.

discipleship.”

Then similarly the oil of healing, a bible, a copy of the Book of Common Worship, maps of the three parishes, and finally bread and wine, were presented to Heather in turn and after each the congregation responded.

and ministry. Together may we make this a place where Christian people are equipped for their life and witness in God’s world.”

The congregation responded: **“Together, by God’s grace, we give ourselves to the ministry of the gospel in these**



The Archdeacon held up a Chelmsford Holding Cross and said: “Jesus said, If anyone wants to be my disciple, let them deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me. Heather, be among us as a woman who holds onto the cross of Christ and shares it with others.” and the congregation responded:

“Together, by God’s grace, we will walk in the way of the cross.”

Heather said, after these symbols had been presented, **“I pledge myself to lead the communities of faith committed to my charge, to share with them the Word of God and the work of ministry, to celebrate with them the sacraments of the new covenant, and to encourage them in their discipleship**

communities, to work for God’s kingdom of justice and peace and to share the message of Christ.”

The Welcome

The Bishop Guli then presented Heather to the congregation and said:

“People of the parishes of Maldon, Heybridge and Langford, I present to you your now **duly licensed and installed Priest-in-Charge**, and invite you to greet Heather and her family in the name of Christ. I commend her to your love and to your prayers.”

The congregation: **“We welcome you! May the Lord richly bless you and make you a blessing among us.” - Applause.**

The Area Dean, Peter Begley, welcomed Heather into the deanery, and introduced Maldon's Mayor, Councillor Andrew Lay, Martyn Hodges chair of Heybridge Basin PCC, the CTiM Chair. Rev. Ann Sardeson, and All Saints' School, Mrs. Corinne White.

The Peace

Bishop Guli announced The Peace: "We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life. The peace of the Lord be always with you."

"And also with you."

Heather spoke: "Let us offer one another a sign of peace."

After the hymn 'Alleluia Sing to Jesus', the 'Lord's Prayer', the dismissal and closing hymn 'We Trust in You, Our Shield and Our Defender'. The congregation turned to face the main south door one more time.

The Archdeacon laid Heather's hand on the handle, and said: "The cure of souls is a ministry alongside all those who live or work in these communities. This church must be open to God's world and to all who seek Him.

Heather, you are called to help the people who are refreshed here by their worship and fellowship to live out their faith in these communities, so that God's love may be known."

"Together, by God's grace, We will be Christ's people at work in the world."

**"This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Go in the power of Christ."**

"We have a gospel to proclaim!"

A splendid buffet followed the service.

*(photos of Revd Heather's Licensing
by Mike O.)*

Maldon Choral Society At All Saints'

On the evening of Saturday March 23rd and with a congregation of over 80, the Maldon Choral Society gathered in our church to perform an evening of music by Mozart; including His wonderful and much loved *(by me, as our own choir will know)* **Ave Verum Corpus**, the intriguingly named Sparrow Mass, to give it its proper name Spatenmesse *(of course I knew that !!)* and finally the **Requiem Mass**.

The singing was glorious, the solo performers were sublime, their voices soaring and filling every inch of our lovely church. We, at All Saints', should be justly proud of our historic and much loved building, affording such a fitting venue, to host such uplifting music.

The evening was an occasion we all should be proud of, thanks to the Choral Society and the work of the church team. It was an evening of beautiful music, much Bon Ami and general appreciation.

Vicky.



Rev'd Heather's Parish Eucharist

Rev'd Heather met with us for a quick coffee in the D'Arcy room, after her first Sunday service at All Saints'. The following week Heather officiated at our Palm Sunday Eucharist. Starting the service outside the main front door was slightly different to the usual walk round the outside of the church, just as chilly, but a fitting start to a busy Holy Week.



CHURCH WARDEN'S WAFFLE

Continued—AMEN indeed....

What a wonderful licensing service we all enjoyed on Thursday 22nd February .to welcome Rev. Heather. – well I say ALL enjoyed, I for one had a problem. **WOBBLY WANDS WAVED BY WARDENS!!** You would not believe how ungainly the said wands in fact are. I don't quite know why but the wand (**staff of office**) in days of yore was used to keep the peace, poke people awake who had dozed off during long boring sermons, and even give a blow to unruly parishioners. Well, pleased to say, there was none of that behaviour on this occasion!! But the fact still remains that they feel top heavy and certainly were apt to wobble about. Mentioning no names it was suggested we could have a kind of sword fight with bets being taken as to who would win!!

I digress, back to the business in hand—we have reached the Installation in the order of service. This was the point where all the minsters and wardens (*not, at this point, I might add, with wands*) led Heather to the church door and presented her with keys from the churches she is now Priest in charge of: **All Saints' Maldon - St Andrews' & St Georges' Heybridge and St Giles' Langford.** Heather made her way back and we presented her with symbols of her ministry. Water for baptism; oil for healing; a Bible; a Book of Common Prayer; a map of the three parishes to help her find her way around (in case she has not got a 'satnav') the bread and wine, and finally Rev'd Heather is presented with a holding cross by the Archdeacon saying: **“Jesus said, If anyone wants to be my disciple let them deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me. Heather be among us as a women who holds onto the cross of Christ and shares it with others”** We all answered “Together by God's grace, we will walk in the way of the cross” This was followed by members of the community stepping forward to welcome Heather, the mayor Andrew Lay, from All Saints' School, Corinne White, and Martyn Hodges chair of Heybridge Parish Council.

This truly was a joyous service ending with Heather ringing the Sanctus Bell. Now there is an **ancient legend** that depending on how many times the bell is wrung by the new vicar, that will be the number of years that vicar will be with us!! (Just an old wives tale!). Then, being led to the main door, Heather opened it wide and loudly led us all in the declaration of faith. “There is one body, one Spirit, one hope in God's call” we all replied, “One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism. There is one God, Father of all, over all and in all, to whom Christ ascended on high. And through the Spirit he gives us gifts. Some are apostles some are his prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers so we can minister together, to build up his Body and to be mature in the fullness of Christ.

After the service we all mingled about, meeting Heather's family chatting to Bishop Guli, and munching on tasty refreshments. I think it would be fair to say the occasion was enjoyed by all, there was a happy and relaxed atmosphere.

Rev'd Heather “We all welcome you. May the Lord richly bless you and make you a blessing among us” - **AMEN.**

PS: pleased to say wands safely put back in their corner – out of harm's way.—Vicky



“MOTHERING’ SUNDAY”

I missed the first *new style ‘Worship for All’* last month, so when I turned up to this month’s it was pouring—I mean **POURING**, with rain.

No one will come out in this, I thought. How wrong was that!! Well see for yourself (hint: *above photo*).

Tables, comfortable chairs, (*well nearly*) coffee and biscuits. Every service should be like this!

Despite the set up problems the whole service went really well. Mary and Sarah kept the attention of the kids (*err.. I mean*

children) and Jordan joined in (when his children let him). But the hymn of the day—‘hymn’ is really the wrong word, song, more like it, went down really well—I’ve heard it before, you may have too — **”King of Me”**.

You won’t want to miss the next one in April, will you ?

Oh! yes, I nearly forgot—**Happy Mothers’ Day, ladies.**

Edit.



Zac calls TIME



... and flowers for mum



"KING OF ME"

*"My God's the King of
the Giants*

*My God's the King of
the lions*

*My God's the King of
the creatures of the
deep"*

*My God's the King of
me"*



Readers' Letters

Revd Dr Graham writes ...

I thought Adrienne's parish article on prayer in the March edition was really excellent. She summed up how many of us feel on the bumpy road of petition. During dry patches the rhythm of corporate prayer in the liturgy may be enough to sustain us with its familiar and well-loved words. However when it comes to the nitty gritty of our 'I - Thou' relationship the soles of our feet may feel scraped and chafed along the flinty path that leads to God. As Adrienne wrote, hopelessness may become a feature: Lord, will I ever become holy? (whatever holiness is?). Sometimes you and I need 'holding up' by an unseen hand rather than attempting the obligations or 'oughts' of a regular prayer life.

Just to add to her illustration from a former Bishop of Oxford about the life-force of a majestic river of prayer issuing out from millions of Christians each day, I would briefly like to draw your attention to those smaller religious communities in the UK and further afield. Those who live out a hidden life of prayer which is undertaken 7 times a day on behalf of the world and all the people in it. I am referring to the Benedictine/Cistercian monks and nuns whose day begins anytime from 3.00am to 6.00am, and ends at 8.00pm with the office of Compline (night prayer). Their God is a God of profound silence and one who speaks to them through the sonorous words of the Psalms. Their austere lives - poverty, obedience, chastity and stability - follow the Rule of St Benedict dating as far back as the C6. Though people often assume that such cloistered lives are some kind of 'cop out', the radio news is regularly listened to, visitors from outside are encouraged and received, and there is plenty of awareness of the problems we all face - quite apart from those which rattle regularly round the monastic enclosure (personality clash for one!). So - we need never feel alone: even in those insomniac 'wee small hours' someone significant will be thinking of us. To quote from Ellerton's fine evensong hymn:

As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day
The voice of prayer is never silent
Nor dies the strain of praise away

Stephanie and Tony Doe write ...

Dear Mike,

Thanks so much for the excellent parish magazine which we continue to get monthly courtesy of the production and delivery workers. It's of such high quality and keeps us updated even though we are now in Boucherne care home in Heybridge. Thanks also to so many people in all four churches who have gone out their way to help during our upheaval. We couldn't have done it without you!

Very very best wishes

Stephanie and Tony

“Happy 90th Birthday, Ken”

Congratulations to Ken R. who will be 90 years young this month. No—I didn't think he could be that old either, he doesn't look it! But then he's served on the Estates Committee, been a Server for 15 years, a Church Warden for 12, and a Verger for 30. It must be all that chasing around that has kept him going and looking so spritely. 'Happy birthday, Ken.'



Ken's great Granddaughter helps mum with the cakes !!

TEN to *TEN* the Rambling Group

9th March 2024. This was a very enjoyable walk of about 5 miles starting at the Scout Hut, Church Road in Hatfield Peverel. Luckily it had been a fairly dry week so although the paths were muddy, it was manageable. Nine walkers set off at 9.50am (or soon after) and made our way down to Paper Mill Lock where we had refreshments, sitting out in the sunshine. We then followed the canal path towards Woodham Walter eventually crossing over on the concrete footbridge and began the uphill road (and down again) towards Nounsley. The lane passes through a ford which was deep after all the wet weather, but we were able to walk on a raised footpath to the side and on up the hill back towards Hatfield Peverel. We had a pleasant detour through the churchyard, the church being all that remains of the old priory, then on back to our parking spot in Willow Road. A table had been booked at the Wheatsheaf in the village where we had a lovely meal and an enjoyable social time together.

Our next walk will be on Saturday 13th April starting at 9.50am from **The White Hart, Little Waltham** (CM3 3NY) For further information please ring Kathy on 07747198795

New walkers welcome. An email will be sent round to regular walkers nearer the time.

Sue Smith

**CHURCHES
TOGETHER in
MALDON**

**The
New Testament
in a
Nutshell**

At
*Maldon United Reformed Church
Market Hill, Maldon, CM9 4PZ*

When
Saturday April 13th 10am—4.30pm
arrive from 9.30am
Price £14.00
Free for children aged 11-17

Please bring a packed lunch Drinks provided

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St. Giles' is a unique Grade II* listed building which dominates the centre of the village of Langford at the junction of Witham Road and Maldon Road. It is difficult to accurately date the original building, for although Roman tiles and bricks were identified in the fabric of the church during work in the 1930s, most experts believe the building is of early Norman construction.

‘Down the Hill’

10 things you probably didn’t know about St. Giles’ Church, Langford –

‘The Great Oddity’

1 The distinguished Suffolk historian, Norman Scarfe, noted that St. Giles’ was ‘a great oddity: at first sight of 1882, but then one spots a Norman apse at the *wrong end* of the church! Next one notices that Langford formerly had an apse at the east end as well: it can be seen in puddingstone at the beginning of its curve in the outside of the S. wall, 34 ft. east of the E. edge of the S. Door. Unique in England and rare in Europe.’

2 The Chancel and Nave were built with apses both at the eastern and western ends. This type of church was quite common before the Danish invasion of 1013, but no churches were built in England in this shape after it, so it is conjectured that this church was founded in the 11th Century. The Chancel, North Aisle and Tower are of Kentish ragstone, and the walls are two feet nine inches thick.

3 In the 14th or 15th Century the eastern apse either collapsed or was demolished and it was squared off. The church was drastically ‘restored’ in 1882, when the Chancel was extended, and it was during this work that the foundations of the original eastern apse were discovered. The work of restoration was carried out by Edward Browning, architect of Stamford, and was paid for by the Hon. Mary Jane Byron, the patron of the church. The renovations almost totally changed the character of the original church; the Chancel was entirely rebuilt, and the North Aisle (with the crypt beneath), the south porch, and the north-east bell tower were added.

4 The crypt is accessible from an external flight of steps, and a passage on the north side of the church, and contains the remains of the

Wescomb and Byron families as follows:
Nicholas Wescomb, died 19 August 1808 aged 75
Lucy Wescomb, born 19 February 1745, died 9 October 1836
Ann Stanly, sister of Lucy Wescomb, died 10 August 1770
John William, son of William and Jane Wescomb, died 1 June 1825 aged 8 months on that day
The Revd. William Wescomb, died 18 May 1832, aged 44
Jane Wescomb, died 17 May 1868 aged 78
The Hon. Frederick Byron, died 4 April 1861 aged 39
Mary Jane Byron, born 1 June 1826, died 1 September 1909

5 It is interesting to note that the village of Langford was ‘owned’ by the wealthy Wescomb family. They had money but no position, and their two elder daughters married two Byron brothers, whose family had position but no



money, and so the village became 'owned' by the Byron family. Mary Jane's youngest son, Frederick, became Rector of St. Giles' church in 1890 and remained there until 1914 when he assumed the role of the 10th Lord Byron, on the death of his elder brother, and moved to Thrumpton Hall in Nottinghamshire. The present Lord Byron is Patron of the church.

6 The choir stalls were designed by the Revd. Ernest Geldart, Rector of Little Braxted, and erected in 1898, at a cost of £35, in the collegiate style, and

seat about 20. The magnificent organ which provides music for the church was made by C. Martin of Oxford in 1886, and is one of the best organs in the county for a small church. It was changed from manual pumping to electric motor in 1949.

7 St. Giles' is noted for its fine stained glass. The three early English east windows have a cinquefoil in a circle above and depict the Resurrection (Christ enthroned with two angels either side. They were designed by the Revd. Ernest Geldart, and built by Percy Bacon Bros. of London in 1895 and

were fitted the following year. The windows were commissioned and placed in the church by the three daughters of the late Rev. William Wescomb who had been Rector at St. Giles' from 1813 to 1832. There is also a 'Kempe' window in the south wall depicting Christ blessing little children, and was installed in 1918 in memory of William Wynyard, late Churchwarden. This window was not made by Kempe himself, but by his studio which had been taken over by his cousin, Walter Tower, and he added the 'tower' symbol to Kempe's own 'wheatsheaf' symbol to distinguish the new

ownership. The third important window is the Risen Christ appearing to Mary Magdalene, given in memory of Mary Jane Byron in 1915, who had restored the building. A nice little touch in the uppermost part of the window, is the inclusion of a small, but beautifully detailed picture of the restored church in the hands of an angel.

8 The oak altar and the painted and gilded oak Reredos (the panel at the back of the altar) were made in

1928 by Mr. Herbert Read of Sidwell's Art Work in Exeter from drawings by the architect Mr. Gerald Cogswell of Bedford Square in London.

9 On the south wall in the Chancel is a double piscina which dates from the 13th Century. These are quite rare, and St. Giles' has a very fine one, which was clearly moved from its former position into the newly extended Chancel, which is outside the boundary of the original church.

The list of Rectors reads

from 1294 up to the present day, and it is interesting to note that two of them – John Byskingham (1350) and John de Birlingham (1369) were also in charge of the St. Giles' Leper Hospital, in Spital Road, Maldon.

10 The church also hosted the 'Heavenly Supplies' village shop for 10 years until the coronavirus pandemic, and the death of some volunteers forced it to close.

Irene Allen.



Keeping the county warm



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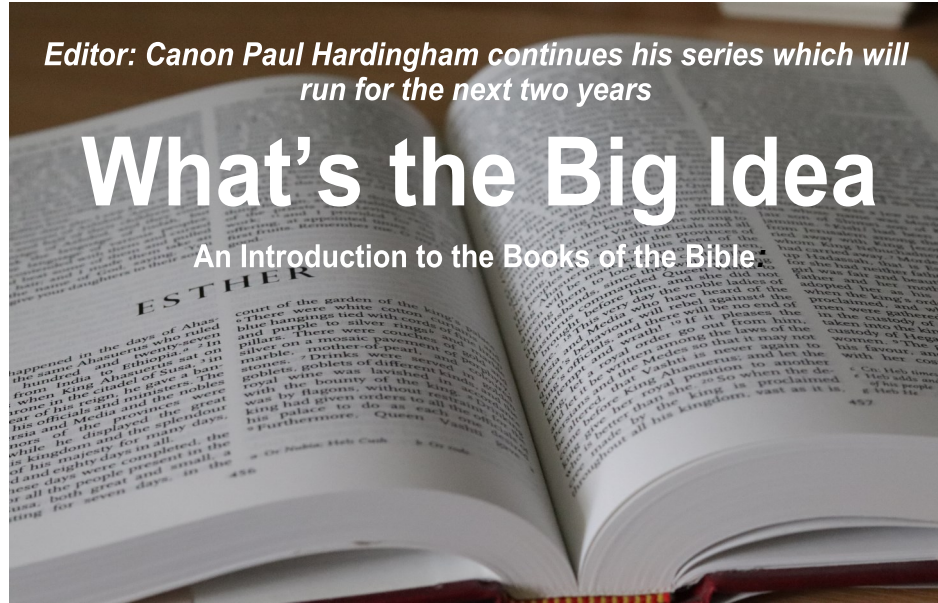
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Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series which will run for the next two years

What's the Big Idea

An Introduction to the Books of the Bible



Deuteronomy & Joshua

The setting for these books is Israel's entry into the promised land after 40 years of wanderings in the wilderness. Deuteronomy gives us Moses' addresses on the plains of Moab, as the Israelites prepare to enter Canaan. The book of Joshua recounts the crossing of the Jordan and the victories that give the people control of Canaan.

The theme of Deuteronomy is God's covenant and his call for His people's obedience, loyalty and love. The '*shema*' (Heb: 'hear'), expresses this response to God: '*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.*' (Deut. 6:4-6).

The book contains instruction on how to live intentionally as God's people in re-

sponse to His love and mercy. Total loyalty to God is also crucial, with the worship of any other gods being totally rejected. It is also widely quoted in the NT eg. Jesus' temptations (Deut. 8:3, 6:13, 16).

The book of Joshua, with its description of the conquest of the land and the destruction of cities and peoples, reminds us that God's love and purposes for us are worked out in the messes, storms and sins of our daily lives. As God says Joshua: '*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*' (Joshua 1:9).

Joshua ('*The Lord saves*') is the same name as Jesus Himself. Jesus overcame all powers of evil to bring God's people into their eternal 'rest' (Heb 4:1-11).

. PP apr24

A Quiz on the book of Joshua

1. Whom did Joshua succeed as leader of Israel - Jacob, Aaron, Moses ?
 - Stone-carriers and armour-bearers
2. What was the name of Joshua's father - Carmi, Nun, Eleazar ?
 - Sandstorm, Earthquake, Hailstones
3. To what city did Joshua send two men to spy upon - Jericho, Ai, Gilgal ?
 - Levi, Reuben, Manasseh ?
4. What was the name of the woman who hid the spies Joshua sent - Rachel, Rahab, Rebekah ?
 - How old was Caleb (one of the original 12 spies) when he was given Hebron as his inheritance - 40, 70, 85 ?
5. How many stones did the Israelites take from the dry river bed of the Jordan - 7, 12, 40 ?
 - Ephraim, Simeon, Benjamin
6. Once the Israelites had entered the Promised Land, what happened in the days after they had celebrated the Pass-over?
 - God stopped providing manna
 - Joshua apportioned land to each tribe
 - The Amorites attacked them
7. What did the captain of the Lord's host command Joshua to do?
 - Gather his army against Jericho
 - Build an altar to the Lord
 - Take off his sandals
8. How many priests were chosen to carry the rams' horns as they marched round Jericho?
 - 3, 7, 70 ?
9. What was the name of the man who violated God's command not to plunder anything from Jericho - Phinehas, Zabdi, Achen ?
 - For what sin were the cities of refuge created?
 - Accidental murder
 - Theft
 - Adultery
10. The Gibeonites tricked Joshua into making a covenant of peace, but as what did he make them serve the Israelites?
 - Woodcutters and water-carriers
 - Brick makers and messengers

Answers to Quiz:

- Q1 Moses (1:2)
Q2 Nun (1:2)
Q3 Jericho (2:1)
Q4 Rahab (2:4)
Q5 12 (4:9)
Q6 God stopped providing manna (5:12)
Q7 Take off his sandals (5:15)
Q8 7 (6:6)
Q9 Achen (7:18)
Q10 Woodcutters and water-carriers (9:27)
Q11 Hailstones (10:11)
Q12 Levi (13:33)
Q13 85 (14:10)
Q14 Simeon (19:9)
Q15 Accidental murder (20:3)



Edit: In the aftermath of Easter, we consider the road to Emmaus.

The Easter Glow

For three years Jesus had held the tiny band together, through journeyings, storms and opposition. And now – following a public trial and execution – He was gone.

Take away the dominant figure, and an organisation can quickly crumble. Take Theudas, an earlier messianic claimant. Once killed, his 400 devotees melted away. Then there was Judas the Galilean. When he, too, was removed, the movement scattered.

Now, it was Easter Day. Here were two disciples walking to Emmaus. As far as they were concerned, their leader was dead. The 'scattering' process had already begun. It had started on that fateful Thursday evening of Christ's arrest, when Jesus had quoted to His disciples from the prophet Zechariah: "It is written 'I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered'" (Matthew 26:31).

The dream was over. "Let's go home - back to Emmaus." Yet *Luke 24 is the glowing account of the entire re-building of a worldview*. As the apparent Stranger joins the two, it was like the uncorking of a bottle; the story pours out. Surely *crucifixion and the future*

Redeemer of Israel had nothing to do with each other!

Then began a fascinating Bible study on the road. Evidently in their studies, the two had skipped the passages that spoke of a suffering Messiah. The Stranger says, "Let me fill in those bits for you." Now the figures of a Conquering King and a Suffering Servant begin to coalesce into a single photo fit. Then, at supper with the two, comes the familiar action of the breaking of bread, and – *Why... it's Jesus.*

The disciples rush the seven miles back to Jerusalem. They can't keep the glowing news of the risen Christ to themselves!

If Jesus had not been bodily raised from the grave, the demoralised movement – like those of Theudas and Judas the Galilean - would have folded within days. And you and I would never have heard of Him!

PP apr24

COMING UP —

Saturday 6th April

Coffee Morning - in the D'Arcy Room

Sunday 19th May

Bring & Share Brunch - After the 9.30 Service.

Saturday 3rd August.

Table Top Sale - In the Churchyard

Saturday 5th October.

Harvest Supper - In the D'Arcy Room

13 - 15 December 2024

Christmas Tree Festival

NB. Last date for items for the May edition of the Parish News—April 15th

EMAIL: bigglesworth@btinternet.com

St James the Least of All

On why a church should always resist change

The Rectory
St James the Least
My dear Nephew Darren

I am not the least surprised you have got yourself into trouble; innovation is never to be encouraged. New ideas tend to cause revolutions. The move from incandescent lightbulbs to energy saving ones may ultimately change the Church of England.



Change is something everyone claims to be in favour of – provided it has no measurable effect on their own lives. I remember as a young curate once suggesting that at the Harvest Supper, tables might be enlarged so that eight people could sit together rather than the traditional six, thus helping more people get to know one another. The response would have been similar if I had suggested we travel to London to murder the Prime Minister. I was firmly told that tables for six had been perfectly adequate for parishioners in Queen Victoria's day. For the rest of my curacy, I was regarded as a revolutionary, to be watched carefully.

So, at your last visit to our church, to suggest that our 11am Mattins might be moved to 10.30am, in order to encourage those who wanted to have more of the day free to themselves, certainly lobbed a hand grenade among the post-Service coffee cups. The only person who was mildly in favour was Colonel Wainwright, who quickly realised that it would give him an extra half-hour at the gin and tonics before lunch.

Should you ever feel that people lack imagination, you should watch them in action when they find reasons for resisting an unwelcome suggestion. One said that the time couldn't be moved, since it would then be too early for the local bus – omitting to mention that none of our congregation travel to church by bus and that the service doesn't run on Sundays anyway. Another pointed out that it would confuse those who didn't attend church – not explaining why if they never attended, it mattered what time the Service was. A third, rather touchingly mentioned that it wouldn't give the rector time to enjoy his breakfast after the rigours of the 8am Service.

Your suggestion did, however, serve one useful purpose; it brought our congregation together in united opposition. They may not necessarily always know what they are for, but they certainly know what they are against. For that, I thank you.

Your loving uncle Eustace

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THROUGH THE FURNACE

A monthly serial by F.E.Reade

"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.

"Don't you think that this is the best of reasons," he ran on, in a fond proud voice; "isn't she lovely," You can see, even in the photograph, that she is fair, but it cannot give you any idea of the colour of her hair and eyes, and she is as sweet and good as she is pretty."

As he spoke, the words, "a tower of strength, a tower of strength," seemed to beat themselves into Margaret's brain, and she grasped the idea that she *must* be strong just for a time. She called all her womanly pride to her aid and answered him quietly, "She is indeed beautiful; I wish you joy, Philip. Where did you meet her?"

"We travelled from Donaldson to Montreal on the same train," he replied, "and then we were on board ship together, and you know that every day on board ship is worth about a month on shore. Besides, I fell in love with her at first sight, and every moment deepened it. I have never loved in that way before. I did not know what it was, or I should not have talked in that

calm way about never marrying."

"She looks very amiable," said Margaret, still gazing at the photograph.

"Yes, she is one of those sweet, clinging dependant kind of women; she will lean upon me in everything, as a wife should do on her husband."

"He will not need his tower of strength any more," thought Margaret sadly, but she only said: "Where shall you live?"

"Ah, that is the beauty of it," he exclaimed; "her father has large estates near Banff, which is close to the Rocky Mountains, and is going to make me his manager; he seems to have taken to me, luckily, so I shall live out there in that beautiful air, and shall not run any risk of a relapse."

"That will be the very best thing for you," said Margaret, with dry lips.

"I have told Effie all about you, Margaret, and what a true friend you have been to me," said he, in his old affectionate tone, "she admires your strength of character, although she does not pretend to have any herself, and if your father could spare you, we should like you to come out some day and pay us a long visit."

"You are very kind," said Margaret with what she hoped was a smile.

"But I'm almost expecting to hear that you are engaged to Mr. Pervis; I saw that he was deeply smitten before I went away."

Margaret shook her head.

"But hasn't he proposed? Tell me, Margaret?"

"Oh, don't tease me," exclaimed she, bitterly, for this was more than she could bear.

"Dear girl, I am sure that you are not well," said he, in a tone of concern, "you must cheer up while we have our little time together. I am to go and stay with Effie and her parents in London soon; they wanted me to go there with them yesterday, but I said I must go home first. You know that I look upon this as my sis-

ter home and on you as my sister.”
“How long will you be here?” asked Margaret.
“About a week, but I am going to pay for my rooms please, until the end of the year.”
“I can keep up for a week,” thought Margaret to herself.

She did so bravely. She entered into his plans, listened to all his praises of his future wife, helped him to pack up his belongings, and never betrayed, except by the increasing paleness of her cheek, and the lines that formed themselves upon her forehead, that the iron was eating into her soul.

At last the moment of parting came.
“Goodbye, my strong, brave Margaret,” said he, affectionately, “I shall never forget what you have been to me; you will write to me often, won’t you?”

Her lips murmured something, but the cab was at the door, and in the bustle of departure, he did not notice that her strength was on the point of deserting her. Mr Harvey was already seated in the cab. He was going off that morning also, to attend a sale in a distant town, and was going to drive with Newlyn to the station. The young man jumped in beside him and they started.

Margaret staggered into the kitchen, felt that all her powers were leaving her, and, for the first time in her life, fell down in a dead faint.

Sally could not revive her and, in a great fright, ran for Mrs. Pervis. When Margaret at last came to herself, she found that she was lying on the kitchen floor, with Mrs Pervis bending over her. At the sight of the sweet, kind face, the tears welled into Margaret’s eyes, and she put out a feeble hand as though to appeal to her for help and protection. Mrs Pervis helped her into bed, where she was destined to lie for many weeks with what the doctor could only call “complete collapse of the nervous system.” Mrs. Pervis was already established as her nurse when Mr. Harvey returned, and he was thankful to accept her warm offers of assistance. During this

time of utter weakness Margaret learned to lean upon Mrs. Pervis in every way and to trust her implicitly.

One afternoon, when the invalid had begun to gain a little strength and could just sit up in bed, she said, with a sad smile:

“Mrs. Pervis, I don’t look much like a tower of strength, do I?”

“No, replied she, smiling, “not just now; is that what you used to consider yourself?”

“That is what Mr. Newlyn used to call me,” replied Margaret, with a sigh, and then she continued, while a deep blush mantled on her cheek, “I want to tell you something, because you, and perhaps father too, are probably blaming hime for what he could not help. No doubt you think that mu illness was brought on by disappointment, and I believe it was, but it was not his fault that I allowed all my hopes to centre round him. I can see now that his deeper feelings were aroused by another, it was my own folly that caused me to sink under the blow. I have done the most foolish thing that a woman could possibly do. I was asked for friendship and I gave love.”

She hid her burning face in her hands.

“This is too much for you, dear,” said Mrs. Pervis; “leave it until you are stronger.”

“No, I feel better now that it has all come out,” said Margaret, looking up again and fixing her sunken eyes on her friend’s kind face, “and I want to say something else. This blow seems to have shattered my pride, and I am beginning to feel thankful that it has, for does not the Bible say somewhere that God resisteth the proud but giveth grace unto the humble. Since my pride has crumbled away I seem to see everything in a different light. I can see my own faults now; my sins, I ought to say, and I was blind to them before. In a day or two, when I am strong enough to collect my thoughts, I should like to have a talk with the Vicar, if he will be kind enough to come and see me.”

“You may be sure that he will; and now you shall have your beef tea and then lie down again,” said Mrs. Pervis in the soothing tone which she would have used to a child.

Continued next month

Don't hesitate to use hearing aids

Here is something you didn't expect: using hearing aids if you are a bit deaf can be of great benefit to your overall health.

Crystal Rolfe, director of health at the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) said: "Hearing aids bring enormous benefits for people with hearing loss. Research shows that wearing hearing aids may reduce the risk of cognitive decline, and it is well known that they have positive effects on physical, social, emotional, and mental wellbeing.

According to hearing loss charity RNID, 12 million adults in the UK are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus and an estimated seven million people could benefit from hearing aids, but only about two million use them.

The researchers hope the findings, published in The Lancet Healthy Longevity journal, will encourage more people to wear hearing aids. As one doctor said: "If you have hearing loss, get hearing aids. The benefits could be limitless."

PP You – apr24

Answers to the Crossword

ACROSS: 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

DOWN: 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.

The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.

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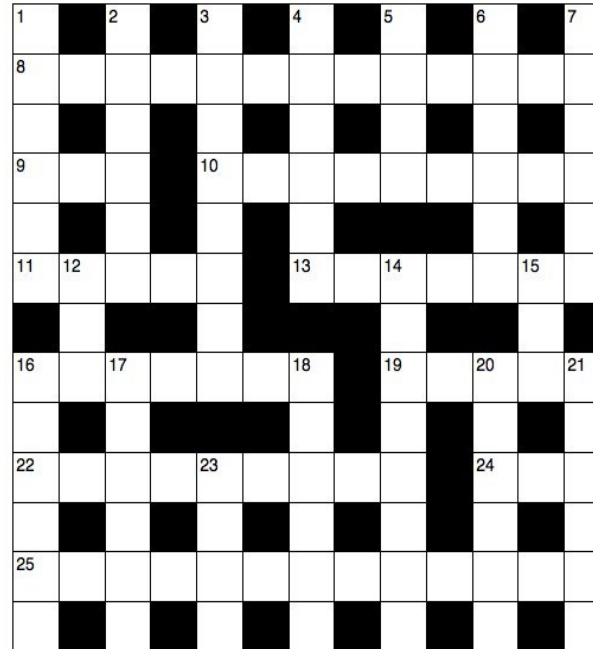
CROSSWORD for April 2024

ACROSS

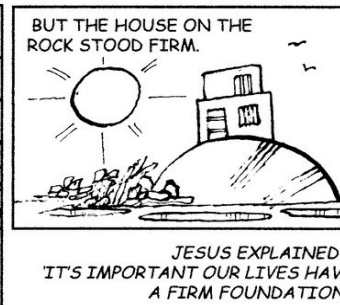
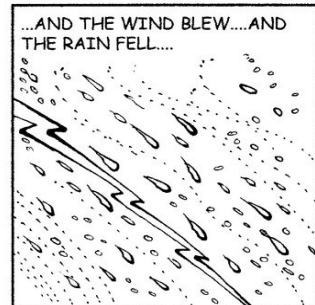
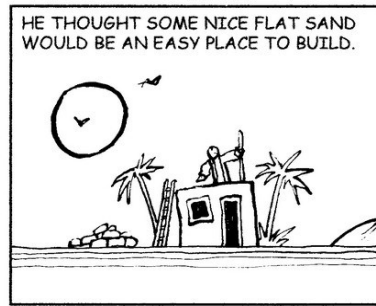
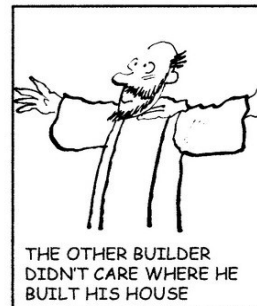
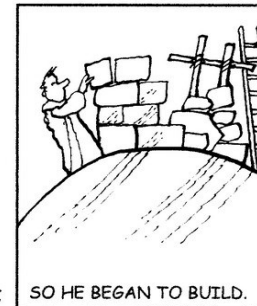
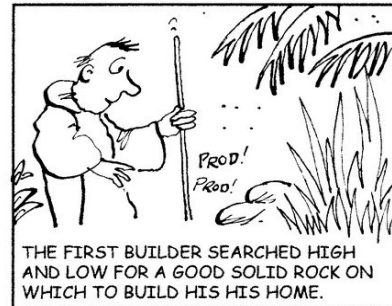
- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
 13 Muslim holy month (7)
 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

DOWN

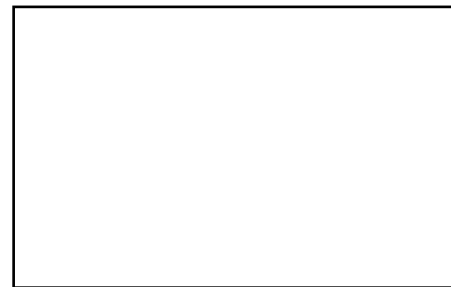
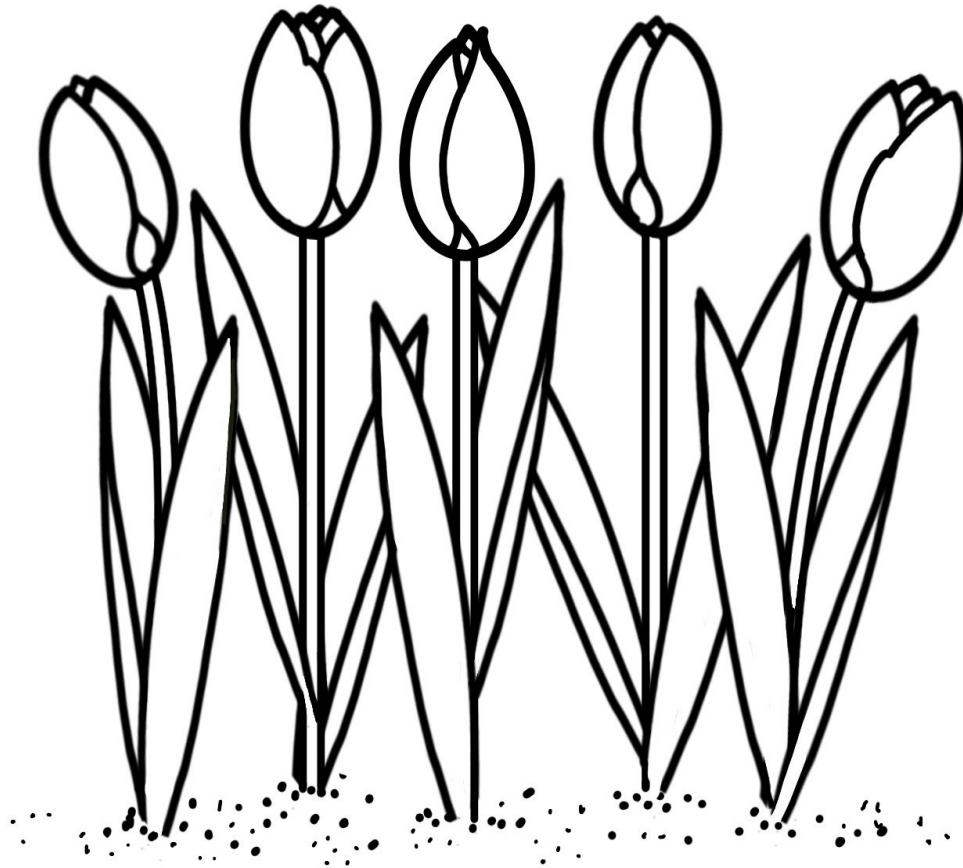
- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
 7 'But Christ is faithful — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)



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JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE A FIRM FOUNDATION.



Prayer Diary April 2024

1		Christians who are persecuted for their faith
2		Those suffering from cancer
3		Chelmsford Cathedral Staff
4		All employed in Hospices
5		The unemployed
6		Those addicted to alcohol
7	2nd Sunday of Easter	Retired Clergy
8	The Annunciation	All Midwives
9		All who are bearing children
10		Bishop Guli - our Diocesan Bishop
11		Bishop Adam - Bishop of Bradwell
12		Our Area Dean
13		The United Benefice of Heybridge with Langford
14	3rd Sunday of Easter	Christian Youth Workers
15		Maldon Food Pantry
16		All Churchwardens
17		Christians standing for Local Government
18		The King
19		Churches in our Missionary and Ministry Unit
20		All who will attend Messy Church today
21	4th Sunday of Easter	The Royal School of Church Music
22		All staff working in the Diocesan Office
23	St George	Churches dedicated to St George and, members of The Scout Association
24		All who are called to train for the Ministry
25	St Mark	Churches dedicated to St Mark
26		Peace in the troubled parts of the world
27		Our PCC Members
28	5th Sunday of Easter	All Ordinands
29		Rev Jordan and his family
30		Churches Together in Maldon

PARISH DIRECTORY

VICAR	Rev'd Heather Atkinson Tel 07970 197152
ASSISTANT CURATE	Rev'd Jordan Palmer All Saints Vicarage, Church Walk, Maldon CM9 4PY Tel 07535 001840 jordanmpalmer@outlook.com
HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIESTS	Rev'd John Dickens Tel 01621 858136 Rev'd Noelle Taylor Tel 07779 491723
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PARISH NEWS EDITOR & WEB SITE MANAGER	Mike Kneller Email: bigglesworth@btinternet.com

Website 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 35810
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	Zoe Franklin 1stmaldonallsaintsscoutgroup@gmail.com	Email:-
Maldon Pioneers	Mike Frederick	01621 840951
Ramblers Club	Sue Smith	01621 854056
Prayer Group		
Messy Church	Elaine Brown	01621 35810

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

From the Registers

Funerals

1st March Anna Blackwell of Wood Road, Heybridge aged 91 years
5th March Margaret Crozier of Quest Place, Maldon aged 88 years



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Easter 2024 - A message from The Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford

Once again, the message of Easter hope and resurrection life breaks into a world that is full of sorrow, conflict and pain. How can we possibly make sense of this central event - the one that everything else in the Christian faith hangs on - when all the evidence seems to point away from it? When much of the time it feels like death and hatred and evil have the final say, rather than life and love and hope? Both on a global scale, but perhaps personally too, for there is so much suffering and loss. Well, if you rely on your emotions, on how you feel at any particular moment and in response to any specific event that might make you happy or sad - if you rely on your feelings, then faith is indeed a fickle thing. For sometimes God can feel close and other times far away. But the truth at the heart of the Gospel is that God, through Christ, is ever present, whatever is going on and whether or not we experience that closeness or not. I have these words of Karl Jung hanging in the hallway of our home, and I look at them every time I come in or go out: "Bidden or not bidden, God is present." God was present on Good Friday, just as much as on Easter Day. The important thing is not to confuse our experiences and emotions - whether we feel the nearness of God or not - with the reality of Easter resurrection. There's no denying that embracing this requires a leap of faith. No logic or experiment will prove the existence of God or convince you of the Easter story. But faith knows more. In the words of the French mathematician and philosopher Blaise Pascal, The heart has reasons, of which reason knows nothing. On Easter morning, Christ rose from the dead and broke the power of death and hatred through the strength of his love and sacrifice. As Christians we try to embody that in the way we live our lives, in the service of others, speaking out against injustice, seeking to respond in love wherever there is hate. This is the Easter story, and it is ours to tell. It is challenging, mysterious and life changing. It offers light and hope in the midst of darkness, and I commend it to you wholeheartedly. For, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia.

I wish you a joyful and blessed Easter.

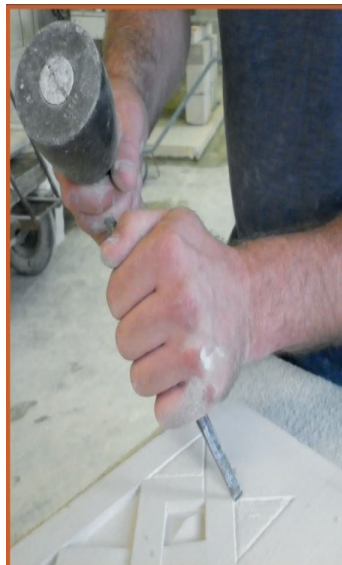


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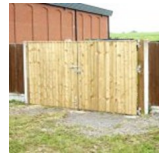


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