

ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

January 2018

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

£1



CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday Services	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Sung Parish Eucharist (except first Sunday of the month). 4:00 pm Evensong and Sermon second and third Sundays of the month
1st Sunday in the Month	10:00am Short all age service of stories songs and prayers. 11:15am Parish Eucharist (CW) 6:00 pm Evensong at St Mary's
Last Sunday	6:30 pm Prayer and Praise Service

JUNIOR CHURCH

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

Morning Prayer	is usually said in church at 8.30am on Monday - Friday.
Evening Prayer	is usually said in church at 5.30pm on Monday - Thursday
Thursday	11:00am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) followed by coffee and biscuits

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Cover Photos:

1. The Candle-lit Carol Service on Christmas Eve.
(Part of the nearly 800 strong congregation)
By Ken Russell
2. Church and War Memorial in the Snow
By Geoff Dickman



FROM THE VICARAGE

PRAYING FOR THOSE IN POWER

PROMISES

When Teresa May became Prime Minister, I, like many people, was impressed by the speech she made on the steps of Downing Street. She set out her commitment to work for a fairer and more just society, where the benefits of prosperity would be "for the many and not just for the few". However, in December, it was announced that the members of the Government's Social Mobility Commission had taken the decision to resign. This included its chairman, the former Labour minister Alan Milburn, and also the vice-chair, former Conservative Minister, Gillian Shepherd. They both expressed their frustration and disappointment that the Government had failed to seriously address the divisions and inequalities of British society. They said they had no doubt as to the sincerity of the Prime Minister's intentions; but the pre-occupation with Brexit and other pressures, meant that there was no energy and drive in government to tackle issues of poverty and injustice. To be fair, successive governments of all persuasions have failed in the quest to eradicate poverty and give equal opportunities to the most disadvantaged.

DISAPPOINTED HOPES

There is a widespread cynicism about the motives of politicians. I have recently read Jeremy Paxman's book, "The Political Animal". Even Paxman, this scourge of politicians, believes that most of them start out sincerely wanting to create a better society. So what goes wrong to prevent the rhetoric of healing social division being matched by effective action? Most changes of Government seem to be heralded by great hopes for a new society. In the United States, the election of Barack Obama, the first black President, seemed to be a new dawn for disadvantaged Americans. Yet his term of office ended in disappointment. Many of his reforms were frustrated, and we have ended up with President Trump! None of us will forget the election of Nelson Mandela in South Africa. It was a great moment to witness the long queues of black people at the polling stations. There was such joy that for



the first time they could have an influence in the democratic process. Yet there has been disappointment and frustration that this new dawn has not seen the millions of the poorest people lifted out of poverty. In Myanmar (the former Burma) we saw the election of Aung San Suu Kyi, after years of oppressive military rule.

But now she is presiding over the ethnic cleansing, or possible genocide, of the Rohingya people. And the Pope in his recent visit did not even dare to refer to the Rohingya. Now in Zimbabwe, we have witnessed the scenes of joy on the streets that the long reign of Robert Mugabe has come to an end. Again, there are dreams of a new era, of freedom, justice and prosperity for all. It remains to be seen whether these hopes will be realised; or whether Mugabe will be replaced by his henchmen, who share his thirst for power and will be seduced by greed and corruption.

THE CHRISTIAN INSIGHT

The Bible has a vision for a just and peaceful society. We see this vision particularly in the prophets such as Isaiah, Micah, Hosea and Amos.

The prophetic vision was of a nation where the poor would be protected, the weak would be given justice, and all would live in peace. That vision eludes us as much as ever it did. But as the Bible says, "Without a vision the people perish". Most of the advances that have been made in our Western society have been inspired by that prophetic longing for a better world. And yet the Bible has a realism about human nature. Christian doctrine speaks of our humanity as being "fallen". This means that there is a flaw in our nature. All our noblest hopes and aspirations can easily become corrupted by greed and the love of power. It is only by facing up to this (the Christian doctrine of "sin") that we can deal with the problem. We cannot create a better world by our own unaided efforts; but only through the grace and guidance of God's Holy Spirit. So pray regularly for our political leaders.

They share all the frailties of the rest of us; but have to live with far greater temptations.

"Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by our,
is my temple and my tower" (Robert Bridges)

Stephen



CIVIC SERVICE

All Saints has been asked to host the Civic Service for the Mayor and Town Council, on Sunday January 21st, which will also be attended by the Chairman of Maldon District Council, our Member of Parliament, together with other Mayors and Chairmen of Districts from across the county. So the 10.00am service that day will not be a Eucharist: but we do hope all the congregation will support it, as we pray for those who represent us in local government. The preacher will be the Very Reverend Nicholas Henshall, Dean of Chelmsford. The Eucharist that day will be at 4.00pm instead of Evensong.

SC

PAROCHIAL FEES 2018

For banns, weddings and funerals there are certain Statutory Fees which are set by the Archbishops Council and apply across the whole Church of England. Contrary to popular belief these fees belong to the diocese and to the Parochial Church Council, and NOT to the Incumbent, who does not receive any payment for weddings and funerals. The fees for 2018 have been fixed as follows

Publishing of banns: £29 (to the PCC)

Certificate of banns: £14 (to the PCC)

Wedding service: £441 (£201 of which goes to the Diocese and £240 to the PCC)

Funeral service in church: £190 (of which £103 goes to the Diocese and £87 to the PCC)

Burial or cremation following a church service: £27 (payable to the Diocese)

Funeral service at the Crematorium or cemetery only: £190 (of which £161 goes to the Diocese and £29 to the PCC)

There are also other fees where a parish has an open churchyard, which of course is not the case in All Saints. There is no fee for Holy Baptism.

In addition to the Statutory fees, the PCC agrees additional fees for the services of verger, organist, choir and bell ringers when required. The full table of fees may be inspected on the notice board at the back of the church



Deputy Warden's Waffle



Do you know, I sometimes wonder why Winter was invented! Its cold, the days are so short, dark nights are so long, coughs and colds have a field day, and viruses can go on for weeks, (as I can testify) and the doctors saying nothing can be done, just ride it out! All the excitement and looking forward to Christmas is over---- right, having thoroughly depressed us all; how about a re-run?

I actually think Winter time is one of the friendliest and happiest times of the year. There is a kind of comradery in the pre-Christmas run, as we all hustle and bustle about, but all going in the same direction. Then into New Year, I always think this is exciting, wondering what the New Year has in store for us all.

But just before we enter into 2018, I must mention Christmas 2017. Wow, we at All Saints again welcomed friends old and new into our lovely old church for a host of magnificent festive services to choose from. Advent, from darkness into light, is a truly beautiful way to prepare for the excitement of Christmas day its self. As ever Christmas Eve was a 'full house' for all the services. At 3 o'clock we again had our 'unique' reindeer at the manger keeping an eye on the comings and goings of this lovely family service.

Now for the 5 o'clock Crib service, I was on tender hooks, would I do it right?! I had been put in charge along with the verger, of switching the crib



The Church Packed for the 5 pm Service. Photo Mike Ovenden



and tree lights on at just the right time! I think/ hope it worked! Midnight Mass again welcomed many friends through our doors. Now Christmas morning was wonderful, we were asked by Julie, (of course) if we would like to make a Christmas tree out of cocktail sticks and sprouts!! Yes, you did hear correctly! I was useless, but some other people made simply fantastic creations, I was very jealous! When our Vicar arrived from St. Margaret's he spotted the remaining sprouts and took them for his lunch saying they were better than the ones he had! During this happy, relaxed service, Fr. Graham told a lovely story about Selina, the teenaged angel. It was heavenly!! I loved it. I think it would be fair to say, All Saints church has again done Christmas proud, beautiful flowers, the swell of the organ for our carols, and lots of happy smiling faces.



Part of the Congregation Around the Crib. Photo mike Ovenden

In a few short days, it will be 2018, so I think it is about time I wished everyone a very Happy New Year, and we certainly have lots of different and exciting events already to look forward to, not least a home grown Passion Play, and the Arts Festival, we are going to be busy!

A very happy new year from Vicky.





CHRISTINGLE SERVICE.



Photo Ken Russell

This year, Christingle was held on Sunday 10th December at three pm. At eight o'clock that morning the rain turned to snow and by nine thirty four inches of snow covered the ground, including the roads making many impassable with cars abandoned on the slightest of hills and many accidents. In spite of this approximately 70 souls braved the conditions to attend the service and collect a Christingle.

Unfortunately, we had allowed for a much larger congregation which meant there were many Christingles left over. However not wishing to see the magnificent oranges go to waste, Cliff Hunter volunteered to turn them into marmalade and then sell them for Church Funds. At the moment he is unable to keep up with demand but is making the marmalade to peoples specific specifications.

Ed.

Sardines

The first week of January, gyms classes everywhere are packed with people who made New Year's resolutions to tone up. It's like sardines in there. Big sardines. But they're all gone by February.



THE CRIB



Photo: Geoff Dickman

The Crib in church, after its Blessing at the Midnight Service on Christmas Eve, complete with the baby Jesus and the Shepherds.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

ALL SAINTS' REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2017

Our Christmas Party went extremely well. We enjoyed a delightful bring and share supper, some Christmas reminiscences, sang Carols with accompaniment from Stuart (thank you Stuart), fun with a secret Santa, and plenty of conversation. Our partners enjoyed some fine wine with our host, as did one or two of our members ! We all enjoyed a very good evening. Later on in December we went to St Marys for a traditional Nine lessons and Carols. Father John led the service and some of us read the lessons. We don't meet in January but start again in February with our AGM with refreshments followed by a Bring and Buy stall .

Jackie Barnes



EMBRACE THE MIDDLE EAST

As you know, Embrace is one of the charities we support, with a number of projects in Syria. A friend of mine, Susie Elden is working in Syria and I share with you part of a letter I have received from her. *Stephen*

“Happy Christmas Everyone,

I will tell you a little bit about my job as a DFID Health Adviser for Syria, because I love my work. Actually, maybe I just love Syrians and the people and organisations I work with. On good days, it consumes me, inspires me, teaches and pushes me to do more. On bad days, I feel used up-- that I am just sending emails to add even more bureaucracy to a very long and complicated war. This is my second year working on Syria. In some ways, this year has been more difficult because things feel a



School boys having fun practicing their English in Bekka Valley Refugee Camp

bit more entrenched after over six years of brutal conflict. There is a certain weariness and numbness I see in people, particularly those who have been there from the beginning. The bombing and besiegement continues, huge malnutrition and denial of access to Eastern Ghouta and also Khan Shekhoun was hit with a horrendous chemical attack. The polio outbreak has infected 74 kids so far this year, many of them cannot be reached due to the conflict. The death toll for health workers in 2017 was the highest ever.

Yet in spite of all of that, there have been some small and major victories. Routine immunisation was re-established in Northern Syria. Southern Syria got it first chronic disease programme off the ground (so that there are consistent supplies and people with diabetes, asthma and high blood pressure can have their conditions managed) and our programme has now started for the first disability and rehabilitation programme for the over two million people injured by the war. And just last week, we learned that UN Security Council Resolution 2165 (granting cross border humanitarian access) will be renewed for another year. This is a life-line for health supplies and services to millions of Syrians.

What I have most enjoyed though are the little moments such as meeting Syrian doctors and nurses and hearing their stories and seeing their determination. I feel inspired when I speak to Syrian refugee groups who teach Arabic to Europeans over a Skype link, or a group of hospital workers who assemble solar panels out



of local equipment and manage to keep their hospital powered. One Syrian organisation tells me that they have been able to scrape together the funds to support their 120 patients to continue their kidney dialysis treatment or keep their maternity hospital going.

I meet ordinary British and Syrian people doing extraordinary things like hosting dinners and sing-alongs in London to raise money, or people going out to the region to train nurses on infection control, or support midwives, lab techs



Happy mum and healthy 4 kilo baby boy born in Azraq refugee camp, Jordan

and doctors who had their training cut short because of the war. The generosity of Syrian British and Syrian American groups has astounded me and it keeps me going. As someone who has never seen the inside the country, the names of places (Aleppo, Damascus, Saraqeb, Douma, Deir Ez Zour) feel a little remote to me. When I meet a Syrian, they always say to me with such pride, let me tell you about my family and my home.

Somehow through all of this, I haven't lost my love for Africa but while it hibernates, I have grown to love and appreciate the Syrian people, their gentle spirit and soft-spoken truths. Their subtlety forces me to quiet down and listen a bit more carefully. I have discovered a

people rich in history and culture and only had a small taste of their poetry, music and stories of their

beautiful, ancient cities.

So what now for 2018. I have many hopes and plans for my work in Syria which keep me going. I want our health programmes to start working with and through grass-roots Syrian organisations. I want to speak up and get more global leaders to condemn the targeting health workers as a weapon of war. I want to help doctors and nurses feel safe and stay in Syria and those in the region feel that Syria is a home they can safely return to. I want to get mental health and rehabilitation services built into all of our health programmes.

Someday when it is peaceful and safe, I want to see these actual towns and people where the aid money goes--the people that right now, I can only speak to by phone, whats-app or through my computer screen. I know this is unrealistic but I most want to see a country where Syrians feel safe, welcome and want to return to build their futures.

Susie Elden



ALL SAINT'S ARTS FESTIVAL

As you will have read in November's magazine, All Saints' Church will be the venue for a new event. All Saint's Arts Festival will take place from 25th to 29th May 2018.

The Festival Directors are Sally Pudney and Graham Bell. Graham has had a career in sales and marketing and has been running his own company for the last ten years. Sally was a Primary school teacher for twenty-five years, before leaving to concentrate on a new career as an artist. Together they have a track record of organising and running the very successful Lexden Arts Festival in Colchester since 2012.

All Saint's Arts Festival will have three elements:

- An Art and Craft 'selling' exhibition by 14 invited professional artists and makers from all over East Anglia
- A Festival Café, will be open each day.
- Evening events on a theme of art and artists, and a Festival evening service on Sunday

The Festival will also have three aims:

- To bring people into the church who do not normally come and give them a welcoming and enjoyable experience.
- To raise the profile of All Saint's church in the surrounding area.
- To be a fund raising event for the church through a number of income streams. These are - sponsorship from local businesses which will be sought to cover all expenses; a commission of 25% to be deducted from all art sales; profits to be made by the café; ticket sales from evening events.

A Festival website will be set up to facilitate ticket bookings and publicise the exhibition and events, and social media will also be used for awareness, along with local radio and press.

Special flower arrangements will also be set up in the nave and chancel which it is hoped will attract additional donations, as well as giving more pleasure to our visitors.

Sally and Graham are hoping that there will be many people from the congregation and wider community who will be keen to support the Festival. They will be looking for volunteers to take a turn in the kitchen, or take a shift stewarding the exhibition with Sally, or be 'on the door' at an evening event. If you would like to be involved please email sally@sallypudneyartist.co.uk or speak to one of the ministry team.



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



Bishop Stephen's Christmas Message 2017

Venting his fury at a potential rival, Herod plays a percentages game: he spreads the net of his anger widely; kills every boy under two in order to ensure he kills just one. He fails. Fury and anger usually do - though that is scant consolation to the mourning families of the innocent who suffer. Meanwhile Jesus, the Saviour who is saved, is visited by unlikely people: in this case, shepherds and foreign rulers.

The shepherds, virtual outcasts in their own society and looked upon with grave suspicion, hear a song of peace. It is deeply attractive, and it sends them to Bethlehem.

The wise men have followed a hunch in the form of a star. They are about to learn that all their maps are wrong. They will return by a different route.

Tyrants like Herod still strut about the world today, their vanity and hubris still causing havoc and misery. But the door of the stable at Bethlehem still stands open for those who long for peace and those prepared to have their lives redirected.

Might you be one of them?

Have an interesting Christmas!

Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford.



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Aftermath

The build up to Christmas
And the aftermath.

January -

The days lighter, lengthening

And we zoom into March

Winds - and April

Showers - and sunshine,

But the wind in the East

Grinds down from the North.

The homeless huddled in doorways,

Another war disturbing the peace

And blackthorn blazing the hedgerows,

The promise of bluebells

In a sunlit dappled wood,

The scream of a dysfunctional

family

Living in total desolation

Unable to read or write

Discriminately -

An Easter in April

The man suffering our sins

On a sinister cross

While we play at his feet.



‘April is the cruellest month’

Rosemary Pugh



SERVICES FOR JANUARY

- 4th Jan** **Thursday**
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 7th Jan** **The Epiphany of Our Lord**
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) In Church.
10:00 am Worship for All
11:15 am The Eucharist Said
6:00 pm Evening Prayer at St Mary's
- 8th Jan** **Monday: The Baptism of Christ**
11:00 am Holy Communion at Hailey House
7:00 pm Holy Communion
- 11th Jan** **Thursday**
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 14th Jan** **Second Sunday of Epiphany**
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church
4:00 pm Evensong and Sermon
- 18th Jan** **Thursday**
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 21st Jan** **Third Sunday of Epiphany**
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
10:00 am Civic Service (Preacher The Dean of Chelmsford)
4:00 pm Parish Eucharist
- 25th Jan** **Thursday:**
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 28th Jan** **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church..
6:30 pm Prayer and Praise

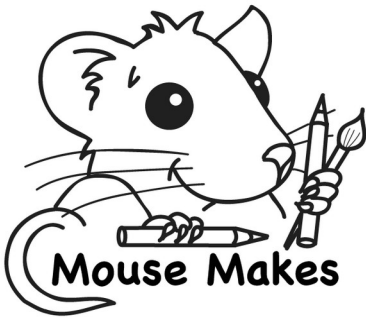
N.B.

COPY DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY MAGAZINE
21st JANUARY



DIARY FOR JANUARY

Wed 3rd Jan	12 noon - 1-30 pm All Saints Lunches 7-00 pm Parish Office
Thu 4th	2-4 pm Maldon Ladies
Mon 8th Jan	9:00 am Men's Breakfast 10 am to 12 noon Maldon Pioneers Drop In 7:00/7:30 pm Holy Communion/Standing Committee
Tues 9th Jan	10 - 12 noon meeting Point
Thu 11th Jan	10-00 am Prayer Group 9-15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7-00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7-30 pm Choir Practice
Sat 13th Jan	10 am Church Coffee morning 2pm to 4 pm Messy Church
Mon 15th Jan	10 am to 12 noon Maldon Pioneers Drop In
Tues 16th Jan	10 - 12 noon Meeting Point
Wed 17th Jan	7-00 pm Parish Office
Thu 18th Jan	9-15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7-00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7-30 pm Choir Practice
Mon 22nd Jan	10 am to 12 noon Maldon Pioneers Drop In
Tue 23rd Jan	10 - 12 noon Meeting Point
Thu 25th Jan	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7:00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7-30 pm Choir Practice
Sat 27th Jan	10 am Church Coffee morning
Mon 29th Jan	10 am to 12 noon Maldon Pioneers Drop In
Tues 30th Jan	10 - 12 noon Meeting Point
Thu Feb 1st	9-15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7-00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7-30 pm Choir Practice




Words to live by from Proverbs 3

*"My child, never forget
the things I have
taught you.
Store my commands
in your heart". vs1*




Don't ever forget kindness and truth
...then you will be respected and
will please both God and people.
from Proverbs 3:3-4 NCV

**Trust in God from the bottom
of your heart; don't try to figure out
everything on your own.**
from Proverbs 3:5 MSG



Don't assume you
know it all.




Run to God!
from Proverbs 3:7 MSG



Seek God's will in all you do and He will
show you which path to take.
from Proverbs 3:6 NLT

Honour God with everything you own;
give Him the first and the best.
from Proverbs 3:9 MSG



 Cut out and colour these
Scripture verse cards
to remind you this new year
of God's wise ways to live.



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus chapter 2 verses 1 to 11

In Egypt the Hebrew people flourished so well that the new Pharaoh grew scared and ordered all their new-born boys to be killed.

Moses' mother hid him when he was born, but he grew too big.



She made a basket from reeds for him and put it in the grass by the river Nile.



She told Moses' sister Miriam to keep watch.



Pharaoh's daughter found Moses



Shall I get someone to look after the baby?



So Miriam got her mother.



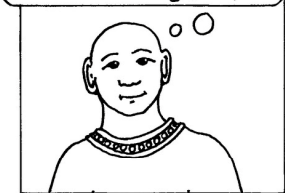
The princess adopted Moses as her son.



When Moses was grown up he went to see where his people worked as slaves.



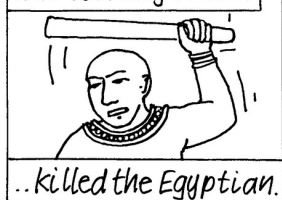
Perhaps I will be the one to save my people.



Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave.



Moses checked no-one was looking and...



He hid the body in the sand.





The tale of the RICH FOOL



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



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

I HAVEN'T ANYWHERE TO KEEP ALL THIS FOOD



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



THE MAN DEMOLISHED HIS OLD BARN'S....

...AND BEGAN TO BUILD NEW ONES.



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



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



BUT THAT VERY NIGHT, THE MAN DIED!



WHAT GOOD WERE HIS RICHES NOW?



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



o	w	n	m	m	g	r	a	s	s	b	y
r	l	s	i	p	o	x	c	l	z	a	i
d	p	i	r	l	k	t	n	a	o	s	e
e	w	h	i	o	e	p	h	v	s	k	d
r	g	d	a	u	g	h	t	e	r	e	h
e	k	y	m	r	m	r	c	s	r	t	e
d	i	e	p	s	a	n	d	a	e	m	b
o	l	b	o	t	i	o	c	v	e	o	r
f	l	o	u	r	i	s	h	e	d	s	e
i	e	d	p	s	b	a	b	y	s	e	w
l	d	y	g	r	o	w	n	q	b	s	a
r	i	v	e	r	v	n	b	u	u	a	v

sand

reeds

basket

mother

Nile

killed

grown

Egyptian

daughter

grass

slaves

ordered

save

river

Miriam

princess

son

body

Pharaoh

Moses

baby

flourished

scared

Hebrew



“Our Friends Around the World” – All Saints’ Primary School.

Entrepreneur Challenge

Our school is linked with a school in Zambia called Vinjeru. We were set a challenge to hold a Market selling things we had made ourselves in class to raise money to help them.

Each class had £20 which we used to buy the materials to make things to sell at the market which was held in our school hall on Wednesday 8th. November. Our ideas and products were very varied and included:

Stone Paperweights
‘Monster’ Book Marks
‘House’ Bird Feeders

Pop Corn
Juggling/Stress Balls
Christmas Tree
Decorations

Hand decorated flower pots planted with bulbs
Sweetie Cones
Chocolate Truffles
Chocolate Brownies
Rocky Road Bars
Hand-made soaps
Gingerbread People

We set up stalls in the hall decorated with bright posters to attract customers. Trade was brisk and we sold out very quickly. At the final count up, we made a profit of £593 that will be sent to Vinjeru.



On the previous Sunday there had been a service in our school hall to celebrate the Patronal Festival for All Saints’ Church and a collection was made for the Vinjeru Trust. This was added to the money we made at the market.



Our trip to Central Park Primary School in London



On the 23rd. November 2017 some of us All Saints' pupils were chosen to visit a school in Newham, London, called Central Park School. We had to come to school at 7.45am to catch the coach. When all 30 of us, Yr. 5 and Yr.2's, were ready we set off. It took about an hour and a half to get there, but finally we reached Newham. We were all EXCITED and we could not wait to meet new people who were different from us. Central Park School is a lot different to ours because they have 5 classes in each year group (we only have two), they have nearly 1000 children there and a pre-school and their school is 3 storeys high. They speak 54 different languages and two more new ones which they are finding difficult, Romanian and Italian.

Rachel (the Deputy Head teacher) took us on a tour which was great. They have big balconies up on the roof and you can see the whole of London.

We had an inspiring assembly about how to keep safe when travelling on your own. The children have to learn how to travel on public transport because they have to reduce the amount of cars on the roads to stop pollution. We also learnt about Oyster Cards which help them when they are travelling to school without their parents.

We did P.E. Drama and Art lessons, which were really fun and made lots of lovely new friends called Sarah, Ilamma and Idomi. We had pizza for lunch and played in the playground.

Then we said our goodbyes to our friends and got on the coach back home to Maldon.

It had been a wonderful day and I hope I see my new friends again soon. I can't wait to see them again when they come to visit us in Maldon.

Contributions from Year 5 pupils –Darcy Franklin, Emily Coffman, Rhianna Gregory and Kyla Lansdowne





Messy Church at All Saints'



Messy Church has grown in numbers again, and is well supported. A great time was had by all at our recent gathering, God being always around us and fitting things in our lives together. Rev. Julie did a great job of the Worship time and our meal together.....a very important part.....was well received by all.

Our next Messy Church is on Saturday 13th January from 2-4pm . Everyone is welcome whatever your age, come and see what we do, you will be amazed.!

The dates for the Messy churches are as follows:

January 13th 2018,
February 10th, March 10th ,
April 14th , May 12th ,
June 9th July 14th .

We always finish our afternoon sharing a meal together. Everyone whatever your age is welcome.

For further details and to offer help, please contact Elaine Brown.

Elaine

Book Reviews

Patterns in the Psalms **Various artists, SPCK, £9.99**

Here is an attractive colouring book for adults, combining Bible verses and patterns to encourage prayer and meditation. It contains thirty illustrations with a corresponding verse, all designed to appeal to an adult market. The designs include animals, flowers, leaves, waves, stars and other patterns. Scripture provides inspiration and reflection for each page.

Taken from the Parish Pump website.

Chickens, toilets and donkeys

It's that time of year again when we cash in the money from our loyal egg buyers to transform the lives of a few families across the world.

The charity Send A Cow uses donations to give the poorest families a sustainable start on the road to a better life. The charity focusses on using donations not only to buy the start-up materials, agriculture or livestock, but also to teach the skills and knowledge to maintain what has been started, and to pass on that knowledge to others.



This year, we have been able to buy two different types of gift:

The first is two 'Clean Latrines'. Many of the families SaC work with do not even have a toilet. But SaC equip them with the knowledge and skills to build simple yet clean and safe latrines using local materials near their homes.

The second is three packages of donkey care. Donkeys are really important in helping families transport produce to market from isolated communities, so this gift, which trains farmers in all aspects of donkey care – feeding, shelter, harnessing and loading, ensures a happy life for both

donkey and farmer.

And as an extra boost, until 31 December, the UK Government doubled every donation of the gifts through UKaid, so charities like Send a Cow can achieve even more.

So a big thankyou to our egg buyers. This time of year our ladies are not so productive. Short days and some serious moulting have resulted in reduced production, but I am sure they will continue to do their best!

Richard, Adrienne and George Knight

NB. My apologies to the Knight family for failing to put this article in the December Magazine. Ed





One of our Congregation, Geoff Dickman, recently wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury regarding the serving of “halal” meat in Church Schools. I print below his letter and the reply he received from the Archbishop.

8th November 2017.

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby,
Lambeth Palace
LAMBETH
London SE1 7JU

Sir,

Church schools serve non-stunned halal meat

This was the title of an article in the Daily Telegraph, which you may have seen.

I have discussed this both with my vicar at All Saints church in Maldon, the Reverend Stephen Carter, and with my Member of Parliament John Whittingdale.

Stephen agrees with me that this should not be allowed as the production of halal is exceedingly cruel and therefore against Christian principles. But my MP merely says that this brutality is permitted by Act of Parliament. So apparently Parliament, very sadly, is not bothered by animal cruelty.

I would like the practice to be proscribed, but if Parliament is more concerned with the ethnic vote than with cruelty to God's creatures (yet we are not yet a Muslim country) then at least the Church of England should have the power to say it is not acceptable in church schools.

Please, can you help me and especially our four legged friends?

Yours very sincerely,

Geoff Dickman

Copies: John Whittingdale MP
Rev. Canon Stephen Carter



From: Lambeth Palace [mailto:contact@lambethpalace.org.uk]
Sent: 21 November 2017 11:40
To: geoff.h.dickman@gmail.com
Subject: 44212 Dickman re Halal meat

Dear Mr Dickman -

The Archbishop of Canterbury has asked me to thank you for your email about halal products and to respond to you on his behalf; he regrets he is unable to reply personally to all the correspondence that he receives.

The matter you raise is one of concern, not only to some Christians, but also to some other religious communities and for other reasons to others as well. There are as you will be aware, a variety of different views across and within the religious communities about the acceptability of consuming halal meat, including within the Christian community. It is the case however that a proper labelling of halal products is highly desirable for both Muslims and non-Muslims.

The Christian Muslim Forum, of which the Archbishop of Canterbury is patron, published a joint statement in 2010 (see http://www.christianmuslimforum.org/images/documents/halal_statement.pdf) to the effect that halal products should be clearly labelled to enable consumers, Muslim and non-Muslim alike, to make an informed choice. The Church of England supports this approach and we do not approve of the practice in certain supermarkets of failing to label meat products nor of local or other authorities failing to provide alternatives to halal products. You might also be interested to know that in the case of provision for school meals, the Church of England takes the view that a choice should always be available between halal and non halal meals for pupils.

An approach which insists on the labelling of halal products enables Muslims and non-Muslims alike to make an informed choice in relation all these points and it is to the commercial and public authorities that we should turn to take the appropriate action.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Nunn |
Correspondence Secretary to the
Archbishop of Canterbury



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



On what clergy do after Christmas

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am glad you enjoyed your post-Christmas break from the parish, although a week of skiing in the Alps does seem a little excessive. In my day, an extra hour in bed on Boxing Day was considered quite sufficient. Curates are clearly paid too much. While your week after Christmas was spent falling down mountains at excessive speeds, mine was used with the traditional activity of making apologies.

Apologies are always sent out to all those ladies who had fur coats ruined by guttering candles at the Carol Service. But as I feel obliged to point out, at least they were ruined with the best beeswax money can buy. Had they attended Saint Agatha's, our next-door parish, they would have been ruined by paraffin wax, which is most inferior.

A general apology was also necessary in the parish magazine. That our thurifer was slightly over-zealous with the incense at the midnight Service was quite excusable at such an important Service; that the organist improvised during Communion on the tune "Smoke gets in your Eyes" was not.

I also felt duty-bound to apologise to the landlord of the public house which adjoins the church, as his customers were blocked in the pub car park with cars of those attending our midnight Service. But since his customers were obliged to stay in the pub for an extra two hours, he asked if we could make the same mistake in future years. I also received several letters of thanks from those who were unable to return home until the early hours. One even made a donation to the church in appreciation.

Apologies were also made to the 8am Christmas morning congregation, the Service having been taken by Canon Rogers for the last 25 years. Now in his 97th year, he is becoming somewhat forgetful. Beginning the Service by wishing the congregation a very happy Easter was not entirely helpful. I may have to think about finding him a replacement.

My final apologies were given to Lady Duckworth who, having tumbled her returning children to church, discovered that strangers were sitting in her pew. Since her family has sat there for the last 400 centuries, she has always



assumed squatters' rights, and so being obliged to sit at the rear of a side aisle was not at all appreciated.

And so we both begin a new year, you exhilarated from a week's strenuous activity and me energised by knowing that I will not have to apologize to anyone about anything for another 12 months.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Greetings From Singapore

I have received an email from Derek Trueman in Singapore, where he sings in the Cathedral Choir. He includes a link to their Festival of Carols Service which you may wish to view on your computer, (if you have one) or on the computer of a younger member of your family.

“For a change, something much better than an email for a Christmas message to you all.

As a bit of festive cheer you might like to listen to the below once the madness of the festive season is over?

Our Spore Cathedral Choir's lessons and Carols Service this week included a lovely "Christmas Story" of carols and reading

It is on YouTube under St Andrews Cathedral Singapore Lessons and Carols 2017 and hopefully the link is below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93GPwmrTfBI>

It shows the whole 1.5 hours of the service (you can see moi lumbering in at the start!), but the Christmas Story is only 30 mins, from 34 mins to 1 hour 4 mins.

It really is quite a special adaptation by 2 Americans, so have a listen? It is truly uplifting.

Happy Christmas

Derek

ps I am at back middle (unrecognisable tenor), but you'll see a lot of Angie (videoing) and her mum Karen! [in the second row of congregation]

pps our choir is not 60-strong; half were drafted in from other churches!”



RELATIVISM AND THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE

[I've just read an address by Michael Raiter, a theologian from Sydney, and would like to share the salient points from his speech]

He starts with a conversation on a Sydney bus. A stranger asked him his job and he replied 'a missionary'. "Oh, OK," the man said, "a man of faith. You either get Faith or you don't". He meant that some people are inclined to a belief in God and some aren't, because they are just not wired that way. He thought believing in God was like abstract art: you either get it or you don't. He believed that Christian faith is subjective, it's not a question of right or wrong, or what is true or false; it's a matter of what works for you. Michael replied that it was none of these, it is a question of whether or not you believe the true claims of the Christian faith. Thus he had confronted in this typical man a mindset that reflects the spirit of the age, indeed the spirit of every age!

All this presupposes the implication that there is a transcendental force influencing the worldview, interpreted as the attitudes, convictions, beliefs and behaviour of the people of that time and place. The spirit of the age will also manifest itself differently in different cultures and at different times in history. Although Jesus is unchanging, as is the Devil, the Truth as envisioned by people will change over time. In some past cultures God's Truth was the only truth, in other cultures it was said to be a corrupted truth, while in more modern Western cultures Christian truth is only one of a variety of truths. This prevailing pluralistic worldview is 'relativism' – not one but many truths. The man on the bus reflected this worldview: he didn't think my worldview was right or wrong, it was just my view not his view. It was not better or worse than his, or more true or false. It was just a worldview that works for him and not for me.

The largely forgotten group of scholars called 'The Jesus Seminar' were highly sceptical about the trustworthiness of the Four Gospels. Their leader, Crossan, was once asked, "Did Jesus rise from the dead?" He replied, "Yes, yes – for Christians." In other words it is true and meaningful for Christians but not for Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and atheists. The Muslim Jesus, called Isa, is true for Muslims. The Jesus who is a wise teacher and nothing more is true for agnostics. The resurrected Jesus is true for Christians. One particular view of Jesus is not right, and another wrong. It is only right for you, they argued.

Relativism developed in the West in the 18th century Age of Enlightenment which placed human reasoning as the basis of knowledge, not tradition or edicts of the Church. Religious and moral belief was now relegated to the world of personal opinion and it opened the gates to religious, cultural and moral relativism. Further, it became clear that written or spoken words imbibed cultural context. For example, the word 'peace' would mean something completely different to a person in an English village than a refugee in Rwanda. Similarly, 'rich', 'religious', 'brave' and so on. So when reading a text, or in daily speech even, there can be no single authoritative interpretation, simply different interpretations. Meaning is only found in the mind of the receiver, not the sender or the word itself, and this meaning will be interpreted in a variety of ways by different cultures. As an example, if someone said, "I am a landlord," this could elicit respect, anger, hatred, jealousy, bribery etc from a range of different listeners. Hence, from that moment on relativism, in word,



thought or deed, soon replaced objective truth.

Therefore today people talk less and less about objective truth, since what is true for one is not for another. People also tend to think in terms of ‘preference’ than truth: preference in religious belief, lifestyle, sexual behaviour, morality, thus resulting in the freedom to mix and match. People can even learn at one and the same time the different spiritual truth expounded by a Muslim Iman, a Buddhist priest and a Christian theologian, taking the bits that best resonate with their individual understanding of God.

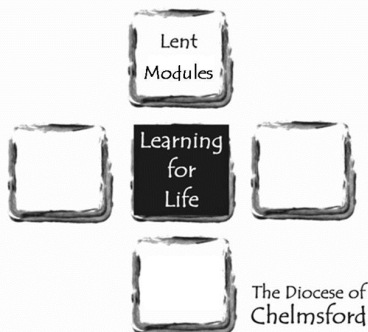
But this situation is far from being a new phenomenon. Even the 1st century world of the Apostles was every bit as pluralistic as the UK today: a smorgasbord of religious beliefs. Consider the countless temples, shrines, idols and altars in Athens when Paul visited and tried to convert people to Christianity. Paul rejected the pluralism and relativism and told them there is only one true God, proclaiming “In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30). Paul refused to give any credibility to any alternative religious viewpoints and his challenge was universal: there were to be no exceptions, all people everywhere, with a final reckoning on Judgement Day. This viewpoint stands in stark contrast to the spirit of the age, just as we Christians still do today.

Unfortunately, to go against the spirit of the age in many things is deemed intolerant, and intolerance is a deadly sin. Tolerance is the glue that keeps the fabric of society intact, especially a multi-racial, multi-faith one. The old definition of ‘tolerance’ was to ‘put up with, or bear’ but today it has swung more towards ‘acceptance’. Indeed, we use the word tolerance less and less because it implies value judgements, a ‘right’ and a ‘wrong’. For example, acceptance says that you have a certain religious faith because that’s the way you were brought up, so it works for you but may not for me. Therefore we need to accept each other. I cannot say that I am right and you are wrong; both of us need to be true to ourselves...and our culture, our faith, morality etc. We must not judge others who are different.

Since this creed of acceptance is the new attitude prevalent in our society, then those not prepared to accept the views of others are outsiders. It is a costly thing to oppose or resist the spirit of the age and this puts many Christians in a difficult position because there are some things we refuse to accept. We can tolerate other religious viewpoints but we cannot accept them as equally valid. We cannot compromise on the truths about Jesus and God. To affirm that Jesus is the unique Saviour and Lord of all people is a dangerous assault on the spirit of the age, but we do it because we know there is true worship and false worship, true beliefs and false beliefs, truth and untruth. We know that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is true. It is rooted in verifiable fact and historical events.

So in being a Christian we are not primarily ‘being true to myself’, we are firstly being true to God. We are not Christians because that particular worldview works for us, but because we are intellectually and morally bound to commit ourselves to that which is true. There is no relativism here, no pluralism: we reject rightly and faithfully the spirit of the age and we hope to convince “every knee to bow and every tongue confess” the importance of our true faith.

D Trueman



The Lent Modules 2018

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

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

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

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

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

After-eight Social Club

Winter Warmer Dance Night



SATURDAY 13th January
Langford Village Hall

Dancing to the sounds of 5 Star

Including soup and a dessert!

Admission: Members £8 - Non members £10

Please bring your own drinks



The after eight social club runs various activities every month of the year including quiz nights, meals out, coffee evenings, excursions etc.

For further information call Mike on 01621 856219

Find us at www.aftereightsocialclub.co.uk

We also have a Facebook page



Lunch at All Saints

Soup – hot food- cakes

12:00 to 1:30 pm

**Wednesday
3rd January**



FROM THE REGISTERS



BAPTISMS

December 31st

Milo Stanley Thomas Smart of Harold Rise.

Frida Nadia Lucila Bergersen of Ferney Voltaire, France.

FUNERALS

December 5th

Joan Catherine Whiteley aged 79, of Colchester Road,
Heybridge.

December 21st

Ella Mae Durham aged 97 of Wantz Haven.



Prayer Diary

JANUARY 2018

1	Pray for God's blessing on the New Year
2	Our Diocesan Bishop
3	Our Area Bishops
4	Our Honorary Assistant Bishops
5	Our Servers
6 Epiphany	Pray that Christ will be shown to all
7 Baptism of Christ	Our Sidesmen
8	All Lay Preachers
9	All Religious Education Teachers
10	All staff and volunteers of our Cathedral
11	Our Tower Bell Ringers
12	Our Uniformed Organisations
13	The Quakers
14 Epiphany 2	Our Eucharistic Ministers
15	Our Churchwardens and their Deputies
16	All who read in Church
17	All residents of our Parish
18	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins.
	The United Reformed Church
19	The Baptist Church
20	The Methodist Church
21 Epiphany 3	All who lead our intercessions
22	The Salvation Army
23	The Parishes of St Mary, Maldon, and St Andrew, Heybridge
24	All Free Churches
25 Conversion of St Paul	Churches dedicated to St Paul
26	St Michaels, Woodham Walter and St Margaret's Woodham Mortimer
27	The Roman Catholic Church
28 Epiphany 4 Candlemas	Pray for Unity in the Christian Church
29	Those who teach our young people on Sundays and lead 'Messy Church'
30	Our Parochial Church Council
31	Our Parish News Editor

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

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HON. ASST. PRIEST	Rev. Canon Dr. Graham Blyth Tel: 01621 854068
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Website www.allsaintsmaldon.com



ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Choir Practice (Thur 7:30pm)	Dr. Stuart Pegler	01621 850530
Junior Choir (Thur 7:00 pm)	”	”
Junior Church	Debbie Clinch	01621 840057
Freedom Footsteps	Sue Carter	
Sunshiners (Pre School Group Thursdays 9:15 am)	Gill Nelson	01621 852119
Tower Bell Ringers	Peter Chignell	01376 571170
	Dennis Johnson	01621 842410
Handbell Ringers	Susan Duke	01621 851623
Flower Group	Betty Smith	01621 854143
Bible Society	Joan Downham	01621 854655
Mothers' Union`	Marie Keeble	01621 856354
Childrens Society	Elaine Brown	01621 853238
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	Cliff Hunter	01621 852013
Meeting Point	Barbara Gale	01621 928538
Maldon Pioneers	Mike Frederick	01621 840951
Maldon Ladies Group	Vivien Clark	01621 740374
Ramblers Club		
Prayer Group	Paul Barnes	01621 858978

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

PARISH OFFICE

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

All Saints' Maldon



Open every day

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