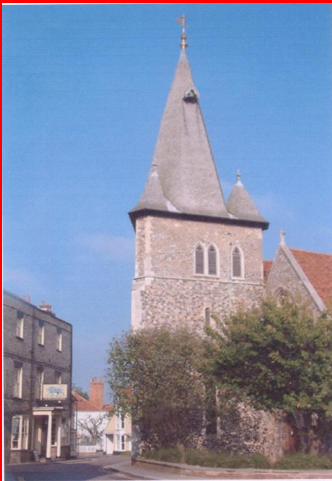


ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

December 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

WEEKDAY SERVICES

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

Evening Prayer is usually said in church at 5.30pm on Monday - Thursday

Thursday 11:00am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) followed by coffee and biscuits

Cover Photos: 1&2 Patronal Service at All Saints School.
Ovenden. Photos by Mike



YOUR CHURCH NEEDS CLEANERS

The small band of dedicated church cleaners are in desperate need to swell their numbers and are looking for volunteers - male or female to join them.

If you are able to give a little time to help with cleaning the church, Colin Brown or one of the church wardens will be delighted to hear from you.

The more people that join the rota will result in less frequent cleaning duty.



FROM THE VICARAGE

In many homes the focus for our Christmas celebrations will be the Christmas Tree, whether real or artificial. Many of us will gather around our tree on Christmas day with family and friends, for the exchange of presents.

The Christmas Tree is an ancient, pre-Christian symbol. Being evergreen, it speaks for life in the dark empty days of Winter. But for Christians it takes



on a new meaning. The lights of the tree remind us of Jesus, whom we believe to be the Light of the World. The presents we share remind us of God's greatest gift to the world- Jesus Christ.

We invite you to share in our Christmas worship as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. This year, there will be a new focus in our celebrations - a Christmas Tree festival in All Saints from December 7th-9th. This will be a real community celebration, with over 40 Christmas trees prepared by many organisations in the town. All the proceeds from the trees will be given to the Children's Society, which works with some of the most needy children in the United Kingdom.

May God bless you and your home this Christmas.

Stephen Carter, Vicar

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

Christmas is a good opportunity for us to visit the residential homes in the parish, to share the Christmas story, sing carols and talk to the residents.

This is greatly appreciated by residents and their families and also by the staff. Even for those who are confused and distressed, the familiar words of the carols and readings can often generate a remarkable response. It is a very busy time for our hard working choir and organist, and they greatly value additional support from other members of the congregation, when we go to the homes in the parish. If any one is able to join us at the following Christmas services, we would love to see you. And you will know that you are bringing joy to many of our elderly parishioners.

Monday December 10th 11.00am at Hailey House (with Holy
Communion)

Wednesday December 12th 11.00am Longfields

Monday December 17th 11.00am St Peter's Court

Tuesday December 18th 11.00am The Lodge

Thank you. Stephen

SHOPPERS' CAROLS

This year we are doing something different. As part of the Christmas Tree Festival, we are having "Carols for Shoppers'" on Saturday December 8th from 12.30pm. It will last no more than 30 minutes and will be an informal celebration lead by the Reverend Julie. We hope people will stay for seasonal refreshments afterwards.

SC



ADVENT SUNDAY DECEMBER 2nd

The 10.00am Worship for All service that day will be an informal Eucharist, lead by Canon Graham and Adrienne Knight. There will therefore be NO 11.15am Eucharist that day

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

There will be the usual candle-light service at 4.00pm on Advent Sunday December 2nd, which will include Advent readings, well loved Advent hymns for the congregation, and anthems by the choir. Please join us for what is always a beautiful start to this lovely season in the church year.

TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

This year, because of the way Christmas falls, we will **NOT** be having the Nine Lessons and Carols on the Sunday before Christmas. It will be on the previous day, Saturday 22nd December at 3.30pm (note the earlier time)

There will be all the well loved carols for the congregation, interspersed with carols sung by the choir. The Nine Readings will all be from the King James (authorised version) of the Bible.

SC

CHARITY GIVING

It is our practice at All Saints Parish Church to adopt a charity to support in the collections from our Christmas Eve services. We usually have several hundred people through the doors and a substantial collection, if its something that strikes a chord with people

With the high profile of the number of young carers in the UK looking after a parent or sibling, the PCC would like to support the Maldon branch of Action for Family Carers this year. The Christmas Eve services mostly attract young families with children; and to support young carers would, I think, appeal to them, (see p4 for details of the charity).

SC



Supporting Young Carers in Maldon

Maldon-based charity Action for Family Carers has been supporting local unpaid carers for nearly 30 years. The charity's work includes providing a regular club night for Young Carers aged 8 years and over, plus working with local primary and secondary schools to help them to identify and support Young Carers there.

Our Young Carers Club runs every other Tuesday from 5-7pm at Maldon Activity Centre and up to 25 Young Carers attend each time. We love to make the club nights fun for the Young Carer as it's their break from their caring role and we want them to have the chance to be children and to have fun for a while. Every week there are games such as pool, soft football, board games and computer games. In addition to those games we also try to do something special, for example we



held a pamper evening and in the summer we had a water fight which they all loved. We also went to the park and took ball games and a picnic with us.

We also have healthy snacks - which some of the Young Carers help to prepare - such as a wrap, roll, fruit, salad and sometimes a sweet treat. This ensures that Young Carers are having access to something healthy in case they do not get this at home.

Most recently we put on our own petting zoo whereby Mums, other family members and some staff very kindly brought their animals to the club for the children to pet and to learn about. They absolutely loved this as you can see from some photos we took on the night.

As one example of how our club enriches a child or young person's life, we have a young lady who is home schooled. Since attending club she has made friends, improved her social skills and been given invaluable support from staff and building a support network from her peers. She always attends and is keen to come along to any trips.

Action for Family Carers' Young Carer club nights are entirely dependent upon fundraising and donations and the charity is grateful for any and all support from the local community including from volunteers.

Additional Information

Phone: 0300 770 80 90

Website: www.affc.org.uk

Email: info@affc.org.uk

Address: Action for Family Carers, Brickhouse Farm, Poulton Close, Maldon.



CHURCH FINANCES

We recently received this letter from the Bishop of Chelmsford which was discussed at the last PCC. I thought it was important to share Bishop Stephen's letter to a wider audience through the magazine, as it has implications for us as a parish. The "Parish Share" is the amount the PCC has to send the diocese each month, to meet the costs of having a paid incumbent, as well as contributing to the mission and ministry of the wider church. Though the situation has improved in recent years, we still have a considerable shortfall in payment to the diocese in 2018. SC



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

"Although it is in so many ways a miracle of generosity and sacrificial giving that the diocese of Chelmsford is able to do all that it does, the hard truth of our financial position is that we still face a shortfall on our general fund each year. Last year it was £303,000. However the reality is that there was a shortfall in Parish share collection across the diocese of £920,000; but that was mitigated by efficiencies and savings of £811,000. This year, the Share shortfall is projected to be £1,062,000, with a resulting deficit of £943,000

We cannot go on like this indefinitely. At the moment it is still possible to sell a vacant Vicarage here and there so as to balance the books. But this is clearly not a sustainable way of managing our finances.

Almost everything we raise in Parish Share goes to pay the costs of the clergy. Therefore the message we need to send out is very simple. If you want to continue to have a stipendiary priest serving your parish, then pay the Parish Share. But in order to get this message across, we need each priest and each parish to teach more incisively about stewardship and giving. I know this is embarrassing for some of us, especially when it feels we are asking for money to pay ourselves. However, I believe we must renew our commitment to teaching about this aspect of Christian discipleship. If we get this right, not only will we balance the books-which will be a huge blessing-but we can look forward to a situation where additional income can be invested in new ministry and mission. Let us rise to the challenge of teaching and encouraging people to give thankfully, generously, and even sacrificially, so that our parish can pay its Share."

Stephen + Michaelmass 2018



LETTER FROM YORKSHIRE

Dear Church Family,

As I write we have just passed the sombre celebration of Remembrance Sunday. I don't know what your thoughts are about that, but I do think, that this year the media coverage was exceptional, for we had a glimpse of what war is really like. I felt a great sadness for the huge human suffering and loss, and the fact that human kind has not learned, that conflict is not the answer to the problems that we have of trying to live together, on God's planet Earth. Perhaps we shall learn soon, when we realise that we all need now to save this beautiful place where we live, by the Grace of God.

Fred and I thank you so much, for your good wishes for our 60th wedding anniversary, we had a lovely day, and so much for 'St Luke's little summer' we were able to walk along the sea shore reminiscing 'old times', in glorious sunshine!

Now we are looking forward to Christmas; good luck with the Christmas Trees! But don't let the rush get you! come into church when it is quiet, and sit for a while with God, and remember the Baby born in such humble circumstances, He brings the answer to our problems.

Fred and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Love and Blessings

Avril

JUNIOR CHURCH.

Currently there are 14 children on our register and we average 9 attendees each week looking at the Parable stories and, at present, are looking at Prayer which will then be followed by The Christmas Story.

We are updating our contact forms and have added forms for permission to use photos of the children in the parish magazine etc.

It is planned to have a small Christmas party, but on a Saturday in the new year.

As always more helpers would be helpful especially with our growing numbers.

Elaine Brown



Deputy Warden's Waffle

Where has this year gone? The amazing celebrations and memorials that we have all been involved in, of Peace 100 years ago, are still fresh in our minds, but now Christmas is just round the corner, and because so much is going on, there really is no choice but to start planning earlier and earlier each year! I remember my mother's recollection of Christmas, that you went out on Christmas Eve to buy the tree and presents for the family and then decorated the tree and wrapped presents when you got home! You then went out Carol singing in the evening. Then Christmas morning you had your stocking to open and then all the family went to church. After lunch you played party games and sang carols round the piano before a festive Christmas tea. You could then stay up late playing silly party games.

Boxing Day was for visiting relatives or them visiting you. This is mainly how I remember my early Christmases too. There was not a lot either at school or church, as now, of all the pre Christmas festivities. In order to fit it all in we have to start earlier and earlier each year! But I do love it! I'm in awe of the amazing creative talents that people display. Colin's beautiful drawing on the Church Christmas card; the flowers which will decorate the church; the wonderful music from choirs, orchestras, organ and bells; school plays and productions; the celebrations of food and drink from so many social functions that you hope don't clash with each other!

Then at the heart of all this razzmatazz is the gift we are celebrating which so sadly is not acknowledged by so many people - the Christ Child in the manger at Bethlehem over 2000 years ago and what His coming was to mean for us.

With the world in our sitting rooms, or on our phones these days, we are more than ever aware that the divide between the haves and the have nots grows ever wider and we struggle to try to redress it in some small way by the lives we try to lead; to share what we have with those less fortunate. So I know we will try to support all the fund raising efforts that will be happening in our town at this time. Then please let us know what has been going on for the January Magazine!

Christmas Blessings to one and all - as little Tim said - and peace and joy in 2019

Viv - deputy warden



REFLECTIONS

On the second weekend of November the church paid homage to all those who have ever fought or been killed or injured in war. In particular Sunday 11th November 2018 was the 100th anniversary of the armistice which ended the first world war. Whilst this war did continue in other lands, it was this date when the western front became peaceful once again after more than four years of the most ferocious and seemingly needless killing and maiming of millions of people. Our church was beautifully decorated with hundreds of knitted poppies which were enhanced by many white flowers, notably Chrysanthemums. The Ladies responsible for the arrangements did us, and all those being remembered, proud. How lovely the arrangements looked, and how well they blended with our magnificent church. There were many visitors to the church during the three days of the display, and coffee and tea (With delicious cakes) could be enjoyed in the D'Arcy Chapel.

At the 9.30 Eucharist on remembrance day, the preacher was father John Dickens, priest in charge at St. Mary's church. He gave a very informative and impassioned sermon regarding the First World War and the bravery and sacrifices made by all those taking part in it. Father John explained to us that immediately after the two wars and indeed until about 1970 the remembrance Sunday was used to glorify our victories and celebrate our military strength. Since then there has been a change of heart by both Government and ordinary folk and now the emphasis is on conciliation, remembering the sacrifices and hopes for peace. I found it most helpful and stimulating as I, like many other people, was thinking quite a lot about the two world wars and the many others that have occurred during my lifetime. After this service we went out to the war memorial where the town commemoration service took place. This was attended by a very large crowd and the Minister conducting the service was the Reverend Barry Allen from the Methodist church. Wreaths were laid at the war memorial and members of local groups marched and paraded and the whole gathering held the respectful silence at 11.00 am.

At the conclusion of the Town commemoration service there was the Civic service in All Saints church and this proved to be more popular than anyone had thought it would be. It seemed to me that every seat was filled and some cadets were even standing at the back of the church. Certainly I, along with my fellow sidesmen, had to stand through the service and was most pleased to do so with such a great congregation. There were several beautiful and well known hymns and the Bible reading was read by the Mayor of Maldon, Councillor Jeanette Stilts. I would like to repeat here the Collect for the service, as it is so appropriate and meaningful for the present time and is an



established and favourite one from the Church of England.

Eternal God, we remember those you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence;
 may that same peace calm our fears,
 bring justice to all peoples
 and establish harmony among the nations,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Another feature in this service was the lovely playing of the All Saints Handbell group who played moving mood music around the spoken poem "In Flanders Fields" by Canadian army officer John McCrae who wrote it after losing a close friend at the second battle of Ypres in 1915. The service concluded with All Saints choir singing most beautifully 'Sanctus' from the 'Armed Man' by Welsh composer Karl Jenkins. It really was a great pleasure to hear this music played in the church setting and it certainly bowled me over. Thank you choir and Dr. Stuart Pegler, our director of music. The 'Armed Man' was composed as 'A Mass for Peace' and it was commissioned by the Royal Armouries for the Millennium celebrations. It was dedicated to the victims of the Kosovo crisis and it is based on the Catholic Mass.

Please note that new members of either sex and any age would be warmly welcomed to the choir. If you would like to know more, please contact Dr. Pegler or Canon Stephen. They would appreciate your interest.

The above is just some parts of the services that I enjoyed. There are more items and no doubt many more things enjoyed by others over the weekend and I hope that you have such good memories too. Please see the photographs in other parts of this magazine, they will also contain memories for many of us. A truly remarkable weekend and one worthy of the term 'Remembrance'.

Ken Downham



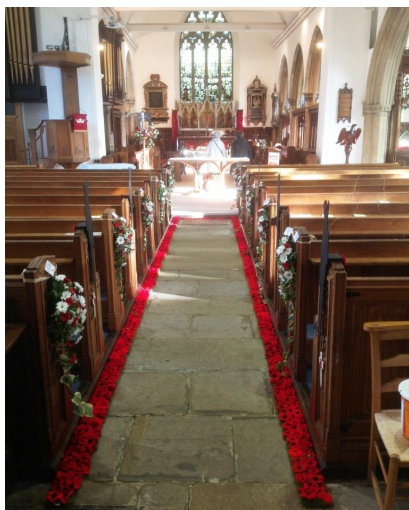
MESSY CHURCH

Our monthly Messy Church is now on the 3rd Saturday of each month, when we average about 12-15 children plus parents/carers. Some months we do struggle for help, and again we could do with more people willing to help.

We manage to self fund the afternoons activities and meal, by kind donations of the parents most of the year, and we have received some funds from the church, also a couple of kind donations from church members.

There is one more Messy Church in 2018, on Saturday 15th December from 2-4pm.

Elaine Brown





I am grateful for these Remembrance photos sent to me by Sue Frederick, Geoff Dickman, Mike Ovenden and Farleigh Hospice.

Ed.



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

BISHOP STEPHEN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Have a disruptive Christmas!

Most of us avoid disruption if we can. We go to great lengths to avoid the M25, M11, A12 and A13 at the merest whiff of disruption, delay or diversion. We give trouble a wide berth. We are unlikely to give shelter – even in the garage – to a pregnant teenager with nowhere to stay.

But during Advent, stress is still etched onto our faces as we scurry around Lakeside, Westfield, Chelmsford or Colchester, queuing for cards and piling up presents, buying things that people don't necessarily want at prices we can't really afford. It makes the carefree summer of 2018 and its scorching heatwave seem like a distant dream.

Yet Christmas is supposed to be disruptive. God needed to cause unprecedented disruption to the world. He had to generously transform his relationship with us by opening himself up to the reality of the dangers faced by a vulnerable baby and then as a provocative young man. This was the only way to change us.

The lives of Mary and Joseph were certainly turned upside down. From that Christmas morning onwards, the lives of billions of others have been shaken and transformed.

This Christmas, I look forward to all the joy and laughter that go with family gatherings and the usual trappings of a traditional Christmas. And I also look forward to finding peace and stillness with God. But I am increasingly aware that I probably need something else as well. I need the disruption of Christmas. I need the surprise. I need the challenge. And so does the world. So I will also be looking for the signs of the glorious disruption that Jesus continues to bring to our world and pray that you encounter that true spirit of Christmas too.

Stephen + Chelmsford



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

**ALL SAINTS MALDON
MOTHERS' UNION
REPORT FOR NOVEMBER**

Annie from Fellowship Afloat came to tell us all about the activities and courses they run on the Trinity – the lightship moored in Tollesbury where people can sleep on the ship. Most of the participants are young people and enjoy accommodation, instruction and sailing courses with safety equipment and home cooked food. Each day of their stay is led by the on board staff team plus volunteers who all form the lively Christian community which is Fellowship Afloat. Not only this but on shore there is a high ropes course, indoor archery, indoor climbing wall and large games area. All this combines to make a grand place to get away from it all, which for a young person must be fantastic.

Annie made it sound absolutely great, I think some of the MU would have liked to join in with the adventures (if only we were younger).

Next month we have our Christmas festivities, and that's another year gone. A year of friendship, support, good fellowship and fun. Why not give it a try? Ring Merie on 856354 for details.

Please note that from next month (January 2019) MU will move to the earlier time of 7:00 pm.

Jackie Barnes

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Youth Work, Anxiety and the Gospel.

A presentation by Tim Leeson, youth minister at Chelmsford Cathedral
and doctoral student,

In the Octagon at St Mary's, 7.30, Thursday 6th December,
Wine and nibbles from 7.15



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Phone Natalie on 07930 940513 to book your appointment.

Lunch at All Saints

Soup – hot food- cakes

12:00 to 1:30 pm

Wednesday
5th Dec.





SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

- 2nd Dec** **Advent Sunday**
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
10:00 am Worship for All Eucharist
4:00 pm Advent Candlelit Service
- 6th Dec** **Thursday**
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 8th Dec** **Saturday**
12:30 - 1:00 pm Carols for Shoppers
- 9th Dec** **Second Sunday of Advent**
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church
3:00 pm Christingle Service
- 10th Dec** **Monday**
11:00 am Holy Communion at Hailey House.
7:00 pm Hospice Light Up a Life Service
- 11th Dec** **Tuesday**
7:00 pm Plume School carol Service
- 12th Dec** **Wednesday**
11:00 am Carol Service at Longfield
- 13th Dec** **Thursday**
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 14th Dec** **Friday**
10:00am Maldon Court Carol Service
2:00 pm Alzheimer's Society Carol Service
4:00 pm Deanery Mother's Union Carol Service
- 16th Dec** **Third Sunday of Advent**
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church
5:00 pm Town Carol Service at URC (No Evensong in All Saints')
- 17th Dec** **Monday**
11:00 am Carol Service at St Peter's Court
- 18th Dec** **Tuesday**
11:00 am Carol Service at the Lodge
- 19th Dec** **Wednesday**
9:30 am All Saints' School Carol Service
- 20th Dec** **Thursday:**
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- SEE PAGE 19 FOR ALL THE
CHRISTMAS SERVICES**
- 28th Dec** **Friday Holy Innocents**
11:00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 30th Dec** **First Sunday of Christmas**
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church..
4:00 pm Evensong and Sermon
-



Christmas Services at All Saints

Sunday 9th Dec.

3:00 pm Christingle Service in aid of the Children's Society
Followed by refreshments.

Saturday 22nd Dec.

3:30 pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
The traditional carol service with Choir and Congregational carols and readings from the Authorised (King James) version of the Bible.

Sunday 23rd Dec

8:00 am Holly Communion
10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church

Monday 24th Dec., Christmas Eve.

3:00 pm Children's Crib Service. Children are invited to come dressed as an angel, shepherd, Wise Man or animal in the stable.
5:00 pm The Service of Light, a Candle Light Carol Service. - a short service for All ages.
(The collections at both services will be shared between charities chosen by the PCC)
11:30 pm Blessing of the Crib and first Eucharist of Christmas.

Tuesday 25th Dec Christmas Day

8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
A reflective said service
10:00 am All Age Eucharist for Children and Adults.
An informal communion service where children are invited to bring one of their presents to show the congregation.

Wednesday 26th St Stephen, Boxing Day

11:00 am Holy Communion.

Thursday 27th St John the Evangelist

11:00 am Holy Communion

Christmas 2019



JEAN & KEN

WISH ALL OUR FRIENDS
AT ALL SAINTS
A HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND NEW YEAR



"A Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to our
All Saints Family, with
love from
Richard, Adrienne and
George Knight xxx"



**Jenny and Debbie
Clinch**

Wish you all a Very
Happy and Blessed
Christmas
And may 2019 be a
Happy and Peaceful Year



Eddie and Giff
Send their greetings
and good wishes to
you all, for a Happy
Christmas and
Peaceful New Year



**Jackie & Alan Marjoram
& family**
would like to wish
all their friends
at All Saints' Church
a very Happy Christmas
and peaceful New Year



**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM
VICARAGE**

Stephen and Sue wish you a
Happy Christmas, and look forward to
seeing you in church for our Christmas

Greetings

8



**Christmas Greetings
to all our friends at
All Saints'
Janet and David**



*Chris and Jill Nelson and
Family
Wish All their Church family a
Very Happy Christmas and a
Healthy 2019*



**Helen Robinson would
like to wish everyone at
All Saints a
Very Happy Christmas
and
New Year**



Tony and Stephanie Doe
send very best wishes
of the season to all our
friends at All Saints -
another happy year
with you all

FROM THE

a happy
seeing you
worship!



Merry Christmas and a
peace filled New Year
to everyone.

With love and blessings,
Rev Julie, Nic and Family.



More Christmas Greetings



Christmas Greetings from Singapore. Wishing all our friend at All Saints' a very merry Christmas and a peaceful 2019
 Angelina, Derek, Joelle and Emma Trueman



Peter & Vivien
 Send Christmas Greetings to you all, especially contributors to this magazine, with the hope that the contributions will continue during 2019.

We extend our grateful thanks to all who have posted greetings messages this year and wish everybody in our All Saints family the happiest of Christmases and a joyful New Year.

Editor



.....
Santa a man?

How do you know Santa is a man? Well, no woman is going to wear the same outfit year after year.

.....



DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

Sat 1st Dec	10:00 am Annual Dedication Service at Maldon Cemetery
Mon 3rd Dec	10 am - 12 Maldon Pioneers Drop In 7:30 pm PCC In Vicarage
Tues 4th Dec	10 - 12 noon Meeting Point 10-00 am Prayer Group 8 pm Mothers' Union
Wed 5th Dec	12 noon - 1:30 pm All Saints' Lunches 7:00 pm Parish Office
Thu 6th Dec	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7 - 8 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Fri 7th Dec	9:00 am to 8:00 pm Christmas Tree Festival
Sat 8th Dec	9:00 am to 8:00 pm Christmas Tree Festival 10:00 am to 12 noon Christingle making
Sun 9th Dec	11:00am to 3:00 pm Church open for Christmas Tree festival
Mon 10th Dec	9:00 am Men's Breakfast (Rose and Crown) 10 am - 12 Maldon Pioneers Drop In
Tue 11th Dec	10 am - 12 noon Meeting Point
Thu 13th Dec	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7 - 8 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Sat 15th Dec	2 - 4 pm Messy Church 7:30 pm Maldon Choral Society Christmas Concert
Mon 17th Dec	10 am - 12 Maldon Pioneers Drop In
Tues 18th Dec	10 - 12 noon Meeting Point
Wed 19th Dec	7:00 pm Parish Office
Thu 20th Dec	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7 - 8 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Sat 22nd Dec	10-12 Church Coffee Morning

NB

There will be no All Saints' Lunches in January or February.



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each month 10am-12noon

**Plantation Hall Heybridge
CM9 4AL**

1st Tuesday each month
10am-12noon

Danbury Mission, CM3 4QL

1st Tuesday each month
10am-12noon

More information at:
www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk



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Vivien was going through some papers left by her late cousin and came across this recollection written by him just after the second world war. We thought it would be of interest.

A Wartime Christmas By Bob Taylor (D'cd.)

In thinking back, I was somewhat puzzled by the fact that I could only recall one Army Christmas. I solved the problem after consulting my soldier's paybook which listed all the periods during which I had been granted leave during my six years' service. I discovered that only one leave included the Christmas period. All other Christmases bar one must have been happily spent either in barracks or in the homes of hospitable civilians.

I remember Christmas Day 1944 because it was a disaster. I had landed at Ostend in November and after passing through transit camps in the Belgium towns of Louvaine and Dendermonde, I joined a survey Regiment in the Dutch town of Tilburg.

Christmas day started off quite well. Sergeants, according to custom, brought us steaming cups of tea laced with rum, in bed.

The morning was spent preparing for the festivities. In due course we sat down to a most appetising Christmas Dinner which concluded with coffee and cigars. It had been intended that the dinner should be followed by a smoking concert at which I, in a weak moment, agreed to sing.

I was just on the point of lighting my cigar when I felt a tap on my shoulder and a voice – the Sergeant Major's – uttered those fateful words, "Get ready for guard duty!" After hurriedly collecting rifle, gas mask, steel helmet and webbing equipment, I was hustled together with my comrades into a waiting lorry.

We drove through several miles of devastated streets and finally stopped at one of the few buildings which was still intact, or at least partially so. It was a shop partly demolished by bombing or shellfire and the windows were devoid of glass. Our instructions were to set up a guard room in this shell of a building. In common with many of my contemporaries I seemed to spend an inordinate amount of time on guard either as a sentry or occasionally as guard commander. Frequently we were never quite sure what we were supposed to be guarding. The present case was typical. Time went by and teatime was approaching, but no rations had arrived. Then a young officer appeared and roasted us for not having put up any blackouts. I have mentioned that the windows were without glass. We asked him where we could obtain the necessary material. His reply was, "That's your problem!" and disappeared. As far as I can remember the only light we had was a hurricane lamp.

After dark one of the sentries coming off duty said that an occupant of some

high rise-flats next door to our shop had invited us to come up for a cup of coffee and sandwiches in between shifts. I went up in due course. I remember very little of that welcome visit, but I do vividly remember the tune that was coming softly over the radio as I entered the luxury flat. I never hear that tune “J’attendrai” without recalling that Christmas Night in the Netherlands. I also remember that while we were standing guard in the cold, Scottish Canadian soldiers were roaming the district, obviously quite drunk, firing Sten guns into the air. Boxing Day arrived and still no rations. About four o’clock a lorry arrived to take us back to our headquarters. As soon as we arrived we were told to report to the canteen for a meal and be ready to go on a twenty-four hour guard at 5:30!!

We learned later that this flap had been caused by the news that the Germans were making a counter attack in the Ardennes! I fail to comprehend how our “Christmas Pantomime” could have contributed to the defence of Tiburg, if Germans had succeeded in breaking through.

JUDITH AND ALAN SMITH

You may remember that Judith and Alan Smith sponsored the magazine in October to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 26th October.

On the following Sunday they celebrated their Golden Wedding with Thanksgiving and Renewal of Marriage Vows in church. This photograph was taken by Geoff Dickman after the service.



N.B.

**COPY DEADLINE FOR JANUARY MAGAZINE
23rd DECEMBER**



OBEDIENCE AND THE CHRISTIAN

At the beginning of the 19th century, the English poet Shelley declared that obedience is the “bane of all genius, virtue, freedom, truth”, and “for it makes slaves of men, and of the human frame a mechanised automation.” A child of the European Enlightenment, Shelley waxed eloquent in echoing the disdain of many of his contemporaries over the suffocating authoritarianism that obedience sardonically implies. As the Catholic theologian Fr Neuhaus puts it: “... obedience became a dirty word already in the 18th century Enlightenment, when it was frequently construed as meaning ‘blind obedience’ – a stifling and unthinking conformity to authority.” This attitude still holds sway for many in our society today.

Obedience, however, is one of the most important themes in the Bible. In Scripture as well as in the theological and spiritual tradition of the Church, obedience is understood as the most appropriate attitude and response of the believer to God. Now, it is imperative that we achieve a clear understanding of what the Bible has to say about this important virtue. This is because the biblical concept of obedience is radically different from secular accounts and the doctrines of other religions, such as Islam. In the Bible, faith and obedience are intricately interwoven with each other. The obedience of the Christian flows out of his faith (trust) in the God whose extravagant love is demonstrated in the giving of His Son for the salvation of the world. Paul highlights the relationship between faith and obedience in the expression “the obedience that comes from faith” in his letter to the Christians in Rome (Romans 1:5, NIV).

So inseparable is faith and obedience in the Bible that the German Lutheran theologian, Bonhoeffer, could aver that “only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes.” In the Bible, obedience is not only joined with faith; it is also joined with love. Christian obedience should never be understood as a contractual transaction or as slavish adherence to a set of rules and regulations. Rather, obedience is always an expression of responsive love on the part of one who has received the undeserved but generous love of God.

The profound relationship between love and obedience is portrayed repeatedly in Scripture. Jesus said to His disciples: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” (John 14:15). And John, the Apostle of Love, wrote to the Christians in his community: “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments” (1 John 5:3). The Christian obeys not because he is forced or coerced, but because he loves. He loves because he knows that he is being loved. Christian obedience, therefore, can never be reduced to crass legalism. It is rather the sure and concrete proof of our love for God. Understood in this way, Christian obedience is never a chore or a burden. “His commandments”, wrote John, “are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3b). The Spanish theologian Ignatius of Loyola put it plainly: “It is not



hard to obey when we love the one whom we obey.” As an expression of gratitude and love, obedience brings exceeding great joy to the Christian. The obedient Christian lives a doxological life – a life that reverberates with praise, a joyful life that honours God.

Finally, it is by obeying the Word of God and by bending our wills to His that we become truly free. It is by yielding to the will of the Creator that we are gradually being transformed from inauthenticity to authenticity.

Secular thinkers today, like Shelley did, often mistakenly regard this paradox as some pious mumbo jumbo at best, or a silly contradiction at worst. For them, we are truly free only when we are not bound by the fetters of dogma or morality that are imposed from outside. Only the sovereign individual, they insist, is truly free. But the sovereign individual is a myth. So is the freedom that he purportedly enjoys. In truth, the person who rejects God in the name of freedom and self-determination is in a state of delusion and ‘unfreedom’. To put it forthrightly, as the Bible does, the person who chooses disobedience instead of obedience is in bondage. He is “a slave to sin” (John 8:34).

[edited by D Trueman from an article by Dr R Chia, Trinity Theological College, Singapore]

Snow fall in December

I walked in a winter wonderland
 No Disney characters entered here
 No noise - no sound
 Only the light fall of slipping snow
 From branches overhead
 Bent under unaccustomed weight
 Scattered white flakes
 Over a white lawn
 Unmarked by footprint, beast or bird:
 Until, a human despoiler
 Ventured into my domain
 To enjoy a fleeting moment
 In an enchanted snowbound world
 Leaving my footprints wedged
 In the deep and even snow.

Rosemary Pugh



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



The Rectory
St. James the Least

On two wise men, one three-legged sheep and a tipsy tree

My dear Nephew Darren,

It really is time to get some new figures for the crib. After a series of accidents over the years, we are now down to two wise men, two shepherds, and one three-legged sheep that only remains upright if it is leaning against a shepherd.

Joseph, having been obliged to stand outside the shelter of the stable for the last four decades, is now comprehensively veneered with bat droppings. In a rather desperate effort to enlarge this rather frugal cast, Miss Timmins hit on the idea of introducing characters from the children's Easter garden. This would have all been very well if both sets of figures had been to the same scale, but we now have the shepherds apparently being threatened by two ten foot rabbits.

One of our local farmers – I am sure very kindly meant – donated far more straw for the stable than was necessary. Our decorators, refusing to let his generosity go to waste, used the lot. The result is that Mary and Joseph stand up to their waists, looking as if they are being engulfed by a straw snow drift. The crib, along with baby Jesus, has disappeared entirely. The latter is not entirely to be regretted, since no one can now see that Jesus has no nose and only one arm, the result of one of our children dropping Him on the floor at last year's Crib Service.

I am sure your ecologically appropriate Christmas tree, made of re-cycled dustbin liners will be much appreciated by your congregation, knowing that they are saving the planet for future generations. We however remain traditional, with a tree always donated by the local squire from his estate, even if it is at the cost of adding another degree to global warming. Not only does it look more fitting, but it gives our verger something to do on twelfth night, as he sweeps up several hundredweight of pine needles.

I sometimes wonder if it is entire coincidence that the tree is always delivered by the estate staff on a day when there has been torrential rain in the area. Carrying it into church up the aisle makes it look as if the parting of the Red Sea has unsuccessfully taken place inside St. James'. The major problem every year is getting the wretched thing to stand upright in the



sanctuary. It takes so long that I sometimes feel it would be quicker to re-align all the church pillars to the same angle as the tree itself.

Last year's decision to have tree lights which flashed in succession was not a success. Those members who stared at them for too long while singing carols tended to fall over – although I suspect that Major Crump's inability to remain upright at the midnight Service was for rather different reasons. Not using flashing lights this year, the Major will have to find a different excuse. Your loving uncle,

Eustace

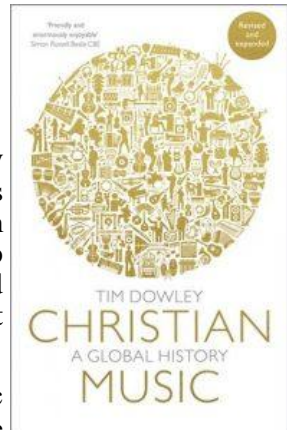
Book Reviews

Christian Music - a global history (revised and expanded)

By Tim Dowley, SPCK, £14.99

Hillsong's celebrity-filled services have recently brought attention to the denomination's contemporary style of worship, with Christian thought and practice having a resurgence in Hip Hop and Grime, with rappers such as Stormzy and Chance the Rapper drawing upon gospel roots. But what is the musical legacy that led us here?

Tim Dowley traces the story of Christian music from its earliest Jewish origins, through the Renaissance, Reformation and up to the present day, discussing various liturgical traditions as well as non-liturgical sacred music. He covers the fascinating story of hymns, sacred songs, Christian expressions in modern jazz, folk, rock and pop. This comprehensive book ranges widely, with specialist chapters on Christian music worldwide, and covers such varied topics as Christmas carols, the music of Handel and Bach, spirituals and the blues, medieval polyphony, Hildegard of Bingen and contemporary Christian music.



Taken from the Parish Pump website



ALL SAINTS' Christmas Tree Festival

7th to 9th December, 2018.

Friday and Saturday: 9am - 8pm

Sunday 11am - 3pm

Sunday Christingle Service at 3pm

Trees will be between one and
six feet tall

There will be over 40 trees. Entry is
free but there will be an opportunity to
vote for your favourite tree by making
a donation into the container
in front of the tree.

All donations will be given to
the Children's Society.

Refreshments available all Day, all
proceeds from these will go to church
funds.

Merry Christmas



St Michael's Church Woodham Walter

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Conductor David Bayley

Present

Joy to The World

A Seasonal Concert



Saturday 8th December 2018
at 3:00pm in Church

Tickets £10.00 per person to include refreshments
Available from Paul Clark 01245 222255

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Christmas Party Dance!



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New Year's Eve Dance

Cold Norton Village Hall
Dancing to the sounds of Mike's Music
Admission: Members £8 - Non members £10



There is no bar at either of these venues
please bring your own drinks and nibbles!

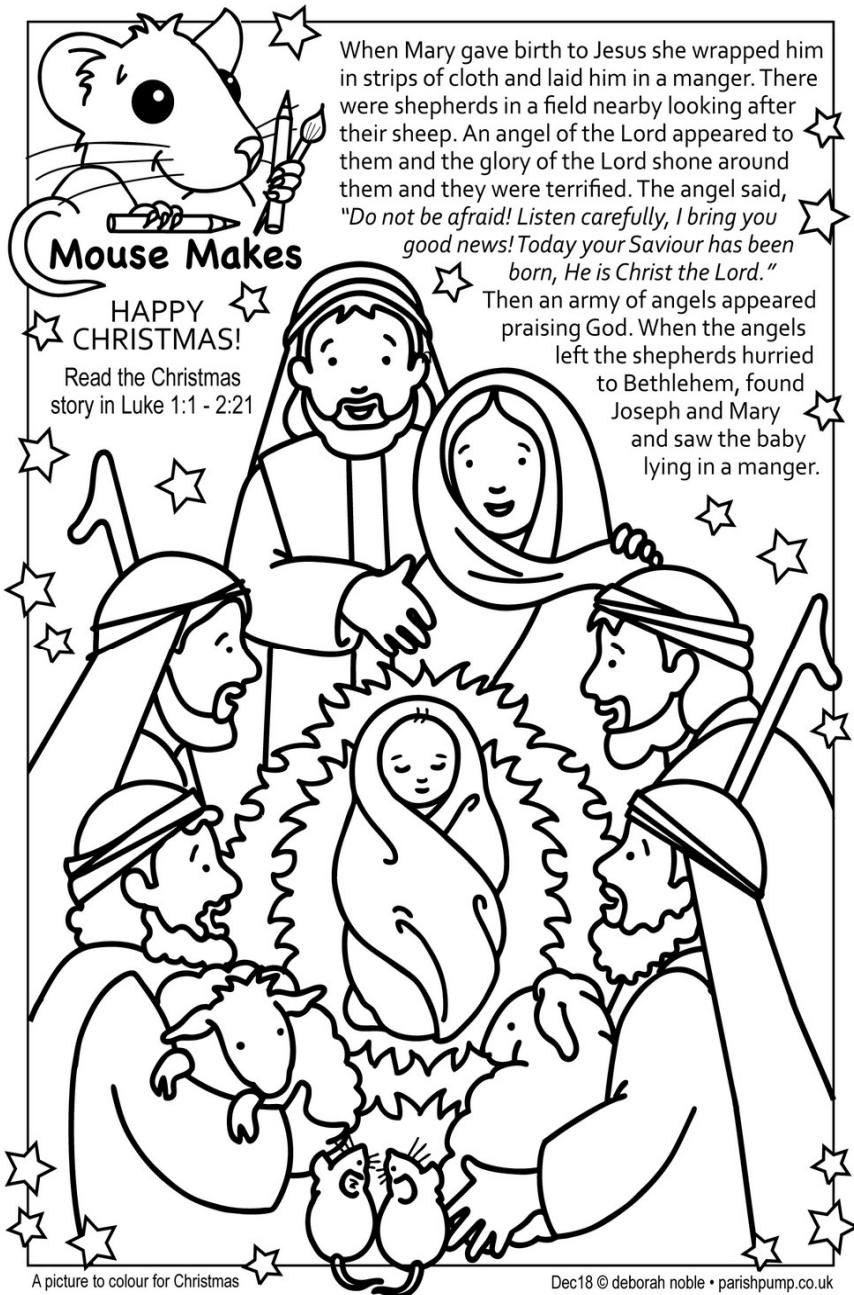
Everyone welcome!

Doors open 8pm

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 phone 01621 856219

www.aftereightsocialclub.co.uk



Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story in Luke 1:1 - 2:21

When Mary gave birth to Jesus she wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger. There were shepherds in a field nearby looking after their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. The angel said, "Do not be afraid! Listen carefully, I bring you good news! Today your Saviour has been born, He is Christ the Lord."

Then an army of angels appeared praising God. When the angels left the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem, found Joseph and Mary and saw the baby lying in a manger.

A picture to colour for Christmas

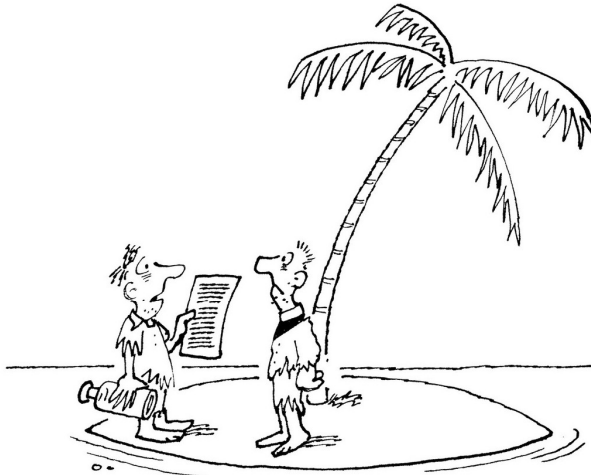
Dec18 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk



Dates for the Diary

25th Mar 2019 Church AGM

*List of dates is getting shorter!
Please email me with ALL your future dates.*



It's a letter from your church. They want to know if you've done the flower rota, if you've done the brass-cleaning rota, and have you ordered the mince pies for the carol singers Christmas party?

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

OCTOBER 28TH MABEL AUTUMN TORRIN WISBEY

of Orchard Road





Prayer Diary

December 2018

1	All Postal Workers
2	First Sunday of Advent All who make music for worship
3	Those who are terminally ill
4	The Salvation Army
5	All charities planning care for those less fortunate than ourselves
6	All Infant and Junior school teachers
7	Places of conflict throughout the world
8	The Dean, Chapter and Staff of Chelmsford Cathedral
9	Second Sunday of Advent The work of The Children's Society
10	Those who have lost their faith
11	British Red Cross
12	All who live in our Parish
13	Workers in the hospitality industry
14	The work of Chelmsford CHESSE
15	All street pastors
16	Third Sunday of Advent Our preparation for Christmas
17	Those addicted to alcohol
18	All who will attend our Church during the Christmas season
19	The housebound and elderly
20	Distant friends and relatives
21	Children estranged from their parents
22	Those who will be alone this Christmas
23	Fourth Sunday of Advent Christians in the Holy Land
24	Volunteers working with Crisis at Christmas
25	Christmas Day Our family
26	St Stephen The homeless and the deprived
27	St John All shop workers
28	Holy Innocents Religious broadcasters
29	All who are in residential care
30	First Sunday of Christmas All who work on public transport
31	For peace in the world in 2019

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

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ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Choir Practice (Thur 7:30pm)	Dr. Stuart Pegler	01621 850530
Junior Choir (Thur 7:00 pm)	”	”
Junior Church	Elaine Brown	01621853238
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		

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



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