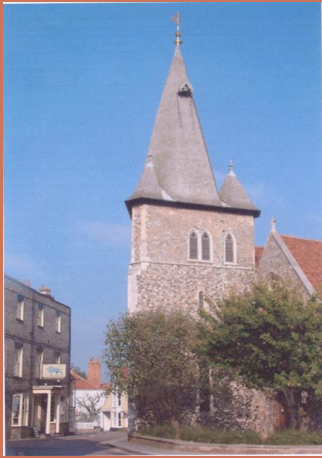


ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

January 2019

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 All Saints Choir Singing Carols at the Christmas Fayre Evening. Photo by Ken Russell
2. Christingle Service in All Saints' Photo by Ken Russell

Holy Communion will be taken to the sick and housebound on request.



FROM THE VICARAGE

"AND THE RICH HE HATH SENT EMPTY AWAY....."

The Swiss bank USB, recently produced some interesting statistics about the world's richest people. Globally, 2,158 billionaires each hold assets worth an average of £3.2 billion. In China, supposedly a communist country, 2 new billionaires are being created each week.

We will all have our own political views about the creation and distribution of wealth. We will all have our own understandings of the way that economies work. But it seems a funny old world to me, that, according to Oxfam, the world's richest 85 people control more wealth than the 3.5 billion of the world's poorest.

Of course, weak economies are in no one's interests, especially the poor. As Margaret Thatcher famously argued in a lecture to the Church of Scotland, it was only because the Good Samaritan had money, that he was able to pay for food and accommodation for the wounded traveler!

We know that in many countries, poverty is exacerbated by corruption and exploitation by those in power. As an experiment, communism has certainly not resulted in societies that are more just and compassionate.

Think of Stalin's Russia, or Kim Jong Un's North Korea. But neither has capitalism always resulted in the "trickling down" of wealth from the richest to the poorest, as is often claimed. All the evidence shows that in our own society the gap between the richest and the poorest is widening. Perhaps the fundamental problem is not in political theory, but in human nature.

Contrary to what people think, the New Testament does not say that money is the root of all evil. It says that "the love of money is the root of all evil". Certainly the Bible warns that wealth can create many temptations for those striving to reach the kingdom of heaven.

The concept of Stewardship has always been an important part of Christian



teaching. Wealth is not bad in itself, indeed, it can be a source of blessing. But with wealth comes responsibility. And if it becomes the most important thing in your life, you are in spiritual danger.

It is easy to find examples of those driven by greed: the chief executive pocketing a huge annual bonus, or the footballer earning £200,000 a week. But there are others who use their wealth for the common good.

Most of us have huge respect for Bill Gates, for the wealth that he ploughs back into helping the world's poorest, not least in his campaign to eradicate polio. The owner of Leicester City, Vichai Srivaddhanaprbha, clearly saw his wealth as a privilege to be shared. Not only did he achieve great things for his football club, he funded local hospitals and universities.

If the Bible teaches us anything, it is that in God's eyes, we are valued not by the money and possessions we own. He will judge us by the people we are, and our response to the needs of our neighbour.

Perhaps it is these values that we should be passing on to our children and grandchildren.

Stephen

CHRISTMAS SERVICE STATISTICS

The churchwardens are required to send figures of church attendance to the national church each year. I thought these figures for church attendance over Christmas for the past few years would be of interest. *Stephen*

Service	2015	2016	2017	2018
Nine Lessons and Carols	103	159	138	156
Christmas Eve Crib	405	418	495	451
Christmas Eve Service of Light	729	700	704	748
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass	163	137	141	128
Christmas Day 8:00 am	24	28	21	20
Christmas Day 10:00 am	75	92	67	75



EPIPHANY



Epiphany, January 6th, celebrates the arrival of the Wise Men at the Crib. It is also known as the "Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles". It also marks the conclusion of our Christmas celebrations. We shall celebrate the Epiphany in our usual morning services. But we are invited to join with the congregation of St Mary's, Maldon, for an Epiphany Carol service at 6.00pm that day. The service will include the blessing of the plough. The plough is traditionally kept in church on the night before Plough Monday, when it is dragged through the town, accompanied by traditional music and much ribaldry. This service is also an important time to reflect on the important work that farmers do in our parishes, ensuring we have food to sustain us through the year.

SC

CIVIC SERVICE

The Mayor has asked us to host the Civic Service, which will be attended by the Town Council, together with representatives of town, borough and district councils from across the county. Sadly, we live in an age that has become cynical about those who represent us in local and national politics. But we should, I feel, be pleased that our leaders still want to come to church to pray for God's blessing on their work for our communities. Please join us for this service at 10.00am on Sunday January 27th. The Mayor is very keen to have the regular congregation present, as well as all the special guests. The preacher will be the Bishop of Bradwell. This will be his first visit to us at All Saints.

Stephen



RECENT SERMONS

Not far from Tesco is a shop selling lampshades and light fittings. On the wall, there is a plaque with these words:

“Near this place, Stephen Knight suffered for his protestant faith. He was burned at the stake on March 28th 1555.”

It is horrific to think that Christians treated one another with such brutality because of doctrinal differences. Mary Tudor has gone down in history as “Bloody Mary”, because of the 300 protestants she burned at the stake. But the Protestants weren’t much better. Under Elizabeth and James 1, many Catholic priests were hung, drawn and quartered. Their only crime: celebrating the Mass. We Christians have not got a good track record of tolerance for those who are different from ourselves. The Crusades, the Reformation, the Inquisition, can produce countless examples- not only where Christians have persecuted each other- but also those of other faiths. The Holocaust was the climax of 2000 years of Christians persecuting Jews in Europe.

It is estimated that in the world today, there are over 50 countries where it is dangerous to be a Christian. Many of these countries are in Africa and the Middle East. And many are places where there has been a growth of militant, fundamentalist Islam. However it is the godless state of North Korea which has the dubious distinction of being the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian. So far this year, it is believed that over 3000 people in the world have died because of their Christian faith. In Pakistan, Asia Bibi has spent 8 years on death row, convicted under the blasphemy laws . She has now been released from prison, but is in hiding, because of continued threats to her life. The Home Office has resisted granting her asylum in the United Kingdom. It is thought that she would not be safe in this country because of the threat to her life from radicalised young Muslims.

In Egypt, 10% of the population is Christian. The Coptic church can trace its roots to the early centuries of Christianity. But Christians live in great danger. Last Christmas, many churches in Egypt were attacked. This Easter, two churches were bombed, resulting in the death of 49 people. Nigeria, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Libya, - the list goes on. And yet, in many of these countries the church is growing. It was Tertullian in the first century who said “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church”

Jonathan Sacks, the former Chief Rabbi, has written extensively on the subject of religious persecution. As a Jew, he is able to speak with some authority on this subject. He does speak warmly of his experience of attending a church of England school as a child. It is heartening to read that his faith was respected and that he was able to integrate into the life of the



school, whilst remaining true to his Jewish identity. This is certainly the case in All Saints school, where children of other faiths are respected, and happily integrate fully into the life of the school. There is perhaps here a model for how we should live together with our differences. Such respect and tolerance used to be a characteristic of English society at its best.

Sadly, in so many places, religious differences are the source of violence and hatred. Religion can be a very useful hook to hang all sorts of racial or sectarian prejudice. Rabbi Sacks points out that the persecution of Christians is part of a much larger phenomenon. That there is this basic flaw in human nature whereby people feel threatened by those who are different from themselves- even if they are a minority.

We have witnessed the resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe. The growth of Buddhist nationalism in Burma, has seen the genocide against the Rohingya Muslims. In parts of India, Christians have suffered from militant Hinduism. China has a campaign which has resulted in the imprisonment of thousands of Muslims. And Christians in China, though tolerated, have recently been subject to renewed restrictions.

The last book of the Bible is the Book of Revelation. This was written in the first Century, in the reign of the Roman Emperor Domitian, who was responsible for a fierce persecution of the Church. John, the author of Revelation, had been exiled to Patmos, because of his Christian faith. Revelation is a book that was written to encourage persecuted Christians and urging them to be faithful.

The Book of Revelation holds out the hope that one day, the whole of creation will be brought into harmony with the reign of Christ. In one of John's vision, Jesus is seated on this throne in heaven, and before the throne are men and women clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. These are the martyrs who have died for their faith in Christ. But their suffering is vindicated. They have in John's words, "washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb."

In sublime poetry, he affirms that the martyrs have a special place before the throne of God:

"he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, nor thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes"

In the comforts of Maldon it is easy to forget the world outside and the millions of Christians who practice their faith in the face of great hostility. It is easy to take for granted the freedom we enjoy to practice our faith. May we remember all those Christians who suffer for their faith: and pray for the day when all may live in peace and freedom

Stephen



Deputy Warden's Waffle

O Tannenbaum – O Tannenbaum, how beautiful thy branches. As written by Franze Grouber, a lovely Christmas Carol and we certainly have had a feast of beautiful branches this year. In fact, we had over 40 trees in church and outside, all at the same time.

Wasn't the tree festival just lovely! If I were to mention them all I would still be writing well into early spring. Each and every tree was so unique; there was a very clever tree, Cycling Creation, decorated with a host of bits and pieces of recycled old cartons, cans and bottles etc. I was amazed by the variety of entrants, with so many



Tree-cycling



Ballet Shoe Tree



The Memory Tree

people involved, such a wonderful outreach event: trees not only from in house folk, the ministry team; had a tree decorated by Julie, and according to Stephen he too was helping by standing, watching and giving advice!!

The men's breakfast had a tree covered with eggs and bacon (I don't think I saw it), for which we thank the "Gentlemen of the Parish"!! No I did not have a favourite but I did think the ballet shoe tree was so original. So many thank yous to so many people for helping to create such a magnificent event. Thank you Julie for organising and sticking to the idea. And congratulations to Barbara Gale for her inspiring Memory tree. There were over 160 red stars covering the tree, to remember loved ones at Christmas time. This tree collected the most money for the Children's Society.



The year of 2018, in the life and long history of All Saints,' will certainly be remembered as a year of many new and inspiring ventures. In the run up to Easter many people were involved in treading the boards for the first time, expressing raw emotion in public, people embraced the challenge of Fr Graham's play Shoreline 7. And two performances were very powerful and memorable.



Later in the year we held an Arts Festival including exhibitors from beyond the

immediate area, again a brave and outward looking move for All Saints.'

Moving to Autumn, and the whole country was engulfed in poignant memories and poppies; again we came up to the challenge. Our church, as well as looking artistic and meaningful, provided a place of reflection for the enormous sacrifice made for so many, with tributes being made by many who lost family members; the black silhouettes a graphic stark reminder.

I would like, on a personal note, to say I felt very proud to be a member of All Saints' Maldon, a truly fitting act of remembrance.



And now back to Tannenbaum, in December I look forward to the next Christmas Tree Festival. So to Christmas, I have no doubt that the services provided by our amazing ministry team, will be full and rich with something for everyone on Christmas Eve, the Crib Service at 3.0 pm, the Candle Lit Service at 5.0 pm and the glorious welcome to Jesus Christ our Lord at the midnight mass.

However, a full report of the Christmas services will follow in the February magazine as the January magazine had gone to print before they had all taken place. So for now let us all be grateful and a bit proud, I think, of all that was achieved in the year that was – **2018**.

Happy new year From Vicky

N.B.

COPY DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

20th JANUARY



THANK YOU....



to absolutely everyone who had any part in the All Saints Christmas Tree Festival. To all those who planned with me, assembled, printed, erected, decorated, baked, cooked, sewed, catered, played, rang, sang, switched lights on/off each day, stewarded, visited. . . .and to those who believed in me that this could be a successful venture. . . I thank you all.

It was a wonderful weekend with forty six trees on display and we had several hundred people through the door raising a magnificent **£826.67** for the Children's Society through the collecting buckets and the individual boxes for the "favourite tree." The tree that raised the most money was the Memory Tree with a fabulous **£45.61**

Donations from the lovely range of refreshments raised **£474** for church funds.

Stephen has already put the date in the diary for next year:
6th - 8th December!

Julie Ovenden

The New Year 2019

2018 has slipped away
And a New Year now comes into view,
What will it hold, no-one yet knows
What will it bring – good or bad news?

Whatever the way the wind will blow
Our craft is safe in the Master's hand,
Whether placid seas or sudden storms
The wind and the waves are at His command

Our lives like a voyage keep journeying on
With vistas new and vistas past,
The Lord in His mercy holding us tight
Steering us on to safe harbour at last.
by *Megan Carter*



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

**ALL SAINTS MALDON
MOTHERS' UNION**

There will be **NO** Mothers' Union meeting in January but we will be returning in February at the new meeting time of 7:00 pm.

Jackie Barnes

Poster found in a Church in
France.... (translated):

“When you enter this Church
it may be possible that you
hear “the call of God”.
However, it is unlikely that He
will call you on your mobile.
Thank you for turning off
your phones. If you want to
talk to God, enter, choose a
quiet place and talk to Him.
If you want to see Him, send
Him a text while driving.”

Submitted by Graham Bell





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

BISHOP STEPHEN'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

One of the joys of 2018 was returning to Spain to walk part of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. I first completed the northern Way of St James in the autumn of 2016. It's deeply satisfying for the soul when prayer, solitude and the unrelenting tread of boot leather come together. During the pilgrimage, yellow arrows painted on lampposts guided me through mountainous terrain. I came to rely on these arrows in this unfamiliar, beautiful place.

One year yielding to another can be unsettling. We look back at the past year and think of the unexpected things that happened. We know the year ahead is full of the unforeseen but hope that our loved ones and ourselves are kept safe from harm and sadness.

We each approach the New Year in different ways. Memories of the past and expectations of the future will lead some of you to go to bed early and gladly miss Jools Holland's Hootenanny. Many of our sisters and brothers in the diocese now spend the hours around midnight in prayer and praise.

Where I walked in Spain, Christmas and the New Year pass with little fanfare. Instead, young people look to the Epiphany on the sixth of January. On the night before, children will leave their shoes on the windowsill stuffed with hay and carrots to feed the horses of Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar as they make their pilgrimage to Bethlehem to worship baby Jesus. The children hope that the Magi will leave them a present in return for horse food. They might also delight in the thought that these exotic travellers will carry them in their hearts as they come into the presence of the saviour of the world.

2019 does not come with yellow arrows painted on lampposts to help guide us through the unforeseen territory ahead. We wouldn't have a fulfilling earthly pilgrimage if we did. Perhaps the children of Spain have the right idea. They bathe in the light and joy of the Epiphany; where simply being in the presence of Jesus provides the hope and trust needed to navigate the year ahead with joy.

With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness, kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

Stephen + Chelmsford



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12:00 to 1:30 pm

Wednesday
6th Feb



Please Note NO Lunches in January



SERVICES FOR JANUARY

- 1st Jan** **The Naming of Christ**
10:00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 3rd Jan** **Thursday**
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 6th Jan** **The Epiphany of Our Lord**
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
10:00 am Worship for All
11:15 The Eucharist
6:00 pm Epiphany Carol Service and Blessing of the Plough at St Mary's
- 10th Jan** **Thursday**
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 13th Jan** **2nd Sunday of Epiphany**
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church
4:00 pm Evensong and Sermon
- 14th Jan** **Monday**
11:00 am Holy Communion in Hailey House
- 17th Jan** **Thursday:**
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 20th Jan** **3rd Sunday of Epiphany**
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church..
4:00 pm Evensong and Sermon
- 24th Jan** **Thursday**
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 25th Jan** **Friday The Conversion of St Paul**
10:00 am Holy Communion
- 27th Jan** **4th Sunday of Epiphany**
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
10:00 am Civic Service: Preacher The Bishop of Bradwell
6:30 pm Prayer and Praise Eucharist
- 30th Jan** **King Charles the Martyr**
- 31st Jan** **Thursday**
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
-



DIARY FOR JANUARY

Wed 2nd Jan	No Lunches this Month 7:00 pm Parish Office
Mon 7th Jan	10 am - 12 Maldon Pioneers Drop In
Tue 8th Jan	10 am - 12 noon Meeting Point 10:00 Am Prayer Group in Meeting Room
Thu 10th Jan	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7 - 8 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Sat 12th Jan	10-12 Church Coffee Morning
Mon 14th Jan	9:00 am Men's Breakfast (Rose and Crown) 10 am - 12 Maldon Pioneers Drop In
Tues 15th Jan	10 - 12 noon Meeting Point 7:30 St Michael's PCC
Wed 16th Jan	7:00 pm Parish Office
Thu 17th Jan	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7 - 8 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Fri 18th Jan	Week of prayer for Christian Unity begins
Sat 19th Jan	2 - 4 pm Messy Church
Mon 21st Jan	10 am - 12 Maldon Pioneers Drop In 7:30 pm Churches Together in All Saints
Tues 22nd Jan	10 - 12 noon Meeting Point
Thu 24th Jan	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7 - 8 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Mon 28th Jan	10 am - 12 Maldon Pioneers Drop In
Tues 29th Jan	10 - 12 noon Meeting Point
Thu 31st Jan	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7 - 8 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice

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We offer a full induction and training.

You'll need to be available for Trustee meetings which are held in the evenings, currently six times a year. You will also be expected to take an active interest in the work of Maldon & District Citizens Advice which will include taking part in occasional extra events.

This is a volunteer role but all reasonable expenses are reimbursed. The role will provide you with a great deal of experience and satisfaction, and the opportunity to develop your skills and utilise your expertise and knowledge.

People from all backgrounds are welcome and we aspire to have a diverse trustee board that reflects our clients and community. You do not need experience of working or volunteering with Citizens Advice service.

If you're looking for a rewarding and challenging volunteer role please do contact **Lucy Bettley**, 01621 875858 manager@maldoncab.cabnet.org.uk to arrange an initial discussion with our Chair of Trustees.



MINI BUS

All Saints' Church now have a mini bus permit, which is in force for Five years (till November 2023). This enables any Church Group, who require local transport to hire the Pioneer's Mini Bus provided:

1. The bus is available on the date required,
2. A Volunteer Driver (from Pioneers) is available,
3. The maximum number in the Group is sixteen.

The cost is £25.00 for half day or evening or £50.00 for a full day. An extra charge is made if the journey goes beyond the local area.

Mike Frederics

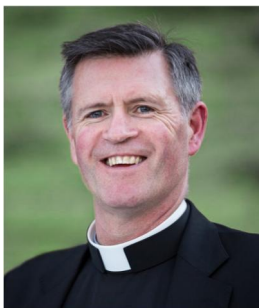


The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

FROM THE DIOCESE OF CHELMSFORD

NEW ARCHDEACON OF BARKING APPOINTED



Reverend Canon Christopher Burke brings great missional and pastoral skills and experience of urban ministry.

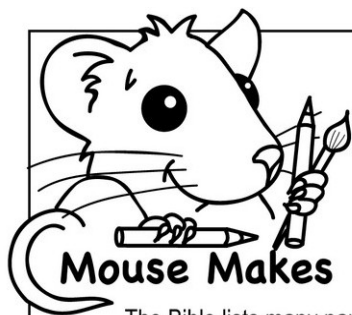
The Revd Canon Christopher Burke, currently Vice Dean and Canon Precentor of Sheffield Cathedral, has been appointed as the next Archdeacon of Barking.

Chris will begin his ministry in the Diocese of Chelmsford in May 2019.

He succeeds the Right Revd John Perumbalath who became the Bishop of Bradwell in July 2018

The Right Revd Stephen Cottrell, the Bishop of Chelmsford has said:

"I am delighted that Chris Burke has agreed to come and join us as the next Archdeacon of Barking. As well as his Cathedral experience in Sheffield, Chris brings experience of parish ministry on estates in diverse contexts such as Stepney and Middlesbrough."



Mouse Makes

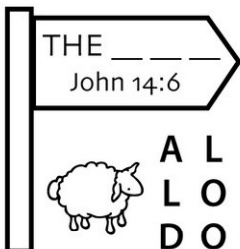
Eight days after their baby had been born, Mary and Joseph named him with the name the angel Gabriel had given them long before he had been born. It was a very special name for a very special baby... the name **JESUS** which means **GOD IS SAVIOUR**.



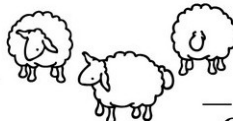
The Bible lists many names and titles that were given to Jesus. There are 28 to find in the wordsearch, most are listed below but for some you will have to look up the Bible verses!

"You are to give him the name JESUS because he will save his people from their sins."

Read Luke 2:21-38



S _____
John 10:11

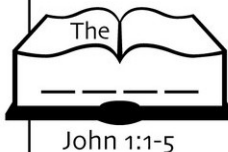
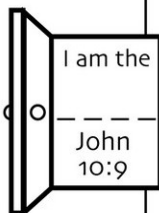
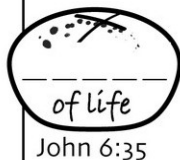
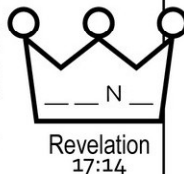


_____ OF GOD
John 1:29



_____ H _____
John 8:12

A	L	P	H	A	T	S	B	R	E	A	D	H
L	O	C	O	R	N	E	R	S	T	O	N	E
D	O	O	R	S	A	V	I	O	U	R	D	M
W	S	O	N	O	F	M	A	N	P	L	J	M
M	E	D	I	A	T	O	R	O	R	I	L	A
W	C	A	R	P	A	V	K	F	I	F	A	N
O	F	G	E	R	L	I	N	G	N	E	M	U
R	W	C	D	O	P	N	R	O	C	K	B	E
D	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	E	J	O	L
L	K	R	E	H	A	V	J	E	S	U	S	E
O	I	M	E	S	S	I	A	H	D	I	G	
R	N	S	E	T	W	A	Y	L	I	G	H	T
D	G	T	R	U	T	H	E	O	M	E	G	A



ALPHA • LORD • JESUS • MESSIAH • LIFE TRUTH • PROPHET • PRINCE • JUDGE SON OF GOD • SON OF MAN • CHRIST VINE • ROCK • REDEEMER • MEDIATOR CORNERSTONE • EMMANUEL • OMEGA





Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

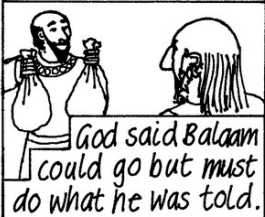
It can be read in the Bible in Numbers 22: 2 to 24: 25

The Israelites camped across the river Jordan from the kingdom of Moab. King Balak was sure they were going to invade.

Balak told Balaam he would pay him to curse the Israelites, but ...



Balak asked him again.



On the way, Balaam's donkey saw an angel and wouldn't move.



The donkey was stopped by the angel again, and then a third time.



God let the donkey speak.



Then Balaam saw the angel...



King Balak was ready to pay Balaam.



Look, there they are. Now curse them.



Balaam tried to curse the Israelites but he could only say a blessing.



Again, Balaam could only bless, not curse.



A third time, Balaam could only bless.



I told you I had to say what God wanted me to say.





TEDDY BEAR ADVENT SERVICE

Many Teddy Bears were present at the 10 o'clock service on Advent Sunday, often attired in ecclesiastical purple for Advent. Why? This was a special Eucharist for all, and was not only family-friendly, but really meaningful spiritually.

Adrienne opened the service and interviewed some of the many children present about their teddies large and small (very large indeed in one case!). Graham spoke about how God's love for us is ever-present and unconditional, and how our teddies model this for us in their comforting presence, and how we need to show God's love to those around us.

In a beautiful "commissioning" prayer we asked God to help us do this, and to remind us by our teddies to be passers-on of His love, as we held up our bears for the call to action "Go Bear!"

In case you missed this lovely service, here is the song we ended with – of course the tune is traditional! Thank you Graham and Adrienne for such a special Advent message.



Susan Frederick



Photos by Elizabeth Blyth



ADVENT BEAR SONG by Canon Graham
(to the tune of “Teddy-bears’ Picnic”)

If you go down to the church today, you’re in for a big surprise,
For Christian bears are usually there, with a twinkle in their eyes;
With ribbons and prayers, and mince pies downstairs,
There’s nothing so festive as these busy bears,
For that’s the way the teddy bears spend their Advent!

Advent time for teddy bears!

When little bears are singing and kneeling down to pray today,
They don’t let those Christmas cares,
blot out their kindness, or get in the way!

See them get the tinsel out, they love to twist and shout, it’s Jesus’
holiday!

On Christmas Eve they sing their carols then share their cuddles too,
Because they’re good little Advent Bears!

If you go down to the church today you’re in for a big surprise,
The Advent bears are working away at their spiritual exercise:
The Holy Family’s soon out of danger,
For Little Lord Jesus is safe in the manger,
And that’s the way the teddy bears spend their Advent!



Is Life Like a Box of Chocolates ?

Most of us look forward to and love Christmas time. For many there is a lot of hard work in the period leading up to the festival and for many it can be a time of immense joy and pleasure whilst for others it can be a time of sadness or disappointment. For Christians it is a time of celebration about the birth of Christ and it is the time to feast and be happy especially on the 24th and 25 of December, but when does Christmas start ? We all recognise the actual dates for Christmas but preparations are going on in most household for days and weeks before this. The church also has a Christmas tree up early in December and many of the church services refer to and celebrate the anniversary of the birth of the coming of Jesus. For me this year the start of Christmas was the first carol service I attended and this was on the 8th of December but for more years than I can remember, in our family we get Christmas ‘going’ when a tin of ‘Quality Street’ arrives with the weekly shop. Somehow, ever since our children were small these sweets have announced the arrival of the happy occasion of Christmas. I was discussing this odd phenomenon recently with my eighteen year old granddaughter, Breanna. She told me that she had also been thinking about this fact and had been thinking on how near the composition of a box of chocolates came to reflecting life. I asked her to put her thoughts on paper for me and the following is the missive she sent via e-mail.

Quote: “The saying goes that *‘life is like a box of chocolates’* and in previous years that could have been quite a relatable notion; you dig through the box with excited anticipation and find a few ‘golden tickets’ (for me, that is the coconut eclairs – an unpopular opinion I realise) and a few ghastly ones (mentioning no names – the strawberry delights), but most are fairly pleasant and make a lovely accompaniment to the Queen’s speech or a classic Christmas film. Please excuse the trivial comparison, but this is rather like life. Most days are ordinary, with a few particularly exciting and enjoyable moments and a handful of awful days you wish to toss out of the equation (or rather into the mouth of the person next to you).

However, digging through my Quality Street tin this year has left me rather disgruntled. If my life is represented by this year’s selection, then it is a rather pitiful sight. Gone are the days when I could rustle through the neatly-wrapped, shiny foils and be surprised by what I have picked. It seems that my only options are fudge.... another fudge.... and oh, did I mention that there were many fudges? In fact, a study conducted by the kitchen appliances site CDA found that the proportion of each flavour in a 750g tub is typically as follows:

10 Fudges
9 Toffee Pennies
8 Orange Cremes
8 Coconut Eclairs



- 8 Strawberry Delights
- 6 Toffee Fingers
- 6 Milk Choc Blocks
- 5 The Purple Ones
- 5 Green Triangles
- 5 Honeycomb Crunches
- 5 Orange Chocolate Crunches
- 4 Caramel Swirls

Thus, it appears that the only kind of quality in Quality Street's is INequality. Tough luck for those that enjoy the crunch of a honeycomb, or that chewy toffee finger. It is no wonder that the purple ones have a habit of wandering off, and relatives are caught hastily stock-piling their favourite colours in the corner of the living room. If this is ringing true, you may be pleased to discover that there is an apparent solution to our conundrum. This year, Nestle have taken it upon themselves to offer a pick-and-mix service to John Lewis customers, whereby tins of Quality Street can be personalised to include a minimum of three and a maximum of nine of your favourites, including a named container – all for a mere £15!

On the surface, this may seem like the ideal solution. But just as we can't choose all the cards we are dealt in life, it doesn't seem fair that we should be able to sneakily discard all of our least-favourite Quality Streets. Part of life is learning to deal with the little disappointments, because they make us appreciate those little joys that much more. If we can learn to live with the fact that someone has eaten all the green triangles, or that we can't stop pulling out the fudges instead of the caramel swirls, we will be that much more delighted when we stumble across the one we had been hoping for all along. So, I don't know about you, but I shall be keeping my unequally distributed Quality Street's and revelling in the kaleidoscope of colours/flavours, just as I will be trying to remain thankful for all the different kinds of days and experiences that the New Year throws our way, for better and for worse." Unquote.

You may think that the above is trivial thoughts on mere chocolates but I believe that the meaning is more profound and that when we were talking my granddaughter was referring to life and its ups and downs. I can see some humour and much deep thought in the words, but maybe I am biased of course. I did enjoy the services in our church over the Christmas period, my favourites among the many choices being the festival of nine lessons and carols which was on Saturday 22nd. I also like the 'midnight' service on Christmas Eve as it is always full of excitement and anticipation of the coming of the greatest event ever on earth. The story never fails to make me tingle. You will have your own favourites, and I hope that you enjoyed these as much as my family and I enjoyed the services. Onwards to 2019 and may I wish you all a 'Happy and Peaceful New Year'.

Ken Downham (with the thoughts of Breanna Blackboro)

BETWEEN DEATH AND RESURRECTION

One of the most important themes in Christian eschatology (the doctrine of the last things) is the **intermediate state**, that is, the continued existence of the person between his death and final resurrection. But the concept of the intermediate state is also riddled with problems, as a result of which many different theories have been proposed. One of the reasons why it is difficult to conceive of the intermediate state is the dearth of biblical material on this subject. While both the Old and New Testaments do allude to the continued existence of the deceased, they do not supply enough information that would enable us to construct a clear picture. In addition, the incidental way in which the Bible treats this topic has led some Christians to think – mistakenly, in my view – that it does not regard it as important.

While the first reason is that the idea of the intermediate state has to do with the Biblical text itself, the second reason is philosophical and theological. There has been a significant shift in both philosophical and theological anthropology from the dualisms of Plato (4th century BC) and Rene Descartes (17th century) to a physicalism that eschews the distinction between body and mind (soul). According to this understanding, nothing ‘survives’ the biological death of a human being. Put differently, when a human being dies, that human being simply ceases to exist. It is not difficult to see why the concept of the intermediate state, which postulates the continual existence of the human being who is biologically dead, is at odds with this materialist view.

Several theories have been proposed by theologians throughout the history of the church on the intermediate state. Some of these theories work on the **dualism of body and soul** that the Bible itself purportedly upholds, and try to speculatively join the dots suggested by the sketchy biblical data. Others, in embracing the modern physicalist view of the human being, effectively dismiss the need to even think about an intermediate state. One of the more prominent theories about the intermediate state is soul-sleep. Theologians and groups from diverse backgrounds and of different convictions – Luther, the Anabaptists, the Socinians, and the Seventh-Day Adventists – have proposed different versions of this theory. Martin Luther famously described the intermediate state as ‘a deep and dreamless sleep without consciousness or feeling’. In a 1533 sermon Luther wrote: ‘we are to sleep until he comes and knocks on the grave and says, “Dr Martin, get up”. Then I will arise in a moment and will be eternally happy with him’. Theologians are quick to point out that this view of the intermediate state presents serious problems and difficulties. While Scripture does use ‘sleep’ to describe death (e.g., John 11:11), surely this expression must not be understood literally. Rather it should be seen as a figure of speech, a euphemism. Additionally, Scripture seems to depict the intermediate state as a personal and conscious existence. Although the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) is not purposed to teach us about the nature of the intermediate state, it is nonetheless a reliable depiction. As Millard Erickson has rightly pointed out, in telling this parable, it is unlikely that Jesus would ‘mislead us on this subject’.

A most curious proposal came from the pen of Lewis Sperry Chafer, who was the



president of Dallas Theological Seminary from 1936 to his death in 1952. A dispensationalist theologian, Chafer posited that the dead is given ‘an **intermediate body**’ while awaiting the resurrection. At the resurrection, they will receive the final spiritual body that Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 15. Needless to say, there is no scriptural basis whatsoever for this theory.

A theory that is gaining ascendancy is **total death**. This theory – which aligns itself with the modern physicalist anthropologies alluded above – maintains that nothing survives the physical death of an individual. The proponents of this view are therefore effectively saying that there is no intermediate state. According to a version of this theory, at the resurrection, God will ‘re-assemble’ this individual who had died in a way that guarantees the identity of that individual. The Lutheran theologian Jürgen Moltmann maintains that God is able to do this because he has in his mind the form (German: *Gestalt*) of the individual which serves as the basis for his re-constitution of that individual at the resurrection. The problem with this theory is that it does not square with the witness of Scripture. For example, if death is the total annihilation of the individual, what could Paul have meant when he suggested that the deceased believer is in the presence of Christ (Philippians 2:3)? How could we make sense of Jesus’ promise to the repentant thief that he will be with him in paradise on the very day of their deaths (Luke 23:43)?

Finally, some scholars have argued that there is no need to envision an intermediate state because the dead will have **instantaneous resurrection**. W.D. Davies expounded this view in *Paul and Rabbinic Judaism* (1970). According to Davies, by the time Paul wrote 2 Corinthians he had already distanced himself from rabbinic Judaism’s idea of disembodiment at death. ‘[The dead] would on the contrary, be embodied’, writes Davies, ‘and there is no room in Paul’s theology for an intermediate state of the dead’. Davies has however ignored a large body of Pauline texts which indicates quite clearly that the apostle believed in the disembodied ‘survival’ of the deceased (Phil 3:20-21; 1 Thess 4:16-17; Rom 2:3-16; 1 Cor 4:5). The evangelical theologian Anthony Hoekema has argued that there are simply too many passages in the NT that point to the intermediate state for the concept to be ignored: Luke 23:42-43; Philippians 1:21-23; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8. In the same way, there are too many passages that speak of the separation of the soul from the body at death in Scripture for Christians to uncritically embrace a merely physicalist anthropology.

To be sure, the Bible does present a unitary concept of the human being. But it also indicates that at death, this unity is temporarily dissolved due to the separation of body and soul. In addition, there can be no denying that Scripture teaches that the soul (however one may wish to describe it) continues in personal, conscious existence after the physical death of the individual. It is only at the resurrection that body and soul are brought together once again. The Bible does speak of an intermediate state between death and resurrection. But the scarcity of biblical material cautions us against being too dogmatic in our conception of the nature of this mode of existence.

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



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 New Year's resolutions for 2019

My dear Nephew Darren,

Your New Year resolution of getting up at 4am and devoting the first four hours every day to prayer and meditation does you credit – although I am not entirely certain you will get past the first week. I, too, make an annual resolution; this year it is to become more tolerant of my parishioners.

1. I intend to become more tolerant of our deputy organist Mrs Ffrench. If we have a four-verse hymn, the dear lady is almost guaranteed either to play three or five verses. If the former, I always have to be prepared to start singing the final verse myself, while the congregation tags along several words behind and our organist gamely, and entirely unsuccessfully, tries to find out where we are up to; if the latter, then we all meekly sing the final verse a second time.
2. I intend to become more tolerant of our team who assemble the parish magazine. Copies are generally put together with the pages in a random order, generally with one sheet upside down. One month, we will have 50 copies too few and those who fail to receive one behave as though their lives will be forever after entirely ruined, and the next month, we will have 50 copies too many, whereupon people complain about the wanton destruction of the Amazonian rainforest.
3. I will be more tolerant of Lady Trotter who always arrives for our Sunday 8am Service 10 minutes late. While we are piously at prayer, she slams the north door, shakes her umbrella over the floor, wishes the sidesman a cheery “good morning”, drops her Service books, clumps up the aisle in her steel tipped brogues, removes her mackintosh, fumbles for a kneeler and volubly asks the entire congregation where we are up to in the Service. She then gives me a nod to tell me that I may proceed with divine worship.
4. I intend to be more tolerant of my neighbour, an aggressive atheist who invariably decides that Mattins is the ideal time to use his chainsaw in the garden, that the annual garden fete is the right day for a bonfire and who sends me a monthly rant of several pages, taking issue with my letter in the magazine.



5. I intend to ...

.....on reflection, perhaps I may decide on an alternative resolution for the New Year.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Book Reviews

Dream Chasers – The Journey of Nine Ordinary People Who Became Extraordinary by Uta Schmidt, Lion Hudson, £9.99

Have you ever known the pain and disappointment of a shattered dream, a hope deferred, a vision put on hold? Maybe you started out with a dream in your heart, but it got buried beneath the rubble of life's challenges. Whatever it may be, life took some unexpected turns and threw you off-course.

Dream Chasers follows the lives of nine ordinary people, who overcame great hardship in order to follow their God-Given dreams. In doing so, they became extraordinary. Through exclusive interviews with these leaders, Uta Schmidt uncovered that in chasing their dreams they do not avoid life's disappointments and hardships. They endure suffering and experience crises of faith, but ultimately they find a way through.

And we can all do the same on the way to our God-given dreams. Through their inspiring stories you will gain insights into the process of becoming who God called you to be, and you will grow in determination to follow your dreams straight through the fire of transformation.

Taken from the Parish Pump website



After-eight Social Club

Winter Warmer Dance Night Saturday 12 January Langford Village Hall

Doors open 7.30pm

Admission: Members £8 Non members £10

Includes soup and a dessert!

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 contact Mike on 01621 856219

www.aftereightsocialclub.co.uk



NEWS FROM OUR SINGAPORE CORRESPONDENT

Another new year already, oh my! Hope you are well and we wish you a Happy and Brexit-Stress-Free New Year from Singapore! No startling news as such, which is good news in itself, I suppose.

Angelina continues at work with new challenges almost every week. Personnel changes a lot in an international school employing mainly Commonwealth-originating teachers on contracts, it is a challenge to her every time a new teacher needs to be told what to do (and worse when they don't do what they should do!). Her lovely Head of Dept has retired after 10 years and she will miss her a lot.

I have had less teaching work this year as they are tightening their purse strings but I don't mind! Still enough pocket money from it. I gave up marking for Cambridge too this Nov/Dec series -- enough is enough. I'll do a bit with Edexcel next June.

We both keep well (hard not to in this amenable climate!) but my broken arm from July still is weak and I wonder if I will ever regain full strength in it. The insurance claim will help though. We're both still exercising regularly (how can one not in this amenable climate?) but the ravages of age cannot be repelled for ever. I am greying quickly and have put on weight again owing to the broken arm prohibiting exercise for 5 months. What to do? I still drive the family taxi (aka "car") and have done 20,000 miles in 20 months on an island the size of the Isle of Wight --yes, I ask myself how is this possible.

Joelle had to give up her UK citizenship, so she is now solely a Singaporean. She is happy with that. She returned in Sept and I found her a job within a month. She is now manager of a learning centre with 120 pupils and 4 teachers. The kiddies are so cute, she says and bought her lots of little Xmas prezzies to boot! She's learned a lot of important business skills as there is a lot to comprehend eg tax, pensions, scheduling classes, handling all the \$\$\$\$, dealing with parents, selling the brand, balancing the books, etc. She has one assistant under her. It was the first interview she had and they must have recognised something in her to put her into such a demanding role. She actually enjoys it, although it can be rather boring at times, works odd hours like 1-9pm weekdays and 9-6pm Sat and Sunday, with Mon/Tues off. She still hunts a church to regularly attend. She is likely to go back for her M.A. in 2020 once she has got some money under her belt.

Emma came home for Xmas until 4 Jan and is finishing her 3rd year at Hull Univ. She has no idea what she wants to do yet but will try for an MSc in Oct in UK. She will soon have to decide on her citizenship. She spends time as captain of her University netball team.

I sing in two choirs; 8am at an expatriate ex-army base church with an Aussie vicar and excellent buffet breakfast; then I rush to the cathedral for 11am service. Two 9 Lessons/Carols services was a bit hectic as well as two Xmas Eve and Day services, but the helter skelter of All Saints' at Xmas trained me well for this stress! Oh well, I just love singing. We three are still going to join the weekend medical mission to Batam, Indonesia next year every two months, and Joelle is considering doing a teaching stint in a Cambodian or Laos village for 3 months next summer. Angie and Jo have tried yoga classes and love it, and Jo hopes to start conversational Mandarin' class in Jan. Fortnightly Bible Study group is nice too and I hope to sit on a committee to organise the restoration of the cathedral bells, need £300,000 to restore them (already on the boat to UK). Singapore will have bells ringing out again for the first time since WW2 !

We follow the Brexit news mainly to help us explain to Singaporeans that the UK is not totally the laughing stock of the world. Brexit has certainly done for us as we watch our UK savings steadily lose value (15% since we came two years ago). Still, what to do; who are we to do anything.

We will be home in early July for Emma's graduation but will fly in and out to Manchester and probably only stay a short time in lovely Hull.

We still remember you all fondly and follow your activities through the monthly magazine. So, love to all, and hope to hear your news soon, blessings, *D&A&E&J*



.....

Parking

A man was driving down the street in a panic because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up toward heaven, he said "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me somewhere to park, I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life.' Miraculously, a parking place appeared. The man looked up again and said, 'Never mind. I found one.'

.....

Dates for the Diary

2nd Feb	Bistro Evening in D'Arcy Room
16th Feb	Messy Church
6th Mar	Ash Wednesday
9th Mar	Messy Church
25th Mar	Church AGM
31st Mar	Mothering Sunday
14th April	Palm Sunday
19th April	Good Friday
21st April	Easter Day
6th - 8th Dec	Christmas Tree Festival

Please email me with ALL your future dates.

FROM THE REGISTERS



BAPTISM

16th December JOSHUA GEORGE KIRBY, RILEY GENE KIRBY,
HARRY CONNER KIRBY, ZACHARY EDWARD KIRBY
of Wentworth Meadows

FUNERALS

18th December ENID ADELAIDE LODGE aged 92 of Volwycke Ave.
18th December ROBERT JOHN HUGHES aged 54 of Romford



Prayer Diary

JANUARY 2019

1	Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	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 people of the world
7		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	Baptism of Christ	Our Eucharistic Ministers
14		Our Churchwardens and their Deputies
15		All who read in Church
16		All residents of our Parish
17		All Free Churches
18,	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins	The Quakers
19		The United Reformed Church
20	3rd Sunday of Epiphany	All who lead our intercessions
21		The Baptist Church
22		The Methodist Church
23		The Salvation Army
24		The Parishes of St Mary, Maldon, and St Andrew, Heybridge
25	Conversion of St. Paul.	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends
		Churches dedicated to St Paul and the outreach of St Paul's Cathedral
26		St Michaels, Woodham Walter and St Margaret's Woodham Mortimer
27	4th Sunday of Epiphany	Pray for Unity in the Christian Church
28		The Roman Catholic 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**

VICAR (also Priest in Charge of Woodham Mortimer with Hazeleigh and Woodham Walter)	Rev Canon Stephen Carter Tel: 01621 854179
ASST CURATE (also Asst Curate of the Woodhams)	Rev Julie Willmot
HON. ASST. PRIEST	Rev. Canon Dr. Graham Blyth Tel: 01621 854068
AUTHORISED LOCAL PREACHER	Mrs Adrienne Knight Tel 01621 841329
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⁵ CHURCHWARDENS	Dennis Johnson 21 Wantz Road Tel: 01621 842410 Mrs Jenny Clinch 4A Belvedere Place Tel: 01621 840057
DEPUTY CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs Vicky Tropman Tel: 01621 857291 Mrs Vivien Clark Tel:01621 740374
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SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Elizabeth Blyth Tel 01621 854068 Email: elisabeth.blyth@gmail.com



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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