

# ALL SAINTS' MALDON



# PARISH NEWS

March 2019

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

£1



## CHURCH SERVICES

<b>Sunday Services</b>	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 (6:30 pm from 31st March)
<b>1st Sunday in the Month</b>	10:00am Short all age service of stories songs and prayers. 11:15am Parish Eucharist (CW) 6:00 pm Evensong at St Mary's
<b>Last Sunday</b>	6:30 pm Prayer and Praise Service (All age service with simpler format)

## JUNIOR CHURCH

Each Sunday at 10:00am.in the D'Arcy Room in Church

## WEEKDAY SERVICES

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

**Cover Photos: 1. Bistro Evening in the D'Arcy Room  
2. Junior Choir members receiving their Ribbons  
Photos By Mike Ovenden**

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



## NOT FROM THE VICARAGE

As I write this the wind is howling outside and the rain is lashing against the windows. It's a stormy day and thoughts of lighter evenings and a little warmth seem far in the future. The daffodils however have taken no notice, peaking tentatively above ground like a little row of green soldiers standing to attention despite the plummeting temperatures until a jump of a few degrees heralds their vibrant, sunny trumpets bursting into flower.

But enough of this poetic seasonal description! I must tell you that at this time of year my floor mop never gets put away, I go through bath towels like they are going out of fashion and my nose is tuned in to various levels of aroma ..... this is our 7<sup>th</sup> winter with a dog!

Our little white terrier Toby finds mud wherever he can and he quite happily rolls in horse manure turning his white fur a delicate shade of green. He will sniff a hedgehog far too closely, he thinks he can climb trees after squirrels and he has perfected a steady stare fixed on my closed eyelids waiting for the slightest flicker signalling his human mum is awake. It makes no difference to him whether his blanket is new or old, he shows no preference over wicker or plastic bed, it's taken the whole 7 years for him to accept his tartan coat is a good idea in the bleak mid-winter and he settles down to sleep far better when Radio 2 is on in the background. I can't actually remember what life was like before he bounced into our lives.

Is it too much to consider that dogs might teach us something about God? Toby has demonstrated so much over the years, listening, patience, faithfulness, loyalty, forgiveness, obedience and unconditional love. In a society often fuelled by expectation or disappointment which may feel it has no need or time for faith in God, seeing the world through the eyes of a dog is liberating and inspirational. Toby has opened my eyes to the whole of God's beautiful creation, showing especially that the world is full of wonderful loving people despite what the news may lead us to believe.

Toby has gifted to me, through his snoozing body lying on my feet, time in the day to be still, to reflect, to ponder and to pray. We have been companions in striding out purposefully with no destination in mind but determined in a joint mission to see more of God's world. If only we were as attentive and receptive to God as dogs are to their human companions.

The biggest and most gratifying moment for me is when I step through the front door to be greeted by my excited, tail wagging furry friend who acts as though I've been gone forever.

I'm sure God is filled with just as much delight and joy when we revisit him after a long absence.

*Rev Julie and Toby*



## Subtitles

As someone who has to rely on subtitles when watching television I find it annoying when they get words wrong - here are some of the spelling mistakes I find quite amusing.

Tulips	Chewlips
Lieutenant	Left Tennent
Tune	Choon
Reign	Rain
Urine	Youre In
Enjoy	Earn Joy
Tulips	Two Lips
Coughing	Coffin
Diane	Die Yan
Balcony	Ball Connie
Ivy	I.V.
Throne	Thrown

*Molly Polden*

## Children's Society

As the Children's Society box co-ordinator for All Saints, I would like to thank everyone who attended the Christingle Service and raised such a wonderful amount of money. Thank you to Wendy Cox who made such a lovely cake ,marking 50 years of the Children's Society fund raising incorporating Christingle services, and to Lillian Gibson for cutting the cake.

A special thankyou to Julie Ovendon who had the vision of the Tree festival and to all those who helped her make it happen, and donated monetary donations to the Children's Society.

The wonderful sum of £1528-31p has been sent to the Society.

*Elaine Brown*



## CHURCHES TOGETHER QUIET DAY

To be held in St Mary's, Maldon, on Saturday April 13th, 10.30am -3.00pm, in Preparation for Holy Week, lead by Sister Moira and Sister Margaret, of the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre. "Praying through Holy Week. Living in hope with betrayals and disappointments. " Please bring something for a "Bring and Share" lunch. Please advise Stephen if you wish to go.

([RevSCarter@googlemail.com](mailto:RevSCarter@googlemail.com))

## WORSHIP IN APRIL- ADVANCE NOTICE

**Please note the change of pattern in April, because of Holy Week.**

The first Sunday in April, the 7th,(Passion Sunday) the 10.00am service will be Parish Eucharist and Junior Church. There will therefore be no 11.15am service that day. Worship for All will take place the following week, April 14th, Palm Sunday, which will include a procession and church parade. It will be followed by an 11.15am said Eucharist.

## BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD'S LENT APPEAL

The Appeal in 2018 raised £60,000 from churches across the diocese. This money was sent to the drought stricken diocese of Marsabit, Mount Kenya East.

This year, the diocese of Chelmsford is supporting the appeal for St Andrew's College, Kabare. As well as training clergy and missionaries, the College also runs a number of vocational courses, to help people develop small businesses and therefore to become self sufficient and to improve their lives. You are invited to collect money during Lent (boxes can be provided for those who wish) and to return your savings to church at Easter.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

The first day of Lent is March 6th. There will be a Sung Eucharist at 7.30pm in All Saints, at which the Imposition of Ashes will be available for those who wish. For those preferring a morning service, there will be a Book of Common Prayer service of Holy Communion at 10.30am at St Michael's, Woodham Walter.



# LETTERS

*Following Stephens article "From The Vicarage" in the January magazine, entitled "AND THE RICH HE HATH SENT EMPTY AWAY....." Stephen replies to the letter received last month.*

Dear Mr .....,

Thank you for taking the trouble to reply to my letter. You are of course correct that the Church Commissioners own assets of currently around £6 billion, which is held both in land, property and shares. However, the income from this is used mainly to pay the clergy. I am not sure of the exact figures, but there are something like 10,000 stipendiary clergy, who receive stipends and housing and also for whom pension contributions are paid. There are probably more than this number of retired clergy who are in receipt of a pension from the Church Pensions Board. The present stipend is around £25,000 per year (a bit more for bishops and archdeacons) Parishes also have to contribute to this: but a substantial contribution is still made by the commissioners. They also contribute to a number of community projects run by churches across the whole nation.

The Church of England has a presence in every community in England, not just in affluent towns and villages, but in the most deprived parts of the country. In fact in some council estates and inner cities, the parish priest is often the only professional living "on the patch," sending his children to local schools and living as a member of the community; where other professionals working in the areas live a safe distance away.

Contrary to popular opinion, the state does not make any contribution to the upkeep of churches. The Church of England exists not just for its paid up members but from everyone in the community who wishes to call upon its services. So for example, your own churchyard in Woodham Walter is open to all in the village and not just to church members. All those living in the parish are welcome for baptism and marriage and not just members of the congregation.

The Church of England owns the largest number of listed buildings in the country, many of them medieval. This requires a huge amount of financial support from congregations, and in the case of many places like Woodham Walter, the good will of their local communities. We are custodians for these buildings for the nation and for our communities.

For many years the Church has been selling off its grander clergy houses and this process is continuing. There are of course a number of historical and heritage issues which means that the disposal of these places is often complex. A recent attempt to sell the Bishop' Palace in Wells



lead to an outcry in Somerset. The result is the palace is now owned by a charitable trust: but the Bishop has a flat, and offices, and other parts of the building are now open to the public.

Having said all this, Jesus told us not to "store up treasures on earth" And the Church like every institution and individual will stand answerable to God for the way that they have used their wealth for the common good.

Best wishes

*Stephen Carter*

## LETTER FROM YORKSHIRE

Letter for March

Dear Church family,

I do apologise for missing the deadline for last month's letter, I just don't know where the time goes! it must be the excitement of the changeable icy weather we are experiencing. I am getting adept at avoiding frozen puddles on the paths, but it is not easy dodging the freezing wind. They tell me to stay at home but, you know me I'm an outdoor person, after all I am an Essex girl which makes me intrepid! Doesn't it?

So much for boasting; we were unable to attend church last Sunday, because this road where we live was completely iced over and we, together with our neighbours, were unable to get out until lunch time!!

I did enjoy the February magazine, especially the response triggered by Stephen's 'From the Vicarage' article in the January magazine entitled "*And the rich he hath sent empty away.*" I have been pondering that statement for some time and I've come to the conclusion, shock horror, that I don't believe it! Surely anyone who comes to God or Jesus voluntarily, will never, '*be sent empty away*'. They might perhaps turn away themselves, but they will carry with them much food for thought. And that is not emptiness is it? And it still leaves space for repentance.

I think I am in danger of sermonising again, so I'll close by telling you that I think of you all often and wish you all a beautiful Spring.

*Love and Blessings, From Avril.*

# THE EX-CURATE WRITES...

It's February as I write, so the New Year's resolutions are long-forgotten except for one – submitting a catch-up letter to the All Saints parish magazine. I'm coming to preach and preside in March so this imminent diary date, plus bumping into Peter before Christmas, has prompted me to get on with it at last.

As many of you know, in 2017 I stepped back from full-time ministry in the parishes of Writtle Highwood and Roxwell after health and well-being concerns became overwhelming. We then had quite a lengthy moving on period. After several houses fell through, we eventually vacated the Writtle vicarage and stayed in a (very generous) friend's house, then finally moved into our Chelmsford home last August 2018. We were almost immediately on our way on pilgrimage to the Holy Land with many people from the former parish. It was a privilege to see the places and meet the people there.



Since then, Chloë has begun a hairdressing course at Chelmsford College near our home, and Keith started a new job with an accountancy practice, still working in London, just a little further out on the Central Line. He can walk to the station now and, once the tyres are pumped up on his bike and the sun starts shining, *he says*, he'll be able to cycle. Richard still lives and works in London and Sam in Chelmsford. Keith's mum Pam is still a regular visitor chez Jones. She came with us to the Holy Land and coped brilliantly with all the walking despite a dodgy knee.

We've been decorating and revamping parts of our new home and I'm really enjoying working on a more manageable garden with some mature roses, shrubs and flowers. And we have one of our greatest blessings from our time in Writtle – Bertie our mini labradoodle – who keeps us fit with walking and lifts our spirits. Love on 4 legs. Also known as The Bishop of Barking, Prince of Pooches, Hero of the Hounds.





It was a lovely surprise to realise after we moved in and I walked to the local shops that I was in fact back in my sending parish, so I am worshipping at St Luke's Moulsham Lodge once again and enjoying renewing friendships there. In ministry terms I have PTO (+ Stephen's permission to officiate in the Diocese of Chelmsford). I've been taking some Sunday services in various churches but nothing is on a regular basis at the moment. As this year unfolds I hope a clearer picture will emerge of what's next for me in ministry.

Thank you for your love and prayerful support in the last few years. It has been a blessing to know that others are thinking about us and holding us in God's love. When I come into All Saints from time to time, I usually go to the prayer corner. As a curate I loved giving time and attention to it, adding some cards and pictures and lighting the candles. It's heartening to see how well-used it is. All sorts of people in all sorts of situations seeking the touch of God's love. How good it is that All Saints is on the High Street and open every day.

So... we're looking forward to being with you in worship soon and being updated on your news over coffee afterwards. And as it will be the First Sunday in Lent we also eagerly await the announcement of what food item or group the Vicar is giving up this year...?

With my prayers for keeping a Holy Lent as we travel towards the joy of Easter Day.

*Jo*

**PS Thank you!** to Jean Russell for sending the parish magazine to us. Keith and I do like seeing what's going on, the news and the views, and the pictures too.

## Junior Church

Junior Church continues to thrive as can be seen on a Sunday morning. We average 6-8 children but rises to 13+ on some occasions. The age range is between 4 -10 and so we now need to split the children for some of the lesson time. We can only do this successfully if we have more help, we need to have 3 people now to give the children the time and attention they deserve.

I am asking for anyone who could help at Messy Church and or Junior Church to speak to Elaine Brown for more information and how they can help.

Let us not forget that the children that are starting out on their Christian Journey now are the Church of tomorrow.....



# THE STATE WE'RE IN

It was by the autumn of 2016 that I realised that I was no longer enjoying living in England. Although I have become increasingly proud of my Scottish roots over the years (it intensifies as one gets older), following the Referendum I have found the reality of being south of the border less appealing. At one level – especially in my relation to the Church of England and the parish of All Saints – I know that not to be solely true. But underlying that, my revulsion at the xenophobia and unpleasantness which seem to be the hallmarks of the new English nationalism has never been greater. The Referendum, fuelled by the anonymity afforded by social media, has lifted the lid on ugly feelings towards any form of difference. Many people now behave as if it is normal to be spontaneously rude and aggressive towards complete strangers, especially if they look or sound foreign (the irony being that many of them are British-born). The shock for me was that for so many people here, this mentality had been their personal truth for some 40 years.

Of course the UK is not alone in displaying signs of social degeneration. Similar attitudes have taken hold in America to the west and Poland and other central European countries to the east. Any large influx of immigrants (real or imagined) is inevitably threatening to a nation's stability: even more so to its perception of itself. But the fact that many refugees are fleeing from the most war-torn and dangerous countries in the world is seen very much as secondary.

Closer to home there is much which should disturb us. The high reliance on food-banks, even among the employed: the arbitrary withdrawal of benefits from the sick and disabled: the unacceptable increase in the number of homeless: and draconian policies at the Home Office with respect to deportations. Most worrying for our future must be the increasing number of schoolchildren showing signs of serious mental illness. Meanwhile we are all encouraged, like bad Samaritans, to look the other way: in fact we even have a government which actively promotes this. But is the church as an institution really much better?

I wish to make it clear that I don't view Scotland, or Northern Ireland for that matter, (the two parts of the UK which voted Remain) through rose-tinted spectacles. But clearly in those two countries there was a more open-handed attitude towards diversity. In England the North/South divide has been a running sore for decades, largely ignored by a succession of governments. You have only to visit Consett or Stoke-on-Trent to get a sense of how the heart has been ripped out of those communities, however manicured the landscape looks after the collapse of their industries. At present both the UK and the US are full of angry white men in their 50's and 60's who feel that they have long been stripped of the ability to provide for their families. Their hour for stepping up has come. Whether to better things or to worse remains to be seen.

The greatest temptation is to separate off these issues from what we do in church on a Sunday morning. Of course our intercessions do bring these matters into focus, sometimes very well. But the real difficulty is leaving church for the following week with none of our prejudices or social assumptions challenged – or even changed! The Church of England used to be known as the 'Tory Party at prayer'. Not that there is anything wrong with being a compassionate Tory: but there is a great deal wrong with being an uncompassionate one. On the other hand is there a corresponding fear that the 'reds' have somehow taken over Jesus? The clergy are generally known to espouse more liberal views than their congregations. So which Jesus competes for our attention? The Jesus who works within a pre-set social order? Or the one who up-ends convention and radically champions the poor?



The Bible is unequivocal about social responsibility for outsiders. The shortest summary comes not from Exodus or Leviticus but from the prophet Zechariah: “Do not oppress the widow, or the fatherless, the stranger or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of one another.” (Zech: 7:10) God always reminds the people of Israel that once they were slaves in Egypt. That shared history makes a difference. In a secular age that narrative is no longer available to society. Hate-crimes against Jews are once again on the rise.

Humankind’s greatest challenge is resisting the tribalism which lurks under the surface of any civilisation. No religion or political system has yet worked out how to do it. Theological and organisational theories may have been painstakingly devised: but put them to the test and they all fall short.

It seems to be the very universality of Christ’s love which places his gospel in peril. Human beings can function well enough on the premise of conditional love: ‘you do this for me/ you obey these instructions and I will love you/admit you in return.’ So a pseudo-Christianity which gets trapped in ‘playing by the rules’ is substituted for the real thing. It maintains the comforting status-quo of ‘us and them.’ Other Christians can be judged according to how well they conform to the doctrines we define as non-negotiable. On the result depends whether we will accept them as ‘true believers’ or brand them as ‘heretics’. These dynamics are still alive and kicking in the Church of England and the Anglican Communion.

One has only to look at how the American religious right has moulded itself into a spurious reflection of President Trump’s worldview to realise how easy it is for a religious system to buckle under the weight of populism and the temptation to power. No wonder comparisons are being made with how the churches aligned themselves in Nazi Germany in the 1930’s. The normalisation of religious distortion lies in direct proportion to our acceptance of deceit as a ‘given’ in political life. The more we expect our politicians to lie to us (and current expectation has never been higher) the more apathetic we become: and the potential is there for all sorts of authoritarian repression to be visited upon us. All it needs is fruitful soil – that of demoralised communities.

Human beings do not do ‘uncertainty’ well. In this country we have not done so for the last two years. Anxiety about our future quality of life has become a daily and nightly companion. However God’s people as portrayed in Scripture do uncertainty rather better. Yes, they complain, feel vulnerable, have setbacks, get lost – yet they still trust in God. Not in a magical way (though miraculous interventions do occur) but with a dogged, determined perseverance. They identify not just with history but with a living ‘salvation history’. That means they have an assurance to hold onto.

In the New Testament St Peter in his 2nd letter exhorts all believers to put away malice and deceit. For these things poison the wells of our humanity. He highlights the dangers of our ill-thinking and ill-speaking, just as Jesus identifies the desires of the heart as the source of our deliberate evil. The Christian life asks us to rise above these enmities and practice Christ-like hospitality even to those with whom we disagree. And, supremely, to point others towards the mutual decency and respect to which Her Majesty the Queen made reference in her New Year address to the Mothers’ Union at Sandringham.

Whatever our political preferences we should all be challenged, and at times corrected, by a gospel that calls each one of us to reflect the image of God. At times this may seem impossible, but we are commanded to do it. In the days to come a great deal will be demanded of us spiritually. We cannot afford to mess up. We must take responsibility. For we still play our part in the narrative of grace.

*Canon Graham (SNP)*



## EASTER VESTRY AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING



The Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Easter Vestry will take place at 7:30 pm on Monday 25th March in All Saints' Church. This is when the election of churchwardens and the PCC members takes place. You will also have the opportunity to consider the accounts and other parish business

At the Easter Vestry the Churchwardens for the coming year are elected, when anyone living in the parish or on the Electoral Roll can vote. Nominations must be handed to the PCC Secretary, Julie Ovenden. The same applies for membership of the PCC - there are four vacancies. Do not forget, **nominations cannot be made at the meeting**, so please give this serious thought and pick up a nomination paper which will be available at the back of the church.

After Apologies, Acceptance of the Minutes of the last AGM, Matters Arising, and the Presentation of the Electoral Roll, comes the Election of Two Deputy Wardens, the Election of the Parochial Church Council and the Appointment of Sides Persons. The Treasurer then reports on the accounts for 2015 and other committee reports are received. Following this it is the turn of the Vicar to give his report on the previous year.

Please support this meeting as we look back on the last year.

*Please consider carefully who you would like to see on the PCC; remember they represent you or maybe you would like to serve on the PCC? Have a think about this and put the date in your diary.*

*Julie Ovenden PCC Secretary*

### **Electoral Roll**

This year we have to revise the electoral roll. All persons who wish to have their names entered onto the new Roll, (whether their names are entered on the current Roll or not), are requested to complete the forms, which are at the back of the church. Forms must be with our Electoral Roll Officer Linda Anthony no later than 10th March. The forms can be handed to Linda Stephen or the church wardens.



There will be a  
**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**  
in  
**ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MALDON on**  
**MONDAY 25th March 2019 at 7.30pm**

**for the purpose of electing TWO CHURCH WARDENS.**

All persons whose names are entered on the

**REGISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORS**

by reason of such residence shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

**A celebration of the Eucharist will take place at 6.45pm**  
for those wishing to attend

**Annual Vestry meeting**  
**Opening Prayers and Bible Reading**  
**Election of two Churchwardens**

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**The ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING** will follow this.  
Only those persons whose names are entered on the **CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL OF THIS PARISH** are entitled to vote at this meeting.

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial meeting held on April 23rd 2018
3. Matters Arising
4. Presentation of the Electoral Roll
5. Election of members to the Parochial Church Council
6. Appointment of Sides Persons
7. Annual Report of the PCC for 2018
8. Appointment of The Independent Examiner of Accounts
9. Treasurers Report – To adopt the PCC Accounts for the year end 2018
10. To receive the report on the Fabric
11. To receive the report of The Deanery Synod
12. To receive the report of The Churches Together in Maldon
13. To receive the report of All Saints School Foundation Governors
14. Any Other Business proper to an Annual Parochial meeting (please inform the Secretary of any matters prior to the meeting)
15. Vicars report
16. Closing Prayers



## The Civic Service

On Sunday January 27<sup>th</sup> 2019 which was the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany, the Civic Service for Maldon Town was held in our church. In the words of the opening prayer of the Celebrant, Canon Stephen Carter, *'We have come together to pray for the blessing of Almighty God upon this town of Maldon; and to commend to him the work of our Mayor and Town Council'*.

There was a large congregation for the service and the Mayor, Mrs. Jeanette Stilts, was accompanied by members of Maldon Town Council as well as Mayors and Councillors from other Essex Authorities and the MP for Maldon, Mr. John Whittingdale. The theme for the service was 'Celebrating Community', and the Bishop of Bradwell, The Right Reverend John Perumbalath would be giving a sermon on that subject.



**The Bishop of Bradwell  
John Perumbalath**

The readings were one from the old testament read by the Mayor, and one from the new Testament read by the MP. Both readings dealt with ways to create a good Community and what was required to ensure that the community flourished. The Bishop in his sermon talked about community spirit and the advantages of being part of a community whether that community was in the church, in the workplace or among people who lived near each other and socialised in small or large groups. The Bishop also carried out the dedication of the beautiful new bookcase which was being added to the Parish library in memory of David and Win Hill. They had lived in Maldon and worshipped at All Saints from 1989 when David had retired as Rural Dean and Canon of Southwark. Both Win and David were much loved members of our church and the bookcase has been given as a memorial by their children and grandchildren. The actual bookcase was made by Tony Smith who has made other significant pieces of furniture for the church, and



the carving on the bookcase was designed by David and Win's daughter, Rachel, showing acorns and oak leaves symbolising the family growing into a wider family and community.



**The Hill Family in Front of the Bookcase**

One notable contribution to the Civic Service was a presentation by Philip Brown and Corinne White who are the Headteacher and Deputy Head respectively of All Saints Primary School. They told us about the 'UP' project which involves liaison between the school and a local care home for the elderly, Longfield Care Home, in Fambridge Close. Year six pupils pay regular visits to Longfield Care Home and interact with the elderly residents. One 'review' on the Longfield website sent in by a relative of a resident reads as follows: *"A local Primary school visits the home once each week. A small group of year sixes come and play games such as dominoes with the old people or use craft materials to make decorations for Christmas. The children are delightful and the old people respond well to them. A wonderful experience for my mother in law and all those in the home"* That just about sums up this project. It teaches the children about another aspect of life and of caring and it helps to reinforce the meaning of 'Community' with young and old helping each other. Well done to all those at All Saints Church of England Primary School involved in this venture! So imaginative and so important a contribution to the older people in our society who rely on help from others to maintain a good quality of life. How lovely to see that All Saints School are helping to make this happen. The theme of the Civic Service being 'Community', was really illustrated by hearing about this project. Altogether a beautiful Civic Service and one which was satisfying from both a religious aspect and with such a wide spectrum of people in the congregation a good example of how we Celebrate Community.

*Ken Downham*

*Photos by Mike Ovenden*



# LENT GROUPS

We will again be having Lent Groups in All Saints, on five Wednesdays in Lent, beginning on March 13th, from 10.30am-12.00. This year's theme is "Letters to the Churches". This will be helpful for those wishing to deepen their understanding of the New Testament. Each week we will look at a different Epistle, and consider its historical background and message. There will be a short Bible study from that Epistle, and we will conclude with discussion in groups. Full details of the programme will be available on the weekly notices.

Commencing on Monday 11th March at 7.30pm at St Mary's, there will be an evening Lent Course, on "Christian Basics," lead by Father John and Father Robert. This will be helpful for those who would like a "refresher course" on the basics of the Christian faith.

Details of the Group to be held in All Saints', are as follows:-

1. Wednesday March 13th "Thessalonians" (Canon Graham Blyth).
2. Wednesday March 20th "Galatians" (The Reverend Asa Humphrey, Priest in charge of Heybridge with Langford)
3. Wednesday March 27th "1 Corinthians" (Fr John Dickens, priest in charge of St Mary's)
4. Wednesday April 3rd "Romans" (Andy Mugford of Fulbridge Church)
5. Wednesday April 10th "Colossians" (Prebendary Paul Barnes)

SC

## MRS VICARAGE

Sue's big birthday is in March. As her birthday will be in the middle of Lent, we will be having a belated celebration. You are invited to come and have a drink and finger buffet following the Easter Eve Vigil on Saturday April 20th at 8.00pm; when we can celebrate both Easter and Sue's birthday.

*Stephen*





# London Marathon 2019



Our daughter **Katrina Steel** (nee Brown) is taking part in the London Marathon this year on behalf of **The British Heart Foundation**.

If anyone feels able to sponsor her for this event please speak to her or a member of the Brown Family.

*Colin Brown*

My daughter, **Andrea** will be taking part in this year's London Marathon. She has chosen three charities which have special associations for her. **Headway Essex, Bowel Cancer** and the **Eve Appeal** (fighting women's cancer). Her training is going well; I don't know how she manages with Guy serving in Afghanistan and three lively girls, whom many of you know. Tony and I are so proud of her. We know she is determined to cross that finishing line.

If anyone would like to sponsor these charities, donations can be given to me in church or given through:

**[uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AndreaRoberts6](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AndreaRoberts6)**

Thank you on behalf of Andrea.

*Betty Smith*



## Beginning of Summer Time

**Don't forget British Summer Time commences at 1 am on Sunday 31st March 2019**

**Put your clocks forward by one hour.**



# Heating the County



Take advantage of our discounts. For all your supplies of heating and fuel oils direct from the BFS depot in Danbury, Essex [www.bfs.uk.com](http://www.bfs.uk.com)



01268 710310

Billericay Fuel Services, Downham,  
Billericay, Essex CM11 1QU.

## Hearing Help Essex

Free sessions run by fully trained volunteers and held across mid-Essex.

- Have your NHS hearing aid cleaned & re-tubed
- Learn about specialist equipment
- Receive help and advice

Registered Charity Number: 1113498  
Hearing Help Essex is a Company limited  
by Guarantee Registered Number: 5664873

### Hearing Help Essex Session Times 2018 - Maldon District

**St Peters Hospital, Maldon  
CM9 6EG**

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday  
each month 10am-12noon

**Plantation Hall Heybridge  
CM9 4AL**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month  
10am-12noon

**Danbury Mission, CM3 4QL**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month  
10am-12noon

More information at:  
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**12:00 to 1:30 pm**

**Wednesday**  
**6th March**





## SERVICES FOR MARCH

- 1st March** **St David Patron of Wales**  
10:30 am Women's World Day of Prayer, Service at URC
- 3rd March** **Sunday before Lent (Quinquagesima)**  
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)  
10:00 am Worship for All  
11:15 Eucharist with prayers for Healing and Laying on of Hands  
6:00 pm Choral Evensong at St Mary's
- 4th March** **Monday**  
7.00 pm Holy Communion in D'Arcy Chapel
- 6th March** **Ash Wednesday**  
10:30 am Holy Communion in St Michael's  
7:30 pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes.
- 7th March** **Thursday**  
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 10th March** **First Sunday of Lent**  
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)  
10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church  
12 noon Holy Baptism  
4:00 pm Evensong and Sermon
- 11th March** **Monday**  
11:00 am Holy Communion in Hailey House
- 14th March** **Thursday**  
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 17th March** **Second Sunday of Lent**  
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)  
10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church..  
4:00 pm Evensong and Sermon
- 20th March** **Wednesday**  
11:00 am Holy Communion in Longfield Care Home
- 21st March** **Thursday**  
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 24th March** **Third Sunday of Lent**  
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)  
10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church..  
12 noon Holy Baptism  
4:00 pm Evensong and Sermon
- 25th March** **The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
6:45 pm Holy Communion
- 28th March** **Thursday**  
11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
- 31st March** **Mothering Sunday**  
8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)  
10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church..  
6:30 pm Prayer and Praise



## DIARY FOR MARCH

Mon 4th March	10 am - 12 Maldon Pioneers Drop In 7:30 pm PCC in Meeting Room
Tues 5th March	10 am - 12 noon Meeting Point 10 am Prayer Group 2 pm U3A visit to All Saints' 7 pm Mothers' Union
Wed 6th March	12 - 1:30 pm All Saints Lunches 7:00 pm Parish Office in Vicarage
Thu 7th March	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7 - 8 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Sat 9th March	10am - 2pm Wedding Preparation at St Mary's 2 - 4 pm Messy Church
Mon 11th March	9:00 am Men's Breakfast (Rose and Crown) 10 am - 12 Maldon Pioneers Drop In 7:30 pm Lent Group in St Mary's
Tue 12th March	10 am - 12 noon Meeting Point
Wed 13th March	10:30 am Lent Group in All Saints'
Thu 14th March	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7 - 8 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Sat 16th March	3:00 pm Wedding of Anne Cox and Charles Smith
Mon 18th March	10 am - 12 Maldon Pioneers Drop In 7:30 pm lent Group in St Mary's
Tues 19th March	10 - 12 noon Meeting Point
Wed 20th March	10:30 am lent Group in All Saints' 7:00 pm Parish Office
Thu 21st March	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7 - 8 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Sat 23rd March	6:30 pm Beetle Drive
Mon 25th March	10 am - 12 Maldon Pioneers Drop In 7:30 pm Parish AGM
Tues 26th Feb	10 - 12 noon Meeting Point
Thu 28th Feb	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7 - 8 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice



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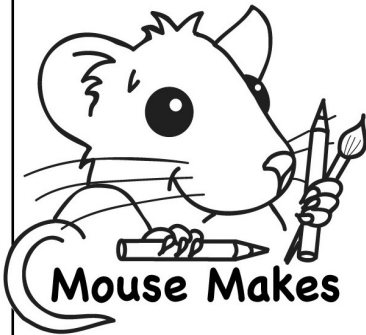
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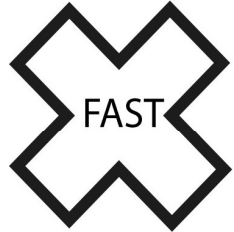
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During Lent read through the Gospel of Luke and each day pray for God to help you become more like Jesus

Lent is the name given to the 40 days before Easter and is a time to *pray*, to *read* the bible and to *turn* to God. The first day of Lent is **Ash Wednesday**, a day to *repent* and say *sorry* to God for the wrong things we have *said* or *thought* or *done*.



P W R P W O R D O R G F  
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 P Y F O R G I V E C E D  
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 A S H W E D N E S D A Y  
 T W O R S H I P U E R S  
 I E J E S U S E S N E D  
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Can you find these words in the word search above?

- LENT • ASH WEDNESDAY • FORTY DAYS
- JESUS • WILDERNESS • TEMPTATION • PRAY • FAST
- DENY • REPENT • SORRY • FORGIVE • GIVE • HELP
- PREPARE • REFLECT • THINK • READ • SCRIPTURE
- BIBLE • WORD • REMEMBER • WORSHIP • GOD



# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the Law of Moses wanted to test Jesus' knowledge of the laws in the Bible, so he asked Jesus a question.

Teacher, so what must I do to get eternal life?

What does it say in the Bible?

You've got it right.

Love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and Love your neighbour as yourself.

But who counts as a 'neighbour'?

So Jesus told a story -

A man was walking from Jerusalem to Jericho

That's a dangerous road!

He was attacked by robbers who left him for dead.

Oh no!

A priest was walking the same way, and after him a lawyer.

Oh, they are good people, they'll help.

They saw the hurt man but they walked past

I bet it's an ordinary person who helps!

Then a man from Samaria came that way...

Oh no! We hate them and they hate us Jews! That hurt man is done for!

He felt sorry for the hurt man, and cleaned and bandaged his cuts.

What? No!

He put him on his donkey, took him to an inn, and paid for him to stay.

So who was a real neighbour to the hurt man?

The... the Sss... the one who helped him.

So go and do the same.



## Deputy Warden's Waffle

Well January and February have been comparatively quiet after the extremely hectic two months leading up to and including Christmas. Now we have the alterations to contend with which will give us we hope, more usable space to function efficiently in the 21st century. We are very blessed to have had generous bequests from our friends to enable us to do this.

Just before Christmas Peter and I had the sad news that our lovely Labrador, Spice, who was 8 on Christmas Eve, had a cancerous growth on the nerves in her armpit. We hoped that the surgery to remove her front leg would be sufficient to clear this. Sadly it was found to be a secondary site, the primary still undetected, so we are enjoying what remains of her life with us, as she chases at top speed round the garden with the other dogs completely unfazed by the reduction in her means of locomotion !

So with her in mind, I thought I would share this lovely story which my friend Jill messaged to me recently, called Why Dogs live less than Humans by a six year old on losing his elderly Irish Wolfhound friend

*"He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life — like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay for as long as we do."*

- *Live simply.*
- *Love generously.*
- *Care deeply.*
- *Speak kindly.*

*Remember, if a dog was the teacher you would learn things like:*

- *When your loved ones come home, always run to greet them.*
- *Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.*
- *Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure Ecstasy.*
- *Take naps.*
- *Stretch before rising.*
- *Run, romp, and play daily.*
- *Thrive on attention and let people touch you.*
- *Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.*
- *On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.*



- *On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.*
- *When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.*
- *Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.*
- *Be faithful.*
- *Never pretend to be something you're not.*
- *If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.*
- *When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.*

*That's the secret of happiness that we can learn from a good dog."*

We are off for a short visit to Yorkshire soon where we hope to pop in to see Avril and Fred. I know she will love this story. Hope you are enjoying this gorgeous Spring weather. The Ladies are off to The Lock Tearooms for afternoon tea at Heybridge to avoid the building works!

With love to you all,

*Vivien, deputy warden*

## **Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.**

- Don't miss the boat.
- Remember we are all in the same boat!
- Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big
- Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- Build your future on high ground.
- For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- When you're stressed, float awhile.
- Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

*Submitted by Sue Frederick*



*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 how to edit a church magazine**

My dear Nephew Darren,

So, your vicar has appointed you to be the magazine editor; I wonder what you have done to offend him. I appointed our magazine editor 20 years ago, after her dog dug up my rose bed. Sadly, she seems unaware that I gave it to her as a penance and has been happily carrying on ever since. She has even developed a nasty persistence when it comes to chasing me for a vicar's letter every month. Becoming editor has brought out the tyrant in her.

I applaud your hope that your magazine will be a great force for good in the community, but I fear you may be disappointed. You will hardly believe this, but many readers of our magazine seem to ignore my pastoral letter altogether, and instead scan the adverts for plumbers and undertakers – and even for both - if there has been a major burst in their pipes.

In any case, here are some editorial tips to bear in mind: if you want to keep any piece of church information confidential, then publish it in your magazine. On the other hand, if you accidentally transpose the names of the ladies responsible for the altar pedestal and lectern on the flower rota, it will be spotted within seconds of publication. And you will not be easily forgiven.

Staffing rotas can be helpful, so that people know who to blame when anything goes wrong. Reports of meetings of monthly groups are also welcome, because not everyone who goes to these meetings can stay awake the whole time, and thus a report informs them about the bits they slept through.

Always include a list of contact details for all the church officers, but don't worry if you mix up their various phone numbers. In fact, it can help get people talking to each other, because in order to reach the PCC Secretary, they will have had to phone most of the other PCC members first.

My final piece of advice is to omit any deadline for submission for the following month. A deadline is like a red rag to a bull, and simply incites people to break it. Whereas if you have them a bit worried that they may be left out, they will get you the copy in good time.





I wish you many happy hours reading badly written copy, fending off fearful poems, and stalking your own vicar, in vain hopes of getting his clergy letter.  
Your loving uncle,  
*Eustace*



Messy Church continues to be a popular and well supported venture at All Saints. The afternoons often see 15+ children and their parents/carers attending.

Messy Church is normally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, unless the church has a previous booking. Consequently the March and April gathering will both be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays. of the month.

We have the SPACE, we have the CHILDREN and FAMILIES, the ENTHUSIASM, and some helpers, but we need more help.....(please contact Elaine)



## TEN to TEN Rambling Group

The date of the next walk for the Ten-to-Ten rambling group is Saturday March 9th. This will be a walk around Purleigh, Cold Norton and Stow Maries. Meet at Winterslete Farm as usual for car share ready to leave at ten to ten. Enquiries to 01621 854056

## Church Coffee Mornings

Jean and Elaine have decided not to continue to run the monthly Church Coffee Mornings but will review it later in the year.



# Book Reviews

## **.Lent with New Daylight**

*New Daylight* is The Bible Reading Fellowship's most popular series of Bible reading notes, with many thousands of devoted subscribers. Now, for the first time, BRF is breaking new ground with a special edition of *New Daylight* for Lent.

As well as daily reflections from some of the series' best-loved writers, *Lent with New Daylight* offers a range of thought-provoking discussion material for weekly Lent groups.

Helping people engage with the Bible and apply it to their lives has been central to BRF's work from its humble beginnings at St Matthew's Church, Brixton, in the 1920s. This new publication is designed to appeal to regular readers and newcomers alike. For those already committed to daily Bible reading, these writers – Margaret Silf, Liz Hoare, Michael Mitton and Naomi Starkey – are faithful friends; for those new to the practice, the engaging content and convenient format offers an attractive, accessible, competitively priced introduction.

David Winter has written for *New Daylight* for almost 30 years: 'I know how much many Christians value them,' he says, '... but a recent survey showed that most churchgoers only hear the Bible when it's read to them in church, although they admit they would like to know the Bible better. Well, it won't communicate from the bookshelf or a cupboard! Surely, it's worth giving daily Bible reading a try, and with *New Daylight* I promise you it's not a chore, but a daily delight.'

Readers of *Lent with New Daylight* will find themselves in good company. Debbie Thrower, team leader of BRF's The Gift of Years programme, has read *New Daylight* almost without a break since her teens: 'I like the fact that you get a sense of who these authors are: they're people who have done their own reading and they're giving you the gems that they've culled... Very often I find their words will come back to me during the day and I'm sure this is the work of the Holy Spirit.'

Lucy Moore, founder and team leader of BRF's innovative Messy Church programme, explains why she's another fan: 'It's... like having a group of friends you hang out with, who you chat over things with... when you look back, you realise that hanging out with them for so long has changed your attitudes and a little bit of your character.'

To find out more go to [www.brfonline.org.uk](http://www.brfonline.org.uk) and search for Lent with New Daylight.

*Taken from the Parish Pump website*

**NB Our Daily Bread** copies are available free of charge, at the back of church.



# CURRY CLUB



...will once again be at Balti Bhujon, Mill Road,  
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Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm

Cost £16 (cash payment please)

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Mixed Starter

\* \* \* \* \*

Main Dish and Side Dish

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Drinks to be ordered separately and paid for when  
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Places are limited this time. . . .to book please  
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Mike and Julie 858803 by Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March

**N.B.**

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**24th MARCH**



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All Saints Church, Maldon

Saturday 30th March at 7.30pm

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# JAIL BREAK

**A musical about Paul in Philippi**  
*by Roger Jones*

**Maldon Methodist Harambee Drama Group**

Are performing this great Musical

Friday 8th March 2019 7.30pm (Doors open 7pm)

Saturday 9th March 2019 2pm (Doors open 1.30pm)

Saturday 9th March 2019 7.30pm (Doors open 7pm)

We are Pleased to announce the Author/Composer Mr Roger Jones himself will be with us for our Saturday Evening Performance as well as leading our Sunday Service Worship at 10.30am

Adults £6.00 Children/Pensioners £4.00

Box Office Harambee Julia 01621 859778 or Email [jj-ribbits@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jj-ribbits@hotmail.co.uk)

"Performance authorised by Christian Music Ministries/Sovereign Music UK" - [sovereignmusic@aol.com](mailto:sovereignmusic@aol.com)



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After Eight Social Club

# Dance! Dance! Dance!



**Saturday 23 March**  
**Maldon Town Hall**

Admission: Members £6.00 Non Members £8.00  
Optional fish & chips can be ordered and paid for on  
the door.

Doors open 7.30pm

The after *eight* social club runs various activities  
every month of the year.

These include quizzes, meals out, coffee evenings, excursions etc.

If you require further information call Mike on 01621 856219

We also have a facebook page

[www.aftereightsocialclub.co.uk](http://www.aftereightsocialclub.co.uk)

.....

## Adam & Eve

At Sunday School the children were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Little Josh was especially intent when the teacher told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down and looking scared. "Josh, what is the matter?"

Josh whispered "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

.....

### Dates for the Diary

3rd March	4:00 pm Tea at the Vicarage for Church Cleaners
6th March	Ash Wednesday
9th March	Messy Church
13th March	10.30 to 12 am Lent Groups begin (5 weeks)
25th March	Lady Day ( The Annunciation) 6:45 pm Holy Communion
25th March	Church AGM
31st March	Mothering Sunday
13th April	Quiet Day in St Mary's
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

February 24th **Thea Grace Chapman** of Washington Road

### FUNERALS

February 8th **Keith Alan Curtis** aged 68 of St Peter's Court

February 11th **Pauline Sylvia Frost** aged 81 of Cross Road





# Prayer Diary

## March 2019

1 St David	Wales, and churches dedicated to St David
2	Tearfund
3 Sunday next before Lent	Paramedics and all Ambulance Staff
4	The Healing Ministry
5 Ash Wednesday	Our observance of Lent
6	The Girl Guide movement throughout the world
7	Missionaries throughout the world
8	Church of England Schools
9	Those who lead and attend 'Messy Church' today
10 First Sunday of Lent	Churches in our Deanery
11	Children in care
12	Foster Parents
13	Royal School of Church Music
14	Our Choir
15	Christian Booksellers
16	Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Group
17 2nd Sunday of Lent St Patrick	Ireland, and churches dedicated to St Patrick
18	Our Police Forces
19 St Joseph	All fathers
20	Our Archbishop
21	Retired Clergy
22	Christians throughout the world
23	Chelmsford Cathedral Staff
24 Third Sunday of Lent	All Priests and Ministers of the Church
25 The Annunciation	All who are bearing children
26	All Midwives
27	Our Ministry Team
28	Our Diocesan and Area Bishops
29	All employed in Hospices
30	The British Heart Foundation
31 Fourth Sunday of Lent	Mothering Sunday
	All Mothers and our Mother Church; for the work of The Mothers' Union and Women's Institute

**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
VERGER	Ken Russell 7 Wantz Haven, Tel: 01621 853470
<sup>5</sup> 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
HON TREASURER	Eddie Sewell Tel: 01621 851961
PCC SECRETARY	Julie Ovenden Tel: 01621 858803
ORGANIST and CHOIRMASTER	Dr Stuart Pegler Tel: 01621 850530
RECORDER OF THE CHURCH	Kenneth Downham Tel: 01621 854655
PARISH NEWS EDITOR	Peter Clark Tel: 01621 740374 email: <a href="mailto:pjandvclark@gmail.com">pjandvclark@gmail.com</a>
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Elizabeth Blyth Tel 01621 854068 Email: <a href="mailto:elisabeth.blyth@gmail.com">elisabeth.blyth@gmail.com</a>



## 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](http://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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