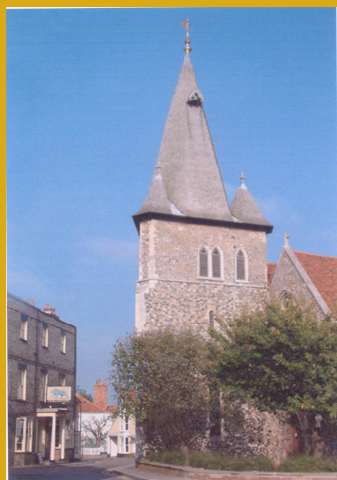


ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

June 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).
6:30 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

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. The Easter Candle by Elizabeth Blyth



PARISH LETTER

“IN NOMINE PATRIS ET FELIS” – In the name of the Father and of the Cat.....

In the March magazine our curate, Revd Julie, introduced us to one of the great joys of her life, her little white terrier Toby. After describing his antics she went on to ask: “Is it too much to consider that dogs might teach us something about God?” ‘Oh doggify the Lord with me’ I thought, as I read on with rather mixed emotions. It is difficult to suspend one’s sense of disbelief if one is a ‘cat person’. I tried to get the hang of ‘seeing the world through the eyes of a dog’ – well, almost. Hmm – obedience and unconditional love? I wasn’t always very good at those with humans! Faithfulness, loyalty and forgiveness? – perhaps this is why every dog is secretly called Fido. But the price of such devotion, was – I tried to push the thought away – slobbery hands. So horrible was the memory, I even went straight off to wash them.

As the weeks passed and Julie’s article stayed in my mind, I began to feel that somebody of importance (me) should redress the balance by extolling the Catty-ness of God. In our kitchen stands a small wooden oblong, on which are inscribed the words: ‘Three cats ago, I was normal’. Now on Cat No 5, I felt that Liz and I are more than imbued with all the wisdom of Solomon on the subject.



Joseph

Like humans, cats have unique personalities: and this is certainly true of the two clergy of the parish who are currently employed by their cats: Stephen, our Vicar, and Graham our Hon Assistant Priest. Tommy (aka Tompkin) at the Vicarage and Joseph here at ‘Selkirk House’ in Heybridge are both the proud owners of Church of England clergy. Specially vetted for this task by the Diocesan Bishop, Graham and Stephen have passed examinations in “Abject Subjection at Food Time”, and “Involuntary Besottment”.

But when it comes to spiritual matters, can we say that the cat species is capable of reflecting God? Well, since Egyptian days, the answer would appear to be ‘yes’. The goddess Bast was herself a cat. Many homes today sport a bust of Bast (!) so Bast ain’t bust (unless you’ve dropped her). It seems we should never underestimate the spiritual power of the common homely mog.

Perhaps we should begin with what a cat is not. The ‘notness’ of the cat is theologically important. A cat is not always friendly, but aloof. A cat does



not always come when called. A cat is not always there – it may be in hiding or have gone annoyingly missing. In these ways, cats can teach us a lot about prayer. When we pray it may seem as if God is not there, or is not listening, or has even scarpered (known in the trade as ‘Deus Absconditus’). All these aspects of God are alarming; but hey, we should not be surprised. For God invented the cat.

Conversely the recreational and companionable aspects of our puss show us the faithful comfort of a God who is close. The God who is with us in our cat’s purr, their rolling on the carpet, blissful snoozing on the duvet, or jumping about chasing cat-toys or real mice.

However, the most famous lines about how a cat can possibly serve God were penned by the poet Christopher Smart (1722-71) as part of a religious poem *Jubilate Agno*, ‘Rejoice in the Lamb’(circa 1759-64). Despite being written in the madhouse (the impecunious Smart could not cope with a young wife and children to provide for) the poem is remarkably lucid; the 74 lines which begin ‘For I will consider my cat Jeoffry’ (Smart’s sole companion in confinement) are amongst the greatest favourites with the British public. Smart also adds some unusual detail to the Bible: ‘For the Lord commanded Moses concerning the cats at the departure of the Children of Israel from Egypt, for every family had at least one cat in the bag.’ Cool.

What delights Smart most is that Jeoffry’s every move, habit and peculiarity all reflect God. Jeoffry knows that ‘God is his Saviour’ and that he comes from ‘the tribe of Tiger’. As if by prophecy Smart patriotically declares in these days of Brexit that ‘English cats are the best in Europe’. So in every respect Jeoffry is a servant of the living God: ‘he purrs in thankfulness when God tells him he’s a good cat’.

Smart has some wonderful phrases about him: “a mixture of gravity and waggery”, “he can spraggle and waggle”; and early C18 science even makes an appearance - ‘by stroking of him I have found out electricity.’ That same electricity Smart interprets as the life-force: ‘the spiritual substance which God sends from heaven to sustain the bodies both of man and beast.’

It is well worth seeking out Smart’s remarkable poem. It can be easily found on the internet. Reading it makes us very aware of how Smart sees the divine spirit as sustaining Jeoffry as ‘complete cat’. Just as you are I are ‘complete human’ through God’s grace.

One of the great things about Smart’s poem is his painstaking observation. Every habit, every typical cat behaviour, glorifies God. So when your cat next comes and sits on your computer keyboard (!) , why not use those interrupted moments for ‘wonder, love and praise’? And puss will be happy!

Canon Graham



PILGRIMS

We welcome to the Eucharist on June 30th a group of pilgrims walking to Bradwell. The pilgrims belong to the ecumenical group "Christians Aware" and we will be commissioning them for their pilgrimage in the service. I know the people of All Saints will make them very welcome

Stephen

THE EUCHARIST WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING

On Sunday June 2nd, the focus of our worship will be praying for healing, and the service will include, for those who wish, anointing and laying on of hands. Names of people to be remembered may be shared in the service or placed in the box in the "prayer corner"

PET SERVICE

All creatures great and small are welcome with their owners on Sunday July 7th at 10.00am. This will be a church parade and in the service there will be the opportunity for your pets to be brought forward for a blessing. This service is a lovely opportunity for us to give thanks for all our pets mean to us.

MALDON OPEN GARDENS

A number of local gardens will again be open for Christian Aid on the afternoon of Sunday June 23d. Programmes will be available from outside All Saints. The Vicarage garden will again be open.

N.B.

COPY DEADLINE FOR JULY MAGAZINE
23rd JUNE

.....

With school-days in mind...

A little girl after her geography exam: "Please God make Copenhagen the capital of Japan - at least for this month."

.....



10 ways to reduce your impact on climate change

I graduated from university in 2016, reading Environmental Conservation, as well as doing Environmental Studies at college. Since then, I have had an interest in climate change. It has been in the public eye a lot more recently, which has made me realise how vital it now is to try to make a difference. I don't think I quite realised the magnitude of the problem, but this has become more apparent to me after the recent publicity. It is looking less likely that the earth is going to be a hospitable place in the future for humans and wildlife, unless we take drastic action soon.

I can see, now, there are a lot of things that I personally need to change, the two biggest are flying less and massively reducing my meat consumption. This would be to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere such as Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and Methane.

A big part of what needs to be done is by companies and governments across the globe, but we can all help. Below I am going to list the biggest ways that we can help.

1. Eat Less Meat and Dairy

Particularly beef and lamb which are ruminants, one thing this means is that they produce a lot of methane which is roughly 30x more potent than CO₂ as a greenhouse gas.

A good way to try this is set yourself a challenge for how many days to go meat free in a week, for example meat free Monday. I am now trying to be Vegan 4 or 5 days a week, but have some meat as a treat, mainly just chicken.

2. Fly Less

This is one that I really can't preach about, having just flown around the world, but now it has come to my attention more I will try to limit my flying to once per year. Greenpeace propose to introduce a flight tax, for if you fly more than once per year. Another thing to do is to try to have less stopovers on long haul flights as take-off and landing emit the most CO₂.

3. Consume Less

I think this is the one Mum will find most difficult! Try to only buy things when you need them. This is something that has the benefit of saving money too. Other ideas are 'upcycling', (try to repair or improve things rather than buying a new one) and taking old items such as clothes and books to charity shops.

4. Drive Less

Unless it is a long journey, try to walk, cycle or get public transport instead. This is yet another option that could save money too!

5. Install Solar Panels

This reduces the demand for fossil fuels and also saves money in the long run.

6. Eat local/ non-Packaged Food, Organic food



Try to buy food that is grown locally and in season as well as trying to buy more loose vegetables that aren't packaged. This will help because the food will have to be transported a shorter distance. It also helps by supporting local farmers and local business.

7. Recycle

Always recycle what you can at home including plastics, tin foil and cardboard.

Rather than throwing them away take unwanted clothes to charity shops or pass them on to someone else.

When getting a takeaway coffee, buy a reusable coffee cup rather than using single use non-recyclable coffee cups.

Aim to use less cling film or tin foil, instead using Tupperware boxes to store food.

Use tatty old clothes as rags for cleaning or dusting or take them, clean, to a Charity shop as 'rags'.

8. Reduce the Environmental Footprint of your Home

This is yet another that will save money in the long run, get more insulation in your house, which will reduce the need to have the heating on as much.

When you need to buy new appliances make sure they are more efficient, the efficiency should be on the label.

When you need new light bulbs, LED lights use much less power than ordinary light bulbs.

Set your Thermostat to lower (no more than 19 degrees is recommended) and wear extra layers if you are still cold.

Avoid using cling film and tin foil when possible, I am trying to use reusable containers for food storage instead.

9. Plant Trees

If you have space in the garden you could plant some more trees, this will absorb some CO₂ and give out oxygen, whilst making the garden look nicer too!

There are programmes at various organisations across the country for voluntary tree planting.

House plants are a way to make the house nicer and another way of taking CO₂ out of the atmosphere.

10. Avoid Palm Oil

Production of Palm Oil (which you will find in a huge number of products) leads to deforestation as forests are often burnt down, which produces a lot of CO₂ and reduces the number of trees to take up CO₂. Removing rainforest also destroys threatened species' homes such as the Orang-Utan.

Even 'Sustainable Palm Oil' isn't that good and still leads to a lot of forest clearance so it is best to avoid when you can.

If we could all try and do just some of these, and let others know so they can join in, maybe we can persuade our Government that we all mean business?!

Nick Carter



SECRETS OF MALDON'S GUILDS

by
Stephen P. Nunn

In the days before social housing, unemployment benefit and easily accessible health services, people turned to faith for their solace. Parishes responded through the establishment of support fraternities called “Guilds”. Attached to a church and with an adopted patron Saint, their membership consisted of local people who lived in the same community and often worked in the same trades. They were early mutual societies that were there for the sick, to maintain standards in work and play, and all within a regulated framework of faith. They were often seen as both a method of trade control and a sort of devotional club. They were said to be “older than the Kings of England” and may have existed as early as the Anglo-Saxon period. But they became particularly prevalent from the 1100’s, reaching their peak in the 14th and 15th centuries. Authority was granted to them under Royal Charters, or Certificates, and a number of these fascinating documents still survive. Their governing body included wardens and masters, members were bound by an oath and paid an annual fee. However, two successive Acts (of 1545 and 1547) gave Henry VIII the power to dissolve them as he so wished. Some metamorphosed into City Livery Companies and a few of the provincial ones clung on until the 18th century, but their hey-day was well and truly over. Looking back at them today, their activities seem shrouded in mystery, their secrets largely lost to the past. We know that in Maldon there were at least four - so what can we find out about them?

Although the original Moot Hall (now Thomas Cook travel agents) was once described as a “Guildhall”, our search takes us to the town’s parish churches. One of those Guild Certificates reveals that John Crakebon and Henry Hales, identified as the masters, founded a guild in honour of the Holy Trinity in All Saints Church in 1377. It was open to both “brothers and sisters” at 1/4d. per week, the money used to maintain a chaplain and to pay for wax tapers to burn at masses. The brethren met in the (then new) South Aisle, had to wear a hood on feast days and took meals together on special occasions. Two years later another fraternity, this time dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, was established at St. Peter’s Church (on the site of today’s Maeldune Centre and Plume Library). Henry Hale, John Pere and John Clere, were its masters. Again weekly fees were set at 1/4d but any member; “who shall be rebellious or deficient in payment shall be warned three times and then be removed...”. Special masses were said for departed brethren and there was a tabernacle to Our Lady in the church. A second Guild was then set up at All Saints – to St. Katherine – and met in the



North Chapel, still known to some as St. Katherine's Chapel. Members left money to the Guild in their wills, including Henry Johnson, a shoemaker, who bequeathed 16d and, in 1536, John Cheyney, a tailor, 4d. Many years later, in 1630, an antiquarian saw the tomb there of the founder and warden, Richard Lyon Shereman, but frustratingly the key elements of the inscription had been obliterated. The Guild of St. Catherine ceased around 1548, when its lands and those of the other guilds were sold to John Welles, a Maldon Fletcher.

Meanwhile at the fisherman's church, St. Mary's, down by the river; "Seynt Georges Guylde" maintained a priest and, after paying rents and giving alms to the poor, had a healthy balance in their coffers. In 1532, John Messing, left them "a candlestick and a basin" on his death. One particular plot of land that they rented (at 1d. per year in the 1530s) was "St. George's Croft, towards the Hythe". This was located in the area of the Downs, at the North Street end and about 50 yards back from the water's edge. It was probably cultivated for the benefit of the brethren - a kind of early, co-operative allotment.

Those medieval Guilds are now long gone, the remains of their members dust, their shrines and brightly coloured images destroyed, but somehow that spirit of fraternity is still around us. Walk along the Downs, call in at St. Mary's and there in the 12th century north wall you will find a niche, re-discovered during Victorian restoration work. And what is still housed in that ancient opening? - a statue of St. George. That carved image somehow links us with a brotherly love, that was active in an age when everyday life really could be a matter of desperate survival, without "a little help from friends".

THE ST KATHERINE GUILD

I am grateful to Stephen Nunn for his interesting article on the Medieval Guilds in Maldon. Now the work on the parish office is completed, I have asked the PCC to consider restoring the historic name of St Katherine, which links this part of the church to its ancient past. What is now the "meeting room" and the new parish office, was originally the St Katherine Guild Chapel. Whilst we have retained the name of the D'Arcy Chapel (originally a chantry for the D'Arcy family); we have lost the identity of the St Katherine chapel which was an important part of the church before the Reformation.

It would be sad if this part of our history was forgotten. In fact, when you enter by the priest's door, you will still find a piscina, which is a medieval bowl for washing the sacred vessels, indicating the presence of the St Katherine altar. I have asked the PCC to rename the "Meeting Room" with the more interesting title "The St Katherine Room"

Stephen C.



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

REMINDER & UPDATED INFORMATION -

Bradwell Pilgrimage at St
Peter's Chapel,
Bradwell-on-Sea

Dear All

I am delighted to advise you of the updated details in relation to the forthcoming Bradwell Pilgrimage and Gathering, this year being held on **Saturday 6th July 2019** from 10.30am to 3:45pm at St Peter's Chapel, Bradwell-on-Sea.

This is a **FREE** day of pilgrimage, worship, activities and talks for the whole family in association with a variety of organisations.

Please see the poster opposite, which provides all the updated information for the event. Please see poster opposite which provides all the updated information for the event. Alternatively, please also visit the website for full information at www.bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk
+Bradwell

THANK YOU



Just a little note to say a huge big THANK YOU to you all for your amazing support and sponsorship! I am very pleased to say that I completed the marathon in 5.12.51, although that was for 27 miles as you just can't follow the race line! It was really tough going from about 18 miles, everything started hurting, but thinking of all the amazing support and sponsorship, it kept me going as I didn't want to let anyone or myself down!

I am so pleased that I have raised over £2500, meaning each of my 3 chosen charities will receive over £800 each. Just fabulous.

Thank you all so much.

Andrea x (Betty Smiths daughter)



BRADWELL PILGRIMAGE AND GATHERING



**SATURDAY
6TH JULY 2019
10:30AM - 3:45PM**

**A free day of pilgrimage, worship, activities
and talks for the whole family.**

With guest speakers:



**The Rt Revd
Alan Williams**
Bishop of Brentwood



**The Venerable
Ruth Patten**
Archdeacon of
Colchester



**The Rt Revd
Peter Hill**
Bishop of Barking

Programme

- * 10:45am – Commissioning outside St Thomas' Church
- * Pilgrimage Walk to Bradwell Chapel
- * Opening Worship on Arrival
- * Lunch break (*Bring a picnic or buy some food on site*)
- * 1:45pm Optional Sessions:
 - Eucharist
 - Talk: History of the chapel
 - Messy Church Activities
 - Guided walk and wildlife talks
 - Forest Schools Session
- * 3:15 - Closing worship
- * 3:45 – Finish



Note: Parking is available from Bradwell Village Hall (CM07QJ) & a shuttle bus will operate between the hall and the chapel throughout the day.



bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk



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Deputy Warden's Waffle

I have just come home from church with Cannon Grahams sermon going round my head about anger. That was this week, last week Julie was talking about loving our neighbours – all of them, even the ones we really find hard to like, let alone love. And we are encouraged to follow Jesus's teaching, and to pray for our enemies. Church has certainly proved challenging just lately, well for me at least. I get so incensed and achingly upset about news items; the harrowing footage of starving, wounded children in war torn Syria and other lands. And nearer to home the brutal and degrading abuse vulnerable adults are still subjected to by the supposed 'carers' in their residential homes. How on earth can I love and forgive the perpetrators of such violence and cruelty?

I found Cannon Graham's sermon today very timely –yes there certainly is so much anger in the world today. The big anger issues, mans inhumanity to man, and smaller anger issues, I lent them my pen and no one has even bothered to give it back!!! Personally speaking, it is the smaller issues I get kind of angry with, I am not someone who actually gets angry and the big issues just overwhelm me and a dreadful feeling of despair and hopelessness envelopes me. So what am I to do with these pulpit challenges? I just have to keep going and pray that it will all work out to God's pleasing. But I confess I do get cross with God. (as one of the ministers here said to me, 'don't worry Vicky, God' shoulders are broad!')

This months warden waffle was Viv's turn, so when asked by the Editor if I could do something instead, I said yes I was happy to help—ish!! As you all, I am sure are aware we are a bit thin on the ground at the moment with regard to Wardens . But when I was suddenly taken very poorly the help and support I received from Viv and Jenny was so appreciated. No both of them are a bit laid up, Dennis and I have been really helping each other to insure duties are covered. I am very pleased to report that Viv and Jenny are making satisfactory progress. As long as we all keep helping and supporting one another, I like to think we are going in the right direction.

Vicky Deputy Warden



TEN to TEN Rambling Group May 2019

May's walk with the All Saints' Ramblers was on Mersey Island and started from the visitor's car park of "Away Resorts" Eight of us set off walking through the Cudmore Grove Country Park and out to the sea wall where we continued past the Colchester Oyster Sheds and onward. Leaving the wall we walked through a field of sheep and young cattle and came out in Shop Lane from where we walked across the fields parallel with East Mersey Road, crossing Meeting Lane and on upward meeting the main road opposite the lane leading to Martin's Vintage Tearoom and Vineyard.



We were able to sit outside the tearoom for lunch then well fed and watered west off again towards our cars passing East Mersey church and Coopers and Fen Farm caravan sites, arriving back at approximately 2:30 pm.

Next month's walk will be on 8th June, led by Cathy in the Maldon Area. If you are interested in joining us her number is 07747198795

Anita Withrington



ALL SAINTS MOTHERS UNION MEETING May 2019

At our meeting this month we were delighted to welcome Ellen Hedley as our speaker. Ellen, a well-known figure in the antique business, had a shop in Maldon for over 35 years. Her obvious passion for antiques, and jewellery in particular, was evident as she explained the differences between yellow, rose and white gold, and the carat scale of grading. As we all know jewellery is very personal and we were able, with Ellen's guidance, to gain an understanding of changing preferences over time through a range of illustrations. She also highlighted the close connection that exists between jewellery and fashion, and the need for costume jewellery; which is fun to wear and not wholly reserved for special occasions.

Today it is the bolder art deco designs that are popular rather than the cameos and brooches worn with the high neck-lines of Victorian times. Silver items have also risen in popularity as have coloured stones reflecting the famous purple, white and green of the suffragettes. As we were treated to a number of amusing antidotes from Ellen's long career in antiques she also underlined the need for care, along with certificates of authenticity when purchasing antique jewellery as amber can be reformed and lasers used to enhance the colour of precious stones to increase their value; so buyers beware!

Having had the opportunity to ask questions we then paused for tea and coffee during which time Ellen chatted with members about personal items of jewellery and shared experiences in the 'world of antiques'. The meeting finally closed with a heartfelt thank you to Ellen for an informative talk, and a reminder that the next Mothers' Union meeting, (for members only), will be at Merie's on June 4th at the earlier time of 7 o'clock when the theme for the Bring and Buy will be 'Strawberries'.

Maureen Searles



HOLY DAYS

16th June Fathers' Day, a time to celebrate male role models

In the UK, USA and Canada, the third Sunday in June is Father's Day. It's a good time for sons and daughters to take their father to his favourite restaurant, or to watch a favoured sport, or whatever else he enjoys doing.

How will you celebrate it this year? If your own father cannot be with you, is there a 'spare' father somewhere in your church or your circle of friends whose children cannot be with him, and who would welcome some special treat on the day?

How do these special days ever get started, anyway? Well, Father's Day began because way back in 1909 there was a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mother's Day was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time. But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Louise the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

Sonora Louise soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. Sonora Louise had wanted Father's Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday), but the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. And so on June 19th, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane.

Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day - a permanent, national holiday.

Today, Father's Day is a great time to celebrate any sort of male role models,



like uncles or grandfathers, as well as dads. Certainly Father's Day has become a day for greeting card companies to rejoice, and sales of the most popular gifts for Dad (shirts, ties, and electric razors) increase considerably. Perhaps most telling of all, though, is how children continue to see their fathers: in America, for example, more 'collect calls' to home are recorded on Father's Day than on any other day of the year!

Taken from the Parish Pump website

'THE MESSIAH IN PASSIONTIDE': REVIEW

On Palm Sunday evening (April 14th) an augmented All Saints' Choir was the main contributor to a service of Passiontide devotional music from Handel's 'Messiah'. Many of the older singers must have been long used to performing the work, but it was rewarding to see members of the Junior Choir really enjoying this music for the first time. Our Director of Music, Dr Stuart Pegler, had selected solo and choral items in a sequence which made up an original and satisfying whole. The thematic stress was on comfort, atonement, and future promise of resurrection. All the soloists were taken from the choir and acquitted themselves admirably. There was some lovely tone from Melba Ryde and Graham Bell, forthright declamation from Mike Gibson, and a touching directness from Sue Carter in 'He was rejected'. Susanna Craig negotiated the florid divisions in 'Rejoice greatly' with great accomplishment. Dr Pegler's accompaniment was, as usual, most considerate to his singers under the not inconsiderable difficulty of being at some distance from them. The choir (without a conductor) sang with disciplined unanimity: for me the highlights of their singing were 'Surely, he hath borne our griefs' and the intricate fugal interplay of 'He trusted in God'. Word projection from everyone was excellent: and with bible-readings and hymns tellingly interspersed, the whole 'entertainment' (Handel would have called it that: it had a much more serious meaning in the C18) was very moving. 'Messiah' remains complex and at times very difficult music to bring off: but its message is uniquely powerful. It was a great tribute to all concerned that this service of devotion and praise turned out to be considerably more.

Canon Graham



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10am-12noon

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10am-12noon

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A HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION IN SOUTH ASIA

The Christians of South India have a strong tradition that the Gospel was brought to the Indian sub-continent by the Apostle Thomas, in 50 or 52 AD. The Mar Thoma Christians of Kerala believe that he founded churches in seven towns and won thousands of converts from various castes. Tradition also says that he suffered many false accusations and other kinds of opposition. Eventually he was stabbed to death at Chennai for refusing to worship the Hindu goddess Kali.

The Thatta Nagar Fakirs of Sindh, now in Pakistan, also believe themselves to be descended from converts baptised by Thomas at Thatta (near modern Karachi).

They claim to possess books and other artefacts that would prove this link, but do not show these to outsiders. Thomas later moved on to evangelise in another Indian kingdom where he was martyred.

Whatever the details of earlier times, there is strong documentary evidence that Christianity had reached parts of the sub-continent by the beginning of the third century. By 225 there was a bishop of Baith Lapat in north India caring for Christians who had been converted by missionaries from Persia. There was also a Christian community Baluchistan in modern Pakistan.

And probably in the last 5 years of the third century the Bishop Dudi of Basra went to India where he evangelised many people. In 325 John the Persian signed the Niceness Creed on behalf of the churches in the whole of Persia and part of India. Twenty years later a group of about 400 Christians migrated from Edessa (MUST IDENTIFY COUNTRY) to south-west India. Their spiritual leader was Bishop Joseph, who had seen in a dream that the Indian Christians were being humiliated and persecuted and needed help. A Christian businessman called Thomas of Cana. They taught and encouraged and built up the faith of the beleaguered Indian Christians, converted many other Indians to Christianity and erected church buildings.

At a later date they were persecuted by Muslims and still later they were persecuted by the Portuguese who tried to eradicate their Jewish customs and rituals.

To be continued.

An extract from a Barnabus Publication Submitted by Geoff Dickman

DIE ALTEN KNABEN (THE OLD BOYS). CONCERT AT MALDON ON SATURDAY 18TH MAY.



This amusingly-named Choir visited Maldon for a concert on Saturday 18th May. Reinhard Lamp, their Maître d', explained at the beginning of the concert how he had been wanting to bring his choir to Maldon for some time, having experienced the rigours of Market Hill on a cycle tour with a heavily-laden bicycle some fifteen years ago, an obstacle which caused him some considerable trouble at the time.

The twelve-strong male voice choir made a remarkable impression on the audience. Their precision, intonation and dynamic range all came together in a marvellous display of what a male voice choir is capable of singing. We heard much classically and romantically based music, from Silcher and Kahn to Poulenc, Vaughan Williams and even Scottish Traditional (Loch Lomond) -- the tenor soloist gave a remarkable impression of a lyrical Scots singer in that item.

There was something for everyone to enjoy. The Poulenc displayed their virtuosity and technical skills, there was very deep feeling in their expressive romantic singing, and great fun and entertainment in items like La Cuccaracha and the Beatles' "Madonna".

I am absolutely certain that the audience felt well rewarded for taking time off from the Eurovision Song Contest to listen to the very fine group of singers. The hope is that we can get them to make a return visit some time.



Photo Barbara Gale



SERVICES FOR JUNE

2nd June	Seventh Sunday of Eastertide (Sunday after Ascension) 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Worship for All lead By Adrienne and Canon Graham 11:15 am The Eucharist with Prayers for Healing and laying on of hands 6:00 pm Choral Evensong at St Mary's
3rd June	Monday 7:00 pm Holy Communion
6th June	Thursday 11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
9th June	Pentecost (Whitsunday) 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church.. 12 noon Churches Together Pentecost Service at the Prom. 6:30 pm Evensong and Sermon
10th June	Monday 11:00 am Holy Communion in Hailey House
11th June	Tuesday St Barnabas The Apostle 10:00 am Holy Communion in St Mary's 7:30 pm Archdeacon's Visitation and admission of Churchwardens, in the Cathedral.
13th June	Thursday 11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
16th June	Trinity Sunday 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church.. 12:30 pm Holy Baptism 6:30 pm Evensong and Sermon
19th June	Wednesday 11:00 am Holy Communion in Longfield Care Home
20th June	Thursday Corpus Christi Day of Thanksgiving for the Eucharist 11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP1662)
23rd June	First Sunday of Trinity 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church 6:30 pm Evensong and Sermon
27th June	Thursday 11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
30th June	St Peter the Apostle (Patronal Festival) 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church 6:30 pm Prayer and Praise (In the Vicarage garden, weather permitting)



DIARY FOR JUNE

Mon 3rd June	10 am - 12 Maldon Pioneers Drop In 7:30 pm PCC in the meeting room
Tues 4th June	10 am - 12 noon Meeting Point 10:00 am Prayer Group in Meeting Room 7:00 pm Mother's Union
Wed 5th June	12 - 1:30 pm All Saints Lunches 7:00 pm Parish Office
Thu 6th June	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7 - 8 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Mon 10th June	9:00 am Men's Breakfast (Rose and Crown) 10 am - 12 Maldon Pioneers Drop In
Tues 11th June	10 am - 12 noon Meeting Point
Wed 12th June	7:00 pm Wentworth Trustees in the D'Arcy Room.
Thu 13th June	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Sat 15th June	2 - 4 pm Messy Church
Mon 17th June	10 am - 12 Maldon Pioneers Drop In
Tue 18th June	10 am - 12 noon Meeting Point
Wed 19th June	7:00 pm Parish Office
Thu 20th June	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7 - 8 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Mon 24th June	10 am Maldon Pioneers Drop In
Tues 25th June	10 - 12 noon Meeting Point
Thu 27th June	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7 - 8 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 2:1-12, Mk 9:1-8, Lk 5:17-26

The Pharisees had come to Jesus' home in Capernaum to make sure he wasn't breaking any of their religious rules...

So many came to hear Jesus speak that they filled his house...



and the streets outside.

Four men brought their paralysed friend to Jesus for healing

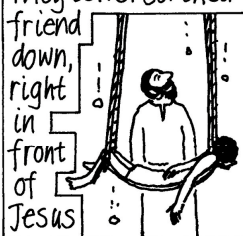


But the crowd wouldn't let them get close



so they climbed up to the roof and took off some tiles.

They lowered their friend down, right in front of Jesus



Jesus was so impressed by their faith, he said to the paralysed man



Your sins are forgiven.

The Pharisees were shocked!



Only God can forgive sins...so this fellow is insulting God!

But Jesus knew what they were thinking.



Why are you thinking such wrong thoughts?

Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'?



But I want you to know that I do have the authority to forgive sins...

Get up, take your mat and go home!



He got up, picked up his mat and walked home, praising God




The crowd was amazed...

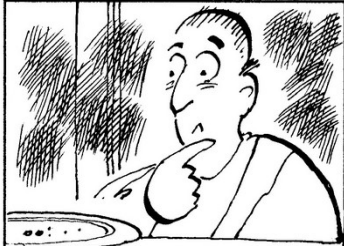


We have never seen anything like this!

The Tale of The Friend at Midnight



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO HAD
RUN OUT OF BREAD...

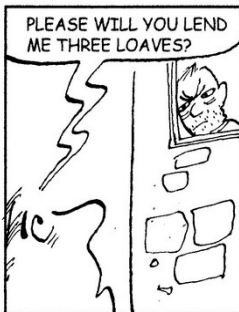
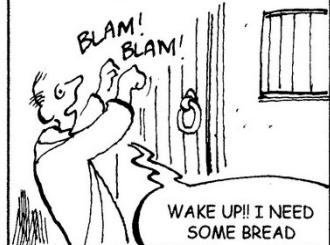


...AND HE NEEDED PLENTY AS
A FRIEND WAS COMING TO STAY.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS
MIDNIGHT...



... HE WENT TO HIS NEIGHBOUR'S
HOUSE AND BANGED ON THE
DOOR - LOUDLY!



PLEASE WILL YOU LEND
ME THREE LOAVES?



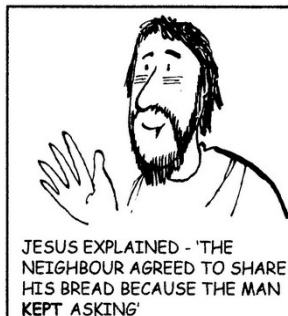
GO AWAY!! WE'RE ALL TRYING TO SLEEP!



OH GO ON... PLEASE I
REALLY DO NEED SOME!



ALRIGHT THEN! BUT I'M
ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE I
WANT SOME PEACE AND QUIET!



JESUS EXPLAINED - 'THE
NEIGHBOUR AGREED TO SHARE
HIS BREAD BECAUSE THE MAN
KEPT ASKING'



'DON'T BE AFRAID TO TALK
TO GOD. HE LONGS TO HEAR
OUR PRAYERS'.



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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

Beware the summer strawberry tea

My dear Nephew Darren

Never, ever feel aggrieved that your summer strawberry tea has to be held in the church hall rather than on a lawn, since there is hardly a single blade of grass to be found in your entire parish. You have no idea of the potential calamities you are avoiding.

Here, during the previous week, the organisers will be desperately asking the opinion of local farmers about the weather. In doing so, they forget that for the farming community, it is *always* the wrong sort of weather anyway. I once received a heartfelt plea from the staff at Heathrow Airport for our ladies to stop calling them at hourly intervals to find out if hurricanes may be imminent.

Naturally, the day will start out warm and sunny and so all the tables will be arranged on the vicarage lawn. By 10am, tablecloths will have been laid. By 10.10am, a brisk breeze will have sprung up and someone will be delegated to retrieve them all from deep within the nettle patch. By 11am, clouds will gather, and a decision will be made to transfer everything into the church hall. Once that is completed, just when it is almost too late to change, the sun will re-emerge and there will be a frantic dash to put everything back on the lawn. This ensures that by 2pm when teas start, the ladies will already be in a state of collapse.

Last year, the Dowager Duchess of Trilby graced us with her presence. As she sat with her entourage, elegantly sipping tea under a giant parasol over the table, the thing – equally elegantly – closed around her, leaving her looking like one of those unfortunate insects trapped by a carnivorous plant. To emerge from its depths looking entirely unflustered was beyond even her social skills.

Fortunately, attention was diverted from her predicament by the wife of one of our farmers. This substantial lady had been sitting in a chair with slightly too thin legs for the damp lawn. The rear two slowly sank into the grass, eventually catapulting the dear lady backwards into the lap of the local

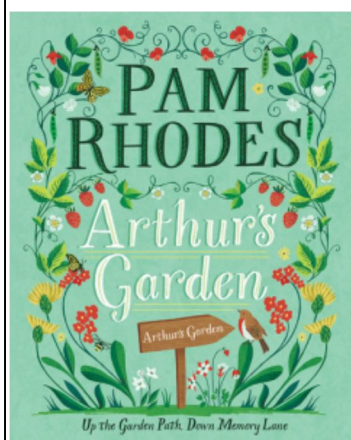


mayor. Disentangling red flannelette from mayoral chains took some time, and delicacy.

At least when I have had enough, the lawn can be cleared in minutes by drawing the raffle. The moment the last plastic shower cap and set of Christmas doilies has been awarded, there will be a dash to get home, giving my dog the opportunity to retrieve remnants of cream cakes from the flower beds.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Book Reviews

**Arthur's Garden - Up the Garden Path,
Down Memory Lane by Pam Rhodes,
Lion, £14.99**

“As I stand at my kitchen sink and look across at what we optimistically call our herb garden, to one side I see an old wooden sign on which are carved the words ‘Arthur’s Garden’.

“Arthur doesn’t live here. My wonderful great-uncle died nearly 30 years ago having spent most of his long life in the Victorian terraced house in which his mother had brought up 11 children. The sign had stood in the garden there for decades, a gift to the man who’d always cherished that small patch of Kent, creating a riot of glorious colour which lit up the row of long, narrow strips that tumbled down to a line of back gates from which you could look across the lane to the local coal yard below.”

In *Arthur’s Garden*, Pam Rhodes collates a heart-warming collection of songs and poems, advice and tit bits about the glorious, very ordinary, English garden – told through the life of her Uncle Arthur. This is a gardening book, with a story.

Taken from the Parish Pump website.



Churches Together in Maldon
are coming together to celebrate

Pentecost

With a pop-up event for the community on the
Hythe in front of the Jolly Sailor

Sunday 9th June

From 2 – 4pm



Join in the fun with face painting, music
and craft – all for free!



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Pentecost 2019

The churches across the town are running a **“Family Fun Pop up on the Hythe”** event for the local community on **Sunday 9 June 2019, 2-4pm**. After the more reflective Good Friday march of silent witness, we want to use the birthday of the church – Pentecost Sunday - to bless the local community with a free experience and to show that being a Christian is a positive experience.

On the raised platform in front of the Jolly Sailor and beside the Kings Head, we will have an area for face painting and craft; a cake give-away and a band with some dance competition running. Harambee will be performing from their recent musical. We will have a prayer space too with the opportunity to talk and pray if requested. Throughout the programme, individuals from the churches will briefly share the difference following Jesus has made in their lives.

Volunteers to help with the face painting and craft are needed – DBSs are required as we are working with children. Give-away cakes – like cupcakes, flapjack and shortbread-style are needed please. “Big cakes” like sponges are delicious but are not so easy to give away. Prayer-ers and welcomers to give out fliers and encourage folks to join in

And a crowd – please come along and invite your friends to pop along.

And throughout all the planning and running – **please pray** that we have the opportunity to show in word and action the hope we have in our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Clergy-church leaders are collating volunteers – so please let them know if you can help.

Andy Mugford



PRESS RELEASE

Calling G&S Singers and Audience!

Witham Choral is looking forward to its next concert when excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan's *Mikado* and *Gondoliers* will be performed at Witham United Reformed Church on Saturday 15 June. Singers who would like to join in the rehearsals (or even sing solos!) are very welcome. The afternoon rehearsal will be at 3.00 p.m. and the performance at 7.00 p.m. Weekly rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 7.45 p.m. at Witham URC, Newland Street.

"This will be a fun concert," says Musical Director, Patrick McCarthy, who used to perform Gilbert & Sullivan himself for the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company earlier in his career. "The *Mikado* and *The Gondoliers* are two of my favourite G&S operas and Witham Choral is relishing the singing of wonderful tunes and witty lyrics. I hope we will attract a good audience to join in the hilarity!"

Tickets for singers are £10 and for audience £5 from Witham Tourist Information Centre on 01376 520627, from choir members and on the door. For more details or to book your singing place, please call 01245 380958.

www.withamchoralsociety.org.uk

Lunch at All Saints

Soup – hot food- cakes

12:00 to 1:30 pm

Wednesday
5th JUNE





WITHAM CHORAL

Musical Director: Patrick McCarthy
at the piano: Stephen Evans and Antony Mortimer

Come and Sing

Gilbert & Sullivan

excerpts from

The Mikado & The Gondoliers

Saturday 15 June 2019

Witham United Reformed Church, Newland Street, CM8 1AH
at 7.00 p.m.

Singers are welcome to join in rehearsals before the day on Tuesdays at
Witham URC 7.45 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. on the day. Details: 01245 380958

Singers £10

Audience welcome too! £5

Ring 01245 380958 to book your place or buy an audience ticket
Also available from Witham Tourist Information Centre 01376 520627

Come and meet us at Witham Community Day on 8 June!
www.withamchoralsociety.org.uk





Friday 14th June

Cream Teas on the Lawn

2pm – 5. 30pm

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**[www.chelmsford.anglican.org/
safeguarding/c2-training](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding/c2-training)**





After-eight Social Club

Dance Night



Cold Norton Village Hall
SATURDAY 15th JUNE
7.30pm

Bring your own drinks and glass
Everyone welcome!

Admission: Members £8 Non members £10
Includes a Ploughman's supper!

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

For further information call Mike on 01621 856219
or visit www.aftereightsocialclub.co.uk
We also have a Facebook page



Dates for the Diary

20th July	Messy Church
28th Sept	Maldon and Dengie Safeguarding Course
6th - 8th Dec	Christmas Tree Festival

Please email me with ALL your future dates.

With Trinity Sunday in Mind:

How can God be One and Three at the same time? Perhaps the Father is like the sun in the sky – dazzling in majesty and glory, whose light, Jesus Christ, illumines all mankind; and whose invisible warmth, the Holy Spirit, brings us to life. Sun, light and warmth – eternally the same, but eternally different. – *Anon*

Taken from the Parish Pump Website.

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

May 12th **MOLLY JESSICA ADAMS** of Norfolk Road
May 19th **ESMEE ROSE THOMAS** of Althorne



FUNERALS

May 7th **NINNCY BARTON** aged 91 of Wood Corner
May 17th **ALEXANDER EVANS** of Coleridge Road



Prayer Diary

May 2019

1	All who have recently moved house
2 7th Sunday of Easter	All who lead our Services today
3	Members of our PCC
4	Countries in conflict
5	The residents of Hailey House
6	Families who attend Sunshiners
7	Those who receive Holy Communion at home
8	The Queen and all the Royal Family
9 Pentecost	The Archdeacon of Chelmsford and all Churchwardens
10	Members of the Mothers' Union
11 St Barnabas	Churches dedicated to St Barnabas
12	Members of Parliament
13	Prison Chaplains
14	Our Tower Bell Ringers
15	Those who lead and attend 'Messy Church' today
16 Trinity Sunday	Fathers
17	Children estranged from their Father
18	Those who lead and attend the Baptism Preparation Course
19	Our Police Force in the County
20 Corpus Christi	Our Eucharistic Ministers
21	Our Town Council
22	Employees of Maldon District Council
23 Trinity 1	Playgroups and nurseries
24 Birth of St John the Baptist	Churches dedicated to John the Baptist
25	J's Hospice staff and supporters
26	The work of the London City Mission
27	Nurses and Midwives
28	The Trustees of The Plume Library
29 St Peter	All who live in our Parish
30 Trinity 2	Our Servers



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
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PARISH NEWS EDITOR	Peter Clark Tel: 01621 740374 email: pjandvclark@gmail.com
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	01621 853238
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	01621854655
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

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

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