

ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

December 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 SERVICE	
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:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Crib Service on Christmas Eve 2016 (From the archives)2. The Choir in the White Horse, Christmas circa 1978. Who do you recognise?



FROM THE VICARAGE

POLITICS AND POLITICIANS

"Brenda from Bristol" became immortalised when she famously said, "Oh no, not another one" when she was told by the BBC interviewer there was to be another election in 2017. Now we face another election just two years later. For many people, Brenda from Bristol may sum up the national mood. Speaking personally, I am one of those strange people who is fascinated by politics, and will enjoy everyday between now and the election. And I will, as I always do, sit up through the night on December 12th to watch the results come in. Not being a watcher of football, rugby or cricket, I find elections far more interesting.

Some of you will remember the late John Cole, the Irish BBC journalist. He writes in his auto-biography, how as a boy he was moved to hear all the footsteps marching past his house, as people made their way to the local school or church hall, to exercise their democratic rights on election day. There is something wonderfully British in the way we vote. It is always on a Thursday. God forbid we ever change to voting on a Sunday with electronic devices in supermarkets, as some European countries do. We affirm or change our government as we mark our papers with a pencil tied to a bit of string. Long may this continue!

I have never understood why some people choose not to vote. There is always the option of writing "none of the above" if you don't like any of the parties. The freedom we enjoy in this country has been bought at a cost. The least we can do is to turn out to the polling station on the day, or organise a postal vote. Who can forget those scenes of people queuing all day in South Africa, when for the first time black South Africans were able to vote?

Perhaps it is a general cynicism about politicians that results in so many not exercising their democratic rights. A few years ago, many people became disillusioned by the various expenses scandals of some MPs and members of the House of Lords. More recently, there has been frustration at the stalemate



in Parliament over Brexit, three years after the Referendum.

When elected recently as Speaker of the Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle spoke of his desire to restore respect and esteem to the House of Commons. One of the contenders for Speaker, Christ Bryant (MP for the Rhondda and an ordained Anglican priest) spoke of politics being an honourable profession. He also said he believed that most people entered politics wanting to change the world for the better.

It is surely dangerous in a democracy that we have become so cynical about our politicians. It is also worrying to see the many good people of all parties who have decided not to stand in the forthcoming election. Some have come to the decision because of the pressures on their family life. For others, the current atmosphere of abuse and threat from those who disagree, and the memory of the murder of Jo Cox, have contributed to their decision.

So between now and the election, may we all pray for our politicians and for all who aspire to represent us in Parliament. Pray for unity within our nation in this time of deep division; and for respect between those of different political persuasions. Thank God for the freedom we enjoy in the United Kingdom to express our political views. And above all, make the effort to turn out to vote on the 12th!

Stephen Carter

ADVENT

A candlelight service for Advent Sunday December 1st, at 6.30pm with Advent hymns, anthems and readings, to begin this solemn season of preparation for Christmas.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

This year, our parish carol service will also be a Civic service for Maldon District Council, to be attended by the Chairman and Councillors, together with other Civic guests, including Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff and local Members of Parliament.

It is to be on Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm. Some of the Civic guests will be reading lessons, as well as some from our congregation. The Chairman is kindly providing festive refreshments afterwards in the D'Arcy Room to which all the congregation is invited.

SC



BAPTISM MINISTRY

We have a wonderful Baptism Team which heads up our ministry to families coming to All Saints for Baptism. Barbara Gale and Vicky Tropman organise all the administration surrounding the baptism. They are assisted by a small team of "church sponsors" who assist in preparing families at the Baptism preparation evenings, and support the families on the day of the baptism, and afterwards at the welcome. Some lovely relationships have grown between families and sponsors. It is always pleasing to see families move on to Sunshiners or to Sunday Worship for All. The Mothers Union have for the last few years been making Teddies to give at the welcome, which the children love.

A very important person who has been working behind the scenes after Baptism is Gwen Gaunt. For well over 50 years, Gwen has been sending cards to those baptised, to mark the first 5 anniversaries of their baptism at All Saints. Over the years Gwen must have sent thousands of cards.

She has now decided it is time to stand down. But this has been a wonderful ministry that she has done on our behalf, keeping the Church in touch with the families of those baptised. On behalf of everyone in the parish, and all those families who have received cards over the years, I would like to express our thanks to Gwen.

I am pleased to say that Elaine Brown and Katrina Steel have kindly agreed to take on this role.

SC

MOTHERS UNION

I am sorry to report that the All Saints branch of the Mothers Union is closing at the end of the month. I know that Merie Keeble, her committee and all the members are sorry to be closing. We are grateful to Merie for leading the Branch for many years. It has been a very happy Branch and a great support to the parish and to me personally. The Mothers Union, nationally and in the Anglican communion, is an important witness to the Christian values of marriage and family life.

As no one has come forward to take over the leadership of the Branch there is no alternative than for it to close. But we do thank Merie and all the members of the Branch for all they have done for the life of our parish through the years.

Stephen



THE VACANCY

I thought it would be helpful for people to know a little about the process that will soon begin, to appoint my successor. Though my last Sunday is February 2nd, I remain legally Vicar of this parish until February 29th. After that date the Vacancy commences. We should note that the Church now prefers the term "Vacancy" to the more traditional "Inter-regnum". The latter implies an interval between kings: and we no longer see the incumbent's tenure of office as a reign! The process will begin on November 14th when the Archdeacon, the Rural Dean and the Lay Chairman come to meet with the PCC for a Pre-Vacancy Meeting. The PCC will be asked to appoint two lay parish representatives, who will be part of the appointment process. The PCC will also need to prepare a parish profile to be made available to all prospective applicants. The profile will include a detailed description of the church and parish. It will also set out the qualities needed in a future incumbent.

The process will be more complicated than when I was appointed, as my successor will also be incumbent of St Mary's. This means that St Mary's will have to engage in a similar process and both sets of parish representatives will have to jointly make a decision as to the right person to be appointed. The Archdeacon, Rural Dean and Patrons (the Bishop and Westminster Abbey) will also be involved in the appointment. The two PCCs will have to decide whether the post will be advertised just in the diocese, or whether to pay for it to be advertised nationally. The diocese, deanery and parish are all agreed that the vacancy should not be longer than necessary. So it is hoped that advertisement might go out while I and Fr John are still in post.

Applicants will be short listed, and a day will be set aside for candidates to visit the parishes, and then be interviewed. Whoever is appointed will have to give a minimum of three months notice to their present parish. So even if everything goes smoothly, All Saints is looking at a vacancy of a few months at least. The churchwardens will be in charge of the parish during this time, and will be responsible for arranging services to be covered. We are blessed in having Prebendary Paul Barnes and Canon Graham Blyth as part of the team, along with our Authorised Local Preachers, Adrienne Knight and Alan Marjoram. Also the Reverend Julie Willmot, the Reverend Asa Humphries and Fr John Dickens have offered to give what help and support they can. So we are hopeful that all Sunday services can be maintained during the Vacancy. We are also blessed in having a committed team of people from the congregation who lead Worship for All and Prayer and Praise.

My hope is that the whole parish will support the PCC and churchwardens and that everyone will work together as we plan for the future, and for the growth and well being of our church.

Stephen



VACANCY

As detailed in the November magazine, the long process to appoint Stephen's successor has begun. The process is more complicated than before as his successor will also be Incumbent of St Mary's. The PCC met with the Archdeacon, Rural Dean and Lay Chairman of the Maldon and Dengie Deanery on the 14th November for a pre-vacancy meeting.

The PCC's of All Saints and St Mary's have to produce a Parish Profile, this document has two aims: -

1. It is the first picture a possible new priest will get of the parish.
2. It is the PCC's guidance notes for the parish representatives considering a candidate.

We have to convince the right person as to why they should consider coming to us, the Parish Profile is the best way to achieve this. Your PCC is here to represent you, and a small group are working on this, but they need your views and they need your prayers.

Please consider the following points and let us have your views:-

- What are the best things about our church?
- What are we good at?
- What needs to stay the same?
- What do we need to change?
- What can we do better?
- What should All Saints be doing over the next 5-10 years?
- Where are the possibilities for mission and growth?
- What are the top five qualities of our new priest?

Stephen's 10 years at All Saints have given us an amazing legacy on which to build our future here. This is your opportunity to have your say. We would like to know your views as to who you would like to come to All Saints; there is no need to write an essay but a few short words will suffice. Many would "like another Stephen" but please be more specific!

Thank you for your co-operation and your prayers.

Jenny, Barbara and Julie

A PRAYER TO USE DURING A VACANCY

O Holy Spirit of God,
Call, as our new priest in this parish,
a person after your own heart;
a priest of faith and prayer who can
speak to young and old;
a priest of vision, wisdom and courage;
a priest with a true love for people.

May we as a church prepare to
welcome them.
May we be joyful in our worship,
and united in our purpose,
working, serving, and witnessing,
to the glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



Frieda Mahood 1924-2019

I feel privileged to have a copy of the book written by Frieda in 2010 about her life – detailing her family history, her nursing career, her marriage to Brian and her spiritual life. So many of us never think to record what we do, but Frieda, in her efficient and diligent way left a wonderful picture of her full and interesting life.



Frieda's funeral was at All Saints, on 1st November with much of the service chosen by her some years ago. I want to present a finale for an exemplary life which always had a focus on the needs of others.

Frieda had a strong faith, an ability to empathise and a reassuring compassion towards all those around her. She sat on many committees over the years, always supportive of causes caring for the less fortunate or the marginalised. She was active in fundraising for Christian Aid and the Farleigh Hospice, writing in her note book, the details of decisions made and action to be taken. She was always dependable and efficient – a busy lady who always got things done but she always had time for anyone who needed a listening ear or was ill or worried. Believing in the importance of prayer – all were prayed for and watched over by Frieda. Sometimes an encouraging note would arrive or it might be a phone call or visit, to help someone through a difficult period in their life.

Frieda loved her family and had a close bond with her siblings. She loved Brian and was thankful for the blessing of a happy marriage that came later in her life. Her close walk with God allowed the light of Christ to shine through into a world where selflessness and compassion can sometimes be hard to find.

In early November we remember the “saints of the church” who have persevered through hardship to minister to the needs of others before themselves. These ordinary people, like Frieda, live lives that are holy and inspirational. The quality of their lives enables others to find God or see God. I am reminded of Frieda’s positive Christian philosophy in the hymn called ‘The Servant King’:



I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

The last part of Frieda's life had its challenges as the bouts of ME became more frequent and debilitating, but her faith remained strong and sustaining. Frieda has reached the end of her earthly journey. Her life truly deserves Christ's acknowledgement of a life well lived.

'Well done thou good and Faithful servant'
Frieda – May you rest in Peace.

Sue Norrington

THE EUCHARIST WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING

This service will take place at 11.15am on Sunday January 5th to include the laying on of hands and anointing, together with prayers for the sick.

SC

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

Christmas gives us an opportunity to take some Christmas cheer out into the parish, particularly to our residential homes. I would really appreciate some help for the following services, where you would be most welcome

Monday December 9th 11.00am Holy Communion and Carols at Hailey House

Tuesday December 17th 11.00am Carols Service at the Lodge

Wednesday December 18th 11.00am Carol Service at Longfields.

These services mean such a lot to the residents, most of whom are no longer able to get out. Please join us if you can. The choir will be delighted to have some extra support from the congregation.

Stephen



Deputy Warden's Waffle

Suddenly I felt like my grandmother

Even if you were born after the two great wars, Remembrance Sunday is always a very moving occasion, but unfortunately we do not seem to have learnt from them at all. Today, people are still starving, homeless, tortured, and dying, all because of mans greed, intolerance, cruelty – much wants more. Again this year many people gathered outside All Saints Church, in the bright sunshine, to pay their respects and remember all the thousands of named and unnamed men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice. I too was in the crowd listening to the prayers, choir, the evocative Bugle, and at the end I watched the March Past. It was this final act of respect and remembrance that (as never before) gave me a real feeling of Déjà vu, it was as if I was my grandmother watching the March Past. Throughout history folks have always watched in pride as our brave men and women march past, not least my grandmother. And it is because of such courageous people that we today are free to indulge in a bit of Festive Frivolity:

Of course we must not forget Health and Safety at Christmas time; *While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.*

The union of shepherds has complained that it breaches health and safety regulations to insist that shepherds watch their flocks without appropriate seating arrangements being provided. Therefor benches, stools, and orthopaedic chairs are now available. Shepherds have also requested that due to the inclement weather conditions at this time of year, they should watch their flocks via cctv cameras from centrally heated shepherds observation huts. Please note the Angel of the Lord, is reminded that before shining his/her glory all around she/he must ascertain that all shepherds have been issued with glasses capable of filtering out the harmful effects of UVA UVB and the overwhelming effects of Glory.

How about some letters to Santa from children (all true):

Dear Santa I would like a toy that does not break when my Dad plays with it.

Dear Santa, please can I have one teddy bear this Christmas , nothing else, just a teddy bear. Love Sophie. PS please can teddy have a TV to keep teddy amused when I am at school.

Look here Santa, I want a cricket bat that hits sixes , the one you sent last year keeps missing he ball.

And my favourite,

Dear Santa, last Christmas I asked you for a baby brother. This Christmas I would like you to take him back.

Whimsical thoughts for this time of year.

Vicky deputy warden



Action for Family Carers has been supporting unpaid or family Carers of all ages for nearly 30 years. Young Carers, aged under 18, help care for a parent, sibling, or grandparent who may have a long term illness, physical or sensory impairment, mental health problems or drug or alcohol addiction. It is estimated about 1 in 5 secondary aged pupils is a Young Carer.

We rely on raising funds to help us to continue our support to Young Carers in schools, and in our Young Carers Club where they have a chance to have a break from their caring role, and to mix with other young people in a similar situation. Thank you for your support; it will make a difference.

This local charity has been chosen as our Christmas Charity when collections taken at the two Crib services at 3.00pm and 5.00pm on Christmas Eve. will be given to Action for Family Carers.

Lunch at All Saints Soup – hot food- cakes **12:00 to 1:30 pm**

**Wednesday
4th December**





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

Christmas message from The Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford.

Have a peaceful and colourful Christmas

I visited New Zealand in the summer – their winter. I was speaking at a conference on mission. My wife, Rebecca, came with me and like a couple of teenagers we hired a camper van and went exploring. Because it was winter many of the sites we visited were delightfully quiet and peaceful. One of the most unusual places was Wai-O-Tapu Park. It has all of the ingredients you might expect from a beauty spot; unspoilt rocks, ferns, and trees nestled around lakes. What makes this place remarkable are the weird colours. The gloopy escape of geothermal gasses through mud and hissing geysers have upset the colours you would expect to see. Soil is white, rocks are orange and water is bright green or red. There is something wonderfully unsettling about seeing what is familiar in a startlingly different way.

The day after the birth of Jesus Christ, the houses of Bethlehem, the harbours of the Mediterranean and trade routes of the Middle East all looked the same. But for Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and Magi everything was startlingly different. God's familiar creation was now represented in a new and unsettling way. Jesus is baby just like any other, yet his birth, life, death and resurrection reveal God's new creation. God reframes the entire universe from him, through him and for him.

When we visit him at Christmas we are invited to see ourselves and the whole world in startlingly new and different colours.

I wish you a peaceful and colourful Christmas.

QUESTION FROM A BAPTISM FAMILY

"Will it be a normal Christening? Because we went to one where people were made to kneel at a rail and eat bits of cardboard".

How others see us!



Prayer Group Welcome to all

A small but long-established prayer group meets monthly on the first Tuesday in the St Katharine Room of All Saints Church from 10am to 10.30. The prayers are very informal and the leader usually starts with prayers of praise and thanksgiving. Sometimes we open with a bible reading. We then pray silently or out loud as the spirit moves us.

We find that the prayers of others stimulate and inspire us and they range from world-wide issues through national concerns and those of the local community to the needs of individuals known to us or for whom we have been asked to pray. We observe a strict rule of confidentiality and do not discuss the content of our prayers outside the group. What is said in the group, stays in the group.

The leader brings the meeting to a conclusion by inviting everyone to join in the Lord's Prayer and we end with the Grace. We restrict ourselves to 30 minutes.

The prayer group is open to all members of Churches Together in Maldon, and if you would like to join us you can be assured of a warm welcome.

After the prayer group there is an opportunity to have a cup of tea or coffee and a chat at Meeting Point in the D'Arcy Room in the church.

If you would like to know more please contact Tony Doe on 01621 853582
Tony

The little button

At a clearance sale, the wife of a senior judge found the perfect green tie to match one of her husband's sports jackets. Soon after, while the couple was relaxing at a resort to get his mind off a complicated cocaine-conspiracy case, he noticed a small, round disc sewn into the tie. The judge showed it to the police, who were equally suspicious that it might be a 'bug', planted by the conspiracy defendants.

The police took the tie away for some serious analysis. A few days later, the judge phoned Scotland Yard to find out the results of their tests. "Well, we're not really sure where the disc came from," the police told him. "But we did discover that if you press it, it plays Jingle Bells."

Taken from the Parish Pump website



THE LEPER CONNECTION

A recent sermon given by Canon Stephen was based on the Gospel for the day of Luke 17 verses 11-19. The Gospel told of the miracle of cleansing of the 10 lepers by Jesus. After they had been cleansed only one of the lepers came back to say 'Thank you' and it was on that statement of gratitude that Stephen talked to us about, and how it is always the right thing to do if someone helps us in some way or carries out a good act for us, no matter how large or small that service may be, to say 'Thank you'. The act that Jesus carried out in cleansing the people of leprosy, which in those days was a dreadful disease, and to be cured of it, would have been a miracle indeed. That only one person out of ten expressed gratitude was surprising but perhaps shows the frailty of human nature that we may all experience occasionally.

Certainly, in days now long gone, leprosy was a disease much feared by everyone, and those carrying the affliction were mostly shunned and cast out of their homes. Fortunately, much more is now known about the disease and it is no longer anything to be feared although last year there were over 200.000 cases diagnosed, over half of them in India. This is because leprosy thrives in areas of poverty and where there is still a stigma attached to it so that it is not always reported quickly and has time to spread. Leprosy is a mildly infectious disease and starts by damaging the small nerves on the surface of the skin causing a loss of sensation. Not being able to detect pain, burns and ulcers can result in permanent disability and also allows the disease to spread and gain a hold on the body causing terrible disfigurements and loss of limbs. Blindness is also a common consequence of leprosy because of the inability to detect grit in the eye. Nowadays, there is a simple and effective treatment using drugs which can clear the system of the disease, but any disabilities already caused cannot be reversed except, in some cases, by surgery. Reconstructive surgery can be carried out now but not everyone can access this help.

Most of us know that there are still the remains in Spital Road of what was once a leper hospital in Maldon, St. Giles Hospital. It is thought that the hospital was founded in the 12th century by Henry the second for the relief of leprosy in the town of Maldon and was very much run by the priests who held a daily service in the chapel which was part of the hospital. As leprosy declined somewhat in Britain in the 13th and 14th centuries the hospital



became a general hospital for treatment of the poor, the aged and the infirm. In 1481 the hospital was conveyed to Beeleigh Abbey and was under the control of the Abbott but in 1538 the hospital was closed upon the dissolution of the monasteries. Today only some brickwork remains and is now under the control of Maldon Town Council.



The Remains of the St Giles Leper Hospital in Spital Road

Medically, the world has come a long way since Jesus cleansed the lepers and today we are fortunate that medical science has developed over the years to where a once dreadful affliction such as leprosy has all but been eradicated in Britain and whilst there are still recorded cases each year in this country they have always been brought in from far away places. Indigenous cases of leprosy in Britain are nowadays unheard of and thanks to the miracle that is modern medicine, leprosy can now be cured cheaply and effectively, although not instantaneously as Jesus once did. Much more information can be obtained on the web, which is where some of my information has been obtained, but my opening remarks were from the bible.

Ken Downham



December 2019



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The image shows a classic black leather Chesterfield sofa with a tufted backrest and armrests. To the left of the sofa stands a tall, ornate floor lamp with a wide, shallow shade. In the background, there is a large window with a white frame, through which some trees are visible. The overall aesthetic is traditional and elegant.

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SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

1st Dec	Advent Sunday 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 Worship for All Eucharist 6:30 pm From Darkness to Light, (Readings and Music for Advent)
5th Dec	Thursday 11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) In the Vicarage.
8th Dec	Second Sunday of Advent 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church 3:00 pm Christingle Service NB. No Evensong
9th Dec	Monday 11:00 am Holy Communion at Hailey House 7:30 pm Light up a Life service for Farleigh Hospice
10th Dec	Tuesday 7:00 pm Plume School Carol Service in church
12th Dec	Thursday 11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
13th Dec	Friday 9:30 am Maldon Court School Carol Service in church 2:00pm Alzheimer's Society Carol Service
15th Dec	Third Sunday of Advent 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Parish Eucharist 5:00 pm Town Carol Service in URC NB No Evensong at All Saints'
17th Dec	Tuesday 11:00 am Carol Service at the Lodge Care Home
18th Dec	Wednesday 9:30 am All Saints School Carol Service in church 11:00 Carol Service at Longfield Care Home
19th Dec	Thursday 11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP1662)
SEE PAGE 21 FOR ALL THE CHRISTMAS SERVICES	
29th Dec	First Sunday of Christmas 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Parish Eucharist 6:30 pm Evening Prayer



Christmas Services at All Saints

Saturday 7th Dec

12:30 - 1:00 pm Carols for Shoppers (Part of the Christmas tree festival).

Sunday 8th Dec.

3:00 pm Christingle Service in aid of the Children's Society

Sunday 22nd Dec.

8:00 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church
6:30 pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
The traditional carol service with Choir and Congregational carols and readings (attended by MDC all welcome).

Tuesday 24th Dec., Christmas Eve.

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

Wednesday 25th Dec Christmas Day

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

Christmas Greetings 2019



**Jenny and Debbie
Clinch**

Wish you all a Very Happy and Blessed Christmas
And may 2020 be a Happy and Peaceful Year



Wishing our All Saints family a very Happy Christmas and all best wishes for 2020



**Jackie & Alan Marjoram
& family**

would like to wish all their friends at All Saints' Church a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year



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



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE VICARAGE

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





Greetings

9



Peter & Vivien
Send Christmas
Greetings to you all,
especially contributors
to this magazine, with
the hope that the
contributions will
continue during 2020.



**Happy Christmas
Everyone.**
Anita and Brian wish
you health and
happiness for the festive
season and 2020



JEAN & KEN

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



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

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



DIARY FOR DECEMBER

Mon 2nd Dec	10:00 am - 12 noon Maldon Pioneers PCC in The Vicarage
Tues 3rd Dec	10:00 - 10:30 am Prayer Group in the St Katherine Room 10:00 am - 12 noon Meeting Point 7:00 pm Mothers' Union
Wed 4th Dec	12 - 1:30 pm All Saints Lunches 7:00 pm Parish Office in D'Arcy Room
Thu 5th Dec	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies (Location TBA). 7:00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Fri 6th to 8th Dec	Christmas Tree Festival
Mon 9th Dec	9:00 am Men's Breakfast at Rose and Crown
Tue 10th Dec	10:00 am - 12 noon Maldon Pioneers
Wed 11th Dec	10:00 am - 12 noon Meeting Point 9:00 - 11:00 am All Saints School PTA coffee morning in church
Thu 12th Dec	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7:00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Sat 14th Dec	Maldon Choral Christmas Concert
Mon 16th Dec	10:00 am - 12 noon Maldon Pioneers
Tues 17th Dec	10:00 am - 12 noon Meeting Point
Wed 18th Dec	7:00 pm Parish Office
Thu 19th Dec	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7:00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Tue 31st Dec	10:00 am - 12 noon Meeting Point



Opening our Church for children to learn about special places:

As part of the Key Stage 1 RE curriculum Children should be given the chance to:

- Visit places of worship, focusing on symbols and feelings.
- Listen and respond to visitors from local faith communities.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”

— Matthew 18:1-5



Year 2 from Maldon Court School joined us on Tuesday 12th November to learn about All Saints. Canon Stephen played the organ very loudly and let the children have a try. Dennis explained how the bells were rung. The children also had a go. Gina showed the children all the different vestments and explained when the

different colours are worn. Everyone had the chance to try on the vestments. Afterwards, Canon Stephen showed the children the important places in the church, the altar, choir stalls, lectern, pulpit and font. The children were very keen to learn and asked some very thoughtful questions. It is always a pleasure and honour to share our Christian faith with our local schools and uniformed organisations.

We also are looking forward to greeting our Beavers on 20th November, and in the coming weeks, children from All Saints, The Plume and also Maldon Court will join us for their Christmas services, when we will share our love of Christ and this building all over again!

Gina Southey



December 2019

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Plantation Hall Heybridge CM9 4AL

1st Tuesday each month
10am-12noon

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HOLY DAYS

The story of the Christingle

The word ‘Christingle’ actually means ‘Christ Light’, and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Stories of how the Christingle began look back to the Moravian Church, which is found in the Czech Republic. The Moravians have held Christingle services for more than 200 years, and according to them, this is how the first Christingle might have been made:

Many years ago the children in a village were asked to bring a Christmas gift to put beside the crib in the church. One family was very poor, and had no money for gifts, but the three children were still determined to take something. The only nice thing they had was an orange, so they decided to give the Christ-child that.

But then they discovered the top was going green, so the eldest cut it out, and put a candle in the hole. To add some colour, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange. It was hard to make the ribbon stay still, so they fastened it in place with toothpicks. The toothpicks looked a bit bare, so the youngest child added raisins to them.

The children took their decorated orange lantern to the church for the Christmas Mass. The other children sneered at their meagre gift, but the priest seized upon it with joy. He held it up as an example of the true understanding of the meaning of Christmas, for the following reasons: the orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the ‘world’, as a symbol of Christ’s blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts remind us of God’s blessings.

The Children’s Society first introduced the Christingle Service to The Church of England in 1968, and it has since become a popular event in the church calendar. This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith, while helping to raise vital funds to help vulnerable children across the country. Visit: www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Taken from the Parish Pump Website

N.B.

COPY DEADLINE FOR JANUARY MAGAZINE

17th DECEMBER

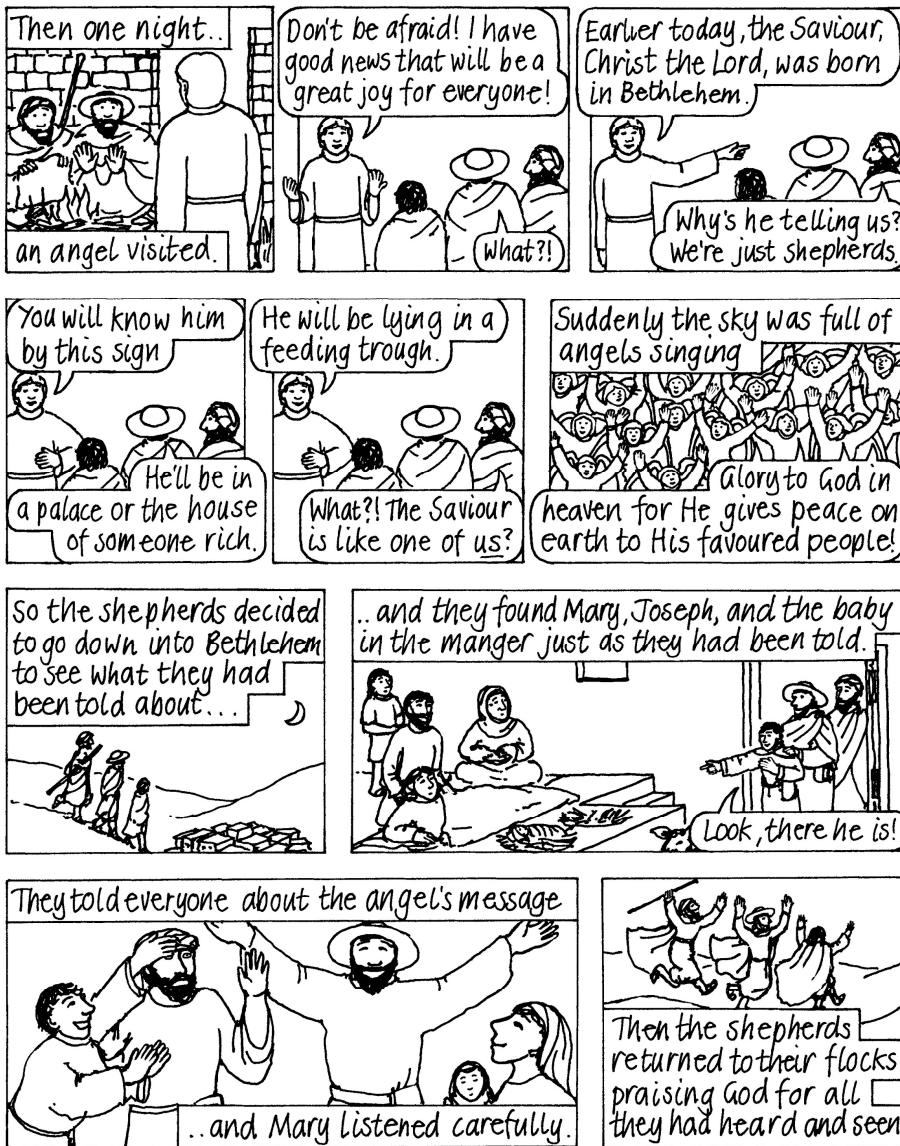


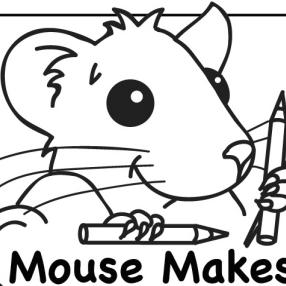
Bible Bite

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 2 verses 8 to 20

A short story from the Bible

Shepherds were paid to look after the flocks out on the hillside. Uneducated and rough, they were usually avoided, or overlooked.



**Mouse Makes**

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?

Read

Luke 2:7

Good news!

Why were the shepherds afraid?

Read

Luke 2:8

Glory to God

What good news did the angel tell?

Read

Luke 2:10-11

Who appeared praising God and what did they say?

Read

Luke 2:13-14

A Saviour is born

What did the angel tell Joseph to name Mary's baby and why?

Read Matthew 1:21



What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?

Read

Luke 2:16



Colour a star each day until Christmas



A Very Special Baby

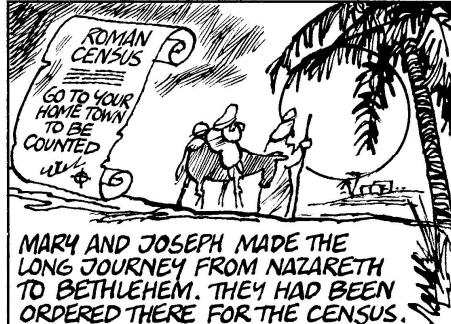
JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



...YOU MUST CALL YOUR BABY JESUS

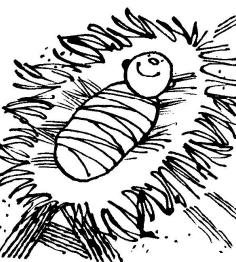


MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.



THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...

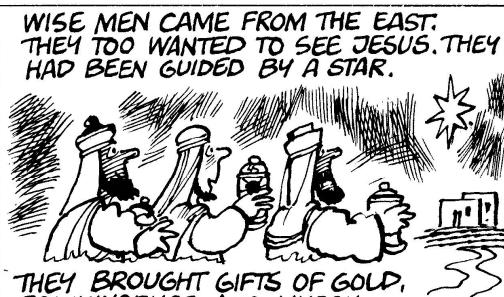
...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.



WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.

THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.



BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...

...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!



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 the best ways for a vicar to disrupt Christmas

My dear Nephew Darren

I am sorry I was not alive during that wonderful four-year period when Oliver Cromwell abolished Christmas. Just think! No Christmas parties, no carol services, no cards to send and no frantic last-minute shopping. That man was a hero.

Planning for Christmas at St James' normally starts on 2nd January. By Easter, the flowers for church have been colour coordinated, the seating plans and table decorations for the Christmas party have been allocated (with nominated reserves in case someone should inconveniently die in the intervening eight months). Long before Summer is over, the tree lights have been tested, music for the 9 Lessons and Carols Service has been chosen and the service sheets printed. Way before the dark nights set in, car parking attendants will have been found, those who are to light all the candles will have been rehearsed to perfection and the brass lectern has had its annual polish.

We do not do spontaneity at St James the Least of All. If ever there was a service when time for something unexpected was allowed, its place would be announced in the order of service, how long it would happen unexpectedly would have been decided by a committee and who was to be spontaneous would have been allocated on a rota.

The one person none of these well-meaning, efficient, committed organisers can control is the Rector. You could call it a staff perk.

Carols will (accidentally, of course) be announced in the wrong order; if verse 3 was to be omitted, I announce it will be verse 4. This keeps the organist on his toes while the choir hovers on the point of a collective nervous breakdown. At the Christmas supper, my introductory welcome speech and extensive grace make those in the kitchen wonder if the vegetables being boiled should better be served as thick soup.



I offer the helpful suggestion that the tree, having been installed and decorated in the chancel, may perhaps look better in the sanctuary and I turn all the heating off throughout the season, explaining that it will help the flowers to last. All Services will start five minutes early (was my watch rather fast?) so I can look disapprovingly at those still coming in while we are singing the first carol and making it clear that I think they had spent too long in the pub next door.

And so we all reach Christmas morning, with 12 months of planning having gone yet again slightly awry, with parishioners exhausted and I exhilarated at the chaos that has been created with such ease. Mr Cromwell, your spirit lives on.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK'S ADVENT BOOK 2019



Book Reviews

Wake Up to Advent! – The Archbishop of York's Advent Book, 2019 By John Sentamu, SPCK, £9.99

'This is the hour of crisis: it is high time for you to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when first we believed.'

St Paul's encouraging words to the Christians in Rome are the springboard for the Archbishop of York's Advent book for 2019. With prayers and stimulating questions for reflection at the end of each daily meditation, here is fresh spiritual food for the Advent journey – pressed down, shaken together and running over.

Walk alongside Archbishop Sentamu this Advent, as he discusses the meaning and influence of those four gospel imperatives in this lively and invigorating book.

Taken from the Parish Pump website.



Chelsea Pensioners on Parade in Whitehall by Geoff Dickman



All Saints' from The Moot Hall Roof by Geoff Dickman



The War Memorial after the Remembrance Service by Mike Ovenden



**The Tree in the Churchyard with its Red Leaves for Remembrance Day
By Mike Ovenden**

After-eight Social Club
for the mature and young at heart...
are holding 2 fabulous festive dances in December!

Christmas Party Dance!



SATURDAY 21st DECEMBER
West Maldon Community Centre

Admission: Members £6 - Non members £8



New Year's Eve Dance

Cold Norton Village Hall

Admission: Members £8 - Non members £10

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

Everyone welcome!

Doors open 8pm



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

For further information phone 01621 856219

www.afterightsocialclub.co.uk



ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MALDON CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Friday

6th December

10_{am} - 6_{pm}



Saturday

7th December

10_{am} - 6_{pm}

with

*Shoppers
Carols
at 12.30pm*



Sunday

8th December

11_{am} - 3_{pm}



Refreshments available all day

Also Saturday 7th from 7 - 9pm. . . . drop in and see the church lit by the tree lights. Enjoy festive refreshments and meet Father Christmas and the Christmas Fairy!

Sunday 8th at 3pm. . . . Christingle Service

Free Admission to the Festival but donations are welcome for the Children's Society





Dates for the Diary

2nd Feb	Stephen's Last Sunday at All Saints'
26th April	10:00 am Archdeacon Elisabeth to officiate at the Eucharist
10th May	10:00 am Bishop of Bradwell to officiate at the Eucharist
18th July	7:30 pm Concert by men2sing in church

Please let me have your dates for future events.

Don't assume that I will know them. Ed.

Quotes

In the words of CS Lewis, when the children in Narnia ask if Aslan (the Christ-like figure) is safe, the reply comes: 'Safe, no way, but he's good.' I'm not sure if I have the exact words, but for me it sums up the journey of faith... For me, it has been a lifetime's journey that is still continuing, of unravelling religion from faith. The heart of Christ's message was about freedom and fun and light and love and forgiveness and risk-taking – always messy.

Bear Grylls, interviewed after the publication of 'Soul Fuel', a daily devotional of 365 reflections for the year.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website

FROM THE REGISTERS



FUNERALS

Nov 1st **AGNES FRIEDA MAHOOD** aged 95 formerly of Tenterfield Road
November 5th **DAPHNE MAVIS HARDING** aged 86 formerly of Beeleigh Road

Nov 11th **LINDA BARBARA BOOTH** aged 78 of Dover

Nov 26th **PAMELA JOY AYDEN** aged 89 of Crescent Road Heybridge

Nov 29th **EDMUND JOHN PEGGRAM** aged 93 of America St.



Prayer Diary

December 2019

1	First Sunday of Advent	All who make music for worship
2		All Postal Workers
3		Those who are terminally ill
4		The Salvation Army
5		All charities planning care for those less fortunate than ourselves
6		All Infant and Junior school teachers
7		All who will attend our Church during the Christmas season
8	Second Sunday of Advent	The work of The Children's Society
9		The Dean, Chapter and Staff of Chelmsford Cathedral
10		Those who have lost their faith
11		British Red Cross
12		All who live in our Parish
13		Workers in the hospitality industry
14		The work of Chelmsford CHESS
15	Third Sunday of Advent	Our preparation for Christmas
16		All street pastors
17		Places of conflict throughout the world
18		Those addicted to alcohol
19		The housebound and elderly
20		Distant friends and relatives
21		Children estranged from their parents
22	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Christians in the Holy Land
23		Those who will be alone this Christmas
24		Volunteers working with Crisis at Christmas
25	Christmas Day	Our family
26	St Stephen	The homeless and the deprived
27	St John	All shop workers
28	Holy Innocents	Religious broadcasters
29	First Sunday of Christmas	All who are in residential care
30		All who work on public transport
31		For peace in the world in 2020



PARISH DIRECTORY

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	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
Sunshiners (Pre School Group Thursdays 9:15 am)	Gill Nelson	01621 852119
Tower Bell Ringers	Peter Chignell	01376 571170
Handbell Ringers	Dennis Johnson	01621 842410
Flower Group	Susan Duke	01621 851623
Bible Society	Betty Smith	01621 854143
Mothers' Union'	Joan Downham	01621 854655
Childrens Society	Marie Keeble	01621 856354
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	Elaine Brown	01621
Meeting Point	Cliff Hunter	01621 852013
Maldon Pioneers	Barbara Gale	01621 928538
Maldon Ladies Group	Mike Frederick	01621 840951
Ramblers Club	Vivien Clark	01621 740374
Prayer Group		
Messy Church	Elaine Brown	

To register your daughter's interest in joining either:

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers
please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk
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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