

ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

April 2020

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 stories
11:15am Parish Eucharist (CW)
6:00 pm Evensong at St Mary's

Last Sunday

6:30 pm Prayer and Praise Service

JUNIOR

Each Sunday at Church

CHURCH

10:00am.in the D'Arcy Room in

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:

- 1. The newly refurbished Reredos.

*All Church Services have been put on Hold
And the Church is Closed until further notice.*



THE PARISH LETTER

New Life, New Hope

Our journey through Lent has certainly been strange. Lent, we know from our Church seasons, is a season of ‘self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter’. Self-denial is the part most easily understood and, arguably, most easily undertaken. Secular friends routinely give up chocolate or cake or wine – a nod perhaps to their childhood when they went to Sunday School, where the disciplines and rhythm of the Church of England were instilled in them; though often now it is done just to become a bit slimmer and healthier.

I didn’t know what to give up this year. In my childhood and through most of my adulthood, I did as my friends did and gave up food treats. But, fearing this was just becoming habitual, I looked for new things to give up. In a bid to release time for the other Lenten disciplines, one year I gave up two Australian soap operas, which I never went back to; another year it was crosswords and Sudoku, which I took up again as soon as Lent was over. But the idea to give up something trivial to release time or energy for something more spiritual was helpful.

This year I dithered. I didn’t really want to do the food thing again – I felt I’d done that too many times and perhaps I too was using it a diet, rather than a spiritual discipline. What about a character trait I didn’t like that I could give up? There was so much choice it was hard to settle on one thing. Tea? Far too hard.

And now I have had “giving something up” thrust upon me as we all have. I have given up public worship; the sanctuary of church, exchanging the peace with a handshake or a hug; walks with my friends; workplace chatter, pasta! Like the crosswords, these things will in time be resumed, but it is only when you lose them you realise how precious they are. I went to our church on Mothering Sunday – the day our service was cancelled but the church was still open. I had been fine - very accepting of this strange world we were entering. I’d had a brisk walk in the chilly spring sunshine. I’d already played a game of the new ‘Postman’s Knock’: putting something on a doorstep, ringing the bell and walking away – but only 2 metres so we could still have a chat. I’d been in quieter shops, keeping a respectful distance. There was less traffic about. This quieter world, I thought, would suit me very well.



Then I stepped into church. At a time when it should have been full of music and worship, voices, warmth, and my Christian family celebrating the Eucharist, I saw only Canon Graham and Vicky, quietly talking. It was lovely to see them, but a lump came into my throat and what felt like a small wave of loss ran through me. This enforced giving up of public worship told me something I didn't know about myself – that I need to see and be with other people more than I realised. I know I like my own space; I need quiet time by myself to recharge my batteries, solitary walks suit me very well – but I need those things to be balanced by being with other people at important times.

So I can tick off at least two of the things I should be doing in Lent – self-denial and self-examination – even if I can't claim that I did it myself. Study and penitence I'm working on.

And what of the preparation for Easter? We will celebrate Easter of course, although it might be in some different way: listening on the radio, watching on television, live streaming of a service, celebrating our service of Spiritual Communion at home. This new temporary way of life has brought about some changes – and they are not all bad. We have more mini team meetings at work; conscious that we don't see each other in the office, we have to make time to see each other. More notes and phone calls are being made to people we might normally only contact at Christmas and birthdays. We check our neighbours are ok. We smile at other people out walking as we carefully steer round each other, acknowledging that keeping our distance keeps each other safe. We can see new life beginning around us – buds on trees, birdsong, grass that needs to be cut, spring flowers in bloom. New life, new ways, new hope is around us. These things don't take away the worry, anxiety and loneliness that might be forced upon us, but they do show us that there is hope, and Easter is all about finding the hope through the pain.

I look forward to our virtual Easter celebration and, in time, seeing you all again.

Happy Easter to you all,

Adrienne

N.B.

COPY DEADLINE FOR MAY MAGAZINE

20th APRIL



In view of the ongoing restrictions placed on us by the Diocese, (due to the Coronavirus Pandemic), all activities in All Saints' Church have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. This includes the proposed **Flower Festival** and the **Concert in July by MEN2SING**. It has also been necessary to postpone the church AGM and as you know all church services have been cancelled and the church has been closed to all. The contents of the letter from the Bishops are printed below:-



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

25th March 2020

Dear sisters and brothers,

Thank you so much for all you are doing in praying and ministering so differently at present and please know that you are prayed for in doing so.

We have become aware this morning that there is some confusion and indeed disagreement over the use of our church buildings in the current coronavirus restrictions. It seems this arises out of a difference between the current government advice and our own diocesan guidance based on the national church's instruction from yesterday.

The Church of England guidance does go further than the government guidance and comes from our own medical advice. In the light of that advice we believe we need to take the lead in demonstrating how important it is to stay at home and that we can still be the church without our buildings, hard though that is at present.

As your four bishops we are asking in the strongest possible terms that churches and clergy follow our instruction and guidance in these matters for the immediate future. As a reminder that instruction is as follows:

- 1. Our church buildings remain totally closed with a notice on the door explaining why, as provided previously. This includes for the clergy, such that no act of worship is led or streamed from inside the building.*
- 2. Therefore funerals are not possible in church, which we know is distressing for grieving families, but is safest in preventing the spread of the virus. Funerals can only take place at the crematorium or at the graveside with numbers restricted to closest family (partners, children, parents) and the maintenance of social distancing.*
- 3. For the support of the most vulnerable, food banks and other essential social services, where they operate out of the church building, can continue as long as strict distribution guidelines are adhered to (pick up of food outside at the door, again maintaining social distancing both outside and inside the building).*

We have no comfort in asking you to comply totally with these instructions, but we do believe it is our Gospel imperative and shared pastoral responsibility to be seen to be setting a lead to the whole of society. Being entirely blunt about it - this is what may save lives at present.

We hope for the day when we can offer less restrictive guidance and pray that day may arrive sooner than currently anticipated. Please know that you are prayed for, especially where you need to explain and defend these guidelines to grieving families and others.

With our warmest Christian love and greetings,

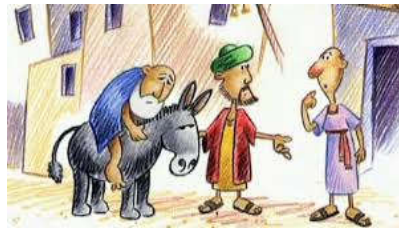
+Stephen, +Peter, +Roger, +John



The Parable of the Good Samaritan - who am I really in the story?

I was reminded of this parable, when in a WhatsApp conversation with my sisters about how we were all managing with the lockdown, one sister joked “I would take up running as my exercise, but realised if I collapsed, no-one would stop to give me the kiss of life , LOL”

I thought in particular of the priest and the Levite in the parable of the Good Samaritan. These are two devout people who, in turn, come across the badly beaten stranger on the road, and choose to *cross the road* and walk on by. (Social distancing is nothing new.) But why did they walk on by? Where is their compassion and kindness? Surely any reasonably decent person would have stopped to help?



On one level, we know of course that the priest and the Levite are essential players in the story so that Jesus can teach us the wider meaning about ‘who is my neighbour?’ Your neighbour is the person who needs your help; and also the unexpected, perhaps undesirable, stranger who helps you.

But we are always left to speculate on why the priest and the Levite walked by on the other side. Do they fear being robbed, beaten - even killed - themselves? Do they fear being rendered unclean and unworthy before God? Are they in a hurry to worship or have they some important duty to attend to? Is it just too much trouble for today?

My sister’s joke, funny in the context she made it, made me think about our situation during the Covid 19 pandemic. It is no wonder we call anyone working on the frontline - medical and other types of support - a ‘good Samaritan’. Many are risking their own health, perhaps their own lives, to help strangers, support those at risk and maintain society. It’s why we applaud them and pray for them.

And it made me think again about who I might be in the story – priest, Levite or Samaritan? Something else to pray about.

Adrienne



Deputy Warden's Waffle

Well it would be wouldn't it? I knew it was my turn, but I kind of hoped the ever vigilant Editor would forget—not a hope! Yes my turn to write the wardens waffle. This will probably be one of the hardest ever to know what exactly to write. —here goes.

I am not going to go about how dreadful everything is, we all know we are now living in unprecedented time, fighting a war but an unseen enemy.

How are you all managing with this isolation business, well I expect I am not the only grandmother who has been forced to send the most inappropriate birthday card. Not having been to a shop for weeks in my case, I dug around in my notelets, and managed to find a nondescript pale blue water colour card to use as my 17yr old grandson birthday card, it did have a cheque inside so hopefully he will not mind the awful card!

I am not a fan of house work, but my upstairs floors have been vacuumed twice in one week. I expect we will all have to buy new carpets later as we all will have vacuumed them thread bare!! Several friends have told me they are engaged in tidying all the drawers in the house – a bridge too far for me at the moment, but I have threatened myself to clean the fridge. My project is to turn my cabbage patch into a mini Versailles, but I am hampered by hay fever, which seems early this year; but I did manage to finally get up a huge dead tree root. I am trying to concentrate on what I CAN do not on the things I cannot do (not sure the tree root was wise!) We must not give up, we will keep going and come out on the other side. The coronavirus is bringing out the best in all of us, there are the exceptions, some people are---no. I cannot print what I think about some people's behaviour--but you all know what I mean.

I am thinking so much about our great church family, and of course I miss each and every one of us all, --

Vicky, Deputy Churchwarden

“God of healing and hope, in Jesus you meet us in our places of Pain and fear. Look with mercy on those who have contracted the new virus, on any who are vulnerable, and on all who feel in danger. Through this time of global concern, by your Holy Spirit bring out the best not the worse in us. Make us more aware of our interdependence on each other, and of the strength that comes from being one body in you. Through Christ our wounded healer. Amen”



Some Useful Information From Vicky

In this worrying and unsure times, I have put together a bit of information I hope might be of some use. Stress and anxiety, which so many of us are feeling, can be detrimental to ones immune system, so here is a list of some foods generally considered to help boost/maintain a good immune system.

grapefruit

oranges

lemons and limes

broccoli (eaten as raw as possible!) I am getting used to it a bit less cooked!

spinach

papaya –I had not had this before so gave it a try—Ok-ish but that is only my opinion

sunflower seeds and almonds,

Maldon District Council have a help line, where you can offer or require help if you alone, and at risk or self isolating : **01621 851997**

Ansells butcher is not open to customers, but will deliver meat to your home, if you ring them on: **01621 853151**

The Queen Victoria in Spital Road is delivering a wide menu to people not able to get out, in certain roads near by, and is now running a little shop selling loo rolls! fruit and veg and odd bits between 12-9 pm. It is by card payment only phone no: **01621 852923**

There have been offers of help from our church family, please let me know if you require help and I can pass this on.

The Church of England has produced some useful prayers, Barbara has printed out a little leaflet for Morning prayer and Evening prayer, to use in our homes. This information is on their website, but should you not have access to this again let me know and I will see about getting it delivered to you.

Thinking so much about everyone

Vicky



Coronavirus: a lesson from the past

‘So many people died that cities and villages in Italy ... were abandoned and fell into ruin.’

That’s not a report about the impact of coronavirus, but an epidemic of smallpox that infected the Roman Empire in 165 AD. A second, equally devastating plague, possibly measles, swept the empire less than 100 years later.

Rodney Stark’s work *The Rise of Christianity* looks at the way Christianity spread in such a difficult context. The question is: How did this happen? Stark gives three reasons:

Firstly, Christianity offered a more satisfactory account of the world – and a better hope for the future – than the dominant pagan and Hellenic philosophies of the day.

Secondly, the Christian values of love and charity which characterised the early Christian community were also ‘translated’ into social service and community solidarity. In other words, those early Christians took care of the sick and vulnerable.

Stark quotes the early bishop Dionysius: “Most of our brother Christians showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and thinking only of one another. Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life serenely happy; for they were infected by others with the disease, drawing on themselves the sickness of their neighbours and cheerfully accepting their pains. Many, in nursing and curing others, transferred their death to themselves and died in their stead...”

And the Romans marvelled at these Christians.

Thirdly, during the epidemic people lost the ‘social bonds’, the peer pressure, that had previously discouraged them from rebelling against prevailing ideologies and embracing the gospel.

Stark goes on to note that frequently in human history, crises produced by natural disasters have translated into crises of faith where the religion of the day is considered inadequate to the reality of people’s life-experience. In response to these failures of religion, societies often look elsewhere and adopt new faiths.

Of course, this all raises an important question: in light of coronavirus, how should Christians respond today? Inspired by those who have gone before us, perhaps I can offer three suggestions:

Firstly, we should use this period of ‘social distancing’ to *reacquaint ourselves with the big story of the Bible*. In the unfolding story of God and the world that we see in the Bible, we are presented with a robust and life-giving account of who God is, what the world is like, and what it means to be truly human.

Secondly, we need to *‘translate’ the Bible into our everyday lives*. We need to practically live out ‘love of God and neighbour’. We should support our neighbours by offering to do shopping, collect parcels, post mail, and ensure they have someone



to talk to on the phone.

Thirdly, we need to *be sensitive to the fact that the current situation will unsettle people* and, uninhibited by their social bonds, prompt them to think about God and the purpose of life, perhaps for the very first time, and we need to be ready for conversations about this.

In the second century, the Christian community responded to the smallpox epidemic not by being anxious or fearful, but by being courageous, prayerful, and deeply, and lovingly practical. We need to do the same, secure in the fact that ‘God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.’ (Psalm 46.1, NIV)

This may be found on the Bible Society website:

The All Saints Handbell Ringers

A few weeks ago I saw an article in the Maldon and Burnham about the All Saints Handbell Ringers and I realised that this group seem to always be there when good things are happening at the church or in the locality, so I thought it would be nice to give them some coverage in our magazine. The following has been taken from information kindly given to me by members of the handbell team, Susan Duke and Derek Hall.



The All Saints Maldon Handbell Ringers hand over the cheque to Action for Family Carers.
Photo from Maldon and Burnham Standard

All Saints Church has owned a set of 12 handbells cast at the Whitechapel bell foundry in the 1870's since they were donated to the church by Mr. Hudson of Beeleigh in 1925. They were originally used by the tower ringers to practice change ringing until, in 1977, some church members saw them at a church fete and decided to set up a group to ring tunes. As a result, All Saints Maldon Handbell Ringers was born and they have gone from strength



to strength from that day to this. The team plays using traditional number notation rather than conventional staff notation, meaning that its members do not have to be able to read music (I am glad I was given that explanation!) The team often play to raise money for charitable causes, particularly around Christmas time, and have featured live on BBC Essex several times, usually in December and once during a Maldon Victorian evening. Canon Stephen was particularly fond of the handbell ringers and he started the tradition of them playing outside the church before and after the 5 o'clock service on Christmas Eve. The team have given their support to many charities over the years including Farleigh, MacMillan, Anthony Nolan, Little Haven, Bliss, Epilepsy, Salvation Army, Essex Air Ambulance, St. John Ambulance, Helen Rollason, Canine Partners, Food Pantry, CHESS, Diabetes UK and the David Randall Foundation. That is some list to be proud of! Last Christmas the chosen charity was Essex Mind, the mental health charity. The team are also active in playing in local care and residential homes where the residents like to sing along with the songs and carols. In our own church the team played at both the Harvest festival and the Christmas Tree festival. They also took part in the Armistice day commemorations at St. Margaret's church in Woodham Mortimer where they played the poignant "In Flanders Fields" which is a particular favourite of mine.

During the year, the team attend various rallies organised by the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain (HRGB). This provides opportunities to listen to and learn from other teams. The latest National Rally was held at Windsor and provided workshop sessions to learn about ringing and techniques as well as a session of 'massed' ringing with over 300 people taking part!

Some people will remember that the Handbell Ringers used to practise in the old vestry which is now the kitchen and toilet, but they now use the small meeting room. The team meet every Wednesday except during August and would welcome any new members. Should you be interested then please contact Susan Duke (susan.duke@hrgb.org.uk) or through one of the churchwardens perhaps. Obviously, meetings are difficult at present but please make contact anyway. No previous musical experience is required, and you would be supported and helped to develop the skills and ringing techniques required for handbell ringing.

The All Saints Handbell Ringers are one of the many facets of All Saints church and comprises a team of dedicated and talented people who bring pleasure to many whilst raising funds for many more. A great team.

Ken Downham



THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your kindness during my convalescence from my recent hip operation. There have been phone calls, flowers, cards, gifts, assurance of prayers, visits and a warmth of greeting on my return to church that was particularly appreciated.

All this made me think of the word 'fellowship'. We use it a lot in church and are well aware of its meaning in a dictionary sense. On occasions such as this, however, fellowship is actually experienced. This is so important because it is through experiences like this we become aware of the meaning of love at first hand.

In this, I believe is reflected the love of God for us. This is wonderful, but it is also a challenge in that we are called upon to reflect God's love in the wider community in which we live.

Paul

Archbishop of Canterbury pays tribute to the Archbishop of York

Archbishop Justin Welby has paid tribute to the Archbishop of York in General Synod earlier today at what would have been his final Synod.

Archbishop Justin Welby praised the Archbishop of York who is currently travelling in the Pacific. He said: "He (John Sentamu) has gone to visit parts of the world which are suffering the effects of climate change right now. He has gone typically to be alongside those who are suffering: a pattern of his life throughout his ministry."

The Archbishop continued: "Speaking about Sentamu when he's not here ... means we can show our gratitude, thanks and love for him without him being able to stop us."

Recalling the Archbishop of York's work on the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, Archbishop Justin added that "he has said that he himself was stopped at least eight times by the police".

Reflecting on the Archbishop of York's impact nationally, the Archbishop of Canterbury said: "The Church of England will miss you Sentamu and the wider country will miss you. There aren't a lot of bishops who are so well known outside the church."

Taken from the Parish Pump website



Paul J King

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PRAYING AT HOME DURING A TIME OF EMERGENCY

Some of you have become anxious about prayer in the home during lockdown. It is important not to apply judgments about our prayer pattern that we might make in normal circumstances to a situation that is unprecedented.

Extreme trauma and worry about ourselves, our families, friends and relations will have a profound effect on how we pray – or whether we feel able to pray at all. Our feelings about God will become very ambiguous and our faith may be challenged: What sort of God is he? Why does he allow such things to happen? Couldn't he stop the epidemic if he wanted to? Is God good? And if so, how we can discern his goodness in the midst of these darkest of threats to our well-being? These feelings are entirely normal and should not be suppressed. However, for the most part, you and I will simply be trying to process the evolving facts of the situation, and mostly be suffering the effects of information overload, emotional numbness and spiritual disengagement or confusion. All these things in combination make us listless and exhausted.

Allowing our sense of helplessness to be a prayer unites us with the rest of humanity. At the moment we are seeing the best and the worst kind of behaviour. An epidemic will always produce these extremes. But something we can be consistent about each day is to remember/pray for those who are putting their own lives on the line to save as many others as possible.

Our prayers do not have to be made in words: mental petitions and intentions are heard just as keenly heard by the 'still small voice' who is God himself. If you cannot find the words, allow yourself to become accustomed to a more fluid style of praying. This may take place at set times, or at intervals throughout the day. If you do use words it is important that your requests should be short and focused. Part of trusting the Father is that we do not have to remind him of our needs. As we recall things to pray about, 'arrow prayers' are also quick and concise.

For those of us that prefer small times of structured prayer throughout the day (Morning/Midday/Evening/or Night Prayer), relying on a pre-set liturgy, - the "Divine Office" - it is important not to approach these as somehow clearing a hurdle. It does not matter if a prayer-time, is missed. Often only one office a day is read or said. Only attempt as much as you feel able. God will understand. The benefits of a liturgy which is set down (these prayers derive from early monastic times) is that we do not have to struggle with forming our own words: it is all done for us. Resources of this kind can be found on the internet. It does not matter if your prayer-time lasts under 10 minutes. Try to finish with 5 minutes of silent prayer. This is very difficult because of distracting thoughts. Start small with 1 minute, then increase upwards.



Light a candle, or use soft music to create atmosphere. If you have a distracting thought, stay calm, and gently throw it like a pebble into a calm pond.

The Psalms are a good place to go for help and strength, or just to browse. There are plenty of well-known and loved ones: 8, 15, 23, 27, 40, 42, 51, 67, 84, 91, 96, 103, 116, 121, 122, 130, 139. You can usually find a psalm for every mood and emotion.

If you get bad news, eg that someone in your family is ill, or a relative or friend has died, do not expect to be in any condition to pray. One of the cruellest aspects of COVID-19 is that people die alone without their families. This is extremely distressing, as there is no opportunity to say goodbye. All we can do is lift their souls and our grief to God. We experience the helplessness of Christ on the Cross; the place where Our Lord suffered his most crushing sense of abandonment.

Throughout this we are trying to adjust to an alternative narrative: that not all of us will die, that some of us and those we love will carry on into a future world-order which will be changed by all this. An Easter will come. Thus we remain suspended between hope and despair. That is why the Psalms are such a comfort: they express that duality, and we can make their prayer our own.

Other places we can go to are the well-known Canticles. Many of you will know them in Book of Common Prayer format. From Morning Prayer, the Benedictus and the Te Deum; from Evening Prayer (Evensong) the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. Even more uplifting are the resplendent Easter Anthems. All these can be not only recited but quietly studied and pondered. You will be surprised at first how difficult it is to 'read with due attention', but persevere and you will find certain phrases take on new meaning for you.

When it comes to the Gospels, concentrate on Jesus' Acts of Mercy, his healing miracles, his conversations with his disciples and with others. Try to put yourself in the shoes of the hearer. Look for words of encouragement that you can make your own. With a few exceptions do not engage too much with parables. The Beatitudes are good. Avoid passages about prophecy and the End Times. Such speculation will only add to the fear that we are all trying to deal with. Unless you find St Paul central to your spirituality, read rather less of the Epistles. Their theology is complex and they were written with very different problems in mind. Stick to Jesus.

Some people like to 'practice the presence of God' in their homes. To imagine Jesus at the head of the table for example, or in an empty chair. This can be very powerful for some, but it does not work for everybody. But during lockdown we do have the opportunity to try something new. But whatever it happens to be – simplicity and humility are central. 'A broken and contrite heart he will not bruise'.

Fr Graham March, 2020 (Edited to fit the space available Ed)



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.

I'm most important because I've known him the longest!

But I'm the oldest!

I've given up the most to follow him!

There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.

It was the job of the least important servant to wash everyone's feet...



The disciples didn't have a servant, and none of them wanted to do the feet washing...

Jesus took off his outer robe and tied a towel around his waist.

He filled a large bowl with water and started washing the disciples' feet.

Peter couldn't believe what he was seeing!

Are you really going to wash my feet?

You will understand later why I am doing this.

I can't ever let you serve me like this!

If you don't let me, you will no longer be my disciple

Then wash all of me!

If you've had a bath, then you only need your feet washing!

Once Jesus had washed all their feet, he put his robe back on and sat down.

Do you understand why, your teacher, did this? I am setting you the example of how you are to serve each other. Do it, and God will bless you.



LABROAD
 OCROSSE
 RHAPPYB
 DONKEYS
 FSCIASC
 EAHNCAO
 ANEGETA
 SNSPLOT
 TAPALMS

DIMOURJEWSSLNPATTCUPKJCB
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 IGNABODYKILLIAROOLOTSUTA
 NEATTMEALGODLYELRWILLUCRT
 KDISCIPLESONSUSTNNMESSIAH
 EBREADWINEDXGETHSEMANEFYE
 DARKNESSHTLINENAHEAVENYYD



HUGDAWN
 RTOMBMG
 EOOTPOE
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 DRNMRNK
 AOEP A I I
 YWWLINS
 SDSESGS
 EASTERB
 GUARDEU
 SAVIOUR
 PRAISEY
 IDCUTKT
 RIDJOYE
 ICOINSL
 TETREEL

- DONKEY • COLT • SAT • COATS
- ROAD • CROWD • CUT • PALMS
- BRANCHES • KING • HOSANNA
- DISCIPLES • ROOM • PASSOVER
- FEAST • EAT • DRINK • BREAD
- WINE • SON • MAN • BLOOD • CUP
- MEAL • JEWS • PLOT • KILL • COINS
- GETHSEMANE • PRAY • WILL
- BETRAY • KISS • ARREST • MESSIAH
- CHRIST • CRUCIFY • JESUS • CROWN
- THORNS • ROBE • TREE • NAILS
- CROSS • SPIRIT • DARKNESS
- TEMPLE • DEATH • LOTS • DICE
- TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY
- BURY • GUARD • THREE DAYS
- DAWN • MORNING • ANGEL • TELL
- HEAVEN • GOOD NEWS • LORD
- GOD • RAISED • JOY • PEACE
- PRAISE • SAVIOUR • EASTER

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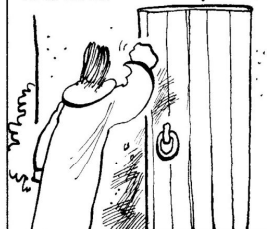


Words and Actions

JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS - AND HE OFTEN WENT WALKING WITH THEM.



ONCE, ON A JOURNEY, JESUS CALLED AT THE HOME OF MARTHA AND MARY



MARTHA WAS VERY PLEASED TO MEET WITH JESUS, AND SHE MADE HIM WELCOME



MARY WAS VERY EXCITED TOO AND WANTED TO LISTEN TO EVERYTHING JESUS HAD TO SAY



BUT MARTHA, WAS NOT VERY IMPRESSED WITH MARY! SHE THOUGHT HER SISTER SHOULD BE HARD AT WORK. NOT SITTING AROUND - JUST LISTENING



LORD, DON'T YOU CARE THAT MARY HAS LEFT ME TO DO ALL THE WORK BY MYSELF?!



MARTHA, YOU ARE WORRIED AND TROUBLED OVER SO MANY THINGS



JESUS TOLD MARTHA THAT THERE ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE THAN JUST FUSSING OVER A CLEAN HOUSE!



PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN LEARN, LIKE MARTHA, IS TO MAKE TIME TO LISTEN TO JESUS.





w	p	s	e	r	v	a	n	t	d	c	f
a	a	k	x	p	x	s	e	n	x	j	r
s	s	t	a	e	l	e	a	s	t	e	d
h	s	o	m	t	f	t	s	g	t	a	i
k	o	w	p	e	s	e	n	a	o	f	s
g	v	e	l	r	l	i	l	r	g	f	c
c	e	l	e	b	r	a	t	i	n	g	i
i	r	d	t	e	a	c	h	e	r	j	p
m	n	y	k	t	s	p	e	c	i	a	l
u	b	c	j	e	s	u	s	e	r	v	e
d	i	m	p	o	r	t	a	n	t	p	s
b	o	w	l	r	o	b	e	b	a	t	h

special

celebrating

Peter

mud

feet

later

example

servant

robe

teacher

serve

disciples

Passover

Jesus

bath

bless

important

wash

bickering

least

towel

road

bowl

understand



HOLY DAYS

5 – 12 April – Passion Week

The events of Easter took place over a week, traditionally called Passion Week.

It began on Palm Sunday. After all his teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following. On the Sunday before he was to die, Jesus and his followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving from to celebrate Passover. This commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 year earlier.

Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey. He was greeted like a conquering hero. Cheering crowds waved palm branches in tribute. He was hailed as the Messiah who had come to re-establish a Jewish kingdom.

The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted money-changers and merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how he was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning his authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later that day Jesus spoke to his disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines; and how his followers would face persecution.

By midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray him to them.

Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians – Holy Communion – which commemorates his death. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with his disciples.

Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. He agonised over what was to come but chose the way of obedience. The Bible book, Luke, records him praying, '*Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done*'. Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website



REFLECTED FAITH: THE ROLE OF THE SACRISTAN

The traditional marks on an altar are five crosses representing either the five wounds of Christ or perhaps more matter-of-factly, Christ at the centre of what holds up the table – and indeed what holds our lives.

This month let's consider the work of the person responsible for preparing the altar for worship.

So often when we arrive in church, everything is already set up for the service and by the time we've drunk our coffee afterwards it's all cleared away – as if some altar fairies come in the dark and do it all very quietly.

Well, in fact that's exactly what happens! Except that rather than fairies this is the job of the *Sacristan*.

A busy priest with many churches may conduct several services on a Sunday and so rely on the altar to have been prepared before their arrival. There are set ways of preparing all altars so that, wherever you go to worship, the same things should be found and folded/laid in the same ways.

This not only helps in times of business, but principally it allows all who conduct or serve at the altar to engage with the words of the service, rather than get distracted by wondering 'where so and so' is today.

Some churches are more stringent than others in their preciseness, but there is a minimum level of acceptability. Otherwise the priest must spend time before the service checking everything is 'right' – or getting an inconvenient surprise when something is missing!

When the 'moment' comes in the Eucharistic prayer at the words, 'We break this bread', you should be able to hear the sharp 'snap' at the break. Making sure that the wafer is crisp enough is the responsibility of the Sacristan.

The story is told about one church where the wafer tended to go a bit soft – until the Sacristan began putting it on the radiator for a few minutes beforehand, until they were 'dry enough to snap.' Another solution, of course, would have been to find an airtight container...

Next time you are able to attend a Eucharist service listen out for the 'snap' and think what that sounds tells you of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection.

Taken from the Parish pump website



A Bucket of Tadpoles: Springtime, Curiosity, and the Theology of Science

When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.

I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are then swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' – which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook. Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, that we are made in God's image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a theology of science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs – that is, until a two year-old comes and knocks them over.

Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Taken from the Parish Pump website



TEN to TEN Rambling Group 14th March 2020

This month's walk was a 6-mile circular walk starting from the Swan pub in Little Totham. The weather forecast was for thick cloud and occasional showers but, luckily, the rain held off. Undaunted, five of us set off along lanes, tracks and muddy footpaths towards Great Totham.

By mid-morning the weather was starting to brighten up and, when we stopped for coffee, the sun was starting to come through. Suitably refreshed, we set off back to the pub, where we found a welcoming log fire waiting for us. Tucking into some excellent pub grub, we had a short discussion about the merits of another walk in the afternoon but the general consensus was that sitting by the fire was a better option! This turned out to be a wise decision as, not long after, the heavens opened.

NB No more walks until further notice.

Peter Holmes

Answers to Last Month's Crossword Puzzle

You will find the clues in last months magazine.

ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Planet. 4, Rugged. 7, True. 8, Augustus. 9, Attitude. 13, Bed. 16, Participation. 17, War. 19, Hillside. 24, Baldhead. 25, Bede. 26, Census. 27, Arisen.

DOWN: 1, Path. 2, Adulterer. 3, Tract. 4, Rigid. 5, Gust. 6, Exude. 10, Irish. 11, Uriel. 12, Esau's. 13, Blindness. 14, Deny. 15, Spew. 18, Awake. 20, Ideas. 21, Lydia. 22, Odes. 23, Lean.

THE LINK

The Link is now available on the website. Please, if you have anything for the Link do send it to Barbara; it is a good way of keeping in touch with our church family.

We know that not everyone has access to the internet, therefore Barbara has offered to print a small number of hard copies. If you are unable to access the internet and would like one of these, please contact Barbara.



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



The Rectory
St. James the Least

On how to run your notice board

My dear Nephew Darren

Your decision to place a notice board outside your church seems a good one – and its design in blue plastic with luminous red detachable letters seems entirely in keeping with the aesthetics of your building. Make sure that it is lockable, however, as an innocent notice saying ‘all are welcome’ may be modified by a devotee of anagrams to say something far less polite by the following day.

We recently replaced ours, which had disappeared shortly before last bonfire night. That the Scouts’ bonfire had a board which closely resembled our old one in its centre was, I am sure, a complete coincidence. The Venture Scouts’ collective smirk during the following week’s Parade Service did give one pause for thought, and the Cubs’ collapse into helpless laughter at the chorus ‘So light up the fire and let the flames burn’ only increased suspicion.

On reflection, you may not have been wise to use your notice board to tell everyone your holiday dates. Certainly, various local burglars were tripping over each other inside the vicarage while you were away. However, the note the last one left you, saying that next time he broke in, he would bring you something, since you had so little left, was quite touching.

Inevitably, now that your church has a notice board, there will be open warfare over who is allowed to display notices on it. Will the Slimmers Club be seen as biblical? Why is the Ladies Guild notice twice as large as all the others? And do remember that while everyone will want space to display their notices, no one will ever remove them once the event is over. Plaintive announcements of Christmas parties in April or of Summer Fetes in November only serve to take people down memory lane.

Here’s the best way to manage a notice board: create that panacea for all problems: a sub-committee. These poor people only ever exist in order to get the clergy out of tight corners and to make sure that matters are discussed at

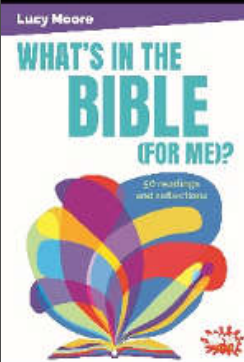


such inordinate length that every issue eventually dies a natural death. And if even that fails, you could have a quiet word with our Scouts before next year's bonfire night.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Book Reviews



What's in the Bible (for me)? –
50 readings and reflections

By Lucy Moore, BRF, £4.99

Lucy Moore's pocket-sized guide to the Bible takes readers on an epic journey through 4,000 years of history. Spanning Old and New Testaments in 50 bite-sized readings, the founder and leader of Messy Church writes for families and individuals who are new to the Bible: its riches, puzzles and

complexities.

With wisdom, insight and humour, she connects Old and New Testament stories to each other and to 21st-century experience: manna in the wilderness to the 'daily bread' of the Lord's Prayer. For anyone who wonders where to start reading the Bible, this is the perfect introduction and companion.

Taken from the Parish Pump website.

.....
The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible, Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the Psalm, but little Charles did not find it easy to memorise much of anything.

On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Charles stepped up to the microphone and began proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd...." He knew that much, but the rest of the Psalm suddenly deserted him. So he concluded bravely: "... and that's all I need to know."

.....



Spiritual Communion When Unable to Attend a Celebration of Holy Communion

If a household are praying together one person may act as leader and the others as the congregation and they join in the sections in bold type. If alone read all the words aloud. You may want to light a candle before you begin, and have a bible, cross or crucifix to look at or some music to play.

The Lord is here.

The Spirit is with us.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

You may want to pray the Collect of the Day.

You could use one or more of the readings of the day or the following short readings:

First Reading - Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Psalm - Psalm 62

On God alone my soul in stillness waits; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

Gospel - John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Spend a few moments praying for the people you know and love, the needs of the world and for an end to the current Pandemic.

Readings and Collects of the Day can be found at: chelmsford.anglican.org/spiritual-communion

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us



this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Act of Contrition:

I love you, Jesus, my love above all things, and I repent with my whole heart of having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again, grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

Act of Spiritual Reception:

O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.

Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

Jesus, as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch your body, so may the soul of your servant be healed, for though I cannot receive you in the sacrament I can, through this offering of my prayer, receive you in my heart; grant this for Christ's sake. **Amen.**

O Lord and heavenly Father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching you to grant, that by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all your whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. **Amen.**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**



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



Dates for the Diary

4th - 6th Dec Christmas Tree Festival

The Vacancy

I understand that the Parish Profile has now been completed and sent to Archdeacon Elizabeth for approval and to enable her to produce the advertisement for our new Priest.

Unfortunately however, this procedure has now been put on hold until the current restrictions due to the Coronavirus are lifted. Regrettably this means that we will be without a Priest for longer than we had hoped and will remain in Vacancy, as will St Mary's.

During this time the Magazine and the Link will still be produced and will be published on the website. Barbara Gale, who produces the link, will print hard copies for those unable to view the website, if they inform her.

Peter Clark, Editor

Lunch at All Saints

Soup – hot food- cakes

12:00-2:00

**No Lunches Until
Further Notice**





Prayer Diary

April 2020

1	Those suffering from cancer
2	All Churches in our Diocese
3	Those addicted to alcohol
4	The unemployed
5 Palm Sunday	The worldwide Church
6	Christians who are persecuted for their faith
7	Peace in Jerusalem
8	Our Diocesan and Area Bishops
9 Maundy Thursday	Christians in the Holy Land
10 Good Friday	The Procession of Witness
11	Those who are newly baptized and confirmed
	Those who are newly baptized and confirmed
12 Easter Day	Christians throughout the world
13	Our Ministry Team
14	Retired Clergy
15	The needy and hungry of the world
16	The sick and those who care for them
17	Our Diocesan Synod
18	Those leading and attending Messy Church
19 Easter 2	Our Sunday Schools
20	Our Rural Dean
21	All Churchwardens
22	Christian Youth Workers
23 St George	Churches dedicated to St George and members of The Scout Association
24	Our Parish
25 St Mark	Churches dedicated to St Mark
26 Easter 3	Staff and Students at All Saints' CofE School
27	Staff and Students at Wentworth School
28	Hospital and Hospice Chaplaincy Teams
29	Staff and Students at Plume School
30	Residents of care homes in our Town

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

VICAR	Vacancy
HON. ASST. PRIEST	Rev. Canon Dr. Graham Blyth Tel: 01621 854068
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VERGER	
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DEPUTY CHURCHWARDENS	
HON TREASURER	Eddie Sewell Tel: 01621 851961
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SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Elizabeth Blyth Tel 01621 854068 Email: elisabeth.blyth@gmail.com



ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Choir Practice (Thur 7:30pm)	Dr. Stuart Pegler	01621 850530
Junior Choir (Thur 7:00 pm)	"	"
Junior Church	Elaine Brown	01621 853238
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
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	Cliff Hunte	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		
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.

All Church Activities have been put on hold
And the Church is Closed until further notice.

PARISH OFFICE

Requests for Baptisms and Marriages should be made at the Parish Office situated in the Church - entrance via the main entrance door from the High Street - on 1st and 3rd Wed of the month between 7:00 and 8:00 pm

All Saints' Maldon



Open every day

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