

ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

May 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 Flowering Cherry in full bloom in the church yard.
Photo by Geoff Dickman

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



THE PARISH LETTER

As I write this article for 'Parish News', we have all just recently been told that the current 'lockdown' will continue at least until 8th May. This will mean that we will have to continue with our social distancing for longer than we would have hoped.

Easter this year was an entirely different experience. There were no joyful Services in which we could greet other members of our congregation; there was no egg-rolling or Easter Bonnet competitions; no rousing hymns for us to 'raise the church roof'.

But we were able to join in 'virtual Services' or join in streamed services on both radio and television. All very different, but still uplifting, and giving us the opportunity to say 'Alleluia, Christ is Risen', and for us to respond, 'He is risen indeed, alleluia!'

One of my favourite stories of Easter is the one that St Luke recounts about the two disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus during the first Easter Day. We know that one of the disciples was Cleopas, and we are not told why they were going to Emmaus.

They had set out for a seven-mile journey which would probably have taken them a couple of hours. Plenty of time to talk over the events of recent days. Their hopes and expectations had been dashed and their world had caved in. Then came this stranger who seemed totally unaware of what had been going on and joined them on their journey.

He asks what had been going on, so the disciples repeat all that had happened. It probably surprised them how short the journey seemed. Journeys are always shorter if you have something interesting to do, or to listen to, or to talk about.

When they arrived at their destination, they encouraged the stranger to stay with them because it was almost evening. So the stranger accepted their invitation, and joined them for a meal at which he took bread, broke it and gave it to them. They then recognised Jesus, and he vanished from their sight. The disciples turned on their heels and hurried all the way back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples that they had seen The Lord.

Jesus appears when we least expect Him. A stranger may emerge from the shadows or cross our path.



Over these past weeks many of us will have experienced acts of kindness, friendship and companionship from all sorts of people. Many will have been neighbours, others will have been friends, some may have been volunteers who you have never seen before, some may have been acquaintances or people we have known by sight, but not known their name, others may have been members of our congregation.

But have you seen Jesus? There is always the possibility that the stranger who emerged from the shadows, the one who crossed your path and showed himself, was the Lord of life!

The Easter season doesn't end a week after Easter Day, it lasts until 31st May. By then – hopefully – we will all be able to take journeys to see friends and family again. Some of those journeys may be with company, or alone. Take care! Make sure you know who is joining you on your journey, or who is crossing your path over the next few weeks. You just might encounter Jesus.

Alan

The Bishops Easter Message was received after the April magazine had been printed but it is printed here. His last as Bishop of Chelmsford. Ed.



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



Easter message from The Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford: April 2020

Departures and Arrivals

Easter, and perhaps especially Eastertide through to the feast of Pentecost, is always a season of departures and arrivals. The desolation of Good Friday seems to be about Jesus leaving us. Easter day is about surprising arrival. The feast of the Ascension, though a great triumph, also has Jesus departing into heaven. The great feast of Pentecost, with which Eastertide concludes, is the arrival of the Holy Spirit whereby Jesus is with us in a new and unconstrained way, equally available to everyone.

As I write this, I am feeling the pull of arrivals and departures rather keenly. It



isn't going to be easy leaving the Chelmsford diocese. I have loved being your bishop. Essex is the county I grew up in. It will always be home, and I have been privileged to serve as bishop at such exciting times, not just the Olympic Games coming to the diocese in 2012, nor even our glorious centenary celebrations in 2014 where both the Queen one week and the Archbishop of Canterbury the next visited the diocese, but the drive, faithfulness and creativity that has been put into trying to reshape the church for mission. Our vision is that the Church might be a transforming presence, better able to serve the communities of East London and Essex, and demonstrating the love of Christ by our witness and service. Serving as Bishop of Chelmsford at such a time has been a huge privilege. Saying goodbye is going to be hard.

However the coronavirus epidemic that we are living through makes that goodbye even harder. I don't just mean the personal sadness that all my farewell events have had to be cancelled, but the uncertainty that all of us are feeling. This doesn't feel like a good time for the captain to be leaving the bridge.

But the diocese is in good hands. Until a new diocesan bishop is appointed later this year, Bishop Peter will take my place. Our bishops, archdeacons and diocesan staff are doing a brilliant job. There is lots of help and advice available on our website.

And perhaps the other things to say, is that the uncertainty and fearfulness we feel at the moment are the very things that Mary Magdalene felt when she went, on her own, self-isolated, to the tomb on the first Easter morning. Even though she didn't recognise him, Jesus spoke to her sadness, asking her why she was weeping; and re-directed her life, asking her who she was looking for; and then, in speaking her name, assured her that in the midst of fear and uncertainty God was with her.

As I say goodbye to this diocese and as I prepare myself for challenging new adventures, I am aware that this is always the pattern of the gospel. God is always with us in our troubles, but God is also leading us on. "Do not cling to me." says Jesus to Mary, (John 20.17). Which I suppose also means for us: don't expect to ever have all the answers; don't imagine you can control or constrain me or even completely understand me. My right time is rarely your right time. There is always more.

May God bless you this Easter with a new knowledge of his love for you and his purpose for your life. And may God lead us through this time of isolation and waiting to new adventures and to resurrection life.



As one who enjoys reading poetry and who also loves cats, I was delighted to come across some very erudite poetry written by the feline friends of some 'quite' well known poets, who obviously learned a thing or two from their cats!

Vicky Tropman

SITTING BY THE FIRE ON A SNOWY EVENING

by Robert Frost's Cat.

Whose chair this is by now I know
He's somewhere in the forest though
He will not see me sitting here
A place I'm not supposed to go.

He really is a little queer
To leave his fire's cozy cheer
And ride out by the frozen lake
The coldest evening of the year.

To love the snow it takes a flake
The chill that makes your footpads ache.
The drifts too high to lurk or creep
The icicles that drip and break.

His chair is comfy, soft and deep.
But I have got an urge to leap
And mice to catch before I sleep
And mice to catch before I sleep.

Hope you enjoyed reading this well known (?) poem from the original author !

Keep well, love Vicky



Deputy Warden's Waffle

Hello to everyone and we hope you are all keeping well! What a weird time this is and how do we report on church activities past and future during 'lockdown' when nothing can be either planned or put into action? Thank goodness for the good old telephone and of course email and all things computer related. We are having the warmest April for 300 years and it must be so difficult if you are stuck indoors. I feel very blessed that I can spend time in my garden which is at its most beautiful during April and May. Also that I am fit enough to work in it this year after the last three springs when I have been in and out of hospital. (Broken leg, broken wrist and bowel surgery!) This year is a bonus as we should have moved on 20th April!! So for me on a purely personal note, I am loving being in my garden and enjoying spring in it for the last time after 50 years of watching it change and mature and watching my family grow and change as well, as first my parents were living here with us and now our daughter, husband and grandchildren. They are moving to Suffolk and we to Tolleshunt D'Arcy. No idea when! We are waiting for restrictions to be lifted.

So we have been enjoying the services on YouTube, Easter Day from the Archbishop's kitchen, and seeing our Bishop Steven elevated to Archbishop of York - though I believe he can't move either until lockdown is lifted!

It seems a long time ago since our cruise from Shri-Lanka to Cyprus in February which took in a visit to Israel, where we were able to visit Jerusalem and Bethlehem, just squeezing in before boarders were closed a few days after our visit. I would love to go back, but on a proper pilgrimage. I wonder how many of you are having holidays and family occasions cancelled or put on hold? Of course one thing that cannot be rearranged is a funeral and we sadly anticipate Cliff Hunter's memorial service in the future. The town Scout movement will not be the same after his many years of service to it.

Look after yourselves, keep washing your hands and we all look forward to happier times when we can welcome a new priest and each other back into All Saints.

Viv, deputy warden

.....

Meow

“What is your kitty’s name, James?” asked the visitor.

“Ben Hur,” said James.

“That’s a funny name for a cat. Why did you name it that?”

“Well, we just called him Ben – until he had kittens.”

.....



A PATRON SAINT OF DOUBT

Throughout my life I have met Christians who I could number only on the fingers of one hand who were prepared to talk openly with me about their doubts. They were all extremely interesting people. They came to church but in many ways didn't know why. Their reasons encompassed the whole range - "I feel like I've been wrung out in a spin-dryer", "I sort of need to be here", "I don't know why I come", "I feel a fraud", "I'm not sure I believe any of it". One thing which united them was a sense of doggedness. They were always amongst the most faithful in their attendance. Equally they were acutely aware that they were on the fringes – sharing to some extent the status of the outcasts to whom Jesus ministered.

They all suffered from very lively minds during worship. They thought outside the box. They were not inclined to accept doctrine unquestioningly – and certainly not the sermons of their clergy through which they patiently sat Sunday by Sunday. Yet they were always respectful, despite the fact that you could almost hear the mechanistic whirr of their brains during the silences in the liturgy.

Some of us are predisposed to embrace certainties. A straightforward and simple faith is not to be denigrated in any way. It is probably the default position for most Christians, in deference to either the Bible, the Church or Tradition, or all three. Though in some cases it can lead to the over-certainty we call fundamentalism: an inflexibility which insists that everyone must believe exactly the same things as the rest of a church fellowship; and that failure to do so will result in strict separation from dissenting believers.

On the other hand there are those of us who balk at being told what to think. We can find ourselves wondering about received spiritual truths such as the Incarnation, the Resurrection, and the Second Coming: what Lewis Carroll might have called 'six impossible things before breakfast.' This does not mean that mysticism or prayer are inaccessible to a rationalist. It just means sometimes having to switch off a natural resistance to the idea of a God who intervenes from a dimension outside our own (and apparently *doesn't* in earthquakes, tsunamis, or global pandemics, for example)

Just as not all traditional believers can be classified as 'one size fits all', so neither can doubters. When I was rector of Danbury we spent three consecutive summers holding a course at the Rectory called 'Doubters and Sceptics'. It was remarkably well attended – at times between 14 and 15 members of our regular congregation with the occasional guest. We would discuss issues like 'Who exercises Church authority?', 'Can liberal churches



grow?', 'Is guilt toxic?' ' Darwin, the Big Bang and Creation', 'The Holy Spirit: why is it frightening?', 'The Creed and me: is it negotiable?' There was great interest in these topics. Everyone could speak freely and contribute without judgment. There was no expectation other than to be courteous to others. I also used some of the same material in confirmation classes with our young people. I think we all had a shared vision of minds being opened out by the Bible, not trapped between its bookends.

St Thomas is important as a patron saint of doubters. He had worked right up alongside Jesus. Yet he held out against belief in the Resurrection because he had not been present when it had been revealed to his fellow-disciples. In fact Jesus arranges for him to have his own separate experience of his risen presence. So it seems that doubters have an honoured place in the kingdom of heaven.

Doubt is not for the fainthearted. For those of us unduly prone to it, we inhabit a darker, often more pessimistic world without the benefits of absolute certainty of God's love in the life to come. Depression is frequent. It is a vulnerable place to be. But in this era of misleading facts and 'fake news', not believing what you first read or hear may be a sensible place to start. Give yourself a moment or two to take stock, rather than get carried along on a torrent of strong feelings (a Christian is not called to be tabloid). Acting on impulse is rarely a good thing. Even if it occasionally is, there may still be consequences.

Christ's church is made up of many members. It is good for any congregation to have within its laity (sometimes even its clergy) some who will ask the awkward theological questions. Those who will stretch the minds of others and sometimes even put them on the rack! It is still a valid contribution to make – even if not by any means the most popular. But the Church of England is a broad church – and never more so when the work of the Spirit can be expressed as much in questions as in acts of faith. St Thomas would feel at home among us.

Canon Graham
(April 2020)

N.B.

COPY DEADLINE FOR JUNE MAGAZINE

24th MAY



VE DAY 8TH MAY 1945

With the 75th anniversary of the end of the second world war, in Europe, coming on 8th May 2020, I would like to make a few personal observations on how VE day 1945 affected me.

I was a boy of nine and a quarter when the war in Europe finished and my overriding memory of that time was that everyone was so relieved that at last some kind of normality could be enjoyed once again. No more living half of our lives in Anderson air raid shelters, no more having to ensure that no chink of light could escape from our houses at night in case it was picked up by enemy bombers, no more having to have our school lessons in a brick built air raid shelter, and maybe soon food rationing might end and we children could taste sweets more often, have a banana or an orange occasionally and would no longer be dreading the knock of the telegram boy for fear he would bring bad news. There were of course many other things we were pleased that we would be able to have or perhaps not have in the future, but our parents probably had more to be relieved about than children did. For many there would have been the grief that husbands and fathers, brothers and sons would not be coming home. Others had lost loved ones in attacks on our towns and cities and many families had lost their homes in the bombing and rocket attacks and some had suffered more than one of these tragedies.

We lived in a council house in Dagenham during the war and had been incredibly lucky not to have suffered any damage to the property and had not lost my father to the hostilities even though he had spent all his time in the merchant navy mainly on the North American convoys which brought much needed supplies to our country and was a very hazardous job due to the ever constant threat of attack by U-boats. My dad was never torpedoed but his brother, my uncle, was, on two separate occasions and survived both times.

So VE day was a joyous time for me and I suppose for many other children. Being on a council estate where, in those days, everyone looked out for everyone else, the women folk soon decided that to celebrate, a street party was necessary for the children and as if by magic one was rustled up almost before our eyes! It was for boys and girls of school age which meant that my thirteen and a half year old brother would also be able to attend. My oldest brother who was fifteen would be at work as they left school at fourteen in those days. Fifteen, and he had already been at work for a year whilst the war was on and had on one occasion had to dive into a hedge when a V2 rocket came down very near to him as he rode his bicycle home from the London docks where he worked. The rocket landed on a brick built public toilet and killed several people sheltering inside. Could you imagine today that parents would let a fifteen year old boy cycle seven miles to work and back every day? Not forgetting of course that aeroplanes would be dropping bombs sometimes? street party was wonderful. I cannot remember any more all the detail but I do



remember that someone had put tables in the middle of the road and that lots of excited children (me among them), were all playing games until we were summoned to the tables to eat what must have been the most wonderful tea that any of us had ever had. There were fairy cakes, several different kinds of sandwiches, LEMONADE and even JELLY, all at one meal! If this was what happened at the end of a war, why had the end not happened sooner? Only one incident is still clear in my mind, someone somewhere had managed to get some balloons, and which child does not like balloons? The adults were blowing up the balloons and letting them float away, one at a time. I quickly had one in my hands and was very pleased, but I noticed that my brother had not managed to do so. For all that he was four years older than me he looked very down and was not the kind of person to push himself into the fray to collect a balloon. I was not like that and quickly went back into battle and soon had one which I gave to him. His face lit up, and I sensed in that moment that I had repaid him for all the times he had looked after me during our excursions round the area during wartime.



Victory Tea

8th May 1945: A victory tea party was given to children at Tudor Road Barking to celebrate VE Day.
(Photo by Barking and Dagenham Post)

Of course, it took quite a few years until rationing ended but things did gradually get easier and I even had my dad home again . I had only seen him on two or three occasions during the war and it was good to feel his strong but calming presence in our house again and to know that my mother did not have to shoulder all the burden of bringing up the children, now increased by my young sister.

There are a few parallels with the situation we are in today, but of course there is a great difference in my age now and then. One thing I will be doing on 8th May though, is having a street party. This time though there will only be Joan and me present due to lockdown, but as we think of that day seventy five years ago, I shall be eating an Orange and Joan will eat a Banana!, something we could not do on 8th May 1945!

Ken Downham



PASCHAL OR EASTER CANDLE

The Paschal Candle, in its special stand remains by the Altar during the full 50 days of the Easter season. We continue lighting it each Sunday throughout Eastertide.

We also light this special candle for baptisms and funerals throughout the year. After Pentecost the candle will be placed next to the font.

When you next see the Paschal Candle in All Saints may you be reminded of its long and sacred past, the death and resurrection of our Lord which it represents, and the faith, hope and eternal life it means for all of us.

In the last few years, the Paschal Candle has been sponsored by Cliff Hunter (who sadly died on Easter Sunday) in memory of his late wife Jackie and his son Julian.



With thanks to Barbara Gale for allowing me to use her article and to Liz Blyth for the photo of last year's Paschal Candle. Ed.



Paul J King

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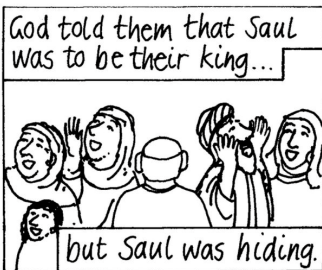
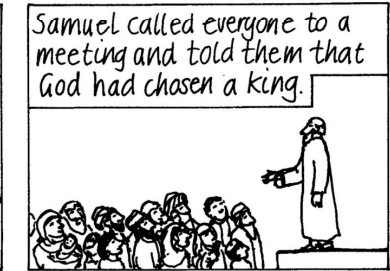
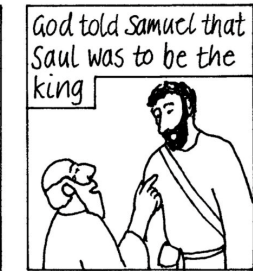
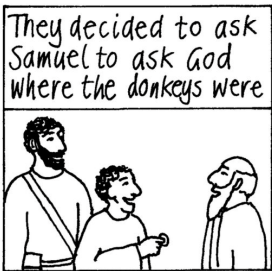
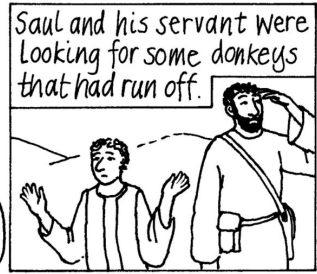
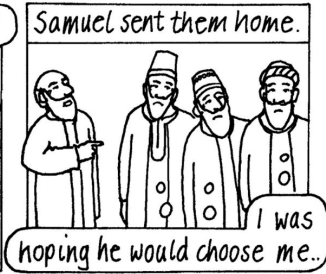
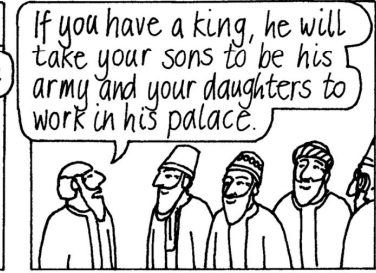
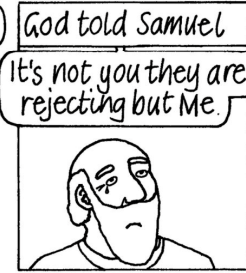


Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

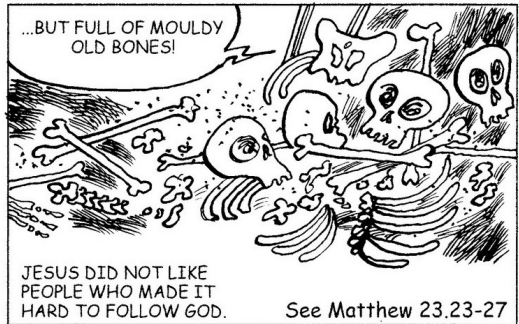
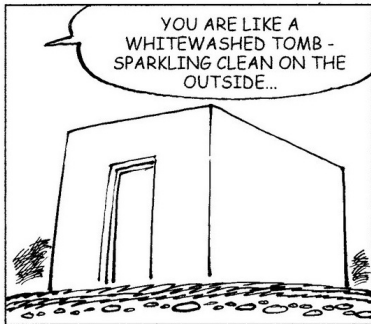
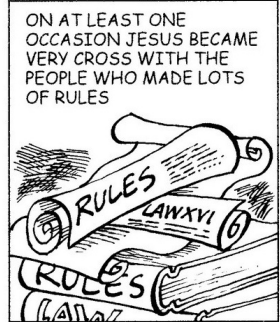
It can be read in the Bible in
Samuel 8:1-10:1, 17-24

Samuel had been a good leader of Israel but he was now old. The leaders of the twelve tribes came to talk to him...

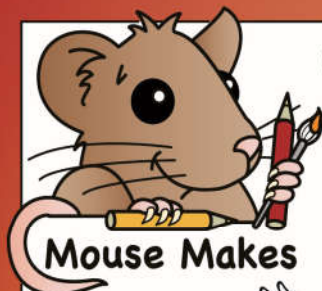




"Some tough talking"



See Matthew 23.23-27



"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.



If we live by the Spirit, let us also behave in accordance with the Spirit"



Read Galatians 5:13-26

How many other words can you find using the letters from:

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?



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

AMEN

GCHH

RRHEOD

JEEEEAPO

P SERVEV

Which symbol goes with which fruit?



- LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD
 AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST
 PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP
 GOODWILL • GENEROSITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY
 FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE
 SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE



REFLECTED FAITH: THE GATHERED CHURCH

Doesn't the simple pleasure of going to church and exchanging the peace at Sunday worship seem long ago now? These days, we are not even allowed into our churches!

But we can take comfort when we think back to the Apostles who were commissioned to build God's Church. After the first Pentecost, what did they do? They didn't rush out and build church buildings. No! Rather the people gathered together, in their own homes.

Clearly, we can't physically 'gather' just now, but we have the technology to 'gather' together, both in real time and at a later time. And it is important to do so. There is something powerful when we pray together rather than alone. Try phoning a friend with the same written prayer and saying it together. How does that feel? Any different from saying it on your own?

So, THE Church, which is alive and well in you and me, will find new ways to be together. After all, the early Christians had the added complication of being persecuted, often to death, for their faith. And yet they persisted.

Perhaps we could each sit at our dining table at a set time, with one or two items before us, such as a small glass of wine, a lit candle, stones, and a cross. Indeed, anything that reminds us of our Risen Saviour. We could then 'share' this time in praying the same prayers and knowing that we are part of an eternal fellowship that is only temporarily divided.

This month: What will you use to reflect and encourage your faith? What items naturally around your home would bring others to your mind, help you to concentrate and allow your spirit to fly with the Holy Spirit? Who will you be connecting with to pray?

Taken from the Parish pump website

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.



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

The Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford
Bishops Court, Main Road, Margaretting, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 0HD
t: 01277 352001 f: 01277 355374 bishops court@chelmsford.anglican.org

Ad Clerum - Easter 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

This is almost certainly the last time I will write to you as your bishop. Although the precise plans of when I will move to become Archbishop of York are up in the air, I am still standing down as Bishop of Chelmsford on Easter day and Bishop Peter, the Bishop of Barking, will assume responsibility as acting Diocesan Bishop. The Vacancy in See committee has already met once (via Zoom!) and the Crown Nominations Commission will be meeting in the autumn. If all goes to plan my successor will be appointed in the autumn and start early in 2021. Please keep this process in your prayers. Please also pray for Bishop Peter and give him the same support you have given me. Bishop Peter, Bishop John and Bishop Roger have been fantastic colleagues. With the archdeacons and other members of the Bishop's staff team I have been wonderfully supported.

There are a variety of other letters and talks that you can access on the Diocesan website where I reflect on my time as Bishop of Chelmsford and I encourage you to look at them, so I don't propose to say anything more here except to say again that serving as Bishop of Chelmsford has been one of the great joys and honours of my life. This is the diocese where I was born and grew up, where I received the Christian faith and where my vocation to ordained ministry was nurtured. Although I never served here as a priest, it is the place I have always called home. It was therefore a great privilege to be called to be your bishop ten years ago and I have hugely enjoyed ministering with you.

Some things have gone really well. It has, for instance, been hugely encouraging to see the growth in numbers of those coming forward for lay and ordained ministry. Some business remains unfinished. In particular, we face a great financial challenge, and this is only being made harder by the even greater challenge of coronavirus which is engulfing us at the moment. Because of this all my services and events to say farewell to the diocese have had to be cancelled. This is obviously a cause of personal sadness, but only a



small thing in comparison to the travails and challenges that we face as a nation and the world and the many people who are suffering. Thank you for the pragmatic and imaginative ways you have responded to the challenge of this new situation we find ourselves in. Our church doors may be closed, but our hearts are most certainly open. I have been delighted and impressed by the many imaginative ways that you have been serving your local community and sustaining the life of worship in your home and enabling your people to be sustained in their spiritual lives. Even though my time as your bishop comes to an end on Sunday, I will be continuing to pray as we navigate our way through this crisis and that we come out the other side a leaner, stronger church having found new ways to connect with the people we are called to serve.

So thank you. I have hugely enjoyed being your Bishop. It has been full of joy and the diocese of Chelmsford will always have a place in my prayers and a place in my heart.

Over the years, people have often asked me what it's like being the Bishop of Chelmsford. My standard reply has been this: "it's like riding a bucking bronco; exhilarating, but you often fall off". I'm sorry about the things I've got wrong; the unfinished business, and the things that haven't turned out in the way we hoped. I am delighted by the creativity in enterprise of those with whom I have ministered. But most of all, I am deeply thankful for God's faithfulness. Like that little boy's lunch that Jesus took and blessed and transformed, so he has taken and used the offering of my ministry among you and used it so that we can be his transforming presence in the world.

The last ceremony for a bishop leaving a diocese is to lay the Crozier on the altar. It waits there, a bit like a baton being passed from one runner to another, for the new bishop to pick it up. I would, of course, have loved to have done this with a full Cathedral, the choir singing and the organ playing and many of you gathered with me. But that is not to be. I therefore intend simply to place my wooden crozier on the altar in my chapel at Bishops court. We will make a little film of this which will be shared on the website on Easter Sunday afternoon as a last farewell.

Your brother in Christ,

+ Stephen

This is part of the letter sent by the Bishop to the Clergy, Readers and Lay Ministers of the Diocese. And we are grateful to Canon Stephen for passing the letter to us. Ed.



HOLY DAYS

21st May – Ascension Day: 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them – to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands – and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website



JESUS Risen and Ascended Lord





A RECIPE FROM THE GOOD BOOK

Author unknown.

I wonder how many readers will know what the following ingredients are without having to check up on the biblical references. If you do need to check them it may be advisable to look at more than one translation as not all of them translate the same.

The ingredients.

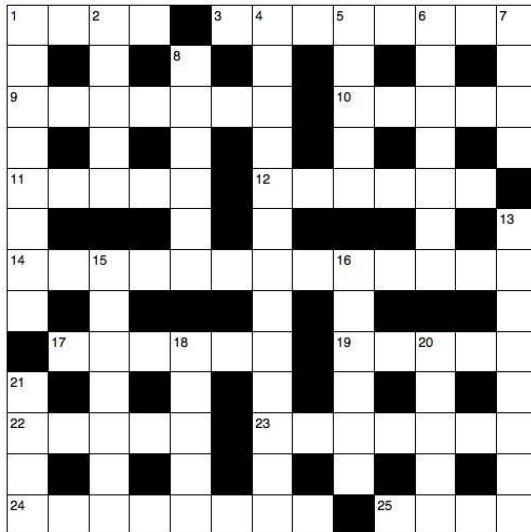
1. ½lb Judges V verse 25
2. ½lb Jeremiah VI verse 20
3. 1 tablespoon I Samuel XIV verse 25
4. 3 of Jeremiah XVII verse 11
5. ½lb Samuel XXX verse 12
6. ½lb Nahum III verse 12 (chopped)
7. 2oz Numbers XVII verse 8 blanched and chopped
8. 1lb I Kings IV verse 22
9. Season with 2 Chronicles IX verse 9
10. A pinch of Leviticus II verse 13
11. A teaspoonful of Amos IV verse 5
12. 3 tablespoons of Judges IV verse 19

(Note. Leaven probably means baking powder)

Method.

Beat 1, 2 and 3 to a cream. Add 4 one at a time still beating. Then add 5, 6 and 7 and beat again. Add 8, 9, 10 and 11 having previously mixed them. Then add 12. Bake in a low oven for 1½ hours.

Submitted by Barbara Gale



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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Across</p> <p>1 Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another’ (Romans 14:13) (4)</p> <p>3 ‘I — — these persons here present’ (Marriage service) (4,4)</p> <p>9 According to a rearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)</p> <p>10 Group of eight (5)</p> <p>11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)</p> <p>12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)</p> <p>14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord’s Table (4,9)</p> <p>17 ‘So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize’ (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)</p> <p>19 Attend to (3,2)</p> <p>22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)</p> <p>23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)</p> <p>24 Rule of sovereign (8)</p> <p>25 Test (anag.) (4)</p> | <p>Down</p> <p>1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)</p> <p>2 ‘The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir’ (5)</p> <p>4 ‘We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous’ (Romans 4:9) (8,5)</p> <p>5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)</p> <p>6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)</p> <p>7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)</p> <p>8 Minister of religion (6)</p> <p>13 ‘I am — of this man’s blood. It is your responsibility’ (Matthew 27:24) (8)</p> <p>15 ‘Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends’ (John 15:13) (3,4)</p> <p>16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)</p> <p>18 ‘No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit’ (John 3:5) (5)</p> <p>20 Establish by law (5)</p> <p>21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)</p> |
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Answers on Page 32

Taken from the Parish Pump Website



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 Perils of a Scout Camp

My dear Nephew Darren

It seems that the basics of parish ministry are no longer taught in theological colleges. Don't you know anything about consulting your diary in public? When you are asked if you are free on a certain date, accepted practice is to open it so that the enquirer cannot quite see. You then shake your head sadly, saying you are committed to blessing a new tea urn, or on some other vital ecclesiastical activity that day. Then you regretfully give your apologies. You do not open the thing in full view of your enquirer, so he can see the blank pages! Really, it serves you right that you are now committed to going on Scout camp.

The last time I agreed to pay the Scouts a visit was when I found that there was a splendid restaurant only a mile away from their camp. I arrived and parked my car by the side of the river where they were all canoeing, wound down the car window and made encouraging noises for some minutes before explaining I had to find a garage for petrol.

Several hours later, after an excellent lunch, I drove to where they were now rock climbing, wound down the car window and made encouraging noises for some minutes before explaining that I had a standing committee to return to that evening. It was a splendid day.

You, however, will experience the charms of two days under canvas. Whatever site for your tent you choose, it will be the one that floods first. The early hours will undoubtedly find you wading about in water in the pitch dark, retrieving your sleeping bag and clothes – which you will then have to wear for the rest of the day. Watch out for the food, as well: all camp food contains grass and usually sheep droppings. This will make you ill, though for some reason Scouts thrive on it.

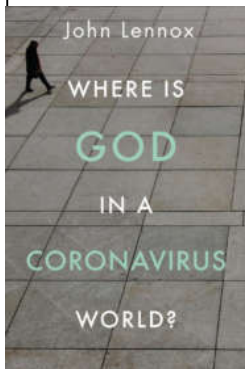
Whatever the weather and whatever activities you do each day, you will end up wet, chilled and bruised. At least your evenings will be warm, for you are bound to spend them at Casualty, with youngsters suffering from sprained ankles or dislocated shoulders.



My only advice is to use those hours in Casualty to practise the art of opening your diary in a way that only YOU can see it.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Book Reviews

Where is God in a Coronavirus World?

By John Lennox, The Good Book Company, £2.48

We are living through a unique, era-defining period. Many of our old certainties have gone, whatever our view of the world and whatever our beliefs. The coronavirus pandemic and its effects are perplexing and unsettling for all of us. How do we begin to think it through and cope with it?

In this short yet profound book, Oxford mathematics professor John Lennox examines the coronavirus in light of various belief systems and shows how the Christian worldview not only helps us to make sense of it, but also offers us a sure and certain hope to cling to.

John Lennox explains: "This book consists of my reflections on what we are experiencing right now...I would invite you, the reader, to view the book like this: we are sitting in a coffee shop (if only we could!) and you have asked me the question on the book cover. I put down my coffee cup and attempt to give you an honest answer. What follows is what I would try to say in order to convey some comfort, support and hope."

John Lennox is an Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford and Emeritus Fellow in Mathematics and the Philosophy of Science at Green Templeton College. He is also an Associate Fellow of the Said Business School and an Adjunct Lecturer for The Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics. He has been part of numerous public debates defending the Christian faith against well-known atheists including Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens and Peter Singer.

Taken from the Parish Pump website.



Leprosy is a mildly infectious disease associated with poverty. It is easily cured. Leprosy starts by damaging the small nerves on the skin's surface resulting in a loss of sensation.

Without the gift of pain, everyday activities are fraught with danger. Unnoticed burns and ulcers can lead to permanent disability. Due to the inability to detect grit in the eye, blindness is a common consequence of leprosy.

The success of TLM's founder, Wellesley Bailey, in raising support in Ireland from 1874 rapidly expanded into England and Wales. TLM England and Wales is now by far the largest support-raising Member of the TLM Fellowship, raising almost 40% of the total funds applied to TLM's programmes worldwide. TLM England and Wales's roles are primarily fundraising, generating prayer support and working with around 25 field partners to ensure that the programmes are effectively carried out.

The fundraising team is passionate about not only raising revenue but also educating people to see leprosy for what it is: a mildly infectious and treatable disease as opposed to a label for life. Publications include the New Day newsletter, posters, films, leaflets for churches and fundraising campaigns.

The programmes team secures funding from institutional donors and provides funding packages and feedback for supporting churches. It is also involved in national and international advocacy activities which encourage community empowerment, combat stigma and challenge anti-leprosy legislation.

At the core of England and Wales' operation is the essential activity of prayer and engaging supporters to pray for leprosy-affected people, staff and TLM's work. Behind the front-line activity is a dedicated supporter care team which supports the fundraising efforts by engaging directly with TLM's donors, staff and dedicated volunteers.

The country leader of TLM England and Wales is Peter Waddup.

Taken from the Leprosy Mission Website



The Vicars Salary

The local Vicar explains that he must move on to a larger congregation that will pay him more. There is a hush within the congregation. No one wants him to leave.

Mike Smith, who owns several car dealerships, stands up and proclaims: "If the Vicar stays, I will provide him with a new Jaguar every year and his wife with a Ford MPV to transport their children!"

The congregation sighs in appreciation and applauds.

Sam Brown, a successful entrepreneur and publican, stands and says, "If the Vicar will stay on here, I'll personally double his salary and establish a foundation to guarantee private secondary school education of his children!"

More sighs and loud applause.

Agnes Jones, age 88, stands and announces with a smile, "If the Vicar stays, I will give him sex."

There is total silence.

The Preacher, blushing, asks her: "Mrs. Jones, whatever possessed you to say that?"

"Well, I just asked my husband how we could help, and he said, '?!%\$' the Vicar'.

Submitted by a retired Priest



Dates for the Diary

Due to the current situation we are not including Dates for the Diary

Lambeth Conference Postponed

The Lambeth Conference has been rescheduled and will now take place during the summer of 2021. This follows consultation between the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference Design Group, Primates and trustees of the Lambeth Conference Company.

As the website says: “This significant meeting of Anglican bishops and spouses will continue to be planned – with an exciting and engaging programme, being held in the same venue at the University of Kent and Canterbury Cathedral – just one year on.”

More at: <https://www.lambethconference.org>

Crossword Answers.

ACROSS: 1, Stop. 3, Call upon. 9, Regular. 10, Octet. 11, Inner. 12, Hudson. 14, Holy Communion. 17, Myself. 19, See to. 22, About. 23, Iterate. 24, Monarchy. 25, Stet.

DOWN: 1, Straight. 2, Organ. 4, Abraham’s faith. 5, Lloyd. 6, Puteoli. 7, Note. 8, Cleric. 13, Innocent. 15, Lay down. 16, Ussher. 18, Enter. 20, Enact. 21, Balm.

Lunch at All Saints

Soup – hot food- cakes

12:00-2:00

**No Lunches Until
Further Notice**





Prayer Diary

May 2020

1 St Philip and St James	Hospital Chaplains
2	Good health
3 Easter 4	The seriously ill
4	Scientists
5	Researchers
6	Those who work in media
7	Hygiene and sanitation providers
8	All VE Veterans
9	The unwell
10 Easter 5	The Clergy
11	All NHS workers
12	The vulnerable
13	Those who face financial hardship
14 St Matthias	Supermarket workers
15	Delivery drivers
16	Postmen
17 Easter 6	Public Transport workers
18	The lonely
19	The bereaved
20	Those who are grieving
21 Ascension Day	The Churches Mission
22	All parents with young children
23	Our family
24 Easter 7	All volunteers
25	Those 'most at risk'
26	All who work in the 'Food Chain'
27	Those who work on the land
28	Arable and Dairy Farmers
29	Hospice workers
30	Carers
31	The lonely

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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 Dukes	01621 851623
Flower Group	Betty Smith	01621 854143
Bible Society	Joan Downham	01621854655
Mothers' Union`	Marie Feeble	01621 856354
Childrens Society	Elaine Brown	01621
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	membership1stmalton@gmail.com	
Meeting Point	Barbara Gale	01621 928538
Maldon Pioneers	Hiko Frederick	01621 840951
Maldon Ladies Group	Wileen 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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