

ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

June 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 second and third Evensong and Sermon Sundays of the month
1st Sunday in the Month	10:00am stories 11:15am 6:00 pm Short all age service of songs and prayers. Parish Eucharist (CW) 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. Happier Days. From the Archives.	



THE PARISH LETTER

One of my favourite quotations from the Bible comes in the tenth chapter of St John's Gospel verse ten. Jesus says. 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'. It is such a positive message that assures us that Jesus wants the best in life for us.

There is however now a danger of interpreting full life in a selfish rather than a Christ centred way. We come to see God not as our Italian forbears did as a terrifying Judge Eternal but as some kind of celestial 'Jim'll fix it' (and many of us remember what an unpleasant man Jim turned out to be). If we expect God to get us out of all our troubles and give us everything we want, then we are bound to be bitterly disappointed. In real life we cannot avoid adversity and we are seeing the truth of this in the indiscriminate suffering brought on by the Coronavirus. Perhaps in times like this it is hard to appreciate that God promises to be with us and help us. This help does, I think, come through people and through the way in which we can learn a lot about ourselves when experiencing difficulties.

I learned the lesson of the remarkable response of people to adversity during the War when I was 6. A bomb fell at the end of our garden during the night and blew practically all the houses in the street inside out. All windows smashed, tiles off the roofs, much furniture damaged and many other problems created. However, all the family were safe because we were under a Morrison Table (I wonder how many of us remember them). In the morning there was virtually a street party, everyone was smiling and joking as they checked that their neighbours were OK. There was one exception, a grumpy old lady complaining that her favourite dinner service had been smashed and that such frivolity was bad taste! She got the reply 'no one was killed or injured and that is the cause for all the celebration. That positive attitude was what came to be known as the Blitz Spirit. The present time it does seem to be true that the worse everything gets the more positive we seem to be. At the time of writing there have been 36,000 deaths. Lives are being disrupted in so many ways, businesses are failing and mental health problems are increasing. Yet I see around us plenty of evidence to show that the blitz spirit lives on today. How we all have come to admire the nurses and doctors in the NHS and the carers in care homes who all work so tirelessly, often risking their lives for those suffering so terribly from the virus just as we have also come to admire those in all manner of other jobs that have to be done if the community is to function.



At a less serious level, Maldon itself seems much more friendly. On our morning walks Jackie and I have had more smiles, comments about the weather and life generally in the first week of the lockdown than in our previous 17 years in the town.

All this can also be inspirational as far as our own spiritual lives are concerned. I loved the cartoon that Barbara found for the Link in which the devil was saying to God, 'I've closed all your churches' in which God replies 'But I've opened thousands of them in homes throughout the world' Statistics actually show that this is true in many respects for example many people, including non churchgoers join in virtual services on radio, television and the internet. And statistics also show that 44 per cent of people now pray. More specifically at All Saints' we are learning at first hand what fellowship really means and why Prayer support is so important. A good example of this support is to be found in the celebration of the Eucharist by Father Graham on our behalf every Sunday.

Acknowledging all of this helps us to make sense of Jesus' unexpected comments as recorded in Luke's Gospel Chapter 6 verses 20-23. It can also help us to understand and to be immeasurably grateful of His reassurances in John 10:10. Clearly God does encourage us to be positive.

But will this growing concern for others and the deepening of our own spiritual self knowledge continue when the present crisis subsides? We should do all we can to ensure it does.

Paul



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

WOUNDED BY LOVE

A reflection from Rt Rev Peter Hill (Acting Bishop of Chelmsford)

Jesus ascends into heaven. He has seen it all, done it all, accomplished it all and as he departs he blesses his disciples with crucified hands. Then he led



them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them (Luke 24:50). Down the centuries that blessing comes to us as disciples also.

‘God bless you’ - we often use those words too lightly as Christians: they trip off our tongues without thinking in some circumstances. For Jesus and his disciples, in ancient Hebrew tradition, a blessing was a powerful action, especially at a time of someone’s departure, as at the Ascension. Blessing literally means “to speak well of” and conveys a sense of setting apart with power for service. So to be blessed is not just a word of encouragement but is a word of engagement.

At this Ascension tide, above any other, let us remember that Jesus’ blessing is wounded: it comes from crucified hands. Jesus wounds were not just Hollywood epic stuff, healing in time, but they are permanent, eternal. Human suffering and need in this pandemic are totally caught up in his crucified blessing, engraved on his hands and on the universe he has created. The cross has left the Risen Christ wounded for eternity and the disciples recognised him by his wounds. Yes, Christ is risen and he promises us the Holy Spirit every day as we celebrate Pentecost this coming Sunday, but he remains wounded by love. He is a wounded healer.

As we wait to celebrate the birthday of our church this Pentecost, we remain very conscious of the many people who have been hurt, sick and grief stricken due to this wicked virus and also those who for other reasons have been deeply wounded in life’s journey.

Next week I will be taking the funeral of one of our deacons who tragically died suddenly and alone at home from COVID-19, far away from his family. He had come to this country some years ago after being persecuted for his faith in his homeland. Life is desperately unfair to so many, and Christians are not exempt, but the same Jesus who called him and calls us to pray Thy Kingdom Come blesses him and us with his crucified hands.

And it must be the same for us in our leadership, for that wounded blessing is passed to us for the blessing of others: our people, our communities and our churches. We are wounded and will be wounded by love.

+Peter

Taken from “The View” published by the Diocese of Chelmsford.



Where are you O Lord? Have you forsaken us?
This coronavirus pandemic has devastated the world.
How can we rejoice amidst so much grief and suffering?
Our churches are locked so that we are unable to worship and praise you,
Or share the Eucharist there as usual with our church family.
Our Priest appears on our computer screens as if in a film on Netflix.
When will we be able to come together again?
Will this plague never end?

Yet, we remember that your dwelling place is not in our church buildings
But in the hearts of your faithful people.
We look around us and we see the glory of your Creation
In the flowers, vegetables and shrubs in the garden
We see the young birds newly fledged taking their first tentative flight
And the young foxes learning to feed themselves in the night.

You have not abandoned us, you are here Lord!
Here in our hearts and in our garden!
Here we give you praise and honour!
Here we worship you.

We thank you, Lord for being with us forever as you have promised.
Thanks be to you O God for the glory of your world.

Submitted by Alan Marjoram.



Church Warden's Chat

This will be the third Chat during lockdown and it seems it will be sometime before anything like 'normal' will return. With such tragically large numbers of deaths and hardships, life is very difficult for so many people, but there are some positives to come out of Covid 19, cleaner air, time to reflect on our modern way of life and to consider what our new 'normal' should be like. Watching the daily Downing Street briefings can be very disheartening though!

It was wonderful to see Canon Graham celebrating the Eucharist from the D'Arcy room last Sunday, via modern technology on our church website! Thanks to Mike with his website and technology skills, Barbara for her production of the Link (or mini-mag) and Peter continuing with the Magazine in a different way, we have all been able to keep in touch, a very important part of our life in lockdown. Many of you have been keeping in touch with each other by phone or computer, checking that all is well. The present situation has meant that all kinds of services cannot be held in church at this time, including baptisms, weddings and funerals. This was brought home to me with the arrangements for Cliff Hunter's funeral. Luckily the Revd. Julie was able to take the service at the crematorium, and three friends, including Debbie, were allowed to attend. I gather that there were moments of special memories as well as fun, during the short service, especially with the last piece of music chosen by Nigel, the Scout Jamboree Song! It is hoped that we can hold a memorial service for Cliff at a later date.

Thinking of possible future changes to our church life, Ken Russell is resigning as Verger, after thirty plus years in the post! It will seem strange not to see him taking part in services (and not forgetting all the other valuable jobs he carries out) but we wish him a well deserved rest. Thank you Ken!

I will end with the now normal wish that you all stay safe and well and that we will meet again at some time when this is all over!

Jenny



VE DAY 8TH MAY

Reflections on VE Day

To round off my piece in the May Magazine, I can tell you what happened on the 8th May this year.

To my surprise and pleasure, whilst all the six couples who live in our close were out on Thursday evening, the 7th May, clapping for all those caring for us during the present pandemic, one of my neighbours suggested that we all come out the next day and have a tea party to celebrate the 75th anniversary of D Day. We would all bring out a cup of tea, coffee or soft drink and our own bun or biscuits, all in our own containers of course and socialise at the required safe distance. We all assembled at 3 pm outside our houses and enjoyed a communal safe distance ‘get together’ for a couple of hours. It was really friendly, especially considering the present circumstances, and nobody moved within about five metres of each other. The weather was just about perfect, and we were all able to communicate without raising our voices unduly. I think this was probably the first time that all six couples had enjoyed such a communal chat so that was one good thing to come out of the ‘lockdown’. Later, after our evening meal Joan and I did enjoy a banana and an orange respectively that we had not been able to have on VE day and spent the rest of the evening discussing our own memories of the actual VE day and our other memories of the war. Overall, we both felt that the day had brought us closer to our neighbours, so a lovely outcome to the anniversary of VE day and of the terrible times that had led up to it. Lockdown? No contest, with lots of people offering each other help and many telephone calls to check on each other’s wellbeing, and no one dropping bombs. We can do it!

Ken Downham

N.B.

COPY DEADLINE FOR JULY MAGAZINE

21st JUNE



KEN RUSSELL RETIRES AS VERGER.



You have probably heard that after 32 years as Verger at All Saints, Ken has announced his retirement as from the 31st May 2020.

Photo of Ken by Mike Ovenden

Tributes.

KEN RUSSELL- VERGER OF ALL SAINTS

I am pleased to have this opportunity of writing a few words about Ken.

Ken was one of the parish representatives who, along with Colin Brown, was involved in my appointment as Vicar in 2009. Since that day, we have become good friends, and have worked closely together in the parish.

No incumbent could have asked for a more dedicated and committed verger. Ken has served as verger in this parish for over 30 years, spanning the incumbencies of Arthur Dunlop, Peter Mason, David Atkins and myself. Ken and Jean have worked as a team, and hardly a day has passed during my tenure when they were not in church doing something. Though Ken was officially the verger, Jean did a huge amount behind the scenes to support him: some of these things many people would have been unaware of. I think, for example, of Jean's care of the altar linen, which was a labour love.

I am very sad that Ken has taken the decision to retire, as this will be the end of an era in the life of All Saints. But I fully understand his reasons: and all of us will have a deep sense of gratitude for all that Ken and Jean have done for us.

Much of his work was above and beyond the call of duty: including feeding the Vicarage cats, fish and tortoise when we were on holiday, and keeping the garden watered. On a personal level, Ken was always there for us as a family when we needed him. Nick's girlfriend Hannah said to me recently that she "loves Ken to bits" and that he and Jean would be a perfect grandma and grandad!

Ken always played a straight bat: and I knew he would let me know if he was unhappy about something! He has never been afraid to express his views in meetings, even when others have disagreed. With his long association with the



church, both as verger, for some years as churchwarden, and as PCC member, he has a lot of wisdom and experience to offer. I always regarded Ken as one of the "elder statesmen" of the parish. As I am sure as my predecessors did, I would often ask for Ken's opinion if there was a difficult problem, I knew he would give me an honest answer. I knew I could draw on his experience and knowledge of the parish and its people.

Ken has taken his Sunday duties very seriously, usually arriving about 7.00am to prepare for the 8.00am service; and being the last to leave after Evensong.

He has been meticulous in preparing the church for each service. All Saints is fortunate to have retained a verger- an ancient office that has now largely disappeared in the Church of England, except in the Cathedrals. We will all miss the dignity with which he verges in the clergy and carries out all his duties.

There are countless families in Maldon who will have cause to remember Ken's contribution to baptisms weddings and funerals. He is always there to ensure that all the practical aspects of the service are taken care of and that everyone is looked after.

So thank you Jean and Ken, for your kindness, your friendship and your commitment to God's church. Your work has been a real Christian ministry of service. God bless you both.

Stephen Carter

Ken Russell

I first encountered the lovely Ken Russell after I had exited the Cathedral on the day of my ordination in 2016. He introduced himself and his equally lovely wife Jean and they both gave me such a warm welcome to All Saints Church, Maldon.

As a 'wet behind the ears' curate who didn't know the colours of one liturgical season from another, Ken the Verger took me under his wing. Throughout my time at All Saints, Ken and Jean looked after me and I soon learned that during a service, especially the 'big ones' if you don't know where you should be at a certain point, follow Uncle Ken and you will always end up in the right place.

Ken is diligent and conscientious, often the first in church, the last to leave and as strong as an ox. It was always reassuring for myself and for the families involved when Ken was there at funerals, weddings and baptisms and I'm sure he knows all the words by now to 'Our God is a Great Big God' from his participation in Messy Church.

Ken and Jean, thank you for all that you did to help me scrape my way through curacy. Thank you for your knowledge and experience, for the advice, encouraging words and ready smiles of affirmation. It is with sadness but also with total understanding that you have decided that this season is to draw to a close but I look forward with a smile and anticipation to seeing what God has got planned for you next.

Julie Willmot



As Stephen has said, Ken has many skills and gifts and he has shared them generously and faithfully with many of us. I am truly blessed to have my first experiences of ordained ministry with Ken as verger. It was especially helpful to have him (and often Jean) working alongside me during Stephen's absence and recovery from his illness. We shared many services, events and meetings. I was able to minister more easily through Ken's dedication and support, especially for the more challenging ministry opportunities! I really missed his day to day presence as Verger when I moved on from All Saints.

In particular I valued Ken sharing in sacramental ministry on a Thursday Holy Communion - in the vestry we would always have a catch up on the week and then a quiet moment of prayer just before 11am. A shared sense of God's presence which I still treasure.

Keith and I, want to send Ken and Jean our heartfelt gratitude and our prayers for the days ahead. It will be a very well-deserved rest from verging duties Ken. Except perhaps for one which we used to joke about... if and when I do eventually return to All Saints to take a service, will you still be the one to retrieve my empty coffee mug from the pew or table or chair I left it on?

Jo Jones



Flowerpot Men and Weed. David Atkins, Avril Askew and Ken



Help identify the Next Bishop of Chelmsford

The process is now underway to discern who God is calling to be the next Bishop of Chelmsford and as part of that process we want to hear what you think.

The process includes a diocesan consultation that will run until 4 July.

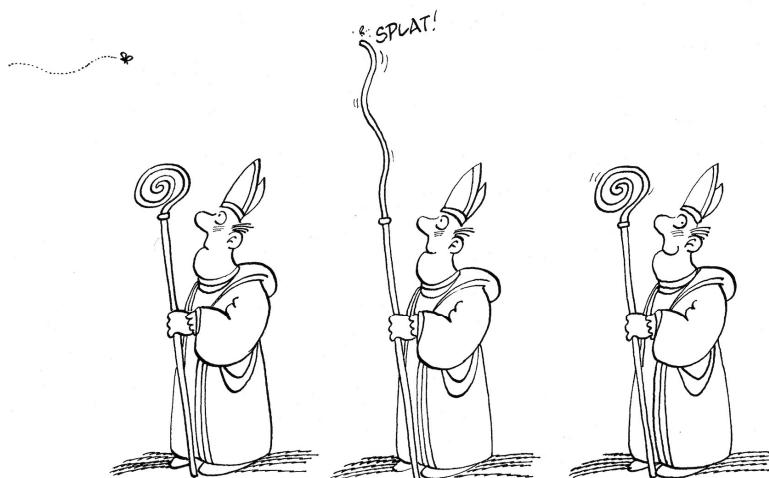
Consultation

To produce the Diocesan Statement of Needs, the Vacancy in See Committee is organising a diocese wide consultation that will be open until 4th July. We want as many people as possible to have their say and we are encouraging submissions from churches, groups and individuals. After the consultation is concluded the Vacancy in See Committee will weigh all comments offered and prayerfully discern what should be included in the final text of the Statement of Needs.

Further information on how to have your say can be found on the diocesan website at:-

<https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/our-next-bishop>

*Canon Robert Hammond,
Chair of the Chelmsford Diocese Vacancy in See Committee*





Paul J King

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In last month's magazine I printed an article on the Pascal Candle, unfortunately it was pointed out to me that I had only printed half of Bambara's article. To make amends, I print the whole of the article here. Ed.

PASCHAL OR EASTER CANDLE

Sadly, due to the Coronavirus we have missed so many of the beautiful Holy Week and Easter services in our beloved All Saints church. One that I always felt privileged to serve at was the Service of Light on Easter Eve. Barbara

The priest and congregation assemble outside the North door of the church, the Easter fire is lit and the new Easter Candle (Paschal) is blessed and lit from the fire. The Paschal Candle is a rich and sacred symbol of our faith and represents Christ, the Light of the World. A large white candle symbolising the purity of Christ, the candle's wick signifies Christ's humanity and the flame His Divine Nature. The candle will display several symbols: - The Cross is always the central symbol

The letters - alpha and omega, which begin and end the Greek alphabet appear above and below the cross to signify that God is the beginning and the end of all things. The current year represents God in the present amidst the congregation. As the priest blesses the candle, he inserts five nails, each embedded with a grain of incense into the centre and four endpoints of the cross, these represent the five wounds of Jesus: in his hands, his feet and in his side. As the priest inserts the nails he proclaims "By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us. Amen"

The lit Paschal Candle is brought into the entirely dark church. Three times the priest sings "Christ our Light" and the congregation respond "Thanks be to God". The candle is set on a stand in the chancel and from this candle all candles of the congregation will be lit: Jesus brings light into the darkness. Now the congregation listen to the "Exultet" the solemn praise of the Light of Christ chanted by a cantor or the priest. At a later stage of the service, during the blessing of the baptismal font, the candle is plunged into the water, and this prayer is said.

"May all who are buried with Christ in the death of Baptism, rise also with Him in newness of life, we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen"



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.

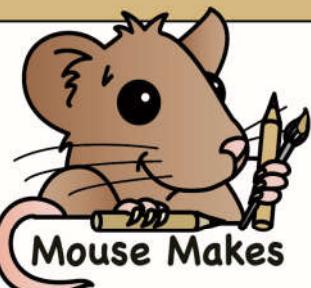
We also light this special candle for baptisms and funerals throughout the year. After Pentecost the candle will be placed next to the font.

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.



When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins he sat down and wept. For days he fasted and prayed before God.

Finally the opportunity came for him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, but it was not going to be easy...

READ Nehemiah's story in the Old Testament book of **Nehemiah**, chapters 1-7

Here is Nehemiah's list of all the things that needed to be done to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Fill in the missing gaps on the tower to help rebuild the wall.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| ○ PRAY | ○ GATE |
| ○ RUBBLE | ○ BEAM |
| ○ REPAIR | ○ BOLT |
| ○ RESTORE | ○ BAR |
| ○ BUILD | ○ STEP |
| ○ WORK | ○ TOWER |
| ○ STONE | ○ HOUSE |
| ○ TIMBER | ○ POOL |
| ○ WALLS | ○ FINISH |
| ○ FLOOR | ○ DEDICATE |
| ○ ROOF | ○ DOOR |
| ○ CELEBRATE | |

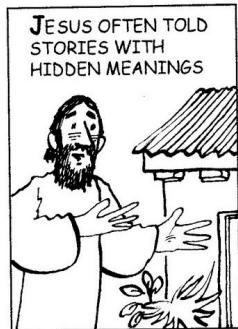
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How many gates were repaired?
Who re-built them?

How long did it take to finish the walls?



The Best Seat



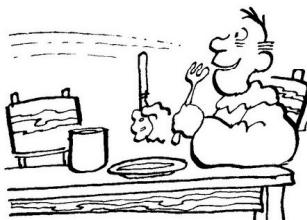
JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS TOLD THE STORY ABOUT SOME PARTY INVITATIONS



HE EXPLAINED THAT WHEN YOU ARE INVITED TO A MEAL



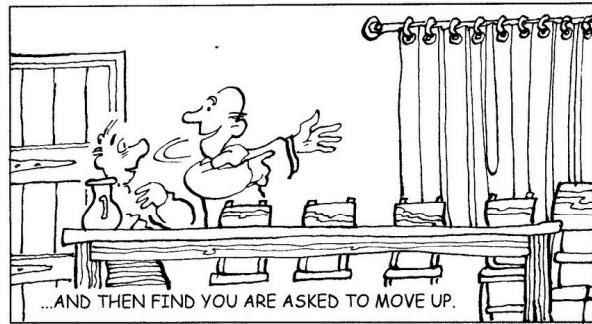
DON'T RUSH TO SIT IN THE BEST SEAT....



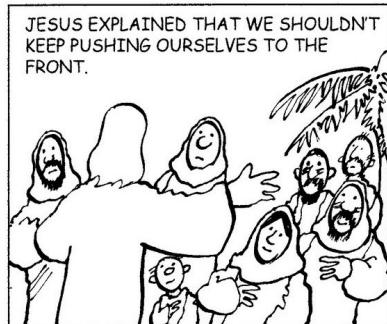
...IN CASE YOU ARE ASKED TO MOVE DOWN THE TABLE.



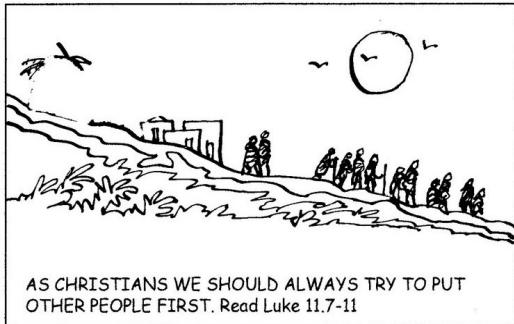
IT'S MUCH BETTER TO TAKE THE LOWER SEAT



...AND THEN FIND YOU ARE ASKED TO MOVE UP.



JESUS EXPLAINED THAT WE SHOULDN'T KEEP PUSHING OURSELVES TO THE FRONT.



AS CHRISTIANS WE SHOULD ALWAYS TRY TO PUT OTHER PEOPLE FIRST. Read Luke 11.7-11

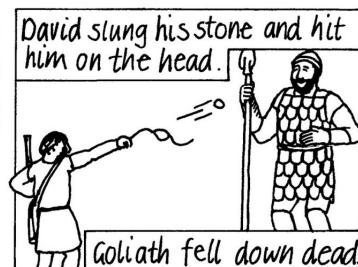
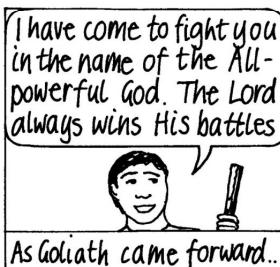
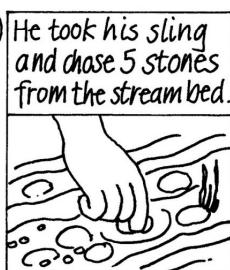
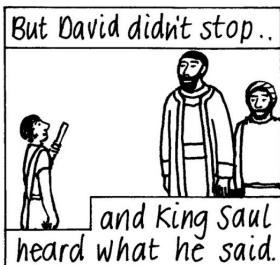
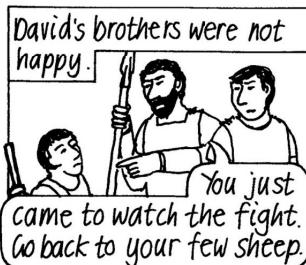
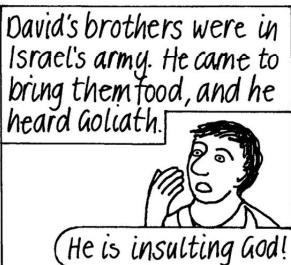


Bible Bite

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 17:1-50

A short story from the Bible

The Philistine and Israelite armies faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them...





REFLECTED FAITH: A STRING OF BEADS

As you pray or simply spend time quietly at home, have you ever thought of using a rosary? Holding something can be very comforting.

A rosary has beads in groups of ten, a separation and then a single bead. This is repeated five times in a circle and then there's a different set of beads on a single line from that in a pattern of single, space, three beads, space, single and then at the end a crucifix.

A couple of years ago the Archbishop of York went on a pilgrimage around the Diocese of York of which he is also the Diocesan Bishop; visiting every Church of England church and church school. He was also welcomed into many other non-church places and situations. Wherever he went he distributed a set of 'beads.' These were in sets of three beads, a space and a single bead repeated four times. At the central point of the circle was a wooden cross. As he spoke, he invited those around him to pray using the beads and then to continue to use them in their own time and in their own ways.

All of us in our different personal circumstances are living in some isolation – as families with young children, teenagers, three generations, couples together, young singles, and the widowed. So many different situations but like those different strings of beads, whether as a single or in small groups, each is part of the whole and separated we may be but not alone.

This month: If you don't have a set of beads just get some string and make knots in it. As you pass the knots through your hands think of other people, situations and places and do include yourself and your own church. Perhaps say a traditional prayer on each bead or just use the words, 'Lord have mercy'.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website

Polite Church

"The congregation was wonderful," said the minister after the Zoom service. "They were so polite that they even covered their mouths when they yawned."



The Power of Poetry

During the present lockdown, I have done more reading than usual, and one small item I read was a poem I received by e-mail from a friend. It was a very light hearted one and was more doggerel than serious poetry, but all done for the right reasons and was certainly well received. Talking to Joan about it, got us to thinking about poetry generally and how poets have covered every subject imaginable. We then took a couple of our favourite poetry books from the shelf and idly browsed through, stopping at some poems we liked or which held some memory for us. Joan it was, who eventually gave me a list of some of her favourite poems and I will introduce them here hoping that some readers of our magazine will know them and like them too. All can be found in *The New Oxford Book of English Verse*, a copy of which I gave to Joan for her birthday rather more than a few years ago.

Home Thoughts from Abroad, by Robert Browning

Oh, to be in England now that April's there
And whoever wakes in England sees, some morning unaware,
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough
In England – now!

This is just the first verse, of which the first line must be familiar to everyone who ever went to school and whose teacher gave a poetry lesson.

Yet another poem that stirs memories of school is ‘Leisure’ by William Henry Davies and which reminds us of the simple pleasures of life:

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars like skies at night.

No time to turn at beauty's glance
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

Another poet that entered our discussion was Walter de la Mare who was very prolific and covered poetry, children’s stories and even horror stories and he wrote most of his material in the first half of the 20th century. He was English but owed his name to being descended from Huguenots. Joan particularly liked a couple of his



poems, one being ‘All That’s Past’, being all about all things old, so I persuaded her to move on quickly to another work by this poet entitled ‘The Listeners’ and which has the well known opening lines:

‘Is there anybody there?’ said the Traveller,
Knocking on the moonlit door;
And his horse in the silence champed the grasses
Of the forest’s ferny floor:

As this is a rather longer poem I have not enough space here to quote it all, but I did read this poem through a couple of times and thought that it had very deep meanings and touched on the supernatural. I have looked up various explanations of what the poet was conveying but there seems to be no uniform agreement as to whether the inhabitants of the house that the traveller visited were ghosts or whether the rider himself was a ghost. Nevertheless, it is a thought provoking poem and like many good poems you can read into it what you will.

After this we moved onto a poem which often comes up when any of our family are discussing poetry, and this is, I suppose, because just about everyone I know had to read this poem whilst at school. It is of course ‘Cargoes’ by John Masefield who was Poet Laureate from the 1930’s until the 1960’s which encompassed my schooldays and I remember my English Teacher at secondary school seemed to delight in dropping this fact into her lessons rather often. Maybe she had met Masefield or maybe she just admired his work, or perhaps the fact that it was a poem by the current Poet Laureate of that time I don’t know, but ‘Cargoes’ was a poem she drilled into us. I am quite grateful nowadays of course as I always earned my living from the sea and have never forgotten this poem. The descriptions of the various ships the poet describe seem to fit very well the time and place and the cargoes they carried.

Quinquireme of Nineveh from distant Ophir
Rowing home to haven in sunny Palestine
With a cargo of ivory,
And apes and peacocks,
Sandalwood, cedarwood and sweet white wine.

Stately Spanish galleon coming from the Isthmus,
Dipping through the Tropics by the palm green shores,
With a cargo of diamonds,
Emeralds, amethysts,
Topazes and cinnamon and gold moidores.

Dirty British coaster with a salt caked smoke stack
Butting through the Chanel in the mad March days,
With a cargo of Tyne coal,
Road-rail, pig-lead,
Firewood, iron-ware, and cheap tin trays.

*Ken Downham (choice of poems, Joan Downham)
Abridged by the editor to fit space available*



THE SPIRITUALITY OF D.H.LAWRENCE (1885-1930)

“After Easter, till November and All Saints and till the Annunciation, the year belongs to the Risen Lord”. You might be very surprised to learn that those words were written by D.H.Lawrence, whose novels ‘Sons and Lovers’ (1913), Women in Love (1920) and Lady Chatterley’s Lover (his last, 1929) are amongst the most sensual and controversial in the English language. And yet his essays and poetry – both sadly neglected – reveal a side of Lawrence that is little known: a religious frame of mind formed in his early years and which was to persist, hidden beneath the soil, throughout his life.

Lawrence grew up in the mining villages of Eastwood and Bestwood in Nottinghamshire, and early on developed the passionate love for the countryside he had observed in the colliers who spent their lives underground. He accompanied his strong-willed mother, Lydia, to the Congregational Church (his father never went). The hymns and gospel stories still left a profound impression years later. Take this passage from his essay Hymns in a Man’s Life (1928): “To me the word Galilee has a wonderful sound. The Lake of Galilee! I don’t want to know where it is. I never want to go to Palestine. Galilee is one of those lovely, glamorous worlds that exist in the golden haze of a child’s half-formed imagination.” Certainly, I remember feeling the same myself as a schoolboy.

When he quotes favourite lines from nonconformist hymns, he writes “They live and glisten in the depths of a man’s consciousness in undimmed wonder”. By his mid-teens Lawrence had already broken with the doctrines of orthodox Christian belief. But what remained was a poetic, intense commitment to the fullness and excitement of life, which he felt the churches failed to preach. ‘One can only live one’s soul. The business is to live, really alive’. In so much of his writing Lawrence emerges as the ‘Apostle of Life’.

Most intriguing is his essay The Risen Lord, written in 1929. He commits himself to the full bodily Resurrection of Christ, not just Christ as spirit: “and if with hands and feet, then with lips and stomach and genitals” (Lawrence never lost his earthiness). He speculates too upon whether the Risen Lord ought to have known the love of a woman and had children by her – a theme which was to become contentious 16 years later when Nikos Kazantzakis wrote his novel The Last Temptation of Christ (1955). In that, Jesus is depicted in a relationship with Mary Magdalene; and



after her death marries both Bethany sisters, Martha and Mary (truly!).

Although Lawrence felt that traditional Christianity was not ready to destroy the old conceptions, he could still respond to images of the Crucifixion. During his wanderings around the Tyrol in 1912 he became fascinated by the painted wayside shrines so numerous in the Alps. He was particularly drawn to the tortured, primitive figures of the Christus fashioned by the peasant carpenters. The struggle and grotesqueness, the picture of the Lord struggling to get free and fight off his Cross, again had this vividness which so excited Lawrence. In these intense carvings he detected ‘human attempts to decipher the riddle of pain’. He noted that humbler folk would always raise their hats to them every time they passed by.

Ever since a very serious pneumonia when he was 17 and the loss of his mother to cancer when he was 25, Lawrence had a keen sense of his own mortality. He and his wife Frieda spent many years travelling extensively in warmer climes to help him fight off the tuberculosis that would kill him at the age of only 44.

He published several volumes of poetry throughout his life. His volume of Last Poems contains an unusual number with God as their theme.

Some of the lines even sound like prayers: “Save me, O God, from falling into the ungodly knowledge/of myself as I am without God”. “Come, holy Silence! reach, reach/from the presence of God, and envelop us”. There are many of the Last Poems that also explore the richness of Greek mythology and its panoply of gods – which Lawrence essentially saw as being under the wing of the greater God.

Lawrence’s poem The Ship of Death is, in my view, his best. It speaks of preparing to set sail on the greatest journey of all. Are we prepared? Are we packed and ready to board? By the time he wrote it, Lawrence was emaciated and racked with pain.

“ Have you built your ship of death, O have you?
O build your ship of death for you will need it.....
A little ship, with oars and food
and little dishes, and all accoutrements
fitting and ready for the departing soul” .

And just when the journey seems unendingly long and dark, sailing to complete oblivion, suddenly, at the last glimmer of hope, comes Resurrection.....

And the frail soul steps out, into her house again
filling the heart with peace.”

Canon Graham



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 why holding an Arts Festival in church is not a good idea

My dear Nephew Darren

Your decision to hold a Summer weekend Arts Festival in church, bringing culture to your inner-city streets, was most commendable. Pity, how it all turned out.

The Friday evening started well with the concert of Scott Joplin piano music. Obviously knowing that the pieces were originally played in seedy bars on pianos wildly out of tune with several notes missing, your committee must have gone to endless trouble to find precisely the right instrument. Your stage-hands, were, however, less careful and hadn't noticed that the platform had a noticeable list to port. After each piece, the pianist had to relocate the piano stool closer to his nomadic piano, with the last piece being performed with both entirely out of sight behind the pulpit.

It created much innocent entertainment for the audience, but the fault really should have been remedied before the Saturday evening choir concert. Discarded kneelers and rotting hymn books do not form a stable base for a stage supporting an 80-strong choir. So when it came to the enthusiastic rendering of hits from 'Oklahoma', with copious hand movements, it came as something of a relief that the stage took this as the moment to signal defeat, tipping the tenors behind the altar. The audience's thunderous applause, assuming this was a carefully choreographed part of the performance, was quite touching. I am sure all the compensation claims will soon be sorted out.

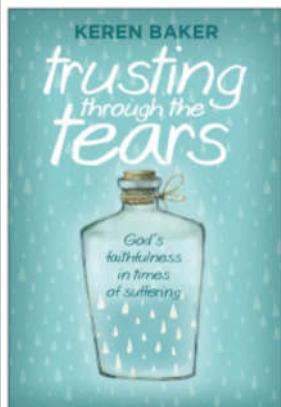
Your one great mistake was to take on responsibility for organising the refreshments afterwards. Church entertainments committees have centuries of collective experience in judging the numbers of ham sandwiches and bottles of milk required. I am forever proud that our own ladies – through years of experience – can now get five cups of tea from every tea bag and can butter bread so thinly that one pack can last several months.

What you now do with 29 surplus loaves of bread is a problem you have



brought upon yourself. You could possibly use them for supporting the stage next year.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



Book Reviews

Trusting Through the Tears

By Keren Baker, 10ofthose, £5.99

– God’s faithfulness in times of suffering

Living a faithful Christian life will always hold the possibility of trouble and difficulty, but how do you cope when the troubles come one after another? A chronic long-term illness, miscarriage, a difficult pregnancy and premature baby, the unexpected death of a little girl, a child suffering with mental illness, all against a background of struggles with finances and so many other things that ‘dark times’ seems a fearfully inadequate description. It is one thing to read of such things in the life of perhaps a missionary or some great saint, but how does an ordinary family in an ordinary city in the UK cope?

Taken from the Parish Pump website.

..... **Not a bride**

“Something’s wrong with me,” sighed a young lady after a wedding. “I’ve been a bridesmaid twice, I even caught the bouquet, too; but I’m still single.”

“Next time,” advised her grandmother, “don’t reach for the flowers; reach for the best man.”



HOLY DAYS

For anyone interested in Christian mysticism, Evelyn Underhill may be a good place to begin. She died on 10th June 1941 after a life full of remarkable achievements: author of more than 30 books that explored the intersection between the spiritual and the physical, the first woman ever to lecture to the CofE clergy, the first woman to conduct spiritual retreats for the Church, the first woman to establish ecumenical links between churches, and one of the first women theologians to lecture in English universities. Evelyn was also an award-winning bookbinder.

Born in 1875, the daughter of a barrister from Wolverhampton, and then wife to a childhood friend, also a barrister, Evelyn moved in cultured, educated circles, and travelled widely each summer along the Mediterranean – both her father and husband were keen yachting enthusiasts.

Evelyn's inner, spiritual journey was more complex: from agnosticism to theism, on to Neoplatonism and then Roman Catholicism she went, until in 1921 she became an Anglican – with a later fascination for the Greek Orthodox church. Her daily life was one of reading, writing, and doing various forms of religious work, from visiting the poor to counselling people in trouble.

Her spiritual search began in childhood, after a number of “abrupt experiences of the peaceful, undifferentiated plane of reality—like the ‘still desert’ of the mystic—in which there was no multiplicity nor need of explanation”. Trying to understand these mystical experiences sparked her passion and lifelong quest.

Evelyn became one of the most widely read writers on mysticism in the first half of the 20th century. Her greatest book, *Mysticism: A Study of the Nature and Development of Man's Spiritual Consciousness*, was published in 1911, and is romantic, engaged, and theoretical rather than historical or scientific. While writing it she came into contact with Baron Friedrich von Hugel, who became her spiritual mentor for many years. He gradually steered her away from mysticism and towards a more Christocentric view of reality.

During World War I Evelyn worked in naval intelligence, but in later years became a Christian pacifist.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website



Over 6,000 calls in first 48 hours to Daily Hope

A free phone line offering hymns, prayers, and reflections 24 hours a day while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus received more than 6,000 calls in the first 48 hours.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, recently launched ‘Daily Hope’ as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people’s homes, during the lockdown period. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services in mind. The service is supported by the Church of England nationally as well as through the Connections group based at Holy Trinity Claygate in Surrey and the Christian charity Faith in Later Life.

Within 48 hours the line had received more than 6,000 calls from across the country, with many being referred by friends, family or members. Calls have so far spanned more than 50,000 minutes, with some of those accessing the service listening to the music, prayers and reflections for up to 50 minutes at a time. The Revd Canon Dave Male, the Church of England’s Director of Evangelism and Discipleship, said: “The volume of calls shows that Daily Hope is meeting a need. We have a duty in these strange and difficult times to find new ways of bringing prayer and worship to people wherever they are, and this is one more way of helping people to connect with God from their own homes. This is such a simple idea – planned and launched all within a few short weeks by a small dedicated team – but I pray it will bring real comfort, hope and inspiration to people at this time.”

Callers to the line hear a short greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19.

Options available include materials also made available digitally by the Church of England’s Communications team such as Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer, updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England weekly national online service.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website



Dates for the Diary

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



Where was the social distancing?

Lunch at All Saints

Soup – hot food- cakes

12:00-2:00

**No Lunches Until
Further Notice**





Prayer Diary

JUNE 2020

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | School teachers |
| 2 | Researchers and scientists |
| 3 | All NHS workers |
| 4 | Hygiene and sanitation providers |
| 5 | Public Transport workers |
| 6 | Hospital Chaplains |
| 7 Trinity Sunday | The Clergy |
| 8 | Supermarket workers and those working in the 'food chain' |
| 9 | The unwell and seriously ill |
| 10 | The 'shielded' and those most at risk |
| 11 Corpus Christi | Spiritual' Communion |
| 12 St Barnabas | The Church's continuing mission |
| 13 | The vulnerable |
| 14 Trinity 1 | Those who work in media |
| 15 | Those who face financial hardship |
| 16 | Delivery drivers |
| 17 | Postal workers |
| 18 | The lonely |
| 19 | The bereaved |
| 20 | Children estranged from their Father |
| 21 Trinity 2 | Fathers and our families |
| 22 | All parents with young children |
| 23 | Hospice workers |
| 24 Birth of John the Baptist | Our Police Force in the County |
| 25 | Those who are grieving |
| 26 | Nurses and Midwives |
| 27 | Carers |
| 28 | The lonely |
| 29 St Peter | All who live in our Parish |
| 30 | All volunteers |



PARISH DIRECTORY

VICAR	Vacancy
HON. ASST. PRIEST	Rev. Canon Dr. Graham Blyth Tel: 01621 854068
AUTHORISED LOCAL PREACHERS	Mrs Adrienne Knight Tel 01621 841329
	Alan Marjoram Tel 01245 243868
CHURCHWARDENS	Dennis Johnson Tel: 01621 842410
	Mrs Jenny Clinch 4A Belvedere Place Tel: 01621 840057
DEPUTY CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs Vicky Tropman Tel: 01621 857291
	Mrs Vivien Clark Tel: 01621 740374
HON TREASURER	Eddie Sewell Tel: 01621 851961
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SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Elizabeth Blyth Tel 01621 854068 Email: elisabeth.blyth@gmail.com

Website www.all saints maldon.com



ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Choir Practice (Thur 7:30pm)	Dr. Stuart Pegler	01621 850530
Junior Choir (Thur 7:00 pm)	"	"
Junior Church	Elaine Brown	01621 853238
Sunshiners (Pre School Group Thursdays 9:15 am)	Gill Nelson	01621 852119
Tower Bell Ringers	Peter Chignell	01376 571170
Handbell Ringers	Dennis Johnson	01621 842410
Flower Group	Susan Duke	01621 851623
Bible Society	Betty Smith	01621 854143
Mothers' Union'	Joan Downham	01621 854655
Childrens Society	Marie Keeble	01621 856354
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	Elaine Brown (Joanne Maloney (membership1stmaldon@gmail.com	01621
Meeting Point	Barbara Gale	01621 928538
Maldon Pioneers	Liz Frederick	01621 840951
Maldon Ladies Group	Vivien Clark	01621 740374
Ramblers Club	Elaine Brown	
Prayer Group		
Messy Church		

To register your daughter's interest in joining either:

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers
please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk
or call 0800 169 5901.

PARISH OFFICE

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

All Church Activities have been closed until further notice.
 And the Church is Closed until further notice.

All Saints' Maldon



Open every day

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