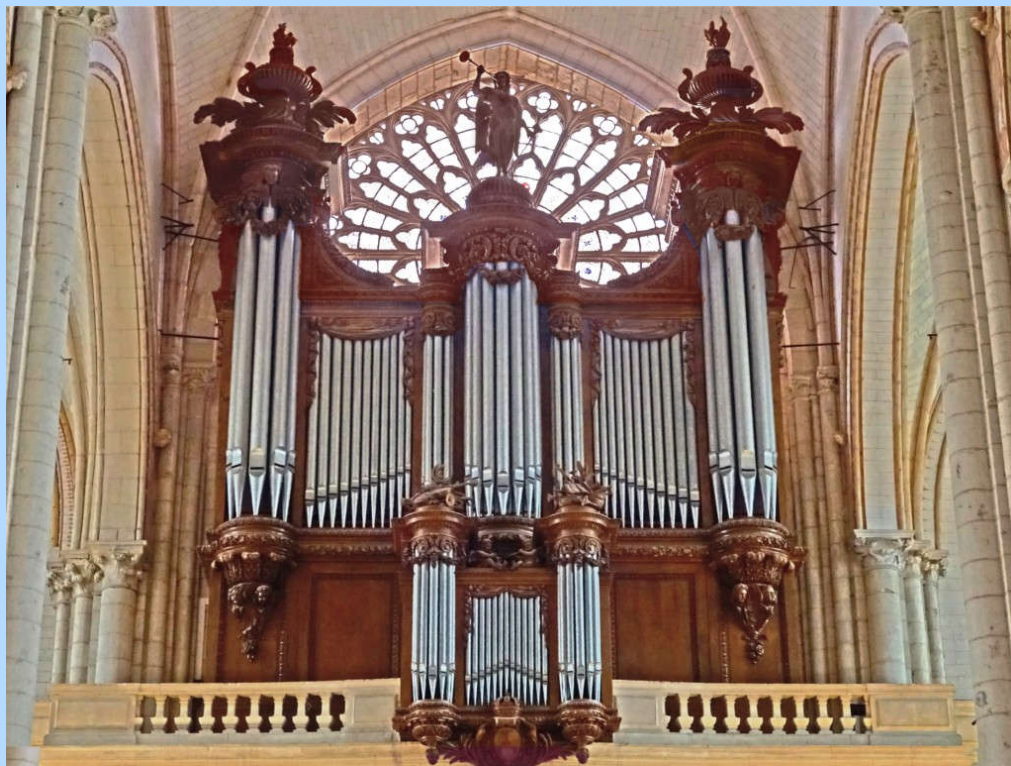


ALL SAINTS' MALDON



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 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
<p style="text-align: center;">WEEKDAY SERVICE</p> <p>Morning Prayer is usually said in church at 8.30am on Monday - Friday.</p> <p>Evening Prayer is usually said in church at 5.30pm on Monday - Thursday</p> <p>Thursday 11:00am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) followed by coffee and biscuits</p>	
<p>Cover Photos:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The superb 1790 Clicquot organ at the Cathedral of St. Pierre, Poitiers, France. (Photo by Stuart Pegler) 	

All Church Services have been put on Hold
And the Church opening times are restricted.



EDITORIAL

Well, this is the fourth magazine I have edited since lockdown, and of course since my cruise holiday to India and the Middle East. Also, during this month, after 50 years at Wayside, we have moved to Tolleshunt D'Arcy. What a traumatic experience that was and still is, we are still surrounded by boxes and are trying to find which box contains what we are looking for. The key to my desk was missing so I contacted a locksmith to open the drawers, at a cost of £75, and of course the next day the key turned up.

With Barbara doing such a fantastic job with the weekly Link I find it difficult to find enough material to fill the magazine, so please keep your contributions coming.

Editor. New telephone number 01621 869667, same email address.

THE PARISH LETTER

“WELCOME TO OUR (NOT THE SAME) CHURCH.....”

During the lockdown both clergy and laity have experimented, as much by necessity as by preference, with alternative styles of worship. Inevitably this has taken the form of a number of online options, such as broadcasts of the local priest conducting the Eucharist at home or in church on behalf of their people; or even more sophisticated (and, dare I say it, middle-class) congregational assemblies via Zoom including readings and prayers by different voices. Using these methods also allows for the addition of hymns and worship songs.

Unsurprisingly it is mostly, but not always, the younger clergy who have embraced the opportunities afforded by social media with the greatest enthusiasm. They have the skills – and the imagination – to broaden out the concept of what ‘church’ now looks like. The only danger in this, however, is that it leaves behind those who are not computer-literate and to whom such a world is alien. That is why here at All Saints we have instigated a monthly mailing to those members of our congregation who would, without it, be unfairly marginalised. We are all ‘members of One Body’ and we are 100% committed to ensuring that we demonstrate that. Nationally meanwhile, there has developed in clergy circles (including bishops) what might kindly be described as a ‘robust debate’ about the pros and cons of churches themselves. ‘The church is the people of God’ goes the mantra, perfectly correct in terms of New Testament theology. But not at the expense of what some have described as ‘the prison of our church buildings’.



I should like to believe that our own broadcasts from the D'Arcy Chapel and the Nave in the main church have been of comfort to the many of us who have been desperately missing our spiritual home at All Saints. All of this has been made possible by the skills and patience of Mike Kneller who also manages our website for us. Many of you have reported being very moved to see the Eucharist once again being offered in our parish church. And I confess I often get a lump in my throat when I hear the final hymn which Mike attaches – either showing the church empty with its doors closed, or in its glory days with the choir and servers in procession and a full congregation.

None of us quite knows what the church of the future will look like or what kind of experience it will bring. It certainly looks as if singing will be off the menu, stentorian lungs now being thought to be a major threat in spreading Covid 19. Worship without music will hit us hard. Communion will continue to be in one kind only. Social distancing means that a 'space near you' will be coming soon – one which will give a very different feel to fellowship. But even with all this I believe we will find a deeper appreciation of our building and of God's timeless presence within it. A deeper awareness of His presence with *us*, his people, too. And it will be a tremendous joy just to be able to see one another again.

Behind the scenes a lot of faithful, excellent work has been going on: the Ministry Team, Wardens and their Deputies, PCC Secretary and Treasurer, Pastoral and Prayer Group, our Magazine Editor and Parish Administrator have all been contributing under the oversight of our Standing Committee. The retirement of Ken Russell as Verger for over 30 years has left us all with a great sense of loss as we begin to take in the scale of the huge amount of work he did for us. We have been so fortunate in having such an exemplary and faithful servant. (We look forward to being able to pay tribute to both him and Jean when we are up and running again). Our Serving Team and others are beginning to chart the way forward.

I do not expect our broadcasts to stop in the future. Worship will most likely be 'both and' (ie church and online). There will also be a great challenge in managing without books (we are Anglicans for goodness sake)! Understandably some of us will not feel safe returning to services just now; we live in vulnerable times. I am enormously grateful to those who have volunteered as stewards during the hours we have been open for private prayer. As a community we may have to face local lockdowns in future and some of us may have to self-isolate unexpectedly. Most of us are carrying daily struggles between faith and fear. None of us should expose ourselves to unnecessary risk. Needless to say we are observing all the required Health and Safety procedures in church.



Many people will be asking “Where is God in all this?” Past generations facing pestilence have been tormented by the same question. Sadly, *homo sapiens* is not immune from new or familiar pathogens. It is a scientific given in an unequal and broken world. The recent coronaviruses bear witness to our poor relationship to the rest of the animal kingdom and to natural habitats. Yet the ‘new creation’ which God promises will be very different: the lion will lie down with the lamb, the Babylons of greed and corruption will be cast away and there will be ‘no more death or sorrow or crying or pain’ (Revelation 21: 4). Or, in the words of St Paul: ‘All creation looks forward to that day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay’ (Romans 8: 21). Amen to that.

Canon Graham

The Corona Virus

Alan Marjoram Googled ‘how long can coronavirus live on soft furnishings’ and this came up.

“If a virus lands on something like a chair or table, it starts dying pretty quick,” explains Dr. Esper. “We may be able to find some viable virus after a few days, but it’s thousands of times less than what was originally deposited by the cough. As soon as the virus hits something that’s not alive and certainly not a human, it’s not going to do very well.”

The Queue

While waiting in a socially distanced queue early one morning for the supermarket to open for us ‘seniors’, I was surprised to see a young man saunter along and try to cut in at the front of the queue. A furious old lady waved her cane at him, and he quickly backed away.

A moment later, the young man tried again. He managed to dodge the old lady, but then two old men started shouting at him. Again, the young man backed away.

But he wasn’t giving up, and soon the young man approached the queue for the third time. By now, all of us pensioners were ready for him, an angry wall of opposition.

The young man stood there for a moment, and then shrugged his shoulders. “If you people won’t let me unlock the door, none of you will ever get in to shop.”

Taken from the parish pump website.



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



Confirmation of Election of Bishop Stephen as the 98th Archbishop of York

Bishop Stephen Geoffrey Cottrell will be confirmed as the 98th Archbishop of York at 11am on Thursday 9 July 2020, in a service broadcast entirely via video conference due to the Coronavirus restrictions. As Presiding Judge, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, has granted permission for the virtual service to take place.

The service, which had been due to take place in York Minster, will be in two parts: a legal ceremony with readings, prayers and music; and a film marking the start of Bishop Stephen's ministry as Archbishop of York.

The service will include music from York Minster Choir and Manor Church of England Academy School (York). Young people from across the North of England, will read a letter written by the medieval religious scholar Alcuin of York. Bishop Stephen will offer his first address as Archbishop of York. Prayers will be offered for the Archbishop, the Diocese of York and the Northern Province of the Church of England as well as for the wider world in these difficult times.

Commenting on the service, Bishop Stephen Cottrell said: "I am looking forward to beginning my ministry as the 98th Archbishop of York. This isn't quite how I imagined it would begin. It is certainly the first time an Archbishop's election will have been confirmed via video conference. But we're all having to re-imagine how we live our lives and how we inhabit the world. These are difficult times. My hope is that through this service the love of God that is given us in Jesus Christ will shine out, perhaps even to those who while never attending a service in York Minster, might have a look online. I can still just about remember what it's like to not be part of the Christian community. What inspired me to follow Jesus is that vision of a new humanity that I see in him. Following in the footsteps of my many predecessors, I look forward to serving our nation and bringing the love and peace of Christ to our world, especially here in the north."

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said: "Like so many across the Church of England and Anglican Communion, I am looking forward to welcoming Bishop Stephen to his new ministry with joy, thanksgiving and hope. He radiates the love of Jesus Christ wherever he goes, and along with my fellow bishops, I look



forward to serving alongside him. These are difficult times for everyone, and frightening and painful times for many. But we believe as strongly as ever that Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness. I pray that this new beginning for Bishop Stephen as he becomes Archbishop of York is also a moment that refreshes our hope, deepens our faith and sends us out with new energy to love and serve others in Christ's name."

Commenting on behalf of the Bishops of the Northern Province, the Bishop of Newcastle, Christine Hardman said: "The Bishops of the Province of York welcome Bishop Stephen to his new ministry and look forward to working with him in serving communities across the north and in building confidence in the good news of Jesus Christ."

The Dean of York, the Right Revd Dr Jonathan Frost said: "It is a joy to welcome Bishop Stephen to his Cathedral Church, new Diocese and to a vibrant community of cathedrals across the North of England: they are true powerhouses of love and prayer. Bishop Stephen, Rebecca and their family are enfolded in our prayers and love."

Dr Nick Land, Chair of the House of Laity in York Diocesan Synod and Chair of the Diocese's Vacancy in See Committee said: "I would like to add my voice of welcome to Bishop Stephen. Anyone spending any time with him will be struck by Bishop Stephen's deep love for God and his infectious enthusiasm for telling people about Jesus. My prayer and expectation is that he will lead us in deepening our personal commitment to Christ and will help us become more confident in sharing the Good News of the Gospel in the Diocese of York."

The Confirmation of Election is the formal legal process that completes the appointment of senior bishops. Prior to the confirmation, the College of Canons of York Minster will have elected the Archbishop Designate as the Queen's nominee for the post. At the start of the proceedings, he will give his consent to his appointment. Following the reading of the Queen's Letters Patent, legal documents supporting the appointment will be produced to show that all necessary procedures have been followed. At the conclusion, the election will be confirmed, and Bishop Stephen will become the Archbishop of York. The service would ordinarily take place in York Minster, the seat of the Archbishop of York.

The service will be available on the Church of England website.

Arrangements for Bishop Stephen's enthronement service will be announced later in the year.

This is the press statement issued by the Church of England

The Diocese of Chelmsford thank Bishop Stephen for his huge contribution to our diocese and our prayers are with him and Rebecca as they embark on their new ministry.



REOPENING OF CHURCH BUILDINGS FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

For immediate release

Following the Government announcement that church buildings will be able to reopen for public worship from 4th July, providing physical distancing remains in place, the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who leads the Church of England's Recovery Group, said:

"I welcome the Prime Minister's announcement today that we will soon be able to begin to meet and worship together in our church buildings again. The last three months have been an extraordinary time - the first period without public worship and the sacraments in England in more than 800 years. There will be real joy as we begin to come together again – if even at a physical distance – but I also know that many will be understandably cautious at this news.

"We will not be returning to normality overnight - this is the next step on a journey. We've been planning carefully, making detailed advice available for parishes to enable them to prepare to hold services when it is safe and practical to do so. It is important to say that the change in Government guidance is permissive, not prescriptive.

"I would particularly like to thank clergy and lay leaders for all they have done during the time our buildings have been closed. Not all church buildings will be ready to hold regular services from July 4th, but we are providing whatever support we can to enable them.

"There will still be restrictions and we must all still do everything we can to limit the spread of the virus to protect each other, especially the most vulnerable. The online services and dial-in worship offerings we have become used to will continue.

"This has been an incredibly difficult time for the whole country, especially for those who have been ill, who have suffered financial hardship, the loss of livelihoods and indeed, for many, those they love. We know that is not over and the Church has a task ahead to bring consolation and hope.

"Churches and cathedrals have risen to the recent challenges, finding new ways of meeting for worship, of serving our neighbours, and of reaching new people with the love of God. The challenge before us now is to take



the next steps carefully and safely, without forgetting all that we've discovered about God and ourselves on the way."

Guidance for parishes

Detailed advice for parishes and cathedrals is available on the Church of England website. It will be updated, as necessary, in the coming days to reflect the detail of the Government guidance once published.

Weddings will be able to resume, along with other services. Updated advice for couples will be published on our website this week. The Church of England Recovery Group will also issue advice on subjects including singing and music for which a review by Public Health England is currently in progress.



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Sunday 12.00 noon - 16.00

N.B.

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST MAGAZINE

19th JULY



The Holiday That Never Was

On Monday 22nd June we should have started a holiday travelling around France, but, like many others we had to cancel this due to the Covid 19 pandemic. We had planned to travel by car and would have crossed to France using Eurotunnel from Folkestone to Calais and then motoring down past Paris to our first stop some hundred or so miles south of the French capital to stay for a couple of nights.. Our journey would then have taken us to Bergerac in the Dordogne for a few days. As well as the lovely countryside there is much to see around the old town of Bergerac such as street markets, lots of old buildings including many churches and cathedrals, statues of Cyrano de Bergerac, picturesque chateaux and of course many places to sample and buy excellent wine. From Bergerac we were to travel up to the Charente area near to the Atlantic coast where we had hired a house for a week and where we could relax and enjoy the sunshine and the swimming pool. (I think the younger people say ‘we would chill’, but with my old fashioned brain I think ‘to chill’ in the middle of France in July?). Anyway, the point of the tale I have to tell, is that after leaving this house we were going to make a short stop at Poitiers, where we wanted to have a quick look at St. Peter’s Cathedral, and specifically to see the Cathedral Organ.

The reason for wanting to see the Organ was not because Joan or myself are knowledgeable about such things or have ever tried to play one, but back in the Autumn of 2019 I was talking with our Director of Music and organist, Stuart Pegler (remember when we could have face to face discussions with anyone we chose?) and he told me that the Pegler and Craig families had been holidaying in the Dordogne. During the holiday they had visited St.Peter’s Cathedral in Poitiers where Stuart had previously made contact with the Cathedral organist after finding that the organ was one which interested him.

The building of St. Peter’s Cathedral was originally started in 1162 and was sponsored by Henry the second of England and Eleanor of Aquitaine. Records have shown that there was an organ in the Cathedral from about 1360 and there were successive organs thereafter until at Christmas time 1681 the organ was destroyed by fire. About eighty years later a fund had secured enough to build a new organ and this task was given to Francois-Henri Clicquot. He died whilst the work was ongoing, but his son Claude-Francois Clicquot completed it in 1791. The instrument is a beautiful example of eighteenth century design and is more or less as it was originally built, hence Stuart’s desire to see it, and why he made an appointment to visit the Cathedral to inspect the organ and to have some discussion about it. When he made the visit, to his great surprise, he and his grandson Finn were invited to play the instrument which they proceeded to do for over an hour!



Finlay playing “I vow to thee, my Country” at Poitiers Cathedral. As you can see he is playing two manuals at once— this takes a fair degree of effort!

What a joy that must have been for them both, and what a story Finn will have one day to tell his children and grandchildren of how, at such a young age, he played this great organ with its historical background. I am sure that for those of you with a musical interest or for those who love church organs, Stuart would be happy to tell more about this organ and perhaps might even remember some

of the music that he and Finn played that day



Stuart playing de Grigny’s Recit pour Deux Cromornes at Poitiers Cathedral -- this time the two manuals are being kept separate. A fair degree of concentration was needed, since the Pedalboard here has three extra notes at the bottom, meaning all the others are much further right than usual!

As for Joan and me, we holidayed in our back garden we hope to revamp the holiday at some time (next year?) and will definitely put a visit to St. Peter’s in Poitiers on our itinerary but will only be able to look at the organ and dare to hope that someone else might be playing it!

Ken Downham

Beware

As you prepare for the school holidays, remember this: children are natural mimics. They act like us in spite of all our attempts to teach them good manners.



Deputy Warden's Waffle

Well it has not happened! I remember saying in April at the start of lock down, that I intended to turn my garden into a mini Versailles; afraid not !! Nor have I decorated my house, cleared out my wardrobe, re-laid my front drive, finished crocheting blankets for

Ma's carehome. All of which I am sure people have done over the past few months. So, I hear you ask, what on earth have I been doing! Well things I never thought possible. I have mastered the art of Skyping and with several friends at once. I have learned how to stay in touch with my eldest granddaughter via 'messenger'; and she has been telling me about her new business which is really taking off, and has orders as far away as America –she hand makes rather wonderful candles with real herbs and flower petals etc.

Both my daughters have worked throughout the lock down going out into the community. So at least some of my family have been and indeed still are usefully employed. However I am rather pleased with myself, as during the period of isolation, I can reveal that I have passed (on line) my second level of conversational Egyptian. I so hope one day to return to Egypt.

Whereas generally things are starting to open up again, and we are able to get out a bit more and even meet our much missed friends and family.

There are still some people shielding , and who must wait a little longer for their restrictions to be eased. Knowing the right time, and how to reintroduce social activities throws up enormous challenges. We have done our very best to open the church for private prayer for two hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and at the week end; insuring it is safe and meets the government 'covid' regulations . It has been wonderful to see the old familiar wooden door of All Saints open, for a while anyway. At the moment it is impossible to say when we will be able to join together again in church for a service. I do know however, people are taking comfort from being able to offer a private prayer in the Darcy Chapel , and if wanted to light a candle.

Some church members have been particularly busy making masks and scrubs for the NHS, and after everything was put on hold, house moving is allowed thus enabling Colin and Elaine and Viv and Peter to ,move into their new homes.

I have found it so uplifting how we have all managed to stay in touch , I hear daily how people ring each other to have a little chat. The care for one another the All Saints family has shown is testament to what a strong link we all have with each other. Long, long may it last. In many ways this is a very difficult time for us all, not least we are still in vacancy , but with the help we receive from Fr Graham, with the Broadcast, and the love and support we offer each other

I feel sure we can all look to the future with confidence , a stronger and united family. By the way there are no prizes for spotting the little bit of 'fake news' you will have read in this waffle!!!!

Vicky, Deputy Churchwarden



Paul J King

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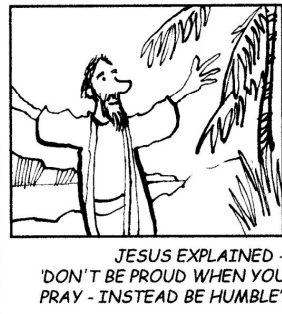
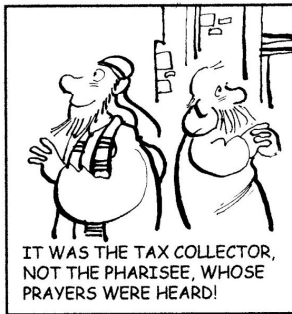
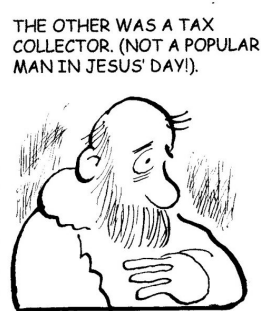
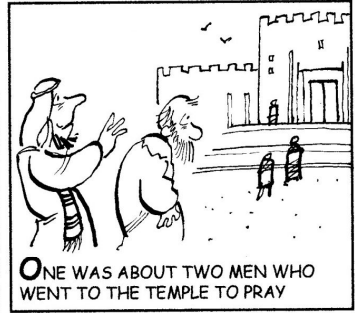
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The
Tale of the
**TWO MEN
SAYING
THEIR
PRAYERS**





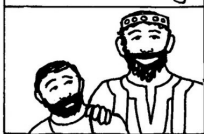
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 24

God chose Saul to be the King of Israel, but Saul chose to disobey Him. God said that the next king would not be Saul's son.

Saul didn't know that God had chosen David to be the next king.



David was very successful as a fighter and very popular.



David had to go on the run and hide.



One day, Saul and his army were in En-Gedi. Saul needed to pee, so he went into a sheep fold built next to a cave...

David and his men were hiding at the back of the cave!



David crept over and cut a piece off Saul's robe.



Then David felt bad.



David waited until Saul was far enough away then he shouted to him.



Your majesty, I could have killed you today, but I knew it was wrong. I want to prove to you I'm not trying to harm you.



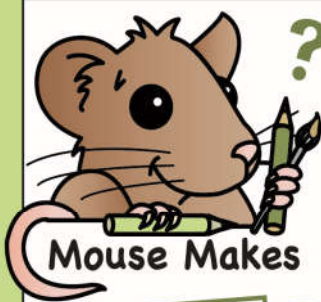
David, you are better than me. I would have killed you but you were kind.



Now I know you will be the next king, but please look after my family.

David promised, and Saul and his army went home.





WHO AM I?

The last letter of one name is the first letter of the next name.

P			L

- Wrote 13 New Testament letters
- He wrote the third Gospel

- Mother of John (Luke 1:3)
- Sarah's servant (Genesis 16:21)
- Joseph's mother (Genesis 29:35)
- His wife turned to salt (Genesis 11:31)

- Paul's friend (2 Corinthians 8:27)
- A brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55)
- Ruth's mother-in-law. (Ruth 3:1)



FIND THE MISSING HUSBANDS

Match the wife to their husband

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| MARY | BOAZ |
| SARAH | JACOB |
| RUTH | ZECHARIAH |
| REBEKAH | JOSEPH |
| RACHEL | ABRAHAM |
| ELIZABETH | ISAAC |



IT'S A PUZZLE!

God sent 9 plagues on Egypt...

What were they?

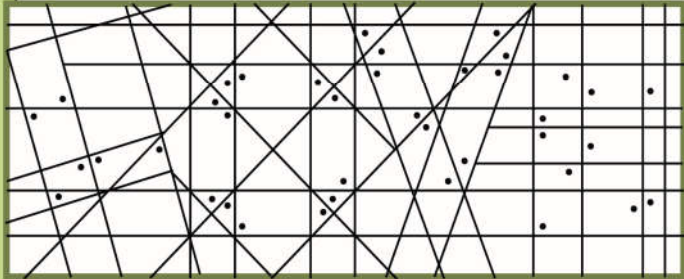
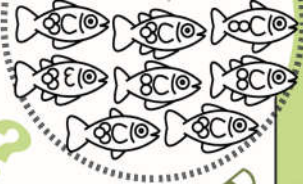
Change each letter to the one after it in the alphabet to find out.

- AKNNC
- EQNFR
- FMZSR
- EKHDR
- CHRDZRD
- OKZFTD
- GZHK
- KNBTRSR
- CZQJMDRR



FIND THE FISH

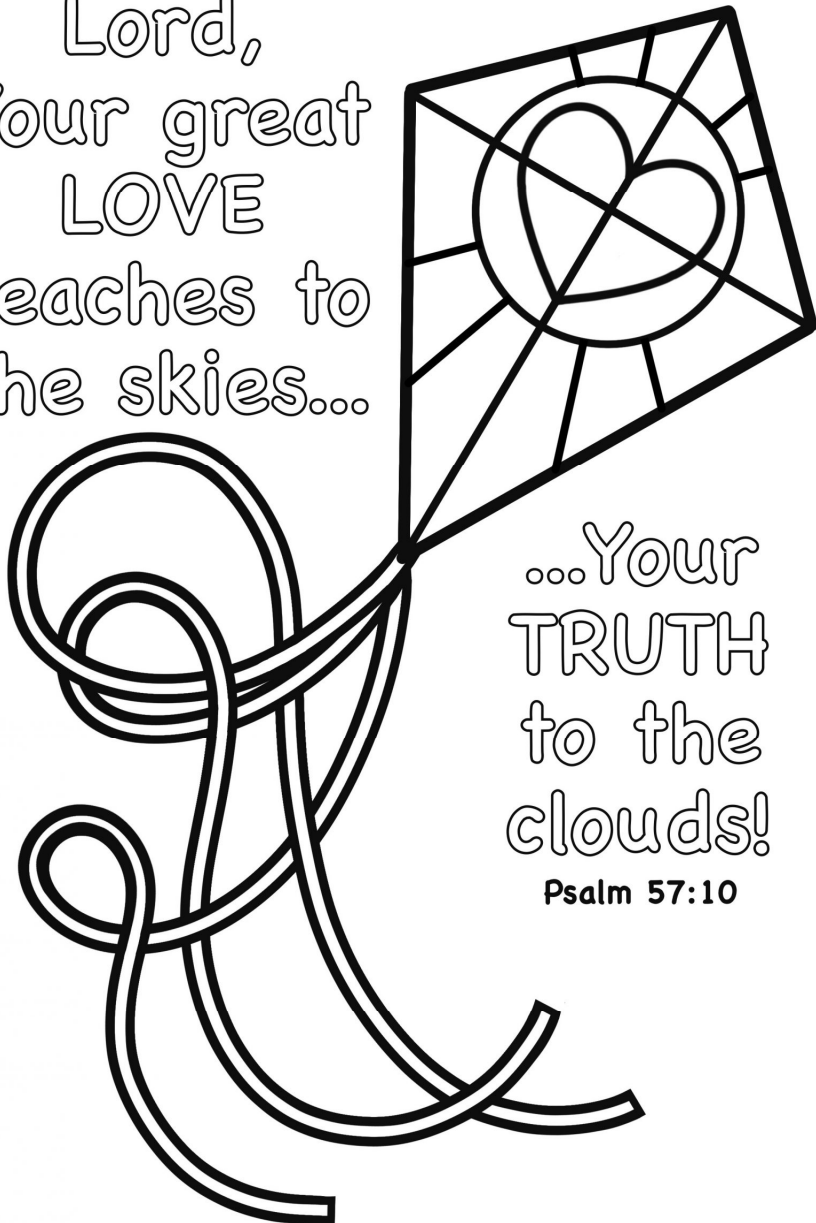
The Disciples have been fishing and have caught TWO fish the same, can you find them?



Colour in all the shapes with a DOT to find out what Jesus wants us to do



Lord,
Your great
LOVE
reaches to
the skies...



...Your
TRUTH
to the
clouds!

Psalm 57:10



REFLECTED FAITH: A "HOLDING CROSS"

The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series on symbols in our churches.

Many churches today are using social media to hold public services – either together at the same time or uploaded so you can listen and watch at any time and worship in your home when it is convenient for you.

I find that having a ‘prayer space’ when I join, as well as when I pray alone, enables me to enter into that time of holiness quicker and more fruitfully.

It’s like when you physically go to a church building for a service. Your hand holds the door handle and you choose to enter into a sacred space.

Not many of us have the luxury of a separate space where we currently live, and in many ways I prefer not to distinguish prayer life from everyday life. After all, where does one end and the other begin? God is everywhere; in every room in the house. He’s no less in my home or yours than He is in our locked church buildings. He’s with me when I pray and when I eat, or cook, or watch TV and so on.

One item I appreciate is a cross that I can hold. Ideally one that completely fits into my hand.

There are wooden ‘Holding Crosses’ that you can make or buy especially for this purpose, but you can use any material. Perhaps you could make one out of felt and stuff it, to give it form and solidity.

I have one made from an old plastic book binding strip, which I cut to size. One piece slots into the other, to form the cross shape.

What I appreciate about the holding cross is its firmness, it reminds me that Christ is my firm foundation; that God is solid and dependable. It reminds me also that whatever happens I will cling to Him. And it tells me that as I hold that cross in my hand so I pray that He will hold me forever, never letting me go or fall.

This month: See what materials you have from which you could make a Holding Cross. What feelings and thoughts come to you as you use it in your prayer and worship time?

Taken from the parish pump website



Looking at God: Ask Him for ‘pandemic grace’

There are hardships you and your family might be facing, as you try to respond well to the challenges brought about by this COVID-19 pandemic.

At the 2nd Lausanne Congress in 1989 in Manila, a Chinese brother shared the story of his imprisonment in a labour camp in China because of his faith. The authorities thought that the best way to reform and torture him was to make him empty the cesspool of human waste. All the human waste collected from the entire camp stagnated in that cesspool. He shared these words:

“I had to walk into the disease-ridden mass to empty it, and all the time I had to inhale that horrible stench. My captors thought it was the best place for a Christian, but I enjoyed working in the cesspool because I liked the solitude.

“In the labour camp, all prisoners were under constant surveillance. None of us could be alone. Only when I worked in the cesspool could I be alone, then I could pray to our Lord as loudly as I wanted. I could recite the Scriptures and psalms of the Bible that I still remembered. No one would come close enough to protest. In those years, one of my favourite hymns when I worked in the pit was ‘In the Garden’. And when I sang this hymn in the cesspool, I understood the meaning of garden, and I knew where God was. I met my Lord in the garden of the cesspool.”

That Chinese brother could be thankful for the cesspool. There, he experienced ‘cesspool grace’. That is a grace *that can only be experienced in a cesspool*. I am sharing this story with you because I think it holds some real perspective for our lives today.

Because of coronavirus, you may be facing some very heavy challenges in your life. Maybe it is the loss of a loved one to Covid-19, maybe your business has collapsed, or your job disappeared. Maybe you can no longer pay the rent or mortgage. Maybe you or a loved one is struggling with depression or anxiety and stress. In these days of global pandemic, we are facing circumstances and challenges unlike anything that we’ve experienced before.

It is my hope and prayer that, if you are in trouble, you will turn to God and *see and experience the unique grace that is offered to you in that circumstance by your Heavenly Father, your faithful Heavenly Father*. Anxiety grace. Unemployment grace. Depression grace.

Like our brother in the cesspool, in every circumstance, you too can have the opportunity to experience the closeness of God in your suffering in a very unique way.

Today, if you feel overwhelmed with the challenges the pandemic has thrown at you, may God would grant to you COVID-19 grace—a *grace that you can only experience in the midst of a COVID-19 pandemic*. May God be with you, my friend.



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



The Rectory
St. James the Least

Beware the spell-checker on your special service sheets!

My dear Nephew Darren

When producing material for your magazine or church services, beware the computer spell-checker. We once let our own system check a Christmas carol sheet and, on the night, found ourselves obliged to sing “away in a manger”, manglers apparently being unknown to our machine.

If you use special sheets regularly, it seems a law of nature – as with metal coat hangers – that they all intermingle while no one is watching. Thus, on Easter Day, half the congregation will have been issued with sheets for Harvest, which will only become obvious once the service begins. The first hymn will be entirely lost while sidesmen scuttle about looking for replacements only to find that there won’t be enough of them anyway and then the second hymn will be lost while others helpfully wander about church donating their sheets to those looking helpless and then trying to find someone to share with.

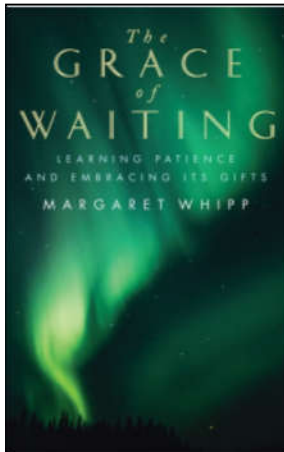
Never, ever, print on them ‘Do not take home’ as this will only ensure everyone does so. I have sometimes wondered if the instruction ‘Take this sheet home for reference’ would ensure that they stayed neatly arranged in the pews after the service. And if it is a service where babies are likely to be present, be assured that many of the copies will be returned half chewed and coated with bits of whatever the infant had for breakfast. There must be a market for paper treated with a child-repellent flavour for such occasions.

Anyone who thinks we are an unimaginative nation should visit a church after a special service to see how many places members of congregations can invent to hide the booklets: under kneelers, neatly folded and hidden inside hymn books, among flower arrangements and behind heating pipes so that no one can quite reach them. They then lurk there reproachfully for the next ten years until mice solve the problem.



No, stick to large, hard bound books. They are resistant to teeth and are too substantial to be hidden in pockets. Their only drawback is that they tend to fall victim to the pull of gravity at the quietest moments.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



Book Reviews

Grace of Waiting - learning patience and embracing its gifts.

By Margaret Whipp, Canterbury Press, £10.99

This wise and beautiful book draws on the experience of unchosen waiting - in sickness, in old age, and in the struggles and frustrations of everyday life - to explore the challenges of waiting and the skills it demands.

It may help anyone who finds themselves in a time of waiting, chosen or unchosen, or accompanying others through such times, it shows how the paradoxical gifts of patience point to the God who kindly waits for us.

The book explores four vivid metaphors for life's waiting times:

- * Wilderness - the practices of surrender and struggle; the gift of sustenance
- * Winter - the practices of resilience and rootedness; the gift of renewal
- * Winepress - the practices of constancy and compassion; the gift of consolation
- * Womb - the practices of nurture and noticing; the gift of newness and naming

Taken from the Parish Pump website.



HOLY DAYS

25th July: St Christopher - Patron Saint of Motorists

The legend goes that St Christopher was a Canaanite who lived in the 3rd century. He was a giant of a man, of fearsome appearance. At first he decided to serve the devil, but when he discovered that the devil was afraid of Christ and His Cross, Christopher decided to serve Christ. A nearby hermit instructed Christopher in the Christian faith and assigned to him a place near a river: Christopher's job was to help travellers cross it safely.

All went well, and Christopher helped lots of people on their way until one day a child came along and asked to be carried across. Christopher put him on his back and set off, but was soon staggering under the astonishing weight of this child. The child then told him that He was in fact Jesus Christ, and that He carried the weight of the whole world. The Christ-child then told Christopher to plant his staff in the ground: the next day it bore flowers and dates – confirmation that the child was indeed who He claimed to be.

After some time more of helping travellers cross the river, Christopher went to the city of Lycia, where he preached the gospel with such success that the Roman emperor (Decius?) had him arrested and imprisoned – especially when Christopher refused to sacrifice to the gods. Two women sent into his cell to seduce him came out converted Christians instead. So Christopher was beaten, shot with arrows and finally beheaded.

Christopher has been well-loved of the English down the centuries. Many wall-paintings of him have been placed on the north wall of churches, opposite the porch, so that he would be seen by all who entered. There was good reason for this: as patron saint of travellers, it was believed that anyone who saw an image of St Christopher would not die that day. As the ancient saying goes: 'Behold St Christopher and go thy way in safety'.

A kind of daily insurance policy against death – this was so good that in due course St Christopher became the patron saint of motorists. There is even a church in the Javel area of Paris where Citroen cars are made, that is dedicated to St Christopher. In modern times, with the increase in air and motorway travel, Christopher has remained popular. When in 1969 the Holy See reduced his feast day, there was a sharp protest in several countries, led in Italy by a number of popular film stars. If you ever travel in a taxi on the Continent, look out for a little St Christopher hanging from the rear-view mirror beside the driver. Now you know why it is there!

Taken from the parish pump website



THE CORONAVIRUS, CHURCH & YOU SURVEY

You are invited to take part in this national survey... details below

The Covid-19 pandemic has obviously had a profound effect on churches. The lockdown has severely restricted ministry in areas such as pastoral care, fellowship groups, and serving the community. On the other hand, for those with online access, worship has taken on new and creative forms over the last few weeks. Many clergy and ministry teams have risen to the challenge of operating in the virtual environment.

As we pass the most severe period of lockdown, it seems a good time to assess how churchgoers have responded to the experience, and what they think the future might hold. How well have people coped with the pandemic? Has it strengthened or weakened their faith? How has it been for clergy and ministry teams trying to work in this new environment? How have those receiving ministry found this novel experience? Will virtual ministry become part of the post-pandemic landscape, and will this be a good move for your church?

We have developed a survey over the last few weeks in discussion with bishops, clergy and lay people which we hope will enable you to record your experience of the pandemic, the ministry you have given or received, and what you think will happen to churches in a post-pandemic world.

In an article to launch the survey in the *Church Times*, the Bishop of Manchester, David Walker, wrote: "This survey is an attempt to go beyond anecdote... It will capture evidence of both excitement and fears for the future, of where stress levels have changed, and whether personal faith has weakened or grown."

This is an online survey, which we estimate it will take you about 20-30 minutes to complete. Most of the questions simply require you to tick boxes, though there are options to specify your particular circumstances, and an opportunity at the end for you to tell us your views in your own words. Alongside questions about the pandemic and ministry there are sections which ask about you: these are important because they will allow us to see how the lockdown is affecting different sorts of people in different contexts.

The survey can be completed on mobile phones, though it is more quickly completed on devices with larger screens such as tablets or computers. You can access using the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/yqsq9fy2>

Please forward this link to any churches or churchgoers you feel might want to take part in the survey and support this research. We should have some initial results within a few weeks and will make these available as widely as we can.

The Revd Professor Andrew Village,

York St John University a.village@yorksja.ac.uk

The Revd Canon Professor Leslie J. Francis,

Visiting Professor York St John University

Taken from the parish pump website



Dates for the Diary

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



"I think I've finally become fully accepted here. After 25 years, the villagers have stopped calling me, The new incumbent !"

Lunch at All Saints

Soup – hot food- cakes

12:00-2:00

**No Lunches Until
Further Notice**



From the Registers

Funerals

1st July Winifred (Win) Norah Clayton aged 89 of Mirosa Reach.



Prayer Diary

JULY 2020

1	All shop workers
2	All struggling small businesses
3 St Thomas	Churches dedicated to St Thomas
4	The people of the United States of America
5 Trinity 4	The Church's Mission via the internet
6	Workers in the hospitality sector
7	All NHS staff and Carers
8	For all who are disabled
9	The Archbishop of York
10	The staff of Essex County Council
11	All teachers in Primary and Junior schools in our Parish
12 Trinity 5	Rev Julie Willmot and her three Parishes
13	Hospice staff and Chaplains
14	All teachers at Plume School
15	Those whose lives depend on fine weather
16	Staff and pupils at All Saints' School
17	Students who will be leaving school
18	The RNLI and HM Coastguard
19 Trinity 6	The Mission to Seafarers, and all whose lives are lived on the seas
20	Researchers and Scientists
21	Those who work with the mentally ill
22 St Mary Magdalene	Churches dedicated to St Mary Magdalene
23	Our Area Dean
24	The Salvation Army
25 St James	Churches dedicated to St James
26 Trinity 7	Churches in our Deanery
27	Those who are now without work
28	Those who live alone
29	Staff who work in our local hospitals and especially hospital Chaplains
30	Ambulance and Air Ambulance Services
31	Staff and residents of the town's care homes

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

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HON. ASST. PRIEST	Rev. Canon Dr. Graham Blyth Tel: 01621 854068
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Website www.allsaintsmaldon.com



ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Choir Practice (Thur 7:30pm)	Dr. Stuart Pegler	01621 850530
Junior Choir (Thur 7:00 pm)	"	"
Junior Church	Elaine Brown	01621 853238
Sunshiners (Pre School Group Thursdays 9:15 am)	Gill Nelson	01621 852119
Tower Bell Ringers	Peter Chignell	01376 571170
	Dennis Johnson	01621 842410
Handbell Ringers	Susan Duke	01621 851623
Flower Group	Betty Smith	01621 854143
Bible Society	Joan Downham	01621854655
Mothers' Union`	Marie Keeble	01621 856354
Childrens Society	Elaine Brown	01621
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	(Joanne Maloney (membership@stmalton@gmail.com	
Meeting Point	Barbara Gale	01621 928538
Maldon Pioneers	Mike Frederick	01621 840951
Maldon Ladies Group	Vivien Clark	01621 740374
Ramblers Club		
Prayer Group		
Messy Church	Elaine Brown	

To register your daughter's interest in joining either:
Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers
please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk
or call 0800 169 5901.

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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