

ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

August 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 Short all age service of stories songs and prayers. 11:15am Parish Eucharist (CW) 6:00 pm Evensong at St Mary's
Last Sunday	6:30 pm Prayer and Praise Service

JUNIOR CHURCH

Each Sunday at 10:00am.in the

D'Arcy Room in Church

WEEKDAY**Evening****Morning Prayer** is usually said in church at 8.30am on Monday - Friday.**Prayer** is usually said in church at 5.30pm on Monday - Thursday**Thursday** 11:00am Holy**SERVICE****Cover Photos:**

1. Celebrating 400 years of water in Maldon c2008

All Church Services have been restricted. Please see the Link or the website for times.



THE PARISH LETTER

Not from the Vicarage (August 2020)

Back in March, just as we were suspecting church buildings would have to close and we would have to find a different way to worship together and to keep in touch with each other, I imagined that when we came out the other side, we would have a joyful service of celebration: a full church, choral singing, anthems, voluntaries, fanfares, and bells. Turns out though, as with opening pubs, cafés, shops and offices, it's not going to be straight back to what we had before. While we do have some good things to celebrate, we also have sadness, anxiety, and restraint. So instead of the service I imagined, we wisely and cautiously take a few steps forwards to opening our building for worship. How different the service will be - restricted attendance, households well-spaced, no choral singing, no coffee and conversation afterwards, hand sanitiser, face coverings – a quiet, restrained return.

At work in Essex County Council, the work I normally do was suspended on 17th March (St Patrick's Day – I remember it well!) and I was reassigned to be part of a team supporting the organisation's response to Covid 19. I saw first-hand the full on efforts of many officers and senior leaders to provide support for citizens and businesses of Essex, the very vulnerable, and our own workforce of over 6,000 direct employees and a further 6,000 in our schools. The first few weeks passed in a blur of activity: by the end of the first week, all but a handful of the workforce were working at home with all the support that required - caring for their physical and mental wellbeing, providing the technology and equipment, re-organising workloads to enable home schooling, supporting those who had to isolate. That in itself was a significant task, but we also had to safely maintain essential services for our most vulnerable in Essex, provide what services we could to our citizens and especially to those who were bereaved, or were new parents or who wanted to get married; we were helping businesses with what they were and were not allowed to do; and protecting the general public from the unscrupulous who were cashing in on peoples vulnerability and uncertainty, a terrible situation. The intensity, pace and scale of the work was tremendous.

But after several weeks, we noticed a new calmness had descended. People had settled into a rhythm of work, found their support networks, and were working efficiently with the new technology. We were able to reduce the length of the incident response meetings; there were significantly fewer decisions to be made; the risk of failing systems, staff absence, and service failure had all been successfully managed and were reducing weekly. But, we were advised that we were only experiencing the calm at the eye of the



storm. We still had to come out the other side, and possibly survive another peak or wave. One of our Emergency Planning Team had been involved in the emergency response to Hurricane Katrina. He remembered well how weathering the storm itself was less than half the battle. Picking up the pieces afterwards and returning to normal would be even more challenging.

And so it has proved. We have to put more effort and thought into how we safely open buildings, who we prioritise to return to the office, how we parcel out PPE. And you will know from news reports that there are significant concerns about the traumas caused by the restrictions; we are likely to see significant surges in mental health referrals, children's social care, reports of domestic violence, struggling businesses, unemployment rates, gaps in skills and education. Significant challenges lie ahead in all walks of life.

I have seen how we at All Saints have been mirroring this pattern. The first weeks of lockdown were difficult – tough decisions had to be made about what needed to be cancelled and postponed: services, church events, weddings, funerals, baptisms. Someone had to make the difficult telephone calls to bereaved, disappointed, confused and upset people. Pastoral care was rapidly organised: escalating our communication by electronic means and making sure we reached those who couldn't keep in touch via technology to support physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing. People with administrative and technical skills made sure we could still operate our finances, the website, link, and magazine, as well as continuing to do all we could to progress filling the vacancy. A team planned how we could do services differently so we still had worship and a great deal of effort was put into making that happen. And people looked after the church building and grounds of the vicarage – nature after all was running rampant. So much resource, time, energy, co-ordination and goodwill were expended. Thank you to everyone who did so much to keep us together as a church family, to allow us to worship at home and to ensure we have a secure place to come back to.

I'm not sure our small team of dedicated workers ever got the chance to experience the calm at the eye of the storm before once again making another huge effort to prepare to come out the other side. As I saw in my work, dealing with the easing of restrictions is every bit as challenging – more so perhaps - given the greater uncertainty about what the short and medium term future will hold. We can only prepare for what we know now, and that is what our churchwardens are leading us through now, with once again, great support from a team who are providing ministry, pastoral, administrative, technical, financial, and practical support. And all this is being carried out by volunteers – it isn't the day job as it was for us at Essex County Council; there is no Emergency Planning team on hand with



processes and systems to guide our churchwardens through. Guidance has been provided by the Church of England, but it doesn't provide a ready-made template for reopening – far from it - so much is left to the people on the ground making decisions based on their particular circumstances.

And as I write, that is where we are – making difficult decisions and taking actions to reopen the church for worship in as positive and safe a way as possible – for the clergy and supporting team, for the congregation, for the households they return to, and for the wider community in Maldon. Once again the team are putting in an enormous effort to provide worship and services for our congregation and community, while ensuring optimum safety. By the time you read this, we will be open again for worship, but it will necessarily be very different. It will feel subdued and muted, we will be cautious and careful, respectful of other people's space and concerns, and we will see far fewer people in the building. Please remember in your prayers all those working so hard to make this as smooth and positive an experience as possible.

And if you are not able to attend, I do hope you are able to join in another form of worship – our own broadcasts which will continue, or another service somewhere. And our pastoral team will still be keeping in touch while we make the transition to whatever the 'new normal' turns out to be. In all this, God is with us through these difficult, challenging times, whether in the church building or in our own space.

Until I see you all again,
Adrienne

.....

Sick of preaching

Our new vicar had just been prescribed bifocals. The reading portion of the glasses improved his vision considerably, but the top portion of the glasses didn't work so well. In fact, he was experiencing dizziness every time he looked through them. He tried to explain this to the congregation on Sunday: "I hope you will excuse my continually removing my glasses. You see, when I look down, I can see fine, but when I look at you all, it makes me feel sick."

.....



OF METRICAL PSALMS

When I am at my lowest ebb there is one CD on my shelves I invariably turn to. Not too often, but when I need it it has a sturdiness and stirring power which reminds me that God is as eternal as the lofty mountains. Anyone who has ever experienced Presbyterian worship in such settings as St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, or Paisley Abbey will have been struck by the fervour with which the congregation sing their heritage of psalms: all in verse, in quatrains, and in mostly straightforward language. Many are still sung as well-known hymns today: 'All people that on earth do dwell' (Psalm 100), 'As pants the hart for cooling streams' (Psalm 42). 'I to the hills will lift mine eyes' (Psalm 121). Such psalms have been sung in the life of the Kirk for over 400 years.

But as Anglicans we are much more at home with the Psalms that we find at the back of the Book of Common Prayer. An unassuming Tudor scholar named Miles Coverdale was their author during the reign of Henry VIII. Coverdale produced the 'Great Bible' which was the first to be placed in every parish church – an amalgam of his own and John Tyndale's versions. Coverdale's version of the Psalms wore so well because he had a very mellifluous turn of phrase: and because of our familiarity with them at Evensong and the Anglican chant to which they were eventually set, it is easy for us to assume that all Reformation translations of the Psalms of David were in prose.

In fact nothing could be further from the truth. Calvin's vernacular verse edition in Geneva was met with such excitement by the citizens that they would sing them to whatever tune came to hand – often a profane, secular ballad. In due course more suitable music was commissioned to embellish these 'goostly psalms and spiritual songs' which seemed to have such a sobering effect upon hardened sinners. So the craze for this populist approach to the psalmody originated in Reformation Europe, principally the Germany of Martin Luther and the Switzerland of John Calvin. Back home, though sounding rather like a firm of undertakers, Sternhold and Hopkins produced an English version in metre. When King James VI and I commissioned the new translation of Scripture which has come down to us as the 'Authorized Version' he knew so many of the metrical psalms by heart that he begged to be allowed to furnish the new translation himself. It sadly remained uncompleted at his death, but was testimony to his life-long enthusiasm for theology and the Bible. (In true waggish style he also upset many ministers of the Kirk by composing some psalms in coarse, rough Scots dialect).

Inevitably with so many competing versions (eg Sternhold and Hopkins, King James, Sir William Mure, Francis Rous I & II, William Barton, Zachary Boyd, Nicholas Brady and Nahum Tait, Dr Isaac Watts) many



controversies arose over language and expression. To add to the melee there were also ‘Paraphrases’ of the Psalms, translations which gave the gist but not the exact rendering of the words. There was a lot to argue over!

But in the Church of Scotland a version was finally agreed upon in 1650, ‘more plain, smooth and agreeable to the text than any heretofore’. *‘The Psalms of David in Metre’* were duly appointed to be sung ‘in congregations and families’. In that age worship in the home was regarded as just as important as worship in church.

The metrical psalms are not only skilful in the way they condense complex meaning into the constraints of the four-line stanza: at the time they were also major instruments of evangelism amongst the unlettered and the poor. The faithful committed the texts to memory and sang from memory as well. In 1582 the minister of St Giles was accompanied by a large crowd up Edinburgh’s Royal Mile singing Psalm 124 *in their own tongue* – ‘and in four parts’: and it was reported as ‘a great sound and majestic’. The four-square block harmonies must have conjured up the overbearing grey granite of Protestant faith.

In fact, to our modern ears, reading through the metrical psalms is not only quaint, but quite taxing. It demands concentration and attention to C17 pronunciation. To end with, a brief quotation from the beginning of Psalm 112 with two words which require ‘stretching’: can you spot which they are?

Praise ye the Lord. The man is bless’d
that fears the Lord aright,
He who in his commandements
doth greatly take delight.
His seed and offspring powerful
shall be the earth upon:
Of upright men blessed shall be
the generation.

Canon Graham

N.B.

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER
MAGAZINE
23rd AUGUST**



NEWS FROM MANNINGTREE

Sue and I thought it was time to send you some news. We remember you all each Sunday and have been joining you on line each week at 10.00am for the Eucharist. Sue and I have so appreciated being part of this; and though physically separated, it has given us a new understanding of what it means to be in communion, spiritually, with our fellow Christians. We are so grateful to Graham for offering this service each week, and to Mike for the brilliant job he does in transmitting it.

There are three churches in this benefice-St Mary's Lawford, St George's Great Bromley and St Mary's Little Bentley. St George's is commencing services on July 12th, and we are looking forward to being able to worship in church again. Because of Covid, we have, of course, not been able to get to know anyone in the local parishes. I am due to celebrate the Eucharist at St George's on July 26th, which will be the first time I have stood at an altar since my last service at All Saints on February 2nd.

So Sue and I are now looking forward to getting involved in our local parishes. This benefice is now in vacancy. The Rector was due to move at Easter, but this was delayed because of Covid. But he has now left to take charge of a parish in Cheltenham. However, the Bishop has told the 3 PCCs that he will not be replaced. There are only 4 incumbents left to look after the 16 parishes in the Harwich Deanery, who will now have to take on responsibility for these three parishes. So it looks as if I won't be kicking my heels just yet!

My main purpose in writing is to say that we have spent your very generous leaving gift. Our garden was in a very poor state. There were no flower beds and a row of very dead conifers. We have removed the conifers, put in a new fence and a large area of patio. So it is all looking very nice. So we will think of you when sitting in the garden.



Part of the newly planted garden



We haven't got the wonderful views we had from the decking at the Vicarage. But we have planted some nice shrubs, which, when fully grown, will shield us from looking out on the neighbours' washing!

Sue is still teaching one day a week in Colchester. Nick and Hannah have moved into their new home in Cringleford, Norwich. Hannah begins a new job at the Charles Darwin school in Norwich; and Nick loves his work in the physio therapy department at the Norfolk and Norwich hospital. Sue (far better at DIY than I) has built them a rabbit hutch in the middle of their living room, for two indoor rabbits!

Richard and Debi have had to postpone their wedding because of Covid. They are very happy in Chichester. When we moved, they took Tuco the tortoise, who is having a lovely time living with them, along with Archie their parrot. Tommy the cat, has settled in very happily in Manningtree and has asserted himself over the neighbouring cats! He is, after all, twice the size of most of them, so can handle himself.



Tom on the new Patio

We do miss you all, and often think of the lovely services we have shared with you over the last 10 years and the many friendships made. We hope to be open to visitors before too long, once Covid has calmed down.

Stephen and Sue



All Saints On-Line Broadcasts

I expect that, like me, many of you follow and enjoy the All Saints broadcasts given by Canon Graham on Sunday mornings. Joan and I watch and listen each week and thoroughly enjoy the experience and for this we are very grateful to Graham and also to Mike Kneller who is responsible for the technical work of bringing the broadcasts to our living rooms. Starting off in the D'Arcy chapel it was later possible to move into the main church and Graham was able to give the service as though he was speaking to each one of us individually and it became a very intimate forty minutes or so.



An important part of any church service is, for me, the 'Sermon'. I have heard Graham as well as Stephen and Paul say that most people listen to the sermon on Sunday but by Monday have forgotten what was said. I suppose that on many occasions I have been guilty of that and often I cannot even recall what the sermon was about. One advantage of having the services on line, is that they can be called back onto the screen at any time. One such service and sermon that I have looked at on more than one occasion was the service from 12th July which was the 5th Sunday after Trinity. The Gospel reading was from Matthew chapter 13 and was the Parable of the Sower. Graham's sermon was based on this parable and he started by saying something we are all aware of, that most parents have expectations of their children and want them to achieve as much as possible educationally and in their chosen career. The cleverer the child, the more the expectation, and



Graham posed the question “Are some children loved more for what they can achieve or for the person that they are?” He thought that it might have been the same for when Christ came; did people love him more for what he might be able to do for them, that is free them from the Romans, or for what he actually was. Likewise, do we nowadays love Jesus for what we hope he might do for us or for what he is. I can think of a phrase used by John F. Kennedy the late president of the United States. He said, “Think not what America can do for you, but what you can do for America”. Instead of the word ‘America’, we should use the word ‘Jesus’ or ‘God’. Graham explained to us very carefully and very clearly that he thought that the parable of the sower was not about being perfect or that only perfect people were acceptable to God, but that we should strive to be as good a person as we can be and try to be caring, considerate of others, kind and thoughtful and that we should use the tools and advice available to us to grow into decent human beings.

I did not intend the above to be a sermon in itself as I have done too many things in my life of which I am not proud, to be able to preach to others, but I intended this to be a “Thank you” to Graham for making these well received broadcasts every week, and to hope that many other people have appreciated them as much as Joan and I have. They have helped us to make this period of lockdown and restrictions more bearable and with at least one day different from the rest. Thank you too to Mike Kneller for making this possible. The broadcasts are still on the website if you want to make sense of what I have been trying to say here.

Ken Downham



"Looks like no one was available to fill in for the vicar's annual holiday again."



Deputy Warden's Waffle

Down-sizing is like trying to fit a quart into a pint pot! It really won't go in! The tip was closed, the charity shops were closed and I really don't like getting rid of anything anyway! However, we moved at last, lock, stock and barrel and have been welcomed into our new home by lovely neighbours and with so many cards from our dear friends. Thankyou one and all. One of the cats was missing for a couple of days but finally joined us and as is their custom, continue to practice social distancing with each other. The chickens too eventually were released into their new home, but miss the access to the acre of garden that they have been used to, aiding my gardening activities with dust baths and insect removal. My pond has also down sized to a washing up bowl in the middle of the lawn, full of cuttings from Wayside. Add to all the upheaval the curtailing of all our usual activities, and yes, it has been a strange summer.

So won't it be lovely to share worship with many of you on the 2nd August? I am really looking forward to seeing people I have not seen for months. It has been great to see Father Graham each week sharing the Eucharist with us and we all must say a big thankyou to him and Mike Kneller for making this possible.

Open the Book has been on hold since before Easter so we have sadly not been able to say goodbye to the year 6 children who have shared the Bible stories with us for six years now, throughout the whole of their primary years schooling. We look forward to our new way of sharing next term via video to the schools for them to show at assemblies until we can go back into school. This is not within my range of ability, so a big thankyou to Andy Mugford from Fullbridge for coming up with the idea and for organising the teams in this new way.

I hope you are all keeping well. Sadly we hear that Kate Lowry, who along with her daughter Ruth was a choir member during Arthur Dunlop's day and lived on Market Hill, has died. She was an Alto along with Jo Craig and me before she and her husband Ron moved away to Coggeshall. Ron still lives in Coggeshall. In accordance with her wishes, Kate had a woodland burial at Oakland Woodland, Wrabness.

Keep wearing the masks and washing your hands! Love to you all .

Vivien, deputy warden



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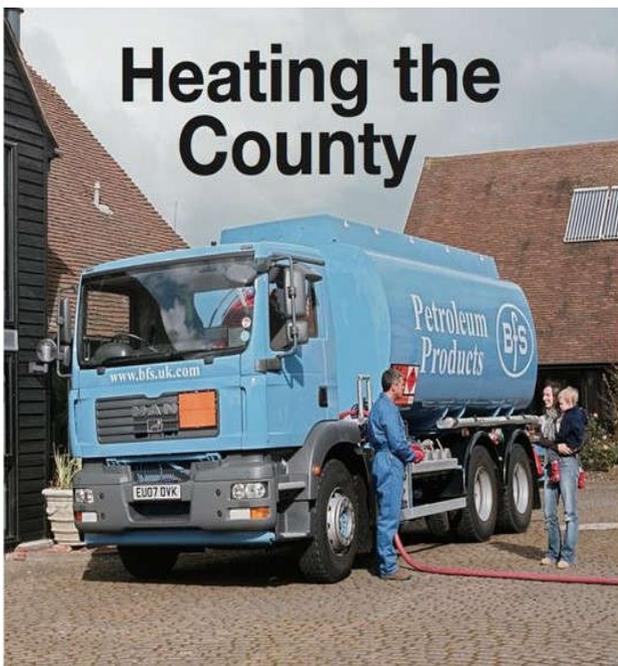
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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke 7: 1-10, Matthew 8: 5-13

When the Romans invaded Israel, they used soldiers to keep order. For the centurion in Capernaum it was more than just a job...

The centurion had a young servant who was in great pain and dying.

When he heard that Jesus was near, he asked the town leaders to ask Jesus for help.

The leaders told Jesus...

This man deserves your help. He loves our people.

He has even built us a meeting place!

This could have been a tricky situation, for Jews never went into the houses of non-Jews.

But Jesus said...

I will go and heal the boy.

But the centurion knew that, as a Jew, Jesus could not go into the houses of non-Jews so as Jesus got near, he sent some friends to him.

He says he isn't worthy enough for you to come to his house.

But he says he understands authority and knows you have it. You only have to say so and his servant will be healed

Jesus was amazed!

I have never met anyone in Israel with as much faith.

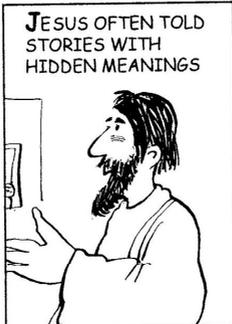
He said to the friends...

You may go now. What he has believed has happened.

When the friends got to the house they found the servant completely healed!



The doctor and the ill person



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS CALLED MATTHEW - A TAX COLLECTOR TO BE HIS FOLLOWER.



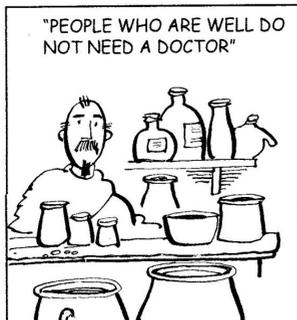
JESUS EVEN WENT TO MATTHEW'S HOME.



THIS SET PEOPLE'S TONGUES WAGGING. THEY THOUGHT JESUS WAS LETTING THE SIDE DOWN!



BUT JESUS EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO TALK TO EVERYONE!



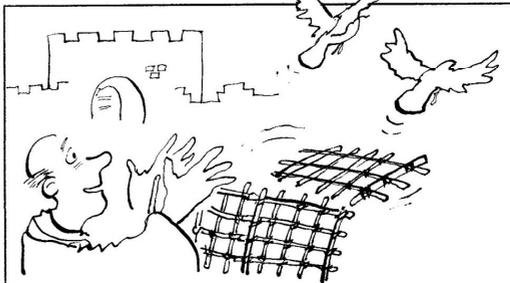
"PEOPLE WHO ARE WELL DO NOT NEED A DOCTOR"



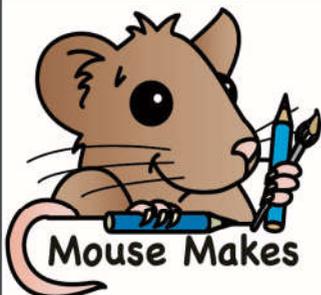
"BUT ONLY THOSE WHO ARE SICK"



"IT IS KINDNESS THAT GOD WANTS"



"NOT ANIMAL SACRIFICES!" see Matthew Ch. 9 v.9-13



The **PSALMS** are hymns of **PRAYER** and **PRAISE** to God.

"I will proclaim your greatness, my God and king; I will thank you: I will praise you for ever and ever."

Psalm 145:1-2



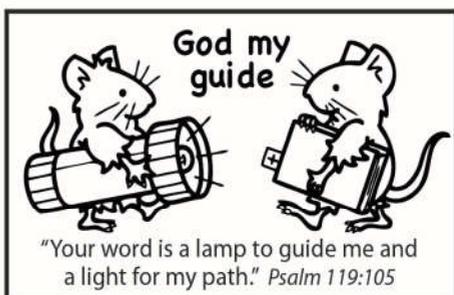
Glory to God



"How clearly the sky reveals God's glory! How plainly it shows what He has done."

Psalm 19:1

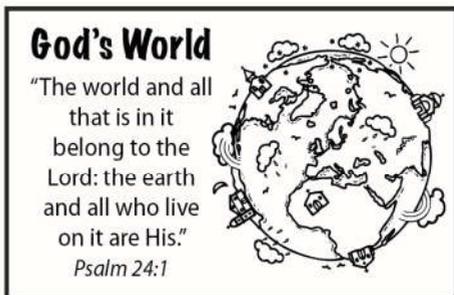
Cut out and colour these cards to help you to **thank** and **praise** God.



God my guide



"Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105



God's World

"The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord: the earth and all who live on it are His."

Psalm 24:1



Praise the Lord!

"Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord."

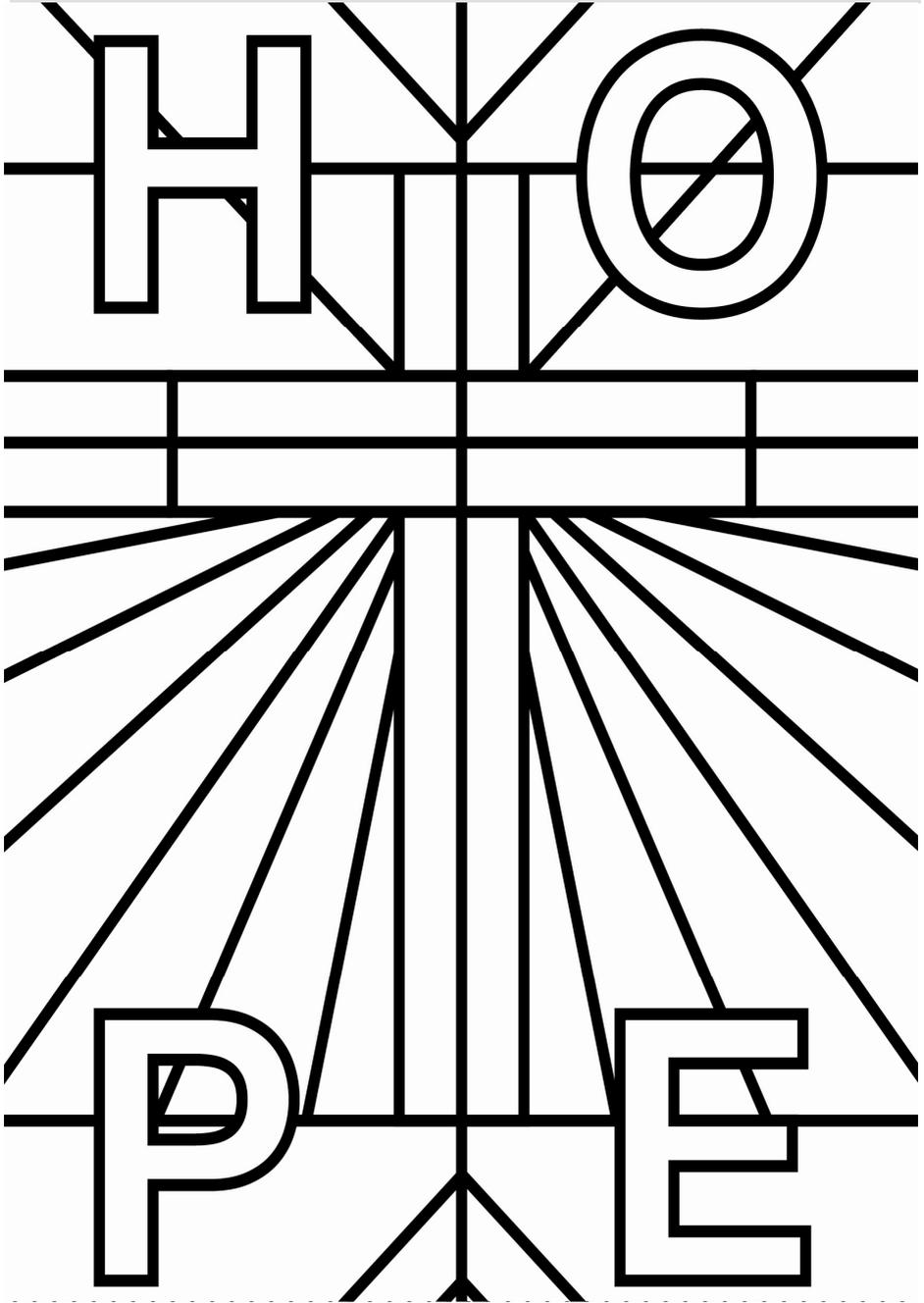
Psalm 150:6



Give thanks!

"Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise you. I will give You thanks as long as I live; I will raise my hands to you in prayer."

Psalm 63:3-4



Colour in: Taken from the Parish Pump Website



REFLECTED FAITH: A PRAYER NOTEBOOK

I recall when I was 14 years old going to stay on my own with my French cousins in the South of France, for three weeks during the summer holidays. It was a brilliant time which I thoroughly enjoyed. There was a sense of ‘freedom’ being away from close family and the ability to ride a ‘moped’ legally into the town and surrounding area! I wished it could have lasted much longer.

However, as the homeward flight crossed over the last of the English Channel and British land came into sight, I found myself unexpectedly crying. I suspect that when the time comes for us to return to collective worship in our buildings that will happen for many of us.

It’s not that we can put a finger on one specific aspect or another of our gatherings or buildings that we so sorely miss – but rather it’s all those parts making up the whole. One thing that helps me at the moment, is having a Prayer Notebook handy.

It sounds very grand and holy, but it is just jottings of issues, places and people who are in the news or who have asked for prayer. At the back I make a jotting of phrases or parts of a reading or prayer that resonated with me at that moment. It helps me to be, as well as feel, a part of the body of church as I take my place in praying and it also encourages me to look out for the ways that Christ feeds me during these strangest of times.

This month: Find an unused notebook or fold a few pages together to make one. Cut the edges of the pages like an address book and mark each with: places, people in need, family, friends, issues, celebrations, words, etc. Whatever works for you – as large or as little as you like. Make a note of news items, things people say in your conversations, comments on what you read and so on. You don’t have to read or write in it every day, just when you notice something that ‘grips’ you. Allow God’s Holy Spirit to bring you His peace through the process and enable you to pass that on to others.

*The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series on symbols in our churches.
Taken from the parish pump website*



THINK ABOUT MAKING A WILL AND PLANNING YOUR FUNERAL

David Pickup, a solicitor, considers funerals during coronavirus

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. John 11 17-19

We have been living in strange times throughout the lockdown. Many of the life event services in church have been postponed or have gone ahead in a very different way. Funerals have had severe limitations on the numbers who could attend.

Many people have been thinking about the meaning of life and have made wills during the coronavirus crisis. We should all make a will to avoid the disappointment and worry for our loved ones if we do not. Only today I had to advise some grown 'children' that their father's estate would all go to the estranged wife because they were still married at the time of death. Probably not what the father had wanted!

Sometimes I get asked about the funeral arrangements; or rather, told that so-and-so should not be allowed to attend. Sometimes families do fall out, but can you stop someone coming to a funeral when it is really a public event?

Funerals are usually arranged by executors and they can keep the ceremony as quiet as possible by not announcing it in advance. Church services are public, and it is difficult to stop people attending. Many cemeteries are public places and again anyone can visit them. Crematoria are not usually public and there it is easier to control who is invited and who is not.

If you are worried about what will happen at your funeral, perhaps now is the time to think about putting things right. You could do a letter of wishes to go with your will to say that you hope that people reconcile and let bygones be bygones.

As always this is a light-hearted comment on a complex subject. Always get proper professional advice.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website.



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



The Rectory
St. James the Least

On the perils of leaving the pulpit

My dear Nephew Darren,

When the churches reopen for public worship (whenever that is!) I hope you will come and take Evensong one Sunday. But, thinking of your visit last August, I would prefer you used the pulpit when preaching. How could Colonel Brockle complete 'The Times' crossword and Miss Balmer her knitting with you constantly walking up and down in front of them? They found it most disconcerting, as out of politeness, they were obliged to listen to you. It was a unique experience they do not wish to repeat.

Those few who defy Anglican tradition and sit at the front of the church were also placed in the dilemma of trying to decide whether they should keep turning in their pews as you paraded down the nave and then rotating back to the front as you re-emerged up the side aisle. It did Lady Plumtree's vertigo no good at all. It also allowed people to see that you were wearing suede shoes. For many of our worshippers, the most appalling of heresies are as nothing when compared to brown shoes under a cassock.

I appreciate you made heroic efforts and got your sermon down to 30 minutes, but that is still 20 minutes longer than they anticipated and 29 minutes longer than their attention span.

No, use the pulpit in future; that is the reason why stonemasons 600 years ago put twenty tons of marble in our church in the first place and it would be a shame to disappoint them. It also means that from a distance of 100 yards and a height of 20 feet, no one can tell that the glass of water I use liberally while preaching is in fact a gin and tonic.

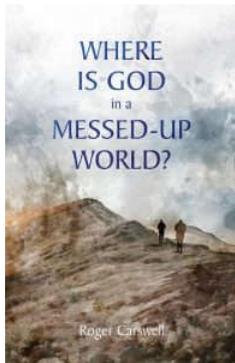
I concede that our pulpit has its dangers. I have known several bishops come to grief as their robes wrap themselves around the newel post as they ascend the steps. One, unable to untangle himself, was obliged to preach while half-way up the steps and with his back to the congregation, while our verger was



dispatched to find a pair of scissors.

Perhaps, before your next visit, we may install a mechanical floor in the pulpit, so that after 10 minutes, it slowly lowers you into the crypt while the congregation can get on with singing the last hymn before getting home in decent time.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



Book Reviews

Where is God in a Messed-Up World?

By Roger Carswell, 10Publishing, £6.99

This book asks (and answers) questions that people are asking about God, life and suffering. Questions such as: ‘If God exists and really is a God of love, then why doesn’t He stop the suffering and problems in our world?’

People often ask these questions in the wake of major tragedies. Glib answers don’t help. Instead, Roger Carswell is realistic, admitting that there are things God reveals to us, and things He doesn’t reveal.

But Carswell argues that the starting point is to find out who God is, and to figure out if He can be trusted – even if we don’t have all the answers.

The author’s own experience of suffering with depression, and the real-life stories that are included, make this a compassionate book. Carswell encourages us that our questioning need not be a barrier to entrusting ourselves to God. He says: “God has not only been faithful to me, He has been overwhelmingly kind, incredibly merciful, consistently good and unbelievably patient.”

Taken from the Parish Pump website.



HOLY DAYS

11th August: Clare of Assisi – prayer and simplicity

In the year 1212 Clare, the 18-year-old daughter of a local Count, heard a young preacher called Francis. A few years earlier he had caused a sensation in the centre of the town where they both lived, Assisi in Italy, by stripping himself of his wealthy clothes and declaring that from now on he would live the life of a peasant. This, he said, was in obedience to the call of Christ, for whom the poor were ‘blessed’ and the rich were in peril of judgment.

Francis gathered a group of seven men prepared to embrace what he called ‘joyful poverty’ for Christ’s sake, but that day he was to enlist a female disciple. ‘You are a chosen soul from God’, he told Clare, when she stated her eagerness to embrace the same strict rule as his male followers.

In due course, after a period in a Benedictine convent, Clare and her sister Agnes moved into the church of St Damiano, which Francis and his friends had restored, and gathered there a group of like-minded women. Eventually Francis made Clare the abbess of a religious Order, at first called the ‘Order of Poor Ladies’, eventually, and universally, to be known as the ‘Poor Clares’. Unable to operate an itinerant ministry like the men, Clare’s sisters concentrated on a life of prayer and simplicity. In fact, their dedication to poverty was such that it affected the health of many of them.

Francis and Clare remained friends and colleagues over the next 14 years in this remarkable movement of renewal and mission. During the preceding century (as we can learn from Chaucer, among others) the religious Orders had in many cases substituted indulgence for discipline. Francis and Clare found this scandalous, and despite opposition from high places, set out to demonstrate that an effective Christian message required an appropriate Christian life-style. For them, poverty was not a burden but a joy – a release from the delusions of power and ambition. Their witness made an enormous impact on the poor people of Umbria and beyond, who saw an authenticity in their lives which spoke as eloquently as their words.

Clare helped to nurse Francis through his final illness, which lasted several years. She lived for 27 years after his death, like him suffering from the effects of long years of strict austerity. She died in 1253 and was canonised two years later. She is buried in the basilica of St Clare in Assisi, a few hundred yards from the basilica of St Francis. In life they proclaimed the same message of sacrificial love and service, and in their deaths they were not divided. Her special day is 11th August.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website



CHURCH MUST 'LEARN AFRESH HOW TO SHARE THE GOSPEL' ARCHBISHOP OF YORK TELLS SYNOD

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, has called on the Church of England to “learn afresh how to share the gospel in the world” as Church and Society face “turbulent times” in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

In his first public address since his confirmation as Archbishop, he spoke of the pain and loss many have experienced in recent months and the major challenges ahead.

Archbishop Stephen was speaking to members of the General Synod, who were meeting remotely following the cancellation of the annual July group of sessions in York. He spoke about lockdown, as a time when people have experienced a “stripping back of our lives”, bringing hardship but also clarity and a renewed focus on God.

His comments came in a joint presidential address, alongside the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

Archbishop Stephen went on: “Do not misunderstand me,” he said. “I hugely miss our church buildings and our liturgy, I cry out for the pain of all those socially distanced funerals, the thousands of people who have died alone, the baptisms, weddings and ordinations that have had to be postponed; the economic misery which is around the corner and the devastating impact of this pandemic upon the whole life of our world. But neither can I deny, that it has forced me to encounter things about myself which I had allowed to remain hidden behind the security of the things I have had to relinquish.”

He spoke about a group he is leading to discern a vision and strategy for the Church for the next decade.

The vision, he said, is the easy part: “It is unchanging – it is what God has done for us in Jesus Christ and continues to do through the power of the spirit.”

Archbishop Stephen said that the Church will have to make decisions about priorities amid limited resources. He hopes to bring some proposals to Synod next year.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website



Dates for the Diary

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

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All in a name

I'm dyslexic, and recently attended a Zoom conference about the disorder with a friend. The speakers asked us to share a personal experience with the group. I told them stress aggravates my condition, in which I reverse words and letters when I'm tense. When I finished speaking, my friend blurted out:

"Now I know why you named your daughter Hannah!"

.....

Lunch at All Saints

Soup – hot food- cakes

12:00-2:00

**No Lunches Until
Further Notice**



From the Registers

1st July **Winifred Nora Clayton** aged 89 years
of Mirosa Reach.





Prayer Diary

AUGUST 2020

1	Victims of drought and famine
2 Trinity 8	Churches opening for Public Worship
3	Peace throughout the Middle East
4	Those who have been bereaved
5	Workers in the hospitality sector
6 Transfiguration	People facing difficult decisions
7	Those in Residential Care
8	Those living with chronic pain
9 Trinity 9	Clergy leading Services today
10	Those who are mentally ill
11	The work of Farleigh Hospice
12	The work of MIND
13	Students receiving Examination Results this week
14	Students seeking University placement
15 Blessed Virgin Mary	Churches dedicated to St Mary
16 Trinity 10	Those who worship at St Mary's Church, Maldon
17	Work of the Citizens Advice Bureau
18	Prison Chaplains
19	Members of The Salvation Army
20	Students receiving Examination Results today
21	All Health service workers
22	Those seeking employment
23 Trinity 11	All retired Clergy
24 St Bartholomew	Churches dedicated to St Bartholomew
25	St Bartholomew's Hospital in London
26	All who are victimised in any way
27	Those who manage and support Food Banks
28	The Nurses' Christian Fellowship
29	Our Servicemen and women
30 Trinity 12	Churches in our Deanery
31	Visitors to our Town today

**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
Childrens Society	Elaine Brown	01621
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	(Joanne Maloney membership1stmaldon@gmail.com)	
Meeting Point	Barbara Gale	01621 928538
Maldon Pioneers	Mike Frederick	01621 840951
Maldon Ladies Group	Vivien Clark	01621 869667
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



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