

ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

March 2021

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 stories songs and
11:15am Parish
6:00 pm
age service of prayers.
Eucharist (CW)
Evensong at St Mary's

Last Sunday

6:30 pm Prayer and Praise Service

JUNIOR CHURCH

Each Sunday at Church

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

Morning

Evening

WEEKDAY SERVICE

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 Communion

(BCP 1662) followed by coffee and biscuits

Cover Picture: Taken from the Parish Pump wesite

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



THE PARISH LETTER

In the seven weeks or so since I was licensed, I have been asked lots of questions ranging from how old I am to whether I could pray for Spurs to win (they didn't). But several people have asked me about St Lucy's Multi-Sensory Church – what is it and how does it work?



St Lucy's Feather

Well, St Lucy's started in July 2019 and we last met a year ago, when the pandemic restrictions made the monthly acts of worship just too risky to continue. We have met in Heybridge Primary School on a Sunday morning and after gathering for breakfast (kindly donated by Tesco) we start with a piece of music welcoming everyone to worship.

As St Lucy's is set-up particularly for people with additional needs, the first



and last pieces of music are always the same, and we have a story-board to help people keep track of what comes next. We use a simple structure from Common Worship to give shape to our worship and our Bible Story is told using a wonderful skill called, ‘Godly Play’ which Laura is trained in. It is a way of using models, patterns, various fabrics and materials to tell a story from Scripture.

It has an immersive quality, which is especially beneficial for those with additional needs, the bit that we have found benefits everyone. After that, we have a time of free response, whereby people can colour in themed pictures, read books, sit quietly and model clay, stroke the dog or use the Godly Play material to re-enact the story. After another piece of music (where we probably dance) we have a short message tying all the threads of the worship together and then a time of interactive prayer before our closing song – LET ME SEE YOUR ALLIGATOR, SNAP – which is loud and the signal for more dancing.



Prayer Labyrinth

Last March we had about 25 people in attendance, some with church backgrounds, some without; some with additional needs, some without. The Diocese have listed St Lucy’s as one of their 101 new Christian Communities and we hope that, in time, we might see baptisms and even communion celebrated there. Where and when we meet once restrictions are lifted is an ongoing discussion, but we are still in touch electronically with the various families whom we serve and we have seen each other at the



doorstep too.

St Lucy's has taken the hardest hit of any of our worshipping communities in this past year and so we'd very much value your prayers as we look to restart in the coming months. Such new ventures take (on average) 5 – 7 years to fully fledge and so we are very much in our infancy. We continue to feel that there is a real need for a worship space which actively prioritises those with additional needs and St Lucy's has been – and continues to be – a source of great blessing. We'll just have to wait on God together to see what comes next!

Asa

TREASURER'S REPORT UPDATE

Having now completed 2020 accounts, we remain SOLVENT but this is mainly due to a considerable short fall in our amount sent for the Family purse.

The new year, due to the current country conditions, a similar position will occur, for the Parish to be able to cover The Parish running expenses and remain in a Financial credit balance.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all members of the FWO scheme for their regular monthly amounts which is a great comfort to know that these cash amounts will be there each month.

I know it would be the wish of all members of the congregation that I should keep sufficient funds in the bank to cover our own Parish costs and balances, and not drain these amounts to simply pay an extra figure towards the Family purse.

Hopefully we will all soon be able to look forward to a brighter future.

Eddie--Treasurer.

Bishop

A little girl told her mother, “We went to a confirmation service at the cathedral and I saw the bishop. Now I know what a crook looks like!”



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)



5th March 2021



Women's World Day of Prayer is an international, inter church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world; their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each country. On **Friday 5th March 2021**, people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of **Vanuatu**.

This year women of the **Republic of Vanuatu** (located in the South Pacific Ocean), have prepared the service. The black and white sandy beaches, coral reefs with coloured fishes, lovely birds, fruit and nuts in the forest, all make the island a pristine environment but they are vulnerable to frequent tropical storms, earthquakes, cyclones, tsunamis and active volcanoes. Women, men and children of all ages are called to “Build on a Strong Foundation” and live in unity, love and peace in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity like Vanuatu and so many other places around the world.

The Day of Prayer begins as dawn breaks over the islands of Tonga in the Pacific and continues across each continent until the last Services of this special day are held back in the Pacific on the islands of Samoa, circling the world in prayer for about 36 hours.

Why not make a note in YOUR diary as we would like YOU to join with us on the first Friday of March, with Christians from over 170 countries and islands, uniting together in praise, worship and in prayer. Women's World Day of Prayer includes Christian women from Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches.

Unfortunately, there does not seem to be any services in the Maldon area, the nearest appears to be at Witham URC.

More information can be found on the www.wwdp.org.uk website Ed.



VANUATU

HISTORY

In 1606 Spanish explorers named the largest island Espiritu Santo. In 1774 Captain James Cook renamed the Islands the New Hebrides. In the 1800s came the traders, followed by ‘blackbirders’ who kidnapped, tricked or coerced South Pacific islanders into working on the cotton and sugar plantations in Queensland, Fiji and Hawaii.

In 1906, France and the United Kingdom, having both claimed parts of the archipelago, agreed to jointly manage it as the Anglo-French condominium of New Hebrides. The natives found themselves stateless, – neither French nor British nor New Hebrideans and with no land rights. They remained stateless until 1980, when the Republic of Vanuatu was founded as a parliamentary democracy. Vanuatu means ‘country that stands up’, and the motto adopted was ‘In God we stand.’

Traditional staple foods include yam, taro, banana, coconut, sugar cane, tropical nuts and greens, pigs, fowl, and seafood. The national ceremonial dish is lap-lap – a pudding made of grated root crops or plantain.

The preparation and drinking of kava is an integral part of ceremonial occasions, when pigs are exchanged and eaten.

The coconut tree is viewed as the tree of life because all its parts are useful. The demand for cash crops has now limited the amount of land available for traditional food.

RELIGION

Originally, each island had its own gods, customs and culture. The Vanuatu people did not worship animals or plants but believed there was a creator somewhere in the heavens.

Christianity and colonisation had a significant impact on island society. Formerly, throughout the archipelago, chiefs were the custodians of the land, language and heritage, and determined the norms of the societies under their jurisdictions. In the Farea (village meeting house) issues were debated and although men were generally the decision makers, women had ways to bring their concerns.

Christianity changed a decentralised system of life in the villages to a centralised form of governance, and the role of women in decision-making was much reduced. Missionaries opposed cannibalism and regarded local religion as witchcraft. Currently 83% of the population is Christian.



At Maldon & District Citizens Advice, we can help you find a way forward, by giving free, confidential advice in all subject areas.

Since lockdown began, we have been delivering a full advice service, mainly by telephone but also email and web chat, responding to the rapidly changing issues facing local residents. We have made alterations to our interview rooms to ensure a safe environment for face to face appointments but availability of these appointments depends on guidance in force at the time.

Scam Awareness

Scams can be difficult to recognise, but there are things you can look out for. With growing awareness you won't be flustered and rushed by scammers into taking decisions you'll later regret. Or persuaded to stay silent on scams because you feel personally ashamed or you think that your experience doesn't matter.

To prevent being scammed you should always consider the following:

Have you been contacted out of the blue?

Is the deal too good to be true?

Have you been asked to share personal details?

Are you being pressured to respond quickly?

Are the contact details vague?

Are there spelling or grammatical mistakes?

Have you been asked to keep it quiet?

Have you been asked to pay in an unusual way? for example, by iTunes vouchers or through a transfer service like MoneyGram or Western Union

Case Study

I do a lot to help my elderly mum, like picking up shopping, sorting out her finances, making important calls and organising her post. But now I have a new job I'm not able to see her as frequently and though I've still been able to drop off her shopping, I'm no longer able to help her with the other things. I'm particularly worried about how much I've read about scammers at the moment and I wondered whether there's anything I can do from a distance to help protect my mum?

There are a few steps you can take from a distance to keep your mother safe and lessen your need to worry. With your mother's permission you can register her landline with the Telephone Preference Service. It's free to register and doing so will reduce the amount of unwanted sales and marketing calls you receive. This won't block all unwanted calls (it won't



work on calls from abroad or companies she's given her number to already, for example), so your mother will need to continue to remain vigilant, but it will certainly lessen the number of them.

You can encourage your mother to talk to her phone provider to see what privacy services and call-blocking services are available. These services aren't always free but are useful in ensuring any call coming through is from a trusted or known source.

To help minimise unwanted post, with your mother's permission you can contact the Mailing Preference Service to have her name taken off any marketing lists. You can also contact Royal Mail and opt out of receiving any leaflets or unaddressed promotional material. Attaching a 'no junk mail' sign to her front door may also help.

When it comes to your mother's finances, if an organisation has a letter of authority from the account holder, you may be able to speak to them on her behalf. This may not always be accepted, so if you find yourself needing to take over your mother's finances in the future, it's worth looking into a long term solution like a Power of Attorney.

It's also vital that you chat to your mother to help her spot the marks of a scam herself. At Citizens Advice we always advise the following:

- Be suspicious if you're contacted out of the blue, even if it's from a name you recognise
- If it sounds too good to be true it probably is
- Never give out your bank details unless you are certain you can trust the person contacting you
- Don't be rushed – you never need to make a decision straight away and if you feel pressured say "no", hang up the phone, or close the door.

Lastly, if your mother is receiving care from her local authority and you think she might be being scammed, it's worth reporting your concerns to their Adult Safeguarding team.

Our website has a great deal of relevant information including:

Spotting a Scam:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/>

Report a Scam:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/reporting-a-scam/>

Please contact us for advice on any subject by:

ringing 01621 875774 – leave a message and an adviser will return your call that day or emailing bureau@maldoncab.cabinet.org.uk

Sally Babbage



Politics, Who Me?

Among my Christmas Gifts, I received a book entitled 'The Prime Ministers' which was unusual as I normally receive books on Herb Gardening, How to grow the Perfect Lawn, Computers for Dummies, Care of your Car and other such 'Useful' books which mostly I read half heartedly and then put them back on the shelf until such time as I can quietly put them into a jumble sale! I have never been an active Political person but do take an interest in what the Government says, what the Opposition says and wonder why it is never quite the same as what I want to hear, but of course they have no common sense and no idea of what we ordinary folk think do they? Well, don't we all have thoughts like that?

This book though is a series of essays on every Prime Minister we have had in the country for the last three hundred years since Sir Robert Walpole became the first holder of the office of Prime Minister in 1721. There have been fifty five Prime Ministers in that time, so averaging about five and a half years per person, although in quite a few cases it consisted of two or even three separate terms of office.



Robert Walpole, 1st Earl of Orford,
(26 August 1676 – 18 March 1745),
known between 1725 and 1742 as
Sir Robert Walpole
Became the first Prime Minister in 1721

The Prime Minister who held the office for the shortest time was George Canning who was Prime Minister for only 119 days from April until August in 1827 when he died of Pneumonia having risen from very humble beginnings. His father was penniless and died when Canning was only two, and his mother had to work as a jobbing actress around Britain in order to feed them. Canning's leading political opponents thought that 'being the son of an actress should have disqualified him from becoming Prime Minister'!

Nevertheless, he was considered to be an extremely able one for his short time in office. He is one of the few of that office to have his statue in Parliament Square and even though he was a Tory he had some Whigs of a more liberal persuasion in his Cabinet and when later the Liberal Party was formed Canning was mentioned as one of those whose politics were responsible for this new Party.



We have also had one of our former Prime Ministers assassinated too, and this happened actually in the Houses of Parliament. Spencer Perceval who was Prime Minister for three years in the early 1800's was shot, whilst entering the House, by John Bellingham, a business man, who blamed his bankruptcy on the Prime Minister. One of Bellingham's descendants, Henry Bellingham was recently the MP for North West Norfolk. Another name known to most of us is that of Sir Robert Peel who was Prime Minister from 1834 to 1835 and again from 1841 to 1846. It was however, when he was Home Secretary in 1829 that he formed the Metropolitan Police force which were known as 'Peelers' or 'Bobbies' in recognitions of Peels' involvement.

Nearer to the present time are PMs which we all know, including Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, David Cameron, Theresa May and Boris Johnson. There are pertinent essays on all of these and which I found quite interesting having witnessed the events in which they were involved and have been played out and recorded by modern media. I was particularly interested to read the author's take on the battle between Blair and Brown regarding taking on the Euro or not for the British currency. Brown won that particular argument and there will be many today who may be pleased that he did and others perhaps not so pleased. I noted that in the first two hundred years covered in this book, all the Prime Ministers were men and the great majority were titled men. I will say no more.

So, was this book on Prime Ministers better or worse than that another book present I received and which contained three Thomas Hardy stories of 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles, 'The Mayor of Casterbridge' and 'Far From the Madding Crowd'? Of course, the Hardy novels are some of my favourites from one of my favourite writers, but, on the other hand, the book on the Prime Ministers contains lots of the social history of modern Britain and will be delved into on many occasions to confirm a fact or to refresh my memory. Both are a great diversion and I must say, welcome ones from such titles as 'Orchid Growing for Beginners'! I hope that my family do not read this!

Ken Downham

Little old lady seeks handsome young man

An advert appeared in a student newspaper of a university: "Sweet little old lady wishes to correspond with good-looking university student – especially a six-footer with brown eyes, answering to initials J.A.D."

It was signed: "his mother."



Church Warden's Chat

The other week I was asked how All Saints' was coping during lockdown! It made me think about what we were doing as a church to keep our presence visible during this difficult time when church doors are closed. This last year, during the Covid pandemic, has made the church turn to alternative ways of keeping in touch with the people of our congregation now that we can't meet together on a Sunday morning, not only for our act of worship, but also for coffee and chat after the service. Thanks to modern means of communication it is possible to watch, at home, a communion service every week, to read our weekly Link and the monthly magazine. Thanks to the people of our congregation who have the skills to enable this to happen.

The number of hits on our website has risen considerably during lockdown, with 70 to 100 hits for the weekly service, many of which may have been couples watching! During these times many of us have learnt how to Zoom, Skype and use other technical ways to keep in touch with family and friends, as well as join PCC and Deanery Synod meetings. The latest are Asa's virtual coffee chats on a Sunday morning, replacing our usual gatherings at the back of church. These are very enjoyable and often include the addition of family pets appearing on screen!

I must also thank those who have taken on the task of getting the Link and magazines to those who can't access them on our website and also phone to check on the more vulnerable.

I hope that we can learn from this experience of lockdown and continue to use these modern means of communication, especially for the housebound, even when our lives are back to a more normal way and we can meet in church again, and really get to know our new priest.

I know that many of you, like myself, have had your first Covid vaccination and some even your second. We can only hope that this other wonder of modern science, together with our prayers, will be our way out of our present, rather confined way of life. If the pandemic makes us more amenable to using modern technology in the future, then something positive has come out of it.

Continue to keep safe, and be assured of my prayers and best wishes,
Jenny - Churchwarden



ZOOMED OUT

'You're still on mute!' If you've used Zoom over the past year, you'll be familiar with this cry! After a day on Zoom, the last thing we often want to do is using it for a chat with friends or a church service on Sunday! Now this reveals a wider problem that we face. We know that staying connected in the pandemic is hard. When we're tired and busy, it's easy to stop connecting with others, which would encourage our faith or wellbeing. This might also include not sending a text, Facebook comment or phoning somebody up.

Remember what Paul says: *'For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.'* (Romans 7:15). It's often easier to avoid connecting with God and others, when this would be good for our sense of value, purpose and identity. Certain patterns of behaviour can make us feel safer, but in reality they prevent us from living our lives fully as God intends.

Paul adds: *'What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!'* (Romans 7:24,25). Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we have the freedom to act differently. Lent is an ideal time to develop new habits, especially when we are tired or anxious. It may involve spending less time on Facebook, turning the TV off to call a friend who we need to catch up with, or getting up a bit earlier to spend time in Bible reading and prayer.

Let's keep reminding ourselves that *'God is bigger than Zoom'* and make sure that we don't get disconnected! Let's be committed to doing the right thing, rather than simply the easier thing.

Taken from the Parish Pump website



Peace

After a very long and boring sermon the parishioners glumly filed out of the church past the minister. Towards the end of the queue was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons. "Vicar, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God."

The vicar was thrilled. "Nobody has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why."

The man sighed. "Because it endured forever."





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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 14 verses 15-24

Jesus was at a dinner when one guest said how good it would be to be at God's feast for His people at the end of time.

So Jesus told a story -

A man once gave a great feast.

I love feasts!

He sent his servant to invite his guests.

Then he knows how much food to cook.

When everything was ready, he sent his servant to tell his guests.

Time to get dressed up!

But they all made excuses.

One said, 'I've bought some land and I need to see it. Sorry!'

How rude! Nobody buys land without seeing it!

The next said, 'I've bought some oxen and I need to try them out. Sorry!'

And you don't buy oxen without trying them first!

And another said, 'I got married so I'm not coming.'

The master was very angry.

They insulted him with their rude excuses!

He told his servant to go to every street in the town and fetch everyone who was poor or disabled.

How generous!

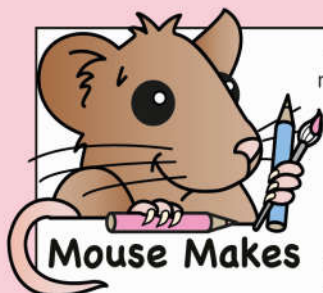
His servant did that and there was still room.

He told his servant to search outside the town and fill the house.

Who else will be invited?

Everyone who will come!

The master of the feast said, 'None of those I invited but who wouldn't come will get even the leftovers.'



Mouse Makes

Who is my mother?

Look up the Bible verses then find the mother's names in the word search

CAIN and ABEL
Genesis 4:1-2

JOSEPH
Genesis 30:22-24

ISHMAEL
Genesis 16:15

TIMOTHY
2 Timothy 1:5

RUBEN
Genesis 29:32

GAD
Genesis 35:26

SAMUEL
1 Samuel 1:20

OBED
Matthew 1:5

ISAAC
Genesis 21:3

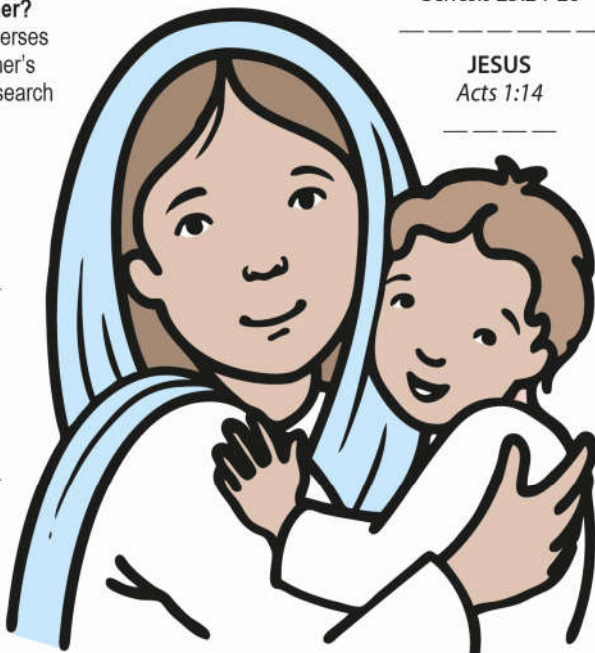
Jesus was **loved** by his mother Mary, she looked after him, worried about him and prayed for him. She **cuddled** Jesus when he was born, **cried** when he died and **rejoiced** when he rose from the dead.

SOLOMON
1 Chronicles 3:5

JOHN
Luke 1:57-60

ESAU and JACOB
Genesis 25:24-26

JESUS
Acts 1:14

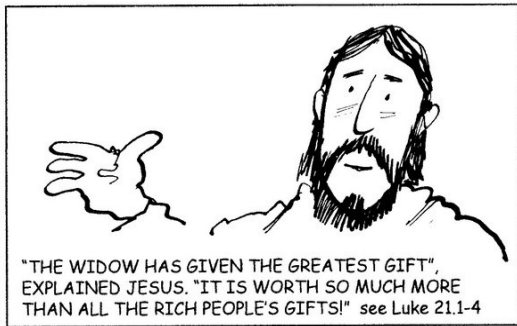
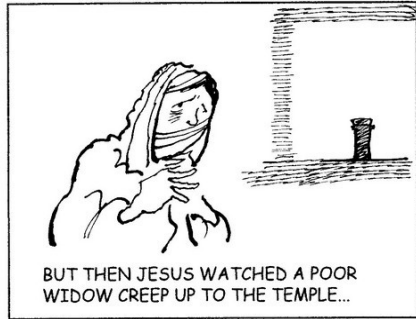
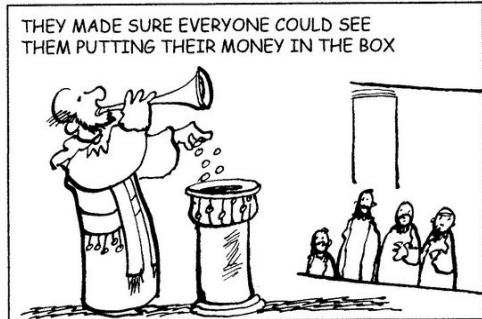
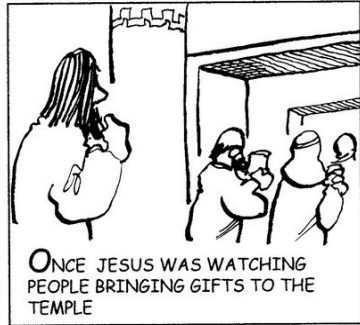


R	A	C	H	E	L	M	A	R	Y	A	V	Z
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	H	E	V	I
B	Z	D	R	E	B	V	S	U	A	U	O	L
E	T	M	U	M	L	E	A	H	N	N	L	P
K	M	O	T	H	E	R	R	T	N	I	E	A
A	I	S	H	H	A	G	A	R	A	C	G	H
H	S	T	A	B	A	T	H	S	H	E	B	A

There are two other words in the word search, can you find them?



The Widow's little coins





COLOUR IN



HOLY DAYS

20th March: Beloved Monk and Bishop of Lindisfarne

Cuthbert of Lindisfarne (c 634-87) has long been northern England's favourite saint. It is easy to see why: Cuthbert was holy, humble, peaceable, prayerful, faithful in friendship, winsome, and really kind.

Cuthbert was born into a fairly well-off Anglo-Saxon family, and he became a monk at Melrose in 651. He and another monk, Eata, were sent to start a monastery at Ripon, but Alcfrith, who owned the land, insisted that they adopt the Roman customs, which Cuthbert's Celtic church did not allow. So, Cuthbert and Eata quietly returned to Melrose, where Cuthbert became prior in about 661. Then came the Synod of Whitby in 663/4, and the Celtic Church formally decided to adopt the Roman customs. After this, Cuthbert was sent on to Lindisfarne as prior, where he sensitively introduced the new ways, and won over the monks there.

Cuthbert was very much loved at Lindisfarne. His zeal was evident in his constant preaching, teaching, and visiting of the people. He was also said to have gifts of prophecy and healing. Occasionally, Cuthbert reached 'people overload'. Then he would retreat to a tiny islet called Inner Farne, where he could pray in total seclusion. When, to his horror, he was told he had been made Bishop of Hexham, he immediately 'swapped' sees with Eata, and stayed on at Lindisfarne as Bishop. Sadly, Cuthbert died on little Inner Farne, only two years later, on 20 March, 687.

Cuthbert was buried at Lindisfarne, but that is not the end of his story. For it was only now that his travels began. After the Vikings destroyed Lindisfarne in 875, several monks dug him up and set out to find Cuthbert a final, and safe, resting place. For the next 120 years Cuthbert was deposited in various monasteries around the north of England and southwest Scotland. Finally, in 999, Cuthbert was allowed to rest in Durham, where a Saxon church was built over his shrine.

All that travel must have done him good; when his body was exhumed to be put into the 'new' Norman Cathedral in Durham in 1104, it was said to be still in perfect tact, and 'incorrupt'.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website

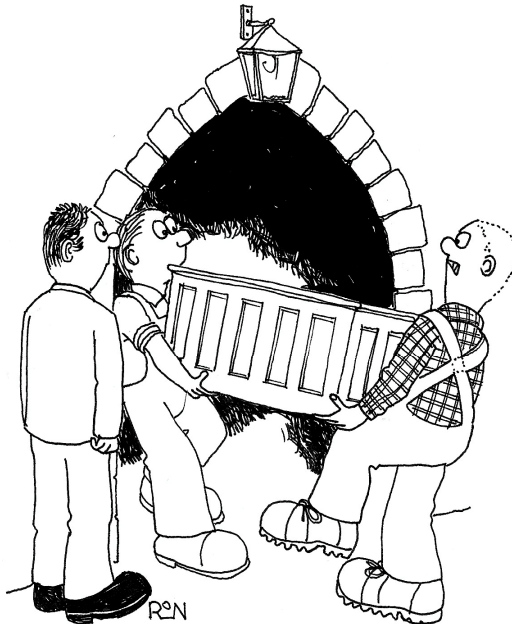


Your Daily Walk Should Be a Sacred Ritual

Under lockdown, millions of us who rarely walked around our immediate locality are now well acquainted with every nearby driveway, every crack in the pavement, and every pothole in the road. We have developed views on our neighbours' gardens, on their oddly coloured garage doors, and on their dogs, children and cars. If we go out at the same time every day, we may even be saying hello to the same people we don't know every day.

For many of us, that daily walk has become the high point of our day. After all, it is one of the few liberties we have left. Some of us go early, to enjoy the relative peace and quiet. Some of us go midday, to at least see other people, even if we can't talk to them. Others of us opt for dusk, the dark comfort of a street with lit houses and stars in the sky.

Whatever time you most enjoy, make sure you do make the time to go for your walk. Your mental and physical fitness can only improve!



It was Lent, so they took it back



How to Gain Contentment: by Jennie Pollock

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ... Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4,6-7)

I've been thinking a lot about contentment in the past couple of years, and have been struck by the fact that we can *choose* to be content.

As Paul says in Philippians 4:12, "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation ... whether living in plenty or in want." He doesn't explicitly tell us what the secret is – but the word 'learned' is significant.

Contentment isn't something we have to hope we might be given, or something that would blossom in our lives if only we received or achieved all the things we're longing for. Contentment isn't the result of everything being the way we want. Nor is it a gift randomly given to some people to enable them to bear difficult circumstances. Rather, it is something we can learn, something we can actively pursue. We do that by choosing to *seek Christ's glory* over our own, to emulate His life of grumble-free humility, and to learn from others how to press on towards the goal of becoming more like Him.

And we do it by *choosing to rejoice*. Paul doesn't say 'Rejoice in the Lord when things work out', or 'Hang in there; we'll be able to rejoice one day'. No, he commands us to rejoice in the Lord *always*. God is always good. There are always things to praise him for, in our plenty and in our want, in promotion or demotion, on a luxury holiday and in a long, lonely lockdown. (Isn't it interesting that Paul had to learn how to be content with plenty as well as with want? Even the dream job, ideal home, and perfect partner won't bring automatic contentment.)

This doesn't mean denying the reality of our situations. We can and should 'present [our] requests to God', we just do it in an attitude of thankfulness not anxiousness. And as we play our part, God will respond by giving us something greater than what we have asked for – He'll give us His peace, 'which transcends all understanding, [to] guard [our] hearts and [our] minds'. True contentment is a gift from God – as indeed is everything good in life – but God in His goodness allows us to choose whether to receive it or not. So, make the choice: rejoice!

Jennie Pollock is a writer with London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC). She blogs at jenniepollock.com.



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



The Rectory
St. James the Least

On how to deflect those staff appraisals

My dear Nephew Darren,

So, your vicar has introduced staff appraisal for all the officers who work for your church, including yourself. It seems a very dangerous innovation; as far as I am concerned, ministry is only successful when parishioners have no idea what the clergy get up to.

I imagine that he will look at the number of services you take in a year. Funerals can only be increased if you resort to murder, which is likely to be frowned on – although I have been sorely tempted during endless church council meetings. Perhaps if you take a flask of water wherever you go and if you find a baby unattended, you could resort to a spontaneous baptism. That would get your numbers up, even if returning mothers may marvel at the highly localised and brief shower that seemed to have taken place over the pram.

Visiting targets are easily increased. Compile a list of when parishioners will be out and call on those days; a card through their letterbox will prove to your vicar that you were there. Should they happen to be in, mention that you are collecting for the organ fund and they will immediately excuse themselves for an important appointment. You are then free to move on to clock another visit.

Your vicar is also bound to want to see the congregation increasing. This is not sustainable, and you should put a stop to such ambitions at once. It is easily done. All you have to do is to approach your friends at the local football club and bribe them with your homemade beer to come along to church several Sunday mornings in a row. If you give them enough beer BEFORE the service, they will be likely to make just enough muted disruption as to leave your vicar a bit rattled, and thinking that perhaps after all, ‘less’ is ‘more’ when it comes to the congregation.

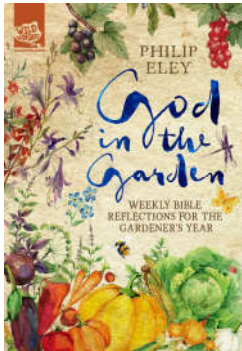
But whatever you do, make sure that you never preach a better sermon than he does. You don’t want anyone thanking you at the door for your ‘so



interesting sermon' in front of him, when they have been sleeping through his sermons for years. If you offend the vicar this way, he will take swift revenge, and ask you to organise the parish summer fete.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Book Reviews

God in the Garden

By Philip Eley, Kevin Mayhew, £12.99

This book offers you a year of weekly Bible reflections that follow the seasons and changes of the gardener's year. That may make it a good gift for gardeners, organic food growers, families with allotments and fans of our Wild Worship series

The devotions help to encourage consistent devotional time – outside with God and deepening a spiritual relationship.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website

N.B.

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL 2021

MAGAZINE 21st MARCH



Dates for the Diary

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

Lunch at All Saints

Soup – hot food- cakes

12:00-2:00

**No Lunches Until
Further Notice**



From the Registers



Funerals

10th February, **George Powell** of Maldon.

24th March, **Dennis Faulkner** of Heybridge aged 87 years



Prayer Diary March 2021

1	St David	Wales, and churches dedicated to St David
2		Tearfund
3		Paramedics and all Ambulance Staff
4		The Healing Ministry
5	Women's World Day of Prayer	Missionaries throughout the world
6		Children in care
7	3rd Sunday of Lent	Churches in our Deanery
8		All teachers
9		All pupils as they return to school
10		Church of England Schools
11		Care home workers
12		Care home residents
13		The Archbishop of York
14	4th Sunday of Lent	Mothering Sunday
		All Mothers and our Mother Church; for the work of The Mothers' Union and Women's Institute
15		Foster Parents
16		Our Police Forces
17	St Patrick	Ireland, and churches dedicated to St Patrick
18		Christian Booksellers
19		Joseph of Nazareth All fathers
20		The Archbishop of Canterbury
21	5th Sunday of Lent	Passiontide begins
		All Priests and Ministers of the Church
22		Retired Clergy
23		Christians throughout the world
24		Chelmsford Cathedral Staff
25	The Annunciation	All who are bearing children
26		All Midwives
27		All employed in Hospices
28	Palm Sunday	Our Ministry Team
29	Monday of Holy Week	Our Parish
30	Tuesday of Holy Week	Churches in Heybridge and Langford
31	Wednesday of Holy Week	St Mary's Parish, Maldon



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



PARISH DIRECTORY

VICAR	Rev'd Asa Humphreys
HON. ASST. PRIEST	Rev'd. 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 869667
HON TREASURER	Eddie Sewell Tel: 01621 851961
PCC SECRETARY	Mrs Julie Ovenden Tel: 01621 858803
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WEB SITE MANAGER	Mike Kneller Email: bigglesworth@btinternet.com

All Saints' Maldon



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