

# ALL SAINTS' MALDON



# PARISH NEWS

June 2021

Photographic contributions for the front of this magazine sent to the editor will be most welcome.

£1



## CHURCH SERVICES

<b>Sunday Services</b>	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 09:30 am Sung Parish Eucharist (except first Sunday of the month). 6:00 pm Evensong and Sermon second and fourth Sundays of the month (4:0pm during GMT)
<b>1st Sunday in the Month</b>	09:30am Short all age service of stories songs and prayers. 6:00 pm Evensong at St Mary's
<b>3rd Sunday</b>	6:00 pm Evensong at all Saints Purleigh
<b>Last Sunday</b>	6:00 pm Prayer and Praise Service

## JUNIOR CHURCH

Sundays at 9:30am.in the D'Arcy Room in Church

## WEEKDAY SERVICE

**Morning Prayer** is usually said in church at 8.30am on Monday - Friday.

**Evening Prayer** is usually said in church at 5.30pm on Monday - Thursday

**1st Thursday** 11:00am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) followed by coffee and biscuits

**Cover Picture: The Church was full for Christmas Eve 2017.  
Lets hope it will be the same for Christmas 2021.  
Photo by Mike Ovenden**



# THE PARISH LETTER

On Monday last, I took a funeral for a local lady who was a regular collector for the Maldon Guide Dogs for the Blind. Her family proudly reminded us in the tribute that she would brave the windiest corners with her collecting tin and still come back with the loudest clatter of coppers.

They didn't know until the day, that I am the custodian of a retired Guide Dog. They were touched to discover that their late Aunt raised funds that help pay for the care of the Golden Retriever that litters the Vicarage floor with hair for 11 months a year.

It was one of those moments that dog owners encounter from time-to-time – a connection made entirely through your dog and in the most round-about of ways.

Just today, I returned from a walk having dropped the kids off at school and spotted a little Yorkshire Terrier wandering, looking a little bedraggled and lost. My dog, Maddie, made a bee-line for them and I looked for the owner – no sign.

So, I offered them the stroke they were searching for and looked at the collar. Having clipped them onto the other end of the lead we sauntered through the rain to find the house with the garden gate undone. One very grateful owner, later we walked home.

It reminded me of another walk in the rain in the countryside, where my wife and I found two small terriers who were similarly bedraggled and lost. Here, though, we were a long way from civilisation as one can be in Essex, even still. We were also without our dog on this occasion.

We reached and found the collar – but no signal did our phones have. So, I untied my shoelaces and fashioned two makeshift leads and I sloshed back to the nearest village with what felt like clown shoes. My wife and I shared the lead duties.

Once signal was found, the owner was called and it turned out that the two dogs had been lost for days and were many miles from home. Her neighbour turned up to collect them in an immaculate Mini upholstered with cream leather. He was surprised at how dirty they were, but in they jumped and another family was reunited.



I have reflected upon this story often, but it feels especially poignant now as we begin to be able to meet again with greater freedom.

This past year has made many of us feel somewhat lost and bedraggled. Psalm 145 reminds us that, “The Lord is close to *all* who call on Him.” It’ll be unlikely that shoelaces or Guide Dogs will play a part in us turning afresh to God, whether we feel near or far. Howsoever God responds to your call, you can be assured of a warm homecoming.

*Asa*

## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.

The APCM was held as part of the 09:30 am Eucharist on Sunday 23rd May. Some details of the meeting will be given in the ‘Churchwarden’s Chat’ elsewhere in this magazine. However, the following is the report of the PCC to that meeting and the Treasurer’s report.

### **ALL SAINTS WITH ST PETER, MALDON ANNUAL REPORT of the PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL for the year 2020**

#### **Review of the year**

It would be very negative of me to write a report for 2020 naming the things that we were not able to do in church because of the Covid-19 pandemic so I hope I am able to focus on the positive things that have been able to take place.

In 2020 the full PCC have met six times and the Standing Committee has met once. A lot of the Standing Committee business continued to be conducted by e mail to get a quick decision on something rather than to wait until a scheduled meeting. Sub committees of the PCC namely Mission and Education, Estates, Worship and Stewardship ceased to meet after the first lockdown.

We strive to be fully GDPR compliant and continue to be duty bound to protect contact details of church members.

The PCC has discussed Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Fire Safety Regulations.

In February we said “Goodbye” to Stephen and Sue as they retired to Manningtree. The church was packed for Stephen’s final service on 2 February attended by people representing his previous parishes. A cheque presentation followed the service with cake and coffee served. The following Friday was the congregations’ opportunity to bid them farewell with a wonderful Cheese and Wine evening organised by the PCC. We have been grateful for the contributions to the Ministry Team by Paul, Graham,



Alan and Adrienne and for their support during the Vacancy. In 2020, there were 6 baptisms at All Saints, 2 weddings and 10 funerals in church.

We have followed national and diocesan guidelines during the pandemic and the church was closed for services from the middle of March. Father Graham began to record a weekly service of Holy Communion which was broadcast every Sunday on the All Saints website and on YouTube. Barbara Gale did a wonderful job producing the Link each week (now known as the Mini-mag!) and Peter Clark has produced the Parish Magazine every month keeping us up to date with news. The magazine and Link have been posted to people who do not have access to the internet. The Pastoral team has been busy keeping in contact with people from the congregation and those on the Electoral Roll.

On 15 June we were able to open the D'Arcy Room for Private Prayer for two hours on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Strict social distancing and cleanliness were priorities and willing volunteers were there to guide people and look after the church. We were able to resume Sunday morning services on 2 August with a coloured smiley face laid on the pews informing people where they were allowed to sit! The 8am communion service took place once a month in the D'Arcy Room. Baptisms, weddings and funerals were allowed to take place but with a strict limitation on numbers attending.

Ken Russell retired from his post as Verger at the end of May and we will look forward to marking his retirement when we are once again allowed to socially gather.

In July the PCC agreed to a request from Maldon Coffee Company (situated opposite the church) to put tables and chairs on the gravelled area in the churchyard for the use of their customers. This has proved to be a very successful arrangement with them keeping it clean, tidy and litter-free. They have been very respectful when we have had a service taking place and will not put the furniture out until the service has finished. This arrangement continued for the remainder of the year being reviewed on a month-by-month basis by the PCC.

Through retiring collections for a specific need in 2020, we have raised £5,006. Baptism collections amounted to £500.00. Of our parish share we have contributed £26,800, 40% of the asking figure.

A lot of hours went into producing a Parish Profile which would be available when the post of Vicar was to be advertised; however in December it was announced that Rev'd Asa Humphreys would become Priest-in-Charge of All Saints along with his current parishes in Heybridge and Langford.

It is hoped that once restrictions are lifted sometime in 2021 we will be once again able to open the doors of All Saints as much as we did pre-pandemic and welcome people to services, hospitality events, social functions and as a peaceful place to pray and light a candle.

*Julie Ovenden PCC Secretary     December 2020*



## TREASURERS REPORT 2020

Total Receipts for the year were, £60017 WHICH FOR LOCKDOWN REASONS were down by £30300.

Special mention is made for the generosity of FWO members who have changed to direct payment and was only £4703 pounds short on last year. The legacy figure of £3333 pounds has been placed in reserve for future re-furbishment.

Total Payments---of £56519 includes £26800 for the quota which was the most that the finances would allow in the current year.

The Misc costs include payments made to Stephen and Ken in recognition for their outstanding service.

Heat lighting – shows a reduction of £1500 pounds as the church was not in use. No magazine costs have been inserted for current year as no circulation of any number was made, Hence printing shows an increase £2000 pounds.

Staff expenses show a decrease of £3900 pounds as no verger costs and organist fees for several months.

Special charities paid is for payments to Lucy and Stephen.

To finalise, and WHEN THE COUNTRY is back to normal, most important for the FUTURE OF THE CHURCH and THE PARISH which will be a HUGE TASK, I do not see much improvement in our Financial position so that as much as possible might be paid towards the Quota.

The balance of funds is held at Barclays Bank and Central Board of Finance.

*Eddie Sewell Treasurer*



On the first day of her ministry as Bishop of Chelmsford. **Bishop Guli** has written to church leaders across the Diocese:



## An email from Bishop Guli to Church Leaders

Dear Brothers and Sisters

It is a great privilege to write to you today, on the first day of my ministry as Bishop of Chelmsford. I want to start by thanking you again for the warm welcome I've received since my appointment in December. In particular, I want to thank Bishop Peter and members of the Bishop's Staff Team who have done so much to help me prepare for today and the months ahead.

I mentioned in my Ad Clerum last month that my ministry will start in two distinct stages. Today I want to share some more detail about my plans for the coming months.

My priorities for the first stage will be to meet with people, to listen, learn and develop a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. At the start of this stage, I will work from Loughborough whilst our two youngest children finish their GCSE year at school. However, I will visit the Diocese from time to time as the situation allows. Indeed, I am particularly looking forward to joining in some of the activities from the Cathedral as part of this year's Thy Kingdom Come, the season from Ascension to Pentecost, 13 May to 23 May. During these 10 days we will wait on God in prayer and stillness – a time of renewal in our commitment to our shared mission and a time to pray for the life of our diocese.

In mid-July, I will move into Bishops Court with my husband Lee and our children. I'm delighted to confirm that the service of Welcome and Installation marking the start of my public ministry will take place on 4 September. This is a highly symbolic moment when I am formally placed in the Bishop's seat in the east end of the Cathedral, the sign of the Bishop's ministry of service and teaching. The service will also mark the start of the second stage of my ministry as Bishop of Chelmsford. From this time, I will start to lead worship, visit churches and worshipping communities and become more rooted and visible in the life of the Diocese. There will be further information about the service in the coming weeks.

I have said before that I have no doubt about the scale of the challenges we face, but as I look to the future, I do so with great faith and a tremendous sense of hopefulness that comes in no small part from the people I have met with since December and the stories I've heard about our churches and worshipping communities and their service during this most difficult of times. I look forward to meeting you all in the months ahead as we begin our ministry together.

Yours in Christ

+ Guli Chelmsford



## Salix Fragilis

Braided bole and  
Bright ring of water –  
Here, our Crack Willow stands.  
The rains are over and gone.  
Woven fronds, gartered bark,  
Mute doubts-dampening spark  
With a new but subtle prefix.

This next first day  
Springs from on high,  
Borne into ascending limbs.  
Young sanguine shoots snap.  
Not through brittle alloy;  
Just intent and red joy  
To attain a royal apex.



In Elysian blue,  
Frame each velvet catkin.  
Their aroma unchanged.  
With a wide open heart  
Such fruit signals the start –  
For good roots aid supple reflex.

Loyal trails and hopes  
Gather downstream,  
'Stuck' in riparian mud.  
Yet these twigs aren't weeping.  
Standing out; rising up –  
As a carpenter's cup –  
Proves love, through their tactile helix.

*Poem by Revd Asa Humphreys*





# Church Warden's Chat

It is really lovely to meet our church family again on Sunday mornings and it is even possible to hug our friends! It has been good to see Asa presiding at communion services and to finally begin to get to know him properly and he us, it seems a long, strange time since he joined us!

Like the church, Maldon is also opening up again, after such a difficult time for the shops, restaurants and pubs. However we must still obey some Covid rules, especially with the new variants of Covid becoming more widespread. Opening up slowly is also what the church is doing, and it may be sometime before we get back to having all the services we used to and even then it will not be exactly the same, as with one priest and four churches we are going to have to learn to share, as Asa cannot be everywhere at the same time. This may be the beginning of a new form of church for us, with much more laity involvement and responsibility. This can only be for the better, as we need not only to hold onto loved forms of services, music and traditions, but to move forward with new ideas and churchmanship. Only then can All Saints, and indeed the Church of England, survive.

We have just held our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, in a somewhat different form, again due to Covid regulations and advice from the diocese. Dennis and I were again voted on as your Churchwardens and Vicky and Viv as deputies, so you will have to put up with our contributions in the magazine for another year!

My thanks to all those who have helped to keep the spirit of All Saints alive in Maldon, and let us pray that we can go forward with love, patience and understanding.

Best wishes,  
*Jenny, Churchwarden*



## **DEBT – Breathing Space.**

The Debt Respite Scheme, or Breathing Space aims to help relieve some of the pressure of dealing with your creditors, so you can focus on getting debt advice and setting up your debt solution without worrying about being chased for payment or incurring extra charges.

It is a free scheme, launched by the Government on 4 May 2021.

Predictions show that around 700,000 people struggling with problem debt will benefit from Breathing Space this year.

If you pass the eligibility checks, your creditors will not be able to add interest or fees to your debts, or take enforcement action, for **60 days**. Breathing space is not a payment holiday so you will still need to keep making your regular payments if you can afford to, but it does prevent action from being taken against you if you are unable to pay.

There are **two** kinds of breathing space.

- Standard breathing space is where most creditors will have to stop enforcement of your debts. Creditors will also have to freeze interest and charges on any eligible debts.
- Mental health crisis breathing space can provide extra protection for people who are receiving mental health crisis treatment.

## **Are You Eligible for Standard Breathing Space?**

To be eligible for standard breathing space you need to meet the following criteria:

- You need to live in England or Wales.
- You must be unable to repay some or all your debts 'as they fall due'.
- You must not be in a DRO, IVA or be an undischarged bankrupt.
- You must not have had breathing space in the last 12 months.

Your debt adviser must agree that:

- You need time to get debt advice.
- You are likely to enter a debt solution.

Breathing space is more likely to help if you are already behind with your payments. If you are up to date with your household bills and credit repayments and can afford them, breathing space is unlikely to be an option for you.

### **How it Works:**

Contact Maldon and District Citizens Advice on 01621 875774 or send us an email at [bureau@maldoncab.cabnet.org.uk](mailto:bureau@maldoncab.cabnet.org.uk). We will check to see if you could benefit from Breathing Space and if you are eligible. Debtors can only access a breathing space by seeking debt advice from a debt adviser.

If you are eligible and would like to apply, we will submit your application to the Insolvency Service who administer the scheme.

Once you are in breathing space, all creditors who have been included will be informed and they must stop any enforcement activity.

During the first 20 days of the scheme, creditors can challenge your application for Breathing Space, as well as specific debts being included in the scheme.

You can add a debt to Breathing Space after it has started as long as the debt existed



before your Breathing Space began. The protections will then apply for the remainder of the 60 days. For example, if a debt is added to Breathing Space on day 10, protection on that debt would last for 50 days. If a debt was incurred after your Breathing Space started, it cannot be added.

The clock for creditors to challenge the inclusion of a new debt restarts when the new debt is added, but this only applies for the new debt, with protection still in place for other debts.

Your situation will be reviewed periodically. In most cases, this will result in the scheme continuing for the full 60 days, but, in certain circumstances, Breathing Space could be cancelled, or specific debts could be removed.

Once you have had standard breathing space you will not be able to have another one for **12 months**.

### **How could Breathing Space help me deal with my debts?**

Breathing Space will provide protection from interest and fees for its duration. This should give you time to get debt advice and set up a solution to deal with your debts. Maldon and District Citizens Advice can provide further debt advice, from professional debt advisers, or will signpost you to other agencies, if you prefer.

Most types of debt can be included in breathing space and you are not allowed to leave any eligible debts out of your application.

Some debts cannot be included in breathing space. These include:

- Magistrates' court fines.
- Maintenance, Child Support Agency (CSA) and Child Maintenance Service (CMS) payments and arrears.
- Student loans.
- Budgeting loans and crisis loans.
- Money owed under a 'criminal confiscation order'.
- Universal Credit advances.
- Fraudulent debts.
- Debts resulting from certain personal injury claims against you.

A mental health crisis Breathing Space provides protection from creditors for people who are struggling with debts and who are also receiving mental health crisis treatment.

A mental health crisis breathing space will provide you with the same protections as the standard breathing space.

A mental health crisis breathing space will last for the duration of your mental health crisis treatment plus 30 days.

Unlike a standard breathing space, people who wish to enter a mental health crisis breathing space will not need to receive advice and find a debt solution.

You can choose someone to talk to the debt adviser for you.

There is no limit to the number of times that you can enter a mental health crisis breathing space. You can also apply if you have had a standard breathing space in the last 12 months.

### **Please contact us for advice on any subject by:**

ringing 01621 875774 – leave a message and an adviser will return your call  
or emailing [bureau@maldoncab.cabnet.org.uk](mailto:bureau@maldoncab.cabnet.org.uk)



# A REMINISCENCE

We have all had to endure about fifteen months of almost constant lockdown, all for very good reasons but wasn't it difficult to keep oneself occupied and doing worthwhile things?

Joan and I did a fair bit of sorting out of our cupboards and drawers, mainly getting rid of not wanted paperwork or old clothing that should have been discarded years ago. Most of the clothing either went to, or is waiting to go to, the Salvation Army shop. More difficult to dispose of were things that we considered family memorabilia and which we hope will one day pass on to our children (if they will give them houseroom!) One such small box contained some of my old things such as cufflinks and collar studs. Looking at them in their box I started thinking of when I had worn them and of incidents I associated with them. One such incident was when I was in my first year at secondary school:



One day our English Teacher told us that our year were to have a speechmaking competition and that we all needed to write a speech for homework. She would select the best speeches and the writers would have to read them out to the whole of our year group in the assembly hall to decide the winners. We could choose our own subject and not write more than about 500 words. This was rather daunting as I had never had to do this before and it was not something I felt confident about. The Teacher did say that the subject of the speech was not important and she said it could be anything from an experience from the just ended world war to something trivial like 'your older brother's collar stud'. After several nights of wracking my



brains, I could not think of anything I would be able to write about and in desperation settled on ‘My older brothers collar stud!’ I did at least have an older brother who wore collar studs as he was an officer in the Merchant Navy and wore starched collars with collar studs to attach the separate collars to his shirts. Whilst I cannot now remember what I wrote but I did write this essay/speech and duly had it marked by the Teacher. When she handed the effort back to me, the first thing I noticed was that her remarks had been made in black ink. ‘Wonderful’ I thought, because if they had been in red ink it would have meant that my work was terrible. No red ink, so not too bad! Her remarks were roughly ‘Not very imaginative Downham, and not the sort of thing to be used at the speech competition. However it shows promise as a piece of writing and you will learn from this effort.’ I think today we would say I was ‘damned with faint praise’. I later followed in my brother’s footsteps and joined the Merchant Navy as an officer and wore the obligatory white shirts with separate starched collars fixed on with collar studs. I no longer wear such things, but to this day my preferred dress is formal white shirts and necktie, although as a concession to my children and grandchildren I now also wear blue shirts! My family still say that I am in casual dress if I leave off my cufflinks, but I do always think kindly of that Teacher!

I would like to think that since I grew up I do have more of an imagination and when I told my grandchildren bedtime stories I told them off the top of my head, stories about a special unit of talking dogs who did great things for the Royal Navy and about a family of almost human Haggi ( I hope this is the plural of Haggis, of the Scottish edible variety) . My erstwhile Teacher was a kindly lady and I think that any talent I may have for writing down my thoughts was originally nurtured by her. Oh, and yes, I have kept my collar studs and hope that one day fashions will change and I will again be able to wear collar studs with a starched collar. Imagine that!

*Ken Downham*

*I well remember, as a schoolboy in the fifties, taking my father’s stiff collars to the laundry in Victoria Road Chelmsford to be washed and starched. Fortunately, being a year or two younger than Ken, by the time I reached my late teenage years these collars had gone out of fashion. Although when looking on line I found that they are still on sale today. Ed.*



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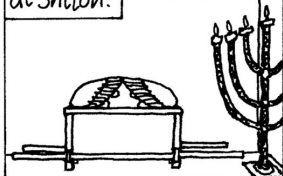
# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
1 Samuel 4:1-10, 5:1-7:1

God gave Moses two stone slabs with His laws for the Jews on them. They were kept in a special chest, the Ark, and carried with them

When the Jews got to Israel, the Ark was kept at Shiloh.



The Jews did not keep God's laws so the Philistines attack and defeat them.



The Jews took the Ark into battle with them to make God help them win.



But the Philistines won. They took the Ark to their city of Ashdod and put it in the temple of their god Dagon.



The next day they found Dagon's statue face down.



The next day it was over again and its head and hands had broken off.



Then the people became covered in sores.



They moved the Ark to the city of Gath.



They were going to move the Ark to Ekron, but the people there wouldn't let them.



So they put the Ark on a new cart with a gift of gold.



At Bethshemesh, people harvesting saw the Ark.



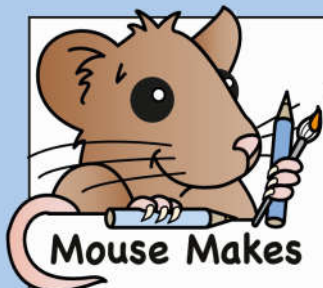
But some treated it without respect and died.



God led the cows pulling the cart.

They celebrated its return.

So it was moved to Keriath Jearim for safe-keeping.



## Mouse Makes



### JESUS HEALS

Who was the first person Jesus healed?  
*John 4:46-54*

Who did Jesus heal from fever?  
*Mark 1:29-31*

How was the the paralysed man brought to Jesus?  
*Mark 2:1-12*

Jesus **healed** and made the...

SICK	ABLE
DEAD	WALK
BLIND	FORGIVEN
DEAF	ALIVE
CRIPPLED	SPEAK
SINNER	MOVE
MUTE	SEE
PARALYSED	WELL
DISABLED	HEAR



Where did the demons ask Jesus to send them when he drove them out?  
*Mark 5:1-20*

How long had the man by the pool been disabled?  
*John 5:1-15*

What did Jesus say made the woman well?  
*Matthew 9: 20-22*



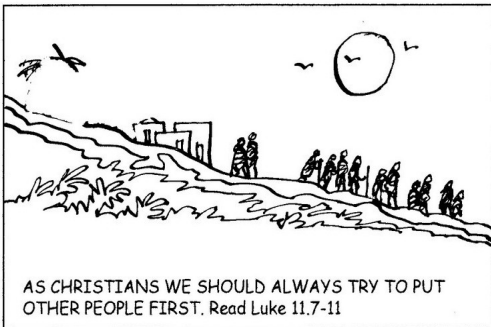
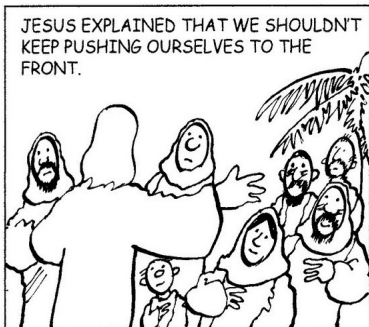
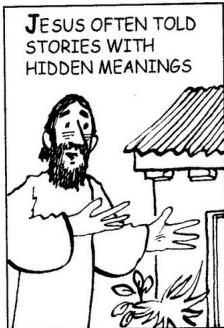
"There are **many** things that Jesus did. If every one of them were written down, I suppose the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."  
*John 21:25*

How many men were healed from leprosy?  
*Luke 17:11-19*



What did Jesus heal Bartemaus from?  
*Mark 10:46-52*

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, how many days had he been buried?  
*John 11:1-45*





# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

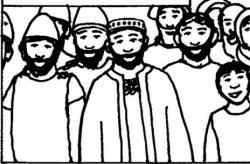
It can be read in the Bible in  
2 Sam 6: 1-10, 2 Chron 13, 15:1-28

Copies of God's Laws for the Jews were kept in a special holy chest - the Ark. It had been stored at Keriath Jearim for 20 years...

When King David made Jerusalem his capital, he decided to bring the Ark there.



David brought his soldiers and a huge crowd came too



They put the Ark on a new cart and set off down the hill.



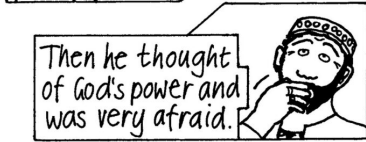
The oxen stumbled, and Uzzah thought the Ark might fall off the cart.



He forgot the Ark was holy and held on to it.



David was very angry with God that Uzzah had died



Then he thought of God's power and was very afraid.

So he left the Ark stored at the house of Obed Edom.



David realised that they had not treated God's Ark with respect.



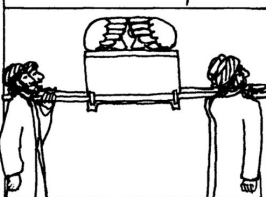
He talked to the Levites, the tribe that God had chosen to be His priests.



They organised musicians and trumpeters, and people to carry the Ark.



God's holy Ark was treated with respect.



Everyone cheered and sang as the Ark was carried into Jerusalem.







## WORDSEARCH

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o	u	a	e	h	o	t	a	a	u	s	r
l	z	l	r	e	r	u	r	n	s	s	o
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capital

cheered

tribe

Jerusalem

crowd

laws

holy

angry

Levites

hill

soldiers

Ark

respect

stored

cart

organised

Uzzah

Obed

fall

trumpeters

stumbled

David

afraid

musicians



*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 getting to church at a social distance**

My dear Nephew Darren,

Since your parishioners mostly live in an area of half a square mile, where their only concern in getting to church is whether to take the underpass, or to risk a dash across the ring road, you may have little understanding of the problems our folk have in travelling our long country lanes to church, especially as we are keeping our social distance from each other.

Several parishioners have decided that they can't possibly share cars even with their own spouses, as in their 15-room homes they have successfully (and in some cases, happily) avoided each other for months. So the lane outside the church has filled up each week with Mercedes nudging Audis, and Land Rovers easing in between Bentleys.

Others arrive on horseback. But they are careless about leaving their horses to graze in the churchyard, and I have had to remind them twice that flowers in memorial vases are not fodder. The horses do help to keep the grass down, but unfortunately our verger now objects to standing outside during Mattins, holding the reins of half a dozen horses. He says it is not part of his job description, which only confirms my view that there is entirely too much fuss these days about having job descriptions at all.

Major Crompton's devotion to his new sit-on lawnmower has inspired him to travel to church on it. Since he is unable to uncouple the mowing apparatus, the tarmac on his two-mile drive is acquiring interesting patterns. His drive at two miles per hour along narrow lanes means he arrives leading a procession of cars with drivers given the opportunity to exercise the Christian virtue of patience.

Mrs Pendleton, on the other hand, leads a small but select group from the Mothers' Union who are all keen cyclists. They all arrive on a whoosh of fresh air, their hair in total disarray, but with pink cheeks glowing with health. Nobody in church minds sitting near them, as anyone who can

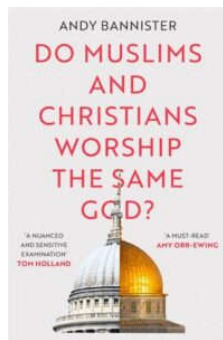




manage to peddle an old three-gear bicycle up the hill to our church is most unlikely to be sickening for anything.

Finally, of course, the majority arrive on foot, having negotiated fields, stiles and assorted cattle on the way. The countryside may well praise God, but one does wish they wouldn't bring quite so much of it into church.

Your loving uncle,  
*Eustace*



## Book Reviews

### Do Muslims and Christians Worship the Same God?

By Andy Bannister, IVP, £9.99

Are Islam and Christianity essentially the same?

Should we seek to overcome divisions by seeing

Muslims and Christians as part of one family of Abrahamic faith?

Andy Bannister shares his journey from the multicultural streets of inner-city London to being a Christian with a PhD in Qur'anic Studies. Along the way, he came to understand that far from being the same, Islam and Christianity are profoundly different.

Get to the heart of what the world's two largest religions say about life's biggest questions—and discover the uniqueness of Christianity's answer to the question of who God really is.

*Taken from the Parish Pump Website*

**N.B.**

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE JULY 2021**

**MAGAZINE 20th JUNE**



## PRESS RELEASE- LOCAL PARISH MAGAZINE/ NEWSLETTERS

Now more than ever there is a real need for society to support the wellbeing and development of young people. The restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic have severely hampered activities for young people across the whole of the UK, and Essex Scouts is no different, with a need to recruit more volunteers into 1<sup>st</sup> Maldon All Saints Scout Groups to support the return of face to face Scouting.

Scouting offers young people an opportunity for challenge and adventure, alongside a safe place for Members to express themselves and develop new skills for life. We believe in the values of respect, care, co-operation, belief and integrity.

Emma Parker, Deputy County Commissioner for Community Engagement said: "Despite the nation being in a state of lockdown for the majority of the year, Scout Leaders across Essex have strived to continue offering young people the challenge, adventure and most importantly fun, during these strange and confusing times through virtual programmes."

1<sup>st</sup> Maldon All Saints Scouts group has over 80 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers and we're asking the amazing residents of Maldon and the surrounding areas to step out of their comfort zones and harness the feelings of community spirit that the pandemic has harboured to join the Scout movement! You may feel like you have lost many opportunities over the past year and Scouting could be a fantastic outlet to share your skills and support your local communities, delivering and supporting a creative and varied programme.

If you have a particular interest, hobby or skill set, we would love to hear from you. There are roles for everyone with different skills sets, you may be a finance manager, a teacher, youth worker, IT guru or a health and safety expert – all have transferrable skills ideally suited for Scouting! Scouting offers a comprehensive training package to support new volunteers into role, which can even lead to earning a nationally recognised certificate.

Supporting young people in their personal growth can offer a real sense of achievement; if you want to experience what Scouting can offer and what you can do for young people in your community visit [www.essexscouts.org.uk/join](http://www.essexscouts.org.uk/join) or email [aqs11stmaldonscouts@gmail.com](mailto:aqs11stmaldonscouts@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you!



# HOLY DAYS

## 20th June Fathers' Day

In the UK, USA and Canada, the third Sunday in June is Father's Day. It's usually a good time for sons and daughters to take their father to his favourite restaurant, or to watch a favoured sport, or whatever else he enjoys doing.

How will you celebrate it this year? If your own father cannot be with you, how about a Zoom meeting?

How do these special days ever get started, anyway? Well, Father's Day began because way back in 1909 there was a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mother's Day was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time. But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Louise the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

Sonora Louise soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. Sonora Louise had wanted Father's Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday), but the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. And so on June 19th, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane.

Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day – a permanent, national holiday.

*Taken from the Parish Pump Website*



# GARDENING REALLY IS GOOD FOR YOU

According to a recent study conducted by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and two universities, people who garden every day have well-being scores 6.6 per cent higher, and stress levels 4.2 per cent lower than those who do not garden at all.

Dr Lauriane Chalmin-Pui, RHS well-being fellow and lead author says, “The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the more frequently you garden, the greater the health benefits.

“In fact, gardening every day has the same positive impact on your well-being as undertaking regular, vigorous exercise like cycling or running.

“Gardening is like effortless exercise: it doesn’t feel as strenuous as going to the gym, but we can expend similar amounts of energy.”

## **Beware Japanese knotweed this summer:**

This month (June) could see a sudden bumper appearance of the notorious garden pest, Japanese knotweed.

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) experts have warned that the April frosts either delayed or killed other plants who would have helped keep it in check. Unfortunately, the pest is very hardy, and will not have been killed off.

The plant grows up to 2.1 metres (7ft) tall and can destroy the foundations of houses and run riot in gardens. It can even devalue property, and lead to the refusal of mortgages on the land.

## **What does your lawn say about you?**

A perfectly mown lawn may look beautiful, but it is also a sign of male control.

So says Monty Don, the Gardeners’ World presenter. He is wary of what he calls the ‘male obsession’ to achieve a closely cut lawn which is of pure and perfect grass, without any other plants in it at all. Monty Don calls such an attitude to gardening “controlling rather than embracing,” and reckons it is based on a desire to get just one more “aspect of life under control”.

Instead, Don urges that at least part of our lawns should be encouraged to become wildflower meadows, which are much better for the environment. He explains: “Cutting grass burns fossil fuel, makes a filthy noise and is about the most injurious thing you can do to wildlife. Whereas, simply letting grass grow ... is probably the single most effective thing you can do in any garden of any size, to encourage, particularly, insect life, but also small mammals, invertebrates and reptiles.”

*Taken from the Parish Pump website*



## OUR VISION

Mercy Ships is a faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in need.

Conditions requiring surgical treatment kill more people in low-income countries than HIV/Aids, TB and malaria combined. Globally, five billion people have no access to safe, affordable surgery when they need it. In sub-Saharan Africa,



up to 69% of people live on less than £2 a day. Healthcare in these countries either doesn't exist or is unaffordable to the vast majority of the population.

As well as completing thousands of urgent operations on-board its floating hospital, the Africa Mercy, Mercy Ships volunteers also work closely with host nations to improve the way healthcare is delivered across the country, by training and mentoring local medical staff, and renovating hospitals and clinics.

Founded in 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens, Mercy Ships has worked in more than 55 countries, providing services valued at more than £1.3 billion. By improving healthcare delivery in every country it visits, Mercy Ships is working to eradicate the diseases of poverty and effectively do itself out of a job. Mercy Ships follows the model of Jesus by “bringing hope and healing to the forgotten poor”, helping people of all faiths and none.

Among the countries Mercy Ships serves, which lie on the lower third of the World Health Organisation’s Human Development Index, access to safe, affordable and timely surgery is extremely limited. As a result, countless people suffer and die from “diseases of poverty” that can easily be cured.

*Taken from the Mercy Ships website*



## Archbishop of York's Presidential Address to General Synod



It was “sobering and shameful” for the Church of England to be “confronted by the recent *Panorama* documentary”, which looked at “a number of shockingly specific instances where sisters and brothers in Christ have experienced racism in the Church of England.”

So said the Archbishop of York in his recent Presidential Address to the General Synod.

He went on to say that the Anti-Racism Task Force set up by the Church last autumn had now published its “inspiring, challenging, and – God willing – far reaching report” to deal with the “institutional racism” found in the church.

“It identifies five areas where urgent action is needed, namely: participation, including appointments and shortlists for appointments; education; training and mentoring; work with young people; and governance and structures.”

The Archbishop looked forward to the discussion of all this at a future Synod. “However, we couldn’t let this group of sessions pass without acknowledging the scale of the challenge and the call to action.”

The Archbishop went on: “I’m not standing here to defend our record. Nor am I saying everything will be ok. ...I’m saying that there is racism in the Church, and it must be confronted.”

The Archbishop agreed with a statement by the Revd Arun Arora which said: ‘Apologies and lament must now be accompanied by swift actions leading to real change.’

*Taken from the Parish Pump website*



## WONDERS OF THE LIVING WORLD

What are the best metaphors we could use to describe biological things? You might be used to hearing phrases like “your genetic blueprint” or “survival of the fittest”, but are they helpful or even accurate? Some of these words fail to capture the wonder and joy of understanding something new about the nature of living organisms.

I learned that one researcher was using the phrase ‘The Snuggle for Existence’ as a way to convey the idea, familiar to biologists, that cooperation is at the heart of the living world. For example, every cell more complex than a bacterium contains minute energy factories, each one containing their own piece of DNA – which makes them a sort of miniature cell, hidden away inside the larger host cell. These ‘mitochondria’, as biologists call them, turn raw materials from the host into chemical energy. In this way, everyone benefits: the mitochondria now have a safe a place to live, and the host receives the energy it needs. There are many more examples of organisms working together to produce something that is more than the sum of its parts, where often the individual parts could not survive on their own.

‘The Map of Life’ is a way of describing the regularities we see in biological processes. Eyes, legs and wings have emerged in the living world again and again, and why not? If the properties of light and gravity remain constant, we should expect living things to find the same solutions to seeing or getting around. When we look at these organisms’ family trees, we see they share a common ancestor that had no eyes, or no wings. These structures have developed completely independently, or you could say that the paths of the living world have converged on the same solution. That’s not to say they had a conscious goal, but that the world has certain properties, and those properties have channelled biological processes in certain directions.

None of these stories give us definite evidence for God. Science simply provides data, which can often be interpreted in several different ways. Perhaps the world just happens to be full of mathematical regularities, maybe there’s an overarching physical law we don’t yet understand, or perhaps there are multiple universes and ours happens to be the one in which life has arisen. But I believe that the observations scientists make about the living world are compatible with the existence of the God described by Christian faith.

*Taken from the Parish Pump website.*



## 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

Nothing to report this month.







## Prayer Diary May 2021

1	All who have recently moved house
2	Countries in conflict
3 Corpus Christi	All Priests
4	Those who receive Holy Communion at home
5	The residents of Hailey House
6 1st Sunday after Trinity	All who lead our Services today
7	Members of our PCC
8	The Archdeacon of Chelmsford and all Churchwardens
9	Members of Parliament
10	Prison Chaplains
11	Our Tower Bell Ringers
12	The Queen and Royal Family
13 2nd Sunday after Trinity	Our Eucharistic Ministers
14	Our Police Force in the County
15 St Barnabas	Churches dedicated to St Barnabas
16	Our Town Council
17	Employees of Maldon District Council
18	Children estranged from their Father
19	Fathers
20 3rd Sunday after Trinity Father's Day	The work of the London City Day Mission
21	Each other as restrictions end
22	J's Hospice staff and supporters
23	Nurses and Midwives
24 Birth of John the Baptist	Churches dedicated to John the Baptist
25	Playgroups and nurseries
26	General Practitioners
27 4th Sunday after Trinity	Our Servers
28	All who live in our Parish
29 St Peter and Paul	Churches dedicated to St Peter or St Paul
30	The Trustees of The Plume Library



## ACTIVITIES

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>
Choir Practice (Thur 7:30pm)	Dr. Stuart Pegler	01621 850530
Junior Choir (Thur 7:00 pm)	”	”
Junior Church	Elaine Brown	01621 850484
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 850484
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	Zoe Franklin	Email
	1stmaldonallsaintsscoutgroup@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	01621 850484

To register your daughter's interest in joining either:  
Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers  
please visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://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 Tel 01621 841274
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
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	Mrs Barbara Gale Tel 01621 928538
ORGANIST and CHOIRMASTER	Dr Stuart Pegler Tel: 01621 850530
RECORDER OF THE CHURCH	Mike Gibson
PARISH NEWS EDITOR	Peter Clark Tel: 01621 869667 email: <a href="mailto:pjandvclark@gmail.com">pjandvclark@gmail.com</a>
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WEB SITE MANAGER	Mike Kneller Email: <a href="mailto:bigglesworth@btinternet.com">bigglesworth@btinternet.com</a>

**Website [www.allsaintsmaldon.com](http://www.allsaintsmaldon.com)**

# All Saints' Maldon



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