

# ALL SAINTS' MALDON



# PARISH NEWS

August 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)  
 09:30 am Sung Parish Eucharist (except first Sunday of the month).  
 6:00 pm Evensong and Sermon second (and fourth when there are five), Sundays of the month (4:00pm during GMT)

**1st Sunday in the Month**

09:30am Short all age service of stories songs and prayers.  
 6:00 pm Evensong at St Mary's

**3rd Sunday**

6:00 pm Evensong at all Saints Purleigh

**Last Sunday**

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: Taken on Maldon Prom:  
 Submitted by Geoff Dickman**



# THE PARISH LETTER

August is practically upon us and with it the school holidays. This time last year the children had only had about 3 weeks of school ahead of the summer break, but this time around they are definitely ready for the chance to step out of the classroom and off schedule. Books and games and picnics have been planned and many are looking to escape the four walls that have confined them for so long. For some that will be overseas, for others it'll be camping - but for everyone, even if it is just that change of pace that August always seems to herald, there will be a modicum of rest.

Our new Diocesan Bishop, Bishop Guli wrote recently in her *Ad Clerum* that she is prioritising the issue of clergy wellbeing in the coming months. Indeed, I have been invited to not one but two meetings with her on that very subject. She has quickly realised that fewer Priests and the same number of Parishes means that those stipendiary clergy that remain are stretched ever further, and that this is not sustainable.

Well, given the number of you who have expressed concern about my own well being these past weeks, she is right. I have been blessed with many offers of help to allow us to take leave as a family over this summer and it gives me pleasure to name all those who are stepping into the breach to allow me a degree of rest. Bishop Guli has also stated that each member of stipendiary clergy is to be expected to take an additional day-off each month to ensure that they all get at least one 48 hour break in the calendar month.

This was the Diocesan policy in my previous Diocese and I have been asking for just a policy to be introduced here, it will make a significant difference to our monthly pattern of rest and also shan't cost the Diocese any money - which is of no small significance to the Diocesan budget!

What follows is the agreed worship schedule for the four church buildings I currently serve for the month of August - please be praying that no-one who has agreed cover has to self-isolate because this took 4 weeks to painstakingly arrange! All churches are All Saints, Maldon unless specified.

## Sunday 1st August

8am BCP Communion - Reverend Asa Humphreys

09.30 All-Age Multi-sensory Service - Adrienne Knight and Reverend Asa Humphreys

09.30 Morning Prayer at St Giles, Langford - Julia MacGregor LLM

11.15 Communion at St Andrew's, Heybridge - Reverend Asa Humphreys

Thursday 5th August

11am BCP Communion - Reverend Ken Dunstan (*Mayland*)

Sunday 8th August

8am BCP Communion - Reverend Prebendary Paul Barnes

9am Joint Communion service for St Giles, Langford at All Saints,  
Ulting - Reverend Derek Clark

09.30 Communion - Reverend Canon Graham Blyth

11.15 Morning Prayer at St Andrew's, Heybridge - Lynne Wood  
(Reader)

Sunday 15th August

8am BCP Matins - Jenny Pratt LLM (*Southminster*)

09.30 Morning Prayer at St Giles, Langford -  
Irene Allen and Gerald Matthews

09.30 Communion - Reverend Robert Wiggs

11.15 Morning Prayer at St Andrew's, Heybridge -  
Joy Norman and Anne Jenkins

Sunday 22nd August

8am BCP Communion - Reverend Carol Ball (*Bicknacre*)

09.30 Communion at St Giles, Langford -  
Reverend Prebendary Paul Barnes

09.30 Service of the Word - Alan Marjoram

11.15 Morning Prayer at St Andrew's, Heybridge - Julia MacGregor  
LLM

Sunday 29th August

8am BCP Matins - Adrian Smith LLM (*Cold Norton*)

09.30 Communion at St Giles, Langford - Reverend Asa Humphreys

09.30 Communion - Reverend Canon Graham Blyth

11.15 Communion at St Andrew's, Heybridge - Reverend Asa  
Humphreys

18.30 Evensong at St Peter-on-the-wall with the combined choirs of  
the United Benefice and All Saints', Maldon.

As you can appreciate, trying to get cover is a daunting prospect and I am so very grateful to all my colleagues who have stepped in to allow to me spend some extended time with my family. Some of you may be disheartened that Communion is not happening as often as you are used to from times gone



past. Partly in recognition of that, I have written to Bishop John expressing my desire that Communion by Extension be permitted across the churches I serve when I need cover for annual leave. This practice is used sparingly in the Church of England, but is currently subject to a review by the Bishops. It permits a lay person to distribute, using a very specific liturgy - bread and wine that has been pre-blessed. At St Andrew's, Heybridge and All Saints, Maldon will have an aumbry where such sacraments are kept. It is hope that the Bishops may widen the reasons whereby this is permitted in the near future.

Another point of good news is that I have just finished teaching a Diocesan pilot course for Lay Service Leaders, who will be commissioned to lead Matins, Evensong, Services of the Word, Compline and acts of Prayer during the Day too. There were 11 people from our Deanery who took part and they will be commissioned on Saturday 18th September at Chelmsford Cathedral by Bishop Guli. It is exciting that these volunteers gave up so much of their time to train to lead services - it was also a lot of fun! This is a small step towards making ongoing patterns of worship and mission sustainable in the short term, but please be praying that more people come forward to serve in such ways, so that the changing role of the Priest does not mitigate our existing pattern of worship and mission.

Finally, I have held off writing this missive until the 19th July so that I might include some of the updated guidelines for worship in the coming weeks. Everything needs to be prefaced with the unwelcome fact that our District has seen cases of COVID more than double in the last week and so whilst we are permitted to do a very great many things differently, we shall need to be cautious in the short term. Many vulnerable people want to worship without anxiety in our churches and so we need to take steps to ensure that they remain as welcome as before, to worship without fear.

To that end, at All Saints it is proposed that we retain the one-way system for Communion, but that people are permitted to return to their seats so that we can end the service altogether in the pre-covid fashion. I shall continue to wear a facemask whenever I preside and use gloves to distribute the host in one form only. This is in recognition that I am the point of greatest risk in the service. Having not had anyone struck down with COVID in any of my congregations these past 18 months, I am keen for that to continue.

Books will continue to be put out in church beforehand, but the cleaning regime between services looks to be less onerous. Posters will ask people to consider wearing a facemask and the front few rows of pews will retain the



strict social distancing seating pattern, so that those who want to remain socially distanced can do so. Singing shall be permitted, but perhaps with fewer hymns than we are used too, at least until cases start to fall. Test and Trace, it appears, will no longer be compulsory.

I have a whole day set aside later this week to draw together the specific risk assessments for each service and church building, so the above is a rough sketch of the changes, hot off the press.

Striking this balance is hard and legally the responsibility is solely in the hands of the Incumbent. Please be praying that the right decisions may be taken for worship to be a degree or two more free, albeit with sufficient safety measures in place to give confidence to those who feel more anxious.

May your worship this coming month be one lit with renewed hope,  
God bless,

Asa

## Avril Askew.

*We have recently received the following email from Avril's son Robin:*

Dear all,

I hope everyone is well and has stayed away from this awful COVID situation.

As you know Avril broke her leg on 13th March this year. The operation was a success, however, it brought on April's dementia to a point, where Avril is now no longer able to look after herself, understand the dangers around her.

With this in mind, and following an assessment, adult social services decided that it is better for Avril to stay in care. Avril has good days as well as bad days, but on the whole is happy and is of course very safe with staff to look after her and company in the home to talk to.

Avril would love to hear from anyone and if you could let anyone from the parish know these details we should be grateful:-

Glenfields Care Home  
7 Montgomery Square  
Driffield  
East Riding of Yorkshire  
YO25 9EX  
01377 254042

Kind regards  
Robin and Toni Askew



## Deputy Warden's Waffle

So, we have entered the era of ‘Ping Panic’ ‘Pandemic Prison, when isolating, ‘Yeah or nay ‘ of mask wearing, as restrictions are well, more or less lifted!

We are experiencing very peculiar weather at the moment, yesterday as we roasted here in Maldon Thaxted had golf ball size hail stones denting car bonnets. Is it any wonder that many of us are feeling apprehensive and utterly confused about our supposed ‘brave new (unrestricted) world! Although life is slowly getting back to something like normal, I have actually got a doctor’s appointment face to face, albeit in a mask and hazmat suit! At last we are able to open up the church to larger numbers, we have been able to hold a much longed for memorial service for Lily Bond, we were able to celebrate the first larger funeral since lock down for our own dear Helen Robinson, with the congregation being able to sing a few of the hymn verses . And we have now held a funeral service where everyone was able to heartily sing all hymns right through. Although these have been in many ways sad events, to hear the church full of singing once again was so uplifting.

We were asked to host the Admission of Church Wardens, which was a privilege, and so encouraging to see our church full of newly sworn in, or offering to stand again Wardens, which is very challenging for all concerned now. But it illustrates clearly that the ‘Voice of God’ is being heard and people are actively striving to help and support their own church and indeed the whole church community. We again have to thank Jenny and Dennis both whom elected to stand again. Indeed we offer our heartfelt thanks.

It does seem that Summer is upon us, and the great new ‘staycation’ gets under way. Folks are starting to travel about again, schools have broken up--do I sense an air of optimism---I do realize in so many ways we are not out of the woods yet, but with care and support and understanding, confidence will grow and flourish. We are all so fortunate to have our amazing church family who care for and look out for each other all the time, I know I have said it before , but the covid situation has brought us closer together in so many ways, and continues to help us grow in love and faith. I wish each and every one of my church family and friends joy and excitement as we go forward into the Summer holidays and then to come back refreshed and fulfilled .

*Vicky, Deputy Churchwarden*



# OBITUARIES

During this last month we have said goodbye to some of our much loved church family and I include obituaries here.

## **Iris Rosalind Symon: 30th January 1928 - 31st May 2021**



Her funeral took place at All Saints' Church on July 5th, it was very much a family affair held by Asa.

Babs was born 1928 at Church Street Heybridge, she was the youngest of 3 girls. When the second world war was started she was 11 yrs old. Both her sisters joined the WAFs and Babs was left at home.

Music became an important part of her life, she had piano lessons as a child and became an accomplished pianist and teacher with letters after her name. She taught piano and organ to many for years. Whilst in her teens she was the organist at St Peter' church Gt Totham.

In later life she played the piano to entertain at the blind home in Maldon then at Longfield home. Also at St Peter's Hospital for the Sunday services.

Whilst she was still able she attended the 8 am communion service at All Saints'

We are a very close family and are all so thankful for her love and care during a long life well lived.

Her daughter Christine would like to thank everyone for the cards care and kindness shown during this difficult time. Especially the diabetic team and the district nurses.





## **Helen Olive Robinson: 19th November 1949 - 20th June 2021**



Helen was born in Chelmsford to parents Cliff and Helen Rowland and attended the Cathedral Junior School and then, what is now Rainsford High School. On leaving school Helen worked as a trainee dispenser, at Mr Rayner's Chemist shop in Chelmsford, whilst studying by day release.

In 1970 Helen married Dennis and they had two children, Andrea and Alan, and eventually moved to Heybridge in 1983. She then worked for ICS in Heybridge before moving to the motor trade first to Houlding's Rover Dealership in Heybridge and then to Lookers Volvo in Chelmsford after Houldings sold up and the site was redeveloped for housing. Then before retirement, a short period at M&S in Maldon.

Dennis sadly died in 1994 but Helen remained in the family home and continued to enjoy the area, Maldon Prom being a particularly special place to her and her family.

Helen was a committed member of All Saints' Church for more than three decades. She served on the PPC and sang in the choir, which she thoroughly enjoyed until her worsening illness prevented participation. Helen was also a keen gardener and was talented in needlework and baking. Helen loved helping others and following retirement volunteered in both of the schools where Alan and Andrea worked.

Helen will be sadly missed by all her family and her many friends.

**A Memorial Service was held on Friday 16th July for Lily Bond who died on 10th January**



**Lily May Bond (1926 - 2021)**

LILY BOND (nee Outerbridge) wife of the late Phillip Bond, Mother to 5, Grandmother to 12, and Great Grandmother to 3 died peacefully on Sunday 10th January 2021 aged 94 at her home on Acacia Drive Maldon surrounded by her family.

Lily had an interesting, challenging and varied life that epitomized grit and determination. Her father died when she was 4 years old and her mother raised her and her 3 siblings on handouts and a widow's pension. During the WW2 a German plane dropped a bomb behind St Mary's Church in Broomfield and the shock wave took off the whole front of their cottage. She left school at 14 and initially started working settling refugee children from bombed out East London. At 15 she joined the war effort at Hoffman's ball bearing factory. Many mornings she would come to work to find the factory bombed.

Lily met her husband Phil at a dance in Chelmsford. They had little money between them but both worked hard, living off one salary and saving the rest. Lily had 5 children and she loved children and the power of education.

At 41 she took her O-levels one by one in evening school, then with a baby in hand she went to teacher training college. She was a reception grade primary school teacher at Mayland and Althorne County Primary from 1970 till 1987. In retirement she volunteered at Woodham Walter Primary school listening to children read. The head mistress at Woodham Walter school said "the children loved her, she took time to listen and talk to every child and they looked forward to her coming".

As a grandmother and mother you couldn't have a more practical or helpful woman in your corner. Lily loved the Church and the community at All Saints in Maldon and for many years helped with the church magazine, church cleanings and Sunshiners, the pre-school group. Lily May Bond was a remarkable woman who had a long and full life.



## **Church Commissioners report strong long-term investment performance**

The Church Commissioners for England have been able to extend financial support to dioceses, cathedrals and churches during the Covid-19 pandemic, underpinned by positive financial returns and despite volatile markets.

The Commissioners, in partnership with the Archbishops' Council, provided £75m of immediate liquidity support and established a £35m Diocesan Sustainability Fund programme, plus a £20m Cathedral Sustainability Fund, following the decline in churches' and cathedrals' income from donations and visitors during Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns.

And the Commissioners' returns in 2020 will enable it to maintain previously announced funding levels in the current 2020-2022 triennium (more than £930m). The Commissioners have also confirmed that it expects to be able to maintain funding at broadly the same level in the next triennium (2023-2025). The Commissioners gave £244.1m to the Church last year to support mission activities and ministry support, up from £211.7m the previous year.

The total return on the Commissioners' investments in 2020 was resilient at 10.4%, bringing the fund's value to £9.2bn as of December 2020.

### **Support Safeguarding Sunday**

The Church of England is supporting this year's Safeguarding Sunday, on 10<sup>th</sup> October, by encouraging local churches to use their regular Sunday service to think about what safer places look like.

The ecumenical initiative from the specialist safeguarding charity, thirtyone:eight, provides bespoke resources, including films and animations, prayers, preaching notes, children's activity sheets, hymns and songs and a safeguarding pledge. A short sermon for use on the day will be provided by Bishop Jonathan Gibbs, the Church of England's lead safeguarding bishop.

Bishop Gibbs said: "Whether churches can give just a few minutes or dedicate their whole service, Safeguarding Sunday is a really helpful and important way of focusing on all the work that goes on 365 days a year in our churches to make them safe places.

"From our children's and young people's activities to clubs for the elderly and foodbanks, our churches are involved in every community. Protecting vulnerable people is at the heart of the Christian message.

"Safeguarding Sunday is all about creating an opportunity for churches to show their communities that they take this responsibility seriously."

*Taken from the Parish Pump website*



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# CHIMNEY SWEEP

Bob Gliddon, who has advertised his services in our magazine for many years, has decided to retire and therefore withdrawn his advert.

We thank Bob for his support of our magazine and wish him many years of happy retirement.

I understand that his son will be carrying on the service, but as yet I do not have his details.

*(this space is now available for a new advert)*



# Paul J King

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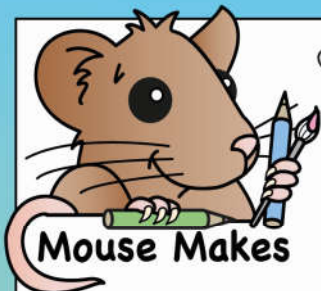
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IN THE BEGINNING ...



What did God create in the beginning?

\_\_\_ V \_\_\_  
and \_\_\_ H \_\_\_

What was the first thing God said on the first day?

"Let there be \_\_\_ G \_\_\_"

What did God separate on the second day to create heaven?

\_\_\_ T \_\_\_

How many great lights did God create in the heavens?

What grew on the dry land?

\_\_\_ N \_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_ E \_\_\_



READ  
Genesis  
1:1-31

\* B S E A S O N S S  
 \* E D A Y F L W O M A N  
 D L A N D O I A N A C I F  
 S T H R E E U G T E N R A I O  
 M V S K Y N R H E A V E N S F  
 U G O O D I T T R E U A I H R  
 L Y S I X G W F I V E T M G U  
 T E A R T H O P S E A I A R I  
 I A W C A T T L E N A O L O T  
 P R V E G E T A T I O N S U F  
 L S X U M O R N I N G E E N U  
 Y U K F R U I T H G O D E D L  
 X H U M A N S O B I R D S  
 F O O D Y H T R E E S  
 C R E A T U R E S

What did God create to fly above the earth?

\_\_\_ D \_\_\_

What did God make after all the creatures?

\_\_\_ A \_\_\_

Find the answers to the questions in the word search then find all these words too:

- CREATION • ONE • DARK • DAY • NIGHT • EVENING • MORNING • SEA  
 VEGETATION • LAND • SEEDS • FRUIT • THREE • SEASONS • YEARS • FOUR  
 SKY • FISH • FIVE • CREATURES • CATTLE • ANIMALS • GROUND • HUMANS  
 WOMAN • FRUITFUL • MULTIPLY • FOOD • SIX • GOD • SAW • GOOD





# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
2 Sam 15, 16:15-19, 17:4-22, 18:1-12, 33, 19:1-8

King David had many wives and children. He loved his sons so much that he never punished them or told them off if they did wrong.

Also David had not said who would be king after him.



His son Absalom was very handsome, and he made friends with everyone.



People began to prefer him to David.



Absalom gathered an army of supporters and they headed for Jerusalem.



David and his supporters had to flee.



A few stayed behind to be spies and to give bad advice.



David was able to get away.

The two armies fought in a rocky wooded place.



Absalom was riding through it when his hair got caught in a tree.



Joab and his men killed him.

When David heard Absalom was dead, he was so upset...



..his soldiers were ashamed they had won.



Joab came back from the battle and found David crying



You should be ashamed! You care more for your disloyal son than for those who risked their lives for you!





# The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

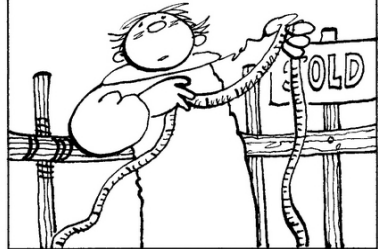


OH! NO!!



BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT

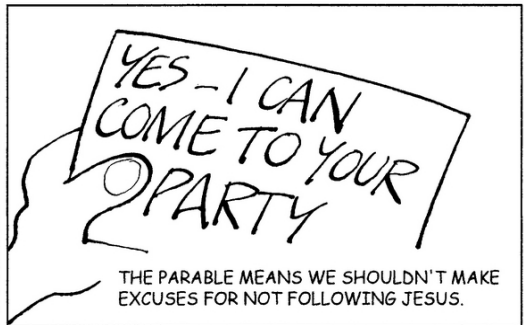


ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



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## **Ending a Relationship**

You don't have to go to court to decide what to do when you separate unless you really can't agree with each other. It can be cheaper and quicker to figure out the arrangements yourselves, but even if you do agree, it's a good idea to talk to a solicitor.

### **If you have children**

It's best to keep arrangements about children informal if you can. This is because courts normally won't decide who a child lives or spends time with if they think the parents can sort things out between themselves. This is known as the 'no order principle'.

You're both responsible for the cost of looking after your children after you separate - even if you're not married or in a civil partnership.

### **Deciding what to do with your home**

There are very few circumstances where your partner can make you leave your home. They can't change the locks or force you to leave, so try to take time to figure out what you both want and need.

### **Managing your money**

You and your ex-partner might be able to agree between yourselves how to divide your money. Even if you do, it's a good idea to talk to a solicitor once you've decided what you want to do.

You'll also need to include any debts you share, like credit cards or loans.

If you're married or in a civil partnership you can ask for financial support from your ex-partner as soon as you separate. This is known as 'spousal maintenance' and is a regular payment to help you pay bills and other living costs. You can't get spousal maintenance if you weren't married or in a civil partnership.

### **Who should you tell**

If you pay council tax, you should tell your local council - you'll pay less if you live on your own.

You'll also need to tell your local council you've separated if you get Housing Benefit or council tax reduction.



If you get benefits, being part of a couple might affect how much you get. You should tell the office that deals with your claim that you've separated as soon as possible - most benefits have a 30-day deadline.

If you get tax credits, you should tell the HMRC within 30 days.

### **Case Study**

*I am separating from my husband and hope to get a divorce shortly. We have come to an amicable agreement about our children and the house but we can't agree about money or who keeps the dogs.*

If your marriage ends, you can ask for financial support - known as 'spousal maintenance' - from your ex-partner as soon as you separate. This is in addition to any child maintenance they might have to pay.

If you're struggling to work out maintenance payments by yourselves, you might be able to reach an agreement through mediation. Mediation starts with a 'mediation information and assessment meeting' (MIAM). At the MIAM you'll find out what mediation is and how it can help you.

If you decide to go to court to ask for financial support, you'll normally need to prove that you've been to a MIAM. There are exceptions when you don't have to go to a MIAM first - for example, if you've suffered domestic abuse. There's no easy formula to work out how much maintenance payments should be, or how long they should last. It's up to you and your ex-partner to decide.

It's worth checking what benefits you might be able to get, or whether you can get anything extra on top of what you already claim. Maldon and District Citizens Advice can perform a benefit check for you to ensure you are receiving all you are entitled to.

A pet is treated as an item of personal property in the same way as furniture, artwork and jewellery etc. This means that the pet would stay with the person who purchased it unless it was subsequently gifted.

Again, you may be able to agree a solution through mediation, such as who the dogs will stay with or whether you want a shared care arrangement. If you decide on the latter it is also important to consider who will be responsible for any associated costs, such as Vet bills etc.

### **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.cabnet.org.uk](mailto:bureau@maldoncab.cabnet.org.uk)



*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

### **Press one for vicar, two for curate...**

My dear Nephew Darren,

Now you have got your new telephone system in the parish, I shall not be calling you again. I refuse to wait for ten minutes every time I ring to have to listen to the cycle of 'press 1 for the vicar, 2 for the curate, 3 for the secretary', until we end with '12 for requests for prayer.' I was tempted to leave a message on 12 to ask that the wretched machine would break down, but then realised I would have to call a second time to leave a message on 13 for making a confession.

And if I have to listen one more time to someone playing 'Thine be the glory' on one finger on an electric organ while I am 'on hold' I will have him excommunicated. At least you have the grace not to ask me not to hang up, as my call is important to you. I would even warm to your system if a voice occasionally said that they couldn't care less whether I hung up or not, as my call was utterly irrelevant to them.

Those poor people who have to wait to reach 7 for leaving messages regarding marriages might as well leave a second message on 8 for baptisms, and save on a large phone bill in months to come. As for 9 for funerals, entire families could be born, marry and die before they reach that one. And may I suggest that your car parking attendant who stuck a note on my windscreen telling me not to park there again is given the number 666.

My own answerphone tells people firmly that the machine does not accept incoming messages, and that I only answer personally on Thursdays between 10am and 12 noon, provided nothing better has turned up. Alternatively, they could write me a letter which may (or may not) be answered, at my convenience.

As for the few who have got hold of my mobile number, my response is to say that I am just about to enter a tunnel and then to switch it off. Callers from other parts of the country now believe that the parish of St James the Least is honeycombed by mile-long tunnels, making communication all but impossible.



You can now be assured that your new system means you will be contactable at any moment, wherever you happen to be. But don't call me to complain and expect to receive sympathy; I shall be just about to enter a tunnel.  
 Your loving uncle,  
*Eustace*

## *Book Reviews*

**On Retreat with Henri Nouwen – Engaging Life's Big Questions**  
 By Chris Pritchett and Marjorie Thompson, Canterbury Press, £12.99

To mark the 25th anniversary of the death of Henri Nouwen, one of the most beloved spiritual writers of contemporary times, this retreat companion offers a guide for spiritual transformation and growth based on Nouwen's own writings and experience.

Nouwen's own spiritual journey, marked by a restless quest and yearning for an experience of the divine, led him down paths familiar to many spiritual seekers today.

The questions he wrestled with are the same that speak to our own hearts: Who am I? Who is God? How do I know God loves me? Where is God when suffering surrounds me? How can I find interior peace in anxious, troubled times?

The book offers connections to contemporary life, points for reflection, prayer pauses for contemplation and prompts for engaging in one's own spiritual quest.

*Taken from the Parish Pump website*

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### Middle

The middle class consists of people who are not poor enough to accept charity and not rich enough to donate anything.

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# REFLECTED FAITH SERIES: "WHO IS IN THE BUILDING" BY JO WHITE

In England, hopefully by the time you read this, all the lock-down and social isolation measures will have been relaxed. Church buildings and services will be ‘back to normal’. Working folk will be back in their workplaces, and all will be well with us all.

I live in hope – but I am well aware that the reality will probably be different. It’s the difference between a switch that turns the light fully on or fully off and a dimmer switch that allows the brightness to increase or decrease slowly. All of us will need time to ‘rest’ before we get our mojo and energy levels back up again. This last 16 months or so have been hectic and traumatic for everyone in different ways. That’s why coming into the quietness and space of a church building can be so uplifting.

**This month:**

Listen out for / read the opening words of the service. Most often they will be the following or very similar: ‘The Lord be with you’. And the congregation replies, ‘And also with you’. It’s a simple acknowledgement that we have come together with the same intention – to meet with God. And that He is with us. With all of us. We are encircled by His love and grace.

Just pause for a moment and drink in those words and the huge meaning contained in those short phrases. God is not just here for some of us, but for all of us. We are not only with those we can see, but with God Himself. How amazing is that! May those words enable you to stand up straighter again and give you strength for the days ahead.

*Taken from Parish Pump website*

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### **The purpose of the font**

That Sunday our Family Service included two baptisms and many young children were there. In his talk, the Vicar asked the children if any of them knew what the font was for – and the answer came back:

“For washing babies’ hair”!

.....





# HOLY DAYS

## **28th August: Augustine of Hippo the Christian for all seasons**

After St Paul, who was the most influential Christian writer ever? St Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430), whose feast-day is on 28th August. He lived and wrote in a time of social and spiritual chaos. The Roman Empire was collapsing, the world was about to slide into the dark ages and the Church was under serious threat from both heresies within and paganism without.

What St Augustine wrote at this time helped the Church both to avoid perversions of Christianity, and to stand strong and unafraid amongst the violent tumult of the times. His writings held sway over Christianity for the next 15 centuries or so, and still influence us heavily today.

Augustine was born at Tagaste, in modern Algeria. His father was a pagan, but his mother, Monica, was a Christian. After studying rhetoric at Carthage to become a lawyer, Augustine instead became a scholar-philosopher. He abandoned Christianity for Manichaeism, and lived with a mistress for 15 years. He moved to Rome and then Milan to teach rhetoric, but slowly grew disenchanted with Manichaeism.

After a long interior conflict, vividly described in his ‘Confessions’, Augustine was converted and baptised a Christian in 386-7. He returned to Africa in 388, and joined some friends in establishing a quasi-monastic life. He was ordained priest in 391, and four years later became coadjutor-bishop of Hippo. From 396 until his death in 430 he ruled the diocese alone.

Augustine had a brilliant mind, an ardent temperament and a gift for mystical insights. Soon his understanding of the Christian Revelation was pouring forth in his many voluminous writings.

So what did he write? Most famous is ‘The Confessions’, the sermons on the Gospel and Epistle of John, the De Trinitate and the De Civitate Dei. This last, ‘The City of God’, tackles the opposition between Christianity and the ‘world’ and represents the first Christian philosophy of history.

Many other works were undertaken in his efforts to tackle various heresies: Manichaeism, Pelagianism, or Donatism, and led to the development of his thought on Creation, Grace, the Sacraments and the Church.

Augustine’s massive influence on Christianity has mainly been for the good. Few others have written with such depth on love, the Holy Trinity and the Psalms. (The preamble to the marriage service in the BCP is closely based on Augustine.) But his views on Predestination and some of his views on sex (that it is the channel for the transmission of Original Sin) have since been mainly ignored by the Church.

As bishop, Augustine fearlessly upheld order as the Roman Empire disintegrated around him. By the time of his death, the Vandals were at the very gates of Hippo.

*Taken from the Parish Pump Website*



## Five Things We've Learnt About Truth in the Pandemic

By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England Priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former Communications Director for the C of E.

### **Truth can save your life.**

Knowing the truth about the Covid-19 virus and vaccines gave vital protection during the pandemic. The advice of scientists, health professionals and researchers has been widely sought out and debated.

But we've also seen a rise in conspiracy theories, anti-vaccination campaigns and growing confusion as people challenge the extent of the pandemic, and whether Covid-19 is really a threat. Social media algorithms stand accused of spreading misinformation faster than reliable facts and corrections.

### **Truth comes from trust.**

Knowing who to trust is one of the fastest growing challenges facing anyone wanting to know more about the pandemic and its causes.

While faith in doctors and scientists is generally good, trust in politicians has remained low, and scepticism and confusion are growing.

### **Truth can be found on your doorstep – but not always.**

Local information has become more important, especially during lockdowns. But with local newspapers and radio in decline, neighbourhood social media networks have been taking their place, spreading information – not all of it verifiable and sometimes incorrect.

Often, it's fear that drives our response to the stories we read. We eagerly consume stories highlighting a new 'threat' from Covid or scapegoating people not keeping to the lockdown rules. We respond emotionally, 'with our gut' – rather than our brain or intellect.

### **Truth has to be valued and protected.**

Reliable, trusted journalism has been at a premium. ITV News journalist Julie Etchingham defended the role of the media during Covid-19. The news presenter, a practising Roman Catholic, explained: "Many in our front-line services and the wider public are demanding answers. We are there on their behalf."

In December 2020, Yorkshire Post editor James Mitchinson, published his response to a reader who believed social media posts over his newspaper's reports. The open letter, headlined 'Do not believe a stranger on social media who disappears into the night' sets out the contrast between verified public interest journalism and disinformation posted online.

### **Truth can be complicated – and that's ok.**

Throughout the pandemic, politicians have spoken about 'following the science.' This, they have said, has guided their decision making. Yet scientists can have a range of views, based on similar research findings. It's in the discussion and debate that scientific truth arises.

People accept that the 'scientific evidence' is not always straightforward. We know that truth can be complicated, from our own daily lives. So politicians who level with their electors about the complexity of the decisions are often received with more credibility.

In continuing to ask the question "Where is Truth Now?" our modest project is helping to keep the conversation going – and encouraging others to do the same.

*Taken from the Parish Pump website*



## Muslim Woman's Path to Christ Goes through Mecca

Aqilah\* was exhausted after her second pilgrimage to Mecca, and sitting down in a corridor near the Kaaba, she fell asleep in the cold.

Her soul also was exhausted— starting with her mother dying when she was 5 and her father sending her to a Catholic boarding school. When she left at 18, her father still wanted nothing to do with her.

“I was the only daughter of my parents and lived as an orphan,” she said, and after leaving boarding school, her father sent her to live with an Muslim uncle.

“When saw me, he ripped the rosary from my neck” Aqilah said. “He treated me harshly and forced me to return to Islam.”

She got sent to the house of another uncle, but he also mistreated her. Moving into the home of another, kinder Muslim relative, Aqilah began to study Islam in earnest. Her studies led her to go on her first **umrah**, a pilgrimage to Mecca that is lesser than the annual Hajj and can be done at any time of the year.

After six months at this home, she married a Muslim and after harried but happy years, in which she gave birth to five children, she decided to go on a second **umrah**.

A day before she set out, she saw Christ in a dream, Aqilah said. She paid no attention to it and continued on to Mecca.

“After completing the rituals, I sat down in a corridor there to rest and fell asleep from fatigue, and the weather was cold,” Aqilah said. “I saw a dream or a vision of a strong light approaching. When it reached me, it covered me, and I felt a warmth. I had a feeling that it was Christ.”

Back home, she secretly watched Christian TV programs.

“Initially I felt angry at some of the programs because they criticized and attacked Islam,” Aqilah said. “But then I began to be convinced by what they were saying. One day I prayed with tears and asked God to guide me to the correct way. I saw a vision from the Lord: a cross covering the globe, then a clergyman or a priest gave me three pieces of bread.”

Looking to learn more about Christianity she found fellowship where local missionaries were prepared to help her, the ministry leader said.

“We explained the message of Christ to her, and she accepted Christ as the Saviour of her life,” the leader said. “Today she grows and advances in faith. But all of that is in secret and hidden from her husband. She was baptized with water in the church, and she has influenced her daughters who come to attend the church intermittently in secret.”

*Taken from the Christian Aid Website*



## Dates for the Diary

**Thursday 7 October:** Civic service in church to commemorate the 850th anniversary of the signing of the Town Charter. More details will follow.

**Friday 10 - Sunday 12 December:** Christmas Tree Festival

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### Flies

A woman went into the kitchen to find her husband swatting flies. “I killed three female and two male ones,” he said triumphantly. She asked him how on earth he knew that.

“Easy. Two were on my beer can, and three were on the phone.”

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## From the Registers



### Funerals

5th July **Iris (Babs) Symon** aged 93 formerly of Wentworth Meadows

19th July **Helen Robinson** aged 71 of Limbounre Way, Heybridge

21st July **Michael Cole** aged 79 of Heybridge



## Prayer Diary August 2021

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

**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
Meeting Point	1stmalDONALLSsaintsscoutgroup@gmail.com	Barbara Gale
Maldon Pioneers	Mike Frederick	01621 928538
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>
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Mrs Elizabeth Blyth Tel 01621 854068 Email: <a href="mailto:elisabeth.blyth@gmail.com">elisabeth.blyth@gmail.com</a>
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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