ALL SAINTS' MALDON

PARISH NEWS

December 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). 4:00 pm Evensong and Sermon second (and fourth when there are five), Sundays of the month) Starting in the New Year
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 **Last Sunday**	6:00 pm Evensong at All Saints Purleigh 6:00 pm Prayer and Praise Service (All age service with simpler format)

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: 1. & 2. Maldon War Memorial: Photos G Dikeman

3. & 4. Two Quiet Places in Maldon: Photos Elizabeth Blyth

Editorial

The Editor wishes to thank all those contributors to this magazine, with the hope that the contributions will continue during 2022.

Vivien joins with me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Peter and Vivien

The Parish Letter

Advent prepares us for both the first and second coming of Christ. It is a time in our church calendar whereby we wait. We wait with bated breath. We wait with trepidation and we dare to rejoice too.

The shape of our culture has twisted so that the waiting is simply for Christmas day. This is a facsimile of the advent that scripture calls us to, but it is a starting point of sorts, nonetheless.

As the Church, we are called to bear witness to the world around us of the eternal quality of a life of faith and, during advent, that is most easily done by talking about the second coming of Christ.

When we focus only upon the here and now, the unseen temptation is that we see only what we can do and rely on our own strength to achieve our ends. When we focus only upon the ever-thereafter, the unseen temptation is that we see only what God can do and rely on His strength to achieve his ends.

These two viewpoints provide an insufficient view of the Christian faith: advent provides a timely corrective. In advent, we live with both the 'now' and the 'not yet'. Advent reminds us of the helpless baby in the manger as well as the triumphant return of the Risen Christ in glory. Advent reminds us that there are plenty of opportunities for us to get our hands dirty, but that we do so with God – that is one of the central *motifs* of the incarnation. Advent also reminds us that the fellowship of all believers will be raised up on that final dawn of the eternal day. Christ come in triumph to take his faithful sisters and brothers home.

That final triumph is one etched in a relationship between the bride of Christ – the Church – and Jesus, our Saviour, Redeemer and Friend. This message is less easy to convey amidst the glitter and adverts of advent. Yet it nevertheless remains vital.

How do we go about sharing that message? You may well have received a letter from our neighbours the Jehovah's Witnesses in the local Kingdom Hall, speaking of the 'last days' and asking how prepared we are for just such a time. They also provide an invitation to consider whether there is truth in the teaching that there is a better world to come and how we might go about accessing it.

I very much value the many conversations that I have shared with Jehovah's Witnesses across the last 20 years or so. I am always humbled by their dedication and often challenged by how focused they are upon the message they share. There are undeniably points where we end up agreeing to disagree, but no one could ever accuse them of underplaying the importance of the end times.

Advent is our time to talk about the second coming of the Risen Christ – not so as to move on too quickly to the Easter narrative – but to open up the later chapters of our story of faith, so that we may grow in assurance of that place that Christ has prepared for all those who faithfully follow.

This focus upon eternity is not something that we hold onto only upon the point of death, but is a quality which underpins our relationship with God from the very start and infuses every breath of the journey in between.

This is not a case of the old cartoon, 'Jesus is coming – look busy' being true, far from it – but an essential reminder that we cannot compartmentalise our faith. As the funeral liturgy reminds us, in life we are in death – so, too, it is true that through faith in Christ eternity reaches into the utmost ordinariness of our lives.

Advent reminds us of the eternal nature of God's promises and we hold onto them as tightly as Mary and Joseph needed too. Advent reminds us that God is with us in our journey for eternity – not in preparation for our eventual death, but now *and* forever. Advent reminds us that our wait for our celebration of Jesus' first coming might be longer than our wait for his second… As one church banner famously said, 'perhaps today.' May we live today in the light of God's eternal promises and pray accordingly.

PS – Two books which might be worth purchasing (Maldon Books – 854968 do an excellent next day collection service) are Conversations with Jehovah's Witnesses by Ron Rhodes and Walking backwards to Christmas by Stephen Cottrell. The first is an excellent aid to helping us to listen well to our Kingdom Hall neighbours, the second an easily accessible book for advent.

Asa.

EPIPHANY

There is an ancient Christian Epiphany tradition called the 'Epiphany chalking of the home' where families gather to ask for God's blessing on their home and all who visit or live there. Chalk is used to write a traditional symbol on the door frame, the doorstep, or close to the door of the house and it might look something like this:

20+C+M+B 22

C M B represents the traditional names of the three wise men (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar). Further research shows that the letters C,M and B are also an abbreviation for 'Christus Mansionem Benedicat,' Latin for May Christ bless this dwelling.
The crosses represent the cross of Jesus.
20 and 22 represent the year that is beginning

This symbol is chalked, together with prayers asking Jesus to visit and be present in that home.

Although you may not wish to chalk the letters and numbers above the door of your house, you might like to use the following prayer regularly:

Jesus, visit this home,
bless everyone who lives or visits here
with the gift of your love.
Help us to show your love to each other
and all those around us.
Amen.

May God bless us all in 2022.
Alan Marjoram

……..

New bank

Mother decided that ten-year old Cathy should get something 'practical' for Christmas. "Suppose we open a savings account for you?" she suggested. Cathy was delighted. "It's your account, darling," mother said as they arrived at the bank, "so you fill out the application." Cathy was doing fine until she came to the space for 'Name of your former bank.'

After a slight hesitation, she put down 'Piggy'.

……..

TEN to TEN RAMBLING GROUP November2021

It was a perfect autumn morning when we set off from Wickham Bishop's church car park for our 5 mile walk. There were twelve of us altogether and we followed the footpaths down to the old railway track. This is a lovely path coming to an end near the old redundant church of St. Peters, now looked after by the Friends of Friendless Churches. After brief rest we set off again to pick up the path that leads to the edge of Benton Hall Golf Club. The wooden trestle railway bridge just past the mill is looking in need of serious repair but is always of interest to walkers. We all enjoyed coffee, hot chocolate and delicious cake from the golfer's outdoor café situated very near the footpath and then braved the path across the course. This was match day so very busy but we all reached the top of the hill unscathed! The next walk will be on Saturday 11th December. More details nearer the time but for further information about walks please ring 01621 854056.

Sue Smith

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

The service and collection of the Christingle candles will take place on Sunday 12th December at 3pm. which is at the conclusion of the Tree Festival. This is a lovely service and supports the work of the Childrens Society, and there are still collecting boxes (or envelopes)available at the back of the church .

The making of the Christingles for the service on the 12th December will take place in the church on
Saturday 11th December at 9am. All are welcome to come and help.

Thank you Elaine Brown.

N.B.

COPY DEADLINE FOR JANUARY MAGAZINE

19th DECEMBER

Church Warden's Chat

As I write this, Advent Sunday is still five days away, but if we were to take notice of adverts on the television we might think that it is actually Christmas Day itself that is that close! It seems a pity that we have weeks of consumerism before Christmas, (much of which is beyond the pockets of many), but very little explanation of what Christmas really means! Nor does it seem to celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas any more!

Advent is time of looking forward to and preparation for the coming of the baby Jesus, the long awaited Messiah. In church, during Advent, we have services that remind us of what is to come, Christingle and Nine Lessons and Carols for example.

We also think about giving to those less fortunate than ourselves, as with our Christmas Tree Festival, where the money collected will go to the Children's Society. I'm sure many of you support other favourite charities at this time of year.

This year Christmas may be more like it was pre-Covid, with larger family gatherings and all the services we enjoy at Christmas time. Here at All Saints we are likely to ask you to still wear masks and use sanitisers as a sensible precaution, but I hope it will not detract from the joy of celebrating the birth of Christ and the opportunity to come together with friends and family we may not have had the chance to see over the last months.

As we prepare for Christmas this year let us look back with thanks for all those who have cared and worked for our well being during the pandemic and look forward, with love and hope, for a better future for all. May I wish you all a Happy Christmas (although I know a little early!) and a healthy and brighter 2022.

Jenny, Churchwarden

Remembrance

At the remembrance service on 14th November, Reverend Graham was the celebrant and he spoke about the great war and some of the work written by the 'war poets'. Graham and his wife, Elisabeth who did the reading that day, introduced some passages from three great war poems written by Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke and John McRae, none of whom survived the war of which they wrote so passionately and poignantly about. To those familiar with the works of these poets all will have their favourite poems, and mine is 'In Flanders Fields' by McRae and this is probably because I have seen the memorial to him where he wrote his famous poem near Ypres in Belgium. McRae, who was with his Canadian regiment, tended the injured there in a makeshift dug out as he was a trained surgeon. The Essex Regiment were also stationed and fought nearby. Our Remembrance service seemed to bring the tragedy of war and of the Great War in particular into focus for me because these poems were written at the time by men who actually fought in it. Graham and Elizabeth used the imagery of the poems to very sobering but great effect.

I have a rather lighter feeling about such a serious subject when I think of an incident from my teenage years. When I was a teenager at school our English Literature teacher discussed the war poets with us during my final year. She must have made quite an impression, because at the following Christmas when my Grandmother asked me what I might want for a Christmas present, I told her I would like a book of poems by Rupert Brooke. This request obviously did not go down well as my Grandmother and also my parents, who were present, said nothing. Silence! Being only sixteen at the time and rather unworldly, I thought that perhaps they had never heard of the author, perhaps Grandmother could not afford it or maybe it was a long way for her to travel to a bookshop. It only dawned on me later that we were living in a council house, my family were mostly labourers and to have me asking for poetry was in some way unthinkable. Anyway, I duly received the book but without any greetings on the attached gift label, just my name. My choice was never again mentioned in my family although my younger sister did approve later when she also had the same lessons from the same teacher. I have never forgotten the teacher as she it was who introduced me to the wonderful world of poetry (and much of it could be very manly).

Another war poet, although perhaps not so well known as the three already mentioned was Geoffrey Anketell Studdert Kennedy, He was brought up among poor people in Liverpool and when old enough he followed his father

by becoming a vicar. When the first world war started, he became an Army Chaplain and stayed in the front line tending the wounded from both sides of the conflict and distinguished himself by his courage and compassion. He often went into 'no man's land' to help wounded men and to give them a cigarette, notably 'a Woodbine' which were strong, unfiltered cigarettes and in many cases were the last thing the wounded man would know. For these actions, Studdert Kennedy got the nickname of 'Woodbine Willie'. It is estimated that he gave away over 800,000 cigarettes during the war, all paid for himself from his Army pay. Historians have said that he was a real hero as he did not bear arms and was always prepared to risk his life for his men. After the war he carried on this type of good work with poor people and died at 45 years of age basically from exhaustion. Woodbine Willie was never considered one of the great poets but those who knew him considered him a great man.

In August 2014 at one of our Sunday Prayer and Praise meetings we discussed Woodbine Willie's life and work and one of his poems discussed was:

WASTE

Waste of muscle, waste of brain,
Waste of patience, waste of pain,
Waste of manhood, waste of health
Waste of beauty, waste of health
Waste of blood and waste of tears
Waste of youth's most precious years
Waste of ways the Saints have trod
Waste of glory, waste of God –

WAR!

Ken Downham

On Remembrance Sunday All Saint's Scouts laid a wreath at the War Memorial during the Civic Service. Zach Steel was proud to help with the laying of the wreath on behalf of the Beavers.
Elaine

THE RETURN OF

Messy Church will resume at All Saints on Saturday 15th of January at 2pm and then on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Offers of help with Messy Church are most welcome, please speak to Elaine Brown. Thank you.

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Christmas Services

Advent

3pm Sunday 12th Dec Christingle Service at All Saints – Asa

3pm Sunday 19th Dec Nine Lessons and Carols at St Giles, Langford – Asa

4pm Sunday 19th Dec Nine Lessons and Carols at All Saints, Maldon – Adrienne Knight

7pm Thursday 23rd Dec Carol Service at St Georges, Heybridge Basin - Asa

Christmas

Friday 24th

3pm Early Crib Service at All Saints - Asa

4pm Crib Service at St Andrew's – Lynne Wood

5pm Later Crib Service at All Saints - Asa

11.30pm Midnight Mass at All Saints – Graham Blyth

11.30pm Midnight Mass at St Andrew's - Asa

Saturday 25th

8am BCP Communion at All Saints – Paul Barnes

0930 Service of the Word at All Saints – Alan Marjoram

0930 CW Communion at St Giles - Asa

1100 Service of the Word at St George's – Julia MacGregor

Sunday 26th

0930 CW Communion at All Saints (*with St Mary's joining us*) - Asa

1115 CW Communion at St Andrew's - Asa

Sunday January 2nd 2022

8am BCP Communion at All Saints – Paul Barnes

0930 CW Communion at St Giles, Langford – Graham Blyth

January 6th

11am Epiphany BCP Communion at All Saints - Asa

Christmas 202

Gill & Chris Nelson

Wishing all our friends at All Saints' a very Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.

Christmas Greetings to our Church Family.
Best Wishes and Christian Love,
From **Colin and Elaine Brown** and all our family.

Jackie & Alan Marjoram

Wish everyone Joy and Peace, Celebration and Wonder. As you welcome Christmas this year

Eddie and Gift

Send their greetings and good wishes to you all, for a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year

Greetings 21

Tony and Stephanie Doe
send very best wishes of the season to all our friends at All Saints' - another happy year

"Christmas greetings to our All Saints' Church family, and all best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year,

From:
Richard, Adrienne and George Knight xxx"

Ken and Joan

Would like to wish all our friends a happy Christmas. We are happy knowing that you are our friends.

Canon Graham and Liz

Wish everyone at All Saints' a happy Christmas, and good health and good times in 2022.

How to beat the internet

Churches across the country are now squaring up to the same challenges – and opportunities – that many local shops and businesses have faced for years. It's all about the internet, and how it changes everything.

In the pre-Covid world, services were held in churches, and people went to them. Or not.

Throughout the lockdowns, most churches went online. Services were recorded or streamed from church buildings, kitchens, lounges or even, sheds. Some looked amazingly slick and professional. Most simply reflected the gifts and technical skills that the church could muster.

The move online brought other changes. Local people dropped in online to high-profile churches in the UK or overseas. Worshippers from around the world started 'attending' services across Britain. People who had not attended church for years, or not at all, came across services online and were surprised at the variety on offer. They joined online services at different times to when they had been available live – and some watched while drinking coffee in bed. Those who through disability had not been able to attend services could now join online alongside those who used to go, physically, each week.

But now, as post-Covid normality largely returns, many churches are facing tough decisions about their online offerings. Do we go back to services only being held in church? Or do we continue with online offerings as well? Where technically possible, the answer must be yes – to keep going both online and in church. Yet if churches want to encourage more people to come through our doors – and we do – we need to look at what's on offer. That means working on the warmth of welcome and the quality of worship and practical teaching.

More importantly, it's about bringing people into the presence of a God who loves them, affirms them and wants the best for them. It's about being part of a community of people who are seeking to follow God, who fail, but go on trying. It's about church as a place where people can feel welcomed, at home, safe, and valued. A place where they are known and loved.

And, when all that is in place, it beats anything the internet can offer.

By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

Taken from the Parish Pump website.

HOLY DAYS

25th December

Christingle: a generous present from the Moravians

On 20th December, 1747, John de Watteville was taking a children's service in his Moravian church in Marienborn, Germany. He led the children in some hymns, and read out verses which the children themselves had written to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Then he explained to the children that true happiness only comes through knowing Jesus. Jesus, said John de Watteville, "has kindled in each little heart a flame which keeps burning to their joy and our happiness".

John de Watteville then went on to illustrate that 'flame'. He gave each child a little lighted wax candle, tied around with a red ribbon. He ended his service with a little prayer: "Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become".

The visual aid was a great success with the children; for the Marienborn Diary for that day concludes: "hereupon the children went full of joy with their lighted candles to their rooms and so went glad and happy to bed".

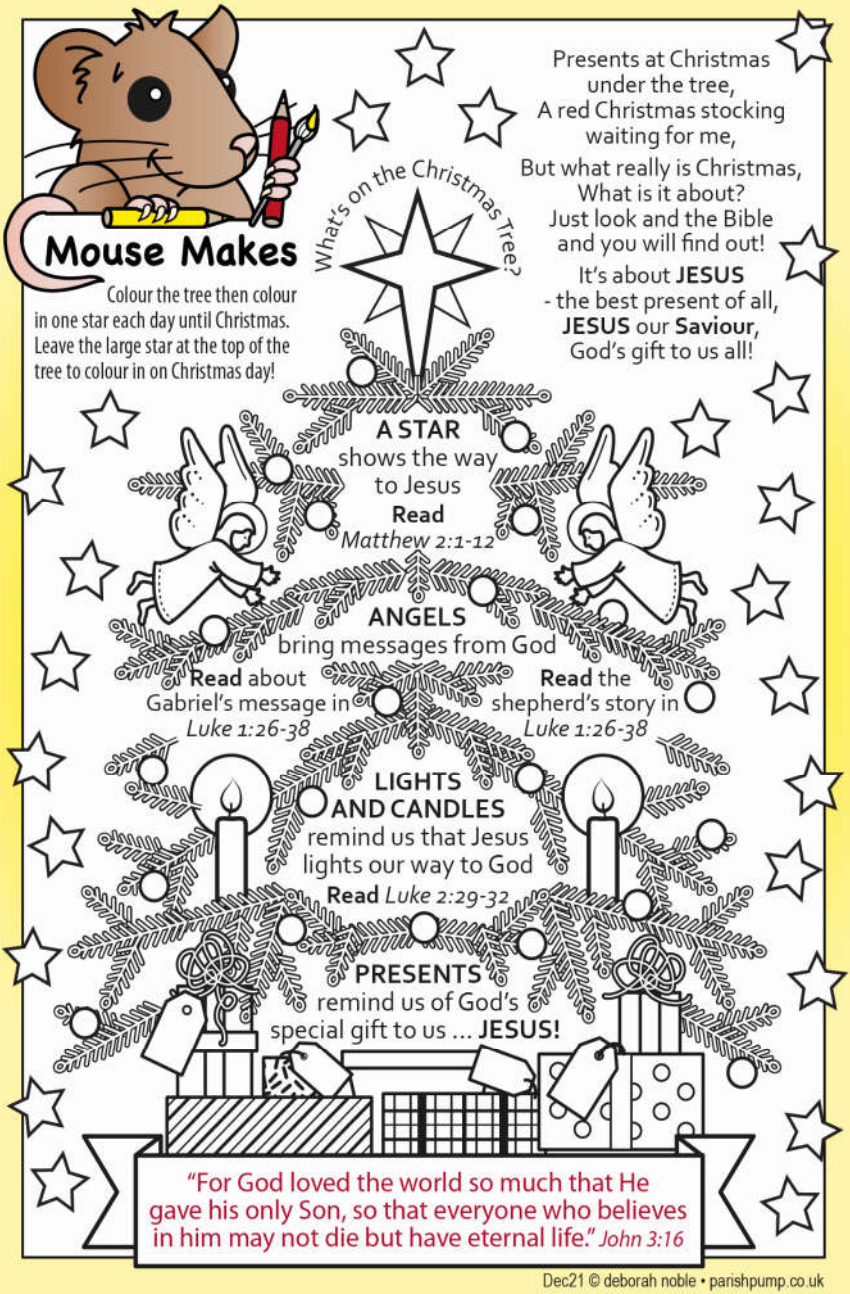
The candle and red ribbon were remembered the following year, and the following after that…. The years came and went, and as the Moravians began to travel beyond Germany, so they took the custom with them: to Labrador, to Pennsylvania, to Tibet and Suriname, to the Caribbean and South Africa. In each country the Christians adapted it for their own use.

No one knows for certain when the word 'Christingle' was first used with regard to the custom. No one even knows where the word 'Christingle' comes from. Some people say it is from the old Saxon word 'ingle' (fire), meaning 'Christ-fire or light'. Another theory is that it derives from the German 'engel' (angel), meaning 'Christ-angel'.

In any event, the symbolism of Christingle gradually developed, until today the Moravians in the British Province use an orange, representing the world, with a lighted candle to represent Christ, the Light of the World. Nuts, raisins and sweets on cocktail sticks around the candle represent God's bounty and goodness in providing the fruits of the earth. Red paper, forming a frill around the base of the candle, reminds us of the blood of Christ shed for all people on the cross at Calvary.

In Moravian churches, the Christingle Service is usually held on the Sunday before Christmas or on Christmas Eve. The website for the Moravian Church says: "We are glad that the Moravian Church has been able to make this contribution to the wider Christian world."

Taken from the Parish Pump Website


Mouse Makes
Colour the tree then colour in one star each day until Christmas. Leave the large star at the top of the tree to colour in on Christmas day!
What's on the Christmas Tree?
Presents at Christmas under the tree,
A red Christmas stocking waiting for me,
But what really is Christmas,
What is it about?
Just look and the Bible and you will find out!
It's about JESUS - the best present of all,
JESUS our Saviour,
God's gift to us all!
A STAR shows the way to Jesus
Read Matthew 2:1-12
ANGELS bring messages from God
Read about Gabriel's message in Luke 1:26-38
Read the shepherd's story in Luke 1:26-38
LIGHTS AND CANDLES remind us that Jesus lights our way to God
Read Luke 2:29-32
PRESENTS remind us of God's special gift to us ... JESUS!
"For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." John 3:16
Dec21 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

A Very Special Baby
JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.
BETHLEHEM
AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.
...YOU MUST CALL YOUR BABY JESUS
ROMAN CENSUS
GO TO YOUR HOME TOWN TO BE COUNTED
MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.
BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL
SORRY...I'VE NO ROOM!
THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...
...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.
SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY
AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.
WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.
THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.
BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...
...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!

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

The Rectory
St. James the Least

On the peril of choosing new kneelers

My dear Nephew Darren,

After all these years, I now understand why the non-conformist denominations sit down, rather than kneel, to say their prayers. That way, no decisions have to be taken over the number, size, shape, colour, material and design of kneelers in church.

Our present set was donated by a retired Major-General in 1899 to celebrate the Relief of Mafeking, and after more than a century of use by the pious and not-so-devout has taken its toll. Like certain members of our congregation, they now look a little worse for wear. Many have sprung leaks, so that when used, a jet of flocking is emitted all over the clothes of their neighbour, who then leaves Mattins looking like a Yeti.

Other kneelers have been occupied by grateful mice, who find them most congenial for nesting and who leave in high umbrage, creating chaos as Miss Mapp chases them down the aisle with her umbrella; that this provides her with the perfect excuse to leave before the sermon is, I am sure, entirely coincidental. The final straw came when my own, by some quirk in its design, now sounds like a whoopee cushion every time I kneel. It may cause the choirboys much amusement, but it lends nothing to the dignity of our worship.

So, we have decided to have a completely new set – and therein lies the problem. Who makes them? What will be the designs? Who co-ordinates the whole project? There is enough here to occupy the combined minds of our Church Council for the next Millennium and there will be enough scheming, manoeuvring, signing of non-aggression pacts and formation of tactical truces to make the United Nations look like amateurs. Unfortunately, we do not have the ecclesiastical equivalents of the blue berets to enforce peace.

The more patriotic members of the congregation have suggested they all show the Union Jack – presumably so they can be waved at appropriate moments in our services; one belligerent individual wants to see depictions

of St Michael slaughtering the dragon, John the Baptist's head on a platter and other such tasteful scenes; on the other hand, dear Miss Timmins wants them all to depict doves or small fluffy creatures, which would make the church look more like pets corner.

Cutting through these vital issues, I have suggested that the entire congregation converts to Roman Catholicism…. and then we could stand for our prayers and do without kneelers entirely.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Book Reviews

Be Still – a simple guide to Quiet Times
By Brian Heasley, SPCK, £9.99

In this easy-to-read guide, Brian Heasley explores the multitude of rhythms of Christian prayer and devotion available to every believer. From memorising scripture and prayer, running to noticing beauty everywhere, he demonstrates how we don't need to be static for our hearts to be still, and how even in the midst of a full, busy life, we can spend quiet times with God.

Packed full of ideas for different ways to pray and tips and advice for how to build prayer practices into everyday life, Brian's book may change the way you think about prayer and devotion and help equip you with all the tools you need to deepen your relationship with God.

This book can accompany the 24-7 Prayer's new *Be Still* prayer course. It also makes a great resource for youth leaders looking to help teenagers cultivate daily rhythms of prayer.

Taken from the Parish Pump website

THREE SIMPLE TIPS FOR STAYING ARGUMENT FREE IN YOUR FAMILY THIS CHRISTMAS

For many of us, the lure of a 'perfect' Christmas lurks in our subconscious. Advertisers play into this desire for serving the best food, the home looking super cosy and festive and everyone wonderfully 'suited and booted'. The reality of Christmas is, of course, always different. It often involves anxiety, tensions and arguments in between the stockings and the crackers. The pressures may be even greater after last year's Christmas in lockdown and the threat of shortages this year. So here are three simple tips to help you avoid some of the stress and have a happier time as a family this Christmas.

Firstly, share – and maybe reset – some of your expectations with family members. It's so easy to go on autopilot, and play the usual roles at Christmas, whatever they look like in your family. This often leaves one person – often Mum – carrying the burden of it all. Instead, sit down for a few minutes with your other half and talk about your expectations. What would both of you like your celebration to be, and what don't you both want to happen? Having this kind of simple conversation gets a lot into the open and will enable you to plan together and share ideas too.

Secondly, be proactive. If you're the one who generally organises and does the shopping, wrapping, cooking etc, be proactive and ask for help and support. You may have to accept that others do things differently, and maybe not up to your standards, but a team effort gets everyone involved as well as spreading the load (even sulky teenagers will usually do their bit when asked.) If you're the partner of the chief organiser, then be proactive in offering support. Tip: instead of saying: "Do you need any help?" (Where the answer is often "I'm ok…") Ask: "What can I do to help today?"

Thirdly, deal with the little things before they become big things. Our natural ways of handling conflict often work against us, and instead make conflict worse. Conflict avoiders will try to avoid awkward conversations and get prickly and defensive. The rhinos will charge in and shout. Whether you're more like a hedgehog or rhino in an argument, try instead to nip problems in the bud by recognising your own rising feelings and finding positive solutions together: "I'm feeling upset about …what can we do differently?"

Christine Daniel is a speaker and blogger for FamilyLife UK, developer of the Toucan Together resource. Toucan Together is a relationship wellness app for couples that covers friendship, intimacy, resolving conflict, love language, and money management. Visit it at www.toucantogether.com

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MALDON
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
2021

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10th December	11th December	12th December
9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm with Shoppers Carols at 12.30pm	11am - 3pm

Refreshments available all day

Sunday12th at 3pm. . . Christingle Service

Free Admission to the Festival but donations are welcome under the trees for the Children's Society

Please support the Christmas Tree Festival in any way you can. There is still chance for you to display a tree, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

If you are not able to decorate a tree, please consider making a donation of money which will go towards decorating trees in the walkway to the door.

I would like to arrange a rota of people willing to steward the event, please let me know if you are able to help with this.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Julie

After-eight Social Club

for the mature and young at heart...

are holding 2 fabulous festive dances in December!

Christmas Party Dance!

SATURDAY 18th DECEMBER

West Maldon Community Centre

Admission: Members £7 - Non members £9

Light refreshments included. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles!

Doors open 7.30pm

New Year's Eve Dance

Cold Norton Village Hall

Admission: Members £10 - Non members £12

Doors open 8.00pm

There is no bar at either of these venues please bring your own drinks and nibbles!

The after eight social club runs various activities every month of the year including quiz nights, meals out, coffee evenings, excursions etc.

For further information phone 01621 856219

www.aftereightsocialclub.co.uk

Witham Choral Christmas Celebration

With

Carols for choir and audience

Excerpts from Bach: Christmas Oratorio

Featuring Colchester Bach Ensemble

and soloists

Gill Wilson (Soprano)

Catherine Wood (Alto)

Conductor Patrick McCarthy

Saturday 11th December 2021 at 7:30pm

Witham United Reform Church, Newland Street, CM8 1AG

Ticket price: £10, £5 full-time education

Tickets available from: 01245 380958

or Witham Tourist Information Centre (01376 520627)

or from choir members.

making music

WITHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Dates for the Diary

Friday 10 - Sunday 12 December:
Christmas Tree Festival
Sunday 12th December:
Christingle
Sunday 19th December:
Nine Lessons and Carols

…….
Silence?
Christmas is the season when your neighbour's radio keeps you awake playing 'Silent Night'.
……...

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

7th November 2021 Francis Colin James Smith

Funerals

11th November 2021 **Leonard Wakeling** aged 91 of Maldon

Prayer Diary
December 2021

1	Those making decisions about our health and wellbeing
2	Those who will struggle financially this Christmas
3	All Postal Workers
4	Those who are terminally ill
5 Second Sunday of Advent	The Salvation Army
6	All charities planning care for those less fortunate than ourselves
7	Those who have lost their faith
8	All Infant and Junior school teachers
9	The Dean, Chapter and Staff of Chelmsford Cathedral
10	Workers in the hospitality industry
11	Those addicted to alcohol
12 Third Sunday of Advent	The work of The Children's Society
13	All who live in our Parish
14	The work of Chelmsford CHESS
15	Places of conflict throughout the world
16	Those unable attend Church during the Christmas season through ill health
17	The housebound and elderly
18	All street pastors
19 Fourth Sunday of Advent	Our preparation for Christmas
20	Distant friends and relatives
21	Volunteers working with Crisis at Christmas
22	Children estranged from their parents
23	Those who will be alone this Christmas
24 Christmas Eve	Christians in the Holy Land
25 Christmas Day	Our family
26 First Sunday of Christmas	St Stephen The homeless and the deprived
27 St John	All shop workers
28 The Holy Innocents	Religious broadcasters
29	All who are in residential care
30	All who work on public transport
31	For peace in the world in 2022

ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Choir Practice (Thur 7:30pm)	Dr. Stuart Pegler	01621 850530
Junior Choir (Thur 7:00 pm)	”	”
Junior Church	Elaine Brown	01621 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	Derek Hall	01621 741690
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
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
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WEB SITE MANAGER	Mike Kneller Email: biggglesworth@btinternet.com

Website www.allsaintsmaldon.com

All Saints' Maldon

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