

# ALL SAINTS' MALDON



## PARISH NEWS

February 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) 10:00 am Sung Parish Eucharist (except first Sunday of the month). 6:30 pm Evensong and Sermon second and third Sundays of the month
<b>1st Sunday in the Month</b>	10:00am Short all age service of stories songs and prayers. 11:15am Parish Eucharist (CW) 6:00 pm Evensong at St Mary's
<b>Last Sunday</b>	6:30 pm Prayer and Praise Service

**JUNIOR CHURCH**

Each Sunday at 10:00am.in the

D'Arcy Room in Church

**WEEKDAY****SERVICE****Evening****Morning Prayer** is usually said in church at 8.30am on Monday - Friday.**Prayer** is usually said in church at 5.30pm on Monday - Thursday**Thursday** 11:00am Holy**Cover Picture:** Taken from the All Saints' website.



# INTRODUCING OUR NEW VICAR

## REV'D ASA HUMPHREYS



**Asa, on holiday with his wife Laura**

I have lost count of the number of places that I have called home since I left university some twenty odd years ago. Between us we have pinged around, from Durham and Norwich, to Ely and London, Salisbury and Nottingham, Cambridge and Bournemouth; before coming to rest here.

All these different places have different highlights – the beach in Bournemouth, the curries in Nottingham, the view from our attic flat in Salisbury and the fish and chips in Ely; and the accents are markedly different too. The people, however, are the same. There is unfailing kindness in the strangers who have become our neighbours and then our friends. There is the same sadness and the same struggles; but the Good News remains the truest source of hope and assurance, regardless of your postcode.

As a family, we like cycling through the long country lanes outside our house and camping (albeit mostly in the garden these past 12 months). We have a lot of books on our shelves, but once read, they are often given away.



Our last set of removal men commented as to how grateful they were that we had far fewer books than many other clergy families they had moved. Such giving away somehow always feels like a blessing – a book, much loved, given away carries an extra significance.

Swimming is important for the three youngest members of the family – I am more often than not to be found holding towels and flasks of hot drinks, always happiest to be serving others.

Our dog, Maddie, is an ex-Guide Dog, although she has firmly entered her delinquency. She feigns deafness when recalled outside, but can hear the rustle of a food packet from several rooms away. She turns 14 this year and is a source of great joy for our many neighbours and friends. She has a place of pride at the school gate and (when restrictions permit) a queue of admirers.

My wife, Laura, served as a chartered Physiotherapist for a decade or more before taking her medical knowledge and using it to teach English as a foreign language to medical professionals. She is a keen sailor and serves at Fellowship Afloat out at Tollesbury. I have variously worked as a researcher, youth worker, in Human Resources, for aid agencies and as a Lay Chaplain – all roles with people, all roles needing good communication. I guess you'll be the judge as to whether I have learned those lessons well or not!

One of the unexpected challenges of the past 12 months has been combining all the various parish responsibilities I undertake, plus ensuring that our children are sufficiently well home-schooled. Bar those few months in the autumn, we have had them at home. On the plus side, they can now wash up, put a tent up on their own, build and sustain a fire, identify a good more number of birds and cook a meal or two – but one wonders what they have missed out on. We pray for God's grace as we serve them too.

Home-schooling throws up some entertaining scenarios. I was on the phone to one of my wardens, when my youngest wanders in with a riddle that his teacher has set him. 'Can I guess it,' he asks? I indicate that I am on the phone and can he wait a minute, but with the persistence of the widow knocking on the judge's door (Luke 18: 1 – 8), he stands his ground and starts asking. He begins, 'what am I?' I apologise to my now laughing warden as he proceeds, 'One, I live in tunnels. Two, I am related to kangaroos and koalas.' He pauses to catch a breath, I try and sneak a peek at his workbook. He holds it tightly to his chest and sticks his tongue out. My warden thankfully is not on video call. 'Three (dramatic pause) I have cubed



poo – what am I?’

The grin on his face is there because he has managed to do his home-schooling task AND use a rude word legitimately. I guess: platypus, he grins ever more widely and says, ‘No, wombat.’ I pause for a moment and wonder if he has just called me a wombat, before realising that the animal he is describing is a wombat.

We are told to help the children to engage with their teaching and so I applaud the enthusiasm he has shown before returning to my phone call. It is no good, my warden has treasured the exchange and gained a valuable insight into my working day. I am somewhat relieved, I had been planning a funeral 10 minutes earlier and so my son’s timing was, well, timely.

A traditional incarnational ministry is increasingly difficult, given the restrictions we labour under and as we move ever further away from the historic model of one priest for one church. Nevertheless, if we can avoid placing our various roles and responsibilities in ‘silos’, we are better placed to reduce the risk of presenting conflicting faces in our different contexts.

The old song about Jesus ‘wanting us for a sunbeam’ may not be sung very often any more, but remains in the consciousness well enough to encourage us; that Jesus wants us to share our all, not just the bits we might prefer. This is a challenge, and leads to some awkward moments. It leads to laughter too and in both cases we grow closer to God, when we take Holman Hunt’s hint, open the silo door and embrace whatever lies beyond.

*Asa.*

## **The challenge to some over-60s**

Last year saw a steep rise in redundancies among the over-60s, and a lack of proficiency with digital work tools such as Zoom helped contribute to the problem.

The number of workers over 60 who were made redundant increased from 8,000 between April and June to 31,000 between July and September – twice the percentage increase of any other groups.

According to research by Rest Less, a jobs site for older people, older workers are less likely to receive workplace training than their younger counterparts, and once made redundant are significantly more likely to find themselves in long-term unemployment. “Contrary to popular belief, most 60-somethings are not revelling in their gold-plated final salary pensions – a long lost preserve of their parents’ generation.”

*Taken from the Parish Pump website*



## Forty days and forty nights



Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions’ by Stanley Spencer

On the 17th of this month, we enter the season of Lent: those 40 days when we follow Jesus into the wilderness and prepare ourselves to celebrate His Easter victory. In the last century an artist called Stanley Spencer planned to create a series of 40 paintings, each depicting a day in the wilderness. In the end he completed nine, one of which is this month’s painting from 1939: ‘Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions.’ It is currently held in a private collection.

Stanley Spencer lived and worked in the village of Cookham in Berkshire. The village and the local countryside were the setting for many of his paintings, and the village’s inhabitants his models. Through their everyday



life he was trying to glimpse and convey the transcendent. ‘Angels and dirt’ he called it: the divine seen in the ordinary. So, in a painting of Christ carrying His cross, Jesus has the face of the local grocer.

Another villager modelled for this Jesus in the wilderness: a strong, hefty, broad figure. This is a great contrast to the Christ of stained-glass windows who often seems too good to be part of our world. Here is real life: a large man filling the canvas with his head, his hands and his feet. This figure of Jesus comes as a shock: a very human model, ordinary with nothing handsome or special about him, apart from his tunic which seems to sprawl and undulate like the hills around. Here is a Jesus born into this world and one with this world.

There are two focal points in the painting – the neat, little scorpion and the massive, unkempt head contemplating each other. One is life in all its hefty reality; the other a tiny creature able to squeeze that life out by one swift flick of its tail.

Jesus is shown in the wilderness pondering the life and ministry called of Him by God – a life and ministry that will take Him from the countryside into the towns and villages and take Him also to the death of Good Friday. Will He find the strength and renewal to embrace that ministry during His time in the desert? During Lent as we follow Jesus, we seek to live for God.

That may mean dying to all that separates us from God.

He has a ministry, a calling for each of us. As we contemplate that calling in this season of Lent, we may find it is a calling that leads us through these 40 days to life and Easter life – we may find it a journey that calls us to die to self to find our God.

*This article by the Rev'd Michael Burgess was taken from the Parish Pump Website.*

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### **Pray with Grannie**

A small boy went to church with his grandmother and joined her when she quietly slipped off the pew to kneel and pray. He even copied her example of burying her face in her hands. But after a few seconds his curiosity got the better of him. “Who are we hiding from, grannie?”

.....



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

### **Universal Credit**

The number of Universal Credit claimants has risen significantly during the pandemic and may continue to rise if the number of redundancies increases. Claiming Universal Credit may not be the best choice for everyone but once a claim is made there is no going back to the “legacy benefits” it replaces. Maldon and District Citizens Advice can calculate your entitlement to all benefits available to you so that the best decisions can be made.

When Universal Credit was introduced it replaced six old benefits which means information can be complicated and difficult to understand. A claim cannot be made and left to continue paying into a bank account without regular attention from the claimant. Inattention can easily lead to payments being stopped. Before claiming, our experienced advisers can tell claimants what they need to know, how to maximise their income and what commitments will be asked of them once a claim is made, so that everything can run smoothly.

Where ongoing claims have gone awry for one reason or another Maldon and District Citizens Advice can help you to appeal against decisions made, hopefully reversing those decisions, and recovering lost payments.

### **Case Study**

**Last month I signed up to Universal Credit for the first time, after I was made redundant. I am looking for a new job but I’m not sure if there’s anything more I need to do to ensure I keep getting Universal Credit?**

When you apply for Universal Credit you’ll agree to a Claimant Commitment with your work coach. A Claimant Commitment is a record of the responsibilities that you have accepted to receive Universal Credit payments. Your claimant commitment will be updated each time you see your work coach.



When you agree to your Claimant Commitment you will be put into one of four work-related activity groups (sometimes called “conditionality” groups). These set out the tasks you’re expected to complete in order to receive your full benefit payment. For example, you may be required to write a CV, sign up for job alerts or apply for vacancies. You can check which group you’re in by logging into your Universal Credit account online and checking your Claimant Commitment. If you’re not online, you will have been provided with a paper copy of your Claimant Commitment.

In order to show how you have completed the to-do list set out in your Claimant Commitment, you should keep a record of the tasks you’ve completed and how long they took in your Universal Credit online journal, or in a diary if you’re not online.

Our website has a great deal of relevant information including:

Universal Credit – What You Need to Know

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/universal-credit/>

Benefit Calculators:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/benefits-introduction/what-benefits-can-i-get/>

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

*Sally Babbage.*

## **Church Action on Poverty Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> February**

This month you can join churches around the UK in prayer, giving and action, on behalf of those who are struggling with poverty. Society should be “founded on compassion and justice, where all people are able to exercise dignity, agency and power,” says Church Action on Poverty.

For free resources to encourage prayer and fund-raising, go to:

[www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/).



 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

*To the nation*

26 January 2021

Dear friends

As we reach the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, we invite everyone in our nation to pause as we reflect on the enormity of this pandemic.

100,000 isn't just an abstract figure. Each number is a person: someone we loved and someone who loved us. We also believe that each of these people was known to God and cherished by God.

We write to you then in consolation, but also in encouragement, and ultimately in the hope of Jesus Christ. The God who comes to us in Jesus knew grief and suffering himself. On the cross, Jesus shares the weight of our sadness.

We therefore encourage everyone who is feeling scared, or lost or isolated to cast their fears on God. We also know that poorer communities, minority ethnic communities and those living with disabilities have been afflicted disproportionately and cry out for the healing of these inequalities. During this pandemic, we encourage everyone to do all they can to live within the guidelines and constraints given by government following the advice of the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Adviser. We show our commitment, care and love for one another by ensuring we do everything we can to stop the virus spreading.

None of this is easy. Very many of us are experiencing isolation, loneliness, anxiety and despondency like never before. Many people have lost their livelihoods. Our economy struggles. Also, the necessary restrictions we live with have also prevented us from being alongside loved ones as they died, or even at their graveside. All grief profoundly affects us, but this pandemic grief is so hard.

Therefore, we need to support each other. We do this by following the guidelines. But we also do it by reaching out to each other with care and kindness.

One thing we can all do is pray. We hope it is some consolation to know that the church prays for the life of our nation every day. Whether you're someone of faith, or not, we invite you to call on God in prayer. Starting on 1 February we invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. A number of resources will be made available at [www.ChurchofEngland.org/PrayerForTheNation](http://www.ChurchofEngland.org/PrayerForTheNation).



Finally, we write of hope. We are grateful for the hope we have because of the service of our NHS and social care staff. What a blessing and lifeline for our nation. We are grateful for the service given in local communities by clergy, other frontline workers and so many good neighbours. We are grateful for the hope of the vaccine. It is a testimony to the God-given wisdom and gifts of scientists and researchers. We urge everyone to take the vaccine as soon as it is offered to you.

Most of all, we have hope because God raised Jesus from the dead. This is the Christian hope that we will be celebrating at Easter. We live in the hope that we will share in his resurrection. Death doesn't have the last word. In God's kingdom every tear will be wiped away.

Please be assured of our prayers. Please join us.

The Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby  
Archbishop of Canterbury

The Most Revd & Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell  
Archbishop of York

*Taken from the Church of England Website*

## **Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani to lead Church of England drive to tackle housing crisis**

Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani is to become the Church of England's Lead Bishop for Housing to spearhead the Church's efforts to help ease the UK's housing crisis.

The announcement comes ahead of the publication next month of the findings of a major two-year commission, set up by the Archbishop of Canterbury, examining the role of the church in tackling housing inequality and examining possible solutions

Bishop Guli, currently the Bishop of Loughborough, will take up the new role later this year when she becomes Bishop of Chelmsford.

The new post will involve leading efforts to implement the recommendations of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Housing, Church and Community which will be published in late February.

The Bishop of Barking, Peter Hill, will serve as deputy and the Bishop of Kensington, Graham Tomlin, currently vice-chair of the Commission, will also provide continuing support.

They will work alongside dioceses and other church bodies as well as strengthening relationships with groups from housing associations to developers and national organisations and landowners. The aim is to ensure the Church of England can play its part including, wherever possible, using its own land well to help resolve the housing crisis.



# Deputy Warden's Waffle

## VIRUS – VICAR – VACCINE

Well what a start to the New Year, which incidentally I stayed up to welcome in; usually I don't really bother. However, I was determined to make sure the wretched old year really did go and welcome in 2021!

Despite there being dark and depressing days, I was so gladdened by the messages in my Christmas cards all of which displayed a hope for better times ahead. The optimism shown by everyone was just what was needed. The light and love of Christmas really did shine through.

So here we all are in 2021, and actually it would be very easy to say, if anything, things are worse: but as we look about us we find we do enter into a new year with huge reasons to be joyful and thankful. We have a new vicar, Asa Humphreys, Asa it is so lovely to be able to welcome you and Laura along with Simone and Able. Unfortunately the installation was not quite what we had hoped for, but many of us were able to join in on Zoom, for some using modern technology for the first time. Then of course we were able to join together again for Asa's first broadcast, how happy it made so many of us singing again, albeit at the computer screen! Wont it be wonderful when we all can be back in church and have a great big welcome celebration for Asa and family, and indeed for us all being together in church again, and maybe in the not too distant future, because of the vaccine. I am very excited, as this morning, I have booked my first jab, and several other friends have also been able to.

So there we have it, Virus – Vicar – Vaccine. And I am glad to say that two out of three we are just so very grateful for, and give a heart felt welcome to 2021.

I am sure some of you will know about the Confidential Prayer Chain, but for those of you who are unaware of its existence, it has been suggested that I talk a little about it. For several years now a few people have been praying for those who are in special need of prayerful support, as they are going through a difficult time, be it physical or mental. These are people who wish that their names and problems are not made public as the issues can be of a highly sensitive nature, for which reason we have quietly going on in the back ground the Confidential Prayer Chain. Should anyone know of someone, not necessarily a member of this church, but a friend or family



member for whom this might be helpful, please feel free to speak to Paul Barnes or myself and the name in question will be passed to only the members of the Prayer Chain who will pray for them on a daily basis. Please be assured this is all done with the greatest level of confidentiality at all times.

Spring is round the corner, days are starting to draw out, and as ever we have each other, the wonderful family which is All Saints church Maldon, and let us hope that soon we can get to know our friends at St. Andrew's Heybridge, St Gile's Langford, St. George's Heybridge Basin and St. Lucy's church.

With love and best wishes to all,  
*Vicky, Deputy warden*

## A Cheer-up Recipe

For any (like me) hankering after Viv Clark's more-ish Peanut Cookies, I found a recipe (in a cookbook for students !) for an approximation – not as good, but acceptable, and really easy to make just using a bowl and a wooden spoon. Here it is for fellow addicts :

Ingredients : 50 grams slightly salted butter (softened), 75 grams crunchy peanut butter, 100 grams golden caster sugar, 1 egg (beaten), 100 grams self-raising flour, and 40grams chopped salted peanuts.

Method : Beat together the butter, sugar and peanut butter in a bowl until well combined. Add the egg and flour and mix to a smooth dough. With your hands roll heaped teaspoonfuls into walnut sized balls, then place well apart on greased baking sheets. You should have 18 to 20. Flatten with a fork and sprinkle them with the chopped nuts. Bake at 160 degrees C (fan) or Gas Mark 4 for 18 to 20 minutes or until risen and deep golden.

Cool the cookies on the baking tins for a little while then transfer them to a wire rack. When cold, store in an airtight tin.

Enjoy !

*Sue Frederick*



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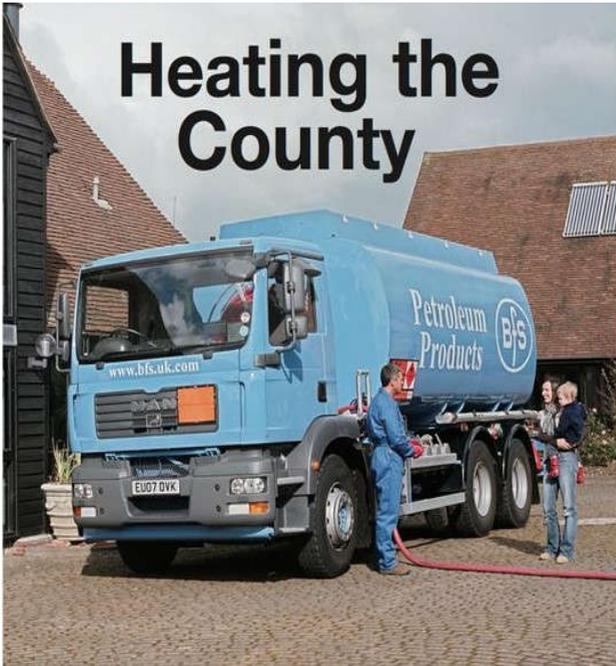
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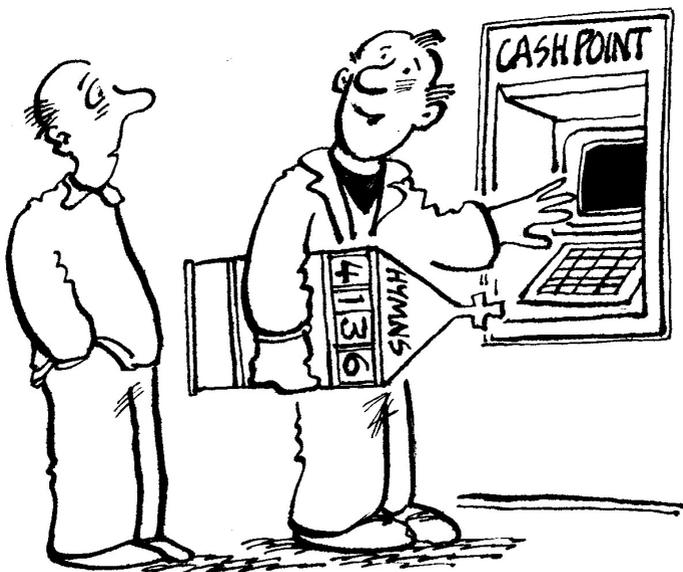
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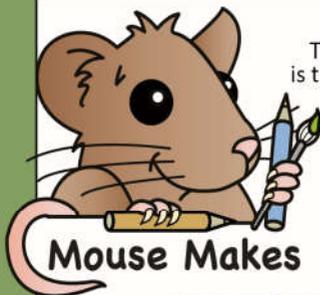
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fighting  
David  
Abner  
king  
land  
tribes

brother  
Philistines  
meeting  
Ishbosheth  
sneaked  
Israel

commander  
Saul  
secret  
angry  
promised  
reward

northern  
tricked  
armies  
Joab  
southern  
enemies



### WHAT AM I?

The last letter of one word is the first letter of the next ....

E \_ \_ \_ \_ T

- What two things did God create first? *Genesis 1:1*

\_ \_ \_ S \_ \_

- What was the Earth without? *Genesis 1:2*
- What came before morning? *Gen 1:5*

\_ \_ \_ \_ G

- Who is the creator? *Genesis 1:1*
- What was separated from light? *Gen 1:4*

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

S \_ \_ \_

- Which day did God finish work? *Gen 2:2*
- Who was created God's image? *Gen 1:27*

\_ \_ \_ H \_

- Who moved over the water? *Gen 1:2*

\_ I \_ \_ \_ \_ S



By the **seventh** day God finished the work He had been doing. God *blessed* the seventh day and made it *holy*. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments the **fourth commandment** said to *remember* the seventh Sabbath day, to *keep it holy* and set apart for God.



**FIND THE CREATION PAIRS**  
from *Genesis 1 and 2*

EARTH	MORNING
LIGHT	FRUIT
DAYS	SEA
TREES	NIGHT
LAND	FISH
EVENING	YEARS
ADAM	HEAVENS
DAY	DARK
BIRDS	WATER
SKY	EVE

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The first word of the Old Testament in Hebrew is **bereshith** which means "in the beginning". The Greeks translated this word as **GENESIS** which means *creation, origin and generation*



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

- Can you find these words in the word search?
- GOD • HEAVEN • SPIRIT
  - FLY • DEEP • EARTH
  - DARK • DAY • LIGHT
  - NIGHT • STARS • SKY
  - SEA • LAND • BIRD
  - CREATURE • HUMAN
  - TREE • PLANT • SEEDS
  - FRUIT • GOOD • TWO
- 



# The parable of the Shrewd Manager



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S PROPERTY.

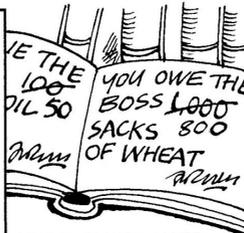


THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAS BEEN WASTING MONEY.

SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!



OH NO! I AM GOING TO GET THE SACK!!

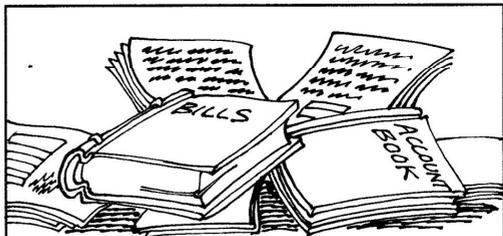
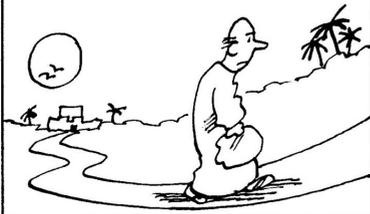


THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!



SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.



JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!

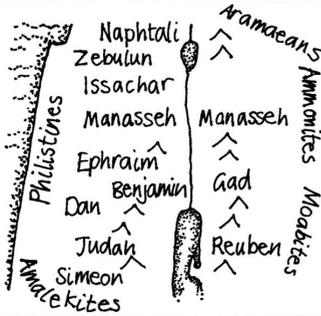


# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Josh 13:8-20:48  
1 Sam 31:1-5, 2 Sam 2:4-24, 3:12, 17-27, 4:5:1-5

When the Jews reached the place that God had promised them, each tribe was given land to live in. But they were surrounded by enemies..



King Saul and two of his sons died fighting the Philistines.



David was made king of the southern tribe of Judah.



But Saul's army commander, Abner, took Saul's last son, Ishbosheth, north and made him king of the rest of Israel.



Joab was David's commander. The two armies fought and Abner killed Joab's brother.



Ishbosheth was a poor king and Abner decided to join David.



Abner persuaded all of the northern tribes to have David as king.



Abner came for a secret meeting with David.



So Joab tricked Abner into another meeting and killed him.



Then two men sneaked into Ishbosheth's house and killed him as he had a nap.



They expected a reward from David but he was very angry because they had murdered Ishbosheth.



So David became king over all of Israel.





# HOLY DAYS

## 16th Feb: Shrove Tuesday

### – who’s for pancakes? by David Winter

Why do we have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, as we call it today? And what is Shrove Tuesday? And why do thousands of people feel it rewarding to race along a street somewhere tossing pancakes from their frying pans as they go?

Well, the answer to the first question is that it is the day before Lent begins and for well over a thousand years that has meant it was the last chance to enjoy meat, fat and other tasty dishes until Easter Day. The ‘Lent Fast’ was widely and strictly observed. The food in the larder wouldn’t keep for six weeks so it had to be eaten. With all these rich foods no wonder the French call it ‘Fatty Tuesday’ – Mardi Gras.

So, what have pancake races got to do with all this solemnity? ‘Shrove’ is an old word for ‘forgiven’ and in those days to prepare for the rigours of Lent people would want to confess and seek forgiveness – not quite what you want at a party. The answer is quite simply enjoying yourself while you can! So, on Shrove Tuesday this year let’s have some fun and make it last as long as possible.

The most convincing (and amusing) of the explanations of pancake races is of outwitting the Sexton who rang the curfew bell that marked the start of Lent. He was reluctant to do it while the race was unfinished. So, the revelry caused by dropped pancakes, postponed the inevitable.

Since the Reformation it has not been so rigorously observed in Britain, but still people will resolve to ‘give up something for Lent’. Six weeks is about right as a duration and Sunday has always been exempt but make the most of those pancakes. They may well not reappear until April 12<sup>th</sup>

*Taken from the Parish Pump Website*

.....

### Bishop

An exam for R.E. asked the following question: ‘What does a Bishop do?’  
Came one answer: ‘Move diagonally across the board.’

.....



# HOPE FOR 2021:

## CELEBRATING THE NOW AND FUTURE CREATION

I find that watching buds swelling on trees and plants during the winter months gives me a tremendous sense of hope. We may all need some extra hope for 2021, after the events of 2020. By the time you read this a number of us may have been fortunate enough to receive a COVID vaccine, but all of us will probably still be under various kinds of restrictions. After creation's winter shut-down, the sight of tiny flowers poking out of brown earth may be more important than ever.

Getting outdoors during daylight hours, enjoying green spaces and getting some fresh air and exercise are great ways to keep ourselves healthy at any time of year. A psychologist colleague wrote, "Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood and increased life satisfaction." I expect it is this sense of awe that makes it easier for many of us to connect with God outdoors.

Helping ourselves and others to thrive is a good start to 2021, but it is also vital to have hope for the future. The COVID-19 pandemic was caused by an animal virus jumping into the human population. Diseases like this are not 'natural disasters', but are almost certainly caused by environmental destruction and poor farming practices - either from greed or the desperation born of poverty. Part of the answer to the current crisis is for us to care for all of Creation, both human and everything else, with God's help.

Our ultimate hope is in God's promise that He will bring about a new heaven and new earth. We can look forward to the day when Creation will be fully redeemed and liberated from evil. The Greek word used to describe the new creation is the same as that used to describe someone who becomes a Christian, whose humanity is restored and renewed. There will be continuity between the old and new earth as it is cleansed and purified, surpassing and perfecting what has gone before. There will



also be some discontinuity, as there will be no more suffering or death. So, one source of hope for 2021 is that we can enjoy both caring for and meeting God in Creation. But the parts of Creation that we find most beautiful, giving us a sense of awe and helping us to worship, are also a reminder that there is something much better to come.

*By Ruth Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director, The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge*

.....  
**Miscellaneous observations on modern life**

As any member of a church committee will tell you, after all is said and done, there's a lot more said than done.

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink lager all day.

If I wanted to hear the pitter-patter of little feet, I'd put shoes on my cat.

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

Good judgment comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

A closed mouth gathers no foot.

'Most cars on our roads have only one occupant, usually the driver.' (BBC reporter)

I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.

I thought getting old would take longer.

Cleaning is just putting stuff in less obvious places.

.....



*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 why our church does not need health or safety...

My dear Nephew Darren,

I appreciated your recent concern when you heard one of our parishioners had slipped on a gravestone. Your desire to help was entirely commendable, and I do know that sending your own church's health and safety officer to give us some advice was kindly meant. But the 200-page report was not welcome. If we implemented even half of your officer's suggestions, life would become unbearably safe.

St James the Least of All has survived perfectly well for the last 600 years without gutter cleaning inspections, path degreasing and electrical safety certificates, so I think we may survive a little longer without them. As far as I am aware, the only disaster to hit us was when Cromwell's soldiers stabled their horses in the nave – which I suspect a few of our oldest members still clearly remember.

The shock the sidesmen sometimes get when switching on the lights occurs only occasionally, is relatively mild and soon over – and if it happens when preparing for the 8am Service, helps to wake them up. The weight of the Duke of Clumber's marble sarcophagus is slowly detaching the south aisle from the rest of the church, but it is very slow – and the pews in that area are used only once a year when his relations visit from America to commemorate his death at Agincourt – which is probably just beyond remembrance of the oldest of our congregation.

Leaks from the ceiling in the north aisle are solved with a row of buckets – and even you must concede that the fungi on the oak beams look really rather attractive when the sun catches them. The sapling growing out of the spire is certainly an issue – although it looks so attractive in Spring when in blossom. As for our fire extinguishers, they were serviced when my predecessor-but-two was in office, and I have the certificate to prove it.

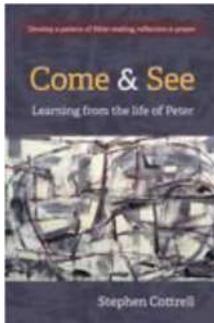
So, do thank your health and safety officer for all his work and tell him we



will bear his recommendations in mind. Also tell him I was so sorry he slipped and broke his leg in our choir stalls while he was with us. But that bit of floor has been out of alignment since 1748, and it seems a shame to disturb it now. If only he had arrived encased in bubble wrap, it would never have happened. Perhaps you could put that on the agenda of your next health and safety meeting.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*



## *Book Reviews*

### **Come and See – learning from the life of Peter** By Stephen Cottrell, BRF, £7.99

When we look at the life of Peter – fisherman, disciple, leader of the early Church – we find somebody who responded wholeheartedly to the call to ‘come and see’. Come and meet Jesus, come and follow him, come and find your life being transformed. This book focuses on Peter, not because he is the best-known of Jesus’ friends, nor the most loyal, but because he shows us what being a disciple of Jesus is actually like. Like us, he takes a step of faith and then flounders, and needs the saving touch of God to continue becoming the person he was created to be.

*Taken from the Parish Pump Website*

**N.B.**

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH 2021**

**MAGAZINE 21st FEBRUARY**



## 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 February 2021

1	Hospital Chaplains
2	All NHS workers
3	The vulnerable
4	The Ambulance Service
5	Those who are terminally ill
6	All pharmacists
7 2nd Sunday before Lent	All Clergy
8	Supermarket workers
9	Delivery drivers
10	Postal Workers
11	Public Transport workers
12	Researchers
13	Those who work in media
14 Sunday next before Lent	Hymn and Worship Song writers and composers
15	All parents with young children
16	All who work in the 'Food Chain'
17 Ash Wednesday	Our observance of Lent
18	Those struggling to cope with depression
19	The lonely
20	The bereaved
21 1st Sunday of Lent	The Churches Mission
22	The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
23	All General Practitioners
24	Hospice workers
25	Our Police Force
26	Members of General Synod
27	Carers
28 2nd Sunday of Lent	Licensed Lay Ministers and Authorised Lay Preachers



## 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 853238
Sunshiners (Pre School Group Thursdays 9:15 am)	Gill Nelson	01621 852119
Tower Bell Ringers	Peter Chignell	01376 571170
	Dennis Johnson	01621 842410
Handbell Ringers	Susan Duke	01621 851623
Flower Group	Betty Smith	01621 854143
Bible Society	Joan Downham	01621854655
Childrens Society	Elaine Brown	01621
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	(Joanne Maloney (membership1stmaldon@gmail.com	
Meeting Point	Barbara Gale	01621 928538
Maldon Pioneers	Mike Frederick	01621 840951
Maldon Ladies Group	Vivien Clark	01621 869667
Ramblers Club		
Prayer Group		
Messy Church	Elaine Brown	

To register your daughter's interest in joining either:  
Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers  
please visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](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
HON. ASST. PRIEST	Rev'd. Canon Dr. Graham Blyth Tel: 01621 854068
AUTHORISED LOCAL PREACHERS	Mrs Adrienne Knight Tel 01621 841329  Alan Marjoram Tel 01245 243868
CHURCHWARDENS	Dennis Johnson Tel: 01621 842410  Mrs Jenny Clinch 4A Belvedere Place Tel: 01621 840057
DEPUTY CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs Vicky Tropman Tel: 01621 857291  Mrs Vivien Clark Tel:01621 869667
HON TREASURER	Eddie Sewell Tel: 01621 851961
PCC SECRETARY	Mrs Julie Ovenden Tel: 01621 858803
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	Mrs Barbara Gale Tel 01621 928538
ORGANIST and CHOIRMASTER	Dr Stuart Pegler Tel: 01621 850530
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# All Saints' Maldon



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