ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

January 2022

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



	January 20		
	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 Purleigh6:00 pm Prayer and Praise Service (All age service with simpler format)		
Sunday	JUNIOR CHURCH s at 9:30am.in the D'Arcy Room in Church		
	WEEKDAY SERVICE		
Morning Pra	Monday - Friday.		

Cover Picture: Some of the Trees at the Christmas Tree Festival. Photo: Ken Russell

THE PARISH LETTER

A recent survey on trustworthiness, the Ipsos MORI Veracity Index, showed that 56% of the public 'generally trust Priests to tell the truth', which feels about right. It has dropped from a high of 85% over many years. That same survey rated Journalists at 23%.

Given the ongoing court cases related to phone hacking, it is clear to see why trust in Journalists is so low. In my experience, however, this is *largely* undeserved. I have worked with and known a few journalists over the years and in their work, there is much to admire – albeit with eyes wide open.

I remember some early training I received which speaks to the tenacity of good journalists. I was told in one sensitive role, in no uncertain terms, that you should always tell a Journalist the answer to any question that they could find out somewhere else. Some of my old colleagues – even still – forget that maxim, at their own cost.

Good journalists will also notice when someone answers a question, but does so partially. Let me give you an example. I ask 'Can you tell me the time please?' You might say, 'yes, of course, it is quarter to eight in the morning' (which happens to be true as I type this!)

Some, more defensively minded individuals might reply simply 'yes.' They answer in a narrow way – affirming that yes, they *can* tell you the time. A subsequent question is required to find out what the time is – or perhaps a better crafted first question.

This serves as setting the scene for a remarkable book I have just studied about ancient textual analysis of early Christian texts and their veracity. A Harvard Professor, Dr Karen King famously published in 2012 what she claimed was 'The Gospel of Jesus' Wife.' This small scrap of papyrus was proclaimed as evidence that Jesus was married. Needless to say, it caused a sensation.

Scholars rushed to support, or challenge the claims as to what the text said, its age and whether or not it was a clever fraud. The impact such a revelation would have upon traditional assumptions about the Church, Professor King claimed, would be significant.

Various scholars looked at different aspects of the text, trying to interpret its meaning. Scientists were invited to test the age of the document and to confirm its veracity. All these different approaches yielded partial answers and the debate rumbled on, with a degree of ambiguity.

One person, however, took a different view. A Journalist, Ariel Sabar, who covered the original conference lecture where the discovery was announced had his curiosity piqued. Over a number of subsequent years, he painstakingly traced together all the different threads of evidence about where the document purported to originate from, who had handled it and unpicked the motives behind its appearance. You can read the full account in his award-winning book, Veritas.

To cut a detailed and thrilling story short (spoiler alert) he proved that the document was a fraud, found and interviewed the fraudster and then went further to investigate why so few of the academics involved had failed so spectacularly in identifying a fraud, whose text was copied from an online PDF and whose provenance was so shaky.

It took him years. Yet, in his search for truth he was, as one reviewer correctly remarks, indefatigable. Pursuing leads whether they lead up blind alleys or into ivory towers, he traced out the truth and presented it publically. Some people still chose to believe the fraud, but they did so in the full face of the evidence he collated.

This story is important for us as people of faith, because it shows that what we hold to as the Holy Scriptures as unnerving and unknowing as they sometimes can be, have a veracity about them that this small fragment so tangibly lacked. As we celebrate Christmas and Epiphany, the events can seem distant and out-of-time: but the accounts they tell retain a well-worn familiarity precisely *because* they have veracity. That they also retain the power to reignite our lives through faithful obedience to Immanuel, God with us is why this season has a thrill of hope about it.

As you worship during this season, lean afresh into that Hope and do so with greater confidence that it is not a false hope. *Asa*

.....

What children have to say about angels

It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to Heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you have to agree to wear those angel clothes. *-Matthew, age 9* Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to do something else. *– Mitchell, age 7*

My guardian angel helps me with maths, but he's not much good for science. - *Henry, age 8*

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from holy cows. – Jack, age 6

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TEN to TEN RAMBLING GROUP December2021

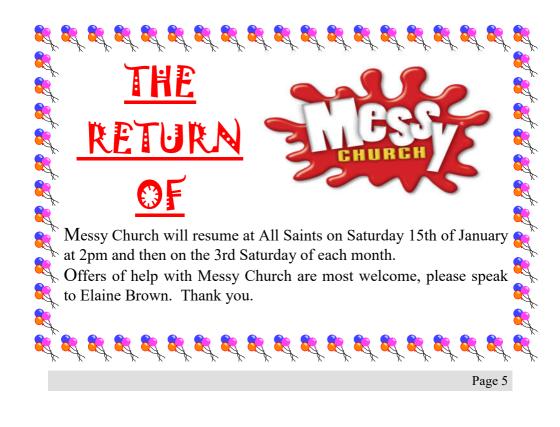
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For December, one of the traditions of the walking group is to do a short walk, starting from The Bell pub in Woodham Walter, followed by a festive lunch at the pub. This walk is an old favourite and goes over the Warren golf course, down through Thrift wood and back through Lodge farm and the Wilderness. Quite a varied walk which, luckily, was not as muddy as we thought it might be.

Unfortunately, The Bell couldn't accommodate us this year so, instead, we had lunch at the nearby Queen Victoria pub. Although not the 'turkey with all the trimmings' we are used to, we all had an excellent meal.

Plans for the January walk have yet to be finalised but it will be at 'ten-toten' on Saturday 8th January. For further information, please contact Sue Smith on 01621 854056.

Peter Holmes





I learned a new word recently. It is 'PARAPROSDOKIANS', which in Greek means "against expectations" and is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is often humorous. Some examples I have heard are:

Where there's a will I want to be in it.

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear to be bright until you hear them speak.

If I agreed with you, we would both be wrong.

War does not determine who is right, only who is left.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism, to steal from many is research.

I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

There are three kinds of people in the world, those who can count and those who cannot.

Going to church does not make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

There are also some attributed to well-known people:

I've had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it.

Groucho Marx

He taught me housekeeping; When we divorce, I keep the house. Zsa Zsa Gabor

I'm a very tolerant man, except when it comes to holding a grudge. Robin Williams

Half of all marriages end in divorce, and then there are the really unhappy ones. *Joan Rivers*

My own words are not usually as clever as the ones I have quoted, so I shall just use some well-known words and say that I hope you have had a good Christmas and will have a healthy and happy New Year. *Ken Downham*

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Well, we have made it to the end of this difficult and unusual year and just pray fervently that all the effort and hard work of so many will allow 2022 to be a more normal year. Much has continued through the use of technology that we can be so grateful for to those with the skills to access and use it. I for one am in awe of all that has been achieved through this, and not just in keeping in touch but actually going forward. I must here name a special person who has made it possible for Open the Book to flourish, indeed spread, in our local schools. Mike Kneller has spent hours filming the OTB teams' thespian efforts on a Wednesday afternoon at Fullbridge Church and turning them into well known Old Testament stories - it was the Moses trilogy in the run up to Christmas which included crossing the Red Sea and a bit of magic getting the Red Sea to flow backwards! and then of course the Christmas stories - camels still to come.

The Christmas services were all covered with the exception of the two Christmas Eve afternoon Carol services which was a shame, but social distancing really made them not feasible. However, the Christmas Tree Festival was just amazing and that and the Christingle service were able to generate much needed funds for the Children's Society. Also the Christmas Fayre earlier in the month raised money for our church funds.

I do hope that everyone has been able to share time with their families and kept in good health. We hope and pray that 2022 will be a better year for us all and pray that we will be able to face with His strength whatever the next 12 months has in store for us. God bless us all.

Vivien. (deputy warden)

N.B.

COPY DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY MAGAZINE 19th JANUARY



Dear Editor,

The Christmas tree festival was a wonderful event and I wanted to say thank you to everyone who was involved. Hurrying round town on Saturday morning I thought I'd pop in for a quick look. Soon I was swept up in the warmth and fellowship of the event and ended up staying for quite a while. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to take time over a star for the memory tree, or read about the organisation behind the tree, or a dedication, or just marvel at the creativity and ingenuity in the decoration. It was a special joy to be able to spend a while talking with people – real face to face conversations have been in short supply recently – so to share stores and experiences was very important .

So thank you again to everyone who worked so hard to put this on. I can only guess at how much work went into it from coaxing people into contributing a tree (from so many different organisations - church, town and community) to managing the layout and set up, providing hospitality, entertaining with music, to the diligent, friendly stewarding. A lot of elements, but this was so much more than a pretty display – it was a really uplifting experience and a timely reminder of the fellowship and community shared at All Saints. Thank you.

Adrienne

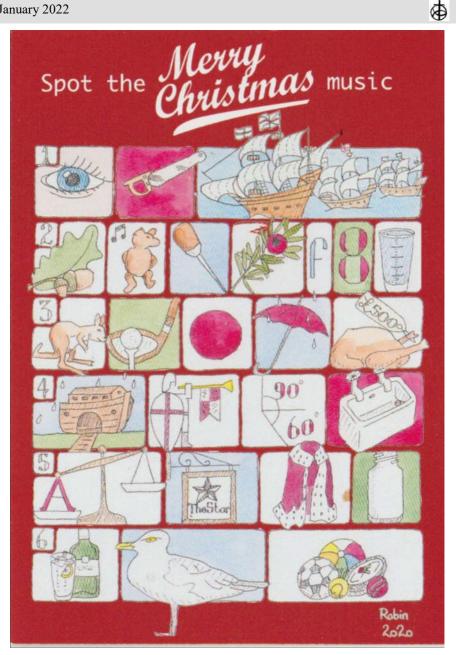
In past years the Christmas Tree Festival has been a great success, but this year it was most spectacular with an increase in the number of trees displayed by organisations and businesses in the town.

The success of the festival is due mainly to Julie Ovenden who had the foresight in 2018 to hold a Christmas Tree Festival and has arranged the festival ever since making it is more successful each year bringing in not only much needed funds for the church but also making a substantial donation to The Children's Society.

The festival could not have been the great success is was without the help of many people; the catering team, the stewards, those erecting the gazeebo, all those who visited the festival and donated to the causes and not forgetting all those who decorated and entered trees for the festival.

It has now become a regular date on the All Saints' Calendar and the date for next December is 9th to 11th

On page 15 is the article Julie wrote in the Link. *Ed.*



A little Christmas Quiz submitted by Asa and compiled by Laura's uncle Robin Vlies Answers on page 24



FUNERAL DIRECTORS



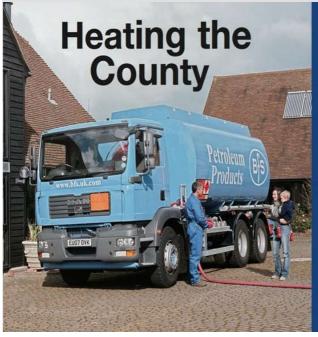
Bereavement Support Pre-payment Plans Chapels of Rest Horse-drawn funerals Green Funerals

www.pauljking.com



January 2022

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January 2022

A.G. Smith

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Some of the Decorated Trees viewed from the Chancel





The tree made from copper pipe and glass baubles with one of the glass baubles with a bath inside.

Photos by Ken Russell

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A REALLY BIG thank you FROM ME FOR ALL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS YEAR'S Christmas Tree Festival.

Let was so great to be able to open the church once again for this event; a we had literally hundreds of people through the doors between Friday and Sunday.

Thank you...... To all of you who prepared the church by erecting the gazebo, putting up lights inside and out, decorating a tree, welcomed people as they came into church, ringing bells, singing carols, printing, baked cakes, scones, biscuits and sausage rolls, made cups of tea and coffee, fried and prepared bacon rolls, washed up and those who cleared up and cleaned the church on Monday...... And I must add a special thanks to those of you who stayed with me after closing each evening to turn off the all lights. We had fifty trees on display, a truly wonderful sight I'm sure you will agree.

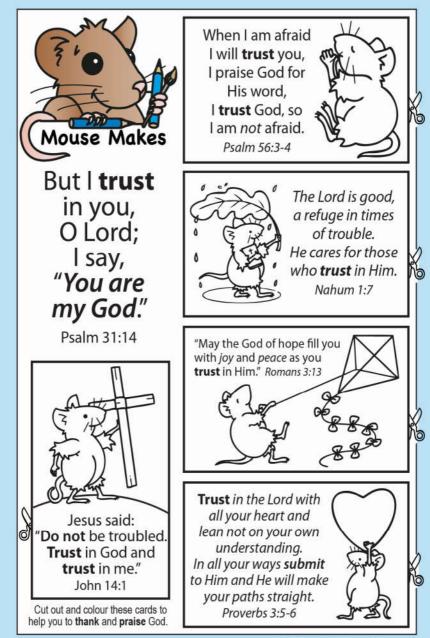
Due to all your efforts we raised $\pounds 1153.00$ from donations for the food and the Children's Society will benefit from $\pounds 540.00$ from money put in the boxes under the trees.

The date for next year's Festival is already in the diary.... Friday 9th to Sunday 11th December !!!

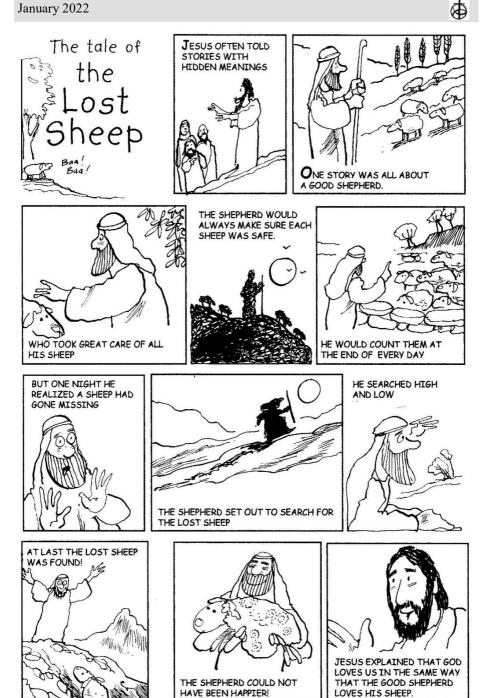
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Thank you again and Happy New Year,

Julie



Jan22 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.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

On parish accounts, teapots and Labrador retrievers

My dear Nephew Darren,

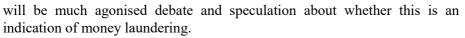
Your annual accounts – all 146 pages, bound in their plastic covers and laid out in faultless detail – really are most impressive. I was rather envious to note you have a clergy 'discretionary fund'; if I were to be given such a thing, my cellar of claret would improve immeasurably – although that is perhaps the reason why I am not given one.

The size of your office expenses makes me wonder if you have a staff rivalling that of the European Community. I suppose that at least you are doing your bit for job creation. Our dear Miss Marigold, who spends two hours a week randomly filing pieces of paper, mistyping rotas and failing to re-order stationery, is only rewarded by being the first to find out who are booking marriages and having their babies baptised – and if they do not happen in that order, that will be another piece of information remembered for future use. All this is information beyond the price of jewels in village communities.

Our accounts have more by way of charm than they do of accuracy, generally consisting of one sheet of handwritten paper. There are only ever three copies for circulation, as that is the limit of Colonel Denster's carbon paper. It seems to be an unalterable tradition that they never balance, until we find the following year that the missing £20 was found months later under the teapot on the mantelpiece. One footnote to this was the occasion when the Colonel suspected an unaccountable £5 had been eaten by his Labrador. Our greatest expenses by far are categorised as 'miscellaneous', which is a catch-all for everything that our treasurer is unable to recall where it really went.

The thousands paid on church maintenance and diocesan fees are nodded through without comment – but if the money spent on Easter lilies or packets of tea for the Summer Fete increases by anything more than 50 pence, there

January 2022



I see that your accounts were professionally audited. Fortunately, it does not matter too much about the accuracy of our own, as I have an arrangement with our auditor who lives in the village: if he refuses to sign them off, then I refuse to baptise his grandchildren.

Your loving uncle, *Eustace*





The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness – the path to true Christian joy By Timothy Keller, 10Publishing, £2.99

In an age where pleasing people, puffing up your ego and building your résumé are seen as the methods to 'make it', the Apostle Paul calls us to find true rest in blessed self– forgetfulness.

This short and punchy book shows that gospel

-humility means we can stop connecting every experience, every conversation with ourselves and can thus be free from selfcondemnation. A truly gospel-humble person is not a self-hating person or a self-loving person, but a self-forgetful person. *Taken from the Parish Pump website*

Why care for the poor?

We should care about people living in poverty around the world because they are people just like us. People who want the same as us: dignity, safety, security, shelter, food, love. – *Chine McDonald*



25th January: St Paul, the first Christian intellectual

This month, on 25th January, the Church celebrates probably the most famous conversion of all. At least, what happened to a young man called Saul on the road to Damascus has become a byword for all instant conversions – what is known as a 'damascene' moment. Saul was a devout Jew, a Pharisee, a student of Gamaliel and a fierce critic of the followers of Jesus, then a very new sect on the religious scene.

On his way to Damascus to start a purge of Christians in that city, he was blinded by a bright light and heard a voice saying, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' He asked the identity of the voice, and was told: 'Jesus, whom you are persecuting'. Stunned by the experience, he followed further instructions which led him to a Christian man in Damascus, who prayed with him. As he did, Saul's sight was restored.

The experience convinced Paul that Jesus – crucified in Jerusalem four or five years earlier – was in fact the Messiah and had risen from the dead. After a period of instruction, Saul was baptised and took the name Paul. At first, some Christians were wary about the reality of his conversion, but over a period of time he was accepted and indeed eventually recognised as an 'apostle', a 'special messenger' of Jesus Christ.

His intellectual stature and leadership gifts quickly marked him out, and within a few years he became a leading figure in the emerging Christian Church, preaching and founding churches all over the Middle East, largely of Gentile converts. He was eventually martyred in Rome, probably in 65AD.

Paul was the first intellectual of the Christian Church, the man who was able to set the events of the life and teaching of Jesus, and especially His death and resurrection, into a coherent theology, with its roots very clearly in the Jewish faith of his own upbringing.

Many people think of Paul as a rather negative, narrow misogynist, but even a quick reading of his letters actually reveals a person of great warmth, who evoked enormous affection and devotion from others. 'You would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me!' he writes to the Christians at Galatia. As for the charge hat Paul disliked women, even a quick read of his letters will reveal how large a role women played in his churches. In terms of the first century, St Paul was a dangerous liberal! So, all in all, the amazing Paul of Tarsus deserves a bit of celebrating on 25th January.

Taken from the Parish Pump website

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REFLECTED FAITH SERIES: "TAKING DOWN CHRISTMAS" BY JO WHITE

Happy New Year!

January is, of course, the time to take down the decorations and put them away for next year. In many churches however, the Crib scene is left up until the beginning of February – the Feast of Candlemas. That celebrates the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

It's yet another moment of 'illumination,' and has a number of meanings.

The date 'set' for Candlemas is the 2nd February each year and it marks the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox. So, from that date onwards the days begin to get longer and the nights shorter.

It's the day when we celebrate Mary and Joseph taking their baby, Jesus, to the Temple. The custom was set down in Leviticus chapter 12, where the parents presented the child to the Lord, and received a blessing from the priests. It was a picture of the sacrifice of the first-born son, giving him to the Lord.

Any ideas on a third meaning? (Answer next month.)

As you take down your decorations, think about where you will store them ready for use next Christmas – and also, how carefully you will put them away.

Will the string of lights be a tangled mess of knots when you take them out of their wrappings or will you be able to hang them straight on the tree? One of the biggest concerns is where to put the figure of baby Jesus. It's usually so small in a Crib Set that it is easily lost and then the Crib Set rather loses its meaning!

This month

Have a think about where you put Jesus after Christmas. Not the figure but the 'real' person. He's easily left in a virtual crib as a baby in our minds, just like the wooden or plastic figure in our attics or under the stairs. If we keep Him as that lovely sweet-smelling-cute baby we miss out on His teaching and miracles, we will fail to understand and engage with His massive love and compassion for each of us on the cross – and most importantly His resurrection. Death is not the end.

Not for Him. Not for us. And not for our loved ones. *Taken from the Parish Pump website*



I will admit that my 10pm to 7am sleepout on Friday 26th November was pretty nasty this year. It was rather wet, and rain got into my bivvy, wetting the top end of my sleeping bag underneath me, which moisture then wicked down the bag and gradually made it damper and damper. The cardboard underneath me also got more and more saturated as the night went on, meaning less and less insulation. It all made for a cold second half of the night, after the stars disappeared* and were replaced with clouds releasing their gentle persistent rain. Needless to say the bench seemed harder and harder as the night went on. *Even I - no Prof. Brian Cox - could make out the Plough in the heavens directly above me. The most comfortable sleeping position on the little bench is on your back, as without a pillow lying on your side crunches up your insides and makes breathing too difficult, so looking up at the stars is a nice thing to do when they are on show, and it's not raining.

So all-in-all I'd say it was perhaps one of my least favourite nights out of the past 13 attempts, and what you do notice when you are doing your own thing like I did this time and last year, is that you are very alone. When you are frequently awake

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in the wee small hours there are no comforting low voices of the sleepout event security volunteers, or the chatter (ing teeth) of a nearby couple who are also awake. There is no-one about (apart from the milkman who came at about 3am), and when you are feeling a bit low there is no-one to talk to.

During this unpleasant night I was at least able to try and look forward to what I may be doing in the warm on the Saturday, after a hot water bottle and a bath. Those were all small things to look forward to, but I knew they were within my gift, and that I had someone to talk to, and to love me. I knew what my day would be like, more or less. I would be in control of it.

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Being on the bench alone, albeit just for the one night, made me think again about the grim reality of being homeless. The lack of certainty, not knowing what your day has in store, and the thought of boredom and the whole day to be filled, perhaps with a lack of proper sustenance, and maybe even the risk of violence against the person. Most of all, a long day stretching ahead of you, and then the long night beginning again, sometimes in filthy weather like we had that weekend on the edge of storm Arwen. Admittedly most rough sleepers will have enough sense to find a dry-ish doorway, or they may even have a flimsy tent, but there is always that challenge of keeping all your worldly goods dry and safe, and keeping yourself safe. A damp sleeping bag is not a pleasant thing.

My night out was made less easy by the blasted cold or virus thing I'd had for over 3 weeks by the time of the sleepout. After I had to get up to go to the toilet at 1:15am the process of getting back into my tight-fit sleeping bag and bivvy was tricky, and by the time I'd managed it all without getting my sleeping bag too wet from the rain, and having straightened out all my layers of clothes that got rucked up, I was honestly wheezing like a broken down

donkey. It took me an age for my breathing to return to something near normal that would allow the possibility of sleep.

It's done now though for another year, and that next night I was able to light a fire in the hearth at home, and look forward to a warm bed. As I always say, it is one night only for me, and too many others don't have my luck.

Thank You to everyone that gave moral and financial support to me and to my chosen homeless support charity this year https:// beaconhouseministries.org.uk/

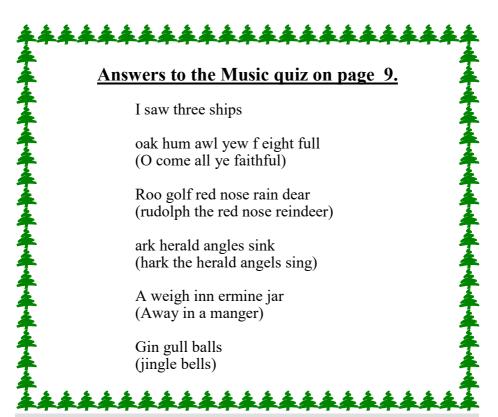
Between the All Saints family and work colleagues in Trading Standards, £1100 + Gift Aid has been raised for Beacon House Ministries. *Richard Knight knight@heybridgeknight.plus.com*

NB

There are no Marriages, Baptisms or Funerals to report this month.

Also, I have no future events for your diaries. If you know of any future events please let me have them for the next edition of the magazine.

There was one future event but that is not until next December and is already mentioned elsewhere in this magazine; something to do with Christmas trees.



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Prayer Diary				
January 2022				
1	Pray for God's blessing on the New Year			
2 Second Sunday of Christmas	Our Area Bishops			
3	Our Honorary Assistant Bishops			
4	Rev. Asa Humphreys			
5	St Andrew's Church, Heybridge			
6 Epiphany	Pray that Christ will be shown to all people of			
	the world			
7	St Giles Church, Langford			
8	St George's Church, Heybridge Basin			
9 1st Sunday after Epiphany	Our Servers			
10	All Lay Preachers and Religious Education			
	Teachers			
11	Saint Lucy's Multi-Sensory Church			
12	Our Tower Bell Ringers and Sidespeople			
13	Our Uniformed Organisations			
14	Our Churchwardens and their Deputies			
15	Those leading and attending Messy Church			
16 2nd Sunday after Epiphany	Our Eucharistic Ministers			
17	All who read in Church			
18Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins				
	Pray for Unity in the Christian Church			
19	The United Reformed Church			
20	All Free Churches			
21	The Quakers			
22	The Baptist Church			
23 3rd Sunday after Epiphany	The Methodist Church			
24	The Salvation Army			
25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends				
	St Michaels, Woodham Walter and			
	St Margaret's Woodham Mortimer			
26 St Timothy and St Titus	All residents of our Parish			
27	The Parish of St Mary, Maldon			
28	The Roman Catholic Church			
29	Our Parish News Editor			
30 4th Sunday after Epiphany Candlemas Presentation of Christ in the Temple				
21	All who lead our intercessions			
31	Our Parochial Church Council			



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	Gill Nelson	01621 852119
Thursdays 9:15 am)		
Tower Bell Ringers	Peter Chignell	01376 571170
C C	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	Zoe Franklin	Email
Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs) 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

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PARISH DIRECTORY

VICAR

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DEPUTY CHURCHWARDENS

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Mrs Vicky Tropman Tel: 01621 857291

Mrs Vivien Clark Tel:01621 869667

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Mrs Julie Ovenden Tel: 01621 858803

Mrs Barbara Gale Tel 01621 928538

Dr Stuart Pegler Tel: 01621 850530

Mike Gibson

Peter Clark Tel: 01621 869667 email: pjandvclark@gmail.com

Mrs Elizabeth Blyth Tel 01621 854068 Email: elisabeth.blyth@gmail.com

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