

ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

February 2022

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)

1st Sunday in the Month

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

3rd Sunday

6:00 pm Evensong at All Saints Purleigh

Last Sunday

6:00 pm Prayer and Praise Service
 (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: Consecration, at St Paul's Cathedral, of Rt Rev'd Lynne Cullens as Bishop of Barking. Photo'd with Bishop Roger, Bishop Guli and Bishop John.



THE PARISH LETTER

“Why do you call me good? God alone is good.” These words of Jesus from Mark 10: 18 are directed at the rich young man who has come to him asking what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus picks him up on a point of deep theology, which the rich young man misses and so begins a series of missed opportunities for the rich young man to look up and see who Jesus really is.

The search for goodness is ongoing. Goodness is one of the fruit of the spirit in Galatians 5: 22 and as such is something that all who follow the Way of Christ will increasingly exhibit over their earthly pilgrimage. For some it will be the most significant fruit and will be seen as such those around about.

Goodness is not an end in itself – as Jesus teaches in Matthew 5: 16, upon seeing such goodness, the hope is that people go on to praise our father in heaven. It is not a treasure that we save for ourselves, but one we spend lavishly upon the world around us. After all, what good is it for someone to gain the whole world and yet forfeit their soul (Luke 9: 25)?

The Christian faith however, has no monopoly on the concept of goodness. It can lay claim to a pre-eminence when it comes to terms like grace, sanctification and incarnation – but goodness has a universality to it. It is something every parent aspires to for their children; every voter hopes for in their elected representative; every patient expects of their doctor.

Goodness is writ large in popular culture and philosophy and the intersection between the two, whether through allegory or science fiction, is well explored.

One of the best examples of just such an exploration is, I recently found, in the writings of Iris Murdoch. I heard a recommendation of her book ‘The Bell’ and was able to reserve a copy through our excellent local library. Murdoch was a card carrying communist, a significant scholar in the field of philosophy and a writer of signal importance. In her life and work, she routinely wrestled with the theme of goodness, not least through the character led stories she created.

In ‘The Bell’ we get a window into three characters’ inner lives as they navigate various challenges. Michael is a deeply devout man, who suffers considerable inner turmoil. Toby is a naïve student about to go to University and Dora – Mrs Greenfield – is in a troubled marriage and very much impulsive. Each, in their different ways, struggle with finding and holding onto what is good.



Michael is constantly trying to ascertain whether his motives and actions are good. Through a 21st Century lens this is less ambiguous than it was at the time of writing, but the struggle is clear. The end of the story leaves Michael with his sad answer.

Toby has his very clearly delineated world flummoxed by both Michael and Dora. What is good for him moves from something obvious to being both flawed and multi-faceted. It is also fleeting as the events of the book end up being an interlude to him, not an epoch defining event as they are for Michael.

Dora, on the other hand, is the unlikely prophetess for what goodness is – at least in the view of Murdoch. She acts precipitously and with great passion and despite presenting like a ricochet throughout the novel, she alights in the central portion of the book, upon a painting in the National Gallery.

It is by Thomas Gainsborough and is of his daughters chasing a butterfly. Dora sees this picture and is transfixed. “She marvelled, with a kind of gratitude ... it occurred to her that here at last was something real and perfect. The pictures were something real outside of herself ... something good. When the world had seemed to be subjective, it had seemed to be without interest or value. But now there was something else in it after all.”

Here Dora, and by implication, Murdoch, are giving voice to the belief that there is something good outside of ourselves, an objective good which is not subject to whim and happenchance. Dora expresses gratitude in this realisation – albeit hurriedly ascribing such goodness to *good* art.

Isaiah 64: 8 says this: ‘Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.’ The loving gaze of a father in the painting upon his children is but a reflection of the loving gaze of our Father upon us, His children. He is the good, good Father – He alone *is* good. Just as God is love (1 John 4: 8), God is good.

In our pursuit of happiness, we can easily get distracted or misplace our hopes and affections. Jesus reminds us that the search for goodness stems from and leads to God, our Father in heaven. May we seek him afresh, as we journey together in the Way.

Asa

Free Travel

Living on earth may be expensive, but it includes
an annual free trip around the sun.



Ash Wednesday 2nd March.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, when there will be a Sung Eucharist at 7.30pm, which will be led by Preb Paul Barnes and Adrienne Knight. For those who wish it, the imposition of ashes will be available as the traditional sign of penitence with which we begin this season of preparation for Easter.

As well as the Eucharist at All Saints' in the evening, there will be Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Andrew's, Heybridge, taken by Revd Asa Humphreys, and Father Graham Blyth will lead a service, at 7.00pm, at St. Giles's Church Langford.

Ed

PHILIPPA HOPKINS QC APPOINTED AS NEW DIOCESAN CHANCELLOR



Philippa Hopkins QC

Bishop Guli has announced that Philippa Hopkins QC has been appointed as the new Chancellor of the Diocese of Chelmsford.

The Chancellor acts as the independent judge of the Consistory Court, overseeing legal issues across the Diocese, especially those which relate to the use of and alterations to church buildings, land and property. Philippa will work closely with the Diocesan Registrar, the Archdeacons and the Diocesan Advisory Committee. She succeeds the Worshipful George Pulman QC who sadly died in January last year.

Taken from the Diocesan Website



A Poem for Mum

When first diagnosed, during a phone conversation,
Mum requested a poem for just this occasion.
When she asked at the time it seemed so far away
But a few short years later, here we all are today.
And when you're in mourning there's perhaps nothing worse
Than trying to compose couplets of neat rhyming verse.
But a promise is a promise, final wishes come true,
So here we go Mum – this one's for you.

I knew you would consider that the past few years
Have been characterised by sickness and suffering and tears.
I concluded it better to reflect on times from before
When breathing was not such an onerous chore.
To recall some of the activities which made up your days
And the qualities with which you were able to amaze.
You were modest and thoughtful; unfailingly kind,
Generous, hospitable and helpfully inclined.

Your attention to detail was extraordinary,
And your forward planning quite legendary.
You worked with young children almost your whole career
With a new cohort of little ones at the start of each year.
First the nursery then the playgroup in All Saints church hall
And later as support staff at primary school.
Your commitment meant that former pupils were inspired
To stay in close contact even once you'd retired.

A whiz in the kitchen, you could whip up a spread
And unfailingly kept us content and well-fed.
Although personally; I still have few doubts
Whether it was really necessary to include Brussel sprouts.
You could turn out roast dinners and all kinds of baked goods.
And quiches and chutneys and rich home-made puds
And pasta and sauces and curry with rice,
And cheesecake and trifle and of course - lemon ice.

You loved to spend time working the soil
And your garden rewarded your labour and toil
With swathes of spring flowers, magnificent blooms
Boasting bright coloured petals and exquisite perfumes.
Pottering in the greenhouse was a favourite pursuit
Where you coaxed new seedlings to grow and take root.
Producing crops of fresh vegetables, ready to savour
Ripe for the picking and bursting with flavour.



A friendly person; you loved a nice chat,
 You would pick up the phone at the drop of a hat.
 Those needing a favour could give you a shout
 And you'd always be ready to try and help out.
 For a tombola, table-top sale or church summer fair
 Your contributions were always selected with care,
 Because you consistently kept a remarkable store
 Of toys and prizes and goodies galore.

A master of planning and organisation,
 You were ready for every celebration
 With a beautifully iced cake or a well-chosen present,
 To make the occasion delightfully pleasant.
 Producing hand-made greetings was an absolute breeze
 You handled toppers, gems, inners and embossing with ease.
 Creating an extensive and appealing selection
 Of cards which were crafted to utter perfection.

Let's not forget your capers in amateur dramatics
 Treading the boards with other fanatics
 Of musical events filled with
 dance and song
 And tunes which had the audience humming along.
 Fun evenings on stage receiving rousing applause
 Whilst raising funds for a deserving good cause.
 And your fellow performers under the spotlights
 Became firm friends with whom you met up for girls' nights.

As I draw to a close, I am fully aware
 Of the many additional elements I could share.
 But we're assembled here now, to say our goodbyes
 With a lump in our throat and tears in our eyes.
 There's a gaping hole without you in our midst,
 And a sense of loss which long will persist
 But we're grateful for each treasured moment and sweet souvenir
 Precious memories of you to cherish and hold dear.

Victoria

NB. This is the poem written by Carol's daughter Victoria and read at Carol's Funeral.

THANKS

" Ashley, Victoria, Matthew and Carol's extended family send a Big Thank You to everyone involved in the preparation and to those who were able to attend the service in person or online. Carol would have been very appreciative of all your kind words and thoughts."
Ashley



The Bible Course for Groups

An eight-session course helping you explore the BIG story.

When I first came to faith, I started reading the Bible from the beginning. From memory, I got as far as 1 Chronicles. Whenever people ask me where to start reading the Bible, I always say “the Gospel of Mark (it is the shortest), Acts (it is written with journalistic technicolour) or 1 Samuel (for a very readable bit of history).” What bit is your favourite?

On 8 Wednesday evenings between now and the end of April, we'll meet via Zoom for an hour so from 1930 to share video input, discussion, reflection and have guided daily reflections in between sessions. For more detail on the course itself, visit this webpage <www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course/groups/#online>

It is a chance to see the whole sweep of the bible story and grow in confidence in finding your way around the various types of stories and the themes developed therein.

The dates for the course are as follows, 2nd Feb, 16th Feb, 23rd Feb, 9th March, 23rd March, 30th March, 6th April and 20th April. If you are interested, please do email me on <asa_humphreys@hotmail.com> and I'll send you a Zoom link.

At Evensong last week, we were reminded of those wonderful words of God from Isaiah 55: 11 "my word that goes out from my mouth will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

What might it be that needs to be accomplished in us this coming year? Let us turn to his word afresh and find out together.

Reverend Asa Humphreys

Priest-in-Charge

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It is recommended that each member of the Group acquires a copy of The Manual which is available from the Bible Society on line shop at a cost of £4.99



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BISHOP LYNNE CONSECRATED AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL



Following the retirement of Bishop Peter last year, the next Bishop of Barking, the Rt Revd Lynne Cullens has been consecrated as a bishop at St Paul's Cathedral during a service led by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Lynne is currently Rector of Stockport and Brinnington in the Diocese of Chester, where she has served since July 2019. She is also a trustee and the Chair of the National Estate Churches Network.

Lynne will be officially welcomed into the Diocese as the Bishop of Barking at a service in Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday 26 February and begin her ministry on the 21st March.

Information and photo taken from Diocese of Chelmsford e-bulletin



Deputy Warden's Waffle

I am sure everyone will agree when I say that Peter Clark is a very dedicated and hard working editor of our Parish magazine; no one will deny that month in and month out he does a marvellous job of producing our Parish News. Sooo—when Peter approaches me saying he needs the wardens waffle, and is it ready, one dares not say, “actually I haven’t a clue what to write about this month” ---sooo, “oh yes that’s OK Peter, I have it all planned out, I just need to type it out and send it over to you” ----when in actual fact the original thought is much nearer the truth! That is until I listened to Asa’s sermon this morning; 3rd Sunday of Epiphany. Asa spoke about the story of Ezra and Nehemiah. A very interesting and informative sermon.

What struck me so forcibly was how applicable it still is today. After a long period of separation from what was loved and understood, Ezra and Nehemiah were sent back to their beloved Jerusalem. They were well aware things would be different, the city of Jerusalem had undergone many huge changes. However, truly believing that ‘the joy of the Lord is their strength,’ they continued with their journey.

We all know that coming through the pandemic, which is still effecting all our lives, that none of us are the same people as before. We have all in some way or another been affected by dreadful sorrow and heartache. Nothing feels quite like it did, in fact the entire world is a different one from B C (before covid)! Also we are facing many changes within our own church family. But I do strongly believe that by supporting one another, staying positive, listening to each other, and allowing our faith to shine through we will come to truly experience and understand, just as Ezra and Nehemiah did that ‘the joy of the Lord is our strength;’ and with that in mind let us all boldly look to the future.

Another positive thing happened to me the other day whilst I was visiting Joan and Ken, I was looking out of their window at their lovely garden, (I am always amazed how people manage to keep lovely gardens in the Winter, when mine looks like a mess of tangles and briars and uncut grass), well there was I looking out, when I noticed snow drops poking their heads through a planted trough, and it just made me think, yes Spring is on its way. Here’s to a positive future with family and friends and **Spring**.

Vicky, Deputy Church Warden



Watch Repairs

If you have a problem with your watch ie: the bracelet is too tight, you need a new strap or new battery, please get in touch with me and I will be happy to help.

No charge, just a donation to All Saints church please.

All watches will be returned clean and (hopefully!) working!

Mike Ovenden



Due to the ongoing concern with Covid, Messy Church will **NOT** resume at All Saints' as previously planned. Offers of help with future Messy Church are most welcome, please speak to Elaine Brown if you would like to help.



TEN to TEN RAMBLING GROUP

The first walk of the year will be in March, details of the walk will appear in the March magazine. *Ed*



Paul J King

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A Reminiscence

In our loft we keep two metal trunks which house items we call 'memorabilia' and are mainly such things as school reports for us and our children, with some items going back more than seventy years for Joan and me. The trunks also contain birthday cards and anniversary cards for special years, as well as accounts of special events along the path of our lives.

I had need to sort through one of these trunks a few days ago as we wanted to look at an item which had belonged to Joan's Mum. The card we were looking for was duly found, but along the way I found a trade magazine from when I was a young student apprentice. The reason I had kept this magazine was that in it was an article about me! When I was an apprentice, I was studying electrical engineering and my apprenticeship indentures required that I attend the factory for four and a half days each week and attend college on the fifth day, plus attend evening classes for three evenings each week. Yes, in those days it was a 44 hour week of five days and Saturday morning, and I was allowed to go to college one day each week on condition that I would also attend for three evenings each week. It was not the easiest way to obtain a qualification but there was no government agency to borrow from and my parents would not have been able to afford to keep me if I had gone to University; however, this article is not to bemoan the hardships of the day but to reminisce about one of my rare achievements!

The magazine article contained a piece showing me receiving the national prize for the year from the Electrical Trades Union, who effectively controlled employment of Electricians at that time. I cannot remember what the actual prize was now, but it was a monetary prize and was most acceptable to me, as at that time after two years as an apprentice, I earned the princely sum of three pounds and five shillings per week.

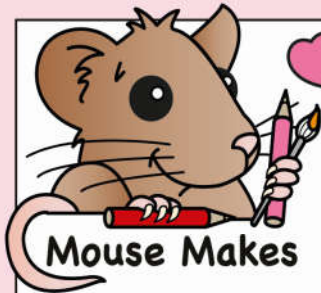


Ken Downham receiving his prize from a Union Official, Bro. A. Thursby



My college studies were to obtain an Ordinary National Certificate (ONC) which was a three year course and then a Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Electrical Engineering which was a further two year course. The HNC was not as high as a University degree but enough to keep me off the shop floor for the rest of my life. I received the ETU award for obtaining my ONC in two years instead of three and on my nineteenth birthday on 11th February 1955, I received the prize. I did also receive a prize from my college when obtaining the HNC with 'Outstanding results' (the college principal's remarks). I was at sea by the time of the award and my Father, took great pride in accepting the prize at East Ham Technical College. Electrical Engineering theory becomes more mathematical the deeper it goes and fortunately for me my maths was always good when I was young. Working in the London docks I was obliged to become a member of the Electrical Trades Union (ETU) which during the 1950's was infiltrated by Communist members and fell under the control of officials who were members of the Communist party of Great Britain. I have to admit to having sympathies with many of their views, and I was at that time of the opinion that it was 'Bosses bad, workers good' in all cases but my sympathies changed when Russia invaded Hungary in 1956 and I saw another side to communism. After some tumultuous years of in-fighting in the ETU the union did resume normality with its leaders striving by all democratic means to get a better deal for their members. The union merged with the Plumbers Union in 1968 and is now part of the Unite Union. I might, in theory, still be a member as I had resigned in the 1950's when I finished my Apprenticeship and joined the Merchant Navy as an Engineering Officer. The Union would not accept my resignation and said that I might need them again later. I tried on two more occasions to resign, but both times received letters refusing to accept my request. I have never paid any fees since, but who knows, I might still be a member and one of long standing! The magazine, which started me on this article is dated February 1955 and so is sixty seven years old and called "Electron"; it will one day pass on to my Son. My maths? When studying, I remember that one day toward the end of my studies, we solved a problem, which was nothing to do with electrical engineering but to find out the optimum size of cartons to contain standard cans of baked beans which had to maximize the load to be carried in a lorry of a given size. I could do that then. Now, I struggle to open cans of baked beans and have to be extremely careful not to spill any of them on my trousers!

Ken Downham



Mouse Makes

See what great love the Father has for us that He would call us His

1 John 1:3

Lord, you are a God who shows _____ and is _____
...You have great _____ and _____

Psalm 86:1



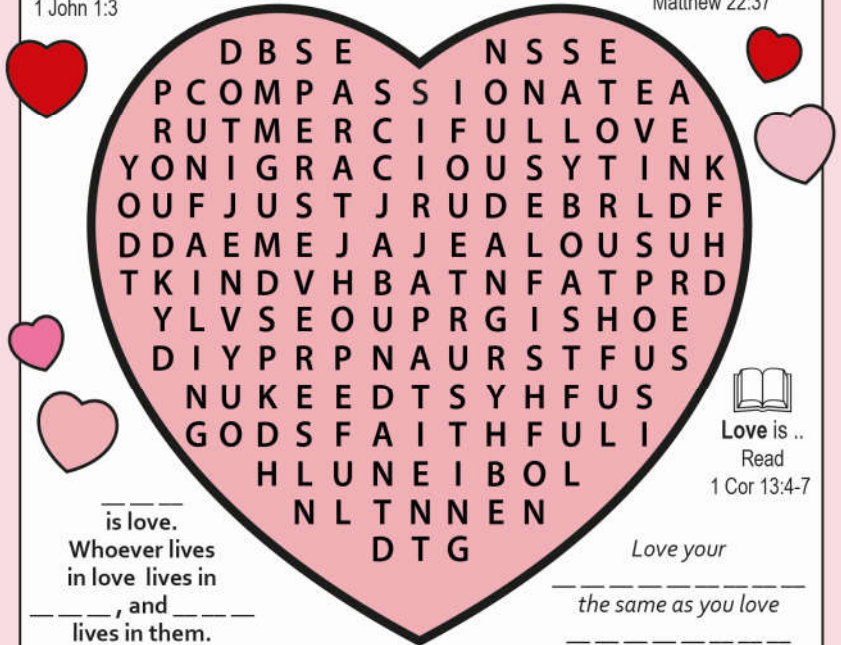
How did God show He **loved** us?
Read 1 John 4:9

Love the Lord your God with all your

_____ with all your

_____ and with all your

Matthew 22:37



Love is ..
Read 1 Cor 13:4-7

_____ is love.
Whoever lives in love lives in

_____, and _____ lives in them.

1 John 4:16

Love your _____

_____ the same as you love

Matthew 22:39

Love is:

PATIENT • KIND • GRACIOUS • JUST • TRUTHFUL • TRUSTING • HOPEFUL
PERSEVERE • ENDURES • GOD

Love is not:

JEALOUS • ENVY • BOASTFUL • PROUD • SELFISH • ANGRY • RUDE • EVIL

God's love is:

LOVE • MERCIFUL • FAITHFUL • UNFAILING • ABUNDANT • COMPASSIONATE



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 15 verses 11-32

Jesus spent his time teaching everyone who would listen, whatever they were. The Pharisees and Law teachers watched Jesus.

He is friendly with bad people, and even eats with them..

So Jesus told these stories:

If a man owns 100 sheep..

Imagine having that many sheep!

and he loses 1 of them...

How would you notice with that many sheep?

won't he leave the 99 in the field and look for the lost one?

When he finds it, he tells his friends to celebrate because he has found his lost sheep!

In the same way there is more celebration in heaven when one bad person repents..

than the 99 who don't need to repent.

Or what if a woman who has 10 small coins loses 1?

What's special about a small coin?

Won't she light a lamp, sweep her house, and search until she finds it?

That's what I'd do.

When she finds it she tells her friends to celebrate because she found the coin she had lost.

It was special to her.

In the same way, God's angels rejoice when a bad person repents.



The Tale of The Friend at Midnight



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO HAD RUN OUT OF BREAD...



...AND HE NEEDED PLENTY AS A FRIEND WAS COMING TO STAY.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS MIDNIGHT...



... HE WENT TO HIS NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE AND BANGED ON THE DOOR - LOUDLY!



PLEASE WILL YOU LEND ME THREE LOAVES?



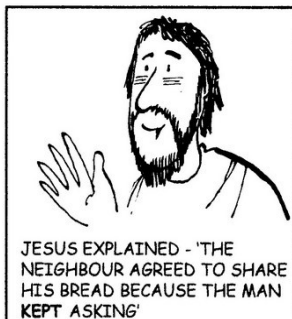
GO AWAY!! WE'RE ALL TRYING TO SLEEP!



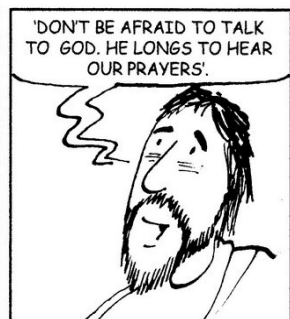
OH GO ON... PLEASE I REALLY DO NEED SOME!



ALRIGHT THEN! BUT I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE I WANT SOME PEACE AND QUIET!



JESUS EXPLAINED - 'THE NEIGHBOUR AGREED TO SHARE HIS BREAD BECAUSE THE MAN KEPT ASKING'



'DON'T BE AFRAID TO TALK TO GOD. HE LONGS TO HEAR OUR PRAYERS.'



THE COST OF LIVING SQUEEZE

You can't help but hear about the "cost of living squeeze" whenever you listen to the radio, watch television or via social media. For most of us it's not just something we hear about but are experiencing on a daily basis as we shop, open our bills, and see the impact on our bank balances. Worrying about money and debt is a major cause of anxiety and depression, but getting help to deal with these debts can have hugely beneficial effects.

By the time this magazine comes through your letter box, the government may have made decisions which will avert some of the predicted rises in the cost of living. These rises include the April change to National Insurance contributions (1.5%) and the huge expected increase in the fuel cap (estimated at £700 to £1,000). This would still leave many demands on our finances such as the higher cost of food (3.5% in 2021). When a household budget is tight due to low wages or static benefit rates, even small increases in daily costs can tip the balance.

If this is a worry for you or someone you know, please do get in touch and let us help you to find a way forward.

Our free, confidential advice can include:

- making sure you are getting all the income you should, including benefits or help with childcare costs if you are working, and free school meals
- helping to recognise where savings could be made and looking at interest rates you are being charged on credit and store cards
- looking at better deals such as with insurance, broadband and phones
- contacting your creditors and asking for interest and charges put on hold while we work with you to make a sustainable plan to manage your finances and deal the debts.

Other ideas for savings you may be able to make include:

- applying for the Warm Homes discount of £140 from your fuel provider
- if you are a home owner, applying for an insulation grant which would then reduce your energy costs.
- if you have been working from home, applying for a tax rebate

Please get in touch by ringing 01621 875774, emailing bureau@maldoncab.cabnet.org.uk Monday to Friday.



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 Lest

On how to survive a residential conference.

My dear Nephew Darren,

I am glad you enjoyed your conference, but please do not be deluded into thinking that conferences are there to teach you anything. Conferences exist to provide another entry on your CV, to give you time off while flattering yourself that you are working, and to make the person leading it feel that their life is not wholly pointless.

As it happened, I was also invited to the same one, the one entitled 'Learning how to say no.' But I refused to attend, thereby proving that I didn't need it anyway.

There are certain useful points you need to learn for conferences. First, about half the attendees will have been together only the previous week attending another conference in another part of the country. They will be eager, enthusiastic, and overflowing with management platitudes. Avoid them at all costs. Should one of them say to you: 'expect the unexpected' you have my permission to strangle them. They won't have expected that!

Secondly, when you are all asked to go through that ghastly process of introducing yourselves to everyone else, make it up. I think the last time I was obliged to do this, I became a butcher specialising in exporting offal to Saudi Arabia. All your clerical colleagues will then panic that they have turned up for the wrong course and the leader will make sure that you are not asked another single question throughout the event. Both outcomes are satisfying.

Thirdly, do realise that when you are asked to divide into small discussion groups, it means that the conference leader has run out of ideas about what to do next. Do not, at all costs, volunteer to be chairman. It only means that when you have to report back – and if the leaders use the word 'plenary', then by all means contemplate strangling them also – you will be involved in sticking sheets of paper on to walls, which will then rip off the wallpaper when you try to remove them.



You will also have the embarrassment of finding that every felt tip pen you try to use will be empty, and what you thought were the conclusions your group had arrived at will be volubly contradicted by all the other members.

No, if you are ever obliged to attend another course, take a good book, enough claret to cover every evening away, and develop a debilitating illness that, while enabling you to attend every meal, obliges you to retreat to your room for the rest of the day. You will leave having learned as much on whatever the topic was as your colleagues, but you will return refreshed and eager to make the next booking.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Book Reviews



God's Plan for Your Wellbeing

By Dave Smith, CPO, £8.93

Perhaps you're feeling that one or two areas of your life need to be redirected and refocused. The good news is...you can achieve greater wellbeing in every area of your life! And it's all connected.

This book shows you how to improve each of the dials on the dashboard of your life. It cover your levels of physical energy and health; your emotional freedom and peace; your sense of satisfaction in your relationship with God; your connectivity and harmony with others; your financial margin, peace and means for generosity; and your role-based sense of motivation and creativity.

Taken from the Parish Pump website

N.B.

COPY DEADLINE FOR MARCH MAGAZINE

20th FEBRUARY



HOLY DAYS

14th Feb: Valentine's Day mystery

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love -cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century – one, a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. Neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day -14th February – the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love – Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

Taken from the Parish Pump website

Valentine's Day Blessing

God, you made us fall in love.
You long for us to reach out,
to risk all
and to be found by love.
Jesus, you came to show the way to love and to be loved,
the power and vulnerability,
the pain and possibility of love.
Spirit, you are the pulse of life
beating in our hearts, echoing the heartbeat
of divine love.
Bless us now,
Father, Son and Spirit,
that we may find ourselves
swept up in your passionate embrace.
Amen

Submitted by Alan Marjoram



REFLECTED FAITH SERIES: "CANDLEMAS" BY JO WHITE

There are three reasons for this festival, which is held each year on the second of February.

Firstly, it's the halfway point between the shortest day and the Spring Equinox, so from that date on the daylight hours get longer.

In pre-Christian times, this day was known as the 'Feast of Lights' and celebrated the increase strength of the life-giving sun as Winter gave way to Spring.

Secondly, it's when we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby Jesus, to the Temple forty days after His birth.

And the third reason? It's directly linked to the name of the feast – Candlemas. It was so named because on that day each year all the candles for the coming year were brought into the church to be blessed at a 'mass'. Remember that candles were important in those days, not only because there were no electric lights; people thought they gave protection against plague and illness and famine.

In many churches on this feast there will be a procession of the whole congregation with lighted candles – often inside the whole building, going into every 'dark' corner. Everyone carries their own lighted candle, which they are encouraged to take home and light there also.

One of the prayers that may be used is this:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
You make our darkness to be light.
For with You is the well of life
and in Your light shall we see light.

This month

Christ is often called the 'Light of the World' who came to bring light, hope, and peace into our darkness. Have a think about those places that are dark for you and perhaps you do not like going there or will not go there. Perhaps they are too painful or scary. Just pause for a short time with a lit candle and imagine Jesus going there for you or with you. Lighting your way. Making it safe. He came to give us life – and life to the full – even in those dark places.

Taken from the Parish Pump website



WITHAM CHORAL



Press Release:

Conductor, Patrick McCarthy retires from Witham Choral with Haydn’s Creation at Witham Public Hall.

Witham Choral and the Colchester Philharmonic, conducted by Patrick McCarthy, will be bringing Haydn’s Creation to Witham Public Hall on Saturday 2 April 2022 at 7.30 p.m. It will be Patrick’s last concert with the choir as he will be retiring due to ill health.

“The Creation is a wonderfully elegant, tuneful and descriptive work,” Patrick told us. “It is very much a choral favourite among choirs and audiences alike and this concert will be a great way to bid farewell to Witham Choral. I have enjoyed many years with the choir and can look back on many wonderful concerts in both England and Germany.”

Talented soloists Gill Wilson (soprano), Robin Morgan (tenor) and Jack Holton (baritone) will be helping to tell the well-known story, representing the Archangels and Adam and Eve. Chairman Stephen Northfield said, “ I am looking forward to singing this very accessible piece and am sure our audience will love it. We are sorry to be losing Patrick but I am sure this final performance will be a fitting tribute to him.”

Tickets are £15 (Senior Citizens £14 and those in full-time education £5) are available from the Public Hall on 0345 0178717 or info@withampublichall.co.uk and on the door.

For more details visit Witham Choral website
www.withamchoralsociety.org.uk

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Say it with flowers

A man stopped by his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine’s Day. He asked the proprietor,

“You know the expression, ‘Say it with flowers?’”

“I do indeed!” the florist enthused.

“How about three dozen of my finest roses?”

The man hesitated.

“No, make it just a half dozen roses. I’m a man of few words.”

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After Eight Social Club

Saturday 19th February Dance Night!

**Dancing to sounds from the 60's up to the
present!**

**Maldon Town Hall
Doors open 7.30pm**

**No bar - please bring own drinks
Optional Fish & chips can be ordered and paid
for on the door**

Admission: £6 members, £8 non-members

**For further information contact Mike on 01621 856219
Please check website for confirmation of event.
www.aftereightsocialclub.co.uk**



Five famous quotes from Desmond Tutu

The recent death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu was mourned around the world. Here are five of his more famous quotes, which show why he was so especially honoured for his justice and reconciliation work in South Africa.

- “Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”
- “If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.”
- “Don’t raise your voice, improve your argument. Good sense does not always lie with the loudest shouters, nor can we say that a large, unruly crowd is always the best arbiter of what is right.”
- “Forgiving is not forgetting; it’s actually remembering – remembering and not using your right to hit back. It’s a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don’t want to repeat what happened.”
- “Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need of one another.”

Taken from the parish pump website

From the Registers

Funerals

13th January **Carol Saunders** aged 72 of Acacia Drive





Prayer Diary February 2022

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



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
Meeting Point	1stmalDONALLSsaintsscoutgroup@gmail.com	Barbara Gale
Maldon Pioneers	Mike Frederick	01621 928538
Maldon Ladies Group	Vivien Clark	01621 840951
Ramblers Club		01621 869667
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
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HON TREASURER	Eddie Sewell Tel: 01621 851961
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All Saints' Maldon



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