



Christingle 2022

ALL SAINTS MALDON PARISH NEWS

January 2023

Church info

JANUARY

Sunday 1st	08.00 09.30	Holy Communion Fr John Holy Communion Rev Noelle
Sunday 8th	08.00 09.30 16.00	Holy Communion Fr John Worship For All Rev Jordan & Adrienne Evensong Rev Jordan & Adrienne
Sunday 15th	08.00 09.30	Holy Communion Fr John Holy Communion Rev Noelle
Sunday 22nd	08.00 09.30	Morning Prayer Alan Holy Communion Fr John
Sunday 29th	08.00 09.30	Holy Communion Fr John Holy Communion Rev Noelle

£1

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Cover photo, taken by Mike K at the Christingle last December
all contributions sent to the editor will be most welcome.



The Parish Letter

Dear friends,

How marvellous, a pristine new year ahead of us! I wonder what 2023 holds for us all, as individuals and as a church. I do like the idea of a fresh start.

Unfortunately, all too often fresh starts turn into a continuation of the old and we find that nothing has really changed, and that can be really discouraging.

Are you wanting change? Are you discouraged? Well perhaps a change of tack is required. I have started to learn that only God can do the necessary stuff that change requires and sadly, God does not just snap some heavenly fingers to do this stuff. I tried praying for patience and found that rather than being given a large dollop of the stuff I was given some awkward folk to love, folk who would exercise my patience muscles and make them stronger. (Obviously, this all happened in a former life rather than here in Maldon!)

I'm afraid that if we want change we have to find ways of spending time with God. We also have to be honest with God and ourselves facing up to the realities of who we are. Are we exhausted trying to be all things to all people because deep down we think this is the only way to be loved/safe/...? Are we angry but cannot express it? All too often our most severe critic is the voice in our head telling us off for what we feel.

Why not try something different. When you feel something negative or "wrong"

instead of trying to deny this, or telling yourself off, try sitting with God and allow yourself to honestly feel what you are experiencing. God made our bodies and our feelings, they are there for a purpose – even those feelings we experience as negative or "wrong".

As we sit with God silently, or telling God how things really are... As we sit with God and accept what we are really like...As we sit with God and accept the reality that we have NO skeletons in the cupboards of our life that God does not already know about... As we sit with all this and dare to believe the promise of Jesus (*Matt 28:20*) that God will never abandon us or stop loving us, ever. Then the Spirit of God will be able to touch the very heart of our lives and enable us to grow into wholeness. Grow into the people God created us to be.

Some of my prayers for 2023 are that this year each of us will grow in our understanding of the length, breadth, height and depth of love that God has for this world and for you and me and that we will be transformed by this discovery.

With love - Noelle

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This is my first Parish News as editor so I hope all the items come out as they were designed to—sometimes computers make errors and we don't always notice them so, Gift and Eddie, I have to apologise to you for not spotting your Christmas wishes did not come out as you intended them to. I hope that by reprinting it in this edition we will be in time to convey your good wishes to everyone for the New Year.

Editor



Eddie & Gift

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

From the PCC Secretary

Vicarage Parking: Since Jordan and his family moved in to the Vicarage six months ago, they have tried to be accommodating but as a family they do require some degree of privacy and recent parking issues at the Vicarage have not allowed this to happen. The parking needs to be tightened up.

Following discussion at the PCC meeting on Monday 5 December the following was agreed:

- In the New Year, the current parking area will be marked into five bays.
- Parking will be allowed in these bays only between the hours of 9am and 5pm for those involved in leading services or helping at the church. Parking outside these allocated bays will not be permitted.
- There will be NO parking at the Vicarage on a Saturday or any evening after 5pm.
- The server on duty at 8am will be able to park there as it is dark when they arrive for their duty.
- Visiting clergy will be permitted to park.

Misuse of the car park will in future mean the car park will not be available to anyone



Good to see the vicarage being lived in again

The Maldon Pioneers



Louisa Thorpe
07506 997655,

email

pioneersmaldon@gmail.com

Hello, this is Katie from Maldon Pioneers and I would like to tell you about our activities and outings.

In October we saw a Witham Amateur Operatic Show called *Flames Of Injustice*. It was a true story and they wrote it themselves. We enjoyed Promenaders 40th and final show in November and all sang along.

We were very excited to turn on the Maldon High Street Christmas Lights. We had our last ever disco at Witham United Reformed Church in November, we are very sad because we have been going there for many years. We had a 'Wishing Tree' at All Saints Christmas Tree Festival.

Our Christmas party was at the Town Hall, we held a raffle using prizes kindly donated by shops in Maldon. Our Acting



Chair, Chris Dove and her friends did a buffet and Brian Hunt did karaoke, we love singing and dancing. Some of us belong to a group called Music Man and had a Christmas concert in Southend.

We have a Drop-In Group at All Saints on Monday mornings where

we have a cuppa, chat and play bingo or dominoes. Nicky from Moat Foundation helps us with I.T. on Monday mornings.

On Thursday mornings at Maldon URC, we have an exercise group called Move It Or Lose It—to keep us fit. We often go out in our minibus, once a month we go to the Empire Cinema in Halstead, they give us lovely cakes and we have lunch

at a pub called the Locomotive. Sometimes we go shopping or to places like Romford Dog Track and Mersea Island.

If you want to know more about Maldon Pioneers or think you may be able to help us, please contact our Activities Coordinator,

Louisa Thorpe **07506 997655**,
email pioneersmaldon@gmail.com
or see our website
themaldonpioneers.com
or
Facebook Page @maldonpioneers

TEN to TEN the RAMBLING GROUP

Woodham Walter walk and Christmas lunch 10th December 2022

Six walkers met in The Bell car park and set off on a cold but very sunny morning for a favourite walk around Woodham Walter. Peter led the walk and we started off up the slope across Bell Meadow and on towards the Warren Golf course. Not a golfer in sight on this frosty morning so we were able to cross easily. From there we headed along the track towards the road which we crossed and followed the footpath through the wood. We then walked on the paths around the fields until we reached the track near Whitehouse

Farm where we headed back towards the village and The Bell. The Bell did us proud with a delicious lunch which we all enjoyed.



Our first walk for 2023 will be on Saturday 14th

January and will be led by John. We will meet at Mayes Lane Car Park in Danbury ready to start the walk at 9.50am. For more information please ring John on 01245 222530. An email will be sent round to regular walkers nearer the time.

Happy New Year to all.

Sue Smith 01621 854056

FRYING TONIGHT

Or how we fared at the fayre

Yes we were—frying tonight ... at the town's Christmas fayre ...

We were surrounded by gas bottles cooking stoves, pans, rolls and big packs of bacon. We pulled out large slices, (I should say rashers) and plonked them into equally large frying pans, three at a time and frying them until they looked done or well done or even very well done.



Not many takers to start with, it was only 4.30pm so time to get a few ready. Then it began to rain. Nothing to worry about to start with. But after a few minutes it started to pour down—stair rods.

People came in from the high street, which was beginning to flood, to shelter from it. "It's only a passing shower" we shouted and "We need the rain". Some people smiled back other's said nothing but we knew what they were thinking.

Great pools of water started to form on the gazebo roofs—if they burst we will get soaked. They didn't—but we got soaked anyway. Water at first trickled through joins in the tents then it became a torrent. We moved the tables back twice but the water kept flowing across the table, into the open bacon pack, then onto the bread rolls and finally soaking the serviettes. Then it turned on me! But I came prepared, my old shower proof camouflage coat. It soaked both shoulders and tried to trickle down my neck—no—it did trickle down my neck.

Then suddenly it stopped—well, it seemed to me to be sudden. Is that it, or was it going to start again? Trade picked up now and we were busy satisfying the hunger that had developed during the last half hour or so. "Can I have a bacon roll please, with the fat cut off?" It was a rhetorical question— "no problem," we replied, our kitchen utensils were not exactly first class but we managed to make a fair job of



cutting off the fat and frying the rest. “Can I have a bacon **and** sausage roll” - that was more complicated, we had to negotiate the lines of demarcation between the bacon department and the sausage department—no problem in the end and I think they even got onions *thrown* in!



By the time 8.30pm came we were pretty exhausted. I say we, I haven't introduced my companion and the other chef on the bacon frying department, getting equally wet and getting bombarded with requests—deacon Jordan Palmer.

By the way we helped to raise over £2,500. — so it was well worth the effort. And I think the town appreciated All Saints joining in with the rest of them and getting just as wet.

Mike K.

Mike K.

Paul J King

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CHURCHES TOGETHER

In Maldon


Last month I said I'd explain how the Covenant I signed at the Salvation Army Churches Together meeting would affect us—hoping to go through all the items that were being planned for 2023. Wrong! The items need to be ratified by the next meeting (on January 18th) so all can't be revealed until after that date and therefore in the February magazine. But, I can list the churches I know that are a part of CTiM

The churches signed up to the Covenant include (in alphabetical order) - All Saints with St Peter Church—Assumption of our Lady Catholic Church—Maldon Baptist Church—Maldon Elim Church—Maldon Methodist Church—Maldon United Reformed Church—St Andrews Church (Heybridge)—St Mary's Church—The Salvation Army—Maldon Quaker Meeting—St. Georges Church—CGC Maldon and I think Fullbridge Church and St Giles Church (Langford) are also included, so the list includes every church in the Maldon and Heybridge areas. I'll update this list if I find I've missed any.

And I can mention the **"Food Pantry"** because All Saints is and has been a keen supporter of this for many years. You will have notice the big box at the back of the church where donations are put and taken away for use, supervised and managed by our friends in the **Elim Church** in Wantz Road on behalf of us all. They are **open every Wednesday from 10.00am—12.00**. People are referred by Social Services, Doctors and clergy when food and or money is distributed.

Mike K

TOWER BELL RINGERS wanted



Have you ever thought about ringing one of our tower bells? It may look difficult but it is quite easy.

We are intending to have a Saturday morning of trying to ring the bells, with skilled bell-ringers standing beside you.

We are trying to double the number of ringers we have before George III's Coronation, which is similar to the time when most of us started ringing when there was a big push for new ringers in the country to celebrate the turn of the 20th century.

Many ringers improved greatly and are now ringing very advanced methods. I am not one of them but still enjoy ringing in many different towers.

We at All Saints, Maldon, ring for weddings and services as well as on the practice night which is every Monday at 7.00pm.

So ... if you would like to give ringing a go, then come to our practice morning and afternoon on Saturday January 21st. At 10.00am and see if bell ringing is for you!



Thank you Helen you are the first to have a coloured picture in the Parish News—I hope there will be more

Edit.

EPIPHANY TRADITION

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

20+C+M+B 23

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

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

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

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

May God bless us all in 2023.

Alan

Epiphany is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ.

In Western Christianity, the feast commemorates principally (but not solely) the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child, and thus Jesus Christ's physical manifestation to the Gentiles. It is sometimes called Three Kings' Day, and in some traditions celebrated as Little Christmas.

Eastern Christians, on the other hand, commemorate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, seen as his manifestation to the world as the Son of God. The spot marked by Al-Maghtas in Jordan, adjacent to Qasr al-Yahud in the West Bank, is considered to be the original site of the baptism of Jesus and the ministry of John the Baptist.

In many Western Churches, the eve of the feast is celebrated as Twelfth Night. The Monday after Epiphany is known as Plough Monday.

The traditional date for the feast is January 6. However, since 1970, the celebration is held in some countries on the Sunday after January 1. Those Eastern Churches which are still following the Julian calendar observe the feast on what, according to the internationally used Gregorian calendar, is January 19, because of the current 13-day difference between the Julian and Gregorian calendars.

WAR and Peace



I do not often write about war unless it is in reference to something which happened centuries ago, but I have particular reason for mentioning the first (Persian) Gulf war which took place in January 1991 when Iraq had invaded Kuwait and the United Nations intervened to rescue the smaller Country.

At that time our son, Rus (His preferred spelling of his name) was an officer under training (a sub-lieutenant) having just completed his course at Dartmouth and was appointed to the destroyer, HMS Gloucester, when hostilities broke out. Gloucester was one of several British vessels which were an important part of the UN taskforce. The Captain of this ship was Commander Philip Wilcocks who had previously seen action in the Falklands war. There were other British ships in the United Nations task force but Gloucester was to stay with the American battle cruisers 'Missouri' and 'Wisconsin' and 'To ride shotgun' for them whilst they

were firing missiles against Iraq. Gloucester did in fact shoot down Silkworm missiles which had been intended to hit the Missouri. For that, Rus's ship received enormous amounts of steak and ice cream as a 'thank you' from the well stocked American vessel! The Gloucester was also able to successfully evade two mines which came perilously close to her hull.

During January 1991 Joan and I watched the BBC television news every night at nine o'clock to see the latest happenings as the BBC had a correspondent, Michael Nicholson, on board the vessel and he gave a nightly report on the day's events. We just occasionally saw Rus in the background and he was always in the anti flash clothing. After that we would turn over and watch the ten o'clock news on ITV. I also bought; each morning, just about every newspaper published just to see the war news. Two of our secretaries in the office also obtained and fitted up a

television so that we could get up to date news all day! Our extended family decided to send gifts out to the ship and I, foolishly, asked them to send toiletries rather than chocolate as the chocolate might melt in the heat and being so long away, the ship might have run out of shaving and washing necessities. Wrong! Rus told us that he finished up with enough toothbrushes and toothpaste to equip every man on board, but fortunately some people ignored me and sent him chocolate which arrived as good as new.

The reason I thought of this article is that just recently Rus has seen on the facebook site for the Gloucester that the now retired seventy year old Rear Admiral Wilcocks has a brain tumour and has undergone an operation to remove it. The operation was successful but it is not known if there is anything nasty still lurking. I and all my family wish him well.

The picture shows Commander Wilcocks on the bridge of the Gloucester on its way to the Gulf in 1990. Once in the Gulf, battle protection of white anti flash suits, hoods and facial protection had to be worn. Everyone also had to have masses of tablet medication and injections to combat the 'chemical warfare' that they would supposedly be facing, but that did not happen. You might also see that just behind the Commander is a familiar face. Yes, it is Rus who was navigating officer of the Watch at the time and even had some hair! To the right of Rus is the Officer of the Watch

The second picture shows Rear Admiral Wilcocks after his recent brain surgery. Apparently he is making a good recovery. The latest Rus heard was that he was demanding grapes and ice cream at 4am!

After retirement in 2009, the now Rear Admiral Wilcocks was active in the church and became a church warden of Dore Abbey in Herefordshire and lay co-chair of Abbeydore Deanery. He also became a member of the Bishops council for the Diocese of Hereford in 2012 and in 2017 became chairman of the Board of Governors for Hereford Cathedral

School.

I wrote to commander Wilcocks after the Gulf war to thank him for bringing all his people through the conflict safely and he sent a lovely reply in which he said that Rus had carried out all his duties speedily and with good humour.

On a completely different tack, Joan and I were at the service on the 11th December where Father John was the celebrant and also carried out the baptism of Molly Moore. I have seen many baptisms in our church and other churches, but I cannot remember one where the celebrant was so mentally involved or so passionate. John went about this pleasant task with what seemed to me to be real excitement. Others I spoke with afterward were of similar opinion. Thank you Father



John, for making this baptism so wonderful for the parents of Molly and for all those of us privileged to be present.

A happy and peaceful New Year to everyone.

Ken Downham

WHAT HELP IS THERE IF YOUR FINANCES ARE TIGHT?

Please get in touch with us at Maldon & District Citizens Advice by filling out the enquiry form on our website www.maldoncitizensadvice.org.uk or by telephoning 01621 875774.

These are a few of the things we could help you with:

- Are you getting all the benefits to which you are entitled?
- What effect would changes in working hours/rates have on your benefits?
- Are you getting the right child maintenance for your children?
- Are other adults living in your home making appropriate contributions?
- Depending on who is living in the house, is your council tax bill right?
- Look at ways of cutting bills and expenses.
- Reducing rates of deductions being taken from your benefits
- Explore grants or special tariffs
- Looking at your debts and options for dealing with these, including making offers to creditors, or, in some cases, getting the debts written off.

For more information on saving energy and reducing your bills please visit [Homepage - Warm Homes Essex](#)

Government Announcement

In addition to the help that the government had announced earlier this year, the Autumn Statement outlined changes which will benefit some people next April (2023). These include:

- An increase in benefits in line with inflation – 10.1%
- Additional Cost of Living payment of £900 per household. Households who receive the following benefits are eligible for the payment:
 - Universal Credit
 - Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Income Support
 - Pension Credit
 - Working Tax Credit
 - Child Tax Credit

In addition, eligible pensioners will receive an extra £300 cost of living payment and those on non-means tested disability benefits will receive an additional £150.

Changes to the National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage as follows:

- For 21-22 year olds the rate will increase to £10.18
- For 18-20 year olds the rate will increase to £7.49
- For 16-17 year olds the rate will increase to £5.28
- For apprentices the rate will increase to £5.28

An additional £1 billion of funding to the Household Support Fund which helps local authorities assist those who need it most
Social Housing Rent will only be able to rise by a maximum of 7% in 2023-24

If you're struggling to afford essential food items there are various places you can go for both food and other household items. Locations include:

MALDON – The Food Pantry at Elim Church, 17 Wantz Road CM9 5DB Wednesdays 9:30am-1pm [Food Pantry ← Elim Maldon](#) Please contact Maldon Citizens Advice first on 01621 875774 to get a referral.

SOUTHMINSTER – Dengie Food Pantry at United Reformed Church, North Street CM0 7DF Wednesdays 10am-12pm. Please contact Maldon Citizens Advice first on 01621 875774 to get a referral.

TOLLESBURY – Food Larder at The Centre, Congregational Church, East Street, CM9 8QD. Call 07941019750 or 07742 538171. Mondays 10am-12pm [Village Larder at Tollesbury Hub - Maldon District Connects](#) No referral required.

As we know, with the increasing price of fuel, heating your home can become a challenge. There are several 'Warm Hubs' across the district which provide a warm place, hot food and hot drinks. Locations include:

BURNHAM –Burnham Baptist Church, Station Road, CM0 8HF. Free soup and hot chocolate. **Monday 5th December** 11am-1pm.

BRADWELL – St Thomas' Church, East End Road CM0 7QW. Free soup and hot chocolate. **Tuesday 21st February** 11am-1pm.

HEYBRIDGE – Plantation Hall, Colchester Road, CM9 4AL. Hot drinks, soup, warm clothes and coats, toys and a chat to those in need. **Weekdays** 9am-3pm.

HEYBRIDGE –Fullbridge Church, 27 Fullbridge. Includes lunch. **Every Tuesday** 9.30am-1pm.

MALDON – Quaker Meeting House, Butt Lane, CM9 5HD. Free hot and cold drinks, soup, rolls and cakes. **Every Friday** 10am-1pm.

MALDON –*Community in a Cup* at URC Market Hill, CM9 4PZ. Free refreshment. **Last Tuesday of every month** 10am-12.

MALDON – Fullbridge Church, 27 Fullbridge, CM9 4LE. Free refreshments and a light lunch. **Every Tuesday** 9.30am-1pm.

MAYLAND – Lawling Park Hall, Katonia Avenue CM3 6AD. Free soup and hot chocolate. **Thursday 19th January** 11am-1pm.

SOUTHMINSTER – 'Warm and Toastie' at St. Leonard's Church, 1 Station Rd, CM0 7EW. Free hot drinks and toasted sandwiches. **Every Sunday** 12:30pm – 2:30pm until end of March 2023.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS:

ACROSS: 1 Hide. 3 Disgrace. 9 Sonship. 10 Oaths. 11 Tutti. 12 Ignore. 14 Foreknowledge. 17 Ashram. 19 Men or 22 Aroma. 23 Nineveh. 24 Amethyst. 25 Trod.

DOWN: 1 His staff. 2 Do not. 4 Imprisonments. 5 Groan. 6 Altered. 7 Easy. 8 Shrink. 13 Searched. 15 Restore. 16 Lament. 18 Reach. 20 Never. 21 Jada.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

By the time you read this you may well be into the remaining Twelve Days of Christmas, the time in ages past when people continued to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child until Epiphany, when the three kings or magi visited the holy family. Today,

with the weeks of Christmas advertising and preparations before the actual day, celebrations finish soon after Boxing Day or New Year!

As I write this, Christmas Day is still days away, and with the present cold spell we are wondering if it may be a 'White Christmas'.

However we have, at All Saints, already had some taste of the festivities to come, with the wonderful Tree Festival. The church was decorated

with over fifty beautifully decorated trees, each one bright, fully adorned with meaningful decorations depicting the group that donated them. There were the more professional ones, obviously done by adults, and those with hand made hangings made by children, each showing love and thoughtfulness.

The weekend finished with the Christingle Service, led by Jordan. With over 150 people in church, including many children, we had fun watching the youngsters trying to fit together parts of a drawing of the Christingle, while blindfolded! It showed we all need help to build useful lives, especially the young who need help and encouragement to fulfil their potential.

The monies raised over the weekend will go to the Children's 18



- CHRISTINGLE & Deputy Warden's Waffle



Society who help young ones in need. The service finished with our Christingle lighting up the darkened church.

Many thanks to all who helped with this magical three day event. And a special thank you to Julie who introduced the idea and spent many hours making sure everything went well.

It just leaves me to wish you all a Happy New Year, and may 2023 bring you peace, joy and good health,

Jenny _____

A really big THANK YOU from me for all your contributions to the 2022 Christmas Tree Festival.

We had hundreds of people through the doors between Friday and Sunday.

A massive "thank you"to all of you who prepared the church by erecting the marquee, put up the lights, decorated a tree, welcomed people as they came into church, to the ringers and singers, to those who 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, to Katrina who undertook the refreshments, to Barbara who did

Continued next page



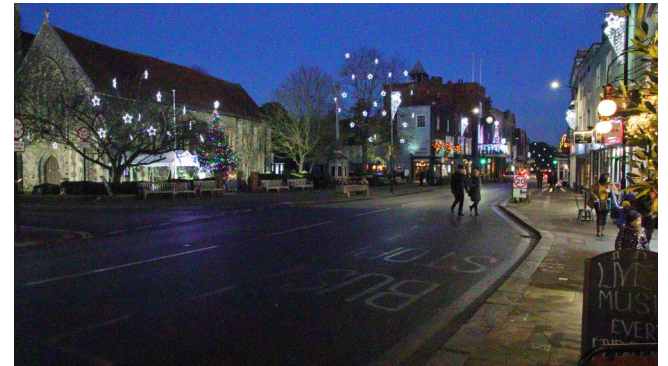
all the printing and to Colin and Elaine who were always there working.....and I must add a special thanks to those of you who stayed with me after closing each evening to turn off all the lights and those who cleaned up on Monday. We had **fifty six trees** on display, a truly wonderful sight I'm sure you will agree.

Due to all your efforts, we raised £946 from donations (plus donations to the Children's Society from the boxes underneath the trees)

The date for next years Festival is already in the diary Friday 8th to Sunday 10th December 2023!!!!!!

Thank you again and Happy New Year.

Julie



My thanks to Liz and Mike for their photos. Edit.

NB: COPY DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY MAGAZINE - JANUARY 15th

St James the Least of All

Editor: *The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...*

On the art of ringing in the New Year

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I am sure I had warned you about church bells. They are simply not to everyone's taste. And the idea of switching on your recorded bells - no matter how digitally enhanced - at midnight for an hour, in order to welcome in the New Year, may have seemed inspired at the time, but considering that most of your inner city parish is Moslem, that you are surrounded on one side by a hospital and another by a care home for the elderly, it is not too surprising that the joyful sound was not well received.

But to be fair, we too had a small misjudgement on New Year's Eve. Our bell-ringers, who practise the art of campanology, and don't use electronic equipment, have always been something of a trial. They ring with great enthusiasm for half an hour before our services each week, but then as we are singing the first hymn, they emerge from the church tower, putting on hats and coats while loudly discussing who made the error in the middle of that morning's grandsire triples.

This New Year's Eve they met in the bell tower at 11pm to have some champagne, and then a period of ringing before further refreshment became necessary. By midnight, the champagne



had so refreshed them that they somewhat exceeded their accuracy, and the village heard the New Year being joyfully welcomed by a set of eight bells being rung in an entirely random order.

I still managed to drift off to sleep, only to be woken three hours later by one bell being mournfully but persistently tolled. Finally, I felt obliged to go and find out why. I discovered Colonel Bradshaw alone in the bell tower. When the party had ended and the ringers trooped out, the Colonel had dashed back in to retrieve his hat. The others, ignorant of his absence, then locked the church and went home to their beds. That lone bell was his way of announcing his predicament.

At least I was able to reassure him that his six-hour vigil in the church tower partially made up for his absence from Mattins for the previous 12 months.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



While we were getting the gazebos and tents out of the vicarage garage for the town's Christmas Fayre last November, a mysterious plastic box was uncovered which turned out to be full of old magazines.

Thumbing quickly through them the other night I noticed an article—a story—which I think might be of interest. It runs as a serial from January until June so it's quite long.

Here is the first episode—so see what you think of the content of granny's—
All Saints Parish Magazine
January 1904
(price 1d) **(edit)**

THROUGH THE FURNACE

BY F.E. READE

AUTHOR OF "Clary's Confirmation" & "A Wife from the Country" etc.

It was late on a November afternoon. Fog was stealing through the street of the busy manufacturing town of Wrangford, and blinds had been pulled down or shutters closed in almost every household to shut out the sight of the grey, cold mist.

In a quiet, respectable street there stood an old fashioned looking house, with a little garden in front.

In the principal sitting room a cheerful fire was burning and the remains of a substantial tea stood on the table. The room was comfortably furnished and the walls were adorned with various articles of old china which would have delighted anybody who had a taste in that direction.

There had been guests that afternoon, but they had gone, and the only person in the room was an elderly man who sat well back in a deep armchair and seemed to be absorbed in his own thoughts. Painful thoughts they must

have been, for he sighed heavily from time to time.

At last he spoke aloud, "How shall I tell her?" he exclaimed, "how can I possibly tell her?"

Presently the door opened and a young woman came in. She was tall and finely formed, with masses of dark brown hair and remarkable grey eyes, full of intelligence and power. She had a firm, well cut mouth, and a pale, clear complexion. She was dressed in deep mourning, for the guests who had lately gone had been funeral guests. The man who sat in the chair had buried his wife that day, the faithful companion of his life, and the young woman, who was his only child, was grieving for her mother.

She began to clear the table quickly and silently, casting a loving, compassionate glance at her father from time to time.

"Margaret. I must speak to you," said he, abruptly, as though the words were

wrung from him.

"Yes, dear father," replied she, gently, "I will just put away the things, and then I will come and sit with you for the evening; Sally has gone home you know."

She went away to her work, and returned in about half an hour with her knitting in her hand. She drew a chair close to her father's side, and leaned her head for a moment against his shoulder. Margaret had always been the best of daughters to the mother who had just been carried off by a sharp and sudden illness, and she was now prepared to devote herself to the parent who remained.

Mr. Harvey opened his lips, but it was characteristic of the man that he could not go straight to his point. He began by asking a question.

"You were talking to your Aunt Jane this afternoon Margaret. What did she say about our future—what we are to live upon, I mean?"

"She told me what I did not know before," replied Margaret, her cheeks flushing a little; "it seems that mother did not wish me to know it during her life-time. She told me that the money that has made us so comfortable all our lives belonged entirely to mother, that she was quite an heiress in a small way, but that she fell in love with your handsome face, father, and was determined to have you."

"And did you hear how your mother's father acted when he found that she was bent upon marrying me?"

"Yes, he would only consent to the marriage on one condition, that she should allow him to sink all her money into an annuity; his idea was that you should not have a penny of it after her death—her money was to die with her as people say, and so of course it has, but—

"Well, child, go on."

His tone was so strange that she looked at him uneasily as she added, "Aunt said that we should be quite well off all the

same, because you and mother agreed that she should have her life insured for a large sum, the yearly payment could be easily made from her income, and so—"

Margaret stopped again, for her father's eyes were fixed upon her with a look of deep despair.

"Father, what is the matter?"

"Margaret," he said, hoarsely, "your mother trusted me entirely. Every penny of her money passed through my hands, and I deceived her. I did insure her life, but I did not keep up the payments—I was careless about it, because I made sure that she would outlive me. You know what this means, you and I are beggars."

Margaret was silent for a few moments. She was trying to make excuses for her father in her heart. At last she said, "Father, you did not wrong *her*, you wronged yourself."

"I have wronged you, my child; your mother always counted on your living in comfort, and I have made a pauper of you."

"But it was no wonder that you should have expected mother to outlive you, she was always so strong and healthy, and you have been delicate all your life."

"Yes, delicate and good-for-nothing. Well there is nothing left but the house and its contents. These belonged to your mother in her own right, and she willed them to me. These I will make over to you, and perhaps you may be able to maintain yourself somehow, but you shall not be burdened with me. I never have worked and never could now. I shall go to the workhouse, unless your aunt Jane insists on my living with her. In any case I must eat the bread of charity, and bitter it will be."

What will become of them? Is it to be the workhouse?

Find out in next month's thrilling instalment !!

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Genesis 12:1-9, 17:1-22, 18:1-15, 21:1-7

About 6000 years ago, God told Abram and his wife Sarai to leave their home and go to a new land that He would give them

This Land will belong to your family, but not yet

and I am changing your names to Abraham and Sarah

You and Sarah will have a son, Isaac

But Sarai and I cannot have children

'Abraham' means 'Father of many'

'Sarah' means 'Princess'

We are too old to have children. Ha ha ha!

It was noon, and everyone was resting from the heat...

He recognised the Lord

He ran to tell everyone

When Abraham saw three men coming to his tents.

Please stay and have something to eat.

Quick, we need a feast cooked for special guests

Sarah was in the tent, listening

By this time next year, you will have a son

Why did Sarah laugh?

I didn't laugh

At our age? Ha ha ha!

Yes, you did.

Soon afterwards...

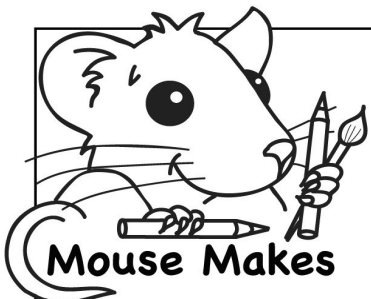
Sarah and Abraham's baby boy was born

They called him 'Isaac' which means 'laughter'

I'm pregnant!

I'm so happy, I can't stop laughing

Ha ha ha! Ha ha ha!



A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

When the **Magi** (wise men) came to **Bethlehem** where had they travelled from?
The _____

Why did they make the journey?

What did they follow to get there?
A _____

What did they see?
Read *Matthew 2:1-12*

Read *Luke 2:1-4*



Why did **Joseph** and **Mary** travel to **Bethlehem**?

Read *Luke 2:1-4*

When **Samuel** came to **Bethlehem** who sent him? Who did he go to see?
_____ and his sons.

Who had he come to anoint as king?

Read *1 Samuel 16:1-13*



Naomi and **Ruth** came to **Bethlehem** where had they travelled from?
_____ and why?

When did they arrive?
At the _____ harvest.

Read *Ruth 1:22*

The name **BETHLEHEM** means 'House of Bread'

Look up the Bible references to find the missing words, find them and these words below in the wordsearch

- JOURNEY
- BETHLEHEM • GOD
- JOSEPH • MARY
- JESUS • BORN
- MAGI • MESSIAH
- NAOMI • RUTH
- FOOD • HARVEST
- SAMUEL • ANOINT
- KING • BREAD

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

Town Mayor's Quiz Night

Cllr Andrew Lay will be holding a charity Quiz Night at **Maldon Town Hall** on **Saturday 11th February 2023** starting at **7.00pm** (doors open 6.30pm).

Tickets are £12.50 per person which includes a hot supper and the meal choices are:

Fish & chips - Chicken & chips - Sausage & chips - Veggieburger & chips

Teams of six. There will be a bar (wine, beer & soft drinks) and a raffle.

Please note that tickets should be booked and paid for, and meal choices provided, by 22nd November so the food can be ordered.

Payment by cash, cheque (payable to Mayor of Maldon's Fund) or BACS (details below).

BACS Payments:

Account name; Mayor of Maldon's Fund

Account number: 70629618

Sort Code: 20-54-30

Reference: Feb quiz

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 11th**

Parish Pump

BOOK REVIEWS

THE LION FIRST BIBLE



The Lion First Bible, 2nd edition

By **Pat Alexander and Leon Baxter**, Lion Children, £10.99

This Bible includes **more than 60 Bible stories**, specially chosen for young children: a foundation on which to build a growing knowledge of the Bible. With colourful, child-friendly illustrations and clearly laid out text, this retelling is ideal for beginner readers, and fantastic for reading aloud.

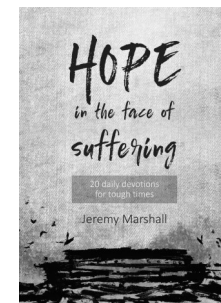
The Lion First Bible has had previous sales of over 1.25 million copies.

Hope in the Face of Suffering – 20 devotions for Tough Times

By **Jeremy Marshall**, 10 Publishing, £3.99

The pandemic has made all of us wake up to the reality of suffering and death. Do we each have a philosophy of life that copes with death?

Thankfully Jeremy Marshall helps us get the roof on before the storm hits. As he has lived with an incurable cancer diagnosis for five years, so he has the credentials to walk us through the Bible's story of hope, which wonderfully assures us that for the believer, death is never the last thing.



CROSSWORD

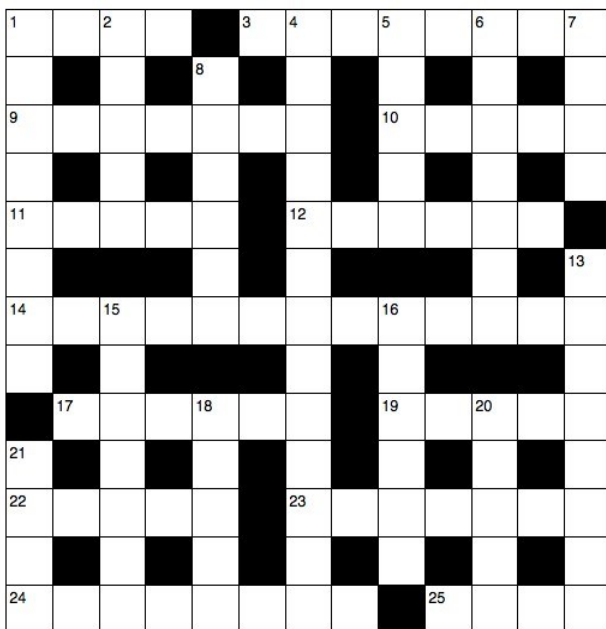
Across

The answers are on page 17

- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore' (Hebrews 13:13) (8)
 9 Shish (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — —' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
 5 'We ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)



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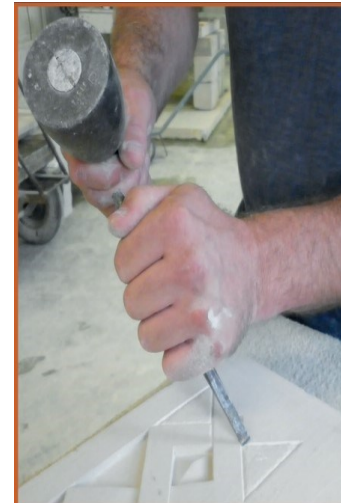
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- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1 | Naming and Circumcision of Jesus | Pray for God's blessing on the New Year |
| 2 | | An end to the conflict in Ukraine |
| 3 | | Our Area Bishops |
| 4 | | Our Honorary Assistant Bishops |
| 5 | | Our Eucharistic Ministers |
| 6 | | Our Churchwardens and their Deputies |
| 7 | | Our Uniformed Organisations |
| 8 | Epiphany | Pray that Christ will be shown to all people of the world |
| 9 | Baptism of Christ | All Lay Preachers and Religious Education Teachers |
| 10 | | Our Servers |
| 11 | | Our Tower Bell Ringers and Sidespeople |
| 12 | | All residents of our Parish |
| 13 | | All who struggle with winter |
| 14 | | All who read in Church |
| 15 | 2nd Sunday of Epiphany | The Quakers |
| 16 | | The Baptist Church |
| 17 | | The Methodist Church |
| 18 | | Pray for Unity in the Christian Church |
| | Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins (until 25 January) | |
| 19 | | St Andrew's and St George's Churches Heybridge |
| 20 | | St Giles Church, Langford |
| 21 | | Those leading and attending Messy Church |
| 22 | 3rd Sunday of Epiphany | All who lead our intercessions |
| 23 | | St Michaels, Woodham Walter and St Margaret's Woodham Mortimer |
| 24 | | The Parish of St Mary, Maldon |
| 25 | Conversion of Paul | The Roman Catholic Church |
| 26 | Timothy & Titus | Our Parish News Editor |
| 27 | | The Salvation Army |
| 28 | | All Free Churches |
| 29 | Presentation of Christ in the Temple
Candlemas | Our Area Dean |
| 30 | | Our Parochial Church Council |
| 31 | | The homeless |

FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY 2023

	All Saints 08.00am	All Saints 09.30am	All Saints 4.00pm	St Giles 09.30am	St Andrews 11.15am	St Georges 09.30am
First Sunday 1 Jan Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	Holy Communion Fr John	Holy Communion Rev Noelle		Holy Communion NO SERVICE	Holy Communion Fr John	
Monday 2 Jan						Holy Communion Fr John
Second Sunday 8 Jan Epiphany	Holy Communion Fr John	Worship for All Rev Jordan and Adrienne	Evensong Alan	MP&P Gerald & Irene	Holy Communion Fr John Rev Jordan (Preach)	
Monday 9 Jan						MP&P Julia
Third Sunday 15 Jan Epiphany 2	Holy Communion Fr John	Holy Communion Rev Noelle		Holy Communion Fr John	MP&P Lynne	
Monday 16 Jan						Holy Communion Fr John
Fourth Sunday 22 Jan Epiphany 3	Morning Prayer Alan	Holy Communion Fr John		MP&P Gerald & Irene	Holy Communion Fr John	
Monday 23 Jan						MP&P Julia
Fifth Sunday 29 Jan Epiphany 4 Candlemas	Holy Communion Fr John	Holy Communion Rev Noelle		United Benefice Service Holy Communion at St Andrews 11.15 Fr John	United Benefice Service Holy Communion at St Andrews 11.15 Fr John	
Monday 30 Jan						MP&P Julia

ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Choir Prac/Thu (7:30pm)	Dr. Stuart Pegler	01621 850530
Choir Prac/Sat (11.30am)		
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
	1stmalDONALLSAINTESSCOUTGROUP@gmail.com	
Maldon Pioneers	Mike Frederick	01621 840951
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 tel: 0800 169 5901.

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

Sunday 11th December Molly Moore of Beacon Hill



PARISH DIRECTORY

VICAR In Vacancy

ASSISTANT CURATE The Reverend Jordan Palmer
Tel: 07535 001840
All Saints Vicarage, Church Walk,
Maldon CM9 4PY

AUTHORISED LOCAL PREACHERS Mrs Adrienne Knight
Tel 01621 841329

Alan Marjoram
Tel 01245 243868

CHURCHWARDENS Dennis Johnson
Tel: 01621 842410

Colin Brown
01621 850484

DEPUTY CHURCHWARDENS Mrs Vicky Tropman
Tel: 01621 857291

Mrs Jenny Clinch
Tel: 01621 840057

HON TREASURER Eddie Sewell
Tel: 01621 851961

PCC SECRETARY Mrs Julie Ovenden
Tel: 01621 858803

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR Mrs Barbara Gale
Tel 01621 928538

ORGANIST and CHOIRMASTER Dr Stuart Pegler
Tel: 01621 850530

RECORDER OF THE CHURCH Mike Gibson
Tel 01621 784354

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Mrs Elizabeth Blyth
Tel 01621 854068
Email: elizabeth.blyth@gmail.com

PARISH NEWS EDITOR and WEBSITE MANAGER Mike Kneller
Tel 01621 856219
Email: bigglesworth@btinternet.com

Website www.allsaintsmaldon.com



ALL SAINTS MALDON

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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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