

ALL SAINTS *MALDON*

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Requests for Baptisms and Marriages should be made at the Parish Office situated in the Church (St Katherine Room) - 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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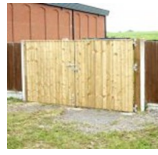
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ALL SAINTS *MALDON*

PARISH NEWS

February 2023

Church info

FEBRUARY

1st Sunday 5th <i>(3rd before Lent)</i>	08.00 09.30	Holy Communion Worship for All	Fr John Vicky & Betty
Sunday 12th <i>(2nd before Lent)</i>	08.00 09.30 16.00	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Evensong	Adrienne Fr John & Rev Jordan Alan
3rd Sunday 19th <i>(Next before Lent)</i>	08.00 09.30	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Fr John Rev Noelle & Rev Jordan (preacher)
Wednesday 22nd <i>(ASH WEDNESDAY)</i>	11.00	Holy Communion	Rev Noelle
4th Sunday 26th <i>(Lent 1)</i>	08.00 09.30	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Alan Fr John

£1
PRICE

Visit our website:
<https://www.allsaintsmaldon.com>

All contributions sent to the editor will be most welcome.

PARISH DIRECTORY

VICAR	In Vacancy
ASSISTANT CURATE	Rev Jordan Palmer All Saints Vicarage, Church Walk, Maldon CM9 4PY Tel 07535 001840 jordanmpalmer@outlook.com
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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	Zoe Franklin	Email
Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	1stmaldonallsaintsscoutgroup@gmail.com	
Meeting Point	Barbara Gale	01621 928538
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

3rd January Mary Stribley aged 102 years of Cooper Court
6th January Elizabeth Vale aged 77 years of Victoria Road
9th January Nancy Tricker aged 101 years of Maldon
12th January Beryl Mc Donell aged 88 years of Lawrence Place
17th January Ann Elizabeth Hunter aged 75 years of Viking Road



The Parish Letter

Dear friends,

The feast of Candlemas, February 2nd marks the end of the Christmas period in church. It is the time when churches remove all the signs of Christmas, such as the tree and the crib. We then enter what the church calls "ordinary" time before we keep the season of Lent which this year starts on 22nd February, Ash Wednesday.

In our homes though, most people remove their Christmas decorations and cards before February. I always follow the tradition of taking my cards down on twelfth night.

When I took my cards down this year I took the opportunity to read again the Christmas circular letters that were sent with some of the cards. I always enjoy reading these to see how my friends and their families are getting on, even if some of them are written using rose tinted spectacles. However, this year I found myself rather irritated by a comment one of my old teacher colleagues had written. He said, "We have found a new church. The church has grown in numbers this year, due to Christians seeking a church that believes in the Bible."

I wonder if you can see why this irritated me? I was confirmed at the age of 14 and have attended many different churches since then, with different approaches and styles of worship. In all that time I have not come across a church which does not have the Bible at the centre of its belief and faith. I find it very misleading to suggest that some churches are bible based whilst others are not.

What may differ between churches is the way the Bible is studied. Often the approach used by churches that claim to be bible based is to read the Bible uncritically and pick particular verses out of context to support a particular point of view. These churches are usually conservative in their beliefs and will find quotations to condemn, in particular, same sex relationships. Indeed a church advertising that it is bible based, is often using this as a code to say, "Gay Christians are not welcome here."

Churches such as ours, in the Anglican tradition will usually take a different approach to the Bible. That approach is to regard the Bible as a library of books. These books contain different styles of literature: history, biography, poetry, letters, apocalyptic literature to name a few. In studying these books we have regard for the type of literature it is, who wrote the book, when it was written, and who was the intended audience. When we understand the context we can discern the message and hopefully apply it to our lives. Study guides are often useful aids when we read the Bible. I have for many years used the notes produced by the Bible Reading Fellowship, but there are many others available. Another useful practice is to read one of the Gospels in one sitting. You can for example read St Mark's Gospel in under an hour. If you do

this you will clearly discern the Good News that Our Lord is bringing to us. This is much more effective than dwelling on a particular verse to make a point.

Whichever way you do it, Bible reading and study is always rewarding and will bring us closer to God. I commend to you the collect for the Last Sunday after Trinity.

*Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy scriptures
to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

With very best wishes
Father John

ALL SAINT PARISH NEWS

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Living In Love & Faith

More details about this important subject is available on our website -

www.allsaintsmaldon.com/about-us/

and scroll down to
From the Diocese of Chelmsford

Edit.

FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY 2023

	All Saints 8.00am	All Saints 9.30am	All Saints 4.00pm	St Giles 9.30am	St Andrews 11.15am	St Georges 9.30am
First Sunday 5th Feb 3rd before Lent	Holy Communion Fr John	Worship for All Vicky & Betty		Holy Communion Rev Julie	Holy Communion Rev Julie	
Monday 6th Feb						Holy Communion Rev Julie & Rev Jordan
Sunday 12th Feb 2nd before Lent	Morning Prayer Adrienne	Holy Communion Fr John & Rev Jordan	4pm Evensong Alan	MP&P Gerald & Irene	Holy Communion Fr John Rev Jordan	
Monday 7th Feb						MP&P Julia
3rd Sunday 19th Feb Next before Lent	Holy Communion Fr John	Holy Communion Rev Noelle & Rev Jordan (preach)		Holy Communion Ken Dunstan	MP&P Lynne & Rev Jordan	
Monday 20th Feb						Holy Communion Fr John
Wednesday 22nd Feb ASH WEDNESDAY		11am Holy Communion Rev Noelle		7pm Holy Communion Rev John Brown		
Fourth Sunday 26th Feb Lent 1	Morning Prayer Alan	Holy Communion Fr John		MP&P Gerald & Irene	Holy Communion Fr John	
Monday 27th Feb						MP&P Julia

PLEASE NOTE: Date of next Planning Meeting is on MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY at 7pm in ALL SAINTS CHURCH D'ARCY ROOM

Prayer Diary

February 2023

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

**NB: COPY DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH MAGAZINE
FEBRUARY 15th**

News from across the diocese

Living in Love and Faith Update

Bishops propose prayers of thanksgiving, dedication and for God's blessing for same-sex couples

A Statement from the Church of England following the meeting of the College and House of Bishops.

For the first time, same-sex couples will be able to come to church to give thanks for their civil marriage or civil partnership and receive God's blessing.

The Bishops of the Church of England will be issuing an apology later this week to LGBTQI+ people for the "rejection, exclusion and hostility" they have faced in churches and the impact this has had on their lives.

And they will urge all congregations in their care to welcome same-sex couples "unreservedly and joyfully" as they reaffirm their commitment to a "radical new Christian inclusion founded in scripture, in reason, in tradition, in theology and the Christian faith as the Church of England has received it – based on good, healthy, flourishing relationships, and in a proper 21st Century understanding of being human and of being sexual

"God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them."

1 John 4.16

The proposals, which follow a six-year period of listening, learning and discernment known as Living in Love and Faith, will be outlined in a report to the Church's General Synod, which meets in London next month.

It will offer the fullest possible pastoral provision without changing the Church's doctrine of Holy Matrimony for same-sex

couples through a range of draft prayers, known as Prayers of Love and Faith, which could be used voluntarily in churches for couples who have marked a significant stage of their relationship such as a civil marriage or civil partnership.

Under the proposals, same-sex couples would still not be able to get married in a Church of England church, but could have a service in which there would be prayers of dedication, thanksgiving or for God's blessing on the couple in church following a civil marriage or partnership.

The formal teaching of the Church of England as set out in the canons and authorised liturgies – that Holy Matrimony is between one man and one woman for life – would not change.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said:

"This response reflects the diversity of views in the Church of England on questions of sexuality, relationships and marriage – I rejoice in that diversity and I welcome this way of reflecting it in the life of our church.

"I am under no illusions that what we are proposing today will appear to go too far for some and not nearly far enough for others, but it is my hope that what we have agreed will be received in a spirit of generosity, seeking the common good."



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St James the Least of All

On why rural churchgoers like to freeze in church

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Winter certainly exposes the difference between those of you who live in cities and us rural folk. While you bask in your centrally heated flat, with every modern convenience that could be imagined and complain about the half an inch of slush that makes your life so inconvenient, we country folk wear overcoats in our houses, open all doors and windows to let the heat *in* and battle through snow drifts, measured in feet, to get the morning paper.



Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church. Working outwards from the church door, the path to the church soon became snow free. Unfortunately, he only realised when his job was complete that the blown snow then formed a five-foot drift under the lychgate. We now have to climb over the churchyard wall and negotiate buried gravestones before we can reach his pristine paths.

Miss Margison, ever meaning to be helpful, decided to unfreeze the pipes in the church hall. A blow torch was not the ideal solution, although the resulting burst did make some rather attractive ice sculptures round the kitchen equipment. The village badminton team that uses the hall has now temporarily changed sport, to ice hockey.

Inevitably, our congregation has soared these past few weeks. There is nothing like adversity for making people want to prove they have the moral fibre to overcome it. Much satisfaction seems to be obtained on discovering who has *not* dared venture out, which is taken as judgement on their strength of character. The Prentices upstaged most people by arriving on a sleigh. Mr Prentice was warmly wrapped in a travelling rug, while his wife pulled it. As her husband explained, he couldn't possibly let the pony work in such conditions.

What I momentarily thought was applause during my sermon was merely people keeping their hands warm and the hymns were drowned out by the stamping of feet. Our organist complained that the cold made his fingers so numb that he couldn't play properly – although I didn't notice that things were much different from normal.

No, my dear nephew, you continue to fret about your church heating dropping to temperate, and a few flakes of wet snow obliging you to close your carpark for health and safety reasons. We shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity and return home after Mattins, feeling we have proved our Christian commitment by being utterly uncomfortable.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

(Taken from the Parish Pump website.)

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TEN to TEN ^{The} RAMBLING GROUP

Danbury Woods Walk 14th Jan 2023

The weather forecast put some walkers off this first walk in the New Year. As it turned out, we had very little rain and an enjoyable walk around Danbury woods, led by John. We finished the morning with a very welcome cup of coffee at the café on the green in Danbury before returning to our cars in Mayes Lane car park.

Our next walk will be on Saturday 11th February starting at 9.50am from the parking area at Wintersleet Farm, London Road (opposite the top cemetery gate). Rod has kindly agreed to lead a local walk from here. For more information please ring Rod on 07713 857677.

Sue Smith.

Messy Church is for everyone whatever your age and it's held every 3rd Saturday each month from 2.00pm—4.00pm with Elaine Brown (Tel:01621 850484)



SUNSHINERS every Thursday at 9.15—11.00am in the D'Arcy Room with Mary Stebbens

MALDON PIONEERS every Monday 9.00—11.00am visit their website: the.maldonpioneers.com
Louisa Thorpe 07506 997655 or email: pioneersmaldon@gmail.com

Men's

Breakfast

Every 2nd Monday of the month at 9.00am
At the Rose & Crown (Wetherspoons)
High Street, Maldon

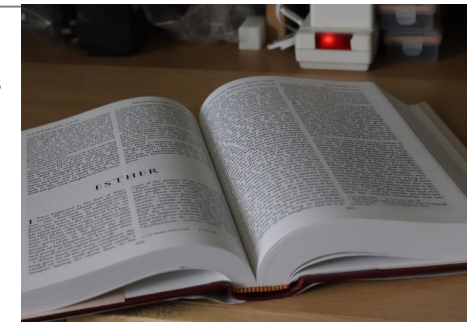
BIBLE STUDY

There are 2 bible study groups to visit this year -

Paul's group meet at his home every other Wednesday at 2.00pm (tel: 01621 858978)

Noel's group meet every other Monday evening at her home at 7.00pm (tel: 07779 49172)

You are welcome to either, but because of space please contact them in advance



"I am the Way the Truth and the Life"
(John 14: 6)

CHURCHES TOGETHER in Maldon

Okay, so now more about the Covenant I signed and more of what is being planned for 2023. First the Covenant—

The Covenanting Churches commit to:

Declare their unity as the people of God in the community in what ever practical ways possible.

Maintain their common practices of worshiping together, and to seek to develop them further.

- **Continue coordinating and sharing their individual activities, as far as possible.**

- **Seek together to grow in understanding of the grace and love of God, and of each others traditions through prayer and study of their Christian faith and its applications in daily life.**

- **Listen to the local community, to become aware of its needs and aspirations and to develop a coordinated programme of service and outreach to it.**

Currently there are a number of activities CTiM is encouraging in Maldon. Some we are familiar with like **The Food Pantry**, mentioned last month, where our donations are collected and managed by the Elim Church, and the **OPEN THE BOOK** project which is now 24 years old. In case you didn't know this was started by a group of Christians in Bedford. They had the idea of taking Bible stories into their local primary school, they couldn't have dreamt of where their idea would end up. What started as a small idea has now grown to **16,000** storytellers in **3,000** schools in England and Wales, and continues to grow. Churches Together in Maldon joined in 2014 with the vision of every primary school child in the Maldon area hearing the stories in the Bible. They are now in their 9th year and **they are always keen to hear from anyone who would like to join a team!**



Then there is the **TOOL BOX** project: You may have heard about it, but it's new to me. This project receives and deals with unwanted tools, sewing machines and haberdashery items which are recycled so that they can be passed to the charity **Tools With a Mission** (TWAM). Part of the work undertaken in Maldon is preparation of items for tool kits that will be used to train future plumbers, carpenters, motor mechanics, engineers and dressmakers. Through **TWAM** the tool kits are taken out to Africa where they are needed in order to be able to train young people so that they

the ground."

"Stop, stop!" exclaimed Maragaret, putting her hands to her ears, "I am not going to listen to anything more against my own father; I am going away to think. Keep the fire up, and I will be down again in half an hour to the moment."

She went away into her cold little room to plan for the future, and her father remained by the fire to dream of the past.

The appoint time expired and the door opened suddenly. "There! You haven't kept the fire up after all," exclaimed Margaret. She went down on her knees and built it up carefully. Then she got up and stood before her father.

"I am too much excited to sit down," said she. "I have had a lovely idea. We will keep an old curiosity shop."

"My dear child, what do you mean?" exclaimed Mr. Harvey, starting up in his chair.

"There isn't one in the whole town, and I have seen them in other places," continued she; "it will make quite a sensation."

"But where are the things to come from?"

"That is just the point. I know that it will grieve you, father, but it must be done. We must sell our own things, first of all, and then we shall get money to buy others."

"You don't mean to sell your mother's old china," said he, in a reproachful tone.

"Yes father, I do," replied Margaret, although her voice shook a little, "and you know that we have many beautiful old things locked away upstairs that you yourself have collected from time to time and there is that wonderful old bureau, and the grandfather clock; they are worth a good deal of money, I believe."

"You must think of some other plan, my dear; I cannot consent to this."

"But father, consider," pleaded Margaret.

"You said just now that you should go into the workhouse, or to Aunt Jane, and

that I was to have all that is in this house to do what I liked with. Will it not be far better to stay with me and help to earn a living?" You will be able to help me enormously in the shop. I do not know how to price the things, nor how to buy others. You were regretting that you could not work. Here is work ready to your hand, and what you could do easily."

"But the shame of it! Let us, at least, go to another place and start afresh."

Margaret shook her head. "We should sell this house at a loss, and have to pay a heavy rent elsewhere. Besides, we are more likely to succeed here, where we are known. Customers will come, either out of sympathy or curiosity. We must get permission, I suppose, from the County Council to open a shop here, and then we will begin as soon as possible. The little front room will do beautifully for a shop. We shall only want shelves and a counter.

Gradually Mr. Harvey allowed himself to be persuaded, and Margaret talked on so cheerfully and hopefully that he began to take an interest in the scheme, and to think that he might even take some pleasure in travelling about to pick up curios to be disposed of again to advantage.

Just before bedtime he became silent, and then surprised his daughter with a question:

"Do you know who it was who read the funeral service to-day?"

"I think that it must have been Mr. Carlton, the new Vicar of this parish," replied Margaret, indifferently, "but one clergyman is much the same to me as another."

"I liked his voice and manner," said her father; "how long has he been here, do you know?"

(continued next month)

THROUGH THE FURNACE

BY F.E. READE

This is the second episode of a story found in an All Saints Parish Magazine dated January 1904—the first can be found in the December 2022 Parish News.

“Never, father,” exclaimed Margaret indignantly, “while you have a daughter to work for you. We must live together, even if we should starve together. But I am not afraid. I am young and strong. I can work for both.”

“What can you do, my poor child?”

“Don’t call me your poor child,” said Margaret, with a brave smile, “I don’t like to be pitied, you know, even by my own father. I can do everything in a house; mother trained me to be thoroughly useful, so I shall dispense with Sally at once, and then—Oh! I have all kinds of ideas already, but they will want thinking out. May I go upstairs and stalk up and down my room for half an hour. I can always think best when alone, and I shall have a grand plan ready by the time that half-hour is over.”

“I don’t want you to sink into a household drudge, and lose your friends and position,” said her father, shaking his head.

“They will be pretty sort of friends if they leave me because I am doing a bit of honest work,” returned Margaret. “Besides, dear mother never put any nonsense into my head about being a lady. I believe that she was a little bit proud of all her old china and other things that had come down to her through her mother, but she always impressed upon me that her father had made his money by selling good honest butcher’s meat in this very town, and that



a butcher’s grand-daughter cannot set up to be a lady. Your parents did not like the butcher part of the business, did they, father?”

“No, they thought that I was marrying beneath me, but I loved your mother, and she loved me, and she thought that because I used to scribble a bit in those days, I was going to turn out something wonderful in the shape of a great poet or author. I used to hope so too, but I never accomplished anything.”

“But I am sure that you are very clever, father. You understand all about our old china and things and you have added to them; someone said the other day that you were quite an antiquarian.”

“But I have never really worked at anything, I have only dabbled, and you cannot succeed in anything without honest hard work, so here I am, at fifty years of age, utterly useless, a mere cumberer of

can earn an income to feed and educate their families. Tool Box is currently open every Thursday morning from 10am until 12 noon in the Baptist church hall in Butt Lane. It’s a brilliant way to pick up on know-how about everything from dress buttons to torque wrenches and to meet lots of friendly people. **Volunteers are very much welcome as are your unwanted buttons, tools and sewing machines!** For more info on Tools With a Mission go to <https://www.twam.uk/>. Next month I’ll try and put in something about what happens to these tools when they get to Africa.

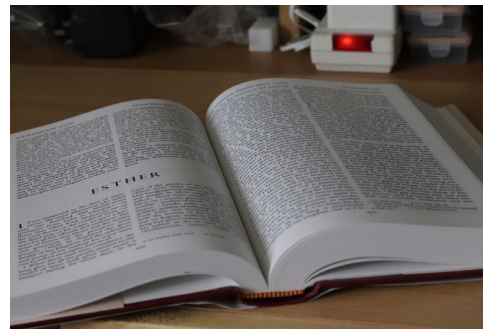
THE WALK OF WITNESS. Now this is a project we are very familiar with at



All Saints. It is arranged every Good Friday by CTiM. and will take place again this year. The walk starts, after a short service, at the Assumption of our Lady Catholic Church, in Victoria Road (around 10.00am) and the route takes it up the High Street and finishes, with a short service, at All Saints Church. **A large number of volunteers are needed** to act as marshals to help to

keep the route safe as the procession passes.

Then, in early summer, CTiM plans to start another walk, this time a **WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE**. This walk is arranged by Bible Society’s Walk Through The Bible UK Ministries. They arrange **Church Events - School Events and Tours**. (More details can be found on their website <https://eee.bible.org.uk/index.php>)



I think we will be more interested in the **Church Events**. They look as though they will take the form of a meeting in one of the churches but plans for this are at an early stage, so more details to follow.

There are also some **COFFEE MORNINGS** regularly arranged in Maldon:

- Tuesday every week 9.30-11.30am at the Elim Pentecostal Church, Wantz Rd.
- 1st Saturday of the month

10.00am– 12noon at St Mary’s Octagon, Church Rd.

- 3rd Saturday of the month 10.00am– 12noon at the Methodist Church, High Street.

Then there is also the **SOUP DROP IN** project this is held every Wednesday morning from 11.30am-1.30pm at the Salvation Army, Wantz Rd—a small charge of £4. is made.



And at the Assumption of Our Lady Catholic Church, Victoria Road, Maldon, **widows and widowers** meet every Tuesday at 10.30am

The Licensing of the Revd Andrew Appiah as Priest in charge of St Mary's Maldon, Christ Church Latchingdon and St. Barnabus Mayland, took place at St Mary's on Thursday January 19th.

The Baptist Church has announced that they propose to sell their building for re-development, and the proceeds together with the sale of the 'Manse' will be used for a new building in a new development in the Heybridge area. They say that their building in Butt Lane is in need of considerable repair and hence the plan to sell it and start again. An arrangement for a small room in the area is to be made.

And finally Tollesbury Congregational Church have asked to join CTiM. No doubt there will be more to report on next month so ... watch this space.

Mike K

FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY

In Florida, an atheist created a case against Easter and Passover Holy Days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognised days.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honour, How can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays ..."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counsel, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honour, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

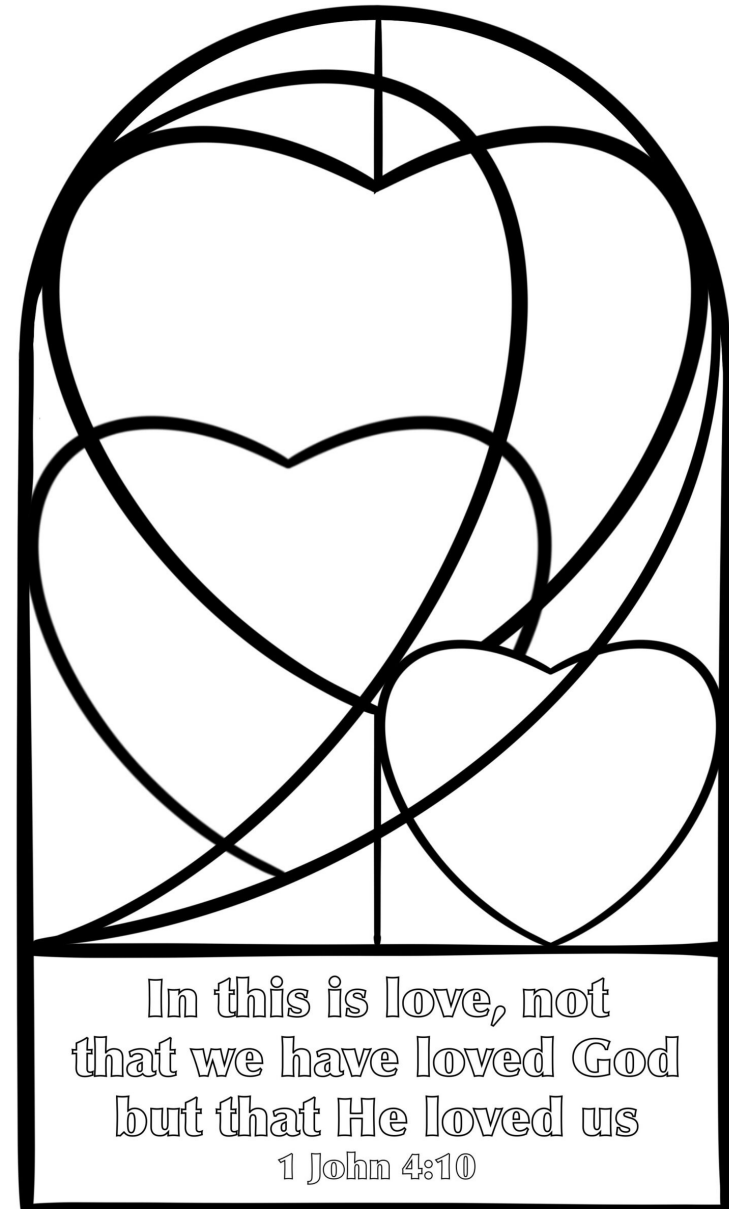
The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fools Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.'

Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool.

Therefore, April 1st is his day."

Court is adjourned..." - You gotta love a Judge that knows his scripture!"

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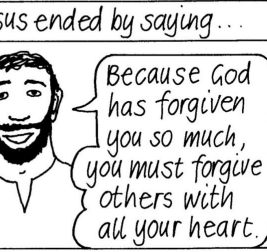
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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew chapter 18 verses 21-35

Jewish teachers used to say you only had to forgive people three times before getting revenge, so Peter asked Jesus...



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I watched an item on a news broadcast on New Years Day and it was about commemorating a well known hymn. The hymn is 'Amazing Grace' and this news item was about people celebrating the 250th anniversary of it being written by Anglican clergyman **John Newton** in 1772

Amazing Grace

Newton was conscripted into the Royal Navy as a young man and was involved in slave trading and had no particular religious convictions. His conversion came in 1748 when a violent storm battered his ship, off the coast of Ireland. The storm was so severe that Newton called out to God for mercy. This was his spiritual conversion, but he still carried on slave trading until the mid 1750's when he stopped being a seafarer. After he left the sea, Newton started studying theology and in 1764 he was ordained in the Church of England and became the Curate of Olney in Buckinghamshire. It was there that he began to write hymns with poet William Cowper, and Amazing Grace was written to illustrate a sermon on New Year's Day 1773. It was part of a collection by Newton and Cowper known as 'Olney Hymns'. Whilst not originally very popular in England, it became a regular hymn in America, and was sung to a variety of tunes and was often used by Methodist and Baptist preachers, especially in the American



South, in their evangelizing services. In 1835, the American composer, William Walker, set the words to a tune known as 'New Britain' and this is the version most frequently used today. We sing the hymn, Amazing Grace, from time to time in our own church and it is one that almost everyone knows by heart and is very popular now. Newton later became an abolitionist and his song, Amazing Grace, contains the message that forgiveness and redemption are possible regardless of sins committed and that the soul can be delivered from despair through the mercy of God. One of Newton's biographers estimated that the song is performed about ten million times annually. It is frequently sang at funerals and memorial services, and at one memorial service after a mass shooting at an American church, President Obama recited and later sang the hymn. Newton became an anti slave

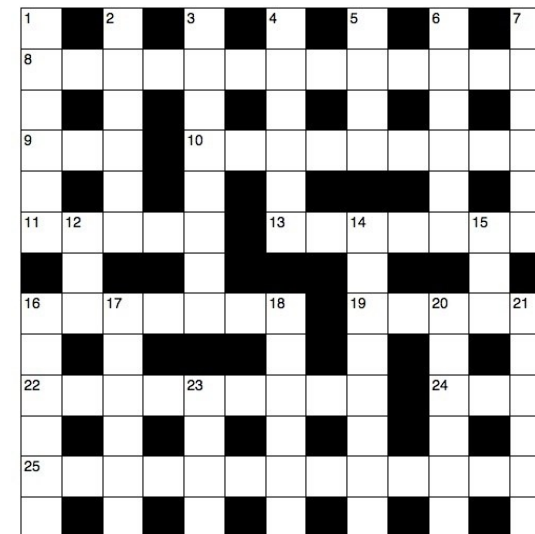
CROSSWORD

Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
- 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)



another machine while the 3D items would bounce up and down on the machine before falling onto a separate machine.

The next three machines did the same thing but sorted different things. We called these machines the blowy machines because the rubbish goes through a red and white light and then the machine blows over one material and blows under another e.g. the machine would blow over cardboard and blow under paper. It did the same for plastic and wood.

The fifth machine we called the squashy machine. We called it this because the machine would squash paper and cardboard into separate cubes which were huge. The cardboard would then get sent to Devon to be made into Amazon boxes.

The last machine was called the Incinerator. It would pick up all the non-recyclable rubbish and shred it before it got burned and used as fuel which is better than burning coal.

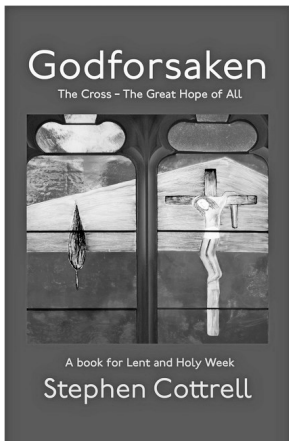
We all really enjoyed our visit to Greens Recycling Centre. We were given a pencil, ruler, coaster and a mini dustbin sharpener as a gift. At the end of our tour Jamie gave us some advice to not rip paper (because the first machine then can't pick it up) don't squash plastic bottles (because the bouncy machine thinks its paper) and to use see-through plastic rubbish bags (because the machines can't see the black bags since they blend in with the black conveyor belt).

Now, we are going to share what we learnt with the rest of the school to help everyone to recycle.

Report by **Chloe Webb** and **Bethany Bache**

Parish Pump

BOOK REVIEW



Godforsaken: The Cross, the Greatest Hope of All The Archbishop of York's Lent Book for 2023 by Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, John Murray Press, £14.99

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell explores Jesus' final words on the Cross in this powerful new book. In the Gospel of Mark's account of the Passion narrative, Jesus calls out from the cross 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which is the Aramaic for 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' – the first line of Psalm 22. It's an anguished expression – traditionally ascribed to King David – of defeat, failure, abandonment and despair.

This series of reflections, written for Lent and Holy Week 2023 by the Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell, ponders the significance of these words. What does it mean for Jesus to have quoted them, at the very end of

his life? What do those words mean for us? This is a beautiful and compelling exploration of the dark, suffering side of the Passion – and how Jesus' words lead us to the greatest hope of all.

trade campaigner around 1770 when he left Olney and for a time was associated with William Wilberforce who is credited with being influential in getting the Slave Trade Act of 1807 through Parliament.

Since recording became possible about one hundred years ago, many well known people have sung popular versions of the hymn, among them, Mahalia Jackson, Jessye Norman, Joan Baez, Aretha Franklin, the Royal Scots dragoon guards and even Rod Stewart and Elvis Presley among many, many others. Jessye Norman once sang Amazing Grace at a large outdoor rock concert for Nelson Mandela's 70th Birthday.

The name of John Newton is not one that readily springs to mind when thinking of hymns, the church or even popular music, but the man did seem to have an extraordinary life and from a hard beginning to his adult life having been 'pressed' into sea service, he had a de-

fining moment when he underwent conversion to Christianity. From then on, he eventually served the church and wrote many hymns, one of which is well known round the world and loved by millions of people. Johnny Cash also recorded this Hymn in 1975 as a popular song and sang it whilst on tour in memory to his brother, Jack, who had died as the result of an accident in childhood. Cash also included the song when he toured prisons and said 'For the three minutes that song is going on, everybody is free. It just frees the spirit and frees the person'.

The first verse of this lovely hymn starts thus:

***Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me,
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.***

Ken Downham

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Answers to the crossword which can be found on page 25

ACROSS:

8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

DOWN:

1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

When the Rev Ken Duncan visited us at All Saints last December he preached on the coming of Jesus, the meaning of His name(s), some pretty deep theology and touched on what life was like 2,000 years ago. For me it was over too soon and I thought it might be a good idea to hear it again or rather read it. So I asked him for a copy of his sermon and here it is:
Edit.

THE SERMON

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18th 2022

Today's Gospel story is written in a particular way, so let's read it carefully. It's about a dream. In the Bible, dreams show God speaking. Before we think about the dream, a word about reading this passage. Most of us know Luke's account of Jesus' birth. It's **Mary's** story: the visit of the angel, the journey to Bethlehem, the baby in a manger. From time to time Luke says, "Mary remembered all these things and thought about them deeply." Matthew gives us **Joseph's** story. Joseph is a devout Jew. He takes God seriously; and his fiancée is pregnant. What to do? Joseph knows how babies start. So if he's on speaking terms with Mary, it's quite likely that he will say something like, "How could you?" Nevertheless, he accepts Mary and names her son. Naming is the duty and privilege of fathers; and step-fathers. Remember: the Bible isn't about gynaecology! This story roots the birth of Jesus in traditional Israelite understanding. It is one of a set of stories where a boy's birth seems miraculous, like Isaac, Samson, Samuel and John the Baptist. It seems as if the impossible has happened. Each time, the message is, "This boy has been born by God's express will." That's what it's about. Jesus wasn't born as an accident, but by God's express will. Matthew and Luke told in story form what they honestly believed to be the truth. There's evidence from elsewhere in the Bible that there was something unusual about the birth of Jesus that his enemies used to discredit him. Matthew

and Luke know all this. They're neither fools nor liars. They ask us to see the story of Jesus as part—the greatest part, but still part—of the complete story of God's dealings with people.

Now for the dream. The prophet Joel said that on the day of the Lord, God would pour out his Spirit; that would include dreams and visions. This dream is **theological code**, rather than history of gynaecology. The angel tells Joseph: "that which is conceived in her is **of the Holy Spirit**." The main message of the dream is, "This child will embody God in action."

Joseph could well have asked some questions here, but probably didn't, so I shall. What kind of a God? What kind of action?

The answers come in the two names to be given to the child. Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name, Joshua, Yeshua in Aramaic. Jesus' own language. It means "God saves." Joseph would know Joshua as one of the three founders of Israel. Abraham started the family and bought some land in Canaan. Moses brought the family out of slavery in Egypt. Made them into an organised group ready to become a nation, and led them to the edge of Canaan to claim the land they believed was promised to them and symbolically theirs through Abraham's purchase. This baby, this new Joshua, would found a new Israel. And the meaning of his first names, "God to the rescue" says that he would

your feelings that can hurt you too. Anyway EVERYONE DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE! So today start forgiving people and lift others up!"

Preston: "Not everyone deserves forgiveness because some people have done worse things than other people such as going to prison, starting a war and many more. And then other people might have stolen a little bit of money from a mom or dad or maybe hit someone because you're mad but you can forgive someone if you say sorry."

other news in school

Every month, we hope to give you news about our school! We are excited to share with you what is happening in our school!

Our Visit To Greens Recycling Centre



On the 11th of January all the eco monitors went to green recycling with the head teacher Mrs White and Mrs White the classroom teacher.

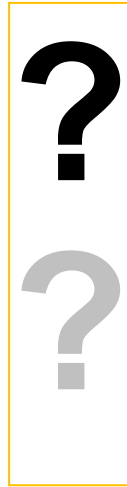
We saw what happens to all the rubbish collected from local schools and businesses.

The first machine would pick up all the big things like cardboard boxes and put them on this moving tip sort of thing. The big crane thing that picked them up looked like a T-rex!

The second machine had teeth that spun around to open black plastic bags. If it got jammed it would rotate in the opposite direction and then try again. Jamie (our tour guide) said the machine would try three times before giving up and stopping.

The third machine we called the bouncy machine because it moved forward and backward really quickly to sort all the 2D and 3D items. The 2D things, like paper, would fall onto

the **BIG** question



The Big Question is something All Saints School does every week on a Monday. In collective worship we have a different theme each week and we have a big question linked to the theme. Anyone can answer the question and there is no right or wrong answer. We put our answers on our school website but we would like to share some of them with you too. You could think of your own answers too. Here are our last Big Questions:

- How Many Friends Do We Really Need?

Chloe: “I think there isn't an amount of friends you really need. But I think that you need at least one true friend as well.”

Bethany: “I do not think that there is a limit to how many friends you really need but at least one good friend is nice.”

Olivia: “It does not matter because you can have as many as you want. If it makes you happy you can have loads, there is no proper amount.”

Isabelle: “Everybody has a friend, some people have big groups of friends and some people like to keep their friend groups small. Groups of three are good for some people, but groups of 7-10 could be something that other people enjoy, but how many friends do we really need? I think it depends on what kind of person you are! We should be able to choose how many friends we want to have. There is no limit to the friends we can have. If you like smaller groups, have a smaller group. If you like bigger groups, have a bigger group. What if you want one special friend? Have one!”

Archie: “Well I don't think there's a limit, you can have 1 10 100 1000 10,000! So it doesn't matter. You could have 0 if you want alone time, 10 if you want a gang, 4 if you want company but of course this is up to your personal opinion, mine being what you just read. So really it doesn't matter at all, no matter the age, 50 or 40 even 80 or younger, 2 and 9 and it doesn't matter because you can have any amount like me with 4.”

- Do all people deserve forgiveness?

Bethany: “yes because everyone needs to have second chances and some people change and are then better to other people.”

Francesca and Izzabella: “Has anyone ever wondered if everyone deserves forgiveness, in our opinion everyone deserves a second chance! It's OK to be angry but it doesn't mean you are allowed to hurt one another and that's not just physical it's

be the instrument of God's salvation. So Joseph is told. “Call him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins. “So what kind of God? The God who comes to his people and rescues them.

Jesus' second name, Emmanuel, means, “God is with us”. Matthew's Gospel begins with the giving of this name and ends with Jesus saying to the apostles, “I am with you always, to the end of the age”. So the God who speaks through the dream is not only the God who rescues, he is the one who is always with us. As he was with Israel through the wilderness years, so he comes to us in Christ, often in our own wilderness years, and never leaves us.

So that briefly answers the “what kind of God?” question. The god who comes to us as a rescuer and stays with us as a constant companion.

What about the second question: What kind of action? To answer this we need to ask what is happening. Both Luke's Gospel and Matthew's say that God acts **with our consent**. Mary says, “I am the Lord's servant. Let it be to me

as you have said”. Joseph, ready to break off the engagement, decides to accept Mary and her child. Either could have said “no”. And so the child is born. What we must emphasise here is that Jesus didn't come to earth riding on a chariot of fire to destroy his enemies. He was born in the same way as everyone else, with all the risks of birth in a poor country. He was born as a normal child, able only to respond to hunger with cries and to respond to love with love. All that he has available to him is to protest when things are wrong and to give love. That's the pattern for the future.

What sort of God? The one who comes as one of us to be our rescuer. And who stays with us as our companion. What sort of action? Prophetic speaking of the truth, and the kind of love that will never kill, but will be killed rather than offer hatred or disdain. Truth and love: that's God in action. As we follow him, let's imitate Jesus in protesting when things are wrong and loving despite difficulties. It won't be easy, but it will be necessary, and God will be with us in it. Always.

Rev. Ken Dunstan.

Holy Days — Shrove Tuesday

PANCAKE DAY

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

EPIPHANY

On 6th January the Three Kings visited Jesus, hence the celebration of the Feast of Epiphany on this day...or so they say. However, if the Star of Bethlehem heralded Jesus' birth on 25th December and the Three Wise Men started their journey on that day, they must have been riding supercharged camels to cover over 900 miles in 13 days! Clearly then, this visit of the Magi must have taken place later, much later some scholars argue; indeed when Jesus was two, a number agree. But like much of the Nativity Story the events are condensed into a timeframe that makes a convenient, compact, instant rendering of the most important event in religion, and the three astrologers...or was it perhaps up to twelve... merely represent one end of the spectrum of people who came to Jesus, the other end being the lowly shepherds.

Now, you will have noticed I have already used four different names for these noble pilgrims...oh, that's five now...and this sums up one of the many enigmatic questions scholars have about them. Certainly the list of questions is nigh endless...

Did they really exist at all, in fact, or were they "invented" by 3rd Century Christians to massage the narrative of the Nativity Story?

Were there in fact three, or was it two as some scholars suggest, or any permutation up to twelve? Perhaps the idea of the three gifts hints at three? Or were the three gifts even a storytelling invention themselves? Or were there more than three gifts? Maybe Matthew's Gospel steered away from writing a shopping list?

And who were they, actually? Could they have been any one of the five descriptions already given – kings, wise men, magi, astrologers, noble pilgrims? Or

perhaps even a combination of these?

And what was their origin and where did they come from? Did they represent the three known continents of that time – Asia, Africa and Europe? My favourite Christmas carol – Three Kings From Persian Lands Afar—would have it wrong then, pity. Was Melchior from Persia, Gaspar from India and Balthazar from Arabia? Was there perhaps a fourth wise man too, Artaban, a priest from Persia?

And how old were they? Does it really matter. Some scholars suggest they represented three ages of man and put them at 69, 40 and 20. Convenient?

And how did they arrive at the place and the date of the Nativity? Even if they were astrologers how would they follow a star? Some scholars suggest they hired Greek astrologers in their retinue. Jupiter is associated with royalty so the moon passing it and the sun in the constellation of Aries on 17 April 6BC could have heralded the birth. An alternative astrological explanation holds that it was a bright light in the night sky caused by a conjunction, where two celestial bodies meet, often for weeks on end, which would slowly move with the rotation of the Earth, but then stop by retrograde motion of Jupiter, in this case over Bethlehem. Whatever, such a conjunction has since appeared in 1226 and will come again in 2080 and 2400, astronomers predict.

And did they really have to ask Herod the way if they were such clever astrologers? Or is this incident a further embellishment of the nativity story by later generations? And if Herod did kill all boys under two in the vicinity of Bethlehem scholars calculate that this would not have been more than about 12 boys, based on the village's population of around 1500. Not even newsworthy to Josephus, the official chronicler of Herod. Actually, at risk



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of side tracking, Herod makes for a very interesting study. Of all the biblical characters he is the only one to have any true facts chronicled, all the others are based on stories and myths. Josephus left two written complete scrolls on his life and they showed clearly he was a very successful ruler who did many great things, believe it or not. It was he who rebuilt the great temple in Jerusalem, created the city of Caesarea in 12 years around the artificial port he made from sinking old vessels as a foundation, built seven great fortresses such as the famous Masada south of the Dead Sea, and of course kept the peace with Rome on whose behalf he ruled. But his family life hides hideous stories of betrayal, of murder of three of his sons and a mother-in-law, as well as his favourite wife out of ten of them. Hence killing a few boys would have not even made the news, scholars suggest. But I have digressed enough. Stories for another day, perhaps.

Back to the Kings then. Did they ride camels? Did they have a dream not to return to Herod? Did they ever get home? Or were they martyred to death and their bones end up in Cologne Cathedral?

So I think it is clear that Epiphany Sunday holds many unanswered questions, not just about the Three Kings, but also the whole concept of the surrounding mystique of the Nativity. But surely that is what the nativity is, a mystical, magical story representing imagery, symbolism and faith, with a sizeable dash of the miraculous? The Magi were seeking something special -- homage not just to the King of the Jews but to God himself. We too are seeking something, and occasionally we too have an epiphany. To the magi the epiphany was the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, to us it is a moment of sudden and great revelation, an unforeseen clarity, a personal realisation of something sought in the

past or for the future.

Presumably we have all made New Year Resolutions. I won't ask yours but no doubt chocolate and kindness are in them somewhere! But sometimes we do not know what it is we're after. We only know we are seeking something. Have you ever had that feeling that something was missing, you didn't know what, but you knew you'd recognise it when you saw it? Doesn't this absence and an epiphany sound mutually exclusive? But what if the absence and longing are the beginning of an epiphany to you? What if that sense of absence is the star of your life by which God is revealing His own self to you? And what if that sense of longing is really God's longing for you instead? Maybe epiphanies are the way God expresses his longing and desire for you. Maybe its not so much an "ah, I got it" but more an "ah, its got me" moment! Perhaps that is what happened to the magi as well as to us. That Star of Bethlehem illuminated an absence for the magi and shone on them as a longing and desire for The Word. They thought they were seeking the Christ child but it was really the Christ child seeking them. The Word shines for everyone, not just a few, and although it may be unseen, unrecognised or unfollowed it is always there.

So, what is absent from your life today? What are your deep longings and desires? What is the word of Christ that you need to hear in order to illumine your life today? Whatever answers you make, they are the beginnings of your epiphany. It is more than emptiness, it is God calling. It shines in the sky as a twinkling presence not an absence. It is the beacon beckoning you home. Trust the Star. Follow it. Listen to it. Learn from it. Let it take you to the house of God. Stand in the doorway, together with the Magi, and you, as a wise woman or a wise man, listen to the child say, "let them in, I brought them here". Amen.

Derek Trueman

Why has St Valentine become the Patron
Saint of Romantic Love

VALENTINE'S DAY

*The rose is red, the violet's blue
The honey's sweet, and so are you.
Thou are my love and I am thine
I drew thee to my Valentine.*

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. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):

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



*To-morrow is St Valentine's day
All in the morning betime
And I a maid at your window
To be your Valentine.*

Valentine's Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply offering flowers and a card? Jesus says: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34). How can we express love like Jesus in our everyday relationships to our partner, children, neighbours or work colleagues?

Listening

We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, 'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry' (James 1:19). How well do we listen to others? How often do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before somebody's finished speaking? Listening takes time; don't rush it!

Touching

Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in His world, including lepers, the sick and children. This was completely out of character for rabbis of His day. For us today, a warm handshake may be of value. Of course, it should always be an appropriate touch – helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

Speaking

Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of *grace*, by offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern? However, we should also be ready to speak words of *truth*, in asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation or addressing conflict. As Paul urges us, don't avoid: '*speaking the truth in love*'.

Where is the challenge for us in expressing love this Valentine's Day?