

ALLSAINTS' MALDON PARISH NEVS

£1 September 2023

Church info

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

First Sunday 6 Aug Trinity 9	08.00 09.30	Holy Communion Worship for All	Fr John Adriene & Mary
Second Sunday 13 August Trinity 10	08.00 09.30	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Adrienne Fr John
3rd Sunday 20 August Trinity 11	08.00 09.30	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Rev Julie & Rev Jordan Rev Noelle & Rev Jordan
4th Sunday 27 August Trinity 12	08.00 09.30	Morning Prayer Holy Communion	Alan Rev Noelle & Rev Jordan

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Make sure it is God's trumpet you are blowing - if it is only yours it won't wake the dead, it will simply disturb the neighbours. - W lan Thomas

The Parish Letter

Dear friends,

"In September" was a phrase that engendered all kinds of emotions in my family. It was about new starts, largely of the new class variety, occasionally a change of school. I invariably spent the summer holidays anticipating the change by crafting new pencil cases to hold all my bits and pieces. Pencil cases so complicated that they were generally ended up too big to



fit into my school case! So, anticipation featured in preparing for September but there was also an element of uncertainty.

We hold Jordan in our prayers as I imagine he is experiencing both anticipation and uncertainty as the end of September culminates in his priesting and the beginning of the next stage of his ministry.

Uncertainty is an uncomfortable feeling, and the current weather, worry about climate change, costs of living and general happenings in the world do not contribute towards a sense of wellbeing. But the question that Christians really need to ask themselves periodically is – on what does my security truly rest? What do my insecurities reveal? My particular insecurities highlight the fact that I prefer to rely on myself. Perhaps then it is not surprising that God has a tendency to place me in situations that I cannot possibly solve or put right myself. How about you? What makes you uncertain?

What God knows and what I keep failing to remember is that, ultimately, only God is faithful. Only God can be fully trusted. Anything else we might put our faith in will fail at some point. But thank God that God cares for us so completely that God won't let us rely on anything less than Godself and will steadily remove all our unstable crutches with the eternal invitation of – rely on me, trust me. We serve a God who can be trusted with both the smallest and biggest details of our lives and everything in between.

Thank God we have not been abandoned by the One who has promised to stay with us eternally. All will be well even if at the moment nothing appears to be!

With love

Noelle





Comfort for new curates - When God ordains, He sustains. - Anon



CHURCH NEWS A brief look at current Church events

Church of England announces £13 million of grants to reach children, youth and families Children must not wait until 18 to learn about racial justice General Synod backs regional wedding fees trial following debate General Synod calls on Church and Government to move faster on climate emergency New safeguarding practice review policy approved Parish 'at very heart' of God's mission, General Synod hears General Synod approves Governance Reform recommendations Synod hears update on Prayers of Love and Faith as concentrated work phase begins Churches urged to help in re-settlement of people leaving prison

Church of England announces £13 million of grants to reach children, youth and families

Awards of nearly £13 million have been made for dioceses to help churches reach more children, young people and families, from toddler groups to apprentice youth ministers. These come as the latest round of grants for mission from

the Church of England.

The grants from the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board of the Archbishops' Council aim to revitalise parishes and start new congregations. The investments build on already successful projects to create new congregations and reach children and young people in areas including Bolton, Bourne-

mouth, Guildford, Southampton and Wakefield.

Children must not wait until 18 to learn about racial justice

Nigel Genders, The Church of England's Chief Education Officer, has responded to recent reports around teaching resources for Racial Justice.

He said: "Contrary to the reports, there is no single approach to addressing racial justice in Church of England schools.

"Decisions on the best resources for different age groups and contexts are taken by each school with advice from their diocese. And we trust the judgement of our teachers and school leaders to do this."

However, he said, "in the face of polarised commentary, there is sadly a risk that schools could lose courage in their commitment to teaching racial justice at a time when it has never been more important.

General Synod backs regional wedding fees trial following debate

The General Synod has recently backed a regional trial to offer Church of England weddings free of all statutory fees. The decision followed a debate brought by Blackburn Diocesan Synod.

The Archbishops' Council has been asked to report on the impact of the trial on the number of weddings conducted, the pastoral and missional contacts made, and charitable giving in connection with weddings. The report will also detail the projected parochial and diocesan finances as a result of the trial.

The Revd Dr Tom Woolford, presenting the Blackburn Diocese motion to the Synod, said the current system of waiving fees in the event of hardship 'patronises the poor' and 'robs the struggling' of their dignity.

He said: "What would certainly happen if we abolished statutory fees is that most couples would make a donation. We would still be getting an income from weddings but by way of a donation of what couples can afford, some would give a great deal while some would only be able to afford to give a little."

Supporting the Archdeacon's amendment to the motion, The Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell added: "This seems to me to be the right thing to do. This is a chance for us to do something which I believe could be really good for us, good for our soul."

General Synod calls on Church and Government to move faster on climate emergency

The Church of England's General Synod has recently called for renewed action from the Church and Government to tackle the impact and causes of climate change.

A motion brought by the Diocese of Oxford called on all parts of the Church to review policies and procedures in order to give due priority to creation care. It also asked the Government to review planning regulations to aid the installation of renewable technology on church buildings that are listed or in conservation areas.

It also commended the National Investment Bodies for their decisions to divest from fossil fuels, called for regular prayer, and encouraged the opportunity for confirmation candidates to make commitments to safeguard the integrity of creation.

New safeguarding practice review policy approved

A new comprehensive policy on safeguarding practice reviews has been approved by General Synod. This was the first safeguarding code of practice to come to General Synod since the new Code of Practice Measure was approved in 2021.

Introducing the new policy, Bishop Joanne Grenfell, the Church of England's lead safeguarding bishop, said: "The vital, underlying aim...is understanding the past as a means of strengthening preventative work for the future."

Bishop Joanne outlined the different

processes that exist in respect of safeguarding, so that people are clear what to expect from each, stressing "learning lessons," is about taking a step back to try to understand why the events happened in the way they did; answering the "why" question enables an organisation to learn and make improvements that will keep people safe in the future.

Parish 'at very heart' of God's mission, General Synod hears

The General Synod has recently backed the parish as key to the spreading of the message of the Christian faith, in a debate where the local church was described as 'at the very heart' of God's mission.

Members were told that the parish system is central to the Church of England's Vision for growth, in a debate led by Revd Canon Kate Wharton, from the Diocese of Liverpool.

"The parish system exists not so that we can be territorial and protective of 'our patch' and work only in our own silos, but so that we can ensure that every single soul in the land is held within a system in which they matter and can be known."

The General Synod members voted to welcome the Church's commitment to increasing the numbers of ordinands, as well as an increasing emphasis on lay ministry and the expansion of Licenced Lay Ministers.

"This isn't about survival, somehow bringing in enough people and enough cash to ensure we can keep going," Canon Wharton said. "Rather, this is about a community of believers coming together to dream dreams with God about what might be possible in His perfect plan for their future."

General Synod approves Governance Reform recommendations

General Synod has recently approved the recommendations of the National Church Governance Project Board.

The Governance Project Board's recommendations include reducing the number

of National Church Institutions (NCIs) from seven to four trustee bodies, and the creation of a new NCI, Church of England National Services (CENS).

Synod hears update on Prayers of Love and Faith as concentrated work phase begins

Concentrated drafting work to prepare new pastoral guidance and other material needed for the *Prayers of Love and Faith* to come into use, is now underway.

General Synod members recently spent time scrutinising the work which has taken place since the landmark debate in February that welcomed proposals to enable same-sex couples to come to church following a civil marriage or civil partnership, for prayers of dedication, thanksgiving and for God's blessing on the two people.

Since February a draft set of texts known as *Prayers of Love and Faith* have been further refined, and work to develop new pastoral guidance for the Church of England and proposals on pastoral reassurance have been underway.

Churches urged to help in resettlement of people leaving prison

The General Synod has backed a call for churches to join partnerships working to help resettle and rehabilitate people leaving prison.

The Probation Service is already working with churches, bishops and Diocesan Safeguarding Panels to help support people leaving prison. Yet even so, many ex-prisoners are currently unable to find a welcoming faith community in which to settle.

A background paper for the General Synod showed that between 30-45% of adults released from prison in any given year will be reconvicted within a year of release and for those on short sentences (less than 12 months) this rises to 55-60%.

All SAINTS' NEWS & VIEWS

Teddy Bears' Picnic



Or fun in the sun for **Sunshiners**

They celebrated the end of another successful year with a Teddy Bears Picnic in the grounds of the Vicarage, hosted by Jordan and Hannah. The children joined in songs and games and thoroughly enjoyed the chance to make the most of the wonderful sunshine, whilst the adults appreciated time for coffee and cake.

If you would like to come and join us, the Mother and Toddler Group **restarts on September 7th** in the Darcy Room at All Saints Church.

We look forward to seeing you, - Mary, Diane, Vicky, Gill and Lynne.

NEWS & VIEWS & NEWS & VIEWS & VIEWS NEWS & VIEWS



TEN to **TEN** the Rambling Group

This month's walk was an old favourite; a 5-mile circular walk from Hatfield Peverel to Paper Mill Lock on the Chelmer and Blackwater canal. Seven of us set off from the village hall in perfect walking weather, bright and sunny but not too hot. Passing through housing estates, the path crosses Church Road but then opens up to give panoramic views across the Chelmer valley. Heading down through fields of wheat, we crossed the river Ter, went up the gentle incline to the ridge and then down, across more arable fields to the Little Baddow bridge crossing the canal. Paper Mill lock was a hive of activity with cyclists, paddle boarders, walkers and canoeists all taking advantage of the excellent café facilities. After some welcome refreshments, it was back along the canal towpath towards Ulting where we crossed the interesting curved iron bridge. Then it was up the hill and down the other side to cross the ford at Nounsley. From here the path winds through the backs of houses, crosses the lane beside the long-closed Sportsman's pub and then continues past the extensive gardens of The Priory. Reaching Hatfield Peverel church, we passed through the church yard to cross the road and reach our starting point.

Next month's walk will start from Terling village hall at 'Ten to Ten' on Saturday 9th September. Everyone is welcome! Please contact Sue Smith on 01621 854056 for more information.

Peter Holmes

COMING UP

Saturday September 30th 6.00pm Harvest Supper evening, tickets will be available shortly

Thursday October 5th at 7.00pmFollowing his priesting Rev Jordan will celebrate his first Eucharist, followed by refreshments in the D'Arcy Room.

Saturday Evening October 7th
AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

October 7th & 8th Maldon Corps are celebrating 140 years since The Salvation Army first arrived in Maldon. As part of these celebrations, we are hosting a festival with The London Central Fellowship Band on the evening of 7th October, with our Territorial Leaders as special guests for the weekend. Thanks to Maldon United Reformed Church for graciously agreeing to us using their building. TICKETS: £5/ CONCESSIONS £3 TO ORDER TICKETS PLEASE E-MAIL OR CALL THE SALVATION ARMY IN MALDON The Salvation Army, 12 Wantz Road, CM9 5DE maldon@salvationarmy.org.uk 01621 840 088



Readers' letters

"Coincidences, Godincidences,

Oddincidences" Doing my 'church watch' recently (rotored volunteers who open up the church for visitors) and absorbed in my crossword book, I had a clue which I have never ever seen before all the years I've been doing crosswords: "inscription on a tombstone". Just then a Mormon family came in from Salt Lake City hunting their roots (as Americans love to do) and asked where they could find their great, great, x ? grandfather's **tombstone** in the churchyard, because his family had moved from here, took The Oregon Trail and became a founder of SLCity!. Moreover, it turns out his family name. Ransom, is the family of the present churchwarden's wife! Meanwhile, my best friend, on the very same day, was hunting their roots via their grandfather's tombstone in a tiny churchyard in Rosendal, South Africa! Well, a quirky tale not to be buried? Someone. I won't say who, certainly has a sense of humour... "

cheers, Derek T



Men's Breakfast

9.00am...

without fail, will see us, or some of us, or even more of us indulging at Wetherspoon's Rose and Crown. Breakfast's here won't break the bank and not all of us had the fried one. Some had what looks very much like the healthy option, and if your wife is reading this, Mike, you'll get some brownie points!

The above photo shows us discussing our world changing solutions to current events.

NEXT MEN'S BREAKFAST WILL BE ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11th AT 9.00am



The 'Non-Carnival' Day at All Saints'

August 5th was a nice warm sunny day - - -

No, it wasn't!

I'd like to say that, but it was a dull cold cloudy day with light rain interrupted by heavy showers that eventually turned torrential. The town had cancelled it's Carnival Day, not because of the weather but because they couldn't get volunteers to help run it. So we did it anyway.

The two pigeons that sat on top of St. Cedd's head observing the comings and goings of the enthusiasts below were sitting in one of the few dry places outside. The rest of us were inside the church drinking hot coffee and munching sausage rolls and bacon sandwiches and cakes. All Saints' Non-Carnival Day had started.



And the stallholders were selling their goods—there were more people turning up to buy stuff than I thought would in this weather. Despite the rain there was a steady trickle of people into All Saints amounting to quite a few over the 4 hours from 10.00am-2.00pm. I don't know what St. Cedd would have made of it all. Mind you he came from the North-umbria area to re-convert the East Saxons, and build a few churches, so I would think he'd be pleasantly surprised to find All Saints with so many converts carrying on the work he was sent down to kick start. You might like to know that so far (06.08.2023) over £700.00 was raised—a good job jobbed—so, in the immortal words of St Cedd ... "carry on everybody you're all doing very well"!













I'm going to church to see a man about a giraffe'

What an excellent event we had on non-Carnival day .

I came to church that morning to prepare the slides for the service the next day and found the place buzzing with people and music and bustle. I tucked myself away in the office upstairs just to use the desk and it was lovely to hear the music and the hum of conversation, and have the delicious smell of sausage sarnies waft up.

Once I'd finished, I headed back down for a cup of tea and a wander around the stalls and have a bit of a chat. It was super to find a fellow cycling fan and Ashley and I had a long and very enjoyable chat until the Maldon Pioneers lured me to the bottle tombola. I won a bottle of Lucozade. No sooner was it in our fridge than it disappeared. You can

tell George is back home!

One of the stalls I paused at was the woodwork stall. The examples of woodwork and fretwork on display were really different and I noticed a sign saying at least 75% of the price goes to charity. After a bit of a chat with Roger, the man who produces it all, and a bit of a think, I ordered a 'shelf dragon' for my Dutch friends' daughter. I needed a companion piece for her sibling but couldn't remember what she particularly liked. In the end we exchanged numbers so we could text. In the week I ordered a giraffe to go with the dragon, and it was ready for me to collect the following Saturday. And that's how, just one week later, I was pleased to let people know I was qoing to church to see a man about a giraffe. Roger was waiting outside church with the shelf dragon and giraffe in an envelope. I thought they were just gorgeous.





The charity Roger supports

through his work is Bloodwise, a charity which he said saved his wife's life several years ago. He uses repurposed wood wherever possible and, once he has covered his costs, the rest of the money goes to the charity. And the price was so reasonable a small extra donation seemed appropriate.

If you are interested in the work that Roger does, he has given me permission to pass on his email address: retiredroger414@gmail.com.

The charity Bloodwise is also known as **bloodcancer.org.uk** their website says - we're a community dedicated to beating blood cancer by funding research and supporting those affected.

Many thanks to Roger – I hope we see him at another event. I am sure I will be in touch again Christmas is coming and he had some beautiful nativity scenes.

And many thanks to those who organised and helped out at this excellent event. It was a lot of work but it was so worthwhile.



Lily-May

Hello,

It's Kathryn here from All Saints' church (Lily-May's mum). Geoff gave me your email address so I could give you an update on Lily-May. He often sees my posts on Facebook and recently there have been some really positive ones about Lily-May and Geoff thought you'd like to hear how she is getting on.

She continues to do very well, three and a half years after surgery (where does the time go!). As the surgery didn't fuse

her she was able to grow normally and gained a couple of inches over the last few years - she is taller than me by a hair! Her back isn't completely straight but the 2 curves are balanced one small one at the top and another at the bottom - they aren't big enough to need any further treatment and are about half the size they were before surgery. She has full flexibility to bend and move how ever she wants to because each bone in her spine still has complete movement rather than being fused.



She is able to do all the things she enjoys without any pain and she does so much. She has recently completed her *Silver Duke of Edinburgh award* during which she volunteered to teach dance to those with dance learning difficulties. She learned the skill of pointe dancing and went on an expedition that involved a 55km hike in the Yorkshire Dales, sleeping on a foam roll mat!

Straight off the back of that (without even coming home!) she went on to take part in *Essex County performing group's* 7 day National tour in Devon. She did the tour's show 3 times a day and also the workshops for schools, before performing to parents at the Civic theatre. In addition she auditioned for Call 1 at the start of the year and has made it into that group.

She lives dancing and is always pirouetting around the house and everywhere she goes. She is so blessed to be able to carry on doing what she loved. She has

Lily-May's adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, (double curvature of the spine) which left her in incapacitating pain was only treatable in the UK by a complete fusion—ending her hopes of ever becoming a ballerina. But another operation using non-fusion technology in Germany gave her parents new hope, and, after a massive appeal raised the £45,000 fee needed, the surgery was performed . , , ,

finished her GCSEs now and worked really hard (no results until August but predicted to do well across all the subjects). But who would have thought she would be able to sit GCSE in PE and Dance after her diagnosis—she certainly wouldn't have been able to do so if she hadn't had the surgery—and she is expected to excel in both. She is going to continue dancing and aiming to get her grade 6 in ballet, tap and modern (which will give her UCAS points for uni).

She isn't sure what path to take after her 'A levels' (she is going to take Biology, English, Ethics, RE and Psychology) but maybe with a long term goal of midwifery.

As her GCSE dance was on a Sunday morning she hasn't been able to come to church often but she has been doing a bible study with Danbury Mission on a Tuesday evening and joined their Friday youth group. I am so please she has found such a large group of Christian teenagers...but All Saints' have been such a huge part of her story and going there always feels like coming home.

We have missed you! I hope life is treating you kindly?

I have attached some photos of her from dance. Thank you for all you did to support us - we'll never forget xx

Love Kathryn and Lee.



THE STORY OF MALDON

This is the continuation of the recently discovered fragile booklet entitled:

'SOUVENIR IN CONNECTION WITH THE UNVEILING OF THE STAINED-GLASS WINDOW PRESENTED TO ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, MALDON, ESSEX, 5TH JULY 1928 AS A MEMORIAL TO THE REV. LAURENCE WASHINGTON (GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER OF GEORGE WASHINGTON) BURIED IN ALL SAINTS' CHURCH-YARD, 1653. THIS WINDOW WAS PRESENTED BY THE CITIZENS OF MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A. AND BY THE MEMBERS OF THE SULGRAVE INSTITUTE.'

Part 1—(Jun) The Washington Memorial Window

Part 2—(Jul) The Love Story of Fambridge Ferry

Part 3—(Aug) All Saints' Church Maldon, Essex

Part 4—(Sep) The Story of Maldon Essex

The name Maldon is evidently of Saxon origin. The Saxons spelt it Máel-dun, and this probably meant "the meeting-place hill" - the hill of assembly. Morant says that "mael" meant cross, but there seems to be no authority for this. In earlier times under some forgotten name or names, the place was occupied. Palæolithic and Neolithic men left their weapons and implements here as evidence of their occupation. Later came the Romans, and

they, as usual, left behind them Roman money and Roman pots and lamps and stone coffins and trinkets.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle states that Edward the Elder established a "burh" (borough) at Maldon about 921, but this must not be considered the beginning of Maldon. It is related in another record that Edward the Elder had stayed at "Mealdune" in 913, and the town or "burh"

had existed probably long before that date.

From 913 to 993 Maldon was constantly harried by the Danes. Somewhere about the year 993 was fought the almost incredible Battle of Maldon, between the Danes and Saxons. A remarkable Saxon poem tells of terrific slaughter and prodigious bravery on both sides. The Saxon Earl Brihtnoth, who had defied the Danes, was amongst the slain. The old Chronicle of Ely says that the battle lasted fourteen days. "The Danes kept the field," says the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, which is a roundabout way of confessing that the Saxons were rather badly defeated and that the Danes took possession of Maldon.

At this time and for many centuries later, Maldon and Colchester were the chief towns of Essex. Both were Royal Towns owned by the Sovereign, - doing special service to the King because of this ownership, and possessing special privileges. Domesday Book tells of the mint—the right of having moneyers authorised to make and issue the coin of the realm—for which privilege Maldon and Colchester were supposed to pay the King £20 a year. Both towns were invariably in arrear and they combined from time to time, with more or less success, to secure remissions of the payment.

It is significant that in Domesday Book the "burgesses" of Maldon are mentioned. Both Maldon and Colchester were recognised as "boroughs" before they had Royal Charters of incorporation.

The first Charter granted to Maldon was given by Henry the Second at Pembroke, on October 7 in some year not specified—probably about 1155, when Henry was in Wales. The Charter sets forth that it was granted on the petition of William de Mandeville, Earl of Essex, son of that redoubtable robber and freebooter, Geoffrey de Mandeville. These nobles held lands in Maldon. A condition of the Charter was that Maldon should, when required, supply a ship for the King's defence, "as they had done in the time of Henry the First." Maldon had also from time immemorial the duty



Mr. Edward Bright

Amongst other inscriptions are several to members of the old Maldon family of Bright, including:- Edward Bright, who died Nov. 10, 1756 aged 29. He weighed 44 stones, measured 5½ feet around the chest, and 6ft. 11in. round the stomach. He was 5ft 9½ in. high.

After his death a wager was decided at the Black Bull, Maldon, whether five men could be buttoned within his waistcoat. Actually seven men were buttoned inside "without breaking a stitch or straining a button."

His memorial is near the font. It is said that an "engine" was specially fixed in the church on the occasion of the funeral to lower his body into the grave.

Daniel Lambert (d. 1809) is said to have been the most corpulent man of who there is authentic record. Edward Bright of Maldon ranks second only to him.



of supplying one war-horse for the King's army whenever required. This Charter, granted by Henry II seems to have been the first Borough charter granted to any Essex town. Other Royal charters were granted to Maldon by Edward I (1290), Edward III (1330), Richard II (1378), Henry IV (1400), Henry V (1416), Henry VI (1454), Edward IV (1463), Henry VIII (1525), Mary (1554), Philip and Mary (1555), Elizabeth (1559 and 1592), James I (1604), Charles I (1630), James II (1686), George III Fourteen of these charters framed in oak, hang in the Council Chamber of the ancient Town Hall. As a borough Maldon sent two representatives to Parliament from 1329 onwards. This right (which had been reduced to one M.P. in 1867) automatically ceased under the Reform Act of 1884, when the borough became merged in the "Maldon Division of Essex."

The fine Borough Mace dates from 1687 and was made for the first Mayor of the Borough. Until 1686-7 the chief Officers of the Borough were two Bailiffs elected



annually. The Charter of 1686 changed this and made the Chief Magistrate Mayor.

The picture of the old Borough Seal of Maldon is of considerable interest. It is a photograph of the only perfect impression known to exist (preserved at Colchester). A very much broken impression from the same seal is attached to the transcript of the Maldon Borough Charter of 1378. The inscription on each side reads:

- Sigillum Communitatis de Maldon [e]. (Seal of the Commonality of Maldon)



THE BELLS OF ALL SAINTS'

Outside the belfry, under a canopy, hangs an old Sanctus Bell with a Latin inscription stating that it was made by John Swain and Richard Lynn. The lettering appears to be 15th or early 16th century, but no bellfounders are known of the names mentioned.

There is now a peal of eight bells in the belfry, two having been added in 1922. Two of the bells are dated 1770 and 1799, probably replacements of earlier bells; whilst four others are dated 1707, with a remarkable inscription, which indicates that six bells then existed. The lines (one on each bell) are as follows:-

When three this steeple long did hold They were the emblems of a Scold; No Musick then, but now shall see What Pleasant Musick six shall be.

H.P.

Henry Pleasant was the bellfounder; and his initials H.P. are at the end of the last line. Perhaps he was the author of these "pleasant" lines. "Three" being "the emblem of a scold" seems to refer to some variant of the old proverb, common to most European Countries, - "three women and a goose make a market."





A.G. Smith

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Too many people with mortgages are struggling in silence.

The number of people we help with mortgage arrears has steadily risen over the last year, due to the cost of living crisis and significant increases in the Bank of England Base Rate. Many people with a mortgage who come to us already have a negative budget - others have very little left at the end of the month, and a rise in their repayments would put them into debt.

First steps

If you are struggling to pay your mortgage or secured loan, and you haven't already done so, get some advice as soon as possible. It is important to look at your whole situation, as you may have other debts that need dealing with as well as your mortgage. Get in touch with Maldon & District Citizens Advice.

It is never too early or too late to contact your lender and find out what options may be available to you.

Pay as much as you can. Even if you have not paid for a while, or cannot afford the full amount each month, you should start paying as much as you can afford.

Most lenders are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Their rules say that a lender must 'deal fairly with any customer who is in arrears'.

The Mortgage Charter

Most UK mortgage lenders have signed up to the Mortgage Charter. If your lender has signed up to the charter, they should offer you a wide range of support if you are worried about meeting your mortgage payments because of increased interest rates, or are already struggling to make payments.

For example, if you are up to date with your payments, your lender should allow you to switch to interest-only payments for six months, or extend your mortgage term to reduce your monthly payments. They should also give you the option to revert back to your original term within six months. You should not need an affordability check and this support should not affect your credit score.

From 26 June 2023, you should not be forced to leave your home within twelve months of your first missed mortgage payment unless you agree to do so or there are exceptional circumstances.

From 10 July 2023, you should be allowed to lock into a deal up to six months before your existing fixed-rate deal changes. You should also be able to manage your new deal and request a better like-for-like deal from your lender up until your new term starts, if one is available.

Help with mortgage payments

If you need help with your mortgage and you are claiming certain benefits, you may be able to apply for a Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI) loan. SMI helps people who qualify with payments towards the interest payments on their mortgage.

Don't be tempted to take out another sort of loan to repay your mortgage arrears. Often these are very expensive, and could put your home at greater risk.

Increasing your income

It is very important to make sure that you are getting all of the benefits and extra help

you might be entitled to. Citizens Advice can help you check this or you can use an online calculator such as turn2us

If you have mortgage payment protection insurance, check to see if you can make a claim.

While we cannot provide "financial advice" we can help with your arrears or potential shortfall. We look forward to hearing from you about this or any other issue, in whichever way suits you best.

- Visit www.maldoncitizensadvice.org.uk and submit an enquiry.
- Phone 01621 875774 and leave a message. An adviser will return your call.
- Drop in, no appointment necessary, to:

Heybridge: Tuesdays 9.30am-1pm Fullbridge Church, 27 Fullbridge CM9 4LE

Southminster: Tuesdays 9.30am-12 noon URC North Street CM0 7DF Burnham: Thursdays 10am-1pm Baptist Church Hall, Station

Road, CM0 6HJ

Whatever Happened to 'the Customer is Always Right'?

Editor: David Pickup, a solicitor, considers customer care - or the lack of it!

"Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the king"

1 Peter 2:17

I sometimes wonder about the customer being right, when I am told off in shops for not doing what they want or even just asking questions. Perhaps it is just me.

The full phrase is "Rule number one: the customer is always right. Rule number two: If the customer is wrong, please refer to rule number one. It is attributed to Harry Gordon Selfridge, (11 January 1858 – 8 May 1947) an American retail magnate who founded the London department store Selfridges.

His 20-year leadership of Selfridges led to his becoming one of the most respected and wealthy businessmen in the country. He introduced the phrase in the early 1900s to encourage employees to promote customer satisfaction and create an environment where customers felt valued and respected. He was known as the 'Earl of Oxford Street'. He also thought of the phrase "Only _____ Shopping Days until Christmas".

Do you feel valued and respected when you buy something? I thought not! We spend so much money in supermarkets and they make lots of money out of us. I was particularly annoyed recently when a shop installed barriers so you cannot get out without swiping your receipt.

We probably should complain more, but also we should acknowledge good service. If I ask where the cat food is, it helps if an employee shows me by walking there, not just say opposite the dog food or 'over there' and point vaguely.

On the absurdity of a vicar ever retiring

The Rectory St James the Least

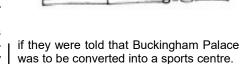
My dear Nephew Darren

Beware of being invited by bishops to drop round for a chat. My first mistake was to answer the phone when he rang; what are answerphones for, but to avoid having to talk to anyone - ever. My second mistake was not to be able to think of a meeting I had to attend -preferably on another planet - on the day he suggested.

I therefore found myself in his study this morning, waiting for the point of the meeting while we negotiated the obligatory five minutes discussing the weather and his summer holiday in France. I made it quite clear that I had been far too busy to swan off to foreign parts – although I suspect the implication of what I said passed him by.

We then got to the point. He was toying with the thought of my retirement and linking us with the adjoining parish of St Agatha's. I patiently explained, using simple words and speaking slowly for his benefit, that at 85 and with 40 years at St James the Least of All behind me, I was just getting into my stride and that the vicar of St Agatha's, a stripling at 63, had nowhere near enough experience to organise the hymn list, let alone two parishes. This, too, seemed to drift somewhere above his head.

He had clearly done his homework. There were already plans for *my* Queen Anne rectory to be sold and *my* five acres of garden be turned into a housing estate. This news would be received by our parishioners with as much equanimity as



The matter, I was told, was confidential — which meant that I only relayed the news to one parishioner at a time. By the end of the day everyone in the village knew, and a counter attack was being planned. Inevitably, the most outraged were those who never attend church. People do so love having a church not to go to. Congregations have soared, gardeners are being brought in to tidy the rectory grounds, and the church council is now well attended. The latter is a mixed blessing, as I always think that the time to get worried is when people start to turn up to meetings.

It may surprise our bishop, but the threat of a merger has been the greatest impetus to mission outreach we've had in years. Retirement indeed! I'm sure Zadok was never asked about his pension plans.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Dumbing Down?

I have been impressed with some of the articles submitted for inclusion in the magazine by All Saints School during the previous few months. It is good to see the enthusiasm of the children and to see that the teachers are encouraging them to write articles for this magazine. From small beginnings....?

I particularly like "The Big Question" that is asked of the pupils every Monday and is open for anyone who wishes to give an answer. Some of the answers given by the children are really thought provoking and I sometimes find I am trying to give an answer. So well done to the All Saints Teachers and to their pupils who make these well received articles for our magazine.

It has been customary in the Press in recent years to claim that education is "Dumbing Down" and is not as good as when they went to school. I will have none of this as far as children I know who attended All Saints Primary School, before going on to equally good secondary education at State schools. I know of one girl, the daughter of an ex-Teacher at All Saints in this category who recently qualified as a Veterinary Surgeon and two other ex-pupils who are now qualified Accountants. There are probably many more out there who attended All Saints Primary School and who have achieved similar success. So Dumbing Down? Don't believe it!

I would like your indulgence to illustrate the kind of education that Teachers at All Saints Primary give to their pupils. When my grandson, Cameron, was in year six at the school, and was about to transfer to secondary education he, along with the rest of his class was asked by his Teacher, Miss Wolff, to write a piece of "creative writing". The subject was "Something that costs nothing" and the children were told to remember in their writing to use. Appropriate and varied sentence structures. A broad range of punctuation to control your writing. Imaginative and precise words to convey meaning.

This is Cameron's piece exactly as submitted to his Teacher:

Family

It may be considered unnecessary, unwanted, unneeded; in my mind it is thoroughly imperative to our society. Family. It is a bond between people linked and tied with the same characteristics, similar DNA and most importantly the ability to care for and respect the family that you cherish.

The foundations are the older members, your ancestors. You are theirs, gradually building brick by brick as another son, daughter, brother or sister is entered into civilization. Soon you expand into open gardens flourishing with majestic life (that being your cousins) and so you then emerge into an outside shed, your nephews. Your family is like your home, it must be cared for, for all eternity.

Although some may interpret what has just been said as nothing much; "Yes, I have a family, so what" asked John in an interview discussion about what he thought his family meant to him.

But what has just been said is a prime example of what many children of my age (11) think. However, they must emerge into the world we live in today; alright, you may be living in rich areas but with na-

tions at war, increasing extremist actions and a worldwide response to terrible diseases and tragedies you might have only one thing left. What do you want that one thing to be? Family, family, family. It is like the goalkeeper. The front line is warfare, the defence is rugby. All these things stand strong in their own way. Just like Family! So don't give up on the most important thing in your life.

He finished it there. Not likely to win a Nobel prize for literature, but for an eleven year old? And Miss Wollf told me that most of the class were equally capable of writing with such imagination and skill. So Dumbing Down? It is just not so in my opinion.

Another thought on Education. During the

same period of time that my grandson was at All Saints our then Vicar, Reverend Stephen Carter used to visit the school on one afternoon each week to listen to children of various ages read to him. I know that he was always impressed with the standard of reading and was impressed with how eager the children were to improve their reading skills. That was very encouraging, because as we all know, if you cannot read you cannot grasp any other subject, so reading and writing are fundamental and necessary skills. I therefore hope. All Saints. that you will carry on contributing. Your contributions to the Parish Magazine are always appreciated and read by many.

Ken Downham

'There's a way of transferring funds that is even faster than electronic banking. It's called marriage.' - James Holt McGavran

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THE NEXT STEP

A View from a Bystander

At the end of July instead of a traditional 'Songs of Praise' service, Maldon United Congregational Church based its morning worship round the theme of 'Singing the Faith'. This allowed us to explore - amidst some hearty, enjoyable singing - a narrative of the Christian faith-journey from childhood through all the seasons of life until the one which many of us have reached today.

I was privileged to lead the service and provide the meditations for each section. It emerged that there were in fact very few seasons in which faith is 'simple' in any way. That was echoed especially in the lives of Moses, Elijah, and King David in the Psalms. At times, yes, we may get periods of respite; but the challenges and testings inevitably come in this troubled world.

The uneasiest part of a service structured like this is that many of us may feel that the majority of our Christian witness and service is now behind us and we wonder what the next step might be.

I include here the final part of my address:

"But there is one great opportunity a season like this in our lives *does* give us. Jot down the formative times in your faith-journey: the mountain-top experiences –

perhaps relatively few and not everybody has them. Then the people whose depth of belief really inspired you. Or those unlikely (not always likeable) people who told you they were praying for you when needed. The times you came through something you were not expected to survive - when God clearly had something more for you to do. The church building, or buildings, you have loved. Or the music. What was it that has always made you keep the Sabbath? How did that 'still small voice' first take hold of you? What Scriptures do you especially love and which are the bits you'd rather read with a sherry in hand? And - if you were on the Ark, which animal would you like to have been? Go on – have a bit of fun."

And yes, like all preachers should, I have done that exercise myself. Except for the bit on Scripture – I've postponed that to give myself plenty of time to identify those sherry-moments.

As for the animal, you may ask? Without doubt a wombat. Everyone gets tired at the end of the alphabet. Apart from which it would give me such a great excuse to be miffed with Adam for giving me such a stupid name.

Revd Dr Graham Blyth

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 8, Kiriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Miletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph. DOWN: 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.

THROUGH THE FURNACE

Continued from last month:

BY F.E.READE

She also discovered that a guinea a week soon melted away when she had to buy extra towels, table-linen, and to provide little luxuries to which she and her father had never been accustomed. In fact, she foresaw that she would have to pinch herself in pocket money in order to make both ends meet, but she kept these difficulties to herself, for she seemed to have but one desire in her mind, to please and satisfy the person who was becoming the first object of her thoughts.

In about a fortnight's time Newlyn obtained employment in the first piano warehouse in the town. He acted as secretary and he also had to receive customers and to try over the pianos for them. His appearance and manners gave great satisfaction to his employer, and in a short time he became a great favourite with him. One evening Newlyn came back to Margaret in great excitement.

"Miss Harvey," he exclaimed. "that governor of mine is a regular trump. He is going to lend me a piano, and I have a tremendous favour to ask you. I wonder whether you will grant it."

"What is it?" asked Margaret, with the bright smile which now came so readily to her face.

"Well, I want to have the piano in my own room, and to ask a friend up sometimes, and if I could only have some other little room to sleep in, I should have a jolly sitting-room, don't you see."

"But we have only that tiny little box room," said Margaret in dismay.

"I don't mind how small it is," urged he; "you see I want to put the piano where the bed is now. I should be so awfully comfortable; don't you think you could manage it?"

"Yes, it shall be done," said Margaret, making a swift resolution, "it shall be ready for you by tomorrow evening."

"You are the very kindest person in the

world," returned he, "then I shall have the piano in the day after."

When he came home on the following evening he sprang upstairs with all the ardour of a boy to see the new arrangements.

"Here is your bedroom," said Margaret, proudly, leading the way into the room which had been her own.

"But this is not the box room!" exclaimed he

"No, I could not let you sleep there," replied she, "I know that you ought to have plenty of fresh air; the box room will do well enough for me."

He tried to shake her determination, but in vain. She smiled down upon him with a kind of motherly air which he found quite irresistible. He took her hand and pressed it warmly.

"You are too good to me," he said; "but if it were not for my wretched lungs I would never allow it. Will you promise to come into my room tomorrow evening for a little while. I want you to be the very first person that I play and sing to?"

Margaret promised, only too willingly, and felt more than rewarded for all the labour and self denial which the change of rooms had cost her.

THE
All Saints and St Peter's,
MALDON
Parish Magazine
APRIL 1904
CHAPTER IV

When Newlyn came home on the following evening, he brought the piano with him, and two men to carry it upstairs. This was done with some difficulty as the staircase was narrow and winding, but the men knew their business and it was at last accomplished, to the young man's intense satisfaction. He began to play upon it at once, and Margaret could hard-

ly persuade him to leave it to come down to supper.

Mr. Harvey did not like to be kept waiting

for his meals, and yet he could only shake his head indulgently when Newlyn came down at last, and talked with all the delight of a boy about his new possession.

"I suppose that you could not possibly tear yourself away to -night to go out with me," said the elder man. "I begin my new duties tonight as secretary to the Temperance Society, and I was going to invite you and Margaret to attend the meeting."

"I will go with all the pleasure in life another time," said Newlyn, "and I will

sing for them if they are hard up for performers, but I certainly could not leave my dear piano on the very first evening, and I want your daughter to hear it particularly, if you would not mind excusing her."

The staircase was narrow and winding

"Margaret may please herself," replied her father gently.

"Then you will stay, won't you?" said Newlyn, turning to her in his impulsive way. Margaret's answer was a murmured assent accompanied by a deep blush. Her father noticed this, and thought to himself in a half amused manner, that she did not find it so easy to keep this young man at arm's length after all.

"Can my proud girl be really losing her heart?" was his next refection. "Well, he is a good young fellow, and if they should fancy each other, I see no objection to it."

Mr. Harvey had no sooner left the house than Newlyn's impatient voice sounded down the stairs—

"Are you ready to come up?"

Margaret was in the middle of washing the china, but she hastily dried her hands, took off her apron, and obeyed the sum-

> mons. He drew back the armchair and established her in it, but she started up again, and exclaimed.

> "Oh, I must fetch my knitting."

"No, no, said he, "sit down again. I am not going to let you do any knitting. You must just attend to me."

Margaret smiled, and found a strange pleasure in obeying. He went to the piano, and afte playing a little, began to sing. He had a sweet pathetic voice, a tenor of rare quality, which although rather weak, was strong

enough for the room, and he sang with great feeling. Margaret was entranced; she had never heard anything like it before, and the thought that he was singing to her added to the charm. A fit of coughing stopped him at last, and it left him looking white and exhausted. Margaret rose out of the armchair. She felt anxious, but would not show it in her manner, for she knew that he disliked to be 'fussed'.

"Sit here for a little while," said she, "and I will get the coffee."

She brought it in a few minutes, for she had left a kettle on the fire, and he drank it and revived.

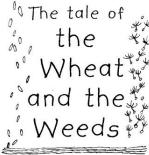
"How good you are to me," said he gratefully. "You do everything for me, and yet you never fuss; I have not been petted like this since I left Aunt Caroline."

Margaret looked at him quickly. She longed to know his past history. He read the wish in her eyes, and said,

"Come and sit near me and let me tell you all my story."

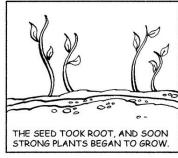
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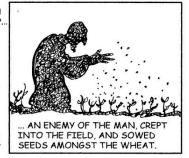












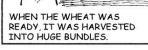














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CROSSWORD

Across

- Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleans ing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
- Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have —' (Malachi 1:3) (5) 10
- Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7) 13
- 'Jesus bent down and to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7) 16
- Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5) 19
- Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)

24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)

There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down

- Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- See 24 Across
- Underground literature (including Christian books circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
- Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)
- 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7)(3)
- Second city of Cyprus 14
- (8)
- ÌŚ United Nations Association (1.1.1)
- One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16 16:1) (6)
- 17 Braved (anaq.) (6)
- of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6) 18
- 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)



Prayer Diary September 2023

1	Peace in Ukraine
2	Bishop Guli
3 Trinity 13	Members of our Ministry Team
4	Our PCC
5	Students returning to school this week
6	Students starting a new school this week
7	South American Missionary Society
	The Headteacher and Staff of All Saints'
8	School
9	All who work in education
10Trinity 14	All Christian Teachers
11	The work of the Friends of Essex Churches
12	Students preparing for College and University
13	Those who have lost their faith
14 Holy Cross Day	The Mission and Outreach of our Church
15	Our Uniformed Groups
16	The work of Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis
17 Trinity 15	Members of our Junior Church
18	All Christian Musicians
19	Our Flower Group
20	All Choristers
21St Matthew	Churches dedicated to St Matthew
22	Residents of Care Homes in our Town
23	Maldon Town and District Council Staff
24 Trinity 16	The Church Army
25	All who work on the land
26	Members of the Fire Service
27	All staff who work in Hospices
28	Pray for peace throughout the world
29 Michael & All Angels	Rev Julie Willmot and the Parish of St
	Michael's, Woodham Walter
30	Rev Jordan Palmer being made Priest today

FOR YOUR DIARY				SEPTEMBER 2023		
	All Saints 08.00	All Saints 09.30	All Saints 18.30 April- October 16.00 November -March	St Giles 09.30	St Andrew's 11.15	St Georges 09.30
First Sunday 3 September Trinity 13	Holy Communion Fr John	Worship for All Vicky & Betty		ST GILES PATRONAL FESTIVAL at 9.30 Fr John & Rev Jordan		
Monday 4 September						Holy Communion Fr John
Second Sunday 10 September Trinity 14	Morning Prayer Adrienne	Holy Communion Fr John	Evensong Alan	MP&P Gerald	Holy Communion Fr John	
Monday 11 September						MP&P Rev Jordan
Third Sunday 17 September Trinity 15	Holy Communion Fr John & Rev Jordan	Holy Communion Rev Noelle & Rev Jordan		Holy Communion Fr John	MP&P Lynne	
Monday 18 September						Holy Communion Fr John
Fourth Sunday 24 September Trinity 16	Morning Prayer Alan	Holy Communion Fr John & Rev Jordan (P)		MP&P Gerald	Holy Communion Fr John & Rev Jordan (P)	
Monday 25 September						MP&P Joy

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Choir Prac/Thu (7:30pm)	Dr. Stuart Pegler	01621 850530
Choir Prac/Sat (11.30am)	Eleine Decem	04004 050404
Junior Church	Elaine Brown	01621 850484
Sunshiners (Pre School Group	Mary Stebbens	01621
Thursdays 9:15 am)		
Tower Bell Ringers	Dennis Johnson	01621 842410
Handbell Ringers	Derek Hall	01621 741690
Flower Group	Betty Smith	01621 854143
Childrens Society	Elaine Brown	01621 850484
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and	Zoe Franklin	Email
Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs) 1str	maldonallsaintsscoutg	roup@gmail.com
Maldon Pioneers	Mike Frederick	01621 840951
Ramblers Club		
Prayer Group		
Messy Church	Elaine Brown	01621 850484

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From the Registers

Funerals

9th August Doris Sylvia Grimwade aged 93 years of Washington Road





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