

ALL SAINTS' MALDON PARISH NEVS

£1 November 2023

Church info for November

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

Saturday 4th	16.00	All Souls Service	Rev Jordan
First Sunday 5th	08.00	Holy Communion	Rev Jordan
All Saints' Day	09.30	Worship for All	
4 th before Advent		in All Saints School	Rev Jordan, Vicky & Betty
Second Sunday 12th	08.00	Holy Communion	Fr John
Remembrance Sunday 3 rd before Advent		Holy Communion	Rev Jordan
Third Sunday19th	08.00	Holy Communion	Fr John
2 nd before Advent	09.30	Holy Communion	Rev Noelle
	14.00	Baptism	Fr John
Fourth Sunday 26th	08.00	Holy Communion	Fr John
Christ the King	09.30	Holy Communion	Rev Noelle
Sunday before Advent	14.00	Baptism	Rev Jordan

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NB. COPY DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER

PARISH NEWS - NOVEMBER 15th to biggglesworth@btinternet.com

The Parish Letter

"I mean, who designed that?" Richard asked, after recounting the story of the bar-tailed godwit on Radio 4's Tweet of the Day. These amazing birds make the longest non-stop journey of any migratory bird. One Alaskan godwit was tracked on its 11,000km, 9 - day non-stop flight to New Zealand. By the time it arrived, it had lost more than 50% of its bodyweight, and it slept by shutting down one side of its brain at a time. Who designed that indeed!

This is not the place for the theological debate of whether our creator God is the Intelligent Designer. Such a theology was aired in the late 1700's. God was seen more like a designer who, having made the world in all its intricacy, sat back and watched it unfold. As the world came to understand evolution and natural selection, the concept was largely displaced. And today we understand a God who sustains his creation eternally, not as not a one off design. He is involved with his creation, interacting with it and being part of creation's past, present and future. And we know this because most visibly of all, he sent his Son to be on earth in the person of Jesus.

Richard's comment was tongue in cheek; what he was really expressing was his awe at nature. Sometimes it is good to be swept away by all that is created in our wonderful world. And you don't need Grand Canyon vistas for the 'wow' moment. We have just been privileged to enjoy a weekend away on the Suffolk coast in crisp, bright autumn weather. We walked in countryside and by the sea, and took a trip to the RSPB reserve at Minsmere. We don't know much about birds. but we are trying to learn, and it is just a joy to see a marsh harrier in flight or an avocet delicately feeding. But it can be fun too, to watch the rather confident blue



tits on the feeders outside the visitor centre. However common or garden the bird, there will be something quite amazing about the song, or the plumage, or the adaptability to its surroundings.

When we came back, I had to revive my drooping indoor herbs and two small houseplants. No less a miracle of creation is how the carbon based lifeforms inside my house (including my husband and son) are able to survive my fierce neglect. After a good soak, they perked up and looked fresh once more – the plants, that is.

We are in difficult times. We watch hardships and troubles unfolding around us locally, nationally and globally. We hear stories of great trouble, sadness and fear. We do what we can to help; we pray; we remember; we reach out. And each of us in our personal lives will have times of difficulty and sorrow. It might be that the restorative power of nature is a help. Pausing over something in the natural world reminds us of God's love for creation, the freedom given to the world to evolve, the expanse and generosity in his creation, and the truth that God is present, and in this for the long haul.

"All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being'

God bless, Adrienne



THE CHURCH NEWS

A new kind of Remembrance poppy

For the first time in 28 years, there is a new kind of poppy for Remembrance Sunday this year: it is plastic free.

Director of the Poppy Appeal, Andy Taylor-Whyte explains: "We are very proud to introduce the plastic-free poppy. It will not only enable people to support our Armed Forces community but also continues the RBL's commitment to sustainability."

The new poppy has been three years in the development and making. The aim was to reduce the use of single-use plastic and to "be economical, sustainable, and less impactful to the environment."

The new poppy design has a 40% smaller carbon footprint, and it made from "bespoke red and green paper. "The paper comes from a blend of renewable fibres, 50 per cent of which has been recovered from the waste used in the production of coffee cups.

The plastic-free poppy will be available alongside remaining stocks of the current poppy, to reduce any waste of poppies already produced. Poppies containing single-use plastic can be returned to Sainsbury's stores for recycling.

Composer 'thrilled' to write new Christmas carol for Church of England

This Christmas, the Church of England is inviting choirs across churches, schools, and communities to 'join the song' alongside one of the country's leading choral composers.

The 'song' is a new interpretation of 'The First Nowell.' It has been given a brand-

new melody by the well-known composer Bob Chilcott and is the centrepiece of this year's Church of England Christmas focus: *Follow The Star: Join The Song.*

The C of E theme for 2023 highlights how singing can help draw people closer to God and one another, through the journey from Advent to Epiphany.

Bob Chilcott's most often performed pieces include *Can you hear me?, A Little Jazz Mass,* and the *St John Passion.* His music has been recorded by The King's Singers, King's College, Cambridge, The Sixteen, Tenebrae and The BBC Singers, among other choirs and groups.

"It's been an absolute thrill for me to be able to write new music for the well-known carol, 'The First Nowell,' and to be a part of the 'Follow the Star' campaign at Christmas 2023," Bob Chilcott said.

"I have aimed to make this melody easy to pick up and I hope all will enjoy singing it, at a time of year when the joy of singing is so central to worship and to the celebration of Christmas."

The carol is published by Oxford University Press and features as part of OUP's new edition of the favourite series, Carols for Choirs 6.

The C of E is offering a wide variety of free resources available for churches, schools, and choirs. Visit: <u>https://www.achurchnearyou.com/accounts/login/?next=/</u><u>hub/asset/first-nowell-resources/(New users will need to set up a free account, which is a very quick process).</u>

Parishes are still "at our very heart"

"Parishes are at the very heart of the Church of England's mission."

This was the C of E's response to a recent article in the Sunday Telegraph. The short comment was provided as a response to an article that had appeared in the newspaper on 'parish closures.'

William Nye, the Church of England's Secretary General, said: "Local parish churches are at the very heart of the Church of England's mission and over the next nine years we are investing £3.6 billion of Church Commissioners funds in front-line ministry up and down the land, focussing particularly on those communities most in need.

"It is early days, but we are seeing our efforts bear fruit - and local projects funded by the national church have already brought 27,000 new disciples into our congregations.

"Of course, churches do sometimes close - but the truth is that the number of closures is the lowest it has been for 50 years, and we are starting new worshipping communities all the time. In fact, earlier this summer General Synod formally committed the Church to revitalising our parishes."

In fact, the number of consecrated churches closed has actually *decreased in* each of the last five decades. The figures provided to the Sunday Telegraph, who omitted them, were as follows:

1969-1979: 760 1980-1989: 485 1990-1999: 274 2000-2009: 243 2010-2019: 209

C of E's response to the Net Zero statement

The Bishop of Norwich, who is the Church of England's Lead Bishop on the Environment, has responded to the announcement by the Prime Minister on Net Zero policies.

"The Prime Minister's Net Zero speech calls for a welcome change in the debate from loud polarised voices, but he set out delays in policy before hearing the properly informed debate he called for.

"Whilst it is right that he has kept our international commitments, postponing chang-

es leave necessary adaptations to the last minute, rather like last-minute exam cramming—a risky gamble. Ignoring the ongoing carbon emissions exacerbates climate change's impact.

"The Prime Minister said we can meet our climate targets without taking the carbon reduction actions the Government had previously announced. We can't. Decarbonisation must permeate every aspect of our lives.

"Failing to acknowledge the urgency undermines progress, impacting business, investment, green job creation, and global influence.

"We are already seeing the devastating effects of climate change, which is hitting the poorest people of the world hardest. We must act now to ensure a just transition; it is our moral duty to care for God's creation.

"Christians are called to be a people of hope; to live in harmony with our world; to treasure God's creation and to love our global neighbours."

Legislation clarifying right of local authorities to

support churches clears final hurdle

Legislation clarifying that parish and town councils can provide support to churches for repairs and improvements has cleared its final stages in the House of Lords.

A Government amendment to the Bill makes it clear that local authorities can provide grants for parish churches or places of worship, following many years of legal uncertainty.

The amendment was introduced after the Bishop of Bristol, Viv Faull highlighted the need for clarification of the law during the Bill's Committee Stage in the House of Lords.

Bishop Viv, who is the Church of England's joint lead bishop on church buildings, said: "This amendment brings clarity to the law which will give local authorities confidence to award grants to local church buildings to enable them to serve their communities better.

"I have long been in conversation with Government about bringing in this change and have been contacted by both local authorities and church councils who are anticipating this change with enthusiasm and gratitude."

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill recently received its Third Reading in the House of Lords. It will now go to the House of Commons for final consideration ahead of Royal Assent.

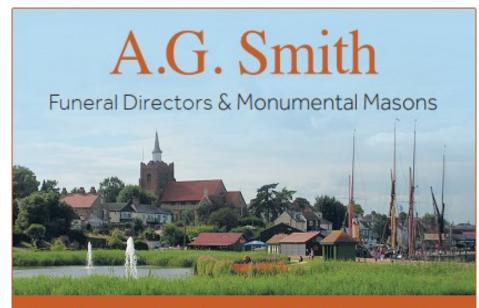
The clarification comes after the Taylor Review of the Sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals, published in 2017, proposed a clarification through guidance or a change in the law.

Living in Love and Faith – first facilitated group conversation held

The first meeting of the 'Living With Difference' group - who have been invited to be part of a series of three facilitated conversations around the Prayers of Love and Faith - was held in September.

The group aimed to reflect the spectrum of views held, and aimed to offer back to the Bishops an understanding of how their proposals can be taken forward, reflecting the issues raised in the conversations.

This was scheduled to feed into meetings of the College of Bishops, and then the House of Bishops in October.



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Archbishop of Canterbury statement on Israel and Gaza

13/10/2023

Statement by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby:

'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee' (Psalm 122)

Our grief and shock only grows greater as more devastating news and images emerge from the abhorrent terrorist attacks in Israel. The agonising suffering endured by those who were targeted and their families can scarcely be imagined. Our hearts are broken open by the grief of Israelis and our Jewish brothers and sisters around the world, for whom this trauma and loss stands in the dark and terrible shadow of the worst days of their history.

I beg that those who have been taken hostage are set free into safety, that they and their loved ones might be released from the horror of their captivity. The anger felt by the people of Israel at the cruelty they have experienced is entirely justified. Many around the world share in that anger.

But in the face of a ground offensive in Gaza, I plead that the sins of Hamas are not borne by the citizens of Gaza, who themselves have faced such suffering over many decades. The price of evil cannot be paid by the innocent. Civilians cannot bear the costs of terrorists. International humanitarian law recognises that, for the sake of everyone's humanity, some acts can never be permissible in the chaos of warfare. I pray that Israel does everything it can to limit the harm caused to innocent civilians.

Over two million civilians in Gaza, half of them children, are facing a catastrophe. A humanitarian corridor and convoy are needed as rapidly as possible, as set out in the Geneva Conventions. I pray particularly for the Anglican-run Ahli Arab Hospital and all those caring for the injured, who need medical supplies and generator fuel.

I join with the US Secretary of State and others in urging the Israeli government to exercise their right of defence with the wisdom that might break the cycles of violence under which generations have struggled. Amidst the chaos and confusion of war, and as much as is possible, I join the calls for Israel's military response to be proportional and to discriminate between civilians and Hamas.

Pray for the people of Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. Pray for the future of the Holy Land. Pray for those who will weep, and fear, and die tonight.

Lord God, we pray, by your great mercy, defend your children from all perils and dangers of this night.

If you are able, please support the JME-CA appeal for the Ahli Arab Hospital to continue providing life-saving medical care: <u>www.jmeca.org.uk/get-involved/</u> <u>donate/current-appeals-0/al-ahli-hospital</u> <u>-gaza-appeal</u>

Guy Fawkes – an early terrorist

Back in 1605 Guy Fawkes managed to stow a good few barrels of gunpowder under the House of Lords without anybody noticing. He was part of a Roman Catholic plot to murder James 1 of England and his parliament at the state opening. Fortunately, Guy Fawkes was found - and stopped - in time.





Welcoming the **Bishop of Bradwell** Saturday 4th November, 4pm,

Chelmsford Cathedral

All are welcome to attend Chelmsford Cathedral at 4pm on Saturday 4 November as we welcome the Rt Rev Adam Atkinson as Bishop of Bradwell, the Rev Kate Peacock as Archdeacon of Stansted and the Rev Jonathan Croucher as Archdeacon of Chelmsford. Kate and Jonathan will also be licensed at the service

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Thanks. 4, Banner. 8, Esher. 9, Azariah. 10, Compare. 11, Ishma. 12, Doorposts. 17, Oaths. 19, Galatia. 21, Papyrus. 22, Frail. 23, Listen. 24, Hyssop.

DOWN: 1, Trench. 2, Ashamed. 3, Karma. 5, Ananias. 6, Neigh. 7, Reheat. 9, Areopagus. 13, Observe. 14, Satraps. 15, Compel. 16, Gallop. 18, Tapes. 20, Lofty.

AII SAINTS' NEWS & VIEWS



Harvest Supper

A lovely evening was enjoyed by all at the Harvest Supper, held in the D'Arcy Room on the 30th. September. The room was beautifully laid out, and about thirty of us enjoyed a tasty meal (including my favourite, apple pie!) in good company. A distribution of raffle prizes at the end of the evening added more fun.

Many thanks must go to Merie, Elaine and all their helpers for their hard work giving us such an enjoyable evening, in true All Saints style!





Jenny.

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



THE PRIESTING OF JORDAN

As you can see from the photographs, the weather was fine for Jordan's ordination to the priesthood on Saturday 30th September at St Peter's Church, Hutton. Jordan's family and friends saw the Bishop of Chelmsford lay her hands on Jordan's head, anoint his hand with holy oil and present him with his ordination bible. Revd. Julie Willmott took his stole from over his shoulder and put it round his neck in the priestly position as a sign of his new office. The service was wonderful, the church was full with the supporters of all those being ordained priest and the liturgy was a perfect blend of the formal and informal with enthusiastic hymn singing. A day to remember for all of us.

Fr John

REVD. JORDAN'S FIRST MASS



The service began with the Revd. Jordan being vested in a red stole and chasuble at the Nave Altar. The congregation stood, and the choir sang the anthem "Ye that know the Lord is Gracious," and the party processed from the back of the church.

It was Thursday October 5th and the Parish of All Saints with St. Peter, Maldon and the United Benefice of Heybridge with Langford welcomed the large congregation as Revd. Jordan celebrated his First Mass, accompanied by the Revd. Julie and Archdeacon Mike.

Photo's by Mike O.

We came together to worship God and to share the Eucharist, also known as the Mass, Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper.











On the afternoon of Sunday 15th. October I went with Debbie and three other members of

the 1st. Maldon All Saints Scout Group to a District Scout Award meeting. All four members of our group were to receive awards for service.

The Award for Merit, then known as the Gilt Medal of Merit, was first awarded in 1915 by Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouts. Today, as then, this medal is for outstanding service to the movement.

Debbie Clinch, Tony Price (our Group Scout Leader) and Irene Price received the Award for Merit, and Nigel Hunter, who had already had this award, received the Bar to the Merit Award, from the District Commissioner. There were twenty seven medals awarded to members of the district that afternoon.

After the presentations we had a very nice tea, with many members catching up with old friends. It was a good afternoon, and I was very proud of Debbie (and the others of

Award for Merit



Debbie Clinch, Tony Price and Irene Price received the Award for Merit, and Nigel Hunter received the Bar to his Merit Award.

our group) for this recognition of the time and effort put into this voluntary work for the youngsters of Maldon.

Jenny Clinch. Chair of the Trustees Board, 1st.Maldon Scouts.

TEN to **TEN** the Rambling Group

14th October 2023 Our walk on Saturday took us to Burnham starting from the Riverside Car Park at the usual time of 9.50am. There were 11 walkers in total and we set off on the riverside path towards the marina. The weather was sunny but there was a cool breeze coming off the river. We followed the path until it turned inland towards Creeksea and had an enjoyable break at the Parlour Café where we sat outside in the sunshine. We then took the field path and crossed the railway line on our way to our next stop at Creeksea church. Here we could appreciate the lovely views across the

golf course and the expanse of the river Crouch. We were met at the church by verger, Ian who opened the church for us and spoke warmly about their active membership. The church and the hall extension certainly had a very welcoming feel. From here we made our way back to Burnham, through countryside and back over the railway track. Eventually we were walking on urban footpaths as housing estates now surround the old rights of way. Eight of us stopped for a delicious lunch at the Oyster Smack in the main street before returning to the sea wall and the walk back to the car park. This was a very enjoyable morning walk and social time together.

The next walk will be on Saturday 11th November and will be led by Peter. We will meet at the Danbury common National Trust car park, Bicnacre Road, Danbury CM3 4JQ. This is the large NT car park, not the small one near the crossroads. For more information please ring Peter on 07803 952030. An email will be sent round to regular walkers the weekend before. Everyone welcome!

CTiM

Sue Smith

Posadas



There will be a Posadas advancing up Maldon High Street this Christmas time in anticipation of the Town Carol Service, exiting isn't it! Except wait, what is a Posadas?

What: The word Posada means dwelling in Spanish and it is a festival celebrated mainly in Mexico to celebrate Mary & Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a place for Baby Jesus to be born. This can be remembered in lots of ways, but one way is through a Mary & Joseph figure travelling through a town and stopping to dwell in particular places over the days where people can come to see it.

When: The Posada will start on 3rd December where it will travel through 8 different shopfronts on the High Street for two days at a time. Finishing outside All Saints Church on the 19th December at the Town Carol service starting at 5pm.

Where: In various Maldon high street shop windows, starting at the bottom of the High Street near St Mary's Church. It will end up at the Town Carol service outside All Saints Church where a Baby Jesus figure will join Mary & Joseph. Look out for a map to be published soon, highlighting which location on which dates.

How: This is being run by Churches Together in Maldon who have decided to have the joint Town Carol Service on the 19th December outside this year. This will begin with local Churches processing through the High street with the Posada at 4.30pm from the Promenade up to All Saints Church. There will be activity sheets to give children and families an extra sense of fun in engaging with the Posada in the lead up to the Town carol service and these will be distributed in local schools, in some shops as well as all the Churches in Maldon.

Revd. Jordan



The 2023 festival will take place from Friday 8th until Sunday 10th December

... with a display of Christmas Trees representing organisations within the church and the town. Letters have gone to church and local groups inviting them to take part but is there anyone else who would like to provide and decorate a tree for the event? Setting up will take place on Thursday 7th December between 11am and 5pm and the Festival will be open on Friday and Saturday between 10am-5pm and from 11am on Sunday culminating with the Christingle Service at 3pm that day.

Trees, real or artificial, should be between one and six feet tall; please decorate as you wish; battery lights only please as there are only limited electrical sockets. Please let me know if you will be taking part, the size of your tree and any special requests. Some trees will stand on the floor and some on boarding across the pews. If you are able to spare some time to steward at the event, please get in touch!!

Let's hope this event will be the great success it has been in the past and will once again bring us together and help us all to share the joy of Christmas.

If you are <u>not</u> involved in decorating a tree and would like to make a contribution of money this would be very gratefully received. This will go towards extra decorations to make the church look festive.

Thank you.

Julie Ovenden 01621 858803 julieovenden@hotmail.com



Readers' letters

On 13th Oct at..... Revd Dr Graham Blyth <u>michaelgblyth@gmail.com</u> wrote:

I couldn't let the comprehensive (though unattributed) Hallowe'en article in the October edition pass without comment. Whilst the pagan traditions were well handled, the biblical section came across as both literal and didactic, which gives rise to a number of problems. The paranormal comprises a variety of different phenomena and it's important not to blame people for either having dabbled in the occult (eg adolescents with ouija boards) or for quite innocently having moved for example into haunted property. Also the assumption that Christians will not experience fear doesn't hold up when confronted by the dread which can emanate from a malign entity. Spiritual 'viruses' can affect both persons and places, and demonic interference in human life produces very real distress. Today's clergy receive appropriate training about the complexity of these issues and the best way to handle them in a parish context.

Correct discernment, as far as possible, is paramount. Some Christians have an enhanced psychic awareness

which makes them especially sensitive – both a blessing and a curse. Pastoral ministry in all such cases is always twofold: first to the frightened family, then secondly to the afflicting spirit. The aim in both cases is to restore the peace of Christ. Nevertheless it is helpful to have some idea of what one is dealing with, be it demon, ghost, lost soul or poltergeist, as these all require differing ministries. Just as with people it is not a matter of 'one size fits all'.

This ministry is not for the faint-hearted and requires prayer support. During my time as a diocesan adviser I was fortunate to mostly be sent anxious people (many with mental illness) which spared me the nausea which I habitually experience if I enter a troubled building.

17/10/23 - Linda Anthony writes

Dear friends of All Saints' Maldon, I wish to thank you for the lovely flowers and cards I received at my last service in September.

I started in the congregation over 40 years ago and decided after a short time to join the choir as a soprano then as the years went by, an alto. During my time I took on cleaning the church from Avril Askew and used to take my son David with me when he wasn't at nursery school. The Verger at the time was Mr Jim Bush a very lovely man, he rang me one day and said that some toe rags had been in the church and let the fire extinguishers off, my, what a mess they made and not the easiest thing to clean up. When we owned the church hall in London road I acted as secretary on the church hall committee where Ken Russell was the chairman, also I took on one of the jobs in the office there as it was used as the Parish office and then with Barbara in the St Katherine's' room. I also printed the link for many years. For several years I was on PCC as a committee member and secretary and while Peter Mason was our Vicar, I was the secretary for the Governors committee which was held at All Saints' School. My last secretarial stint was for the Flower Committee.

On reflection the job I really enjoyed was being a server at the church where I can be quite regal for the job in hand, but when not a server I am known to get one or two members of the congregation when I sit with them in a fit of the giggles. When our lovely Vicar Stephen Carter was with us he nicknamed me the "Rottweiler", when the light at the end of church walk was not working and had not been for some considerable time, I volunteered to take on the task of getting it working again. I wrote to every member on the Maldon Town Council and informed them that if anybody were to have an accident in the dark because of the non-existent light, then the council would be liable in no uncertain terms. When we move to Dovercourt, I am pleased to say that on certain Sundays at the local church Reverend Canon Stephen Carter will be there taking a service which I am sure will be quite like old times.

I will miss All Saints and the friends I have made, but this has come about that my husband Barry has been through a lot over the last four years and our Daughter in-law with my Son had suggested that we move nearer to them to keep an eye on us.

My very best wishes to you all,

Linda Anthony - Rottweiler

Christmas Greetings

Once more we are offering readers the opportunity to place your greetings in the December issue of the *'Parish News'*. Similar to previous years, greetings can be in either a large box or a small box.

The donation to All Saints' for these greetings has not increased over the years. Again we are asking for a minimum donation of £10. for the large box and £5. for the small box, which can be Gift Aided. If you would like to take advantage of this offer please let me have your message (and donation) by Sunday 19th November. Or email me at *bigggles-worth@btinternet.com*



Edit.

DEACON JULIA ordained September 10th 2023

I live in Maldon with my cat, Freya, having moved in August 2022 from Heybridge after 42 years. Daughter Catherine is 40 and a self-employed tax accountant, living in Southminster with partner Chris and Belgian Malinois cross, Lola. Son Stuart, 37, is a police officer with the West Yorkshire force and lives in York with fiancée Jess and cocker spaniel Layla.

We first arrived at St Andrew's Church, Heybridge in 1989, where I have been ever since, though in hugely differing roles over the years. I did the Course in Christian Studies, completing in 2006. In the same year, I was selected for Reader training and served in that role from 2008 until being ordained as Deacon on September 10th this year.

About four years ago. I had a feeling of God calling me to something other than Reader/Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM), but wasn't sure what. I hadn't even dreamed that it was to ordination, as I was already over 60 and thought that my age would preclude me. However, a conversation with a priest friend suggested that this might not be the case and I spoke to Rev Asa, who referred me to a local vocations advisor, who subsequently sent me to the Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO). The process was severely delayed due to Covid lockdowns, but God's timing is perfect and the preparation and selection process followed retirement from my fulltime job in the Pathology department of a



NHS hospital, which was in August 2021. Finally, in June 2022, I had that phone call from the Bishop of Bradwell, then Bishop John Perumbalath, confirming I had been recommended for training.

While Chelmsford Diocese welcome older ordinands (trainee priests/deacons), our training will be on the Associate pathway, which means we are unlikely to become incumbents, i.e. the priest in charge of a parish, though there are exceptions. I am self-supporting, locally deployed, so will stay in the parishes to which I am licensed, Heybridge, Heybridge Basin, Langford and All Saints', although hope to be deployed within the Maldon and Dengie Deanery eventually. As we do not have an incumbent at the moment, I am working with a number of priests while I learn, but am supervised by the Area Dean, the Reverend Canon Peter Beglev. However, the plan at the moment is that, when we get a new incumbent, they will become my supervisor.

I imagine I will be deployed equally throughout our four churches, though this

will depend on local need. Having received a very warm welcome at my Declaration of Assent on 17th September at All Saints', I am looking forward to getting to know the congregation better as I train.

Because of my years of lay ministry, my formal training, at St Mellitus College, based at Chelmsford Cathedral, was for just one year, which was pretty intense and against a backdrop of a lot happening in my personal life. But God brought me through it and culminated in a very joyful and spiritual service on an even hotter day in September, witnessed by clergy supporters, family and friends.

Training doesn't end there, however some of the congregations will have already seen me deaconing for Father John, and there are the occasional offices, such as weddings and baptisms to learn. As a Reader/LLM. I am already licensed to conduct funerals. Assuming I complete everything I need to. I am due to be priested in September 2024. Although on the 'associate' pathway, I will be able to preside at the Eucharist, conduct weddings and baptisms and anything else a priest is allowed to do. A curacy typically lasts for three years, but as mentioned before, a deacon would normally be priested after the first year.

I know most of the clergy and Readers in the Maldon and Dengie Deanery and beyond; those of us who trained together, from across the Diocese, formed a bond during that time. My placement churches were those in the Great Baddow Team Ministry, that is, St Mary's, St Paul's, both Great Baddow and Meadgate Church, in the Meadgate area of Great Baddow. three very different churches. Cleray meet up at events at the Cathedral and at training days, so maintain contact with each other. With modern technology too, there are also WhatsApp groups, Facebook and other means of keeping up with our fellow clergy. Again, due to modern technology, I have a few clergy friends across the country, friendships which evolved through online worship and communication during the Covid pandemic.

Each ordinand has to have a 'sending' bishop, who would normally be their area bishop. We have to meet with them for an interview and chat, to determine whether we are suitable and they are willing to sponsor us. Bishop John Perumbalath, lately of Bradwell and now Bishop of Liverpool was mine. Before we are ordained Deacon, we also meet with the Diocesan bishop, fairly informally, to talk about our expectations post-ordination. I had my meeting with Bishop Guli in July this year.

Outside of our churches, I am a keen swimmer (heated pools only!) and enjoy aqua aerobics, have been the minutes secretary for the local RNLI branch for more years than I care to remember, so vou might see me on occasion with a collecting bucket, I chair the Friends of St George's church committee and am also the longstanding minutes secretary for Churches Together in Maldon. I also like pottering about (inexpertly!) in the garden, though haven't got around to sorting my new garden out yet. I do believe strongly that clergy, and laity for that matter, need to be involved with things outside of the church. There are plenty of people who need to hear the Good News from us and we won't do that by confining ourselves to the four walls of the church.

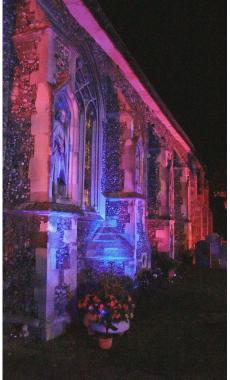
Soon after I was licensed in 2008 to Reader ministry I wrote: 'I am on a learning curve and will be for the rest of my life'. I can just imagine God having a chuckle to himself as over a period of time, he revealed his plans for me! I look in the mirror when aetting ready for church, a meeting, or similar and wonder who that person is in the clerical collar. It is a huge privilege to be called to serve, yet at the same time, very humbling. Whether we remain as deacons, as a few do, become priests, Archdeacons, Bishops or Archbishops, we will never cease to be deacons. We must never forget that we are called to serve, as Christ himself was, and reminds us in the washing of the feet at the Last Supper.



Baby Loss Awareness

All was quiet that Sunday evening of October 15th at 7.00pm. All Saints was plunged into darkness, save for the pink and blue lights strategically place inside and outside the church. Then, one by one, the candles held by the members of the congregation were lit and an orange glow began to dispel the gloom. The big screen lit up and began scrolling a long, long list of names and a soloist sung quietly into the mic. **The Wave of Light** had begun.

All over the country people were lighting candles at this time in memory of the baby or babies they have lost. Photos of these candles were being taken and put on social media to create a wave of light that spread around the whole world. This was the culmination of Baby Loss Awareness Week (October 9th—15th) now recognised throughout the world



Editor: Paul Hardingham considers the power that each of us has been given - to help others.

Be a Barnabas encourage one another

'You'll never amount to much' said a Munich schoolteacher to the ten-year-old Albert Einstein. Good thing that he did not listen – and instead went on to prove his teacher wrong!

Just as children need encouragement, so do God's children. St Paul urged the Christians in his young churches to *'encourage one another.'* (1 Thess 5:11). In the Upper Room, Jesus used the same word to describe the Holy Spirit, meaning one *'called alongside to help'*.

When we encourage others, we exercise a ministry like that of the Spirit to each other. In Acts we read of Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. We know him better by his nickname Barnabas, which means 'Son of Encouragement' (Acts 4:36). How did Barnabas encourage others?

He was an example of *generous giving* (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of a caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we prepared to be generous to those in need around us?

He later gave *encouragement to a new Christian* in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul's conversion and aware of his reputation, Barnabas came alongside Paul and brought him into the fellowship of the Church. Are we ready to help those who are new to the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch and there 'sawthe evidence of the grace of God' (Acts 11:23). Here was a church which brought together Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, are we able to rejoice when we see God doing new things? Are we also willing to encourage others to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Don't forget, 'In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity.' (Albert Einstein).

PP Looking at God nov23

The best time to exercise, if you want to lose weight

The two-hour window between 7am and 9am is the best time to go running or 'work out', if you want to lose weight.

A recent study by scientists at Franklin Pierce University has found that early morning exercise can help you lose weight more easily, reduce your BMI, and slim down your waist. It is thought that the 'fasted state' after you wake up could be the reason for this weight loss edge.

As one assistant professor of exercise physiology explains: "Exercise can burn fat and glucose," Dr Ma said. "After an overnight fast, the glucose stored in our body is low. Therefore, when we exercise our muscles are likely to burn more fat." He recommends 40 minutes of aerobic exercise before breakfast, such as running or biking. The findings have been published in Obesity, The Obesity Society's (TOS) journal.

Some Thoughts

In the October issue of the Parish Magazine, I read with great interest Father John's' Parish News'. In this piece he explained some similarities and some differences between the Catholic Church and the Reformed or Protestant Church. I found this article both enlightening and interesting. I have struggled in the past, struggled to understand the differences, and I was pleased to get this explanation from Father John. One particular phrase that John used was helpful to me, and it was where he said. "The Church of England is what we might call a hybrid church. It is both Reformed and Catholic. It contains elements of both strands of Christianity". Father John then went on to explain in plain English what these various strands were and how they differed from or complimented each other. I will not say more because the article is in the Parish Magazine and has been written clearly for us all to see.

Father John then went on to enthuse about Jordan becoming a priest and of the initial Eucharistic Service which Jordan performed. I was not able to be present for Jordan's first service but was in the congregation for his first Sunday morning service on 15th October. I must say that if I had not known otherwise. I would not have been able to tell that this was the first such service for Jordan. No sign of nerves and I could hear every word clearly. Jordan also showed a sense of humour too, when having got the last hymn number wrong he was quickly able to say something which made us all chuckle as he corrected it. Well done to the Revd Jordan and we look for more of the same in the future.

Just to change back to my more usual mode, I was watching a war film recently and brief reference was made of the activities of a group of British soldiers in Word War two working behind Japanese lines in what was then Burma. The group was

known as the Chindits. The soldiers were mostly Burmese and Gurkhas and their leader was Brigadier Orde Wingate who was a hero to many but a thorn in the side of the British Government. My tenuous connection: At Christmas 1960 I did a two week cruise as a junior Merchant Navy officer on the RMS Andes around the Mediterranean for the benefit of some rather rich elderly people. I was at the time studying at what is now the University of the South Bank in order to obtain more qualifications in Electrical Engineering. My Shipping Company had given me a one year sabbatical to do this in order to keep me from Army conscription. Without pay of course, and so it was that I had to go to sea in the holiday periods in order to earn some money.

On Christmas Night I was, I suppose, enjoying the break and being among my seagoing friends I inevitably celebrated a little too much until somehow, I found myself leading the officers (Impromptu) choir on the stage of the first class lounge in front of all the passengers, Captain, Chief Engineer etc. We would probably have been forgiven for hijacking the stage from the entertainment professionals except that at a high point in "Oh come all ye faithful" I slipped semi gracefully from the stage to fall at the feet of an old lady who insisted on stroking my head. I was drunk of course and presumably was carried off to bed as the next thing I remember was waking up next morning feeling rather ill! I thought that I might get into a little trouble for this escapade, but at the Captain's cocktail party before lunch on Boxing Day (and at which I drank only orange juice), the Captain made a point of coming up to me and congratulating me for the previous night's entertainment. He went on to say that he was sure that I had given my all and that I would not want to perform again on that trip.

The point is, that the Captain's name was Miles Wingate and that he was the younger brother of the aforementioned Orde Wingate. Like his older brother, this Wingate obviously knew something about man management too.

Ken Downham

COLLECTING WOOD

It was April and the Aboriginals in a remote part of Northern Australia asked the new minister at their small church to ask God if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. The minister did not want to lose their confidence, as he had only just arrived, but when he prayed and looked at the sky, he had frankly no idea what the winter ahead would be like.

To be on the safe side, he told his congregation that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the tribe should collect firewood to be prepared. But after several days he had an idea. He called the Bureau of Meteorology and asked if the coming winter in his area was going to be cold. The meteorologist responded, "Yes, it looks like this winter is going to be cold."

So, the minister went back to his people and told them to collect even more wood in order to be prepared. A week later he called the Bureau of Meteorology again, to ask if it still looked like it was going to be a very cold winter. The meteorologist again replied, 'Yes, it's going to be a very cold winter.'

So, the minister went back to his community and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find. Two weeks later, and still concerned, the minister called the Bureau again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?" he asked.

"Absolutely," the man replied. "In fact, it's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever."

"How can you be so sure?" the minister asked. The sky didn't look any different to him.

The weatherman replied, "Our satellites have reported that the Aboriginals in the north are collecting firewood like crazy, and that's always a sure sign."

From Parish Pump



From All Saints School the **Big** question

Welcome back to the Big Question. Here are a few of the latest ones we have thought about in school. What would you answer?

Would you rather have a million pounds or a million laughs?

I would choose a million laughs because it gives you more oxygen and it is kind. Having a million pounds is greedy because you will probably not share it Anyway, laughing is good for you and other people. Friendship is better than money and laughter brings happiness and joy turns frowns upside down!!! **By Esme and Umiko**

A million laughs because we feel like laughing is a part of life because it keeps us happy and energised. And it is good because it helps us breath and it makes other people laugh as well as us. And it keeps us smiling. **By Emilia and Uma**

What do you want to achieve this year?

The thing that we would like achieve this year is to be more adventurous with our reading. We would like to try different topics and genres of reading. It would be great to challenge ourselves with harder and more challenging books and try to get to dark red or try to achieve this goal. We will try hard and persevere no matter what.By Archie,

By Mason, Elliott and Austyn

I want to achieve being a good Eco monitor because *I* want people to learn how to respect the environment so we can keep the environment clean and healthy. **By Nora**

When have you felt the most challenged?

I think that I have been most challenged when I was five years old, I had a ballet competition against another ballet team and when everyone was watching my group perform I fell over on the stage. After it was very hard to carry on because I was very embarrassed and I also hurt my knee. **By Chloe**

My biggest challenge is when I had to go down a big hill at the pump track on a bicycle. **By Mia**



Harvest

At All Saints we recently gathered lots of nice food for the Maldon Food Pantry.

On Thursday 5th October in assembly the children of All Saints all offered food to the harvest festival. The harvest festival is an annual celebration that occurs around the time of the main harvest of a given region. Given the differences in climate and crops around the world, harvest festivals can be found at various times at different places. This year, Harvest fell on 1st October, the Sunday nearest to the Harvest Moon.

Harvest Festival celebrates the time of year when crops have been gathered from the field and people reflect and show gratitude for the food that they have. Harvest began a long time ago in when people relied on crops for food and farmers would give thanks for a good harvest. At school we learnt about harvest time and collected food for those in need in our local community.

Reverend Jordan came to our school and led our Harvest festival. He told us to never take food for granted and to be thankful for all that we have. Then we played a lovely fun game and then we sang our favourite song the Harvest Tango.

By Eleanor & Chloe



In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

PP Holy Days Remembrance poppies



You wear it well..

Stuck in a traffic jam coming home from a holiday, last month, our coach was over taken by a white Lamborghini. It caused a bit of a sensation amongst the ladies on board, and I can't think why! So I got my camera out and started shooting. Yes, you guessed it, that well known rock star—*What's-'is-name*

Religious Education in Schools

A group of cross-party peers, MPs and religious educators has criticised the lack of funding for the teaching of religious education (RE). It has called on the Government to address the crisis in teaching and recruitment.

There were 30 signatories to a letter to the Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan. They described the current provision of RE as a 'postcode lottery', in which some children receive a well-taught religious education, while others receive "either 'tokenist' RE, or none at all."

The letter went on to point out that half (51 per cent) of the RE lessons in secondary schools are currently being taught by non-specialist teachers. Pupils are now three times more likely to be taught RE by someone with no qualifications at all in the subject. And RE is on track to recruit only 44 per cent of its target by the end of the current recruitment year.

The group is concerned that students who do not receive good RE education "are consequently ill prepared to play their part in our complex religious and non-religious society, with all the opportunities created by its diversity."

PP Church nov23





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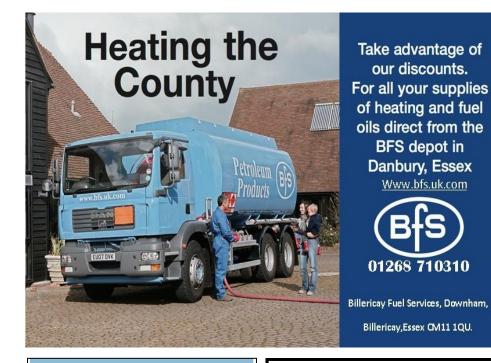
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Might Pension Credit help top up your income?

Pension Credit is a weekly benefit to boost your income and is based on how much money you have coming in. This is a brief outline but we can give you advice if you get in touch. There are two parts to Pension Credit, called Guarantee Credit and Savings Credit. You might get

I here are two parts to Pension Credit, called Guarantee Credit and Savings Credit. You might go one or both parts.

Guarantee Credit tops up your weekly income to a minimum amount.

Savings Credit is a small top-up for people who have a modest amount of income or savings. Savings Credit is only available if you reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016.

Could you be eligible?

You need to:

have reached State Pension age

not have too much income or savings (there is no fixed upper limit) live in the UK

You can still be working, as long as your income isn't too high.

Unlike the State Pension, you don't need a national insurance record.

If you're not a British Citizen you can only get Pension Credit if your immigration status lets you claim public funds. In some situations you also need a 'right to reside'.

You can claim public funds if you have any of the following:

British or Irish citizenship

settled status from the EU Settlement Scheme

indefinite leave - unless you came to the UK on an adult dependent relative visa

refugee status or humanitarian protection

right of abode

If you've lived outside the UK you'll need to give evidence to show the UK, Ireland, Channel Islands or Isle of Man is your main home. This is known as being 'habitually resident'. You have to do this even if you're a British citizen.

If you are over state pension age but your partner isn't, the rules are slightly more complicated. Citizens Advice has lots of information about this so please get in touch to see if you are eligible.

How Pension Credit is worked out:

Most of your income is taken into account (but not benefits such as Attendance Allowance and Personal Independence Payment)

Assumed income from savings and investments over £10,000

This figure is then set against your personal allowances. If you are a carer or are in receipt of disability benefits these personal allowances will be higher and may make it more likely you will qualify for Pension Credit.

How to claim

You can claim at gov.uk or by ringing the Pension Credit claim line 0800 99 1234

If you would like advice and for us to check whether or not you will be eligible for Pension Credit or any other benefits, please do get in touch with Maldon & District Citizens Advice:

01621 875774 - leave a message and an adviser will call you back that day or the next.

Call in at one of our outreach surgeries:

Heybridge – Fullbridge Church, CM9 4LE Tuesdays 9.30-1.00

Further details are on www.maldoncitizensadvice.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you and helping you top up your income.

St James the Least of All

On the perils of **Harvest**

On using Glebe land for allotments

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I hear you have joined the committee which wants to convert the waste land between the abandoned soap factory and canal in your parish into allotments – although I would have thought there were holier sorts of conversions you could have concentrated on. I am sure you will soon be caught up in arguments which make that little disagreement over an apple in the Garden of Eden seem quite trivial.

Some years ago, we similarly decided to let part of our Glebe land become allotments; the outcome was not wholly as may have been anticipated. Colonel Wainwright saw it as an opportunity of reliving his War years and was only just restrained from digging trenches around his plot; no doubt he would have offered to play football with neighbouring allotment holders on Christmas Day.

It caused some surprise when the Earl of Stowe applied for a plot, but it has become something of an attraction to see his daily procession, preceded by his gardener pushing the wheelbarrow, the under-gardener carrying the tools and following him, his butler with the newspaper, a deckchair, and a flask of coffee. He then settles down for a comfortable hour while occasionally supervising the work, once reports on the local hunt have been read.

Miss Simpson managed to unite everyone



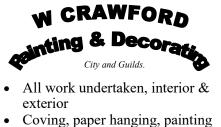
in communal outrage by using her plot to encourage fluffy bunnies, darling foxes, and sweet squirrels. She seemed to be particularly grateful to everyone else for providing fruit and vegetables for their happiness. Resolution was only achieved when she was convinced to grow potatoes, helping the Colonel in his War Effort. Fortunately, he did not ask her to arrive equipped with the regulation gas mask.

Our local architect seems to spend most of his time beautifying his garden shed, rather than growing produce. With its gothic arched windows, Norman tower and flying buttresses, I do wonder if he may have spent rather too much of his time renovating ancient churches. Neighbouring plot-holders look forward to the agricultural equivalent of the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

I am sure you will find you have committed yourself to many hours of unnecessary work. Just make sure you get a percentage of their produce for your Harvest Festival.

Your loving uncle, Eustace





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BRAMM



Every year, thousands of people – including many children – are injured badly enough to require medical treatment following a fireworks-related accident.

While some are injured trying to use professional-grade or illegal fireworks, don't be in any doubt: small firecrackers and sparklers can also cause significant damage.

No wonder, then, that the National Safety Council strongly advise people to "enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals", and NOT to use ANY fireworks at home. "They may be legal, but they are not safe."

Take sparklers, for example. Young children wave them around each year, with parents seemingly oblivious to the fact that sparklers burn at 2,000 degrees – which is hot enough to melt some metals, never mind ravage a child's hand or foot! Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, too.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, sparklers account for more than 25% of all emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. For children under five years old, sparklers account for nearly half of the total estimated injuries.

Instead, the NSC advises parents with young children to use glow sticks, confetti paper or coloured streamers.

Meanwhile, did you know? Fireworks start an average of 19,000 fires each year.

- If you are still determined to do home fireworks, here are some safety tips:
 - Never allow young children to handle fireworks.
 - Older children should use them only under close adult supervision.
 - Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol.

Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear. Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands.

- Never light them indoors.
- Only use them away from people, houses, and flammable material.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting.
- Never ignite devices in a container.
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks.
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.

Keep a bucket of water nearby to extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire. Never use illegal fireworks. More tips at www.nsc.org

NOVEMBER SMOKE

Curling, drifting, ascending, the smoke engulfs the gardens, As hunched and aching backs clear the death that must follow summer life. Though pungent, the aroma so Proustian fills the nostril, as leaves too damp to flame Create billowing plumes, drifting like the trailing ghosts left widening as the train has passed. And on that fifth day of this gloom-filled month whole suburbs become enshrouded with these Anastomosing blankets from bonfires the squealing children plead to be lit. Aroma-filled memories of sausages in a bun, toffee apples and steaming mugs of

tea,

While we waved crackling sparklers in the gathering night And ran around lawns, heedless of the muddy patches after Autumn storms. Before Dad, always only Dad, showered the night sky with bursts of rocket and fountain maiestic.

And each rising spark from poor Guy was a prayer, offered up to God, Mum said, As our brains became exhausted trying to think of so many to keep up!

The dank November valley-floor first films with smoke forming in slivered layers So shallow and exact, born of union twixt soil and air. From dusk into night this eerie fog slowly thickens aloft, Blotting out all memories and landmarks around, Enveloping us in a cocoon of Loneliness and Loss, While waiting inevitably for the cheery morn sun to burn it off And kickstart afresh our lives with Hope and Direction.

In vales perched astride rearing mountain blocks, While men strove to rob the rock of its dirty fuel The domestic hearths burned same, and with planned retribution, Like Red Indian signals, the chimney twirls joined Unison with the factory pall, as if on a picket line, To sit for days entrapped by Nature's temperature inversion. Eye-stinging,watering, vision-blocking acridity filled lungs, Stunted growth and shortened life, from the Rhondda to the Black Country To Burnley and beyond, last century.

On deck at sea or wandering through soggy fields, the November fog renders our senses senseless, As the compass inside cannot encompass the mind-confusing whiteout outside. Around in circles, or ovals, or squares we walk, directionally desperate to find a fix on

reality.

Or listening for the tinkling bell, bouncing across the calms, Or any human or animal cry amidst the silence of the tomb. Like Life itself, smoke can either start or end the flame Which burns within each and every one of us for a Universe's season.

D Trueman

THROUGH THE FURNACE

Continued from last month:

"I was just coming to see you." said Amy. "I want to know how you like Mr. Newlyn; he told Mr. Bond the other day that he has not been so comfortable for ages, and you keep him all to yourself, you selfish thing; he has not been to see us for ever so long."

"He is delicate and ought not to go out much at night," replied Margaret, in some confusion.

"So you are being a mother to him, I believe that is what you are cut out for, you odd creature," rattled Amy; "and now let us go and look at the shops; you have always said that you would have a new hat this winter; you might as well get it today."

"No, I must go on, thank you," said Margaret, "I promised father that I would call on Mrs. Pervis, and I am not going to get a new hat just yet."

"You are in one of your obstinate moods, I can see that," said Amy, laughing, "so I shall just punish you by not telling you something that Mr. Newlyn said to Mr. Bond about you the other day. There! You have blushed up to the roots of your hair. I believe that you would give anything to know."

"You are quite mistaken," replied Margaret, drawing herself up; "it is much better not to know what people say about us behind our backs."

"But not when it is complementary. There ! I will tell you after all. He said that you were the kind of woman that he could lean upon."

Margaret turned hastily away, that Amy might not see the satisfaction in her face. "Good-bye," said she, over her shoulder, and walked swiftly down the street with the words ringing in her ears.

Then she was really the type of woman that he admired; he had said so only the other evening. It seemed to her at the moment that she could desire no further happiness than to know this. In a few minutes she arrived at Mrs. Pervis's lodgings. The house was a small one in a quiet street. The door was opened to her by a neat looking woman in black, who showed her at once into a small parlour where Mrs. Pervis was sitting at work. She rose with a bright smile of welcome.

"It is good of you to come so soon, Miss Harvey. I am glad to see you."

The strong attraction which Margaret had felt in the church came over her again. The face before her had so much character and sweetness; and there was such a look of peace on the calm forehead, such a light of love and goodwill in the clear grey eyes.

They talked, and the conversation flowed easily. Margaret found that she could be her real self with this new acquaintance, and that when she tried to express her thoughts and feelings she was met halfway. She had never had a real friendship with one of her own sex, but when the visit was over, she had begun to realize what a delightful thing it might be.

Mr. Harvey was much pleased when he heard that Margaret had got on so well with Mrs. Pervis.

"I have taken very much both to mother and son," said he, "I should like to ask them to tea on Sunday and we could all go to church together."

"But Mr. Newland is always in to tea on Sunday," said Margaret, rather unwillingly.

"All the better," replied Mr. Harvey, "it will do him good to see something of young Pervis; he is a fine, manly young fellow, and not ashamed of his religion."

The invitation was sent and accepted, for although Mrs. Pervis would rather have stayed quietly at home on Sunday, she saw that her son wished to go. She wondered a little at this, for as a rule he did not care for strangers.

When the evening came, the reason was very soon evident in his mother's eye.

BY F.E.READE

She saw that his eyes followed Margaret's movements, and that he listened eagerly to every word that she said. A pang shot through her, for every mother must suffer when she realises that she must take the second place in her son's heart. But she tried to check the jealous feeling; he must marry one day, and this appeared to be a good choice. Margaret seemed to have a frank sincere nature, and to be domestic and industrious.

Newlyn made himself very agreeable at tea-time, and the conversation flowed on in a bright and interesting manner. When they started for church Mr. Harvey led the way with Mrs. Pervis, and Margaret followed with the two young men, but to her annoyance, Newlyn went back for his prayer book, which he had forgotten, and they could not wait for him, as Pervis had to be in good time to take his place in the choir. It was the fourth Sunday in Advent, and Pervis began to talk about the glad Festival of Christmas which was so near at hand.

"I'm afraid that Christmas will be a sad time with us," said Margaret, "It will remind us of our loss; I quite dread it for my father."

"It will indeed be a trying time for you," said her companion, sympathetically, "but, yet, your father said to me the other night that he was looking forward to this Christmas in a way that he had never done before." "What could he have meant," exclaimed Margaret, in surprise. Pervis had no time to answer, for Newlyn now caught them up in a breathless state, and Margaret turned her attention to him.

Margaret happened to be sitting in church where she could see her father's face during the sermon, and good Christmas Communion, she saw it light up with an eager, expectant expression.

"Can he find joy in religion?" thought she.

Later that evening, when father and daughter were sitting over the fire together, Mr. Harvey said, in a half timid manner, "Margaret, my Dear, I am sorry you have never been confirmed; we ought to have told you about it when you were younger." "I'm quite happy as I am, thank you, father," replied she, in a tone of surprise.

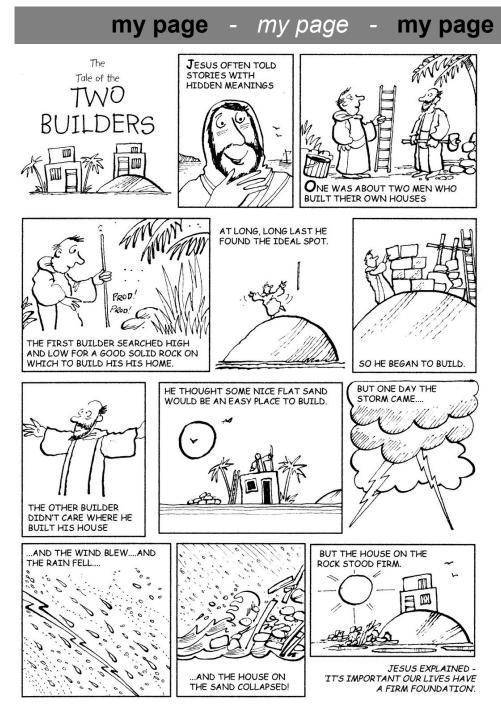
"But you cannot have the highest happiness, such as I am looking forward to on Christmas morning; I shall have to make my Communion alone; I should like to have had you with me."

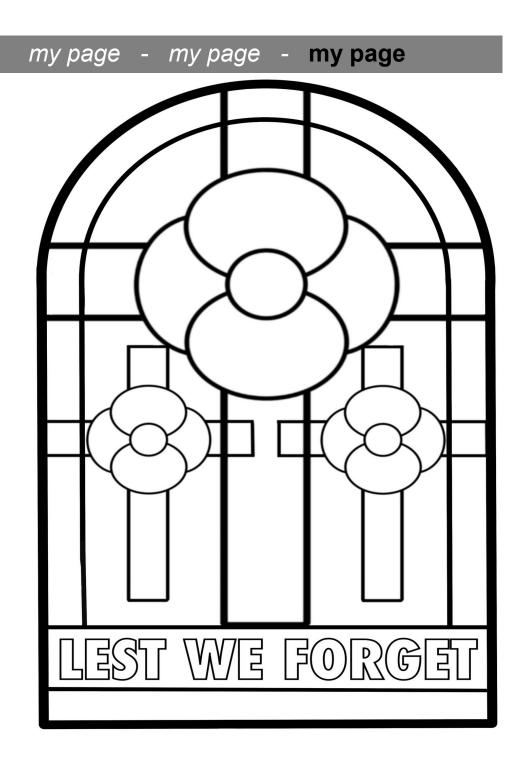
"I do not feel the least wish for anything of the kind," said Margaret, abruptly; then softening her tone, she continued, "I am very glad if religion brings any comfort to you, father, but I do not seem to stand in any need of it myself."

"You will need it some day, my child," replied her father, with a sigh.

Christmas came and went. Weeks slipped by and winter began to give way to early spring. The friendship between Margaret and Newlyn was an established thing. They were Margaret and Philip to each other now, and he allowed her to watch over him with all the care and attention that a sister or mother might have done. To please her he allowed himself to be stuffed with every nourishing thing, to obtain which she almost starved herself, and yet in spite of all her pains his health did not improve. He had a troublesome cough, and he was growing visibly thinner. One evening Mr. Harvey went out to attend a Committee Meeting and Newlyn called Margaret up stairs to keep him company. He sand a little, but got tired very soon and went to sit in the armchair. He would not allow that he was feeling poorly, but talked in the bright, playful way that made him such a charming companion, and as Margaret listened, she felt even more than usual that he was all the world to her. A loud rat-tat at the door caused her to jump up and say, "The last post! I will run down and see what there is." There was a letter for Newlyn which had been re-directed more than once. He seldom got a letter, and Margaret looked at it closely and saw that it had been addressed, in the first instance, by a feeble feminine hand. A feeling of coming evil oppressed her as she carried it upstairs. and she held it out to Newlyn with a trembling hand.

Continued next month:





CROSSWORD

Crossword Clues November 2023

Across

1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when he had given —, he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)

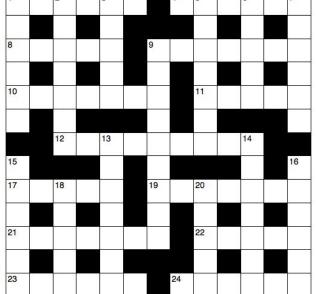
4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)

8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)9 Also known as Abednego

(Daniel 1:7) (7) 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7) 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5) 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)

17'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)19Roman province to which
Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary
journey (Acts 16:6) (7)21Material used to make baby
Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)22'And feeble as — , in thee
do we trust, nor find thee to
fail' (5)23'The watchman opens the

gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John10:3) (6)



24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

Down

1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)

2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)

3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)

5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)

6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)

- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)

Prayer Diary November 2023

1	All Saints' Day	Our Church family		
2	All Souls' Day	Our loved ones departed this life		
3		Peace in Ukraine		
4		Missionaries throughout the world		
5	4th Sunday before Advent	Adam, Bishop of Bradwell		
6		Revd Jonathan Croucher - Archdeacon of Chelmsford		
7		All who work in the emergency services		
8		Chaplains to the emergency services		
9		The Archbishops of Canterbury and York		
10		The newly elected Mayor of the City of London		
11		The work of The Royal British Legion		
12	3rd Sunday before Advent - Remem- brance Sunday	All who suffer as a result of war		
13	Janoo Canaay	Our servicemen and women		
14		All prisoners		
15		All Judges and Magistrates		
16		Prison Chaplains		
17		All Politicians		
18		Residents of the care homes in Maldon		
19	2nd Sunday before Advent	The Mission and Ministry of Churches at home		
20		Probation Officers		
21		Police Community Support Officers		
22		Those who live alone		
23		General Practitioners and those who work in GP Surgeries		
24		Charities working to provide shelter for the homeless		
25		Churches together in Maldon		
26	Sunday before Advent - Christ the King	Our Ministry Team as they prepare for Advent and the Christmas Season		
27		All present day hymn and worship song writers		
28		Those recently ordained as Deacons		
29		The Missionary work of the Church		
30	St Andrew	Churches dedicated to St Andrew, especially St An- drew's Heybridge		

	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 11.00	St Georges 09.30
Saturday 4			16.00 All Souls Service Rev Jordan	0700	1100	
First Sunday 5 All Saints' Day 4 th before Advent	Holy Communion Rev Jordan	Worship for All in All Saints School Rev Jordan, Vicky & Betty		MP&P Irene & Gerald	Holy Communion Fr John	
Monday 6						Holy Communior Fr John
Second Sunday 12 Remembrance 3 rd before Advent	Holy Communion Fr John	Holy Communion Rev Jordan	Evensong 16.00 Adrienne	10.45 MP&P Irene & Gerald	09.30 Holy Communion Fr John & Rev Julia	
Monday 13						Holy Communior Rev Jordan
Third Sunday 19 2 nd before Advent	Holy Communion Fr John	Holy Communion Rev Noelle 14.00 Baptism Fr John		Holy Communion Fr John	MP&P Lynne	
Monday 20						MP&P Rev Julia
Fourth Sunday 26 Christ the King Sunday before Advent	Holy Communion Fr John	Holy Communion Rev Noelle Baptism at 14.00 Rev Jordan		Holy Communion Rev Jordan	Holy Commun- ion Rev Jordan	
Monday 27						Holy Communior Rev Jordan

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VICAR

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Website www.allsaintsmaldon.com

ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Choir Prac/Thur (7:30pm) Choir Prac/Sat (11.30am)	Dr. Stuart Pegler	01621 850530
Junior Church	Elaine Brown	01621 850484
Sunshiners (Pre School Group Thur 9:15 am)	Mary Stebbens Gill Nelson	07561115145 01621 852119
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 & Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs) <u>1stn</u>	Zoe Franklin	Email:- p@gmail.com
Maldon Pioneers	Mike Frederick	01621 840951
Ramblers Club	Sue Smith	01621 854056
Prayer Group		
Messy Church	Elaine Brown	01621 850484

To register your daughter's interest in joining either: Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers please visit <u>www.girlguiding.org.uk</u> or tel: 0800 169 5901.

From the Registers Baptism 1st October Mia Grace Davis Funerals 12th October Daniel Kirby aged 38years from Battlesbridge 16th October RIta East aged 81 years of Granger Avenue Renewal of Wedding Vows 21st October Carrie Willmot Ganda & Matthew Ganda



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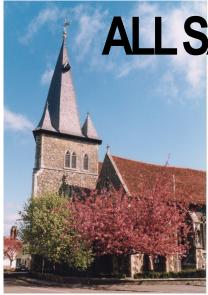
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PARISH OFFICE

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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