

THE

CRAYFISHER

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The magazine for the Parish of Cray Valley

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Front Cover Picture: St Paul's Cray; by Rita McKay

PARISH LETTER

When I write these monthly letters, several weeks before they appear in the parish magazine, I sometimes wonder if the thoughts currently in my mind will seem relevant when they are finally read.



Today I've been noticing how the shops are full of reminders that Mother's Day or Mothering Sunday is imminent. Shelves of pastel coloured ornaments are cheerfully displayed as ideal gifts and fresh flowers are suddenly unusually expensive.

Now I'm not against celebrating Mothering Sunday, in fact I have remembered to post a card. But I am conscious that when this column is read, we shall be celebrating Easter, the most important date in the Christian calendar, a time when we remember that this was a time of great sadness for one particular mother. We can only try to imagine Mary's pain, because no parent expects to see their child predecease them.

And did she have happy memories she could recall of His childhood and His adult years? Were there mementoes, small gifts or cards she could treasure? It's not very likely, is it? But she would have remembered the daily gestures, those little acts of kindness, the small things through which love and affection are shown on a regular basis.

Mothering Sunday was originally the day people returned to their 'mother church' and gradually this also became a day when domestic servants could return to their families. I like to think that those homecomings were full of joy, celebrating their special relationship and creating memories to sustain them until the next time of meeting. But I think too, for those of us who can see our parents more frequently, that it is the commonplace daily love that really matters.

Of course some people will still want to make the big gestures once a year, whether it's the largest bunch of flowers in the shop or the biggest box of chocolates, but those aren't the things that will be remembered as clearly as a frequent helping hand and a sympathetic ear.

I'm sure that Mary had some good, simple memories of her extraordinary Son. I'm sure that she could remember the love that had existed between them, mother and Child.

And as I wrote this, a well-known hymn came into my mind, which I thought with the substitution of Mother for Father, sums up a good mother child relationship and vice versa.

Mother, I place into your hands
My friends and family.
Mother, I place into your hands
The things that trouble me.
Mother I place into your hands
The person I would be,
For I know I always can trust you.

Jessie x

READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN APRIL

Sun 5 th	PALM SUNDAY Matthew 21. 1-11 Philippians 2. 5-11 GOSPEL: Matthew 26.14-end of 27
Sun 12 th	EASTER DAY Acts 10. 34-43 Colossians 3. 1-4 Gospel: John 20. 1-18
Sun 19 th	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER Exodus 14. 10-end; Exodus 15. 20-21 Acts 2.14a, 22-32 Gospel: John 20. 19-end
Sun 26 th	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Zephaniah 3. 14-end Acts 2. 14a, 36-41 Gospel: Luke 24. 13-35

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE WEDNESDAY MIDDAY EUCHARIST
WILL NOW TAKE PLACE AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH INSTEAD OF
ST MARY'S UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

REGULAR SERVICES ACROSS THE PARISH

Items in **red** refer to **St Mary's**, **blue** to **St Andrew's**.

All services are open to everyone.

St Andrew's

Sundays 09:15

1st Sunday

**Praise and Worship with
Eucharist**

Wednesday 12:00

Said Eucharist

Thursday 19:00

Said Eucharist

Friday 12:00

**Healing & Wholeness with
Said Eucharist and lunch**

St Mary's

Sundays: 11.00

1st Sunday

**Praise and Worship with
Eucharist**

2nd and 4th Sunday

Sung Eucharist

3rd Sunday

**Informal Praise and
Worship**

5th Sunday

Family Holy Communion

**Both
churches**

Saturdays

**There are different regular
Saturday events throughout
the month. See the following
pages to find out more
details.**

ACROSS THE PARISH THIS MONTH

All events are open to everyone.

Sun 5	09:15	PALM SUNDAY Eucharist at St Andrew's
	11:00	PALM SUNDAY Eucharist at St Mary's
Mon 6	12:30	SINGLETON'S LUNCH Please see Jill Renwick for details.
		<u>HOLY WEEK</u>
	19:00	EUCCHARIST at St Andrew's TBC
Tue 7	14:00	APSLEY COURT. Come along and have a cup of tea or coffee and a chat with the residents. See Jill, Brenda or Malcolm for details.
	14:15	MU MEETING at Jacky's Home – with speaker
	19:00	COMPLINE with Eucharist at St Andrew's
Wed 8	12:00	STATIONS OF THE CROSS at St Mary's
	19:00	STATIONS OF THE CROSS (not Eucharist)
Thur 9	19:00	WASHING OF HANDS/FEET
	–	WATCH WITH CHRIST/VIGIL at St Andrew's
	21:30	
Fri 10		<u>GOOD FRIDAY</u>
	14:00	VENERATION OF THE CROSS at St Mary's
Sat 11	12:30	COMMUNITY LUNCH/GET TOGETHER 'Bring your own lunch'. Tea and coffee provided at St Andrew's Church Hall.
Sun 12		<u>EASTER DAY</u>
	09:15	EUCCHARIST at St Andrew's
	11:00	EUCCHARIST at St Mary's
Thur 16	14:00	GOING PLACES Bring and Share Afternoon Tea at St Andrew's Church Hall.
Sun 19	09:15	EUCCHARIST at St Andrew's
	11:00	EUCCHARIST at St Mary's
Wed 22	09:30	FUNSHINE CLUB at St Andrew's
Sat 25	09:30	MU MEETING at Christ Church, Orpington - Spring Members Meeting
	10:00	COFFEE MORNING at St Andrew's
	19:00	ST MARY'S QUIZ NIGHT
Sun 26	10:00	CREATION CELEBRATION JOINT SERVICE at St Mary's followed by APCM.
Mon 27	10:00	DEANERY MEETING OF MU at All Saints, Orpington.



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PLEASE NOTE

Sunday 26 April is our APCM and everyone is invited to attend the APCM at St Mary's. This very important meeting, especially if you are on the Electoral Roll

THE DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE OF
THE CRAYFISHER IS TUESDAY 14 APRIL. PLEASE HAVE
YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN BY THIS DATE – ANYTHING
RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE HELD OVER UNTIL
THE NEXT ISSUE

*Regular meetings of Rainbows are in St Andrew's church hall on Mondays
17:00-18:30 during term time. Brownies meet in
St Andrew's church hall on Fridays 18:30-20:00 also during term time*
THE CHURCH HALL AT ST ANDREW'S IS AVAILABLE
ON WEEKDAYS, WEEKENDS, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY
EVENINGS.

Please see page 20 for details of how to book either St Mary's or
St Andrew's hall

PARISH PRAYER GROUP

Meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at Muriel's home.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH OPEN HOUSE

St Mary's Church will be opening its doors again this year, details from Peter or Terry.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

For further details contact Tony Lathey 01689 872742

SOCIAL EVENTS

AT ST ANDREW'S AND ST MARY'S IN 2020

**PLEASE SEE NOTICE BOARDS AND LISTEN FOR NOTICES
TO GET THE FULL DETAILS**

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR MORE EVENTS TO COME

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
25 April	Quiz Night	St. Mary's
3 May	Concert	St Mary's
9 May	Bingo	St Andrew's
20 June	Cream Tea	St Andrew's
21 June	Rock Choir Concert	St Andrew's
July TBC	BBQ	St Andrew's
18 July	Cream Tea	St Mary's
19 September	Quiz Night	St Andrew's
27 September	Salvation Army Concert	St Andrew's
17 October	Annual Dinner	St Andrew's
28 November	Christmas Fair	St Mary's

SPECIAL REQUEST FROM ST ANDREW'S CHURCHWARDENS

Because of the many tasks that need to be done after the service each week, we are asking if there is someone in the congregation who would be kind enough to take on the responsibility of putting the bins out each week for us. This task often seems to be forgotten and one of us, or someone else must come back to the church to do the job. This would be on-going but if you find you are unable to do this one week for whatever reason, please ask someone else if they could do it for you for that week.

Hoping you can help. If you can, please speak to one of us.

Brenda and Trevor

THANK YOU

I must again put pen to paper and thank Trevor who for the last two Sundays (9th and 16th February) has taken myself and Anne, through all that bad weather (heavy rain and strong winds) to St Andrew's for Sunday morning services.

Thanks Trevor, we do both appreciate your kindness and good will.

Rita Openshaw

HAIRDRESSING AFTER CHURCH



June Jenner has offered to cut men's and ladies hair for £5 or cut and blow dry for £10 after the Sunday Eucharist at St Andrew's and all monies will be donated to the church. So, if you feel the need for a haircut, please see June who will arrange a time and date for you. If you know of someone who is unable to get to church and would like a haircut, June is willing to go to their house. June is fully qualified.

FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

JaM and JaM+ found out about St. Valentine, the Patron Saint of Epilepsy, bee keepers and of course Christian love . He was executed in Rome by Claudius because he was a Christian. His tomb lies in a church in Dublin. The young people decorated the floral hearts and made decorative valentine cards, mainly for mothers!

At present JaM & JaM+ take place in church (St. Mary's) because of the coldness in the Church Centre and awaiting of our up to date DBS certificates.

- Bridget, Rosemary and Tony attended the Celebration of Mary Paton's life at Kemnal Crematorium. It was a beautiful service and many family, friends and Temple church members were there.
- Mary always read the Crayfisher especially about children's accounts.

Jacky Cook

NEWS FROM PARISH PUMP

Guidance for parishes on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Church of England's Mission and Public Affairs division has published advice to parishes on practical steps to reduce the risk of infection from Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The guidance, written by Dr Brendan McCarthy, the Church of England's Adviser on health issues, draws on the latest Government advice. It is available on a dedicated web page which will be updated as necessary. (*See below.*)

It recommends incorporating simple precautions into worship services, particularly during the celebration of the Eucharist.

The situation will be kept under close review and updated advice will be made available if necessary.

The Bishop of Carlisle, James Newcome, the Church of England's lead bishop on health issues, said: "At present the risk in this country is 'moderate'. However, there are, of course some practical measures churches can take.

"Much of that is simply maintaining good hygiene including, for example, priests and servers washing their hands and using alcohol-based hand-sanitiser before Holy Communion.

"Although there is not currently Government advice suggesting churches should suspend the use of the Common Cup, parishioners with coughs and sneezes should certainly be encouraged to receive Communion in one kind only, and to refrain from handshaking during The Peace.

"We also advise against the practice of 'intinction' – when the consecrated bread is dipped into the wine - as this could represent an infection transmission route."

The web page is: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes>

The above information is subject to change, so please check with the Parish Office and/or the church website for further updates.

Easter Story

The thud of nails on open palms,
'Father forgive' was all He said,
'Finished' was His final cry,
As death approached God bowed His head.

Born of a woman He entered our world,
Fully man yet fully divine,
Such is the mystery beyond comprehension
That One such as this should step into time.

He came to die and rise again
The first-fruits of the Father's love,
That man should follow in His train
On wings of light to realms above. *By Megan Carter*
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QUIZ NIGHT 7th MARCH

Everyone arrived on time and the quiz started on time by being given the two marathon rounds, the Dingbats caused a bit of a problem as a few of us did not understand what it was about, but we soon found out. The other one was about films which was easier.

The first half started with Brenda explaining about the questions and lots of discussions on all tables caused quite a noisy time and was soon over and the fish and chips arrived, which was enjoyed by all. Second half started and time went very quick and then it was finished before we knew it. There was then a raffle with bottles of wine and chocolates among the prizes.

There were seven teams playing and everyone enjoyed the evening, a big vote of thanks to the organising skills of Brenda and Trevor, they worked very hard setting in all up.

Also thank you to all those that help clear up at end of the evening. I look forward to the next the next social evening.

Linda Sexton



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PANCAKE PARTY AT ST MARY'S

Thanks to our Pancake Makers everyone had a good time and £150 was donated to The Children's Society. The raffle made £52 for the Parish coffers. Thanking everyone for their support.

Social Committee





Funshine Club

St Andrew's Toddler Group

Every Wednesday during term
time

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A VISIT TO PASSAU (Summer, 2006)

When my son suggested a summer holiday visit to Passau, I had a ‘Geography Crisis’. Where *is* Passau? Is it in Europe? – thankfully I’d made a good guess. Czech Republic? – I was getting warm, but it’s in Germany. It’s close to the border with Austria in the south east corner of lower Bavaria. That’s the former West Germany: a two-hour drive from Munich where my son was living and working in 2006.

Passau ‘The City on Three Rivers’ stands on a V-shaped peninsula with the Rhine and the Inn flowing each side. From the narrow tip of the V you can see the where the different coloured waters meet and mingle downstream. A third river, the much smaller Ilz joins at right angles from the Austrian side to complete the three-way confluence (I love that word!). It is a remarkable and unique sight.



Passau has a compact ‘Old Town’ centre filled with gothic and baroque buildings in glorious shades of pastel colours. The organ at St Stephens is the largest in Europe. There are daily recitals at midday in summer. The hotel staff advised us: ‘Get there good and early’. Yes indeed – the cathedral is a splendid construction in the Italian Baroque style and every seat in its vast interior was taken long before 12 noon and hundreds were standing. The organ [see photo] is a mighty structure of 17,774 pipes and 233 registers. It was a memorable experience to sit and hear it.

The *Veste Oberhaus* (Bishop’s Fortress) dominates the high skyline of Passau and looks down on a city that was founded by Italian tribes from the Alps and was then established by the Romans.

Jerry Dowlen

Are you suffering from any of the following conditions?

**Back pain : Neck pain : Sciatica : Shoulder pain :
Tension : Migraine**

Or other types of headache?

**Joint pains: Generalised aches and pains :
Sports injuries : Muscle spasms and cramps**

Rotator cuff injuries, disease or disorders

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you**



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