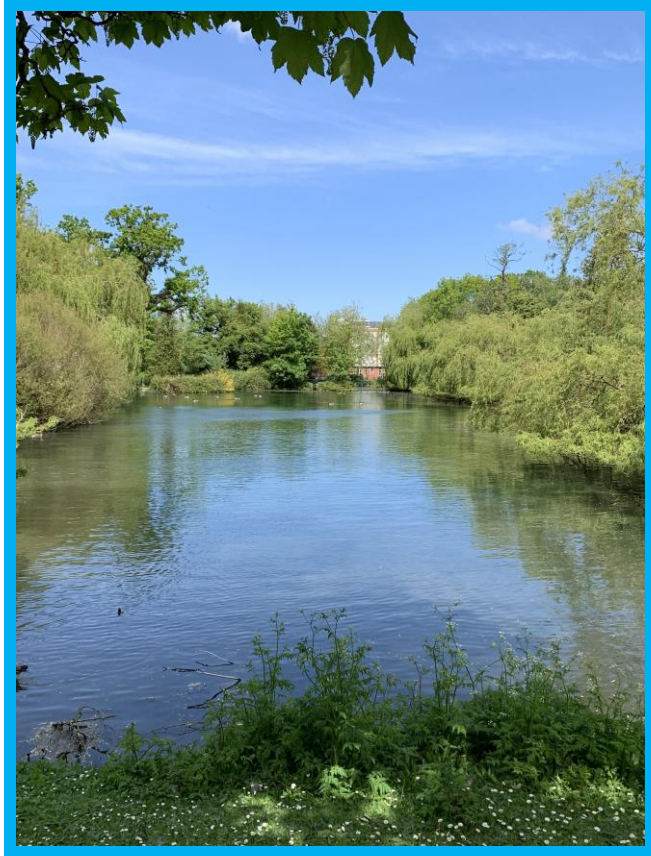


THE

CRAYFISHER

August 2021

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The magazine for the Parish of Cray Valley

No.75

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The editorial team reserve the right to edit, and condense
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Valley

Front Cover Picture: Orpington Pond by Brenda Smith

PARISH LETTER

Whilst thinking about what to write as my contribution to this month's 'clergy offering' for the Parish I was shown some thoughts about life, based on the theme of Noah's Ark. I am pleased to share with you the thoughts – passed on to me by 'a friend of a friend'.

The piece is entitled 'Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark....'

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you are 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float for a while.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting ...

I think the above points show that life can be very 'matter of fact' at times, though it's never as straightforward as we would wish it to be. As we know from experience, life can be very complicated, both exhilarating and daunting.

Whatever your thoughts on this, why not display 'Noah's Ark' somewhere in your home.

Jessie

READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

Sun 1st 2 Samuel 11.26-12.13a
Ephesians 4.1-16
GOSPEL John 6.24-35

Sun 8th 2 Samuel 18.5-9, 15, 31-33
Ephesians 4.25-5.2
GOSPEL John 6.35, 41-51

Sun 15th Isaiah 61.10-end
Galatians 4.4-7
GOSPEL Luke 1.46-55

Sun 22nd 1 Kings 8. [1, 6, 10-11] 22-30, 41-43
Ephesians 6. 10-20
GOSPEL John 6. 56-69

Sun 29th Song of Solomon 2.8-13
James 1.17-end
GOSPEL Mark 7.1-8, 14,15,21-23

COLLECTS FOR AUGUST

- Sun 1st Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Sprit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen
- Sun 8th Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen
- Sun 15th Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen
- Sun 22nd Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Sun 29th Almighty God, who called your church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

SERVICES DURING AUGUST

Sunday Services will be in church

Sunday 1st – St Mary's at 10 a.m.

Sunday 8th – St Andrew's at 10 a.m.

Sunday 15th – St Mary's at 10 a.m.

Sunday 22nd – St Andrew's at 10 a.m.

Sunday 29th – St Mary's at 10 a.m.

There will be no Wednesday services during August. They will resume in September.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE CRAYFISHER IS MONDAY 16 AUGUST. PLEASE HAVE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN BY THIS DATE – ANYTHING RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE HELD OVER UNTIL THE NEXT ISSUE

PARISH PRAYER GROUP

We were delighted to meet together in Muriel's home in May. We continue to pray for all in need and now we can meet in person to do so.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

For further details contact Tony Lathey 01689 872742

THE PARISH FISH'N'CHIP LUNCH

The First Parish Fish'n'chips Lunch met on 23rd June 2021 and went very well with the necessary restrictions. Twelve diners enjoyed their main meal with tea/coffee and cakes and biscuits to follow. We thank Doves Funeral Services for their donation of paying for four meals and to Malcolm for his help while we were away.

We hope that others will also feel able to join us in our next and future meals; next one is on Wednesday 25 August. The Church Centre will be open from 12.15 pm and lunch served at 13.00. For detail and /or bookings with £6:50 per person to:

**Malcolm - 01689 601827 or
Rosemary or Tony - 01689 872742**

This is an outreach project and not profit making and is open to all the public as well as church goers.

Best Wishes and God Bless from
Malcolm, Rosemary and Tony

CRAY VALLEY MOTHERS' UNION.

The next Cray Valley Mothers' Union meeting will be Tuesday 3rd August 2021 at the Church Centre at 14.30, subject to Covid-19 restrictions. Please attend if you can, we will be electing the Branch Officers, meeting place and programme etc.

On Saturday June 26th the Annual Spring Meeting was held via Zoom, the meeting passed the new Constitution and regulations, which among other things gives all members of the Mothers' Union the right to vote instead of only Officers, Trustees and Branch Leaders. There were also presentations on AFIA, the Anna Chaplaincy and Metamorphosis. Prison Work was also mentioned together with craft work and various knitted items. If you are interested in any of the above or in joining or finding out more about the M.U. please speak to Muriel, Grace, or Tony.

BROMLEY FOOD BANK

The Food Bank donations should be made directly to the Food Bank until the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

EDITH CRESSWELL

Many of you will remember Edith Cresswell for the past few years a regular worshiper at St, Mary's Church, also joining us at many Open-Door lunches. Edith is now in a retirement facility in Gillingham, well and happy.

She takes part in most of the various activities both craft and social, Edith recently enjoyed a mini-bus trip to Herne Bay with a fish and chip meal, where she met her daughter, Susan. Edith recently attended a Holy Communion service at the home which she found very uplifting; a 90-year-old retired vicar conducted the service and he was accompanied by his dog which no doubt delighted the retirees.

Edith wishes to be remembered to all and sends her love and best wishes.

Tony Lathey

SOCIAL EVENTS

AT ST ANDREW'S AND ST MARY'S IN 2021

We are hopeful that we can do some social events in 2021. WATCH THIS SPACE! We are preparing to host two autumn functions, BUT it all rests on what the easing of the lockdown rules are or will be at the time. We plan to organise the following:

Saturday 4 September – Quiz Night (See page 21)

Saturday 23 October – Dinner dance/Masked Ball

We will see what happens nearer the time, but please put these dates in your diary.

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GIVING BY STANDING ORDER

Thank you all for your support and giving during what has been a tough year financially for us as a Parish and as individuals.

Just a reminder that it is quick and easy to set up a standing order. There is no minimum giving, all and any contributions are gratefully received.

Pease see the bank details below.

Cray Valley Parish
Sort Code: 23-05-80
Account: 18890321

If you need any help, please contact Linda on 07815071165.

Parish Office



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW
MR & MRS JOSH MILLER**





**WE WISH VICKY AND JOSH EVERY BLESSING IN THEIR
NEW LIFE TOGETHER. GOD BLESS YOU BOTH**

FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

St James the Least of All

Press one for vicar, two for curate....12 for prayer....

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Now you have got your new telephone system in the parish, I shall not be calling you again. I refuse to wait for ten minutes every time I ring to have to listen to the cycle of 'press 1 for the vicar, 2 for the curate, 3 for the secretary', until we end with '12 for requests for prayer.' I was tempted to leave a message on 12 to ask that the wretched machine would break down, but then realised I would have to call a second time to leave a message on 13 for making a confession.

And if I have to listen one more time to someone playing 'Thine be the glory' on one finger on an electric organ while I am 'on hold' I will have him excommunicated. At least you have the grace not to ask me not to hang up, as my call is important to you. I would even warm to your system if a voice occasionally said that they couldn't care less whether I hung up or not, as my call was utterly irrelevant to them.



Those poor people who have to wait to reach 7 for leaving messages regarding marriages might as well leave a second message on 8 for baptisms and save on a large phone bill in months to come. As for 9 for funerals, entire families could be born, marry and die before they reach that one. And may I suggest that your car parking attendant who stuck a note on my windscreen telling me not to park there again is given the number 666.

My own answerphone tells people firmly that the machine does not accept incoming messages, and that I only answer personally on

Thursdays between 10am and 12 noon, provided nothing better has turned up. Alternatively, they could write me a letter which may (or may not) be answered, at my convenience.

As for the few who have got hold of my mobile number, my response is to say that I am just about to enter a tunnel and then to switch it off. Callers from other parts of the country now believe that the parish of St James the Least is honeycombed by mile-long tunnels, making communication all but impossible.

You can now be assured that your new system means you will be contactable at any moment, wherever you happen to be. But don't call me to complain and expect to receive sympathy; I shall be just about to enter a tunnel.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

'ON HOLIDAY WITH JESUS'

August is the month when schools are off and many of us go on holiday. This year will be very different, with many opting for a 'staycation'! The good news is that Jesus offers us a true rest:

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.' (Matthew 11: 28-29). Are you feeling tired or burdened and in need of a holiday? Jesus invites you to spend it with Him!

The Invitation: Our holiday destination is Jesus Himself: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened.' We can come just as we are, with all the burdens and sadness we carry from the last 18 months. Jesus doesn't offer a 'quick fix' to deal with our issues; He simply offers Himself!

The Promise: Jesus promises us the gift of refreshing, sustaining and everlasting rest. When we go on holiday, we usually look forward to doing very little and yet this is not the kind of rest Jesus offers. His rest involves taking up His yoke and learning from Him! A yoke was the wooden collar that ran across the shoulders of a pair of oxen to enable them to work the fields. Jesus says: 'My yokes fit well. They do not rub your neck and shoulders. Come to Me and get yoked to Me. Make an act of loyal obedience and trust in Me. And you will find a deep peace and satisfaction that you could never find anywhere else. I have come for you!'

What's so amazing about this holiday is that you can get rest by simply staying at home!

All items in 'For the Young and Young at Heart' are courtesy of www.parishpump.co.uk

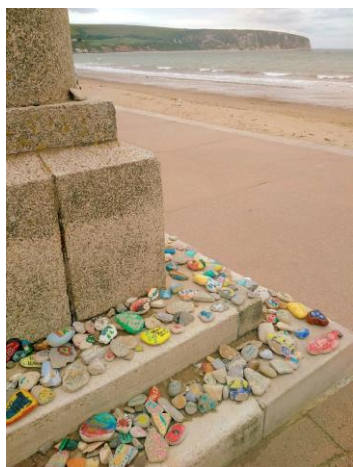
CONGRATULATIONS

Wishing Tony Lathey a very Happy 80th Birthday on
20 August



KING ALFRED THE GREAT

In the seaside town of Swanage a monument to King Alfred has become a temporary shrine where residents and visitors can thank the NHS for the Covid effort. The steps to the monument are filled with beach pebbles painted in bright colours and decorated with messages of community gratitude and fortitude. The stone column was erected in 1862 in tribute to Alfred defeating the Danes in a sea battle off the Dorset coast in 877. Historians suggest that the Viking fleet actually perished in a storm, but Alfred was none the less a heroic king – our only one ever to be called ‘Great’. He defended Wessex and kept the Danes out after their raiders had conquered everywhere else in England. The word ‘burh’ meaning borough is associated with Alfred who was instrumental in promoting walled towns as the safest and most efficient places for people to live and trade instead of villages.



Another inaccuracy of the monument are the cannon balls on top! There were no such weapons in the ninth century. The ones on the monument are relics of the Crimean War and were brought to Swanage from one of the wooden battleships that returned from Russia to Portsmouth circa 1856.

Jerry Dowlen

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GOING PLACES

Yippee! Hurray! Things are nearly back to normal.

On Wednesday 14th July Going Places managed an outing after eighteen months of lockdown. They lunched at the Mosaic Restaurant, the cafe at Christchurch in Charterhouse Road. Rosemary & Tony, Anne, Rita, Brenda, Florence and Janet & Trevor enjoyed a lunch of fish & chips, cottage pie, or omelettes followed by strawberries and ice cream.

Somebody making one's lunch was enjoyed by all, and a return visit is planned to the Mosaic in November.

Going Places is open to all and new members warmly welcomed. To find out more please contact Brenda or Trevor.

Trevor Taylor





Funshine Club

**Cray Valley Parish
Toddler Group**

Every Wednesday during term
time

We meet in St Andrew's Church
Lower Road
Car parking in the church car
park

£1.00 per adult, Children free

(Includes craft activity,
tea/coffee, squash and biscuit)

Enquiries to Sarah Rideout
0794 1020724

**Please check Funshine
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latest updates. Please also
check our Facebook page
to see our weekly stories,
other activities and catch-
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regularly. Looking forward
to seeing everyone when
we are able.**

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***Sign-up now and start raising money for >St Mary's and St
Andrew's Church <<***

GARDENING TIPS

After days of rain the weeds are running riot. Use an eco-friendly mix to rid your garden of the dreaded weeds. Make in a spray bottle 3 parts water to 1 salt, (you can also use boiling water.)

Be careful with both, use sparingly so that it doesn't affect other parts of garden.

Mulching in Spring at least two inches thick is most effective remedy to control weeds. Dig the mulch into the ground in Autumn and repeat process annually.

Continue dead heading flowers as required to prolong flowering season. Enjoy your gardens & relax occasionally.

The photo is of a cold frame made from an old kitchen window.

Rita McKay



SPACES AVAILABLE NOW

For Children Ages 2-5 years old

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Please contact Ros on 07307 175501
Email: rossys.rascals@outlook.com

POETRY CORNER

MY LOCKDOWN DOORMAT

The status of my front door mat,
in this pandemic has risen.
It's mostly there for wiping feet,
but now it's on a mission.

While I am shielded from friends,
family and postman Pat,
and the friendly delivery man,
everything's placed on my mat.

It all began on Mother's Day,
cards, balloons, flowers were left,
on my mat, to its surprise,
my family were bereft.

Cuddles and kisses for grandkids,
on Mother's Day were banned,
talking through bedroom windows,
blowing kisses, waving hands.

My medication and shopping,
are all placed on my mat.
Delivery men leave parcels,
sometimes stopping for a chat.

When Jo next door cooks a roast,
and leaves *that* on my mat,
she rings my bell then legs it,
back to the door of her flat.

Was going to buy a new doormat,
Before this pandemic began,
But, as it has been shielding me,
I'm now its greatest fan.

Geraldine Ann Ford
May 8th 2020

ST ANDREW'S QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2021

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Cray Valley Parish Fish 'N' Chips Group



Come and join us for our Fish 'N' Chips Group every fourth Wednesday of the month, doors open 12.15, lunch at 1pm at St Mary's Church Centre after our Midweek Eucharist and Healing Service at 11.30am which alternates between St Andrew's and St Mary's churches.

No Midweek Eucharist during August.

Dates: Wednesday 25th August
 Wednesday 22nd September
 Wednesday 27th October
 Wednesday 24th November
 Wednesday 22nd December

Price: £6.50 (Incl. Main Meal Fish and Chips with tea, coffee and cake or biscuits. To be paid for in advance)

Please speak to Malcolm, Tony or Rosemary to book a space.

All are welcome

THE CRAYFISHER ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

The subscriptions are due in August and details of how to pay are below. Please don't forget to send in your slip whichever way you pay.

Subscription year runs from September 2021 until August 2022.

Paying this as an annual subscription would help us to know we have a definite income for the year. Please be advised that if you want your copy to be posted to you, you will also be charged the cost of a 2nd class stamp per month. Should you require a large print copy, postage costs more.

TO ENSURE YOU DON'T MISS AN ISSUE PLEASE COMPLETE THE SLIP BELOW AND RETURN IT WITH YOUR PAYMENT BY MONDAY 16 AUGUST 2021.

Please tear off and return the below slip

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Please pay online if possible

To pay online please use: A/c 18890321 : S/C 23-05-80, quoting Ref CF21 and your surname e.g., CF21 SMITH (**we still need this slip to allocate payment**)
If you cannot pay on line, cheques should be payable to 'Cray Valley Parish'.

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO: The Editor, The Crayfisher,
by post to 38 Sussex Road, Orpington, BR5 4JF**