

ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

January 2020

Photographic contributions for the front of this magazine sent to the editor will be most welcome.

£1

**CHURCH SERVICES**

Sunday Services	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Sung Parish Eucharist (except first Sunday of the month). 6:30 pm Evensong and Sermon second and third Sundays of the month
1st Sunday in the Month	10:00am Short all age service of stories songs and prayers. 11:15am Parish Eucharist (CW) 6:00 pm Evensong at St Mary's
Last Sunday	6:30 pm Prayer and Praise Service

JUNIOR CHURCH

Each Sunday at 10:00am.in the D'Arcy Room in Church

WEEKDAY SERVICE

Morning Prayer	is usually said in church at 8.30am on Monday - Friday.
Evening Prayer	is usually said in church at 5.30pm on Monday - Thursday
Thursday	11:00am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) followed by coffee and biscuits

Cover Photos:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Part of the Congregation at the Candle lit service on Christmas Eve2. Church Entrance for Christmas Tree Festival Photos by Mike Ovenden
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FROM THE VICARAGE

SAVING THE NHS

At the time of writing, we are still awaiting the General Election. By the time you read this, it will be clear who is in power, and whether there is an overall majority for one of the parties, or a "hung Parliament". During the election campaign it has been fascinating to watch how all the parties have been using the National Health Service to score points off their opponents. Labour is accusing the Conservatives of wanting to sell off parts of the NHS to business interests in the United States. The Conservatives are strongly denying this; and are trying to convince the electorate that they really will be training more doctors and GPs and putting adequate resources into new hospitals. It is worth remembering that many people were influenced to vote for Brexit, because of the promises that money currently sent to Europe would be diverted to the NHS!

All parties are promising extra resources for the NHS and that they will address the huge shortages of doctors, nurses and surgeons, and bring down waiting times for operations and in Accident and Emergency. I recently had a conversation with a senior nurse. She told me that in all her years in the Health service, she has never known hospitals to be so under-resourced, nor staff so under pressure and de-moralised. Many good GPs are taking early retirement because of the stressful working conditions and unrealistic expectations being placed on them. No doubt there are many complex issues that many of us do not fully understand. Any large organisation, employing well over one million people, should always be looking at its management structures and the need for economies and reform. We will all have anecdotes of examples of waste and inefficiency in the NHS.

But if there are not enough surgeons, doctors and nurses in our hospitals and in our health centres, it seems to me there is one simple and fundamental problem. We need as a nation to be willing to invest more towards preserving a truly National Health Service available for all. Rather than promising free Broadband for every home, or spending billions re-



nationalising the railways the utilities, I would have thought the first priority should be our hospitals and schools.

We will all blame the politicians for the decline in public services in recent years. The years of austerity have taken their toll. But we must all accept some responsibility. We all say we want good public services, but at the same time, we want to pay less tax and National Insurance. Perhaps the time has come for some grown up politics. Health, education, social care, policing and many other issues, need to have some real political consensus. Everyone is agreed that all these things are of great importance for the future of our society. Whatever other disagreements the parties have, we need to agree what realistically we should be investing in; all these things that are so basic to the well being of our nation.

The conception of a National Health service, available for all, regardless of ability to pay, was strongly influenced by Christian principles. The Beveridge Report was published in 1942, when of course we had an all party coalition government. The Archbishop of Canterbury at the time, Dr William Temple, described it as "the first time anyone had set out to embody the whole spirit of the Christian ethic in an act of Parliament."

Nick and I, and many who will read this, will owe our lives to the care we have received from the NHS. It is a very precious thing that we have in the United Kingdom. It is "free at the point of delivery"; but with an aging population and constant advances in medicine, it is hugely expensive. As a society we surely need to reflect on how much more of our income we are prepared to invest.

So please pray for our politicians, that they may work together in the national interest, to safeguard and improve our health service. And pray for all the people who work for the NHS in any capacity, and give thanks for the work they do.

Stephen

THE EUCHARIST WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING

This service will take place at 11.15am on Sunday January 5th to include the laying on of hands and anointing, together with prayers for the sick.

SC



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

New Year message from The Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford.

Live gently and enhance God's creation in 2020

When I'm having a bad day – or just as importantly, when I'm feeling a bit too pleased with myself – I say to myself that one day I will be my successors' predecessor. I find this helps me put myself in perspective. It also helps me to pray that the decisions I take are not simply for the good of the diocese while I'm bishop, but will be for the benefit of future generations in East London and Essex. As I pray for our diocese on the eve of 2020, I also wonder what our world will look like when the Bishop of Chelmsford writes their New Year message in 2070 or 2120. This past year has seen concern for the environment grow. Where once we talked about sustainability, we now question whether the fundamentals of our present existence on this planet are sustainable at all. We now tend to talk about climate emergency not just climate change. As this emergency deepens, it is the poorest and most vulnerable who are suffering most.

In October, I took my staff team to the Franciscan Friary at Hilfield in Dorset to learn how a community of Christians can intentionally adapt their lives to not only reduce their environmental impact but also positively enhance their corner of creation. Please visit them yourself and learn from them. Their heat comes from biomass. Much of their power from solar. Their food is LOAF (local, organic, animal-friendly and fairly-traded). Their animals naturally tend their wildflower meadows and they generously work with their neighbours to create corridors to support natural habitats. How would our attitude to God's creation differ if we, like the Franciscans, had to draw our water from the ground directly beneath our feet? Would we discharge the waste and chemicals into the soil and drains that we currently do?

Please join me this year in seeking to live gently in the world and enhance God's creation. You are your successors' predecessor. In 2020 bless the inheritance that you bequeath them.

I wish you a peaceful, gentle and sustainable 2020.



Plough Monday Following the Blessed White Plough

Plough Monday, celebrated in the cold depths of winter, is the first of the four seasonal festivals that follow the farming year: Plough Monday, Lammastide, Rogation and Harvest Festival.

We can trace the origins of Plough Monday back through history to the ancient cultural practices of early farming communities. This once Pagan festival was adopted into the Christian church as part of the ministry of the seventh century Benedictine monk and scholar The Venerable Bede. Part of his ministry was to observe, interpret and where possible, incorporate into Christian practice aspects of existing pagan custom.

In two of his major works (*Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum*) or 'The Ecclesiastical History of the English People' and 'The Reckoning of Time' (*De Temporum Ratione*), he makes reference to a common winter tradition of taking corn effigies and loaves of bread made from the previous year's harvest, to be ploughed into the fields as an offering to pagan deities. Sadly, he makes no reference to the name of this ritual but it is thought that from this time Plough Monday becomes part of the ecclesiastical calendar.

Plough Sunday and Monday are a blessing followed by a procession. On plough Sunday a white plough is brought into the church to be blessed. The blessing represents the hopes of the community for the forthcoming farming year and plentiful harvest. On the Monday the blessed white plough is taken throughout the local community to carry and pass on the blessing.

Plough Monday is followed in April by the processional blessings of Rogation. These blessings delivered in crop field sought protection for the first shoots of the new harvest. Lammastide follows in August where thanks are given for the wheat harvest. The most well-known of these, Harvest Festival follows in late September.

The earliest record of Plough Monday in our area that we have found is from church records of Saint Andrew's Church Heybridge. There we find in the church records the following entry made in January 1522: *Received for guarding the white plough payment of 1s/3p.*

Today this once common celebration is only found in a few places around the country, one of them being Maldon. Supported as it has been throughout the years by the local churches, the plough is now presented for blessing and then paraded from Maldon quay to All Saints' Church, accompanied by music and dance by many friends from the local community and folk dance and Morris dance groups.

We would like to offer our thanks for the warm welcome extended to us by All Saints' Church and would be delighted to welcome any member of the congregation that may wish to join us following the blessed white plough.

David Harvey.



PLOUGH SUNDAY

The Sunday after the Epiphany is traditionally observed as Plough Sunday (please see the article by David Harvey) This year All Saints is hosting the blessing of the Plough, which will take place on Sunday January 12th at 6.30pm. The Plough will rest in church overnight and then be danced through the streets the next day. The evening service on the 12th will be a simple service of readings and Epiphany hymns, with the blessing of the Plough and the traditional folk song "Rolling home"

Stephen

THANK YOU. . . .

To absolutely everyone who had any part in the All Saints Christmas Tree Festival. To everyone who decorated a tree, to those who moved furniture and erected the gazebo, all those who baked, catered and served refreshments, to those kind people who stayed late to turn off the lights each day, for all the admin work and posters, to all the stewards and performers and finally to all the lovely ladies who drank copious amounts of coffee with me to ensure the smooth running of the weekend!!

It was a wonderful weekend with fifty four trees on display and we had around six hundred people through the door raising over £1,000 for the Children's Society through the individual boxes for the "favourite tree" and the collection at the Christingle Service."

The most popular trees were the knitted trees from Wantz Haven with a fabulous **£68**

Donations from the lovely range of refreshments raised **£679**



Thank you to you all

Julie Ovenden



The Semken Scholarship

Each year on the Essex Ringing Course, a bursary in memory of Adrien Semken, the course founder, is offered to a young Essex ringer (under 25). The 2019 award was given to Matthew Melton, bell ringer and server at All Saints Maldon. Below Matthew describes his experience on the Essex ringing Course.



Matthew Receives his Certificate

Day One was probably my favourite day because we got to meet our group. After registration where we introduced ourselves and our tutor Richard gave us a course booklet and told us what we would be doing. We then set off for Danbury Church and what I thought was the nicest Tower because I liked the bells.

After we finished ringing at Danbury we went back to Coggeshall for our next lecture. I chose to go to 'Understanding and Calling Call Changes' which I found very helpful.

Day Two, this was the longest day. It was recommended that I should have a go on the Saxilby Simulator; this is a simulation of bell ringing but with a computer. We then went to our second tower at Pebmarsh and although I thought Danbury was the nicest, Pebmarsh was the coolest because the ladder we had to go up was very tall making it the best experience of ladder



climbing.

After lunch, Richard introduced us to a new ringing method called the kaleidoscope which requires changing often and if played right sounds really good. Then back to Coggeshall to help setting up for the social evening.

Day Three, this was the final day and we headed to Felstead where the spiral tower steps win the award for being the creepiest.

For the first part of the practical ringing we did the usual call changes. After lunch we did some kaleidoscope on strokes H B H B which was not too hard. Then for our final part, Richard made us call the call changes, two students would be ringing the bell and four would be saying the call changes. He made us call queens to kings to reverse rounds then to tittums. Returning to Coggeshall for the final meeting and dismissal I was awarded the scholarship certificate.

In conclusion I really did enjoy this course, it might not have looked like it but I did; from meeting new people, to ringing in new towers and the supportiveness of others. I would recommend this course for anyone trying to learn how to ring or if you have an interest in bell ringing.

This is an abridged version of Matthew's report. Ed.



ALL SAINTS' MALDON MOTHER'S UNION

If I were to list all the things that have been special to me while leading the Mothers Union I would fill this magazine. We have been a very close group of ladies and I for one have had great support from them all. We have had happy times and very sad times together. John and Anthea Speakman opened their home to us and made us very welcome. Husbands and partners have helped in their way. Now I close this little write up with my thanks and prayers to all of you and especially all who are no longer with us.

God Bless.

Merie

N.B.

**COPY DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY MAGAZINE
22nd JANUARY**



CHRISTMAS 2019

As I write this on the 9th of December, Christmas is still a couple of weeks away but already we have witnessed several exciting things in church in the run up to the great day.

Firstly, our annual fayre was a great success. Held in the church on the evening of 28th November to coincide with the Town's annual fair, we had lots of people come in to buy the many and varied things for sale and to sample the food and drinks. This event has become our biggest fund raiser of the year and boosted our funds by raising over £3,000. A big thank you to all those who ran the various stalls and to all those who contributed so many items to be sold. The choir too did their bit and sang audience requested carols in two half hour sessions during the evening. Thanks also to Colin and Elaine Brown who took over the running of this event due to the sad illness which overtook Cliff Hunter who had worked so hard on the original organisation.

The Christmas Tree festival which



Santa and His Elf by Ken Russell

this year took place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday the 6th, 7th and 8th of December has, in only two years, become a very popular and well attended event. Julie Ovenden is the driving force here and she did the church proud this year with the help of many people who were responsible for food and drink, putting up and taking down of canopies, tables and chairs, providing electric supplies and arranging and moving Christmas trees as required over the three days. The festival culminated on Sunday afternoon with the Christingle service in church. The beneficiaries of the festival donations are the Children's Society who help vulnerable children. During the Christingle service Canon Stephen allowed time for two ladies from the Society, who announced themselves only as Liz and Lyn, and they told us of some of the work the Society does and of the children they help. Some of their stories were very moving and brought home to us that not everyone is lucky enough



to have a warm bed and a Christmas dinner and that is particularly distressing when it applies to children. The money raised in the church will certainly help many children to receive a Christmas dinner and perhaps some presents that they might otherwise not have received.

The morning service on the 8th December was notable for two things. Firstly, we still had Christmas trees all around the church and so some of the seating did not give full view of the celebrant and I saw at least one gentleman crawling under a raised tree to get to his favourite seat! The second notable act at this service was that the sermon was given by Alan Marjoram who recently completed his course to become an Authorised Local Preacher and this was his first time to give a sermon. Alan's sermon was based around the Gospel for the day and that was Matthew 3, verses 1-12. (No, you will have to look it up!). Our thanks to Alan and we look forward to his next sermon.

These events have all been very enjoyable and each in its own way has provided something different and All Saints is like that, there is always something going on in the church, something for everyone and of such variety!

The foregoing is just a sample of some of the things leading up to Christmas and which I was fortunate enough to be able to attend. There are still many more things which will complete the build up to the celebrations to welcome Jesus and whilst it is our intention to be present in the church at many of them, I cannot report on them here as our Editor, Peter Clark, needs the copy for this edition of the Parish magazine before many of the events happen. One service I shall certainly want to be at is the 'Nine Lessons and Carols' which is the evening service on 22nd December and which is a favourite of quite a few people and is always most enjoyable. I do hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas and did some of your favourite things, and I wish you all a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Ken Downham

PARISH DIARY

Will all church groups please ensure that ALL meetings and activities, including regular meetings, are written into the parish diary, which is now kept in the parish office. Please do not assume that because you are a church group you don't need to write it in because everyone will automatically know. This is particularly important with the forthcoming vacancy. All outside bookings should of course be made through Colin Brown. With the parish diary its "first come- first served" Thank you.

Stephen



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

FROM THE DIOCESE OF CHELMSFORD



Bishop Stephen Cottrell to become the next Archbishop of York

The Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, has been nominated by Her Majesty the Queen as the new Archbishop of York in succession to the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu.



What a wonderful display of trees!

The church was filled with fifty five trees over the first weekend in December for our second Christmas Tree Festival. There was great activity on the Thursday afternoon with groups from the church and the wider community setting up their trees; one group decided their tree didn't look big enough so sent out for a taller one! There were calls for screwdrivers, spare batteries and tables to display the trees on but these little problems were easily overcome. Over five hundred people came through the doors on the Saturday and Sunday with more attending the Christingle Service on the Sunday afternoon.

Stewards were welcoming visitors and the people serving refreshments were kept very busy; the ever popular bacon rolls were served on the Saturday and again after the Sunday Eucharist.

Each group dressed their tree in a different way and it was lovely to see such a wide range of ideas and the thought and passion that had gone in to each one.

The Saturday evening event was a big success with the church lit just by tree lights and over two hundred candles. The pathway to the front door was lit by candles as were the aisles and ends of the pews. Mulled wine, mince pies and sausage rolls were served; it was a truly magical evening.

Plans are already underway for the 2020 Festival!!

Julie Ovenden



Memory Tree

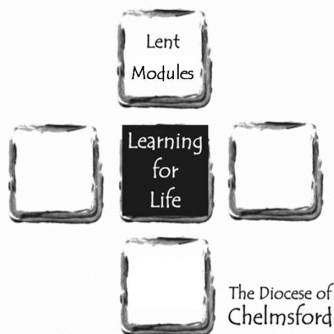


Flower Group



Choir

Photos Mike Ovenden



The Lent Modules 2020

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Render unto Caesar; Living Distinctively;

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Spiritual Companionship and the Christian Tradition;

When God disappoints – Developing Resilient faith in an Uncertain World

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Deputy Warden's Waffle

What an amazing month we have just experienced during the Advent season in preparation for Christ's birthday, in and out of All Saints'. So much love and joy and friendship and also some sad times as well. We rest in thoughtful quietness with those for whom this is a difficult time but also share the excitement of the children - try being in a primary school at this time of year! - and the busyness of the church's outreach - how many cards were delivered to the homes of our ever expanding parish? The inclusion again this year of so many local groups in the Christmas Tree Festival, - over 50 took part, - bares testimony to the warmth and friendship that you can find in our town, not to forget the huge amount of money that was raised for the Children's Society and Maldon Young Carers by the thousands, yes thousands, of people young and old who crowded through our rather narrow door, for the many Carol Services for schools and other organisations also helping to keep that door open for all who may care to enter in the coming year. Our three services on Christmas Eve attracted a grand total of 1384 people both young and old. Those who worked tirelessly for this, say a big 'Thankyou' to you all.

Now we look forward to what the New Year will bring, as we prepare to say goodbye to our dear friends Canon Stephen and Sue as they move into a new phase of their life and we into a new chapter of All Saints' history. Stephen's last service with us, as our incumbent, will be on 2nd February. We look forward to All Saints' keeping on growing.

Another Stephen who is to leave us is Bishop Stephen Cottrell, our Diocesan Bishop, who will be leaving us later in 2020 to take up the post of Archbishop of York, the Church of England's second most senior position behind the Archbishop of Canterbury. We wish him well and will be sorry to lose him too.

Having spent a few days in Broomfield hospital, including most of Christmas Day, I am now back home and look forward to seeing you all soon..

It now remains for me to say, "A Happy, Healthy New Year to One and All".

With love,

Viv, Deputy Church warden



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SERVICES FOR JANUARY

1st Jan	The Naming of Christ
2nd Jan	Thursday 11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
5th Jan	The Epiphany of Our Lord 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Worship for All 11:15 am Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing 6:00 pm Evensong at St Mary's
6th Jan	Monday 7:00 pm Holy Communion
9th Jan	Thursday 11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
12th Jan	The Baptism of Christ 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church 12 noon Holy Baptism 6:30 pm Epiphany Carol Service and blessing of the Plough
15th Jan	Wednesday 11:00 Holy Communion at Longfield Care Home
16th Jan	Thursday 11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP1662)
19th Jan	Second Sunday of Epiphany 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church 12 noon Holy Baptism 6:30 pm Evensong and Sermon
20th Jan	Monday 11:00 am Holy Communion at Hailey House
23rd Jan	Thursday 11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)
25th Jan	Saturday; The conversion of St Paul
25th Jan	Third Sunday of Epiphany 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10:00 am Parish Eucharist 6:30 pm Evening Prayer. CiTB service at Fullbridge Church to conclude the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. No Evensong at All Saints'
30th Jan	Thursday King Charles the Martyr 11:00 am Holy Communion (BCP 1662)



DIARY FOR JANUARY

Mon 6th Jan	10:00 am - 12 noon Maldon Pioneers 7:30 pm PCC meeting
Tues 7th Jan	10:00 - 10:30 am Prayer Group in the St Katherine Room 10:00 am - 12 noon Meeting Point
Thu 9th Jan	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies in the D'Arcy Room 7:00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Mon 13th Jan	9:00 am Men's Breakfast at Rose and Crown 10:00 am - 12 noon Maldon Pioneers
Tue 14th Jan	10:00 am - 12 noon Meeting Point
Wed 15th Jan	7:00 pm Parish Office
Thu 16th Jan	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7:00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Mon 20th Jan	10:00 am - 12 noon Maldon Pioneers
Tues 21st Jan	10:00 am - 12 noon Meeting Point
Thu 23rd Jan	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7:00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice
Mon 27th Jan	10:00 am - 12 noon Maldon Pioneers
Tue 28th Jan	10:00 am - 12 noon Meeting Point
Thu 30th Jan	9:15 am Sunshiners 2-4 pm Maldon Ladies 7:00 pm Junior Choir Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice



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**No Lunch in
January**





Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel, chapter 1

In the time before there were kings in Israel, there lived a rich man, Elkanah, and his two wives, Hannah and Peninnah.

Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.



Each year they travelled to Shiloh to worship God.



After the worship, they feasted.



Elkanah always gave Hannah a special portion of food to show he loved her.



But Hannah was too sad to eat. She left the meal and went to pray.



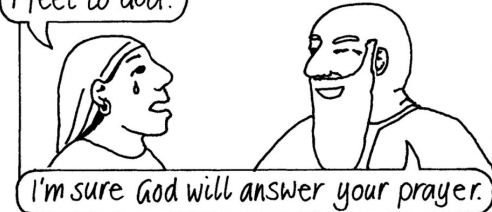
She prayed silently.



Eli the priest saw Hannah's silent weeping and praying and thought she was drunk.



'I'm not drunk! I was just pouring out how I feel to God.'



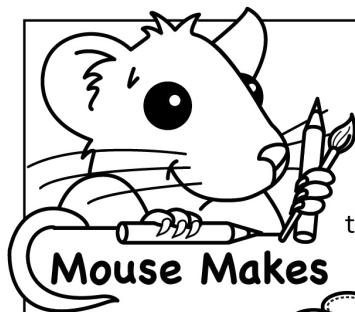
Back home, Hannah had a son, and she named him Samuel.



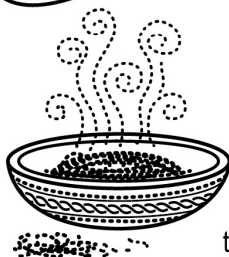
She stayed at home with him when the rest of the family went to Shiloh.

When Samuel was old enough, Hannah and Elkanah took him to Shiloh to live there and serve God.





Mouse Makes

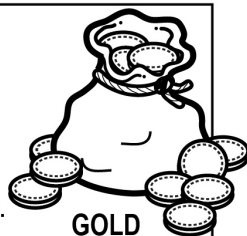


FRANKINCENSE

A sweet smelling incense used in the Temple to worship God. Reminds us that **Jesus is God**.



EPIPHANY is the time in the Church year that we remember when the 'wise men' or 'Magi' followed a star that led them to the Christ child Jesus. They bowed down and worshiped him and left *three* special gifts:

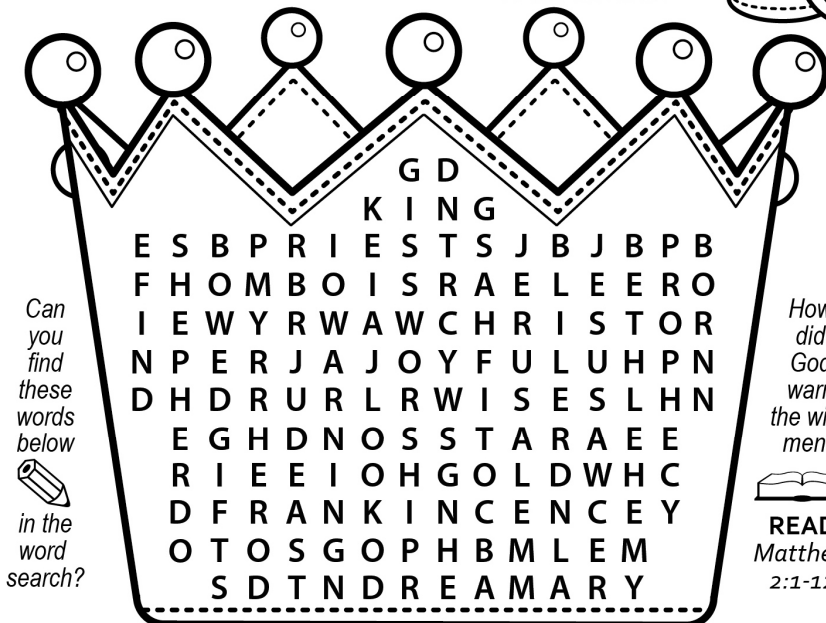
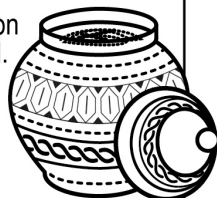


GOLD

A valuable metal. Reminds us that Jesus is **King of Kings**.

MYRRH

A fragrant spice put on a body before burial. Reminds us that Jesus was to die so that he could be our **Saviour**.



Can you find these words below in the word search?



How did God warn the wise men?



READ
Matthew
2:1-12

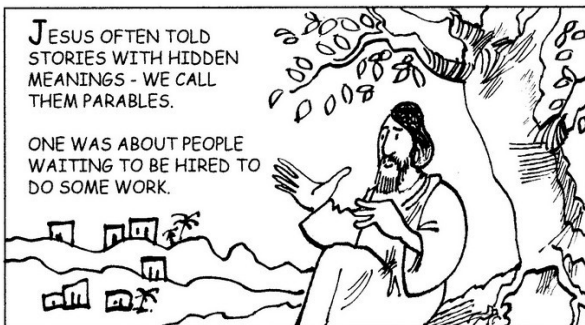
JESUS • BORN • BETHLEHEM • JUDEA • WISE • EAST • JERUSALEM • KING
STAR • WORSHIP • HEROD • PRIESTS • CHRIST • PROPHECY • SHEPHERD
ISRAEL • GO • FIND • LOOK • SAW • JOYFUL • MARY • BOWED • GIFTS
GOLD • FRANKINCENSE • MYRRH • WARNING • DREAM

The Hired Workers



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS - WE CALL THEM PARABLES.

ONE WAS ABOUT PEOPLE WAITING TO BE HIRED TO DO SOME WORK.



A HOUSEHOLDER HIRED A GROUP OF WORKERS FROM THE MARKET PLACE, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING. HE AGREED UPON A FAIR WAGE.



A BIT LATER ON THE HOUSEHOLDER RETURNED TO THE MARKET PLACE AND HIRED SOME MORE WORKERS.



HE RETURNED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE DAY, EACH TIME HIRING MORE WORKERS. HE EVEN HIRED SOME PEOPLE JUST AS THE SUN WAS SETTING!



WHEN THE DAY WAS OVER THE HOUSEHOLDER BEGAN TO PAY THE WORKERS, STARTING WITH THOSE WHO HAD ONLY JUST ARRIVED. HE PAID EVERYONE THE SAME.



THIS UPSET THOSE WHO HAD WORKED ALL DAY. THEY THOUGHT THEY SHOULD GET MORE.



BUT THEY WERE BEING PAID WHAT THEY HAD AGREED AT THE START OF THE DAY.

JESUS CONCLUDED "SO THOSE WHO ARE LAST WILL BE FIRST, AND THOSE WHO ARE FIRST WILL BE LAST" - IT'S A HARD PARABLE!

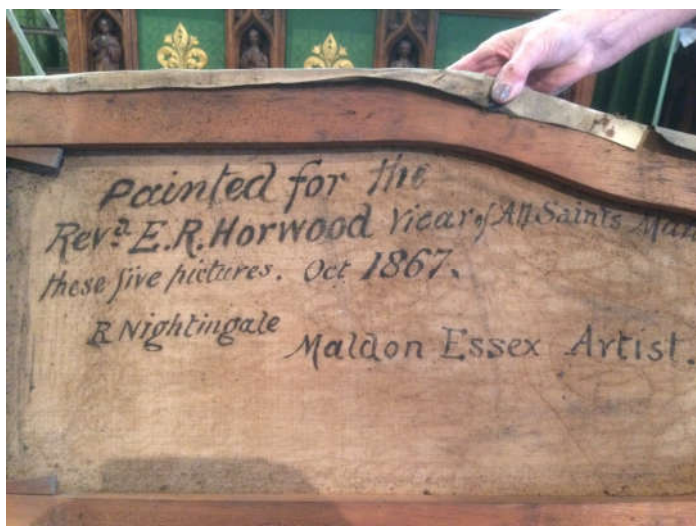


see Matthew 20:1-16

THE REREDOS BEHIND THE HIGH ALTAR

The five pictures forming the reredos behind the High Altar were sent away to a specialist restorer and have now been returned. It was hoped to have them replaced above the altar by Christmas. (At the time of going to print this hadn't been done).

When the panels were removed, written on the back were details of when they were painted and by whom. It would appear that they were painted in October 1867 by Robert Nightingale for the Rev E. R. Horwood the then vicar of All Saints Maldon.



Robert Nightingale (1815 – 1895)

At the age of eight Robert Nightingale was left an orphan and sent to live with his two aunts in Maldon who subsequently apprenticed him to Mr J Stannard, painter and decorator, of Maldon. His artistic proclivities were soon recognised by his employer who used his skills in his decorating business. His artistic talents were also recognised by his relatives, who in 1837, advanced him the means to attend, as a student, the Royal Academy.

Little is known of his early struggles as an artist but it is certain that he began by portrait painting which at the time was a separate and recognised profession. His early career also included, art teaching, painting public house and trade signs and any general commission that was offered him.

His natural love of horses took him into the hunting field where he met



higher class people who commissioned him to paint their horses, hounds and even cattle. Robert's fluent brush also excelled in depicting dogs and still life. One of his most beautiful works is thought to be "Dead Mallard" which was painted for Mr Poole of Maldon.

As a landscape artist he had fine feeling and his works in landscape were readily bought up. Of his public work he has left very little, his work in the Plume library and the panels in the reredos at All Saints' Church, being the only examples known.

In his time, he played many social parts, one of which was to join the Maldon Volunteers in 1860 where he received the rank of colour sergeant. At the time of his death in 1895, he was the oldest surviving original member of the company.

On his death it was reported that:

'Mr. Robert Nightingale was a painter of landscape, portraits and equestrian subjects. One of his most important patrons was Henry, 1st Vicount Chaplin (1840 – 1923) one of the greatest devotees of the turf. Nightingale collaborated with his son basil in painting "Hermit", one of the most celebrated pictures and Chaplin's winner of the 1867 Derby. Having Trained at the Royal Academy, he exhibited there and at Royal Society of British Artists. For much of his life he worked in Maldon, Essex.'

Quick

A young husband was in big trouble when he forgot his wedding anniversary. His wife told him, "Tomorrow there better be something in the driveway for me that goes from zero to 200 in two seconds flat". The next morning the wife found a small package in the driveway. She opened it and found brand-new bathroom scales.

Noah

When Noah sailed the waters blue,
he had his troubles same as you.

For 40 days he drove the Ark
before he found a place to park...



Continuing our correspondence between Eustace, rector of St James the Least, and his nephew.... Taken from the Parish Pump website.



The Rectory
St. James the Least

On How to Mix Town and Country – or not

My dear Nephew Darren

Your idea for our two churches to hold a combined New Year's Day walk was an admirable one, although I could sense a certain clash of cultures when your party arrived at the starting point with boots, waterproofs and GPS equipment. Our own group, rather anticipating tottering between tea shops, with a little light shopping in between, sported tweed suits, shopping bags and furled umbrellas.

Even the two sets of dogs seemed bemused with one another, with your Westies and King Charles spaniels smaking enough noise to scare all the wildlife in the county, and our Retrievers puzzled why the pheasants were not dropping from the sky. Dear Miss Mill's miniature poodle, with the painted toenails, will probably need life-long counselling; the furthest she had walked previously was from her bed to beside the dining room table.

The electronic navigation equipment brought by members of your group made me think that if only the wise men had had these blessings, they wouldn't have had to follow anything as unreliable as a star. Although I suppose that instead of gold, frankincense and myrrh, they would then have arrived with an MP3 player, a mobile phone which would have been obsolete before Jesus' first birthday and a CD of Madonna's greatest hits.

I do concede that our two congregations learned much from one another. Our ladies were most interested to hear about the latest in personal trainers, while yours discovered how to bring a pan of jam to a rolling boil. Your men seemed impressed to hear of squirrel shooting while ours gathered useful tips for caravanning abroad. And poor Miss Mill's poodle learned that the great outdoors was a parallel and hostile universe.

By mid-afternoon, however, the balance of power shifted. When the leader of the walk from your group lost his SatNav, our members felt the need to assert themselves. The gentlemen navigated using wind direction, moss on trees and angles of the sun, while our ladies, with tweed skirts furled somewhat higher than one would have wished, showed yours how to wade through peat bog without complaining.

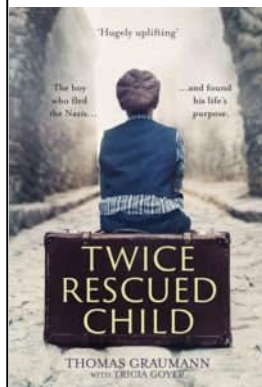


Perhaps town and country really can learn from one another. But if Major Bullock's wife arrives for Matins next Sunday sporting the latest gym gear, you will have much to answer for.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Book Reviews



Twice-Rescued Child – the boy who fled the Nazis and found his life's purpose

By Thomas Graumann, SPCK, £11.99

Aged eight, Thomas Graumann boarded a train in Prague, Czechoslovakia, to embark on what he believed was a three-month holiday. “Go to Britain, learn English, and when the Germans leave, you can come home again,” his mother assured him. Thomas knew his country had been taken over by the Germans and now was under Nazi control.

That was the last he would see of his mother and most of his Jewish family, who died in concentration camps. He had also never heard of Nicholas Winton, the hero who saved 669 children (Thomas was one of the last, #652), transporting them from Czechoslovakia to the UK to save their lives. This was Thomas' first rescue, aboard what became known as the Kindertransport.

His second came a year later when an evangelist from the Scottish village he was taken to for safety shared the good news of Jesus Christ with him. Saying a prayer on bent knee, Thomas' soul was rescued, and he soon dedicated himself to missionary service, which he fulfilled as an adult in the Philippines, eventually moving to the U.S.

But his missionary zeal returned after the fall of Communism—and the return of his grandmother's property to his family. Both actions ushered in a way for him to return to the Czech Republic. The former rescued child was now free to travel throughout his homeland, speaking in schools of how he was rescued ... not once, but twice.

Taken from the Parish Pump website.

'A Christie Christmas' with the Cameo Players:

On four nights in early December, Canon Graham and deputy churchwarden Vicky Tropman were part of a light-hearted, seasonal drama at Ingatestone Hall and Hylands House. In a plot based on an Agatha Christie story, Hercule Poirot was persuaded to spend Christmas at a country house to investigate the case of a priceless missing ruby. There were dark goings-on involving a confusion of plum puddings and a mysterious 'death', but M. Poirot (Graham) solved the riddle, the jewel was found, and all ended happily. The audiences enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies, and the evenings ended with word games and Christmas crackers all round!



Vicky Tropman and Canon Graham

Elisabeth Blyth



HOLY DAYS

6 January – Where did the Wise Men come from?



Magi from the East – it isn't a lot to go on. The Magi had originally been a religious caste among the Persians. Their devotion to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams led to an extension in the meaning of the word, and by the first century the Magi in Matthew's gospel could have been astrologers from outside of Persia.

Some scholars believe they might have come from what was then Arabia Felix, or as we would say today, southern Arabia.

Certainly, in the first century astrology was practised there, and it was the region where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She of course had visited Solomon and would have heard the prophecies about how one day a Messiah would be born to the Israelites and become their king.

Matthew's gospel (chapter 2) is clear that the Magi asked Herod: 'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So it is possible that in southern Arabia the Queen of Sheba's story of how a Messiah would one day be sent to the Israelites had survived. Certainly, there are a number of other early legends that connect southern Arabia with Solomon's Israel.

To many people this makes sense: that the ancient stories of a Messiah, linked to later astrological study, prompted these alert and god-fearing men to the realisation that something very stupendous was happening in Israel. They realised that after all these centuries, the King of the Jews, the Messiah, was about to be born.

One more interesting thing that gives weight to the theory that the magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine 'from the East'.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website



Are you taking a mid-winter break?

If you are preparing to take off for foreign climes, do keep an eye out for signs that have English words... but perhaps not an English meaning! In hotels and train stations and airports all over the world there are polite little signs that will bring a smile to the lips of even the most exhausted traveler. For instance, how about these*:

Switzerland: We have nice bath and are very good in bed.

Romania: The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time, we regret you will be unbearable.

Russia: If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.

Italy: If service is required, give two strokes to the maid and three to the waiter.

Spain: Our wine list leaves you with nothing to hope for.

Denmark: In the event of fire, open a window and announce your presence in a seemly manner.

Canary Islands: If you telephone for room service you will get the answer you deserve.

Have you spotted any signs that mistranslate English? If so, please tell the editor, and we will publish them ...

**From 'Lost in Translation: Misadventures in English Abroad' by Charlie Croker (Michael O'Mara Books, £9.99)*



**The
Children's
Society**

Each year we, at All Saints,' donate to various charities, the Children's Society being the one we donate generously to at Christmas, particularly through our Christmas activities and services. I print below an article on the Society's work in Essex. *Ed.*

Children and young people are at the centre of what we do

We work across the East providing a range of free and confidential services to children, young people, adults and families.

We have been in Essex for over 30 years starting originally as a small project supporting local young people and young adults affected by drugs and alcohol. Since then the services we offer have diversified and we now work additionally:

- With families and children who are affected by substance use

- At an early intervention with young people who are engaging in risky behaviours

- With children, young people and adults at risk of or being exploited criminally or sexually

- With young people in the care system

We work in partnership with statutory and other agencies to deliver joined-up services and interventions to ensure that children, young people, adults and families receive support that is tailored to their needs.

We want young people to be safe and free to live their own lives, and the work we do aims to inform, educate and support them to do this. We give young people information, support and, where appropriate, advice to understand their options and make their own choices.

We want to provide the best services for the local community and to support and engage children, young people and adults through a range of positive activities to increase their confidence, develop skills and build resilience.

Through our Participation group, young people are involved in the development and delivery of our services and they participate in the decisions we make about what we do.

Taken from the Children's Society website.



Dates for the Diary

2nd Feb	Stephen's Last Sunday at All Saints' Church AGM
26th April	10:00 am Archdeacon Elisabeth to officiate at the Eucharist
10th May	10:00 am Bishop of Bradwell to officiate at the Eucharist
18th July	7:30 pm Concert by men2sing in church

Please let me have your dates for future events.

Don't assume that I will know them. Ed.

.....

Paying the Debt

Blessings on thee, little man, barefoot boy with cheeks of tan,
Trudging down a dusty lane with no thought of future pain.
You're our one and only bet to absorb our National Debt.
Little man with cares so few, we've got lots of faith in you.
Guard each merry whistled tune, you are apt to need it soon.
Have your fun, boy, while you can, you may be a barefoot man!

.....

FROM THE REGISTERS

Nothing Reported for December





Prayer Diary

January 2019

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1 | The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus | Pray for God's blessing on the New Year |
| 2 | | Our Diocesan Bishop |
| 3 | | Our Area Bishops |
| 4 | | Our Honorary Assistant Bishops |
| 5 | Christmas 2 | Our Servers |
| 6 | Epiphany | Pray that Christ will be shown to all people of the world |
| 7 | | Our Sidesmen |
| 8 | | All Lay Preachers |
| 9 | | All Religious Education Teachers |
| 10 | | All staff and volunteers of our Cathedral |
| 11 | | Our Tower Bell Ringers |
| 12 | Baptism of Christ Epiphany 1 | Our Eucharistic Ministers |
| 13 | | Our Uniformed Organisations |
| 14 | | Our Churchwardens and their Deputies |
| 15 | | All who read in Church |
| 16 | | All residents of our Parish |
| 17 | | The United Reformed Church |
| 18 | Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins | All Free Churches |
| 19 | Epiphany 2 | All who lead our intercessions |
| 20 | | The Quakers |
| 21 | | The Baptist Church |
| 22 | | The Methodist Church |
| 23 | | The Salvation Army |
| 24 | | The Parishes of St Mary, Maldon, and |
| 25 | | St Andrew, Heybridge |
| 25 | Conversion of Paul | Churches dedicated to St Paul and the outreach of St Paul's Cathedral |
| 26 | | St Michaels, Woodham Walter and St Margaret's Woodham Mortimer |
| 27 | | Pray for Unity in the Christian Church |
| 28 | | The Roman Catholic Church |
| 29 | Epiphany 3 | Those who teach our young people on Sundays and lead 'Messy Church' |
| 30 | | Our Parochial Church Council |
| 31 | | Our Parish News Editor |



PARISH DIRECTORY

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ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Choir Practice (Thur 7:30pm)	Dr. Stuart Pegler	01621 850530
Junior Choir (Thur 7:00 pm)	"	"
Junior Church	Elaine Brown	01621 853238
Sunshiners (Pre School Group Thursdays 9:15 am)	Gill Nelson	01621 852119
Tower Bell Ringers	Peter Chignell	01376 571170
	Dennis Johnson	01621 842410
Handbell Ringers	Susan Duke	01621 851623
Flower Group	Betty Smith	01621 854143
Bible Society	Joan Downham	01621854655
Mothers' Union`	Marie Keeble	01621 856354
Childrens Society	Elaine Brown	01621
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	Cliff Hunter	01621 852013
Meeting Point	Barbara Gale	01621 928538
Maldon Pioneers	Mike Frederick	01621 840951
Maldon Ladies Group	Vivien Clark	01621 740374
Ramblers Club		
Prayer Group		
Messy Church	Elaine Brown	

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

PARISH OFFICE

Requests for Baptisms and Marriages should be made at the Parish Office situated in the Church - 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

Holy Communion will be taken to the sick and housebound on request.

All Saints' Maldon



Open every day

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