

# ALL SAINTS' MALDON



# PARISH NEWS

September 2020

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

£1



## CHURCH SERVICES

<b>Sunday Services</b>	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
<b>1st Sunday in the Month</b>	10:00am Short all age songs and prayers. 11:15am Parish Eucharist (CW) Mary's 6:00 pm Evensong at St
<b>Last Sunday</b>	6:30 pm Prayer and Praise Service

## JUNIOR CHURCH

Each Sunday at 10:00am.in the

D'Arcy Room in Church

## WEEKDAY

**Evening**

**Morning Prayer** is usually said in church at 8.30am on Monday - Friday.  
**Prayer** is usually said in church at 5.30pm on Monday - Thursday

**Thursday** 11:00am Holy

## SERVICE

**Cover Photos:**

**1. First Day Back at Church Photo Elisabeth Blyth**

All Church Services have been restricted.  
Please see the Link or the website for times



## THE PARISH LETTER

I am writing this article in mid-August to ensure that I meet the Editor's deadline for the September 'Parish News'. By the time you read this, children will be returning to school and many of the old 'normal' things prior to the Coronavirus pandemic will, hopefully, have returned to a 'new normal', and with some sort of recognisable familiarity.

I recently came across the following story that I would like to share with you:-

**A** man crosses a desert and comes at last to a small town. Hungry and thirsty he comes to a small village and asks the villagers if he can have something to eat and drink. They all give the same answer, harvest has been poor, there is no food. 'There is hardly enough food for my family' says one. 'What little we have is needed for our children,' says another.

'Winter is coming and we do not know how we will survive' says another. Everyone was very worried about themselves and their immediate family.

Completely discouraged and very hungry the man sat down under a tree in the village square. "Poor people," he thought, "in a few weeks they will be as hungry as I am." Suddenly he had an idea. He searched around, found a stone and called the villagers to him and in a loud voice shouted,

'Your worries are over. I have in my hand a special stone that will help take you through the long winter. This is a magic stone. With it you can make stone soup.' "Stone soup?" the old man repeated. "I have never heard of stone soup."

"The wonder of stone soup," the stranger continued, "is that it not only feeds hungry people, it also brings people together. Now who has the largest empty pot?"

Quickly a huge iron pot was found, and delivered to the stranger in a wheel barrow. "The kettle is barely large enough, but it will do," the stranger said. "Now we must fill the pot with water and start a fire."

Eager hands carried buckets of water and firewood. Soon the pot was placed over a roaring fire. As the water began to boil the stranger dramatically raised the magic stone above his head, and then he gently placed it in the kettle. "Stone soup needs salt and pepper," the stranger announced. Two children ran to find salt and



pepper.

After the water had boiled for few minutes the stranger sipped the brew. "This stone makes an excellent soup, but it would be better if we had a few carrots." "We have a few carrots that we're willing to share," a farmer replied. Immediately his daughter ran home and returned with an apron full of carrots. "It's too bad the harvest was so bad," said the stranger. "Stone soup is always much tastier when we add a cabbage or two." "I think I know where to find a cabbage," a young mother shouted as she dashed towards her home. When she returned, she was carrying three large cabbages.

The stranger was busy slicing carrots and cabbages with his hunting knife. "The last time I made stone soup was at the castle of a rich man. He added a few potatoes and a bit of beef."

Several people talked quietly, "A bit of beef and we can eat like rich people", they whispered. They went home and soon returned not only with beef and potatoes, but some brought milk, onions and barley too.

By the time the soup was ready it was almost dark. It was the most delicious soup that they had ever smelled and to think, it all came from the magic stone. The stranger finally declared that it was done and invited everyone to have as much as they could eat. After everyone had eaten their fill, everyone began to sing and dance - and they continued till the early hours of the morning. Never had the village people had such a wonderful party.

The next morning the whole village gathered to say goodbye to the stranger. As he mounted his horse a small child called out, "You forgot to take your magic stone!" The stranger smiled. "I am going to leave the stone with you as gift of gratitude for your hospitality," he said. "Remember, as long as you make stone soup, you will never have to worry about being hungry."

This story reminds me of the acts of kindness, friendship, caring, sharing and companionship we all saw during the recent 'lockdown'. Communities came together to support their friends and neighbours; the lonely and the infirm; the shielded and those with small children.

As we move into September, I am aware that most of the local fields have been harvested, much fruit will have already been picked, and there will still be plenty to do by farmers and growers before 'all is safely gathered in, 'ere the winter storms begin'.



In all this busyness we should not forget all that has gone in the past. Despite Covid-19 we have been fed with God's good gifts. Supermarkets have gradually been re-stocked, and there now appears to be plenty of food for everyone.

Not so, though, for those who still live in poverty. Those who still do not have enough food to eat, nor clean water to drink.

God told Noah that as long as the world exists there will be a time for planting and a time for harvest. After the great flood, God made a promise to Noah, the reminder of that promise is the rainbow. We saw, and continue to see rainbows in windows, on hoardings, on flags, and in their natural form. As we celebrate Harvest, let us thank God for His promise and ask that He will help us to be generous to relieve hunger and destitution to those not so fortunate as ourselves.

*Alan Marjoram*

## THE DEATH OF DEFERENCE?

As the Archbishop of Canterbury followed through on government advice and shut the churches at the beginning of lockdown (forbidding even clergy access unless inspecting the building) many parish priests started asking questions. What were archbishops and bishops for? What was their spiritual standing with the nation? What encouraging words about faith during difficult times could they offer in this time of unprecedented global crisis? Canterbury said nothing. Yes, really. The Church simply played catch-up with the government's latest instructions on how to tackle the virus. Archbishop Justin asked the clergy to lead by example by 'staying at home'. ("What would Jesus do?" I wonder).

A great opportunity was missed here to add the clergy to the list of 'essential workers'; and to connect with people out in the community unfamiliar with church but confused, possibly bereaved, wanting somewhere to turn. Most lacking of all was simply a quiet sacred space where people could light a candle. This was the uppermost need we encountered at the church door when we re-opened the D'Arcy Chapel for private prayer.

This mishandling of the C of E response to Covid-19 has done reputational damage. Of course nobody was expecting the Church, like the government, to second-guess the virus. But, weeks later, one of our regular (non-church) visitors who popped in to pray said, not unpleasantly, "We should have had this before". All I could reply was "It was the Archbishop's call". It was embarrassing.

Fortunately, here in Maldon there is still much goodwill towards us at All



Saints. That has been obvious from the conversations our stewards have had with the public in recent weeks. But I am left wondering whether the Church of England's national unavailability for all those weeks will only have increased the indifference, even contempt, of the wider population.

It is likely that this fundamental failing will simply be swept under the carpet by church leaders as we adjust to our 'new normal' - without in any way changing tack. That includes cutting 60 clergy posts from the Chelmsford Diocese by the end of 2021. Meanwhile, nationally, the plan is to increase the number of 'pioneer ministers', ordained and lay, set apart from parish obligations to champion Fresh Expressions of Church – eg projects such as 'Messy Church', 'Café Church' and all other forms of ministry and mission which will impact the community beyond. The House of Bishops believe this is the way forward; and the Church Commissioners are now pouring money into new 'church plants', often on modern housing estates. There is evidence that such churches do produce growth – particularly in relation to the young. But it also leaves those in traditional parishes, with historic buildings to look after, increasingly aware that spiritual investment and clergy provision are no longer on their side.

A recent article exploring these issues by parish priest Canon Giles Fraser in '*The Telegraph*' has provoked howls of derision from clergy of all persuasions. Some have simply attacked the declining attendance figures in Fraser's own parish ('it must be him'). Others are outraged that he has dared to voice the opinion that 'some parishes are close to collapse'. He quotes Revd Professor Michael Northcott, who suggests that the destruction of parishes is in fact a 'corporate strategy, an abandonment of a centuries-old system of evangelism in every locality.' Instead we shall find ourselves having to adapt to a 'mission-focused church fit for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.' Which sounds all very neat and tidy.

Whether or not there is truly a 'conspiracy theory' behind this shift in direction, Fraser captures the anxiety many parishes feel about being potentially left to 'wither on the vine'. The financial meltdown expected from Covid-19 will only increase the burdens on parishes to prove that they can afford to pay for their stipendiary vicar in full. "No parish share – no parish priest" was Bishop Stephen's parting shot to this Diocese. Nobody denies that the Church of the future will be a slim-downed church dominated by increasingly gimmicky business-speak. But whether the upper echelons of its workforce – bishops, archdeacons and diocesan staff for instance - will be subject to the same cuts as the rank-and-file clergy remains to be seen

(Archbishop Cottrell of York will be chairing a new committee charged with overseeing what is predicted to be a full-scale reorganisation).

Polite Anglicans have usually accorded bishops and the like the same sort of deference they would a surgeon when discussing a forthcoming operation. It is now questionable whether they should 'go gentle into that good night' when it comes to defending the strengths and stability of the parish system. Of the many areas where the Church of England lacks vital transparency is over its long-term strategy. Giles Fraser provocatively puts it this way: "What's happened in the national church is the perfect heist, one where the victim does not even realise that he has been robbed". God forbid that his words prove true.

*Canon Graham*



"But did they plough the fields  
and scatter at a safe distance?"

**N.B.**

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER  
MAGAZINE 20th SEPTEMBER**



## **This is the Sermon that Rev. Joe Jones Proposed to give when she was the Celebrant at the Eucharist On the 9th August.**

**All Saints Maldon - Trinity 9 Matthew 14:22-33**

The picture you can see was given to me, and the other deacons, by Bishop Stephen, we were getting ready in the Moot Hall before our ordination as priests here in All Saints church 9 years ago. He gave us each a copy and talked very wisely about it, drawing our attention to an aspect of the famous miracle that I'd not thought about before. But,



perhaps unsurprisingly given such a huge occasion, I forgot what he'd said.

A few years later Bishop Stephen visited me at home. On our way out of my study after our conversation I pointed to the picture and asked him what it was that he'd said previously. He told me, and, perhaps because it was after a long and painful conversation, what he said faded from memory!

I've googled it since to see if there's a picture with commentary to help, but apart from thinking the drawing of Peter looks a lot like former Archbishop Rowan Williams, I'm none the wiser...

Peter, dear Peter, setting out with such gusto in faith and love. Leaving his nets and a way of life he knew and understood and throwing his lot in with this carpenter and following him all over Israel, learning along the way, learning *the* Way, making friends and enemies, making mistakes, making history. His journey into the water reflects his adventure with Jesus up to that point. Faith, enthusiasm, trust, wanting to please, wanting to lead the other disciples into greater things.

Peter is the rock, that symbol of enduring strength, of solid sure foundation, of a faith that didn't actually move mountains, but did help to build the Christian Church. But we know that if we throw a rock into even the calmest sea, it will sink. After all, it is a rock.

And we are currently navigating very stormy seas. Some of us have strong boats with big sails and a large crew, and some of us are in one-man or one-woman canoes, exhausted from paddling and longing for rescue. We are all daunted by what's ahead, by what we know and don't know, what we can control, and what we can't. Many of





us are anxious and afraid, and with the fear comes that sinking feeling – I'm going to drown.

We call out – *save me! Save us! Hear us and help us.*

What should we call this picture? *Jesus walks on water? Jesus calms the wind and waves? Peter walks (briefly) on water? Jesus rescues Peter? Faith and doubt in a sea of anxiety?*

Peter reaches up in supplication; his hands look as if they are coming together in prayer. Jesus bends forward, one human solid foot bare beneath his robes - perhaps to assure us he's no ghostly spirit but a flesh and blood man defying the laws of nature. Jesus' finger points down, just above Peter's clasping hands, a bit like the finger of God reaching towards Adam in Michelangelo's painting. Peter's eyes are fixed on the hand of his friend. The one who is the resurrection and the life reaches out to keep Peter alive.

The disciples in the boat are about to follow their friend into the water. And their eyes are fixed not on Jesus but on Peter. What are they thinking as they cling to the side, ready to enter the rocking waves? Perhaps they are not to be out done. Perhaps they are more frightened of missing out on a miracle than they are of drowning. Like James and John arguing over their potential status in heaven, we can be rather competitive in our displays of faith, in the way we practice our discipleship. Notice me, look what I do for God. Look how God blesses me. My church is bigger than your church.

Or maybe they see something in Peter's faith that they want to follow, they see his example and want to imitate him, knowing his deep connection with Jesus and wanting to experience that connection for themselves. Peter is the disciple who loves so passionately, the one who first sees the divinity in Jesus, yes the one who runs away, but also the one who comes back, the man who is loved and forgiven and given a new purpose.

When Jesus questions Peter, I don't think he is criticising his faith - after all, Peter walks on the water. It's natural to be afraid of drowning, yet Peter strikes out, confident in Jesus' ability to perform miracles. So perhaps it is Peter's cry of *Save me* as he's sinking that Jesus wants him to think about. Jesus is life itself, and can overcome not only the waves and wind, but death itself. Sinking or swimming or walking on the water, Jesus is to be trusted. He will come to our aid. It is *that trust* which Jesus asks of us, and it's not necessarily easy. Trust can be eroded, damaged, even lost altogether as we are buffeted or broken by life. But when that trust in Jesus flourishes, it will be life-giving; it will inspire others to experience his power and goodness. Like Peter's trust, it can change the world.

Priestings in the Diocese were until recently always in Petertide and those of you who came to my first Eucharist as priest might remember my friend and mentor Sylvia Chapman preaching on Peter. It seems so appropriate to begin a new identity in ministry looking towards the disciple Simon Peter who was so utterly devoted to Jesus and so imperfectly gloriously human. Even now, even after ministry did not unfold as I'd expected, even when so much has been suffered by so many, Peter's story gives me hope. He points me, imperfect disciple, humanly messy follower, to Jesus who can rescue me again and again. And, afraid as I am, yet I will trust, that in life and even in death, I am alive in him.

*Rev Jo.*



## REFLECTIONS ON VJ DAY

In August the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the war with Japan was remembered. For many, that day in 1945 marked the end of some very horrific times when loved ones had been lost in the 'forgotten war' in the far east. It was called the forgotten war because it was so far away at a time when communications were not as advanced or far reaching as they are today, and news took much longer to get home. It was also a war which effectively played a smaller part for those of us in Britain than the closer war raging in Europe.



**Representatives of the  
Empire of Japan  
aboard USS Missouri, in  
Tokyo Bay, at  
the surrender of Japan on  
September 2, 1945**

Whilst I can remember VJ day in 1945, I cannot remember whether or not we had a street party to celebrate the occasion. I expect many communities did have one. I and my family were fortunate in that we did not have any close relative involved in the war in the far east as all our family participants had been involved in the European war and were now all safely home. A few years later, in the early 1950's when I was an engineering apprentice I did meet two men who had been captives of the Japanese and by that time they were both in their mid thirties. Both had suffered terrible hardships and were still very much broken men. Just to look at their faces was to see the suffering they had endured. Neither survived to become old men.

Almost as a balance to having known these two men, I did meet in the late 1980's, a Japanese man whose family had been living in Nagasaki when the bomb fell on that City. I have been quite a few times to the Peace parks and Bomb museums in both Nagasaki and Hiroshima and often reflect on the horrors that those places hold in commemoration of that dreadful time that



the bombs were dropped on them. The young man I met was an electronics engineer at the Mitsubishi shipyard in Nagasaki and I worked with him on ship design over the course of a few years. His parents had survived the bomb but like thousands of others they suffered radiation sickness and were never free of it for the rest of their lives. My friend was born some ten years after the bomb and he had not suffered any sickness but did have to have annual checks to see how his physical condition was. He told me that his parents did not hold serious antagonism toward the Americans for dropping the bombs, but took a view that by their sacrifices they has possibly saved millions of Japanese (and Americans) from death as they knew that the Japanese psyche was that they would fight on to the last man woman or child to defend their homeland. Fortunately, that theory did not have to be tested. I don't know if my friend truly believed that they were proud to have been a sacrifice to save others or whether he said that to make me feel comfortable, but he never changed that view during the years I knew him.

There are not many people left now that took an active part in the second world war and maybe there will not be many more times for remembrance services with those who actually participated to be present. We will never forget their sacrifices but I pray to God that none of us will never have to make them ever again.

*Ken Downham*



## **TEN to TEN Rambling Group**

**Walk from the Village Hall car park in Terling  
on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020.**

Yes we have started the Saturday walks again!! It was planned for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> but due to the very hot weather it was postponed a week. It was great to meet up again and six of us enjoyed a ramble led by John Mayes around the lovely countryside around Terling. It was not the best of days for weather and we did have a heavy shower during the last half hour so we arrived back at the cars rather wet and we had to abort our plan for an alfresco lunch at the café.

However, it was great to start back, our last walk being at the beginning of March. The next one will be on Saturday September 5<sup>th</sup>. Peter will be leading a walk from the National Trust Car Park, Danbury Common (CM3 4JJ). We will be meeting there at Ten-to-Ten. If you need directions or more information please ring Peter on 01621 854108.

*Sue Smith*



# Church Warden's Chat

I'm not sure I would have volunteered to stay on as Churchwarden during a vacancy in the parish if I had known what was to come! A vacancy is fairly normal ( I have experienced six in my life as a member of the Church of England), but to add in Covid as well is not what anyone could have predicted!

However Dennis and I have been well supported by many within the congregation. Thanks are due to our two retired (!) clergy, with Graham taking broadcast services, and now doing the 10am. Sunday communion, and Paul covering the monthly 8am. service, as well promising to do future baptisms. In the coming months ( as long as there is no future lockdowns ) we will also be having some guest celebrants, so please be understanding if they are not always sure how we are doing things at this time, 'spare' clergy, with free time on a Sunday morning, are difficult to find!

Members of our church family have stepped forward to steward when the church has been open for private prayer, others took on the task of cleaning, ready for opening the church for services. The sides people took on a slightly different role, offering hand sanitiser instead of hymn books, the sanctuary team adapted their way of serving and the flower ladies again performed their magic with beautiful displays to welcome us back. With the pastoral, admin and technical teams continuing to keep us in touch throughout the closure of the church, we have been very lucky.

It really was a heart-warming experience to see the church with congregation members sitting in the pews, socially distanced of course, on that first Sunday in August! I know we can't have a choir or sing responses or hymns, and now we must wear masks and the service is not quite the same, but we can return to our lovely, old building (which must have been feeling pretty lonely) to worship God together as a church family.

Perhaps it will be a long while before we can return to times anything like they were before this pandemic, but trusting in God, looking after each other and with prayer, life at All Saints will continue.

Thank you all,

*Jenny.*



# *Paul J King*

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# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew 12:1-14, Luke 6:1-11

The Pharisees watched Jesus to see if he broke any of God's laws, or the rules they had made up to stop the laws being broken.

Jesus' disciples were hungry so they picked some wheat from a field as they walked.



The Pharisees said to Jesus



But King David broke the rules when he ate the bread that was only for the priests\*



And priests are allowed to work in the temple on the Sabbath\*



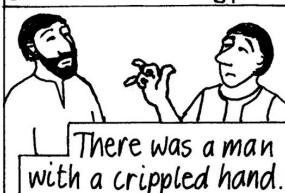
Don't you understand when God says 'Keeping rules' doesn't make up for not having kindness'?\*



If you understood, you would know my disciples did nothing wrong.



The Pharisees followed Jesus to the meeting place



The Pharisees wanted to accuse Jesus of breaking rules, so they asked him a trick question.



If your sheep fell into a ditch on the Sabbath you would lift it out.



People are worth far more than sheep, so it is right to do good on the Sabbath



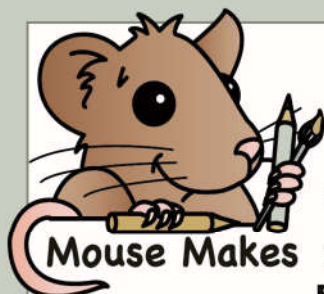
Hold out your hand.



.. and it was healed!

The Pharisees left and made plans.





The **Bible** is a collection of **books** that took over 2,000 years to write! The books were written by many different people, all helped and inspired by God. The Bible has books about:

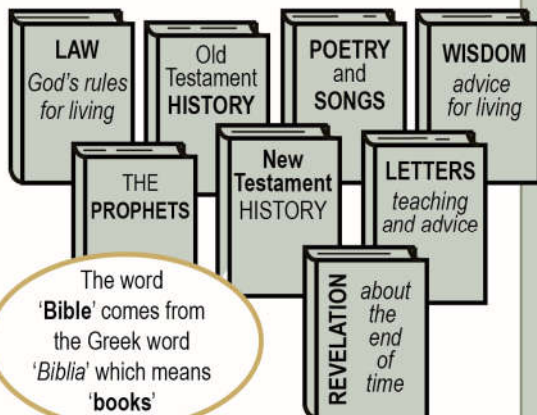
There are **66** books in the Bible. How many can you name?



## BIBLE WORDS

The Bible words in **BOLD** type on this page are also hidden in the word search, can you find them?

P L B O W I K  
R I O S I L G  
O G O N S W O  
P H K E D O L  
H T S W O R D  
E R L T M D O  
T E A E G O D  
S V W S E E D  
L E T T E R S  
T L W A N L O  
H A M M E R N  
O T I E H I G  
N I R N I R S  
E O R T S A B  
Y N O R T I I  
F I R E O N B  
P O E T R Y L  
F O O D Y O E



The word '**Bible**' comes from the Greek word '**Biblia**' which means '**books**'

God speaks to us today as we read the Bible.

The Bible encourages us, corrects us and shows us how to live, it also describes itself as:



**Mirror**  
James 1:23



**Food**  
Hebrews 5:12-6:1



**Honey and Gold**  
Psalm 19:10



**Light**  
Psalm 119:105



**Rain**  
Isaiah 55:10-12



**Seed**  
Mark 4:14



**Living Word**  
Hebrews 4:12



**Hammer**  
Jeremiah 23:29



**Fire**  
Jeremiah 20:9

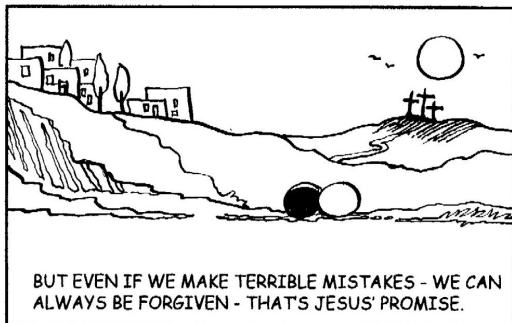
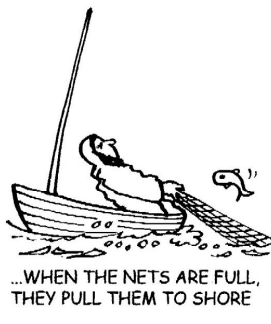
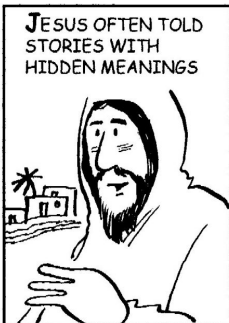


**Sword**  
Ephesians 6:17

...but most of all The Bible teaches us about **God** and how we can be friends with Him.



# The parable of the Fish and the Nets







## ASHLEY AND CAROL SAUNDERS

### A message from Ashley.

As many of you will have heard, Carol was diagnosed with Pulmonary fibrosis about three and a half years ago. Life expectancy from diagnosis is 3-5 years. It is a life limiting condition which causes progressive scarring of the lungs and results in severe breathlessness.

There is at present no cure or treatment to reduce its effect, sufferers will eventually require oxygen to support their breathing. More information can be found on the website [www.actionpf.org](http://www.actionpf.org).

Because there is relatively few people with this condition nationwide, APF are keen to raise awareness amongst the general public and medical profession, therefore they are taking part in an "awareness week" from 15-20th September.

In support of this event I was due to take part in the Velo Essex 50 mile cycle ride along with 14,999 others supporting various charities on 20th September. Unfortunately this has been cancelled.

However, I have arranged a solo cycle ride from Maldon to Great Dunmow and back on 20th September 2020.

The aim of the ride is also to help raise funds for the APF charity which undertakes research and supports both sufferers and carers.

*Ashley Saunders*

Should you wish to sponsor Ashley you can do this on line by going to his 'Just Giving Page':

< <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ashley-saunders> >

Alternatively Julie Ovenden will have a sponsor form with her when you check into church on Sunday mornings.

*Please support Ashley if you can and remember them both in your prayers*



### Are politicians the oldest profession?

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," admitted the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But," the politician pointed out in triumph, "somebody had to have created the chaos in the first place!"



# REFLECTED FAITH: THE ALTAR

*The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series on symbols in our churches.*

The long list of television programmes concerned with renovating, moving home, and celebrity homes shows how interested we are in other people's homes, and how they live. The style and furnishings of the buildings vary considerably, and you can find out a great deal about the person by looking at what they have on display or indeed the lack of items.

In my house the only books on show are related to walking and gardening, and the wall pictures are either old and family heirlooms or show the natural world. Yet in every house there are some things that are pretty much a given: they're always there in one form or another.

It's the same in churches. No matter how old the building is, or how many times it has been re-ordered, there are some items which are constant.

The first of these essential items is the 'Altar' or 'Table'. In the majority of churches this is the place of most 'holiness' and where 'reverence' is given. The place where 'Bread is broken, and wine outpoured' in remembrance of Christ's last meal with His disciples.

As a retired parish priest, I now conduct services wherever I am invited and am aware of the variations of design and constituents of the altar everywhere I go.

*Taken from the parish pump website.*

In our church at All Saints' there are three altars each of a different style. The High Altar, which is beneath the East window, is of a more traditional style and permanently positioned; the Nave Altar, which was designed and built by Tony Smith is relatively new and of a modern style which can be moved to leave the area clear for other activities and the Altar in the D'Arcy Room is smaller than the others and is of a relatively simple style which can be moved when required.

Perhaps when you are next in church you could take a closer look at the three altars and their different styles. *Ed*



## EASTER VESTRY AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING



### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!!

At last the church AGM, which has been postponed for so long due to the Coronavirus, has now been rearranged.

Rev Peter Begley, our Area Dean, will be coming to All Saints to celebrate the Eucharist at 10am on **Sunday 11 October 2020** and will chair the Church AGM immediately following the service.

Please put the date in your diary!

Those whose three year stint on the PCC will end at this meeting are: *Julie Ovenden, Barbara Gale, Mike Kneller and David Presswell*. There are also vacancies to fill left by Cliff Hunter and Gina Southey. It is also time to elect three representatives to Deanery Synod so there is a lot to think about. Please give thought to who you would like to nominate. Nomination forms will be available from Sunday 13 September.



*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 survive a weekend away with the young people**

My dear Nephew Darren,

I think your idea for both our Confirmation groups getting together for a weekend away – socially distanced, of course – was excellent and our meeting last week drew most of the plans together. We didn't take any minutes, so let me record the decisions I believe we made.

Since all of us have to sleep far apart at the centre, I am prepared to spend the nights at a local hotel. By chance, I have found that there is a four star one only a few miles away, so I have booked myself in.

As the dining area in the youth centre may be cramped, I am also willing to have dinner each evening at the hotel, thereby creating more space for the rest of you. An additional sadness is that, since breakfast at the hotel is not served until 8am, I will not be able to join you either for your pre-breakfast dip in the nearby stream. It would be grossly unfair to expect you to pack lunch for me, so I will arrange for the hotel to provide me with a picnic hamper for one which I can have while you all enjoy your cheese and pickle sandwiches.

I think it will be an excellent learning experience if you prepare all the teaching sessions yourself, but be assured that I will always be on hand to give the advice of experience. That large armchair near the fire in the common room seems to be the best place for me to sit, so I can keep an eye on proceedings, while I take on the responsibilities for stoking the fire. This reminds me; do make sure that the young people are encouraged to saw enough logs each morning for me to fulfil my obligations.

Naturally, my arthritis will prevent me being able to accompany you on your afternoon hikes, but I will cheerfully park my car wherever you leave the minibus, to provide a second vehicle in case of emergencies. I do not mind in the least waiting all those long hours until you get back; I have already found an attractive tea shop in the village.

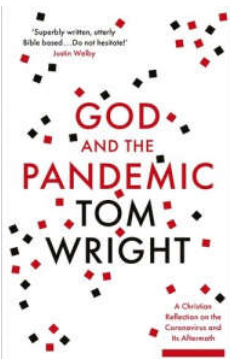




I am fully aware that not sleeping or dining at the centre, not being responsible for preparing the teaching, nor being involved on the walks will mean that my contributions will be ever so slightly limited, but these are sacrifices I gladly make in order to give you further experience in your ministerial career.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*



## *Book Reviews*

### **God and the Pandemic** **By Tom Wright, SPCK, £7.99**

What are we supposed to think about the coronavirus crisis? Some people think they know: “This is a sign of the End,” they say. “It’s all predicted in the book of Revelation.”

Others disagree but are equally clear: “This is a call to repent. God is judging the world and through this disease He’s telling us to change.” Some join in the chorus of blame and condemnation: “It’s the fault of the Chinese, the Government, the World Health Organization...”

Tom Wright examines these reactions to the virus and finds them wanting. Instead, he invites you to consider a different way of seeing and responding – a way that draws on the teachings and examples of scripture, and above all on the way of living, thinking and praying revealed to us by Jesus.

*Taken from the Parish Pump website.*



# HOLY DAYS

## 29th Sept Enter all the Angels, led by Michael

What is an angel? Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.

Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel - Gabriel - appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later - also in a dream - warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there - He had risen (Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that *anyone*, in any situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!

*Taken from the Parish Pump Website*

**Photos of the church taken from the scaffolding around the war memorial by a friend of Yvonne Kneller**



The top of the war memorial with the church spire in the background



The South wall showing some of the Statues



## Dates for the Diary

Due to the current situation we are not including Dates for the Diary

## Lunch at All Saints

Soup – hot food- cakes

12:00-2:00

**No Lunches Until  
Further Notice**



## From the Registers

### FUNERALS

17th August **George Alexander BARRETT** aged 91 years  
of Cooper Court.





# Prayer Diary

## SEPTEMBER 2020

1	Members of our Ministry Team
2	Students returning to school this week
3	Students starting a new school this week
4	All who work in education
5	All who work on the land
6 Trinity 13	All Christian Teachers
7	The South American Missionary Society
8	The Prayer Group
9	The Handbell Ringers
10	Maldon Ladies Group
11	All who are unemployed
12	Pray for peace throughout the world
13 Trinity 14	Members of our Junior Church
14 Holy Cross Day	The Mission and Outreach of our Church
15	Our Uniformed Groups
16	Our Tower Bell Ringers
17	Students preparing for College and University
18	The work of the Friends of Essex Churches
19	The work of Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis
20 Trinity 15	Those responsible for the appointment of a Priest in Charge for this and St Mary's Parish
21 St Matthew	Churches dedicated to St Matthew
22	Those who have lost their faith
23	Residents of Care Homes in our Town
24	Our Flower Group
25	Maldon Town and District Council Staff
26	The Church Army
27 Trinity 16	Those responsible for the appointment of a new Bishop of Chelmsford
28	Members of the Fire Service
29 St Michael and All Angels	The congregation of St Michael's and All Angels Woodham Walter
30	The Rev Julie Wilmott



## 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
Childrens Society	Elaine Brown	01621
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	(Joanne Maloney membership1stmaldon@gmail.com)	
Meeting Point	Barbara Gale	01621 928538
Maldon Pioneers	Mike Frederick	01621 840951
Maldon Ladies Group	Vivien Clark	01621 869667
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](http://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



## PARISH DIRECTORY

VICAR

Vacancy

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AUTHORISED

Mrs Adrienne Knight

LOCAL PREACHERS

Tel 01621 841329

Alan Marjoram

Tel 01245 243868

CHURCHWARDENS

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DEPUTY

Mrs Vicky Tropman

CHURCHWARDENS

Tel: 01621 857291

Mrs Vivien Clark

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