

# ALL SAINTS' MALDON



# PARISH NEWS

November 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

#### 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

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

**Cover Picture: This picture was taken from the Parish Pump website as I thought it appropriate for Remembrance month.**



# NOT FROM THE VICARAGE

## *The Loss of the Sacramental*

As in other walks of life, clergy of the older generation notice that their younger colleagues have been educated differently about what ‘church’ means. Naturally the changing face of church over decades plays its part. But always for the better? The ‘old boys’ – and to a more recent extent ‘old girls’ – in ordained ministry will eventually find themselves out of step with their former selves, or indeed their ministerial formation. Outwardly this may not seem to matter; but it has implications for both preaching and teaching in the parish. When I was ordained in 1984 I was part of a church which was certainly conscious of evangelism (the ‘Decade of Evangelism’ for instance ran from 1990-2000) but pastoral and sacramental ministry were still seen as central to parish life. The words of the Ordinal seemed unequivocal: a priest “must set the Good Shepherd always before him as the pattern of his calling, caring for the people committed to his charge, and joining with them in a common witness to the world’.

Contrast this with the experience of one of our clergy today who heard a diocesan adviser say just a few years back: “the age of pastoral care is dead”. The adoption of Mission as the church’s sole focus affects a whole new generation’s understanding. Of course Jesus made the preaching of the Good News his priority; but without his healings and compassionate care for sinners the Kingdom would have been stripped of its meaning.

This major shift worries a ‘retired’ like me for a number of reasons. The evangelical wing of the Church of England is now in the ascendant and has been for the last 20 years. The problem with that (the majority of our 72 bishops now represent only one wing of the church) is that an increasingly lop-sided understanding of parish life has emerged. The evangelical emphasis on the Scriptures is to be universally welcomed. But the fact that the sacramental part of Christian life is declining in significance is not.

At the Eucharist we encounter Our Lord in word *and* sacrament. Receiving the host (and pre-Covid the wine) is the culminating point in our Parish Eucharist (Holy Communion). A diminishing number of clergy from the ‘catholic tradition’ (small ‘c’) retain a deep understanding of the centrality of the sacrament; that the Holy Spirit transforms God’s people in the Eucharist as they come to the altar. There is a mystery about our incorporation into the Body of Christ which goes deeper than charismatic preaching, fervent prayers or worship songs. The ‘dumbing down’ of sacramental awareness is sad, even heart-breaking. It also sells God’s people



short. Evangelical worship often presents a chummy, over-familiar relationship with the Father. Where is the opportunity for humility, reverence and awe? Evangelical worship is sometimes triumphalist and noisy: where can one find the ‘still small voice’ of meditation and silence?

There are valuable insights to be gained from evangelical spirituality: personal conversion, extempore prayer, commitment to the Bible. But strangely enough even these may lead us only into the shallows of faith. If we also want to plumb the depths of the Divine, the sacramental life can reveal to us the ‘mystery beyond all telling, deep in the heart of God’.

*Canon Graham*

## CONFIRMATION

We offer our congratulations to Jodie Nicola Stead who was confirmed by the Bishop of Bradwell at St Mary’s Church, Burnham-on-Crouch, on Sunday 18 October 2020

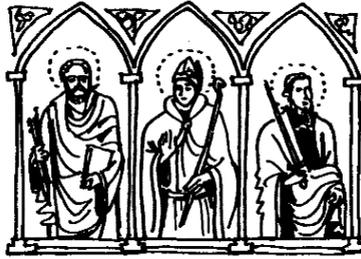


**Jodie with Bishop John after her Confirmation.**

Jodie then celebrated her first Communion at All Saints’ on Sunday 25th October, prior to the church AGM.



## Report on the 2020 Church AGM:



The church AGM was held on Sunday 11 October following the morning service. We had a "captive audience" as most of the congregation stayed for the meeting! The meeting was chaired by Rev Canon Peter Begley who left his parishes in Southminster and Steeple to be with us that day.

Jenny Clinch and Dennis Johnson were re-elected as churchwardens until the next AGM.

Jenny Clinch and Vicky Tropman were re-elected to the Deanery Synod.

There were seven vacancies on the PCC; four places were filled by people returning for a further term: Barbara Gale, Julie Ovenden, David Presswell and Mike Kneller. Three further people were voted on: Jackie Barnes, Vivien Clark and Peter Chignell. These appointments are for up to three years.

Reports were read and received for the committees of the church and the Foundation Governors of All Saints School.

Stephen Carter had submitted a report for 2019 and up until he retired in February which was read by Peter Begley.

Peter gave an update on the Maldon and Dengie Deanery and updated us on the process with the appointment of our new parish priest. There is nothing much to report on that at present . . . . another thing thwarted by the pandemic!

David Presswell spoke and thanked Peter for chairing the meeting.

***PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOUR PCC ARE HERE TO REPRESENT YOU AND WOULD WELCOME ANY SUGGESTIONS OR IDEAS YOU MAY HAVE, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON SOMETHING THAT IS HAPPENING IN CHURCH. To do this please contact the PCC Secretary.***

*Julie Ovenden, PCC Secretary [julieovenden@hotmail.com](mailto:julieovenden@hotmail.com)*



# THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK



The Archbishop of York shared the opening Presidential address with the Archbishop of Canterbury at a special session of the Church of England General Synod.

## **ARCHBISHOP STEPHEN ADDRESSES SYNOD ABOUT THE VIRUS.**

I hate this Coronavirus. I hate it because not only so many have died, but because so many people have died alone, unable to hold the hand of a dear beloved. I hate it because our health service has been stretched to the limit. I hate it because so many are bereaved and could not sit next to a family member at a funeral or embrace each other. I hate it because weddings and baptisms and ordinations have been postponed or have gone ahead without the parties that have meant to be with them. I hate it because children's schooling has been disrupted. I hate it because so many people have been so ill, crying out in pain, so many isolated, lonely, fearful, depressed. I hate it because behind locked doors terrible things have happened. I hate it because the poor and the disadvantaged have been hit the hardest. I hate it because it has left so many people across the world feeling hopeless as if life itself has been taken from us. I hate this Coronavirus and I reluctantly acknowledge that because of this we have learned some hard lessons about ourselves.

We have learned that we belong to each other and my interest is tied up with your interest. We have learned again that death is real. We have learned that progress does not mean living in a pain-free world. We have learned that those jobs that we had thought of as menial or inconsequential are vital and essential. We have learned that at the moment the best way to love one another is to keep a distance. And we have learned that love transcends boundaries and can happily easily jump 2 metres.

And in the Church, even without the much grieved for assurance of sacrament and congregation and all the other happy familiarities of worship, we have learned that Christ is with us. With us, as He has always been, present in the midst of endeavour, suffering and ministry. We have learned that the local Church is the centre, and that pastoral care, and all sorts of worship – old and



new – can go on in old and in new ways and loving your neighbour is after all what this is all about.

And I reluctantly acknowledge that although there is nothing good about Covid 19, good can come out of it, if we respect and love each other, and learn how to inhabit the world differently so that the spread of the virus can be kept under control. We, the church of Jesus Christ, have an opportunity to take the lead in this, speaking out for the poor. Making sure that the restrictions that we live by are administered fairly and work for the common good. And making sure that other things like the curse of racism, the way that we inhabit the planet, and our relationships with each other within the UK and in Europe do not slip from the agenda.

Therefore, despite all this, I am thankful. I am thankful for the faithfulness and hard work and ingenuity of all those who serve in our health and emergency services. I am thankful for all in public office who have made hard decisions, inevitably come in for sharp criticism but who continue to give themselves to serve us and keep us safe. I am thankful for the witness and service of the local church in our parishes, chaplaincies and in other various expressions of Church life, for peoples' creativity and tenacity – especially in care of the vulnerable and in sustaining the life of worship. I am thankful for those in the national church who have sought to interpret Government advice and guide the Church through these difficult times. I am thankful that despite all the horrors of a Covid world, we are learning a new commitment to Christ and how to be a humbler, simpler Church. That we are putting Christ at the centre of our lives and learning very very painfully what it really means to be a Church that is dependent on Christ alone. And, I am filled with longing. I long for us to find ways of affirming and thanking all the people who work for us and with us. I long for us to find our voice in the building of a better world. I long for us to be a more Christ-centred and Jesus shaped Church, witnessing to Christ and bringing the healing balm of the Gospel to our nation, for this is our vocation.

Synod, I hate this coronavirus.

Nevertheless, I reluctantly acknowledge that there are important things for us to learn. I am thankful for the good things that have emerged, not least our dependence on each other and on God. And I long for us to share this more effectively in the world. Finally, I am sorry for the inevitable mistakes we have made along the way but confident in God's mercy and of your own forbearance.

I invite us now even in this strange synod to do no other than to boldly and humbly share the Gospel in deed and word across the life of our nation.

Therefore, I cry out and invite you to cry out with me: 'Death, where is your sting? Grave, where is your victory? For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

*Stephen+*

*Thanks to Rev Jo Jones for sending me this article. Ed.*



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## **Housing**

During the coronavirus outbreak most possession claims in the courts have been paused. This pause, often called an ‘eviction ban’, has now ended and the courts have started to consider claims made by landlords again. Citizens Advice research tells us that 2.6 million renters have either missed or expect to miss a rent payment because of coronavirus.

At Maldon and District Citizens Advice we have advisers who can help both landlords and tenants understand the process, negotiate arrangements to help prevent evictions and discuss alternative housing options.

Other common problems include housing disrepair, where landlords are not carrying out the necessary work to keep a home safe, worry over being unable to make mortgage or rental payments and tenants stuck in long term temporary accommodation.

If your income is reduced because of coronavirus, you should check whether you’re entitled to sick pay or to claim benefits. You can check your eligibility for both sick pay and benefits on the Citizens Advice website.

If you’re struggling to pay rent, talk to your landlord straight away. You should explain the situation and could ask for more time to pay, a temporary reduction in rent, or ask to catch up any missed payments by instalments. If you contact Maldon and District Citizens Advice an adviser can help you explain things to your landlord. If you can’t come to an agreement with your landlord, it’s a good idea to pay what you can afford and keep a record of what you offered.

The government has temporarily changed the law around evictions. Your landlord can’t take court action to evict you until after 20 September 2020 and the normal notice period of 2 months has been increased to 6 months.

If you already receive help with housing costs, such as Housing Benefit, you should tell the council your income has reduced. If you don’t claim it already, you might be entitled to help with housing costs from the government via a Universal Credit claim.



When it comes to your utilities, you should contact the provider as soon as possible. Depending on the type of bill, they may be able to arrange a payment plan, and some have schemes in place for people in financial hardship.

You should also talk to your local council, as your income has reduced you might be entitled to a council tax reduction.

If you're struggling to pay multiple bills, it's important to sort out what's known as 'priority bills' like energy bills or council tax. These should be paid before credit card bills. This is because the immediate consequences of not paying these bills are much more serious.

Our website has a great deal of relevant information:-

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/eviction-for-rent-arrears/>

*Lucy Bettley*



## **TEN to TEN Rambling Group**

**10<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

This is the third walk we have managed since the lockdown was eased in the summer. John and Sandra were leading this time and took us on a circular walk from Buckhatch Nursery and Garden Centre at Rettendon Common, a new area for some of us. Seven walkers took part and enjoyed the lovely open countryside in all the autumn colours. We walked through several green lanes, surprisingly dry underfoot considering all the rain we have had recently. Our coffee stop was at Rettendon Church, where we had lovely views over the surrounding area. Essex really isn't flat at all!! A very enjoyable morning walk of just over five miles.

Our next walk will be on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November meeting at Abberton Reservoir Nature Reserve, Visitors Centre (Postcode CO2 0EU) at ten-to-ten.

For further information about the walk please ring Rod (01621 859350) or Sue (01621 854056)

*Sue Smith*



## Deputy Warden's Waffle

I do have to agree with Viv when she said in last month's waffle – how time flies! Despite, for months many of us doing far less than usual, here we are with the end of the year in sight. And

*WHAT* a year 2020 has become. We have all had to learn how to cope with a raft of different problems. For a start –the wearing of masks- which has well and truly put an end to wearing hooped earrings, and what now is the point of lipstick, if only to have it smudged on the inside of your face covering! Now I realise that make up and earrings are not a problem for you gents (!?) but the wearing of glasses is something nearly all of us have to do – and as for the steaming up issue, well apparently a tissue under the mask will help, as does smearing the lens with raw potato! As for those folks who have to navigate hearing aids as well – shh best not mentioned. Now who would of thought things could get quite so competitive over various face masks as the latest fashion statement; or that we would be engaged in such a weighty subject as to which hand sanitizer is the best!?! Quite obviously the world has gone barmy.

I don't wish to be flippant, this year has been and still is very challenging and desperately tragic for so many people throughout the world. It can feel there is no hope left at all. Which of course that is far from true. We at All Saints have, by following the strict guide lines with regard to covid 19, been able to have a wedding actually in church, with a smaller number of people present, but still a happy and beautiful occasion. We have more weddings before the end of the year. Albeit with much reduced numbers we have also been able to hold three baptisms in the Darcy Chapel, such a special event for the families. There has of course been sadness, as we have lost some much loved members from the congregation. We have been able to hold three funerals, again with restricted numbers. With the funeral service for Lilian Gibson which has been videoed, with the family's permission, and are available to watch on our website via You tube, thanks of course to Mike Kneller. Also, the pending funeral of John Speakman which we hope we will be able to video as well.

Although Harvest Festival this year was a bit different, we were in our beloved church, and the piles of food parcels left at the back of church for the Food Pantry, who were very grateful as requests for food have increased, was I believe a wonderful example of us all pulling together to help where we can. Despite all the weird and wonderful zoom on line conversations, going on we were able to put Jodie Stead forward for Confirmation, which I understand from Jodie was a lovely event conducted by Bishop John.

I have just heard a weather bulletin in which we are warned of heavy rain and gusty winds for the next few days, but also rainbows – yes lots of rainbows are expected. There is a message in that I think. despite all the gloom and troubles, God will always send us hope. A tiny ray of sunlight and an arch of glorious colour to gladden our souls and protect us.

*Vicky.*



# Paul J King

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## WHAT WOULD WE HAVE DONE WITHOUT.....?

The Covid19 pandemic goes on and we all have to learn to live with it. “Live” was certainly the operative word when ‘Lockdown’ was first announced in March of this year when we were told that anyone over 70 years of age was vulnerable and to catch the virus meant a strong possibility of not surviving. I was certainly frightened, so much so that we never ventured beyond our garden gate for four months or so until the lockdown was reduced in severity. Since then we have still practiced social distancing and mask wearing where required. In Essex we have had a sharp reminder that we are still some way off the time when life may return to pre Covid times and we can all mix freely again. Thinking about the prospects for the future, I got to thinking about some of the things that have helped us through the last six months. My thoughts spring firstly and instantly to our health system, which did a magnificent job in combating the deadly virus. Whilst we sometimes have cause to criticize the NHS, and I must confess to occasionally having those sort of thoughts, it is generally about the way the service is organised and managed and that successive governments are thought by many of us to have organised it badly and/or have underfunded it. Be that as it may I believe that the majority of us have recognised that those who have contracted the virus have received treatment of the highest calibre once diagnosed, (witness the weekly clapping that we did for the NHS workers). We have reason in our family to be grateful as my 76 year old sister contracted Covid 19 in September and got through to survive and is most grateful for that. My daughter, who nurses in Basildon Hospital also contracted the disease in the hospital and came through with no ill effects

What else? I think that those of us who are part of the All Saints family have been very grateful for the way our church has tried to help us through. There are many people who have worked hard and have helped us keep in touch with newsletters and phone calls, given advice when needed and even delivered food and medication when asked. These people would be embarrassed if I mentioned names, so I will not do that but with the following exception. Canon Graham has been active and concerned enough to have made an on-line Sunday service for almost the whole time the pandemic has been raging, and has carried out most of the services since the church was allowed to be active again. Graham and his on-line technical partner, Mike Kneller, has done a magnificent job and his on line services are still given every week. Then, the supermarkets. They have really come up trumps in keeping us all fed and watered. Their home delivery service has been vastly increased and they have all managed to keep their shelves well stocked thus obviating the need for panic buying. Thank you to the staff of the supermarkets, which, of course includes the suppliers of their products,



the drivers who bring the goods to the shops and the staff who run the shops. Many small shops have also done sterling work in a similar way when allowed to. Other industries have also been of great value to us, such as postal workers, refuse collectors the emergency services, those supplying our gas, water and electricity supplies and many more industries and workers who I will not try to mention as I may certainly miss some out.

When I first started to pen this missive I was looking at the television and it occurred to me that without the TV and all the other electronic media and information services, this year would have been even more difficult than it has been. I have mentioned that we have had the privilege of being able to watch on line religious services and of course, many families and friends have been able to keep in touch by the modern wonders of being able to see each other and speak with each other whilst being in different places. This would not have been possible outside of Governments and large Companies before this century. What a boon also for University students who can carry on with their studies when it is not possible to carry on face to face with lecturers. I have three members of my family who are studying either totally or partially in this manner and they are all grateful for the technology which allows it to happen. At home, we have television. We may often complain about it but we have so many options now with all the hundreds of channels available and so many channels showing non-stop films there is no shortage of entertainment. I must admit though that many of the films we have watched or partially watched have been so dire that we have listed some of them and eventually plan to have an awards ceremony for the worst ones viewed during lockdown! Our base film for this is one which my older brother took me to see during the war. It was an Allies propaganda film called 'Aerial Gunner' and I thought, as an eight year old, it was wonderful, but when looking at it recently realised that apart from its message, it was poorly made, technically awful and the acting was ( shall we say not very good!). All the nominated films will be marked against this one to find the eventual 'Oscar' winner.

There are many forms of 'social media available for those that use it and it keeps younger people busy at least. Me? Of course, I have made and received many more telephone conversations than usual, and I am pleased that in our house there has been more and longer coffee breaks which in turn has led to longer conversations between Joan, Rus and me. As they say, it's an ill wind!

*Ken Downham*

.....  
 The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight because by then,  
 your body and your fat are really good friends.  
 .....



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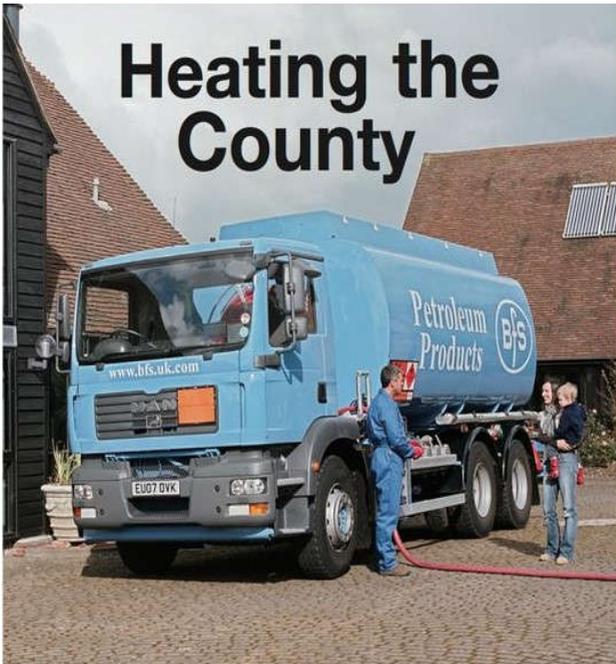
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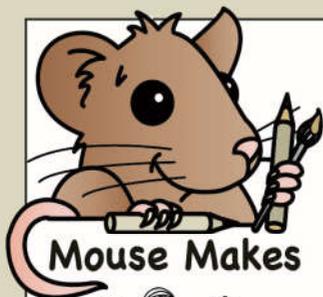
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### REMEMBERING

How do you remember things?

In bible times God's people would remember what God had done for them by building monuments made of stones and by holding festivals and celebrations to give thanks to God.

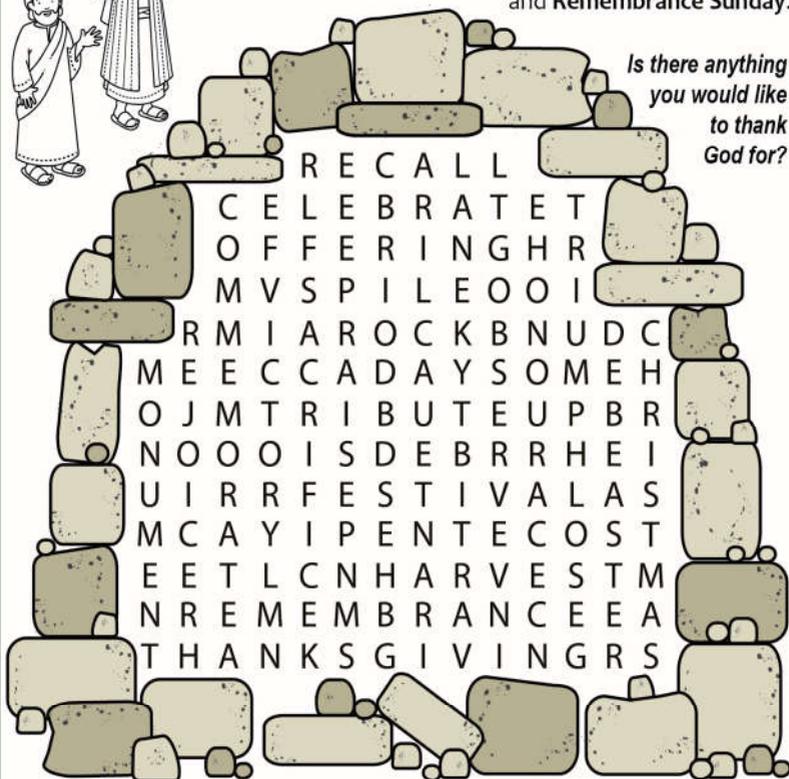


**READ** Joshua 4:1-9 and Exodus 12:1-14

Today we too build monuments to remember and hold services of thanksgiving like **Harvest** and **Remembrance Sunday**.



*Is there anything you would like to thank God for?*



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# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Lk 8:40-56, Mt 9:18-26, Mk 5:21-43

Jairus, a town leader, had a 12 year old daughter who was ill and about to die. He came to Jesus and knelt at his feet...

Please come! If you touch her she will be healed.

Jesus went with him.

In the crowd was a woman who had been ill for 12 years.

If I touch his cloak I will be healed

Jesus felt power go out of him

Who touched me?

Jesus waited...

and the woman knew she had to tell him.

She knelt at Jesus' feet and told him everything

Go, daughter.. Your faith has healed you.

Then Jairus was told his daughter had just died.

But Jesus said

Don't be afraid, just believe and she will be healed

When they got to Jairus' house, it was filled with people mourning.

She is not dead, but asleep.

They laughed at Jesus. He sent them out of the house.

Little girl, get up!

At once she stood up!

Her parents were amazed.

Give her something to eat, and don't tell anyone what has happened.



# The tale of the Tower Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



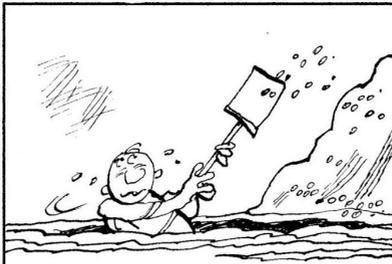
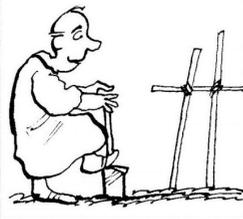
JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



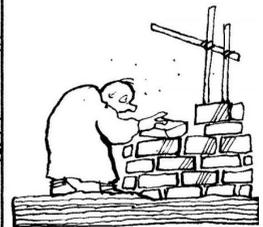
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS...

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START, ....

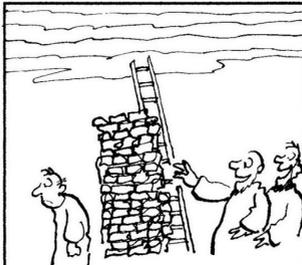


....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS. ....

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,...



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!

TOWER TO BE CANCELLED BUILT HERE

WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.; IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.



## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Once more we are offering you the opportunity to place your Greetings in the December issue of the magazine. As in previous years, greetings can be 'boxed' or a simple 'line' format.

The donation to All Saints' for these greetings has not increased over the years. Again we are asking for a **minimum** donation of £10 for the box and £5 for the line format, which can be Gift Aided. If you wish to take advantage of this offer please email your message to me (or give it to me in church) by Sunday 22nd Nov. Donations can be passed to the Treasurer either in a yellow envelope and marked Greetings, or a direct payment to him.  
Ed.

.....

### Medical name

The curate told his doctor that he was worried because he just wasn't able to do all the things around the parish that his vicar expected him to do. When the examination was complete, he said, "I'm prepared for the worst, doctor. Just tell me in plain English what is wrong with me."

"Well, in plain English," the doctor replied, "you're just lazy."

"Okay," said the curate. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my vicar."

.....

### ODE TO LOCKDOWN

Today is not so very grey.  
 Today the clouds have gone away,  
 What has happened to banish the blues,  
 Is it the flowers, chocolates or even new shoes.  
 The reason I'm not so very sour,  
 Half a dozen eggs and a packet of flour.

*This poem was written in the spring, by Yvonne Kneller, to amuse her friends.*



## ADVENT: A REFLECTION ON WAITING

Just suppose you were given a beautifully wrapped present and it was sitting on a table where you could see it. Attached to this present is a label that reads ‘this is a present but you don’t open it now..... wait.’ An instruction like this might evoke a wide range of emotions but probably the two most common would be a sense of indignation or frustration and/or a tingle of anticipation. Depending on who we are, we might just feel one emotion, entirely irritated or completely intrigued. I know that I would be driven frantic, to open it, my mother didn’t call me ‘Pandora’ for nothing! But, in reality I wonder how many of us would obey the command to wait. Our frustrations of waiting begin at an early age, and the antipathy to waiting is worsened if not encouraged by the world in which we live. All around us we encounter day by day, the encouragement not to wait but to have what we want now. Our credit driven society urges us to abandon all thoughts of waiting and to buy now. Improvements in communication only erode the notion of waiting further. Waiting, is increasingly, a strange notion. We have come accustomed to immediacy and swift action.

Give all this, it seems almost ludicrous that the church should have Advent; four weeks dedicated to waiting. Is this not the church, once again, looking backwards to bygone days, to ideas irrelevant to our society, out of touch and out of date? Would it not be a better idea to abandon Advent altogether? There are some who would argue that we have already done so, barely a year goes by without people telling stories of the time when Advent was really Advent; when Christmas trees were set up on Christmas Eve and not before; when Christmas carols were, likewise, sung on Christmas Eve and for the following days of Christmas: and not in November. When this happened, we are told Advent could be properly Advent, and Christmas Christmas. And we weren’t all fed up with Christmas by 25<sup>th</sup> December. I don’t know what we can do about that, if anything. Should we abandon Advent because it is no longer in tune with our culture and abandon all pretence of observing it? I don’t think so, but it does raise the question of how we celebrate Advent in a way that enhances the season and the month of December and that enables us to ‘anticipate’ Christmas properly in a sense of looking forward to it. Preparing ourselves and becoming ready rather than in a sense of starting early. Recognising the importance of waiting, however, does not solve all our problems with Advent waiting. One of the oddest features of Advent is that it requires us to wait for something that has already happened, as well as something that has not. It is the double vision of Advent that we look both backward with expectation as we wait for the birth of Christ over 2000 years ago and also forward with anticipation to the end times. The awkwardness of Advent is enhanced by the expectation that we not only wait for the past which seems impossible, but also for the end times: a doctrine that many people find increasingly uncomfortable and hard to talk about.

The first candle, of Advent’s four weeks, reminds us of the Patriarchs: the word comes from the Greek for father, Pater for father and Archon for leader.



Originally then Patriarch was leader of a tribe, the father of an extended family grouping who acted as their leader. Within Hebrew scripture of the Old Testament, the term is usually used to describe Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Abraham's story is essentially one of faith, so that they are called Patriarchs of faith, with emphasis that they are our own fathers in faith. One of the most surprising elements in the stories of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, is the significant roles that their wives play. These women, Sarah, Rebekah and Rachel respectively, in a culture where women had little if any influence, shape the stories of presence in them. A them recognises that waiting.



The second candle on associated with the with their prophecies come.' With this waiting for the future soon as we say that, there comes the fundamental question, which precise future?

the Advent wreath is prophets and in particular of 'the one who is to candle, therefore, we are and all that might hold. As

1. The prophet's future that may or may not have come to fruition before the time of Jesus.

2. Israel's future that came to fruition at the time of Jesus.

3. Our own future that will come to fruition at the end of all times (as well as partially during our life time).

The third candle, is for John the Baptist who is waiting between the old and the new times and is the voice calling in the wilderness.

The fourth candle is for Mary who, after the visit from Gabriel, waited 9 months for the birth of this most precious of sons.

We do add a fifth Candle on Christmas day which symbolises the birth of JESUS. Jesus Christ the one for whom Abraham and Sarah, the prophets, John the Baptist, Mary and indeed we have been waiting for so long. It is in Jesus Christ that we discover a perfect fulfilment of everything for which we have waited, as well as for those things we have not waited. Jesus brings both completion and surprise in our waiting and points us forward to a lifelong waiting that can only find fulfilment in the end of all things.

I hope this has helped you to understand a little better the season of Advent as practised by the Church of England and helped you to wait and ponder before we open Christmas day as it were.

*Avril Askew.*

*Looking back at a 2017 magazine, I found this article by Avril that I thought was worth reprinting. Ed.*



*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 the ferocity of the church's Bridge drive**

My dear Nephew Darren,

Your suggestion that we should hold a sponsored hymn-singing bicycle ride through the village as a way of raising money was well-meant, but I am not wholly convinced it would suit our clientele here at St James the Least of All.

You may have musical bike rides, but we have Bridge drives, although socially distanced at the moment, of course. But even at two metres apart, our Bridge games are generally as amiable and peaceful as bear baiting. Half of those attending will see the afternoon as an opportunity to catch up on local gossip and to exchange knitting patterns, the game of cards being a minor hindrance to these other activities. The other half arrive primed for a battle to the death, reluctantly conceding that eye-gouging is not allowed. They will demand total silence – which is wholly ignored by those at the tables discovering what Mrs Trumpington confided to Lady Driver halfway through ‘Onward Christian Soldiers’ at last Sunday’s Mattins. The congregation is eternally grateful to Mrs Mitchell, who as a former mill worker is able to lip read.

Refreshments have been hit hard by Covid-19 of course, and the fact that everyone has to bring their own sandwich and drink has rather spoilt the fun. Usually half our players regard lunchtime as an opportunity to put jam on the cards, spill tea on the score cards and make sure that the other tables get the egg and cress sandwiches while they corner the boiled ham; the others usually see it as an unwelcome interruption to the serious business of slaughtering their opponents. It is so sad that Covid-19 has halted this merry comradery.

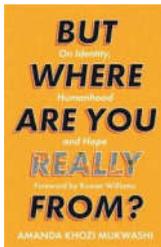
As for drawing the raffle, it is the adult equivalent of ringing the school bell at going-home time. Half the players will immediately dash off to relay newly mined seams of gossip throughout the village, leaving the others holding reproachful post-mortems with their partners over their bidding mistakes.



Reproaches are never too violent, however, since the chances are that they will all be meeting again the following afternoon round a socially distanced card table at another location, for yet another re-enactment of the slaughter at Agincourt. The only difference will be that the French and English were not entertained with tea and sandwiches at half time.

Your loving uncle,  
*Eustace*

## Book Reviews



### But Where Are You Really From?

By Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, SPCK, £5.99

This book about identity comes from CEO of Christian Aid, Amanda Khozi Mukwashi. She shares her experience of life as a Christian black woman with Zambian heritage, born and living in the UK. She explores issues of race and culture and how it feels to be judged on skin colour when identity is made up of so many things.

Amanda believes that until we share our diversity of stories, dangerous assumptions will persist. She celebrates the universal connections we all share, and hopes to offer a new perspective on identity, humanhood and hope.

The book may interest anyone who wants to deepen their understanding of the current race and cultural transformation that is happening across the world today.

*Taken from the Parish Pump website.*

**N.B.**

**COPY DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER**

**MAGAZINE 22nd NOVEMBER**



# HOLY DAYS

## 30th November: Andrew – first disciple of Jesus

Andrew, whose feast day ends the Christian year on 30th November, is probably best known to us as the patron saint of Scotland, though his only connection with the country is that some of his bones were reputedly transported in the 8th century to Fife and preserved at a church in a place now named St Andrews.

In fact, there are so many legends about him all over Europe and the Middle East that it's safest to stick to what the Gospels tell us – though the strong tradition that he was martyred by crucifixion is probably true and is perpetuated in the 'St Andrew's Cross', the 'saltyre' of Scotland.

The Gospels record that he was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and the very first to bring someone else to Christ – his own brother. Like many fervent Jews at the time Andrew and an unnamed companion had been drawn to the desert, to be taught by the charismatic prophet known to us as John the Baptist. Many thought that he was the long-promised Messiah, but John insisted that he was not. 'I am the voice crying in the wilderness,' he told the crowds. 'Prepare the way of the Lord! One comes after me who is greater than I am.' So when one day John pointed out Jesus to Andrew and his friend and described him as the 'Lamb of God', the two young men assumed that the next stage of their spiritual search was about to unfold. So as Jesus made off, they followed him.

All the more strange, then (though, on reflection, very true to human nature) that when Jesus turned and asked them what they were 'seeking', all they could come up with was a lame enquiry about his current place of residence: 'where are you staying?' Or, perhaps, they were hinting that what they were seeking could not be dealt with in a brief conversation. If they could come to his lodgings, perhaps their burning questions might be answered.

The reply of Jesus was the most straight-forward invitation anyone can receive: 'Come and see'. Come and see what I'm like, what I do, the sort of person I am. What an invitation!

The results of their response were in this case life-changing – for themselves, and for many other people. Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus. The next day Jesus met Philip and called him to 'follow'. Philip then brought Nathaniel. The little apostolic band who would carry the message of Jesus to the whole world was being formed. They came, they saw, they were conquered! And right at the front of the column, as it were, was Andrew, the first disciple of Jesus.

*Taken from the Parish Pump Website*



# REFLECTED FAITH: WELCOME TO ALL

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

As I write this, the majority of churches (in the UK) are holding services again in their church buildings or wherever they normally worship together. But things are looking somewhat different.

In my local church you need to ring a Churchwarden to book a place to come to Sunday or mid-week worship. So far, no-one's been turned down or away at the door for not booking. People are being told where to sit, rather than choosing their favourite spot, so the two-metre gap is maintained. And, in most services, face masks are required.

*So how does all this affect our 'worship'?*

There are two key elements to gathered worship for me. My first is that the welcome is for everyone, regardless of how they look, or dress, their faith or their behaviour.

Many years ago I recall being on a caravan holiday with my Primary-aged children in Scotland. There was to be a raft race and fun by the river, starting immediately after the church service, so we dressed appropriately for a messy time! I was in a fluorescent pink tee-shirt and matching striped summer trousers (they were wow at the time!). Although we had never been there before and knew no-one, you would have thought we were royalty from the way the congregation treated us. It was wonderful. We'd come home. We were family. The Christian family. Brothers and sisters in Christ. Co-heirs with Jesus.

It's part of our job as Christians to be welcoming. There's no one specific person or role for this. It's down to all of us.

*This month:* Have a think about how you can express a welcome to the others in your congregation where you worship. Perhaps turn that around and think about how you would be encouraged and welcomed. Would that work for others?

I know it's a tough one if your smile is covered by a mask and you can't shake hands or hug. But what *could* you do?

Also, as you think about the essentials of gathered worship, ask yourself the question –

*What else would be an essential for me?* There's no single right answer, but it's worth thinking and worth talking to others about.

*Taken from the Parish Pump Website*



## 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

### BAPTISM

4th October, Shannon-Louise Ray  
25th October, Rory Michael Smith



### CONFIRMATION

18th October, Jodie Nicola Stead at St Mary's Burnham on Crouch

### WEDDING

3rd October, David Barke and Carly Lamburne of Maldon.

### FUNERALS

2nd October Lilian Joan Gibson aged 90 formerly of Beacon Hill  
12th October Gillian Dawn Blackman aged 71 of Maldon



## Prayer Diary NOVEMBER 2020

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



## ACTIVITIES

| <b>ACTIVITY</b>   | <b>CONTACT</b>                                    | <b>TELEPHONE</b> |
|---|---|------------------|
| 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<br>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<br>Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs) | (Joanne Maloney<br>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  |
| HON. ASST. PRIEST             | Rev. Canon Dr. Graham Blyth<br>Tel: 01621 854068   |
| AUTHORISED<br>LOCAL PREACHERS | Mrs Adrienne Knight<br>Tel 01621 841329<br><br>Alan Marjoram<br>Tel 01245 243868   |
| CHURCHWARDENS                 | Dennis Johnson<br>Tel: 01621 842410<br><br>Mrs Jenny Clinch<br>4A Belvedere Place<br>Tel: 01621 840057                     |
| DEPUTY<br>CHURCHWARDENS       | Mrs Vicky Tropman<br>Tel: 01621 857291<br><br>Mrs Vivien Clark<br>Tel:01621 869667   |
| HON TREASURER                 | Eddie Sewell<br>Tel: 01621 851961  |
| PCC SECRETARY                 | Mrs Julie Ovenden<br>Tel: 01621 858803   |
| OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR          | Mrs Barbara Gale<br>Tel 01621 928538   |
| ORGANIST and<br>CHOIRMASTER   | Dr Stuart Pegler<br>Tel: 01621 850530  |
| RECORDER OF<br>THE CHURCH     | Kenneth Downham<br>Tel: 01621 854655   |
| PARISH NEWS<br>EDITOR         | Peter Clark<br>Tel: 01621 869667<br>email: <a href="mailto:pjandvclark@gmail.com">pjandvclark@gmail.com</a>                |
| SAFEGUARDING<br>OFFICER       | Mrs Elizabeth Blyth<br>Tel 01621 854068<br>Email: <a href="mailto:elisabeth.blyth@gmail.com">elisabeth.blyth@gmail.com</a> |
| WEB SITE MANAGER              | Mike Kneller<br>Email: <a href="mailto:bigglesworth@btinternet.com">bigglesworth@btinternet.com</a>                        |

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