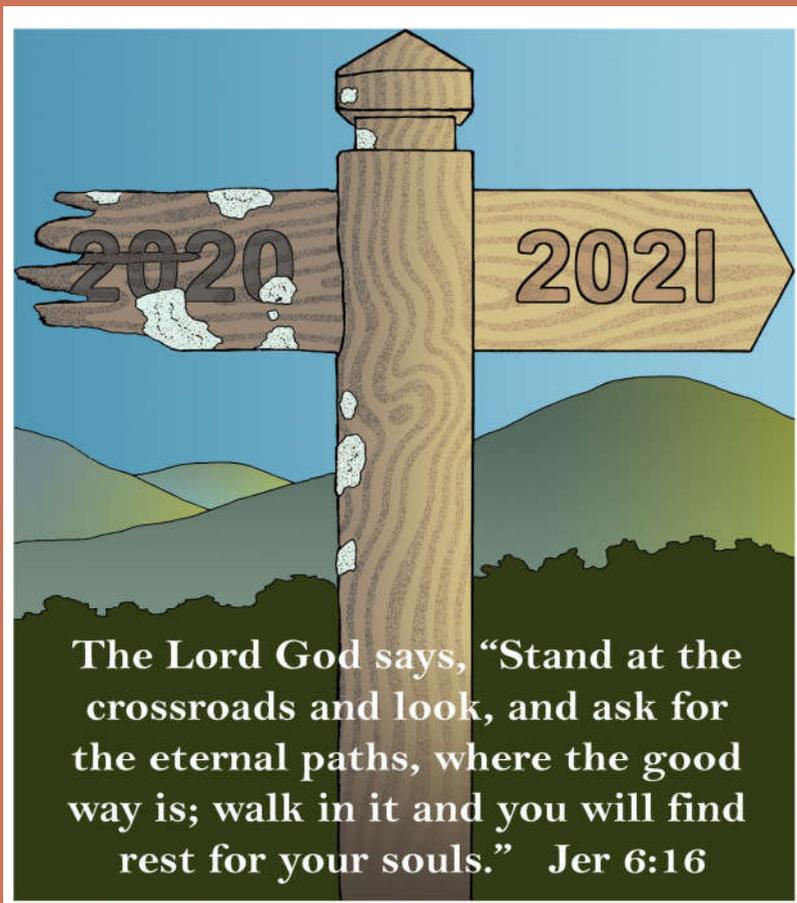


ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

January 2021

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: Taken from the Parish Pump website.



AT LAST, THE NEWS WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR!



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

**This is the email received by the Wardens
and read out to the congregation on Sunday 13th December.**

"I am pleased to inform you that the Rev'd Asa Humphreys has been appointed Priest in Charge of Maldon All Saints with St. Peter, a post he will hold in addition to Heybridge St. Andrew and Langford St. Giles.

I would be grateful if you could make this announcement to all your congregations on Sunday 13th December, in the best way possible during the current restrictions.

You may also advise them that Asa will be licensed by the Bishop of Bradwell at All Saints church on Wednesday 6th January at 4.00pm. Bishop John's P.A. will be in touch further about this and to confirm the arrangements.

Please pray for Asa and the whole Humphreys family as he takes on this additional responsibility. Meanwhile, please be assured of my prayers, especially during these uncertain times, that you may know God's peace and hope as we place our trust in Him.

With best wishes

Elizabeth"

The Ven Elizabeth Snowden
Archdeacon of Chelmsford



NOT FROM THE VICARAGE

Out with the old, in with the new!

I am writing this on 17th December to meet the Editor's deadline of 20th of the month. It is a difficult time of the year to be writing for the January 2021 edition of 'Parish News.' We have been told recently that we will be moving into tier 3, the highest tier of Covid restrictions. We don't know what effect this move will have on us after Christmas and into 2021.

None of us know what effect the vaccine will have on our lives next year. Will we be able to return to 'normal' or will what we now know as normal, be our 'new normal' for the foreseeable future?

We don't know the outcome of 'Brexit'. Will there be a trade deal between us and the EU? Will there be a shortage of food? Will the price of food rise? Will there be lorries lined up on the motorways to our various ports?

There is much uncertainty about 2021. But there is hope!

The congregation at All Saints' was informed last Sunday that a Priest-in-charge has been appointed to our Parish and that he will be licenced on 6 January 2021. His name is Rev. Asa Humphreys and he is currently Priest-in-charge at St Andrew's, Heybridge, St George's, Heybridge Basin and St Giles' Langford and will be taking on the additional responsibility for All Saints. Due to the current restrictions, we won't have the opportunity to meet Rev'd Humphreys and his family, so I asked him a few questions.

Tell me a little about you and your family.

"My wife Laura and I have just celebrated our 13th wedding anniversary and our two children, Simone and Abel, are 8 and 6 respectively. We have a retired Guide Dog, Maddie, who we look after too – she is 14 this year and enjoying her rest after a long working life. We enjoy the outdoor life and exploring new places, by bicycle or on the water. We have previously served in Bournemouth, Nottingham and Salisbury and are looking forward to sharing fellowship in another new place. Laura works variously as an English teacher, a sailing instructor and a property manager as well as heading up St Lucy's, Fresh Expression. Between us we have five Godchildren."

How would you like to be addressed?

"People have called me all sorts of things in recent years! Asa is fine, but whatever makes people feel at ease – I am always happy to listen, however people prefer to address me."

How long have you been Priest-in-Charge in Heybridge and Langford?



“I was installed as Incumbent of the United Benefice of Heybridge with Langford in September 2018. We have seen a lot of answered prayers these past few years and some growth too, which is lovely. Each church and place has their own character, but they are drawn together by a shared desire to worship God and love their neighbour. Whenever I have served in All Saints’, I have been struck by that same desire. In early 2019 we started St Lucy’s, a multi-sensory church that has been reaching out particularly to people with additional needs and that has been a joy to see too.”

Are you going to move into All Saints’ Vicarage?

“We are very blessed with our current vicarage in Heybridge, what with it being so close to the children’s school and their friends, as well as the good neighbours we have grown to support throughout this year of restrictions. The All Saints’ Vicarage is a beautiful building (and the option of having a Gregg’s 90 seconds away was very appealing) but we’ll be staying on Scraley Road after my installation.”

You will be taking on another parish. Will you have anyone full time to help you?

“I’ll be the only stipendiary Priest serving the three parishes, 5 churches and have ‘cure of souls’ for the approximately 20,000 people within those boundaries, which is a very different arrangement to those experienced by previous generations. However, I’ll be ably supported by a good number of people willing to share their time and energy in small and significant ways, and there will be a few people whom God will continue to call to serve in roles with weightier responsibility. I hold a long-standing view that I don’t ask people to undertake more than they feel they can flourish in, and if that means doing less, that is fine. Ultimately, the Holy Spirit acts and we join in – it is His help that is the critical factor. We’ll need fresh eyes to see where He is at work and a renewed courage to join in.”

Will our pattern of Services change?

“Alan, the honest answer is yes. I could choose to write a paragraph that avoids saying that, whilst reassuring no-one, but that is just unfair – false hope, is no hope at all. I appreciate that change can stir-up fear, but scripture reminds us that ‘perfect love drives out all fear.’ The conversation around this will begin in the weeks after my installation and is of course tied up with the restrictions we currently worship under, but one stipendiary Priest and five churches will mean some degree of change.”

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

“I like to walk and cycle in between appointments and services so that I can chat to parishioners around and about, whilst also reducing the environmental impact (and costs) of ministry. I enjoy reading (Georges Simenon is a particular favourite) and listening to sport on the radio. Apparently, I make a good pastry – because my hands are the right



temperature – and I enjoying running for exercise. I occasionally do some teaching in this and other Diocese's and will invariably ask people I meet what I can be praying for them. Be sure to have something up your sleeve for when we chat next and don't be afraid to tell me what impact it has made when we meet subsequently!"

I am sure you will join me in welcoming Rev'd. Humphreys to our Parish.
We assure him of our prayers and support in this new chapter
of our church history.

Out with the old.

Although we will all be another year older, I'm sure most of us will be happy to see the end of 2020 with its coronavirus, overcrowded hospitals, queues outside supermarkets, lockdowns. We must be grateful though, for dedicated NHS and care home staff, teachers, good neighbours, and the thousands of workers who kept essential services running.

In with the new.

A New Year with all the uncertainty, but with a new beginning – a new chapter, new resolutions and a new challenge for us all to work together with other Christians to further the kingdom of God in this corner of Essex, and a new Bishop – the Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani - to lead us in all of this!

Whilst reading one of my books recently, I found the following. It was written by Roddy Hamilton.

'Waiting for the old year to end
and the New Year to begin,
waiting to say farewell and welcome:
farewell to all that we can leave behind,
welcome to all that we can travel toward.
Life in abundance is God's promise
that waits to meet us as we journey on
with a spring in our step and hope in our hearts.

Travelling with God
is never dull,
but always filled with surprises.

So we mourn not the past
nor dread the future,
but open ourselves
to the possibilities
of compassion,



of kindness,
of humility,
of gentleness,
of patience,
opening ourselves
to the possibility
of God bringing life
in all its fullness.
Hand in hand with God
we step into a brave new future.'

Happy New Year!

Alan Marjoram

Since Alan wrote this, we now know that we have moved into the higher tier, Tier Four. This means that the church is once again closed for services and therefore the Licensing and installation of Asa, on the 6th January, will be a much more low key event. Ed.

NEXT BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD ANNOUNCED



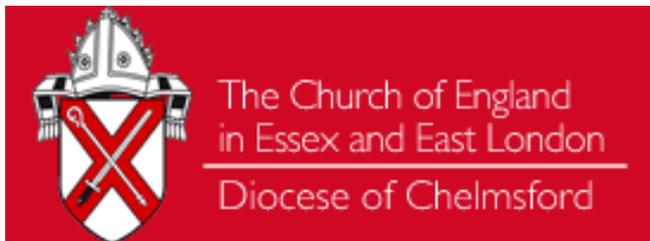
Downing Street has announced that the Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani will be the next Bishop of Chelmsford.

Bishop Guli is currently Bishop of Loughborough in the Diocese of Leicester, a post she has held since late 2017.

Speaking about her appointment, Bishop Guli said:

"It is a great privilege to be appointed as the next Bishop of Chelmsford. I know there are many challenges ahead both in the church and wider society, not least as a result of the pandemic.

However, I am hopeful about the future. As Christian communities, I believe our task is to be faithful; to share the good news of Jesus Christ and to continue serving the world; to work well together and in partnership with others. In doing this, we'll discover the extent of God's love."



A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GULI

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to thank you for your warm welcome following my announcement as the next Bishop of Chelmsford this morning.

Despite the fact I have not been able to visit the diocese in person, I have had a wonderful day, meeting with and starting to get to know people on Zoom.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting teachers and children at St Mary's Prittlewell and watching the children's musical performance. I have also had a chance to start to learn about your ministry in my meetings with curates and lay ministers in training and with those who are involved in the diocese's refugee ministry.

I am very much looking forward to the New Year and a time when I can visit Essex and East London to continue meeting people face to face and getting to know you.

In the meantime, I want to assure you of my prayers and wish you and your loved ones a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours in Christ

+ Guli

Bishop Guli



BISHOP PETER'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE 2021



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



2020 has been a truly tough year for everyone and as 2021 dawns it seems unrelenting. The brutal coronavirus remains, and even though vaccines are gradually becoming available, many have lost jobs, schools are still disrupted, the economy is uncertain, desperate refugees still arrive and we don't know how our new relationships with Europe and the USA will pan out. Many are anxious and our quality of life is deeply challenged. As the journey of 2021 begins how will we handle it?

All of life is a pilgrimage, a journey through time with God and others. As human beings we are bound by chronological time: past, present, and future. But a Christian is called to view time from the perspective of eternity. Christian eternity is essentially about quality of life rather than quantity. That is what defines our pilgrimage.

In English we have one word for time, but the original Greek of the New Testament uses two very different words. First of all "*chronos*", where we get the word chronological, meaning measured time, a period of time, say for a journey. The other Biblical word is "*kairos*". Here the meaning is about the content and quality of time rather than its length: what's going on within the time, eg a time of harvest, a time of temptation.... Even more importantly it's about opportunity and fulfilment, '*the Kingdom of God is at hand!*'. What we do for God and others in the time he gives us. How do we use it? What do we put into it? This is the idea of time that is crucial in Christian thinking and discipleship.

As we journey into a new year it is this more Christian view of time I would encourage us all to reflect on. What are we going to put into each day in our pilgrimage through 2021? How are we going to use the time for others?



God is concerned about the quality of our lives rather than their length. That is hard for us to accept, but I believe this is real time as God created it. From the eternal perspective it is relationships, love, and friendship that last, that count most and can change us for the better. *Kairos* is a life word whereas *chronos*, by definition, is a death word. In Ecclesiastes 3 the Bible tells us “*there is a time for everything, a season for every activity under heaven*”. There **is** a time for everything God wants us to do in our lives. Some of those things are positive: birth, planting, healing, laughing; while some are negative: uprooting, weeping, death Both can lead us to God if we throw ourselves wholeheartedly into life’s experience. A verse I came across a few years ago seems to sum it up.

*Time is too slow for those who wait,
too swift for those who fear,
too long for those who grieve,
too short for those who rejoice,
but for those who love.... time is eternity.*
(Henry Van Dyke)

The longest journey is the journey inward. Have a good journey in 2021.

+ Peter Barking

The Bishop of Barking and Acting Bishop of Chelmsford, Rt Rev Peter Hill

News from Singapore

I have just had correspondence with Derek Truman in Singapore who tells me that they are all well there.

Daughter Emma is now back in Singapore, working for the Government as a researcher into the effect of Xrays on malarial mosquitoes re disease cures, after receiving an MSc (Merit) in Parasitology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

In June Joelle is due to finish her MA Theology which she is studying in Singapore. She is heavily involved in church work, coordinating family links for their online worship. Derek said, “Both Paul and Stephen will be happy to know that Joelle is “heading” for the church”.

Derek also sends us all, “Best wishes for a better New Year”.

Ed.



At Maldon & District Citizens Advice, we can help you find a way forward, by giving free, confidential advice in all subject areas.

Consumer

A lot of us have suffered from 'buyer's remorse' but is there anything we can do about it? Unless a shop has its own returns policy, you don't have a right to return an item you bought in a shop just because you have changed your mind but if you bought something on-line, with just a few exceptions, you have an automatic 14-day 'cooling-off period'. The cooling-off period starts the day after you receive your order, and there doesn't need to be anything wrong with the item for you to get a refund. Examples of exceptions to this rule include items that are made to measure or bespoke, or items that you bought from a private individual rather than a business. There is more information about your consumer rights on our website, including what to do when you are refused a refund and template letters for making a complaint.

Case Study:

I bought my mum a Christmas present from an online store. I paid extra for next day delivery but it hasn't arrived. I tried to contact the delivery company but wasn't able to speak with anyone. The online store has said my parcel is with the delivery company and should arrive soon. If it doesn't arrive soon, I won't be able to send it to Spain in time for Christmas. What can I do?

You paid for next day delivery so your goods should be delivered on the agreed date.

Because you bought something from a business to be delivered to you, it's



the seller's responsibility to make sure the item is delivered.

As the seller used a courier, they should chase the courier to find out what's happened to your order - it's not your responsibility.

If you want the item:

Under the Consumer Rights Act, you can ask the seller to deliver the item again if the item wasn't delivered by the agreed date.

Other steps to take if you want the item could be:

- Cancel your original order and reorder it again from the same or a new online store
- Check if a local store stocks the item(s)
- Keep trying to contact the delivery company via tracking tools/ phone/email

If you want to cancel your order:

You can cancel and ask for your money back because you haven't received your goods on the agreed date. Tell the seller that what has happened to your order is "a breach of contract under the Consumer Rights Act 2015" - as the delivery date was essential and they didn't meet it.

Our website has a great deal of relevant information including:

Home Improvements:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/getting-home-improvements-done/problem-with-home-improvements/>

Solve an Ongoing Problem:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/Solve-an-ongoing-consumer-problem/>

Please contact us for advice on any subject by:

ringing 01621 875774 – leave a message and an adviser will return your call that day or

emailing bureau@maldoncab.cabnet.org.uk

Sally Babbage



RICHARD'S SLEEPOUT REPORT 2020

My Sleepout for CHES Homeless began on a dry but chilly Friday evening at 10pm and ended just after 7am on Saturday morning 28th November. I heard the milkman come at just after 11pm (he's early, not late). It's a quiet neighbourhood, so even this seemed raucous in suburban Heybridge. You can hear the bongs of the Moot Hall clock in Maldon High Street from our home in the dead of night, so I could tell the time by that. I definitely heard 2am, 3am and then 7am. There were a few cats clambering up on fences, but no sign of Reynard the Fox or Mrs Tiggywinkle on the night, or maybe I was just dozing when they visited me. I did hear an owl calling though. After a dry start to the night (for about 20 minutes) very fine rain meant I had to zip right up to keep my sleeping bag dry. There was a fullish moon meaning it wasn't that dark, then the cloud cleared to reveal the stars, and then it clouded over again and warmed up slightly.

It was certainly not a comfortable night and I struggled to breathe easily on my side, finding being on my back easier and better for my chances of drifting off to sleep. I managed not to roll off the bench. Being off the ground did reduce the impact of rising damp, and I wasn't as cold as I could have been; but then again I have learned about layering over the years, and not to underestimate how core temperatures drop through the night with inaction, and I had "Hot Hands" chemical hand warmers in my gloves all night, which I found to be a big help this year (at my age!). I was fully clothed in my sleeping bag and bivvy bag of course, including scarf, and hat from time to time. Lots of layers.

Adrienne got up at 7am to let the chickens out (not out of our house, but out of their house) and to bring me a lovely cup of tea. It tasted so good, as you can imagine. As always it felt so satisfying to have completed the night, with just one short comfort break, and the real bonus is the amount of money raised.

Thanks to the enormous generosity of church family, friends, colleagues at work and some anonymous donors, I've raised a record breaking £1300. I have been absolutely overwhelmed at people's kindness in supporting the work of CHES Homeless – it's so important every year, but this year more than ever. Thank You, *Richard*

A bleary-eyed Richard just after 7am on Saturday morning. No makeup, and looking pretty rough (but happy inside)!



"Thank goodness that's over"



Deputy Warden's Waffle

How sad it is this year that there is nothing going on in All Saints to share with you! What little we were hoping might happen is now cancelled. But nothing can cancel Christmas actually taking place! The day that has been chosen to celebrate Christ's birth will still arrive and we will still mark it, virtually through electronics and in our hearts! We have shared His birthday cards and looked forward to the feast from the bounty He has provided. We pray that the knowledge and understanding that we have been blessed with through science and medicine will continue to allow us to overcome this pandemic to return to what we called normality

Our church has been festively decorated and the Word has been shared with all who care to share our virtual services and we thank those with the skills to make this possible. We also thank those who have made possible those services which we have been able to attend in the past weeks before the current lockdown.

Then in the New Year, on the 6th January, we will welcome Rev'd. Asa Humphries to lead us into the future of our ancient church, sharing with other parishes the way forward. What a way to celebrate Epiphany! Added to that, we welcome a new bishop into our diocese with a whole new perspective on leadership. So the future is exciting with positives as we go into 2021.

On a personal note, many of you know, that after 50 years in Mundon, in June we moved to Tolleshunt D'Arcy and as for many, Christmas was quite different this year. Instead of enjoying a large family gathering we spent Christmas on our own although our son Richard and his dog Cassie did join us for lunch (a duck this year just for a change).

Hopefully next year will be back to normal and we can enjoy our church services and the company of family and friends.

May I wish everyone reading this magazine good health and happiness in the new year; and to those who are facing surgery and uncertainty may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be specially with you .

Vivien, Deputy warden




**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**



We must become a ‘simpler, humbler, bolder Church’

The momentous events of 2020 will have a “profound effect” on the future of the Church of England and our wider society, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have said.

In a recent joint address to the General Synod, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell said the Church of England must adapt and put its trust in God to become a “simpler, humbler, bolder Church.”

The archbishops’ comments came as they addressed the first online sitting of the General Synod following a legal change to enable it to meet remotely amid the coronavirus restrictions.

They outlined how the coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout are providing the backdrop to huge social changes - here and around the world.

They also singled out how the Black Lives Matter movement and the publication of the IICSA report on abuse had exposed the Church’s own failings and the need to change.

Archbishop Justin told Synod: “2020 will be a year that registers in memory and in history. It can be compared with 1929, with 1914, with 1989.

“We are aware that this is a year in which huge changes are happening in our society and consequently in the Church.

“For let us be clear, there is no possibility of changes in society failing to have a profound effect on the shape, calling and experience of mission in the Church.”

Outlining the dramatic events of 2020, he added: “These crises are not signs of the absence of God but calls to recognise the presence of the kingdom and to act in faith and courage, simplifying our life focusing on Jesus Christ, looking outwards to the needy and renewing in our cells our call to wash feet, to serve our society and to be the Church *for* England.”

Archbishop Stephen went on to outline the work of groups set up to discern how the Church of England might respond and change in light of the recent challenges.

He told Synod: “If we put our trust in God, and if we learn to love one another, then I believe we can become a simpler, humbler, bolder Church, better able to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Taken from the Parish Pump website



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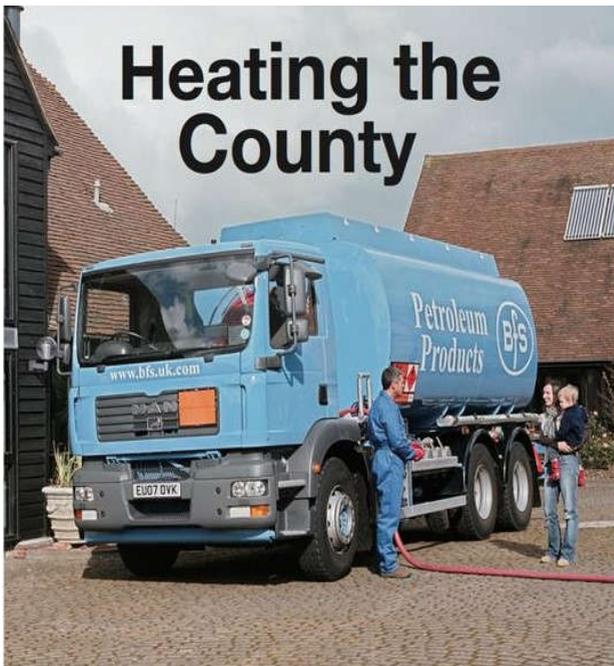
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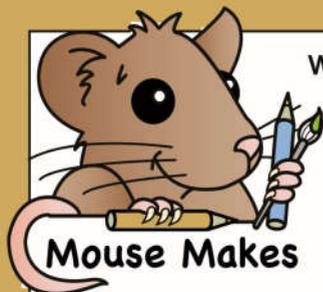
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agsmithfunerals.co.uk



What happened after Jesus had been born in Bethlehem?

READ Matthew 2:1-12

Who came from the East?

Why had they come?

What were they following?

Who was alarmed by their arrival?

Who had the prophet written about?

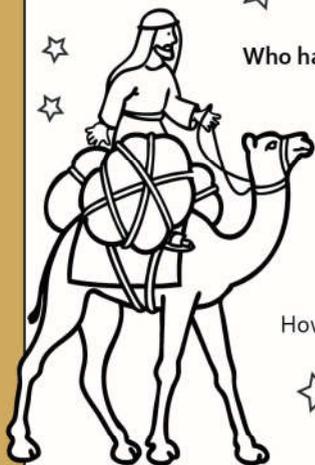
Where were they then sent?

What were they to look for?
..... and why?

Where did the star lead them?

Who did they see? What did they do?

How were they warned to go home another way?



READ Matthew 2:13-23

Who appeared to Joseph?

What was he told? Why? What did he do?

Who then became angry?.... and why? What horrible thing did he then do?

When Herod died where was Joseph told to take his family?

Where did Jesus finally grow up?





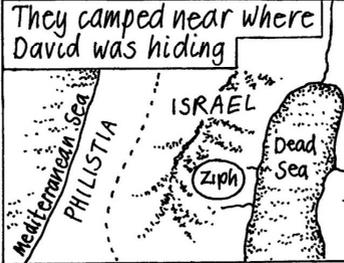
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel chapter 26 - 27:1

When King Saul wasn't fighting the Philistines to stop them invading Israel he was still trying to hunt down David.

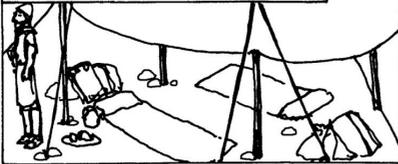
People came to tell King Saul where David and his men were hiding. Saul took 3000 of his best soldiers and went to look for David...



When David heard that Saul was near, he crept up to the camp.



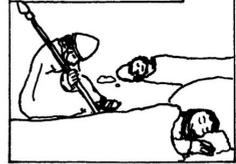
He saw that Saul and his army commander Abner were sleeping in the middle of the camp.



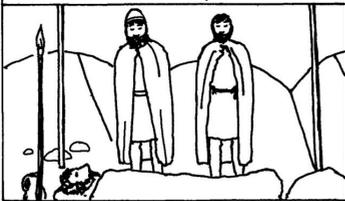
Who will come with me into the camp?



That night God made all the camp sleep soundly.



David and Abishai reached the centre and found Saul



This chance is from God! I'll kill him!



They took Saul's spear and water jar and crept out of the camp.



When they had got far enough away, David shouted



King Saul heard David and shouted back



But David knew that Saul would try again to kill him, so he left Israel and went to Philistia.



World Leprosy Day 30th January

It is not just Covid-19 that makes other people want to avoid us. Up to three million people worldwide are living with leprosy, a disease that can separate sufferers from their loved ones for years.

Someone is newly diagnosed with leprosy every two minutes, and millions of people suffer crippling deformities.

Leprosy Mission was founded to help defeat this terrible disease, and to transform the lives of its victims. Nowadays this established Christian charity is a global network active in 34 countries across the world. 15 countries have a high burden of leprosy; Leprosy Mission works in 11 of them.

Leprosy Mission works closely with governments, local communities, partner health organisations, the World Health Organisation, local NGOs, local churches, and Christian partners.

Stamps

It is hard to believe that something as seemingly insignificant as a used stamp can help to transform the life of someone affected by leprosy. But the fact is, it can! Every stamp has a value to a collector somewhere in the world.

In 2019, £43,683 was raised to help The Leprosy Mission from the sale of donated stamps and collectables. In fact over £1 million has been raised to help people affected by leprosy. Thank you so much for taking the time to donate your stamps and collectables.

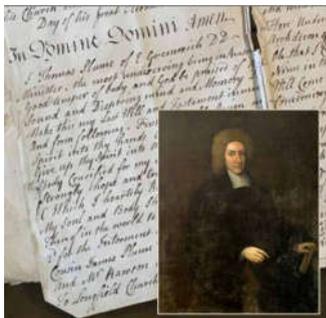
It takes seconds to rescue a used stamp from an envelope destined for the recycling bin. But, by doing so, healthcare and opportunities can be given to those who need them the very most. We would be so grateful if you could collect any of the following items:

- ◆ Stamps of all descriptions both UK and Overseas,
- ◆ Postcards
- ◆ Coins and banknotes from any country
- ◆ Cigarette cards.

There has been for some years now, a box at the rear of the church to receive the above donations. These are then collected by our Deputy Churchwarden Vivien, who has been a Leprosy Mission supporter for some sixty five years, to be forwarded on to be sorted at the Peterborough office.

<https://www.leprosymission.org/get-involved>

This article by Tony Doe replaces the usual “Book Review” Tony has asked me not to call it a review because as he said, “I can’t review a book I have helped to write”



Dr Thomas Plume, 1630–1704

His life and legacies
in Essex, Kent and Cambridge

edited by R.A. Doe and C.C. Thornton

‘Dr Thomas Plume, 1630-1704 His life and his legacies in Essex, Kent and Cambridge’

**Edited by R A Doe and C C Thornton
University of Hertfordshire Press.**

Dr Thomas Plume, born in Maldon in 1630, is remembered today for the many bequests he left which established important scientific, religious and cultural charities. Still operating today are the Plumian Professorship at Cambridge University, the

Plume Library at Maldon and the Plume Trust for poor clergy in the Diocese of Rochester.

This volume provides the first comprehensive account of his life, work and philanthropy. Educated at Chelmsford Grammar School and Christ’s College, Cambridge, he was vicar of Greenwich from 1658 and archdeacon of Rochester from 1679, forging strong links with Kent and holding both posts until his death in 1704. He died a wealthy man and his will contained 79 bequests.

Plume’s famous library at Maldon still houses some 8,000 books and pamphlets as well as his pictures and manuscripts which reveal his intellectual roots in the religious, philosophical and political debates of the latter half of the seventeenth century.

Having lived through significant political, religious and intellectual tumult and debate, Plume’s life and bequests provide valuable insights unto the concerns of an Anglican clergyman during a period of rapid change. His enduring legacies have continued to support the church, the poor and education for over three centuries.

The book is published by the University of Hertfordshire Press and is available for £18.99 plus p.& p. £2.75 from Gill Cook, UH Press, College Lane, Hatfield, AL10 9AB or online at

<http://www.UHPress.co.uk>

Tony Doe

#LIVE LENT



God's Story Our Story

The Church of England's Lent resources theme for 2021, building on the success of recent years, is entitled #LiveLent: God's Story, Our Story.

It is based on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2021, *Living His Story* by Hannah Steele.

Both the book and the accompanying daily reflections encourage all Christians to think about their calling, how to share their faith and reflect on the difference Christ makes in our lives.

We witness to God's story and the impact this has made to our story so that others might also find their story taking on new meaning in the light of God's love. While the current restrictions on daily life necessitated by the pandemic present significant challenges, the suffering and isolation many continue to face make the need for us to share God's love with our communities greater than ever. Rather than just being a Lenten discipline, this year's #LiveLent is a joyful invitation to make witness a normal part of the Christian life, the natural overflow of a life lived in devotion to Christ.

2021 #LiveLent is a joyful invitation to make witness a normal part of the Christian life, the natural overflow of a life lived in devotion to Christ.

From Ash Wednesday (17 February) to Easter Sunday (4 April), there will be six reflections for each week. The daily reflections will be made available through a booklet that will be available to buy from our Bookshop and Church House Publishing as well as a free app, emails, audio and through the Church of England's social media accounts.

Webinars will be offered early in 2021 to help churches plan how to make best use of the range of resources and content for both individuals and groups.

Chelmsford Diocese .



HOLY DAYS

6th Jan: What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!

Taken from the Parish Pump Website



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 deal with your church's correspondence

My dear Nephew Darren,

You may have had several years of intensive training on biblical interpretation, preaching and church history, but that doesn't cover the really important matters in parish life: how to evade disgruntled parishioners, run a brisk Summer Fete and, in your case at present, deal with correspondence, either by letter or email.

My regular practice, which I recommend to you as a New Year Resolution, is to read all the letters/emails you receive and then discard them. If the matter is truly important, you will receive a second message, to which you respond; more likely, the sender will either have forgotten all about his first letter/email after the second month or will write to some other cleric instead. In either case, you will be saved a great deal of trouble.

You only need two folders for your filing system, either for post or emails. The first is for complaints; they are to be filed and ignored, no matter how many duplicates you are sent. Should you be confronted personally, you simply say that the matter has been passed on to the bishop. Those truly dogged complainants who pursue the matter will eventually receive an episcopal reply saying he knows nothing of the matter, for which you then blame the postal system/spammed email. After letters and emails have ricocheted round the country for many months, the person complaining will either have lost energy to pursue the matter, or the will to live.

The second file receives all other correspondence/emails chronologically. The earliest letters and emails will be at the bottom of the pile and the most recent on the top. In my experience, the postal file only needs attention when it reaches a height of about two feet and becomes unstable. The practice then is to discard the lower six inches and allow it to continue its steady growth. If the stack is kept in the church vestry, then mice usually attend to the papers on the bottom of the pile.

Sadly, your own church, with its electronic systems for filing, sorting and



retrieving correspondence and with your parish secretaries, removes all of these blessings at a stroke. You have therefore no excuses for not dealing instantly with every note that comes your way. As ye sow, so shall ye reap. May I also remind you that not even St Paul, that unflagging letter-writer, ever ended one of his letters with a request for a prompt reply. Need I say more?

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



TEN to TEN Rambling Group

12th December 2020

Unfortunately, due to the second lockdown we were unable to go on the planned walk from Abberton Reservoir in November. This will be added to next year's programme.

We did have a lovely walk on 12th December around Woodham Walter. In a 'normal' year this would have been followed by a Christmas lunch at The Bell. They were back to offering meals but we opted to sit on the table outside and were served the most delicious bowl of minestrone soup and bread which we thoroughly enjoyed. We walked about five miles extending the route down to The Cats PH and then back through 'The Wilderness', a lovely woodland path that runs parallel to the village, ending at the junction and our lunch stop.

The next walk, subject to confirmation, will be on Saturday 9th January 2021. We will meet at the playing fields in Purleigh for a morning walk, again approximately 5 miles.

For further information about the walk please ring Sue (01621 854056)
Sue Smith

N.B.

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2021

MAGAZINE 24th JANUARY



Forest Custodians



Brazil holds 60% of the Amazon rainforest, yet forest communities who have a critical role in forest preservation are at risk. This two-year project seeks to directly address this issue by protecting over 35,000 square miles of tropical rainforest in northern Brazil, and its 28,000 residents, from deforestation and land grabbing as a result of corporate exploitation. We recognise that investors in the global north are responsible for land grabbing in the global south.

The project will bring together otherwise disparate Amazonian communities, equipping them to monitor their lands from illegal mining, logging and large infrastructure activities and enable them to secure land-rights for their territories. We must protect local communities in the Amazon region in order to prevent deforestation and climate change.

Our vision is to see an Amazon region where communities are the driving force behind sustainable development, challenging unjust systems to strive for social, climate and economic justice.

Our approach includes:

- Working with Quilombola associations and leaders to develop community-based strategies for protecting land
- Monitoring of external threats and pressures against



Quilombola lands

- Supporting Quilombola communities to lobby against mining and large infrastructure projects
- Monitoring the process of Quilombola and indigenous land titles
- Supporting Quilombolas, indigenous and riverine people to work together on joint actions for territorial monitoring
- Bringing together Quilombolas, indigenous people and riverine people with government, public prosecutors and companies

By the end of the project

- Quilombolas in 14 territories (comprising 55 communities) will have access to comprehensive data and evidence regarding their own territories, strengthening their ability to lead processes to protect the forest.
- 5 communities will have developed their own protocols for consultation as a concrete protection measure against public and private investment trying to install in their lands
- Local Quilombola, indigenous and riverine associations will present joint demands on behalf of their communities to public authorities and private actors, increasing their chances for successfully protecting their lands
- 40 Quilombola, indigenous and riverine leaders will expand their ability to network and dialogue with key actors.

Location

Northern state of Pará, Brazil

Timescale

November 2019 to November 2021

Programme value

£526,073

Implementing partner

[São Paulo Pro-Indian Commission \(CPI-SP\)](#)

Taken from the Christian Aid 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



Wedding

19th December **Ian Harrison and Rachel Morcombe** of Narvik Close



Prayer Diary

Prayer Diary - January 2021

- 1 Naming and Circumcision of Christ Pray for God's blessing on the New Year
- 2 Our Area Bishops
- 3 2nd Sunday of Christmas (The Church will celebrate Epiphany)
Pray that Christ will be shown to all people of the world
- 4 Our Honorary Assistant Bishops
- 5 Our Servers
- 6 Epiphany Rev. Asa Humphreys
- 7 St Andrew's Church, Heybridge
- 8 St Giles Church, Langford
- 9 St George's Church, Heybridge Basin
- 10 1st Sunday of Epiphany Baptism of Christ
All Lay Preachers and RE Teachers
- 11 Saint Lucy's Multi-Sensory Church
- 12 Our Tower Bell Ringers and Sidespeople
- 13 Our Eucharistic Ministers
- 14 Our Uniformed Organisations
- 15 Our Churchwardens and their Deputies
- 16 All who read in Church
- 17 2nd Sunday of Epiphany All residents of our Parish
- 18 Week of Prayer for Christian
Unity until 25 January The United Reformed Church
- 19 All Free Churches
- 20 The Quakers
- 21 The Baptist Church
- 22 The Methodist Church
- 23 The Salvation Army
- 24 3rd Sunday of Epiphany Pray for Unity in the Christian Church
- 25 Conversion of Paul Churches dedicated to St Paul and the outreach of St Paul's Cathedral
- 26 St Michaels, Woodham Walter and St Margaret's Woodham Mortimer
- 27 The Parish of St Mary, Maldon
- 28 The Roman Catholic Church
- 29 All who lead our intercessions
- 30 Our Parish News Editor
- 31 Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Candlemas
Our Parochial Church Council



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
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 (From 6th January)	Rev'd Asa Humphreys
HON. ASST. PRIEST	Rev'd. Canon Dr. Graham Blyth Tel: 01621 854068
AUTHORISED LOCAL PREACHERS	Mrs Adrienne Knight Tel 01621 841329 Alan Marjoram Tel 01245 243868
CHURCHWARDENS	Dennis Johnson Tel: 01621 842410 Mrs Jenny Clinch 4A Belvedere Place Tel: 01621 840057
DEPUTY CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs Vicky Tropman Tel: 01621 857291 Mrs Vivien Clark Tel:01621 869667
HON TREASURER	Eddie Sewell Tel: 01621 851961
PCC SECRETARY	Mrs Julie Ovenden Tel: 01621 858803
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	Mrs Barbara Gale Tel 01621 928538
ORGANIST and CHOIRMASTER	Dr Stuart Pegler Tel: 01621 850530
RECORDER OF THE CHURCH	Kenneth Downham Tel: 01621 854655
PARISH NEWS EDITOR	Peter Clark Tel: 01621 869667 email: pjandvclark@gmail.com
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Mrs Elizabeth Blyth Tel 01621 854068 Email: elisabeth.blyth@gmail.com
WEB SITE MANAGER	Mike Kneller Email: bigglesworth@btinternet.com

All Saints' Maldon



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