

ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

July 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)
09:30 am Sung Parish Eucharist (except first Sunday of the month).
6:00 pm Evensong and Sermon second and fourth Sundays of the month (4:0pm during GMT)

1st Sunday in the Month

09:30am Short all age service of stories songs and prayers.
6:00 pm Evensong at St Mary's

3rd Sunday

6:00 pm Evensong at all Saints Purleigh

Last Sunday

6:00 pm Prayer and Praise Service

JUNIOR CHURCH

Sundays at 9:30am.in the D'Arcy Room in Church

WEEKDAY SERVICE

Morning Prayer

is usually said in church at 8.30am on Monday - Friday.

Evening Prayer

is usually said in church at 5.30pm on Monday - Thursday

1st Thursday 11:00am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) followed by coffee and biscuits

Cover Picture: All Saints' Church Maldon

THE PARISH LETTER

Bishop Guli, in her inaugural Diocesan Address, referenced a painting by the German artist Schmittner called 'Mary Undoer of knots'. He painted it in 1687 and you can see it below. It depicts Mary, with a host of angels, untying knots - seemingly unendingly.



Mary Undoer of Knots

The financial situation of the Diocese is increasingly well known and does not make for pretty reading. Broadly speaking, the Diocese of Chelmsford is



running a deficit budget of £3m each year and is covering the operating loss with selling assets and reducing the number of stipendiary clergy across the Diocese.

In our Deanery we currently have 4 stipendiary clergy, with permission (currently) for two more. There are 21 parishes and we are heavily reliant upon our excellent retired clergy to make ends meet. This is one of the knots that Bishop Guli identified.

I am currently teaching a pilot scheme for the Diocese to equip churchwardens and people nominated by their PCC, to lead Matins, Evensong and Services of the Word so that cover for holidays and regular worship during vacancies can be more readily achieved.

This might be one way to untie that knot, time will tell; but the scale of the shortfall in income and the increasing scale of the responsibility expected of Incumbents is moving further apart, not closer together.

So much so, that the assets which the Diocese is currently drawing upon, will be exhausted in four years time. This is another knot, identified by Bishop Guli. If income across the Diocese does not increase sufficiently within that time frame, fewer stipendiary Priests will be able to be supported and further cuts in posts will be brought forward. This might be one way of untying that knot, time will tell.

Yet, with attendances falling and congregations ageing, patterns of worship are less and less well placed to reverse this decline - which COVID has only accelerated, not caused.

Having had all three of my APCM's this year now, I know that there is a growing awareness of the fragility of the Diocesan situation. My appointment to All Saints in addition to my existing posts, is the most obvious example of that.

I have been touched by the concerns raised across all the parishes for my wellbeing and for that of my family. There is a growing recognition that we are in uncharted waters and that the role of 'parish priest' has changed beyond all recognition - even in the 6 years since I was ordained.

There are other knots, I am sure. You will have some that concern you, which I have not mentioned. They are legion, that is for sure.

And yet. And yet. God's grace remains sufficient for all our needs, as St Paul writes in his second letter to the Corinthians. We need just remember that we come to the Communion rail with empty hands, open to receive.



And what do we receive? The broken body and shed blood of Christ, who lived and died and lives again for us. And not just us, but all those who are yet to hear the Good News.

And this remains the most urgent need. It is this knot which the Established Church must address to stand any chance of untying the others. For it is in sharing our faith with others that our faith grows to be better placed to face the existential challenges our shape of ministry faces.

When we see lives around us utterly transformed by the Spirit of God, the other issues decline in importance. Our empty hands are filled with the Bread of Life and we are able to share with our friends and neighbours the Good News that despite the changes and challenges the Church is wracked by, Jesus is alive today. He keeps His promises, always and forever. He loves us and will never let us go. And no matter what will come our way, we'll face it together - in fellowship as believers.

You see, the painting is - I find - falsely pessimistic. The only knot which mattered was untied on Good Friday when the curtain tore - Jesus is the overcomer and the victory is won. Schmittner overlooks this truth and if we see the painting alone as an end in itself, we make the same mistake.

Let us not make that same mistake this month, or in the coming months. Let us cling to God afresh and share the Good News with renewed vigour and let us pray like we have never prayed before and let us wait in hope so that we might see the Glory of God in our midst with joy and soonest.

Asa

ST GILES LANGFORD: A BRIEF HISTORY

St. Giles' is a unique Grade II listed building which dominates the centre of the village at the junction of Witham Road and Maldon Road. It is difficult to accurately date the original building, but although Roman tiles and bricks were identified in the fabric of the church during work in the 1930s, most experts believe the building is of early Norman construction.

The Chancel and Nave were built in the late 11th or early 12th Century with apses both at the eastern and western ends; this was fairly common practice in village churches of the time. In the 14th or 15th Century the eastern apse was pulled down and a square extension added to the Chancel. The church was drastically restored in 1881-1882 by Edward Browning, architect of Stamford, and the work was paid for by the Hon. Mary Jane Byron, the patron of the living of Langford (and whose son, the Hon. Rev. Frederick



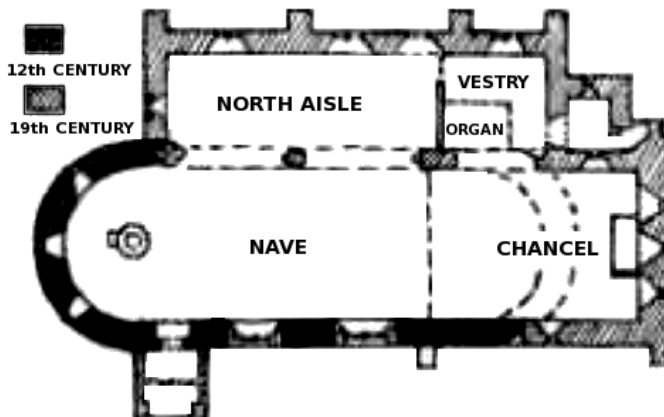
Ernest Charles Byron M.A. was Rector of the Parish from 1890-1914). Rev. Byron left to take up his seat as the 10th Lord Byron at Thrumpton Hall in Nottinghamshire in September 1914.

The renovations undertaken by Mary Jane Byron almost totally changed the character of the original church; the Chancel was entirely rebuilt and the north aisle (with the crypt beneath), the south porch, and the north-east bell turret were added. Norman-style windows were built into the north and south walls of the chancel, and a vestry was added.

However, the renovations did not detract from the beauty or peace of the church, and it is a place steeped in history. A more detailed and illustrated book on the history of the church is currently being written and will, when completed, be sold in aid of St. Giles' Church. Copies will be made available as soon as possible, and Friends of St. Giles' Church will be given the first option to buy this work.

A list of the standard services appears on the notice board in the church porch, along with details of church officials. Other services and special events, both in St. Giles' and in the two other churches in our United Benefice are posted on the church door.

St. Giles' is a beautiful church which has served its community for over 900 years and is still offering villagers a place for worship, baptism, marriage and burial as well as being a centre for choral and other musical events.



St Giles - Floorplan

Asa



Deputy Warden's Waffle

It can't be possible that a whole year has passed since we moved to our new home, and we are still not released from all the restrictions imposed to help protect us from covid. However - we are able to hold our Sunday service at 9.30 and have a limited choir input where we take turns to sing some favourite hymns and anthems for the congregation -we can only have 6 of us at any one service, but it's a start! It was Peter's and my turn on the 20th. Very sadly we learned later that our treasured past choir soprano Helen Robinson who has suffered from cancer for a number of years passed away that morning. She had reluctantly had to give up singing, not enough breath, two or three years ago. We still miss her lovely voice.

Still on a sad note I understand that Lily Bond, a regular 10 o'clocker and member of the Thursday Ladies Group, who died on the 10th of January this year, will be remembered at a Thanksgiving and Memorial Service to be held on 16th July as we were unable to attend her funeral at the time due to lockdown .

We have been able to get a good number of Open the Book stories into our local schools, since some restrictions have been lifted, and thanks to Mike Kneller's filming skills and the use of Fullbridge church facilities. We are hoping that we will be able to get back in the schools in person in September when we will have completed eight years of storytelling. So if there are any unfulfilled thespians out there, now is your chance as we have lost a number of story tellers due to folk moving away over this year. Please contact me if you would like further information about joining us.

I hope that those who are hoping to get away for a break this summer will be able to do so. We are going to Northumberland for a few days, and will visit Holy Island, Hadrian's Wall and Alnwick Castle, all being well so far, at the end of June. It is only for four days and we will be back home by the time this edition of the magazine is published.

Take care and look after each other.

Vivien, deputy warden

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes when he had the chance?



Diocesan Synod 5 June 2021

Presidential Address by

The Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani

It's now nearly 7 weeks since I Chelmsford. As you know, I'm waiting for my children to before we move – as a family – we're very much looking how grateful we are for the received so far. It's still early days and I'm in listening and learning mode. I'm wanting to understand the culture of the diocese and hear about your experiences and I'm in the process of a whole series of meetings to help me do that.



started in post as Bishop of still living in Loughborough, complete their school year, to Bishops court. It's a move forward to and I want to say warmth of the welcome we've

But as I've started listening I've also realised there are some decisions that'll need to be made sooner rather than later. I don't have the luxury of simply pressing pause for several months while I take stock. So I'm trying to hold in tension my desire to listen deeply and carefully with the recognition that we can't avoid making decisions.

There are many wonderful things going on and I consider it a privilege to have come alongside you in ministry. As we look ahead, my approach is to build on the past rather than regret it or be critical of it. To my amazement God has called me to serve as your diocesan bishop. Together we are entering a new phase, building on that which has brought us to this point in all its complexity – good and bad, joyful and painful. Now it's our task to keep our eyes on God, be faithful to our present calling and follow where the Holy Spirit leads.

I'm mindful that as a diocese we're in a considerable period of change and transition and we need to give time for relationships to be forged and trust to develop. For now, let me give you a sense of what I'm noticing and some of the areas I think we might benefit from attending to. I'm doing a lot of wondering at the moment and when I say "I wonder" I'm not making a statement but asking an open question. I'm a great fan of asking questions and I often think of the quote by the American author Margaret Wheatley who said, "we move in the direction of the questions we ask". I've found this to be a helpful motto. So, here are some of my wonderings:

I wonder if there's work to do on how we understand better our diocesan identity. We have a strong Area Scheme and it works well in many ways and I want to preserve that. There are lots of good things going on in different parts of the diocese – I want to treasure and encourage those. But across this large and diverse diocese – what is it that connects us all and how do we demonstrate that in our shared life together. This is complex and the answer will be multi-layered and far from simple. But I want to share with you that I sense the gap between the so called centre and the grass roots is larger than it could be and I sense too that there are various other fault lines across which we might be building walls rather than creating bonds of understanding. And I have a conviction that if that continues it'll be to the detriment of all of us. We are in this together – we serve one Lord, we have a shared mission and we are part of one diocesan family. I hope we can work on preserving and strengthening our relationships – creating a culture in which all parts of the body belong and are valued.



We may feel like a diocese under threat from sources beyond our control – we may be under resourced, we may have financial challenges, there may be all kinds of uncertainties as we emerge from the pandemic but in my experience: external threats to the church are never the real danger. Consider the church when it is persecuted and how its life often continues against all odds even in the most difficult of circumstances. Threats beyond our control can be disheartening and require courage, strength and perseverance but the real danger comes from internal disunity. If we become disunited, with forces pulling in different directions; if there's a lack of commitment to one another, each thinking only of our own needs and priorities, then we're in real danger. Instead, if we're able to consider the bigger picture, then we have a much better chance of travelling well and being fruitful in our mission to serve God, the church and our communities. I hope and pray we can find a way of demonstrating our unity despite our very many differences and disparate responsibilities. Something you'll hear from me often is a desire that we would think and speak well of one another, across whatever our divides may be. That we would assume the best of each other and recognise that every one of us has a part to play and a contribution to make. How we are with one another affects the culture of our diocese and it's the starting place for how we are towards those whom we seek to serve. We cannot love the world if we don't first love one another.

Let me say too that I am noticing high levels of tiredness and of anxiety and I'm wondering how best we might address these in our shared life together. There are no quick fixes and I don't have a magic wand but my brothers and sisters, we were never promised a comfortable or easy ride by the one whose faithfulness took him to the cross. I'd like us to explore further how we might address the area of wellbeing and it's something I'll continue reflecting on. I hope we can develop a culture in which we care well for one another whilst also each taking responsibility for our own wellbeing. And above all, I long for us to live as people of hope, free from fear. Our responsibility isn't to be anxious about the future but to live faithfully in the present.

Let me now name, explicitly, our financial challenges, about which there'll be more during the remainder of this morning's synod. The simple fact is that we are running an annual deficit of over 3 million pounds and we don't have the kind of historic assets that'll help us plug the gap for much longer – we have no option but to find a way of living within our means. Over recent months there's been an effort to rationalise our resources and look realistically at how many stipendiary clergy posts we can afford. A method of RAG coding was introduced in a situation where there were no easy options or straightforward solutions. I know the process has been difficult and I want to recognise that some have found it painful. Nonetheless something had to be done and the process forced us to face reality, providing us with useful data and has helped bring us to where we are today. Arguably, it was a tough tool which has allowed discussions and enabled us to see a fuller picture.

Now as we move forward, I want to draw a line in the sand and begin to leave behind the language of traffic lights and RAG coding and discern new ways of planning our ministerial deployment. Over the coming weeks and months I'll be holding conversations and listening to people to discover what the next stage of the journey will look like. I understand that in some places work on developing the RAG outcomes into local deanery plans has already started and I want us to continue considering how we can give greater agency to local churches and deaneries to work with their Area Deans and Archdeacons towards reimagining patterns of ministry



and ministerial roles. Make no mistake – this is not a reversal of the need to cut posts and we must follow through on closing those posts already identified. There are still very difficult decisions ahead and there is a need for urgency - if those decisions cannot be taken locally, or if there's a refusal to engage, then we'll have to find another approach. It gives me no joy to say that I can't offer you an easy way out but I do want to give you an opportunity to become involved in the decisions.

The reasons behind our annual deficit are multifarious and you know them better than me. Essentially, it's the result of a combination of factors including underpayment of parish share and a change in the way dioceses are funded nationally which forced us to shift from a reliance on subsidy towards greater sustainability; all of which has been exacerbated by the pandemic. National funding we can do nothing about. But giving is in our power to change. I'm immensely grateful for the faithful generosity of so many who've made possible the mission of our diocese over the years. But our situation is now severe and so I urge us to press on further and share that call to generosity with all in our worshipping communities. It's in living out our call to be generous disciples that we'll see transformation in our financial situation. Our giving is our act of worship to a generous God and it enables us to serve our communities.

This is a theme we'll return to I'm sure but for now let me say that if giving increases sufficiently over the coming year, we'll be able to make fewer cuts. But – and this is really tough – if giving reduces from what the budget has planned for, then we'll have no choice but to make further cuts. Please don't hear this as a threat. Rather, I'm wanting to be absolutely honest with you about the gravity of our position and I'm working with our new CEO and Diocesan Secretary to find ways of communicating better with parishes and others so that understanding around this area can improve.

Friends, we live in a world that is crying out for healing, love, compassion, hope and reconciliation. It is our duty to be salt and light in our communities, demonstrating God's love in word and action, in season and out of season, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and serving those who are most in need. I wonder, and here's another of my wonderings – I wonder if it's time for us, as a diocese, to “come to”. You'll recall in the parable of the prodigal son that the turning point for the younger son - who'd left his home, spent his inheritance and found himself feeding pigs - the turning point came when he was at his lowest ebb and is described in Luke Ch 15 v 17 as the young man coming to himself, or, in some translations, coming to his senses. This was the moment his eyes were opened. He saw that the person he'd become wasn't the person he really was and so he “came to himself” - he came back to his true self and returned to his father. I hope and pray that we too, collectively, can come to ourselves – that we can see ourselves as God sees us: beloved and precious, and in so seeing we can notice God's image in one another too.

And finally, I've recently come across by the 18th century German artist Schmidtner. The painting is called Mary the Undoer of Knots and though I don't care much for the image itself I'm rather captivated by the title. I'm encouraged by the idea of Mary, the one who knew the most extremes of joy and pain, encountering each knot within herself and her circumstances, patiently working to loosen the stranglehold and trusting in God's timing. I hope we can be patient, with one another as we journey onwards in faith. Please pray for me as I will pray for you.

+Guli Chelmsford



NO-ONE IS SAFE UNTIL EVERYONE IS SAFE

WHY WE NEED A GLOBAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19

On the opening day of the World Health Assembly, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have said that global leaders must choose between “vaccine nationalism or human solidarity”.

In a joint Declaration today co-signed by international faith, health and humanitarian leaders, Archbishop Justin Welby and ICRC president Peter Maurer said that equitable distribution of Covid-19 vaccines is a humanitarian imperative. The statement is co-signed by Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders, as well as the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies (IFRC); the WHO Director-General; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Executive Director of UNICEF.

The Declaration, which calls for decisive leadership from countries and organizations across the world, states: “There is a choice. The world of the next 10 years can be one of greater justice, abundance and dignity. Or it can be one of conflict, insecurity and poverty. We are at a turning point.”

The catastrophic impacts of the pandemic, combined with existing issues of conflict, disaster and famine, mean that the world is facing the challenge of reversing “devastating dynamics”, the leaders say.

“People not only need vaccinations – they need access to healthcare workers who are skilled and equipped to deliver adequate medical support. We need to build a world where each community, regardless of where they live, or who they are, has urgent access to vaccinations: not just for COVID-19, but also for the many other diseases that continue to harm and kill. As the pandemic has shown us, in our interdependent world no one is safe until everyone is safe.”

The Declaration calls on world leaders to:

- **Ensure equitable vaccine access** both within and between countries by providing vaccines and funding as well as sharing knowledge and expertise.
- **Leave no one behind**, including stigmatised and marginalised communities for whom access to healthcare is already a challenge.

Focus on the broader health picture for vulnerable populations – so that people aren’t protected from Covid only to die from Polio.

Taken from the Archbishop of Canterbury website.



Man's Best Friend

In the Parish letter last month, the Reverend Asa based his writing around some of his experiences with dogs and I was in turn interested/amused/inspired by the article. Like Asa we have a golden retriever which is an integral and much loved member of our family and Joan and I have had dogs in our life ever since we married a long time ago and we have so far had four Border Collies, one Irish Red Setter and one Golden Retriever. The first Collie (a mongrel really) was thrust into the arms of Joan whilst we were walking through Romford market when we had only been married about four weeks. The stallholder said it was a thoroughbred animal of ten weeks of age just looking for a good home and was only £3. Joan could not hand it back and we became the proud owners of a dog that had been poorly looked after and had several illnesses already. We did nurse the little bundle back to good health and the dog became one of the most loyal and tough dogs imaginable. Our other Collies were from regular breeders and all gave us many years of friendship and loyalty. The Red Setter was a rescue dog and a beautiful animal to look at. Sadly, he did not live very long.



Three Legged Spice still loving life.

Our friend Molly has a little dog, a Jack Russell named 'Ernie' who is her constant companion and friend who embellishes her life and helps to keep her active. Molly gives Ernie pride of place in her lounge and ensures that



he is included as part of the family. I am told that he sleeps in Moll's bedroom and that some nights when he wants affection he even jumps into bed with her. One of our nieces has an elderly dachshund that recently accidentally ran into the front door and dislocated several discs in its back. The resulting veterinary bill was almost eight thousand pounds and was only half covered by insurance! Vivien and Peter Clark have spent similar sums for their dog 'Spice' who had to have a leg amputated due to Cancer. Nearly three years on and Spice is still a strong ten year old and regularly walks to the local shop with Peter or Vivien. Again their insurance did not cover the illnesses fully but such is the love that exists between humans and dogs that money was not a consideration. I have other friends who have paid out large sums of money like this for their cats when the cat has suffered serious injuries. Like dogs, cats play an important part in the lives of many people and are just as much loved by their owners.

Asa amused me when he recounted how one wet and muddy dog had climbed into an immaculate car. Of course, that is what dogs do. When summoned to come into the house they just come in and have no thought for their (sometimes irate) human when walking on a freshly cleaned floor or a freshly vacuum cleaned carpet. But such is the nature of the beast and fortunately we are not all made in the same vein. Mud and dirty paws can always be cleaned up. Asa drew our attention to Psalm 145 which contains the words 'The Lord is near to all who call on him'. Yes, I am sure that He is, and I am also sure that animals would be included in that sentiment. Before the pandemic changed our lives we always had an annual 'Pet' service in church and it was always very well attended with many people, young and old, bringing a great variety of creatures in from cats to canaries and from dogs to rabbits and many other pets in between. Naturally, each animal received a blessing.

Life in our family would not be the same without our faithful friends sharing it with us and I know many people who feel the same about cats as we do about dogs. Each in their own way confirms the old statement 'a dog is a man's best friend'. I am quite happy to substitute 'cat' for dog in that saying. Are we not happy to have them all?

Ken Downham

Obvious

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem.

A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."



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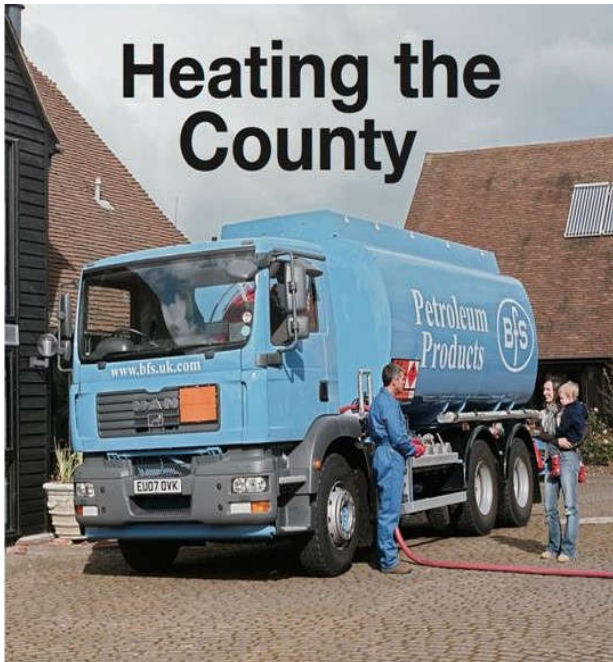
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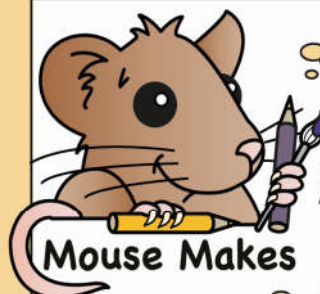
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Luke 10:25-37

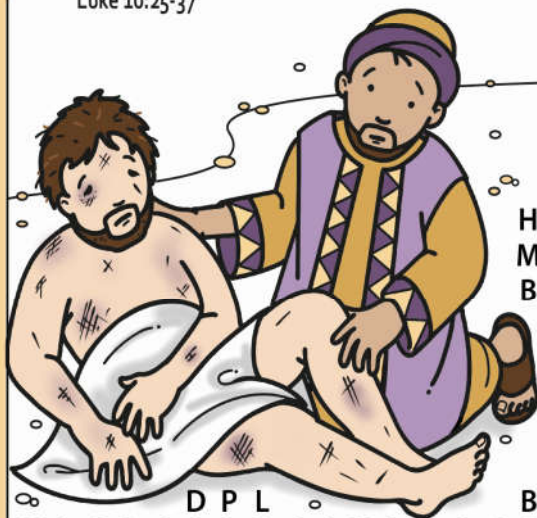
The Parable of the Good Samaritan

A man asked Jesus "Who is my neighbour?" and Jesus replied with this parable:

A man was attacked by robbers, they tore his clothes, beat him and left him almost dead. A priest saw him but walked by on the other side. A Levite saw him but walked by on the other side. A Samaritan saw him and took pity on him, he poured oil and wine on his wounds and then bandaged them. He lifted the man onto his donkey, took him to an inn and cared for him.

The next day he gave the innkeeper two denarii to look after the man until he returned.

Which of the three travellers do you think was the neighbour to the man who was attacked?



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W A S L O I L D S A M A R I T A N O O E E O A P
P R I E S T A O A M A G O O D C N I N N T U L A
G O D O I G C W W I N E A T A K W J O U R N E Y
E N T D E N A R I I D T W O P O U R E D M

JESUS • PARABLE • JERUSALEM • JERICO • JOURNEY • MAN • ROBBERS • SAW
CLOTHES • DOWN • ROAD • PRIEST • PASSED • PLACE • SIDE • LEVITE • CARE
GOOD • SAMARITAN • COMPASSION • BOUND • WOUNDS • POURED • OIL
WINE • MERCY • INN • TWO • DENARII • REPAY • BACK • NEIGHBOUR • GO DO



The Doctor and the Sick



THE PEOPLE JESUS CHOSE TO BE HIS CLOSE FOLLOWERS WERE OFTEN QUITE UNUSUAL.



ONCE JESUS STOPPED BY A TAX-COLLECTOR'S OFFICE AND SPOKE TO A MAN CALLED 'LEVI'.



LEVI'S LIFE WAS CHANGED BY MEETING JESUS.



LEVI WANTED ALL HIS FRIENDS TO MEET JESUS TOO, SO HE CALLED A BIG PARTY FOR HIS TAX COLLECTOR FRIENDS



IN JESUS' DAY TAX COLLECTORS WERE VERY UNPOPULAR. THE PEOPLE THOUGHT JESUS WAS MIXING WITH A BAD BUNCH!

...BUT I AM HERE TO HELP PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY!



SURELY IT IS THE UNWELL PERSON WHO NEEDS THE DOCTOR - NOT THE WELL?!



see Luke 5:27-32



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
2 Samuel 11: 1-12: 25

Kings normally led their armies to battles but David had sent his army with his commander, Joab, to fight the Ammonites.

David was strolling on his palace roof when he saw a beautiful woman.



She is Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah.



Later, Bathsheba sent a message to King David.

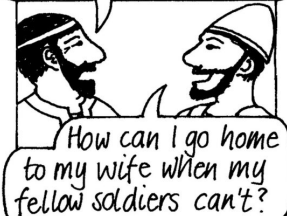
I'm pregnant!
B x

David tried to cover up what he had done. He sent a note to Joab.

Send Uriah to me now
D

When Uriah came, David sent him to his home, but he didn't go.

Why didn't you go home?



David had Uriah stay to dinner and got him drunk.



So David wrote a letter to Joab

Put Uriah at the front of the fighting where he will be killed.
D

He gave it to Uriah to give to Joab.



Bathsheba was now a widow and David married her.



But God was angry and He sent Nathan the prophet to David.



You took Uriah's wife and then you murdered him by having him killed.





Blue Badge

If you are disabled or have a health condition that affects your mobility, you can apply for a Blue Badge. If you have a Blue Badge you can park in places other drivers cannot.

The Blue Badge is linked to you rather than a vehicle, so you can use it with any car. This includes taxis and hire cars that you are driving or travelling in as a passenger.

Your Blue Badge usually lets you park for free: on streets with parking meters or pay-and-display machines for as long as you need to; in disabled parking bays on streets for as long as you need to, unless a sign says there is a time limit; on single or double yellow lines for up to 3 hours unless there is a 'no loading' sign

Having a Blue Badge does not let you park anywhere - you must still follow the usual parking regulations. For example, you can still get a fine if you park somewhere that endangers people, like outside a school or near a junction.

You can also apply for a badge if you care for a child with a health condition that affects their mobility. Councils can charge for a blue badge although the most you can be charged is £10. It could take a long time for your application to be processed. You should contact your council if you have not heard back within 6-8 weeks.

You might be asked to do a mobility assessment. A health professional will look at your ability to carry out a range of mobility activities. They will tell your council whether they think your health condition or disability limits your ability to move around enough for you to need a badge.

If you are refused a Blue Badge, you can ask your council to reconsider their decision. The decision letter from the council will tell you how to ask for a review and what the time limit is.

Case Study

My mum has a non-visible disability, which causes her walking difficulties. I heard something on the news about how she may now be eligible for a blue badge. How can I find out about this and help her

**apply?**

In August 2019, the Blue Badge scheme was extended to people who live in England and have non-visible disabilities or conditions which affect their ability to walk. As a result, your mother may now qualify for a badge.

Your mother will be automatically eligible if she gets certain types of benefits. These include some categories of Personal Independence Payment and the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance.

If she is not automatically eligible, she can still apply for a badge. Her local authority will use evidence from doctors and other healthcare professionals to determine whether she qualifies or not.

Your mother can check her eligibility and apply for a local authority-issued Blue Badge at www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge. If she is unable to do this herself, you can apply on her behalf.

You will need a recent digital passport-style photo, proof of her identity, address, details of any benefits she receives, her National Insurance number, and evidence of how her non-visible disability or condition affects her mobility.

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

Parish News from far and wide

For a number of years now Jean and I have had the pleasure of posting the Parish News onto those who have moved away from the Parish together with our furthest recipient Anne Ledbery of Alabama USA. Anne and her husband John were regular visitors to All Saints when they made their frequent summer trips to Maldon. Sadly, John passed away in September 2019 and his loss was felt by all who had met him. He was a very active member of All Saints Anglican church, Foley, Alabama where Anne continues to worship.

At the height of the pandemic, it was taking 4 weeks for the magazine to get to Anne but now it is back to taking 10 days. Anne is always pleased to receive the magazine which Peter puts together so well. She likes to keep up to date with what is taking place in the parish and also pass interesting articles onto friends and her church. She very kindly phones us regularly and we have very interesting chats.

It is great the news of All Saints Maldon is being spread abroad.

Jean & Ken



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 why the clergy should avoid computers

My dear Nephew Darren,

Thank you for the kind offer of your old computer, but I do not want it. I know you find it a fundamental basic of daily life, but I do not, and I intend to keep things that way.

This is despite the fact that our diocesan office now takes it for granted that all of us clergy have a computer. Indeed, the diocesan secretary and I have had several awkward phone calls upon this very subject. He can't believe that I really don't have one, and suspects that I am simply hiding my email address from him so that he cannot send me the daily diocesan briefings, weekly questionnaires, and constant notification of all sorts of meetings and training days. But I remain firm: I have survived in ministry for nearly 50 years without a computer, and I don't intend to change now. When he gets tetchy with me, I take the high moral ground and remind him that St Paul did not have a computer.

Besides, it would not end with just a computer. Next, I would be obliged to get a printer and then ink cartridges and then maybe some sort of virus would attack me. As I have no idea about any of this, I might have to allow someone into the vicarage to sort it out, and even worse, I might even have to pay them. My money can be far more usefully spent on good claret.

Being without a computer also saves me much aggravation. From what I can gather, most computer owners spend significant parts of their lives either trying to get their machine to do something that it refuses to do, or else getting help from someone in a remote part of the world who speaks a jargon only distantly related to English, who assures you that whatever you did, it would have been better if you hadn't.

So I have decided that should I ever REALLY need to use a computer for something, I will visit our local primary school and get a six year-old to do the job for me, which they do with effortless efficiency, speed and accuracy.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

A vulnerable, raw, authentic and theologically sensitive account of grief
LUCY REPPERT

WALKING THROUGH WINTER



Katherine Gantlett

Book Reviews

Walking through Winter

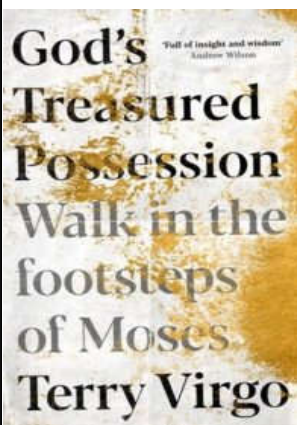
By Katherine Gantlett,

Instant Apostle, £9.99

This book points to ways in which we can all learn to survive, and even thrive, in our own winter seasons. Sharing from her personal experience of multiple miscarriages and the death of a newborn, the author delves into Scripture and the works of great theologians to search out golden truths that provide comfort, perspective and advice to those facing losses of all kinds.

She then looks at how we can create a rule of life for winter ('hygge for the heartbroken'), which will enable us not just to endure, but also to experience God's loving presence in the midst of the bleakest of our own winters.

The author says: "My discovery of the contemplative stream of Christian spirituality, combined with my evangelical and charismatic faith, enabled me to meet with God and find the strength and hope to walk through my winter season."



God's Treasured Possession – walk in the footsteps of Moses

By Terry Virgo, IVP, £7.99

Do you know how God sees you? Using the story of Moses, Terry Virgo explores how his life as a timid and reluctant foundational leader of God's people can inform and encourage us in our own Christian walk today.

Taken from the Parish Pump website



REFLECTED FAITH SERIES:

"THE SPACES BETWEEN"

BY JO WHITE

Most of us have been in situations where we are not in control, and we don't know how to feel or how to react to our situation. We need help.

The most valuable gift you can have at those times – is time itself. Time to be 'listened to'. Really listened to. But it is not easy to find someone who will 'actively listen' to you.

Think of the last time you were in the reverse position with a friend or a colleague, and they were talking to you. How easily do you recall what they actually said? Most of us are so busy getting our replies ready for when the person has finished speaking, that we don't clearly hear their punch line.

With God it is different. We can take everything to Him; all our worries and cares and failures and faults. And He listens.

He doesn't necessarily jump in with an instant, easy solution, but rather He promises to always guide us, if we ask Him, through life's challenges, and He promises to never leave us. He often speaks to us through his written word, the Bible.

This last year, when many of us have been communicating with others by phone or Zoom, we get nervous if it all goes quiet. We feel the need to 'nudge' the other person, to make sure they are still there. Silence is not a natural state for many of us – and yet it is in the quiet we can hear ourselves and God most clearly.

So, when we talk with God, our conversation should not be rushed and one-sided. We need to give space to our silence before Him, to wait and listen for Him to speak to us.

Next time you worship in church, listen to the silences: the spaces between the words, the music and the actions. Listen to all the prayers that are spoken.

Look at your surroundings and reflect that they have absorbed thousands of prayers – and holy silence – down the centuries of their existence.

Look out the window and see the vastness of the sky above you – and let your prayers join with those that have gone before you. May the knowledge that you are not alone encourage and strengthen you.

Taken from Parish Pump website



HOLY DAYS

22nd July

The 'Other' Mary

As the traditional Easter story is remembered again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the 'other' Mary – not the mother of Jesus but Mary of Magdala, who stood by her at the cross and became the first human being, male or female, actually to meet the risen Christ. That's quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from 'seven devils'. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming.

In church history Mary Magdalene became the 'fallen woman', a harlot who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus. And while there is no evidence to prove she was a 'fallen woman', the contrast is sublime: Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity and Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. Surely, we all fall somewhere between those two extremes.

What we do know is that the two Marys stood together at the cross, the Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from who knows what darkness and despair.

The second great moment for her was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen – and the others drifted off. But Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener. She explained to Him that the body of 'her Lord' had been taken away and she didn't know where to find Him.

The man simply said her name 'Mary' and she instantly realised it was Jesus. She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because His resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the male disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did – but they couldn't believe her.

Her words – 'I have seen the Lord' – echo down the centuries, the very beating heart of the Christian gospel.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website



HOW COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IS THE HEARTBEAT OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS

The Church of England's Chief Education Officer, the Revd Canon Nigel Genders, has been commenting on the recently updated guidance for the Church of England's collective worship in schools.

"One of the most rewarding parts of my role is the opportunity to visit schools across the country and join in inspirational and uplifting collective worship, led by children and young people.

"This Spring the Church of England published updated guidance for collective worship in schools. This is mainly a resource for Church of England schools, but one which can be helpful to all schools.

"State schools in England are required to provide a daily act of collective worship which is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. Although there is scope for schools to apply for an exemption to that depending on their particular circumstances, very few overall seem to do so.

"That's perhaps not surprising as schools tell us that, whatever the legal obligations, daily collective worship has proved a powerful tool in bringing pupils together. For Church of England schools that means Christian worship and that will remain the case.

"The guidance builds on the Church of England's Vision for Education, which is to be 'deeply Christian' while 'serving the common good.' In collective worship terms, this means opening the rich traditions and modern expressions of Christian worship to people of all faith backgrounds in a way which does not presume a particular starting point, so is invitational and inclusive as well as inspiring.

"Children can expect the worship they encounter in a Church school to be formational; to enable pupils and adults to consider big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should call us to action, to thinking and behaving differently. We suggested that schools take care that pupils and adults do not feel 'compelled to sing strongly confessional lyrics'. But it became clear that the word 'confessional' had been misunderstood – one rather over-the-top newspaper column even tried to claim that this meant we were 'purging' hymns of Christian content. Far from it.



“Christians often speak about ‘confessing’ their personal faith in God. The use of ‘confessional’ here was simply meant to recognise that whilst most will enjoy singing their heart out, schools should not insist that everyone must join in and should take care with what is appropriate, depending on their context.

“So, for example, insisting all pupils sing ‘All to Jesus, I surrender’ in a school where the majority of pupils are devout followers of another faith, as is the case in some of our Church school, might seem unnecessarily exclusive when there are lots of other inspirational Christian content to choose from. We have changed the wording of the guidance to make this clear.

“Parents value this approach, as it encourages thinking differently, and reflecting the behaviour and actions of individuals and communities. Inspirational collective worship should lead pupils to become courageous advocates of causes and encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

“We want pupils to leave school with an understanding of Christianity having encountered Jesus Christ through worship in a way that enhances their lives, whatever their faith standpoint.

“Around one million children attend Church of England schools which shows that parents and pupils clearly welcome what is on offer. Collective worship is at the heart of this, and we are committed to providing this in a way which is accessible to all.”

Taken from the Parish Pump website

Cry baby

A woman took her four-month-old baby to visit her neighbour, but the baby began to fuss as soon as they arrived. The neighbour’s five-year-old son asked where the baby had come from. “He was sent down from Heaven,” the mother replied, above the screams.

The little boy watched the baby crying for a few more minutes, and then turned to his mother. “I bet I know why he was sent from Heaven. God wanted some quiet up there!”



Helen Robinson RIP

As you will have read in the Deputy Warden's chat, our dear friend Helen lost her battle with cancer and passed away on the morning of Sunday 20th June. Helen was a true friend and supporter of All Saints' where she served on the PCC and also sang soprano in the church choir until her illness prevented her singing.

Helen not only served on the PCC but also served as PCC Secretary and as a tribute to her I repeat below her PCC Secretary's report for July 2007.

(Ed.)

PCC Secretary's Report



Hello Everybody,

I cannot believe a month has gone by already, but what a month. When the sun comes out like it has recently there is no better place to be but England. As I journey backwards and forwards to work in Chelmsford during the week I never cease to be amazed what a beautiful world we live in.

We were very lucky to experience both the sun and beauty of the Vicarage garden on 4th June when we had our Bring & Share lunch. What a wonderful time we all had and thank you so much David and Carole for allowing us to use your garden.

June's PCC meeting was non-business. We all had a chance to view the Marcus Video. By animation, bible stories and the experiences of the first Christians were depicted in a very interesting way. It was felt that the 7 and 8 years old children they were levelled at would enjoy them immensely.

Our next important date is, of course, the Church Fete on the morning of 1st July. I pray that the weather will be kind to us and allow us to hold it in the churchyard once again. It is so good to be able to have the opportunity to have outreach with the High Street in such an informal way. Let us hope that it will be a fruitful exercise - not just monetary but with communication with the people of Maldon. Do come along and support this event if you are able.

Helen Robinson, July 2007



Would you like to share in a journey of discovery?

The *COURSE* IN *CHRISTIAN STUDIES*

is an opportunity to explore the Christian faith with others. The course runs over two years, is open to anyone over the age of 16 and is based on weekly meetings in local groups.

We are hoping to be able to offer the CCS course as Face to Face sessions as well as Zoom sessions. In addition CCS can be accessed entirely online using the interactive programme Moodle where you will interact with fellow students and tutors through online forums and posts.

The CCS Taster/Introductory event will take place via ZOOM on Saturday 11th September starting at 10.30am.

To register your interest and receive an easy click on link invitation, email Diane Hardy

dhardy@chelmsford.anglican.org or call her on 01245 294449

For further information contact: Diane Hardy, CCS Administrator
Chelmsford Diocesan Office, 53 New Street, Chelmsford CM1 1AT

Tel: 01245 294449 email: dhardy@chelmsford.anglican.org

Further details available at

www.chelmsford.anglican.org/ccs



Dates for the Diary

Sunday 1 August: "Parish Picnic" in the Vicarage garden. Bring your own food, chairs / picnic blanket

Thursday 7 October: Civic service in church to commemorate the 850th anniversary of the signing of the Town Charter. More details will follow.

Friday 10 - Sunday 12 December: Christmas Tree Festival

.....

The 3rd of July is the feast day of St Thomas, the doubting apostle....
Here is a prayer even a non-believer can pray: "O Lord, if there is a Lord,
save my soul, if I have a soul." – *Ernest Renan*

.....

From the Registers



Weddings

29th May 2021 **Jamie Hare and Sarah Cook** of Heybridge Basin

Funerals

9th June 2021 **Raymond Allman** aged 75 years

16th June 2021 **Donald Parrish**



Prayer Diary

July 2021

1	All shop workers
2	All struggling small businesses
3 St Thomas	Churches dedicated to St Thomas
4 5th Sunday after Trinity	The Church's Mission via the internet
5	The people of the United States of America
6	Workers in the hospitality sector
7	All NHS staff and Carers
8	For all who are disabled
9	The work of General Synod
10	The staff of Essex County Council
11 6th Sunday after Trinity	The Mission to Seafarers, and all whose
Sea Sunday	lives are lived on the seas
12	Staff in Primary and Junior schools in our Parish
13	Staff at Plume School
14	Staff and pupils at All Saints' School
15	Students who will be leaving school
16	Hospice staff and Chaplains
17	The RNLI and HM Coastguard
18 7th Sunday after Trinity	Our Area Dean
19	Safety for all in our community
20	Rev Julie Willmot and her three Parishes
21	Staff who work in our local hospitals and especially hospital Chaplains
22 Mary Magdalene	Churches dedicated to St Mary Magdalene
23	The Salvation Army
24	Those who work with the mentally ill
25 8th Sunday after Trinity	Churches in our Deanery
26 St James	Churches dedicated to St James
27	Researchers and Scientists
28	Those who are now without work
29	Those who live alone
30	Ambulance and Air Ambulance Services
31	Staff and residents of the towns care homes



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 850484
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 850484
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	Zoe Franklin	Email
Meeting Point	1stmaldonallsaintsscoutgroup@gmail.com	
Maldon Pioneers	Barbara Gale	01621 928538
Maldon Ladies Group	Mike Frederick	01621 840951
Ramblers Club	Vivien Clark	01621 869667
Prayer Group		
Messy Church	Elaine Brown	01621 850484

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	Rev'd Asa Humphreys Tel 01621 841274
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	Mike Gibson
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

Website www.allsaintsmaldon.com

All Saints' Maldon



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