

ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

September 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 when there are five), Sundays of the month (4:00pm 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: Anna Rogers and Oscar Stenbom on their Wedding Day at the end of July.
Photo: By Proud Grandad Ken Russell



THE PARISH LETTER

THE PROMISES WE MAKE

Being a small family, weddings don't happen very often in ours. Then, after a gap of some years, along come two like buses, one after another. Early to mid-August was the turn of the younger generation; Charlie (Charlotte) and Stuart, and Laura and Sam. Both ceremonies were in beautiful parts of rural England – Buckinghamshire and Berkshire – with lots of green winding lanes and plenty of opportunities to miss signposts and get thoroughly lost (our satnav is me with a map but I didn't do too badly).

One becomes aware of how most of the English landscape is defined not by towns and cities but by villages hidden deep in the woods amongst bosky hillocks with quaint unknown churches, rather better-known pubs, and fields ripe for harvest. All worlds away from pandemics, middle Eastern conflicts, earthquakes and typhoons.

Our niece Charlie had decided along with Stu on a humanist wedding. Held outside, this felt very much 'back to nature' although bride and groom wore traditional dress. Three candles were lit: two representing each of the families at the start; the last one lit by the couple at the end to signify the joining of those two families. At the centre point of the ceremony came the '*hand-fasting*' – a ritual long-practised in Norse, Scottish, Celtic and other cultures – when the couple's hands are bound together with a silken rope. It is echoed in the Christian marriage service when the priest wraps the stole (the ecclesiastical decorative band worn over the shoulder) around the couple's wrists at the moment after they have completed their vows. And of course the vows – the promises we make to one another on our wedding day – are very special. Charlie and Stu were able to write their own and for them this represented a very personal touch. Just as with Laura and Sam ten days later at their Church of England wedding in St Mary's Church, East Ilsley, these moments are the most moving and intimate of the day. Laura and Sam were afterwards invited to light their nuptial candle together.

Whether Christian or secular, the desire to make promises of fidelity runs deep in the human psyche. Not only do we all crave to be loved; but if we find that special person, that 'friend' or 'soul-mate', then we want to assure them of our protection and care throughout our shared journey with them through this world. So on our day of celebration our friends and family join and support us as we make these lifelong promises to one another.

For the Christian there are other vows and promises which follow us through life: our baptism, our confirmation, maybe even our ordination. All promises in the Christian tradition are made before God as well as before humankind. And this places them within a particular narrative which slants them in a



particular way.

The Christian version of ‘promise’ and its implications draws on the difficult story of God’s relationship with his people. In the Old Testament God makes a covenant with Moses on Mount Sinai, based on ten commandments which the people of Israel quickly promised to obey. Then they didn’t. In fact they not only didn’t keep their promises but broke them spectacularly, time and time again. So in the background to all Christian promises gnaws this possibility of not coming up to the mark, of letting people down (eg God and your partner) of not living the ‘ideal life’. In the Christian story, promise-breaking (collaterally known as ‘sin’) could only be solved by a righteous Saviour willing to sacrifice his life for the ‘unrighteous’: those of us who recognise that our ability to make a promise is fundamentally compromised. It’s not that humanist philosophy doesn’t take human weakness into account; but it does tend to stress man’s perfectibility – his self-improvement – by his own best effort. Would that were so, certainly. But way to go yet however.....

Both belief-systems, Christian and secular, want marriages to succeed; to build stable yet dynamic partnerships in which children will find security, stimulation and challenge. Unconditional love, kindness and respect should be building-blocks as much as discipline and example. However not all of us can live up to these high ideals. Life is very complex and the unexpected can easily throw us off course.

On the wedding day, when we concentrate rightly on the love these young people have for one another with all their hopes for the future, it may seem untimely to dwell on difficulties. But these will come, as inevitably as day follows night. As the couple get to know one another better the dawning recognition that their lover has a ‘dark side’ may come as a shock: which is why every marriage should first and foremost embody the mnemonic, WYSIWYG! (‘What You See Is What You Get’). Romance is about falling in love with love. Marriage is about loving a real person. About the actual promises we strive to *keep*: imperfectly, haltingly, not without hurting one another: but hopefully with patience, forbearance – and, over and over again, forgiveness.

God’s people soon found that it was dead easy to make promises then forget all about them. Their story is pretty dismaying, and God at times felt like an abandoned wife as his people went off ‘whoring after other gods’ (there’s lots of juicy language like that in the Old Testament). Today’s ‘other gods’ may take different forms: the latest car with all the new gizmos, the all-engrossing computer game, the tyranny of 24/7 work-targets, the secret porn-addiction, the gym and personal fitness regime, online shopping..... these are some of the things that can displace the one we love from the centre of our attention. *Even* – all those episodes of ‘Love Island’ or ‘The Only Way is



Essex'! (Difficult to believe, that box-set bingeing!). In spite of all this God's promises to us are unconditionally *faithful*.

Charlie and Stu, Laura and Sam will, as newlyweds, discover their own way forward. They will find the guidance they need through that inner voice – be it intuition or Spirit or a bit of both. Although they have begun their journey in outwardly different ways the values they seek are remarkably similar. They want to be promise-keepers as well as promise-makers. That's a tough assignment when you are holding yourself accountable; either to yourself or to a Higher Power. But it's not impossible.

As most of you will know, the most awful thing about a group of elderly relatives at a wedding is the way they stand all in a huddle and say "Just wait till they get to our age, then they'll know what it's really about!" Well yes, they will. But it will be *their* journey, it will belong to no-one else. And part of it will look and feel very different from ours. And part of it may look and feel the same. It's a path that's trodden anew by every generation. And that's as it should be. A lifelong journey, a quest framed by 'promise' – and what that promise will bring.

Canon Graham

In praise of motorway services

What have you got in common with the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and Eric Clapton?

You have all visited the Watford Gap Services on your way up or down the M1. Back in the early 1960s, the M1 transformed the way that bands could travel, and visiting the service station was an integral part of their trip. In the 60 or so years since motorway services opened, they have also become part of life for tens of millions of us.

Motorway services not only provide a much-needed break from the road, they are also a great place for people-watching. All sizes, shapes and varieties of people can be found in one. As one journalist put it: "a motorway service station is the ultimate human zoo."

Not everyone used motorway services back in the 1960s. Many people just pulled over onto the hard shoulder and unpacked a picnic. There was even the true story of the family who pulled their car onto the central reservation of the motorway to have lunch – and survived to tell the tale.

Motorway services also confused people. One distraught couple, heading north, reported their car had been stolen. The police found they had crossed the pedestrian bridge, and then could not find their car in the south-bound car park.

Today there are 111 service stations in the UK. The law states that they must not be more than 28 miles apart, or 30 minutes of travelling time. By law, they must provide two hours of free parking, free toilets, and a free play area for children.

The first two motorway services were Watford Gap and Newport Pagnell, both of which opened in early November 1959, along with the M1.



Climate Sunday is this Month

Sunday 5th September is being designated Climate Sunday, ahead of the UN's climate change conference, COP26, in Glasgow during November. How should we approach the challenge of climate change?

We have damaged God's creation: God delights in His creation: 'God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.' (Genesis 1:31). However, we have damaged this world and impacted people, created in His image. The burning of oil or gas and cutting down forests is increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. The global average temperature could increase by 1.5°C in 2030, resulting in significant damage to our planet. Already, increasing temperatures are melting ice caps, raising sea-levels, changing rainfall patterns and creating extreme climate events. It's the 70% of the world's poorest population who are being impacted most!

Hope is found in Jesus: He has an intimate knowledge of the workings of creation. 'For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.' (Colossians 1:16,17). Our hope for the future lies in what Jesus has done and continues to do in the world. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion.

An invitation to respond: Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving and changes in our lifestyle and diet to help the planet. We can fix our eyes on Jesus, as we pray for our world for our world leaders, gathering in Glasgow, asking that they may reach a good agreement for the future of our world.

*This article is by Canon Paul Hardingham
and was taken from the Parish Pump website*

.....

A little girl had been to Sunday School for the first time and was asked by her mother how it compared with her new primary school. "Oh, I like it much better," she said. "There are no exams there, you go only once a week for an hour, and at the end you go to heaven instead of high school."

.....



Church Warden's Chat

I hope you have all had a good August and that many of you have been able to get away for a summer break at sometime (not that the weather has been very summery at times!).

It has been good that our Sunday morning worship is beginning to seem a little more like normal, with the receiving of communion back in the proper place, less restrictions on seating and even being able to sing two hymns!

Although we are still learning to 'share' Asa and as he was away in August, it was good to experience a Service of the Word last Sunday, ably led by Alan. Like many I was not sure what to expect, but really enjoyed the service, - thank you Alan.

We have also been able to leave the church open on Sundays, after the service, for the last four weeks (thank you to those who volunteered to lock up the church later on) and the PCC will be looking into maybe being able to have the church open more in the future.

Looking back over the last eighteen months of a world wide pandemic it has been difficult to think of what was normal before, and what we have given up, hopefully to get back slowly as we learn to cope with a virus that will not just go away.

Compared to many in the world we, in the UK, have been fairly lucky. Our health system, though nearly overwhelmed, has cared for us throughout and continues to do so, and unlike other countries have not suffered horrendous fires, floods and earthquakes that have killed hundreds!

Today we must also remember in our prayers the hundreds of people in Afghanistan who have had to flee their country or are still waiting to do so. At this time let us give thanks for our world and pray that in the future all countries may learn to work together, to help each other and to be able to bequeath a whole and healthy planet for the generations to come.

Jenny Clinch, Churchwarden.



REFUGEE WELCOME

Diocese of Chelmsford

A statement from Bishop Guli and the Diocesan Refugee Coordinator, the Revd Canon Gareth Jones

Since 2015 the Diocese of Chelmsford has resettled almost 200 refugees through our resettlement program. Most have been families fleeing the Syrian conflict, but a number have been Afghan interpreters and their families fleeing the Taliban.

As pictures of the catastrophic impact of the crisis in Afghanistan fill our TV screens, the human cost in lives devastated seems too much to comprehend, and many of us are left wondering what we can do to help in the face of such great tragedy.

As a diocese committed to serving Christ in the downtrodden, persecuted and oppressed, and to witnessing to the transforming presence of Christ in the midst of the seemingly impossible, we continue to stand ready to do all that we can to serve and support refugees in our parishes across East London and Essex, and those communities seeking to walk alongside displaced people.

Our Refugee Engagement Team is ready and resourced to support parishes in welcoming and supporting Afghan refugees over the coming months and years, and to building on the life changing work already done since 2015.

As the Government program for Afghan resettlement becomes clearer over the coming weeks, our own diocesan program will be widened and reshaped to work alongside partners in providing the care, love and support to which the gospel calls us.

For further information, support and advice please contact Fr Gareth Jones on refugeecoordinator@chelmsford.anglican.org / 020 8478 0546

Please join us in praying for the people of Afghanistan, together with all those engaged in efforts to bring peace, security and support for those in need.

The Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford

The Revd Canon Gareth Jones, Diocesan Refugee Coordinator



Becoming New

When a caterpillar changes into a butterfly, it's hard to believe it's the same creature. But at both stages of its life, it has a body that is perfectly suited to living in a particular environment.

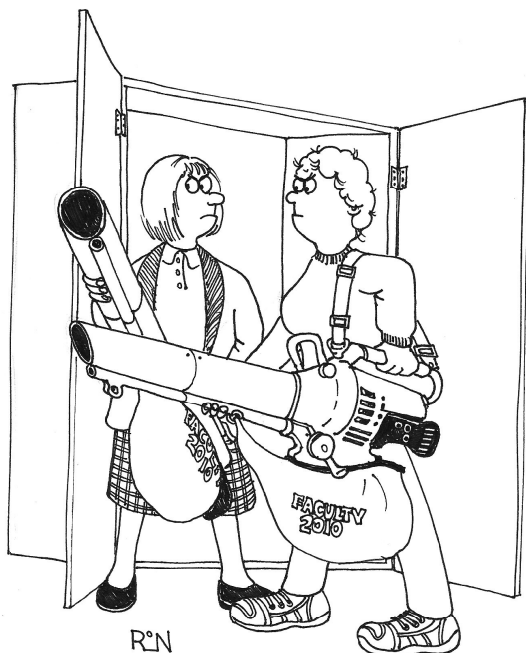
This insect can help us understand the afterlife and the significance of the resurrected Jesus. Paul, on his journeys, discovered that some members of the church in Corinth were confused about life after death. So, Paul, wrote a lengthy letter to them to explain the importance of the resurrection of Jesus, and how it affects our future existence.

Paul doesn't mention caterpillars and butterflies but describes a seed becoming a plant. By just looking at an individual seed there is no knowing what it is going to look like! But out of its death comes a beautiful new life form.

Paul points out that all living beings have a body that enables them to live in a particular environment. There are earthly bodies for living in a physical world and a spiritual body for living in the heavenly realms. And so God will give to us a new spiritual body to enable us to live with Him in heaven.

Of course, all butterflies eventually die, but in our resurrected body we will not be subject to decay or death. How do we know this? Jesus said: "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19). Jesus pioneered the way for us. He died on the cross, arose from the grave, and so opened up the way for all believers in Him to go to Heaven. Thanks be to God!

By Lester Amann taken from the Parish Pump Website



*Shifting the cobwebs in the North aisle
required a faculty*

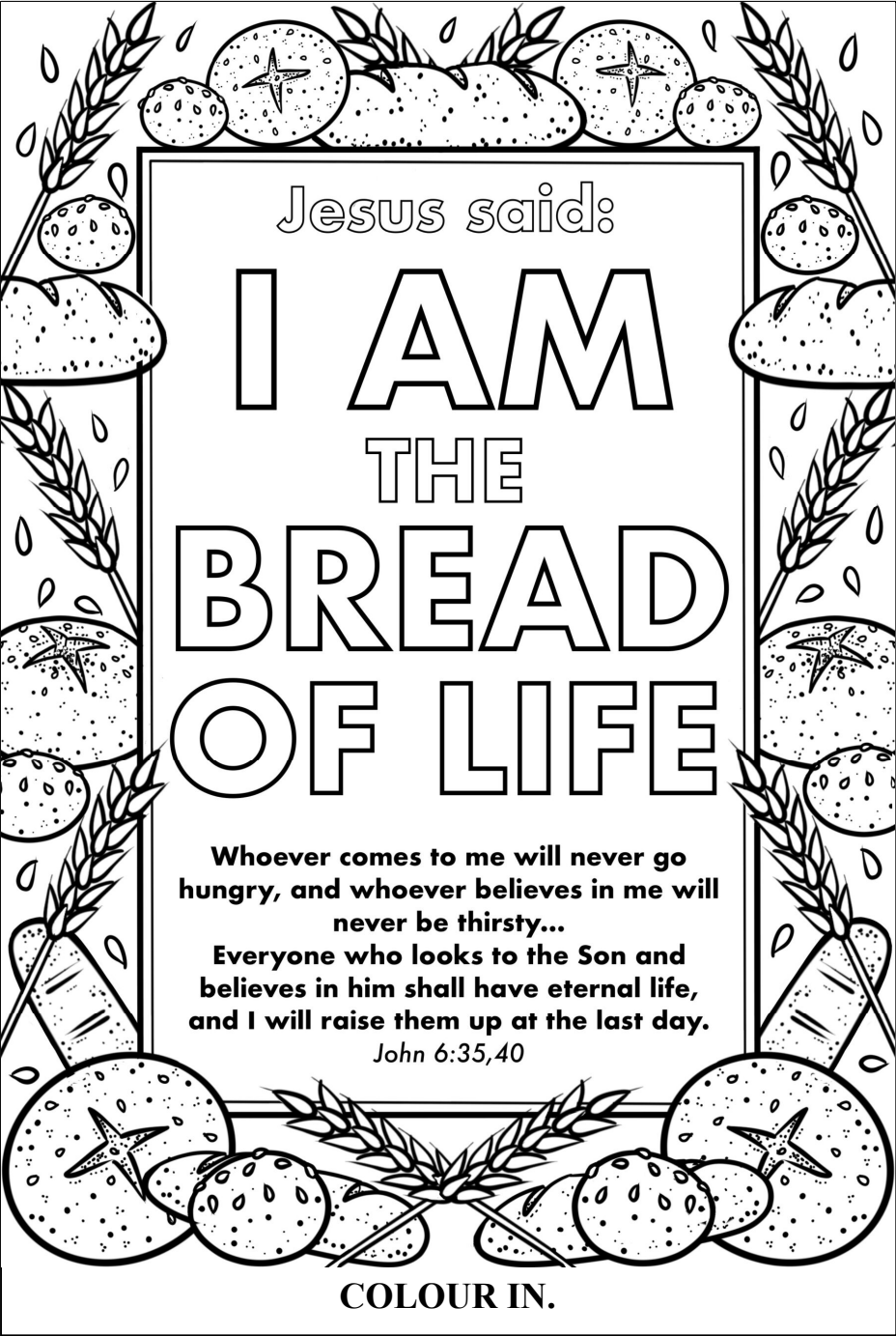
Can You Help?

We are slowly moving out of all the restrictions that we have been facing during the Covid lockdown. In order to comply with certain rules, we need to have in place a team of people we can call on to make sure we comply with the cleaning regulations put in place to keep us all safe as we open up our church for more services and social gatherings.

It is necessary, in order to do this, that we have regular cleaning teams in place to keep the church as safe as possible. The more people who offer to help the less the burden will be. If you can help by being on a rota to be called on for this please email or phone me as soon as possible.

Vivien Clark. deputy warden

(email: vivien1942@me.com or Tel: 01621 869667)



Jesus said:

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty...

Everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.

John 6:35,40

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Bob Gliddon, who has advertised his services in our magazine for many years, has decided to retire and therefore withdrawn his advert.

We thank Bob for his support of our magazine and wish him many years of happy retirement.

I understand that his son will be carrying on the service, but as yet I do not have his details.

(this space is now available for a new advert)



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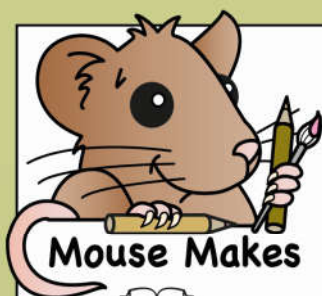
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Read this story in
1 Kings 17:7-16

The bowl of flour and the jar of oil

It had not rained for months and months, there was a drought in the land.

God sent His prophet **Elijah** to the town of Zarephath. At the town gate he saw a widow gathering firewood.

"Please bring me a drink of water and some bread," he asked her.

She answered "All I have is a handful of flour and a drop of oil in a jar, it is our last meal."

"Do not worry," Elijah said, "Make the meal and make a small loaf for me."

The woman did what Elijah had asked and God blessed her ...

... The bowl never ran out of flour and the jar never ran out of oil until it rained again!



Find these words from the story in the word search:

WORD • LORD • GOD • ELIJAH • SENT • ZAREPHATH • GATE • CITY • WIDOW
STICKS • WATER • DRINK • BREAD • FEED • HANDFUL • FLOUR • LITTLE
OIL • SON • EAT • DIE • FULL • WENT • MAKE • BAKED • ATE • JAR • JUG • MANY
DAYS • LIVE • NEVER • EMPTY



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Kings 1: 5-53

King David was now very old, but he had still not said which son would be king. Adonijah decided to make himself king.

Adonijah had a big party at Rogel Spring for all his friends, including Joab and Abiathar, to tell them he was the king. His brother Solomon and Nathan and Zadok were not invited.

Nathan told Solomon's mother
You must tell King David. If Adonijah is king, he will kill you and your son.



You promised our son Solomon would be king, but Adonijah says he is now king.



Nathan told David



I will keep my promise! Solomon will be the next king. Zadok and Nathan, take him to Gihon Spring, anoint him and tell everyone!



So they went to Gihon with Solomon riding King David's own mule.



He was anointed king and a trumpet was blown.



At Adonijah's party they heard the noise.



David has just announced that your brother Solomon is now king.



Solomon was anointed and everyone is cheering.



Everyone ran away. Adonijah was so scared he ran to the sacred tent for sanctuary.



King Solomon sent for Adonijah.

If you don't cause me any trouble, I will not hurt you.





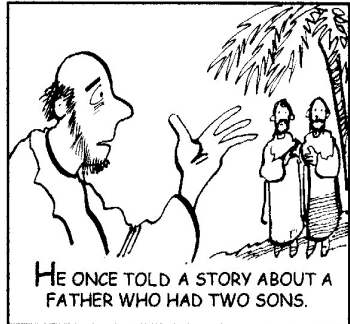
The tale of the Two Sons



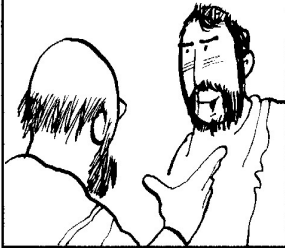
JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



HE ONCE TOLD A STORY ABOUT A FATHER WHO HAD TWO SONS.



THE FATHER WENT TO HIS OLDER SON AND ASKED HIM TO WORK IN THE VINEYARD



'NO I WON'T' SAID THE OLDER SON...



...BUT THEN HE CHANGED HIS MIND AND WENT AND HELPED.

THE FATHER THEN WENT TO HIS YOUNGER SON AND ASKED HIM TO HELP IN THE VINEYARD TOO.

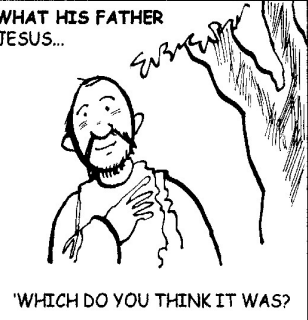


'OF COURSE I WILL' SAID THE YOUNGER SON. BUT HE PROMPTLY FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT....

...AND DIDN'T DO A STROKE OF WORK!



'WHICH ONE DID WHAT HIS FATHER WANTED?' ASKED JESUS...



'WHICH DO YOU THINK IT WAS?'



**citizens
advice**

**Maldon
& District**

Renting Privately

Your landlord is responsible for most major repairs to your home if you rent privately. This includes:

- the structure of the property, for example walls, roof, windows and doors
- sinks, baths, toilets
- pipes and wiring
- heating and hot water, for example the boiler
- the safety of gas and electrical appliances

You'll be responsible for minor repairs, for example changing fuses and light bulbs. You'll also have to fix anything you've damaged. You won't be responsible for repairing damage caused by other people, for example vandalism.

If your home is damp, your landlord might not be responsible. It depends on what type of damp it is - and what caused it.

Your landlord might have to make reasonable adjustments to the property - for example, if you have a disability and need a handrail to help you get upstairs.

Your landlord must do anything that's included in their tenancy agreement.

If the problem is affecting your health or safety

You can report your landlord to the Environmental Health department at your local council if your home is in a bad state of repair.

You should do this if your home is unsafe or making you ill. This could be, for example because of:

- a gas leak
- a broken step
- mould or damp

You'll need to send details of the problem in writing, for example when the problem started.

Your landlord could try to evict you if you complain. If you have an assured shorthold tenancy that started after 1 October 2015, you might have more protection against being evicted.



An Environmental Health Officer will look at your home and order your landlord to do repairs if they think it's harmful to your health or safety. Keep evidence of what they say or any report they write.

If your landlord won't do the repairs

Keep paying your rent. If you don't, you'll get into rent arrears and your landlord might then try to evict you.

Case Study

I've been living in my privately rented flat for years. I generally have a good relationship with my landlord but I just can't get them to carry out various repairs that have built up. How can I get them to act - and what exactly do they have to do?

This must be a very frustrating situation. The law states that your landlord must provide accommodation that is safe, healthy and free from things that could cause serious harm.

You don't say exactly what repairs are needed. If you have problems such as electrical wiring that you think might be faulty, the landlord has a legal obligation to put things right.

Landlords are also responsible for the maintenance of the general structure, and fittings such as boilers and radiators; basins, baths and toilets; and the drains.

The first step is to contact your landlord again, in writing. Include photographs of the problems. Keep a record of all communications and evidence relating to the disrepair.

If that doesn't prompt any action, the housing advisers at Citizens Advice can help with next steps. These could include contacting your local council (who will have dedicated officers for dealing with disrepair in private rented properties) or asking for a visit by the environmental health team.

Tenants can take their landlords to court to force them to carry out repairs. However, it's worth getting some advice and thinking carefully before embarking on this route.

Call Maldon Citizens Advice for advice on any subject on 01621 875774 – leave a message and an adviser will return your call that day. Alternatively, you can email us at bureau@maldoncab.cabnet.org.uk.



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

My dear Nephew Darren,

As with many of your ideas, your intentions are admirable; it is just that they don't work.

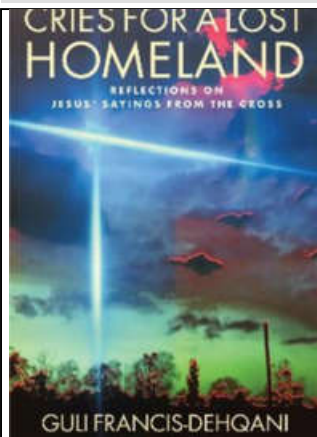
So it was with the recent wedding in your church, where you allowed the happy but quite mad young couple to try and imitate the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. It was kind of them to want to celebrate Will and Kate's recent 10th wedding anniversary, but it did not seem to occur to anybody that your church, converted from a 1960s warehouse, is fractionally less impressive than Westminster Abbey. And I feel that a backdrop of a car park and canal make a poor substitute for the Houses of Parliament and the Thames. Finally, even 43 very enthusiastic young people can hardly pretend they are a congregation of several thousand.

However, I do applaud your decision to invite me to take it, in order to impart a degree of gravitas to the proceedings, though of course I would not presume to upstage the Archbishop of Canterbury. (Although were he to ask my advice on how to run the Anglican Church, I have several helpful suggestions to hand.) But even I struggled to keep things on a proper course when the bride, lacking a horse-drawn carriage, simply walked up the lane with her ancient pony. (Which then tried to bite me at the church door!)

Her arrival was greeted with music. I will pass no comment on this, as the Bible says we are to make a joyful noise, not necessarily music, unto the Lord. I am sure that drums and kazoos and guitars all have their place – somewhere or other.

It was a pity that the groom, unlike Prince William, had not thought to get to the church on time – or indeed, at all. It was fortunate that the bride's mother found him in that pub nearby, or really, we would have struggled to complete the wedding.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



Book Reviews

CRIES FOR A LOST HOMELAND – reflections on Jesus' sayings from the cross.

**Guli Francis-Dehqani, Samuel Wells,
and David Monteith,
Canterbury Press, £10.99**

Guli Francis-Dehqani was born in Isfahan, Iran, to a family who were part of the tiny Anglican Church established by 19th century missionaries. Her father, a Muslim convert, became the first indigenous Persian bishop.

As the Islamic Revolution of 1979 swept across the country, church properties were raided, confiscated or closed down. Guli's father was briefly imprisoned before surviving an attack on his life, which injured his wife. Soon after, whilst he was out of the country for meetings, Guli's 24-year-old brother, Bahram, a university teacher in Tehran, was murdered. No one was ever brought to justice and the family were advised to leave Iran. Guli was 14. They eventually settled in England with refugee status.

Drawing on the riches of Persian culture and her own dramatic experience of loss of a homeland, Guli offers memorable and perceptive reflections on Jesus' seven final sayings from the cross, opening up for Western readers fresh and arresting insights from a Middle Eastern perspective.

Taken from the Parish Pump website

N.B.

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER 2021

MAGAZINE 19th SEPTEMBER



REFLECTED FAITH SERIES:

"THE BREAD WE EAT"

BY JO WHITE

The majority of Sunday morning services in churches throughout the world are based on the Last Supper of Jesus.

At the Passover meal, on the night before His death, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, "*This is My body given for you;*" (Luke 22:19a). He also took wine and passed it to each of them and said, "*This is My blood, given for you.*"

These two elements, the bread and the wine, continue to be the central focus for Christians: doing what Jesus asked us to do, '*Do this in remembrance of me*'. (Luke 22:19b)

What we call this service varies between denominations and even between churches within the same denomination.

It is a way of giving 'thanks' as Jesus did (the word '*Eucharist*' comes from the Greek by way of Latin, and it means 'thanksgiving'), reminding us not only of the tremendous sacrifice that Christ had made on our behalf, but also recalling the love and joy that Jesus brings to the community.

The word '*Communion*' comes from something done with others – the community. It's done with Christ. It's done with other worshippers. In sharing the meal, 'I' becomes 'us'.

The word '*Mass*' comes from the conclusion to the traditional service – which was in Latin: '*Ite, missa est.*' 'Go. You are being sent.' Today we use similar words, 'Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.'

At the moment many churches, especially the Church of England, are only giving bread to the congregation with the priest alone consuming the wine. So the meaning underlying the taking / the giving of bread is more crucial than ever. In some denominations the bread is literally the 'daily bread', whilst in others it is a 'wafer' or yeast free bread – as was used at the original Passover.

This month: Have a look at the bread that is placed into your hands the next time you 'receive'. How does it reflect receiving Christ into your life?

Taken from Parish Pump website

HOLY DAYS

29th Sept Enter all the angels, led by Michael

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



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

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

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

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

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



**New Shop Opens
in Maldon:
By
Geoff Dickman**



**Taking a Tern on the
Prom :
by Stuart Pegler**





QUIZ NIGHT

Cold Norton Village Hall

SATURDAY 25th SEPTEMBER

8.00pm

Admission: £3.00

Please bring your own drinks

**Don't worry if you are on your own, we
make up tables of up to six.**

A good way to meet people!

the After-eight social club holds various events every month
of the year including

quiz nights, meals out, coffee evenings, excursions etc.

For further information call Mike on 01621 856219

We also have a Facebook page

www.aftereightsocialclub.co.uk



Dates for the Diary

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

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Gym?

Before setting off on a business trip to Birmingham, I called the hotel where I'd be staying to see if they had a gym. The hotel receptionist's sigh had a tinge of exasperation in it when she answered.

"We have over 100 guests at this facility," she said. "Does this 'Jim' have a last name?"

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From the Registers



Weddings

30th July Kaylee Satchell and Michael Hayes

31st July Anna Rogers and Oscar Stenbom



Prayer Diary

September 2021

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



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	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	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
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WEB SITE MANAGER	Mike Kneller Email: bigglesworth@btinternet.com

Website www.allsaintsmaldon.com

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