

ALL SAINTS' MALDON



*The
Season
of
Lent*



PARISH NEWS

March 2022

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).
4:00 pm Evensong and Sermon second Sunday

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

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: Taken from the Diocese of Plymouth



THE PARISH LETTER

The daily office is something that has become of signal importance to my spiritual discipline. Having, for a long time, enjoyed the more Catholic rhythms of St Ignatius, I have recently returned to a pattern of early morning prayer following the lectionary readings and canticles of Common Worship Morning Prayer. During the past two years the digital provision for such offices has been redeveloped by Church House and now, each day, the app provides sung canticles and responses, scriptures and prayers read aloud by various priests from across the country (including, my old tutor from college which came as an early morning surprise!)

This week it has been the story of Jacob and Esau, of their parting and their different responses to the misdeeds of their parents. Esau takes a new wife, from his Uncle Ishmael's family to add to his two Hittite wives. Jacob is sent away to his mother's family to search for a bride there.

Esau's first two wives had made Isaac and Rebecca's life 'a misery' (Genesis 26: 35) and so, by taking a further wife from his uncle's family Esau shows – in part – a changing of his ways. Pointedly though, he does not repent of his previous liaisons. He is also breathing out murderous threats about his brother.

Jacob on the other hand, is similarly flawed. Although he was following his mother's instructions, he could easily have said no about stealing his brother's birth right – even though Jacob knew that Esau had scorned it. He didn't have to go along.

Yet, he chose so to do and the consequence was (as the child's game teaches us) is that he had to journey to Mesopotamia and labour for his uncle, who was even less scrupulous than Jacob, for very many years.

Why is this story important? Well, from an archaeological point of view, this passage and the few others like it that reference the Hittite people were – prior to the end of the 19th Century – the only evidence that the Hittites ever existed. Just as with the Dead Sea Scrolls, archaeology followed on in Scriptures stead and confirmed that the Hittites were a late bronze age people of some note in central Anatolia and further south, that they were polytheistic and confederated in their empirical structures.

There is no consensus as to when and how they ceased to be. But Esau married two Hittite women and in this passage that has a significance for us. Jacob deceived his brother and his father. Esau scorned them all. Jacob heeds the one piece of instruction his father gives about marrying right. Esau



disregards it, albeit making some steps to heal the rift once he realises that Jacob has got it right first time.

Esau does the right thing, but at the wrong time and for the wrong reason. Genesis 35: 29 acts as a coda to this story. It is easy for our 21st Century sensibilities to miss the subtleties of this story. But Jacob and Esau come together to bury their father – just as Isaac and Ishmael had come together to bury Abraham (Genesis 25: 9).

Our BCP gospel reading last week was the parable of the vineyard workers, whereby the workers who started early got the same wage as those who started late. They had all agreed the same wage, but that sense of unfairness lingers even when retold today.

That is the scandal of grace. It matters how we end, and how we walk towards that end. Our salvation and the assurance we cling too is not through what we do, but through what Christ has done. All we need to is to accept his invitation to follow him. If we do that then we shall stumble and fall as Esau and Jacob, Rebecca and Isaac and Abraham and Sarah all did, but we can still count ourselves as part of the adopted family of God with Christ as our brother.

It is our sin that Christ comes alongside us to bury, and by that gift we are set free. May we walk afresh in that freedom today, as we look towards our Lenten journey.

Asa

AN UPDATE FROM CANON GRAHAM

I saw my doctor on Wednesday 23rd February and Revd Asa the following day; following both discussions it was agreed that I should step down from ministry with immediate effect. Bipolar Disorder (formerly known as manic depression) is an unpredictable illness but can have severe effects. I have felt very privileged to travel alongside you on your spiritual journey over the past eight years. You will still see me in the All Saints' congregation from time to time but I shall be taking a break initially. I feel very fortunate that during 20 years with this condition I have been able to serve the wider church for the majority of them. I wish Asa and an emerging new team every blessing as they lead all four churches in facing the challenges of mission at both deanery and diocesan level. And thank you all for your love, care and friendship.

Canon Graham



LETTER FROM PREB. PAUL BARNES

Dear All,

Jackie and I moved to Maldon from Hertfordshire 19 years ago when I retired. From that time onwards we have been involved in the Church life at All Saints'.

In the last couple of years I have become more and more aware of the increasing limitations imposed both by advancing years and some problems with my health. Regretfully I have come to the conclusion to stop taking services; at the present time these being 8.00am at All Saints' and 9.30am at St Giles Langford.

This decision has been a reluctant one. This is not only because I have been privileged to lead worship for the past 40 years, but also because I feel that I shall be letting the church down. I feel this particularly for Asa, he has been given an almost impossible job and needs full hearted support from each and every one of us.

Jackie and I hope to continue as members of the congregation and will - when covid allows - start up the Bible Study again. We have greatly appreciated the friendship and encouragement that we have experienced over the last 19 years and would like to say a big thankyou to all who have made our time at All saints' so happy.

Paul.

NEWS FROM SINGAPORE

Derek Truman recently emailed Paul and Jackie with news of their daughters Joelle and Emma.

Joelle now has her MA Theology and works for **Interceed**, a prayer/devotional live TV programme in Singapore. It is watched all over the world and on Facebook. Just Google the website (*Not given to me.*), Joelle will be thrilled if anyone from All Saints' looked at it.

Emma received an upper 2nd MSc in Paracitology from the Londobn School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and works as a researcher into Malarial Mosquitoes for the Singapore Government.

Both girls are still single.

We wish both girls every success in their chosen careers. Ed



Gabriel Fauré: Requiem in D minor, op. 48

An augmented Parish Choir will be performing the Fauré Requiem on Sunday 10th April, Palm Sunday, at 6.00pm in All Saints
‘The essence of music is to awaken in us a mysterious depth of soul’ wrote Marcel Proust. Of no composition seems this a more apt description than Gabriel Fauré’s *Requiem*. The following notes guide us through the essentials of this uniquely peaceful, contemplative work.

The Composer

Gabriel Fauré was born in the south of France in 1845 and was sent to the Neidermeyer school in Paris to begin his musical studies early. After graduation he progressed through a series of appointments as organist and choirmaster at prestigious Paris churches until in 1877 he succeeded his former teacher Camille Saint-Saëns as choirmaster of the neoclassical Eglise de la Madeleine, a post he held for almost 20 years. He also taught composition at the Paris Conservatoire, becoming its director in 1905. Fauré’s major work is the *Requiem* as the great majority of his output lies in chamber music. Increasing deafness was to limit his creativity as he grew older.

Raison d’ Être and Text

Perhaps puzzlingly Fauré gave rather secular reasons for the work: ‘My Requiem wasn’t written *for* anything – for pleasure if I may call it that.’ However his ‘*petit requiem*’ did have a liturgical use in mind, as it was first performed in the Madeleine on 16 January 1888 at the funeral of architect Joseph Lesoufaché. Fauré described the piece as ‘dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest’. The fact that the composer not only shortened the text but deliberately downplayed the judgmental aspects of the Requiem Mass – in particular the *Dies Irae* (‘Day of Wrath’) section – no doubt accounts for its universal approachability. He said in interview: “I see death as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above, rather than a painful experience.”

Versions

There are two versions of the Requiem which are most frequently performed. The earliest, consisting initially of only 5 movements but subsequently expanded to the 7 we know today, combines the versions of 1887-8 and music added between 1888-94. This first version was



scored only for small orchestra, the violas being prominent, which gives a more intimate style to the work. The earliest music to find its way into the Requiem was the '*Libera Me*' which had been composed as an independent piece 12 years earlier. The Requiem is scored for full choir and two soloists, baritone and soprano. In performances at the Madeleine, the Roman Catholic church insisted on a boy treble soloist and an all-male choir.

The work was immediately popular and before long Fauré's publisher wanted a full-scale version. So in 1900 Faure set about the 'concert version' which is usually the most familiar to listeners. The orchestration is expanded: when performed in cathedrals the effect is more like a great mystical wash of sound. In the concert hall Fauré could accommodate his preference for a female soloist and women's voices in the choir.

Performance Styles

The 'French' style of performance is more often associated with large-scale forces. Early recordings from the 1940s and 50s under native conductors such as Nadia Boulanger, Jean Fournet and Ernest Ansermet illustrate this approach.

In recent years the chamber orchestration of the original version has come to the fore, with notable versions by a number of conductors from the 1970s onwards (eg John Rutter and Matthew Best).

Performances using all-male voices are usually the preserve of cathedrals and colleges. King's College, Cambridge has made a speciality of the work over the years with three major recordings (the best is still the first under Sir David Willcocks from 1969). The 2014 recording however includes the unusual first version of the *Offertoire* entirely for baritone, the composer adding the choral sections later. The King's forces produce a very 'Anglican' sound: if you want to experience the Requiem in bolder continental colours it is best to acquire the version with Westminster Cathedral Choir conducted by David Hill.

In many church settings an organ arrangement is more suited to parish performance. This is the version we will be using on April 10th. It enables the different strands of the music to stand out clearly and is remarkably effective.

Do join us if you can for this performance which will mark the beginning of Holy Week.

Canon Graham



Worship for All service: your feedback and next steps

Worship for All is our 9.30am service on the first Sunday of the month, designed especially for children and families but also for anyone young at heart. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey last month with your thoughts about this service. It was very encouraging to get such thoughtful responses, with many positive comments and helpful suggestions. It was also good to know what wasn't working, so we can change it. I wanted to share some of the views and comments and let you know how we are shaping the service taking those into account.

Music and songs

- People want more familiar songs mixed in with the new. While we weren't allowed to sing, the new action songs gave us something we could join in with. Now we are able to sing again, we can add in some of the songs we used to use. Actions are good – but not all the time – so we will have a mixture.
- Hurrah! We can hand out instruments again, which was asked for - not for every song, but now and again.
- Help wanted! We want more live music – piano or music group – but we don't have anyone who plays regularly. If you would like to play or help get a music group together, please let one of the team know.

Prayers

- We can include more simple prayers now and involve others in reading / writing prayers.
- There was a mix of responses to the Makaton Lord's Prayer. Most people like it and want to support it, but trying to learn it just once a month is difficult. We will keep it in, but not do too much by way of asking people to learn. Follow and join in with signing if you want to or simply say it. For anyone who can access YouTube who wants to practise at home, we can recommend "The Lord's Prayer signed in Makaton by Becky George". This is the link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_a7mYX_9UIU

Talk / Drama

- We can include a drama in the service if it fits with the service, including using Open the Book resources. And we can involve more children in the drama and ask them to come to the front during the talk.



Other ideas to encourage people in the service and to be part of our church life

- We can get people more involved in the service and let children have a bit more movement in the service.
- Refreshments are back! Time to chat with people before and after the worship is all part of the welcome.
- We'll set out the order of service at the beginning. It is a flexible service but we will use the same rough running order each month.
- Someone mentioned the Pet Service - it's returning in July!
- Sunshiners and Messy Church are restarting. This is a good way to meet and encourage new people to come to this service. But they are services in their own right, so if people just want to attend those, that's fine too.
- Help wanted! There were encouraging comments that if only more people knew about the service they would come. Social media is a good way now to reach new people. Can anyone help with that please?
- More social events in our church generally were suggested. As we get back to normal these things can take off again. Can you help to organise something?
- For action: put more information about the service on our website.
- Make changes more gradually.

As you can see, there are a lot of good things we can incorporate again, and try a few new things – gradually. We have a small Worship for All team to lead the services - Asa, Laura, Mary, Vicky, Adrienne, and Jordan (once he's started with us) - as well as our dedicated 'behind the scenes' people we couldn't do without. If you would like to help out in any way, please do let one of the team know. And do think if you are able to help in any of the specific ways that have been mentioned – music, publicity, or social events.

Many thanks,

Adrienne

..... **Hereafter**

The minister came to see me the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do it all the time. No matter where I am – in the bedroom, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement – I ask myself, 'Now, what am I here after?'"

.....



Introducing our New Curate and his Family

Hello my name is Jordan and I am thrilled to be starting as Curate of the United Benefice of Heybridge with Langford also of All Saints with St. Peters Maldon.

My family and I currently live in Cambridge whilst I train at Ridley Hall and will be moving in to the All-Saints Vicarage (Maldon) in June time. My wife Hannah is a qualified RE secondary school teacher and together we have three children Jesse who is 5 years old, Jude 2 and Mabel nearly 1.



**Jordan Palmer, his wife
Hannah and their
children Jesse, Jude and
Mabel**

From as young as seven I had a faith in Christ, which fuelled me with enthusiasm to aim myself toward hearing from God and the direction He placed on my life. I grew up in Canada where my parents, two sisters and I attended a local Baptist Church. Having returned to the UK when I was ten years old, I really learnt the beauty of how the local Church can impact its community, as my parents became very involved in starting a youth club at our Church.

When I left school, I intended to go travelling, but I felt that God was calling me to immediately study and train for ministry. Thankfully I listened, and



attended London School of Theology, because there I met my wife whilst we both undertook a degree in Theology.

After graduating, I worked for Grace Works, a local trust of Scripture Union, which aided local Churches in Havering to connect with schools and give young people a chance to encounter the Christian faith. I later became Children & Youth worker at St Mary's Loughton where I really got to recognise many of the complexities as well as opportunities for families attending Church. My last role before I began my Ordination training was as Pioneer Youth worker at St Edward's Romford where I managed a project to help the Church in its witness of the good news to troubled youth by developing a youth centre and various clubs which supported them.

Through my life journey, I have come to realise that everyone experiences suffering at some point, this can reveal something profound about who God is. My own faith has been deepened in distressing times, where I have encountered Jesus reaching into my pain. God himself embraced suffering in the person of Jesus, and I feel this is a deeply counter cultural yet powerful message. This is the heart of the good news that I hope my life and vocation as a vicar will demonstrate; that God is in the chaos and pain of this world.

I am a big fan of football, boxing and love the occasional round of golf. My life currently involves several walks to the play park with my children and stick fighting. Hannah and I enjoy socialising over food and shared events with lots of people, and we hope to bump in to you at some point in the near future.

Jordan Palmer, Ordinand



Messy Church will resume at All Saints' on Saturday 16th April at 2.00 pm and then the third Saturday of each month.

Offers of help with Messy Church are most welcome, please speak to Elaine Brown.



Paul J King

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LOCALLY HAND CARVED STONE MEMORIALS



TEN to TEN RAMBLING GROUP The March Ten to Ten walk.

This will be on Saturday March 12th and will be led by Kathy (07747 198785)
The walk will start from The Bell Inn, Beckingham Street, Tolleshunt Major, CM9 8LL. Meet there ready to leave at 9.50am.

If anyone would like lunch afterwards please ring Kathy

Sue Smith

An Anonymous 19th Century Epitaph in an English Churchyard Reads:

Here lies a poor woman who was always tired,
For she lived in a place where help wasn't hired,
Her last words on earth were "dear friends I am going,
Where washing ain't done, nor sweeping nor sewing,
And everything there is exact to my wishes,
For there they don't eat and there's no washing of dishes.....
Don't mourn me now, don't mourn me never,
For I'm going to do nothing for ever and ever"

Submitted by Mike Ovenden



Church Warden's Chat

A good news edition, with firstly signs of spring visible, longer hours of sunlight and snowdrops and daffodils blooming in gardens. Despite the awful storms last week, we can hope for better weather as spring shows us signs of new growth.

There has been good news for All Saints too, with the announcement of a new curate coming later this year to assist Asa and to begin his ministry with us. He is a young man, with a wife and three young children, who are looking forward to joining us and will be living in the vicarage! It will be great to see that house as a family home again, as many of us have been sad to see that lovely, old building standing empty for so long.

I also have had good news, with a phone call this morning from the hospital. All being well with my premeds., I will be having my hip operation next Friday, 4th.March, as they have had a cancellation. Many of you have been asking when I was likely to get a date (and I have been very touched by your concern) but this has come with only nine days notice, so it was a bit of a shock.

Lastly I would like to bring to your attention a 'Keep it Local - a Community Together' event on Saturday 26th.March. It will consist of a variety of events along the High Street to bring local people together. I hope to have more information later, but it sounds fun, so keep the date free.

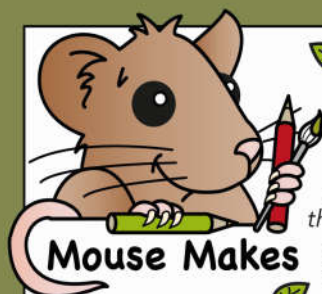
With Covid restrictions being eased this week, we will still be taking some precautions in church, so keep well and safe,

Best wishes,

Jenny Churchwarden

N.B.

**COPY DEADLINE FOR APRIL MAGAZINE
20th MARCH**



Mouse Makes

GOOD FRUIT OR BAD FRUIT?

Jesus said:

*"No good tree does not produce bad fruit,
nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. Each
tree is known by its own fruit..."*

*...Good people bring good things out of the good
they stored in their hearts. But evil people bring evil
things out of the evil they stored in their hearts.
People speak the things that are in their hearts."*

- Luke 6: 43-45

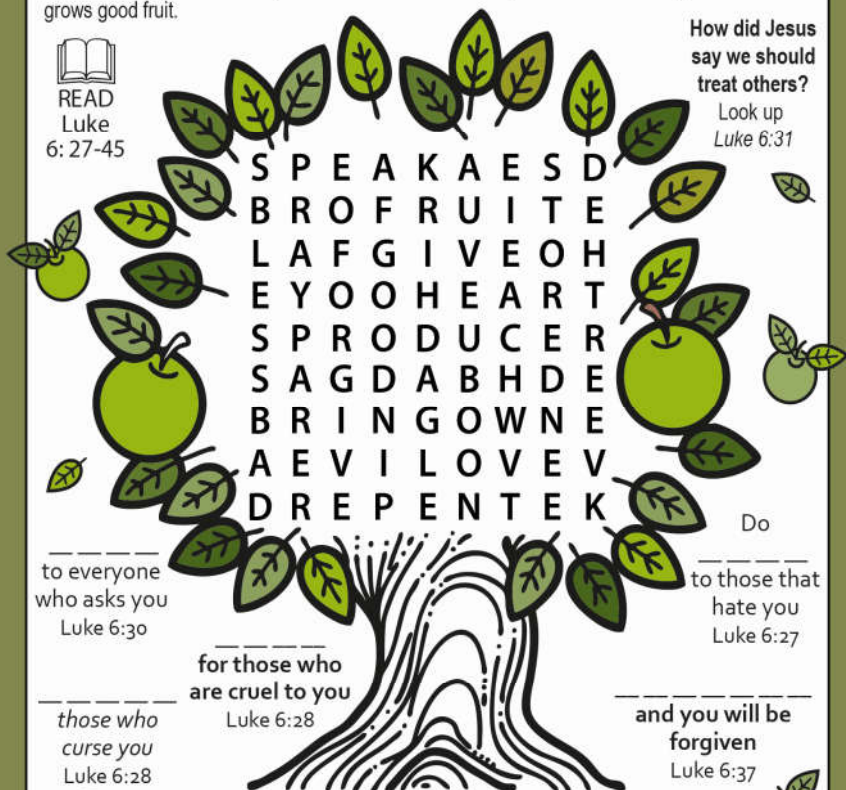
During LENT ask God to help you through His Holy Spirit to turn your hate to **love**, your impatience to **patience** and your unkindness to **kindness**, so we can be like a good tree that grows good fruit.



READ
Luke
6: 27-45

How did Jesus
say we should
treat others?

Look up
Luke 6:31



to everyone
who asks you
Luke 6:30

for those who
are cruel to you
Luke 6:28

those who
curse you
Luke 6:28

to those that
hate you
Luke 6:27

and you will be
forgiven
Luke 6:37

Find these words from **Luke 6** in the word search above.

GOOD • BAD • FRUIT • TREE • HEART • EVIL • EACH • OWN • STORED
PRODUCE • BRING • SPEAK • REPENT • FORGIVE • LOVE • BLESS • PRAY • GIVE



The gardener and the Vine



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL
ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS
TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH
BRANCH CAREFULLY..

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING
GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE
FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD
FRUIT...

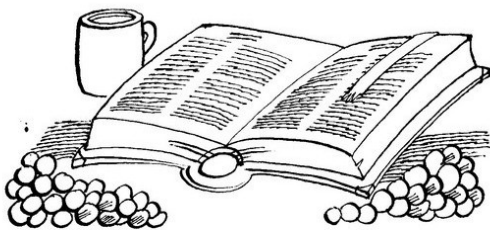


...OR NO FRUIT AT
ALL...



...THEN THE GARDENER WOULD
CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN
THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE
VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S
GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told stories about a lost sheep and a lost coin, then one about a man with two sons. The younger son said to his father...



But his father sent servants to get clothes for his son and prepare a feast to celebrate his return.





WORDSEARCH

f	c	l	o	t	h	e	s	d	x	h	v
o	e	y	t	s	o	r	r	y	v	u	b
t	l	e	e	a	n	g	r	y	m	g	w
l	e	f	d	n	o	t	h	i	n	g	y
p	b	l	o	i	n	f	a	t	h	e	r
f	r	y	o	u	n	g	e	r	n	d	h
e	a	o	o	s	n	g	v	o	p	o	o
a	t	c	p	o	t	d	m	x	n	l	u
s	e	n	s	e	s	l	a	v	e	d	s
t	e	w	w	o	r	k	m	a	n	e	e
i	n	h	e	r	i	t	v	h	u	r	r
n	i	h	u	n	g	r	y	p	i	g	s

inherit

feeding

sorry

celebrate

hungry

workman

property

son

clothes

money

younger

found

senses

angry

country

older

hugged

feast

house

nothing

father

slaved

pigs

lost



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 Lest

On how to sabotage a music festival

My dear Nephew Darren,

It seemed such an innocent suggestion. A local farmer announced he wanted to arrange a Spring music festival. I could already hear Mozart string quartets being played in our Lady Chapel, and arias from Donizetti operas being sung al fresco in the Glebe field, while we sipped champagne in the warm Spring sunshine and admired the flowers.

Unfortunately, our farmer was thinking of a heavy metal weekend in one of his fields. The teacups began to rattle when village talk turned to portable lavatories, mobile catering vans and using the churchyard for overflow camping space. Then the police arrived to discuss crowd control and drug policy. At James the Least of All we tend more towards congenial dinner parties, with drugs labelled Bollinger or Glenfiddich.

That was the point when Colonel Trubshaw began to search out his old shotgun. His wife even stopped serving coffee after Mattins, in order to patrol the perimeter of their estate with their arthritic spaniel. On the other hand, Miss Little went a little mad. She exchanged her usual tweeds and brogues and pearls for a red bandana, long patchwork dress and peace beads. She must have enjoyed the 1960s.

It was time to take action, so I told our farmer that St James the Least of All would support him to the hilt. Our ladies would of course do flower arrangements for the stage, and our sidesmen would greet the campers as they arrived. We would provide a full choral Evensong on Friday night, to help set the tone for the weekend. When the farmer gasped something about heavy metal, I was able to reassure him. "Heavy metal? We're doing that Saturday morning from about 6am, when our bellringers will give a three-hour exhibition of change ringing." The farmer pleaded something about singing, and I was able to reassure him on that point as well: "On Sunday we'll do a Songs of Praise, and not to worry, your campers can choose their favourite hymns from 'Ancient and Modern'."



I was thanked profusely, but the following week, our dear farmer wrote to tell me he had decided to graze sheep on his field after all. Shame about that.
Your loving uncle,
Eustace



Book Reviews

Victorian Stained Glass

**by Trevor Yorke,
Shire Publications, £8.99**

This beautifully illustrated guide will introduce you to the world of Victorian stained glass.

Victorian stained glass is often magnificent, and can still be found in countless British churches, municipal buildings and homes. It is often glowing with colour, with designs influenced by the Gothic Revival, the Arts and Crafts Movement, and even the Art Nouveau, as a new century dawned. Its famous designers include A.W.N. Pugin, and Pre-Raphaelites William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones.

Trevor Yorke, a historian, tells how Victorian craftsmen re-learned the lost medieval art of colouring, painting, and assembling stained glass windows. But also, as this was an age of industry of how windows became templated, and mass produced.

Taken from the Parish Pump website

Ash Wednesday 2nd March.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, when there will be a Sung Eucharist at 7.30pm, which will be led by Preb Paul Barnes and Adrienne Knight. For those who wish it, the imposition of ashes will be available as the traditional sign of penitence with which we begin this season of preparation for Easter.

As well as the Eucharist at All Saints' in the evening, there will be Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Andrew's, Heybridge, taken by Revd Asa Humphreys who will also lead a service at 7.00pm at St Giles's Church Langford.

Ed



HOLY DAYS

17th March: St Patrick

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

Taken from the Parish Pump website



REFLECTED FAITH SERIES:

"THE ASHING SERVICE"

BY JO WHITE

Such a strange name for a church service! Why would anyone be attracted to attend such a thing?

This year Ash Wednesday is close to the start of March; on the Second of the month. As the first day of Lent the service is used to physically place a sign of the cross on each person's forehead using ashes made from the previous year's palm crosses. The use of ashes has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship; the Old Testament referring to sackcloth and ashes over twenty times.

There is clearly a visual link with the blackness of evil and sin but also the 'dirtiness' that spreads everywhere from it. We all know how a small amount of mud on shoes walked into the house will soon go everywhere and take a much longer clean-up operation than if it was wiped off before entering.

In Christian records, ashes are used for penitents by the sixth century, but it is not until the beginning of the eleventh century that the faithful took part in a ceremony on the Wednesday before Lent that included the imposition of ashes. Still later this came to be called Ash Wednesday.

Over the centuries the emphasis of meaning for the imposed ashes has changed, from a preparation for baptism, a renewal of baptismal vows, to an understanding of a community's preparation for the event of the Paschal mystery of rebirth at Easter.

It reminds us of what is past and what is to come, and it encourages us to think again of how we can change that journey should we wish to do so.

This month

The Imposition of Ashes is a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. It is 'felt' in the heart and soul – as well as on the skin. And can be one of the most profound experiences of humility as we enter together as a Christian community across the globe our journey towards the Cross and the Resurrection.

As the priest says the traditional words over you, "Remember that you are but dust, and to dust you will return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. Amen." what will you be focusing upon?

Taken from the Parish Pump website



February 2022

WITHAM CHORAL

Conductor: Patrick McCarthy



CREATION

Haydn

Colchester Philharmonic

Leader: Peter Ivey

Gill Wilson (Soprano)

Robin Morgan (Tenor)

Jack Holton (Bass)

WITHAM PUBLIC HALL (CM8 2DY)

Saturday, APRIL 2nd. 2022 7.30pm

(doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £15.00

(Senior Citizens £14.00)

(Full-time education £5.00)

Available from: Witham Public Hall 03450 178717

info@withampublichall.co.uk

Witham Tourist Information Centre 01376 502 674

or at the door

www.withamchoralsociety.org.uk



After Eight Social Club
For the mature and young at heart!

Dance! Dance! Dance!



Saturday 19 March
Danbury Village Hall

Admission: Members £6.00 Non Members £8.00

Doors open 8.00pm

There is no bar at this venue so please bring your own
drinks.

You are welcome to bring your own snacks and nibbles!

The after *eight* social club runs various activities
every week throughout the year.

These include quizzes, meals out, coffee evenings, excursions etc.

If you require further information call Mike on 01621 856219

We also have a facebook page

www.aftereightsocialclub.co.uk



The Real Easter Egg celebrates its 12th year with an invitation to 'Let's Celebrate'!

For the first time since the pandemic began, churches and communities across the UK will be coming together to celebrate Easter as restrictions are relaxed. So, no wonder that the theme for the Real Easter Egg this year is 'Let's Celebrate'!

The Real Easter Egg was created in 2010 as a way for churches, groups and individuals to share the Easter story while supporting Fairtrade. 12 years on, it has a network of thousands of churches and supports. More than three million people have read the Easter Stories it produces, and it has raised more than £320,000 for good causes.

This year, you can also reach out to UK families facing hardship by donating to food banks through the Real Easter Egg's new foodbank scheme.

All Real Easter Eggs are made of Fairtrade chocolate and come with an Easter story in the box. The stories range from simple guides to 24-page activity book versions with a prize competition worth £200. They are Palm oil free and plastic free.

Because of the continued effects of the pandemic, it is more important than ever that we find ways to share the Easter story in 2022 and support producers. The Real Easter Egg is a proven way to do this. More details at www.realeasteregg.co.uk

MEN'S BREAKFAST



Now that Covid restrictions have eased, Men's Breakfast can resume!

We will meet on **Monday 14th March at 9am** at the Rose and Crown (Wetherspoons) in the High Street

See you there!

From the Registers

Baptism

20th February, **Emily Ann Hancock** of Maldon





Prayer Diary February 2022

1 St David	Wales, and churches dedicated to St David
2 Ash Wednesday	Our observance of Lent
3	Tearfund
4 World Day of Prayer	Christians throughout the world
5	The Healing Ministry
6 First Sunday of Lent	Missionaries throughout the world
7	Children in care
8	All teachers
9	Church of England Schools
10	Care home workers
11	Care home residents
12	Our Police Forces
13 Second Sunday of Lent	Churches in our Deanery
14	All who are bearing children
15	Our Ministry Team
16	Paramedics and all Ambulance Staff
17 St Patrick	Ireland, and churches dedicated to St Patrick
18	Christian Booksellers
19	The Archbishops of Canterbury and York
20 Third Sunday of Lent	All Priests and Ministers of the Church
21	Retired Clergy
22	All staff employed in the Diocesan Offices
23	Chelmsford Cathedral Staff
24	All employed in Hospices
25 The Annunciation	All Midwives
26	Foster Parents
27 Fourth Sunday of Lent	All Mothers and our Mother Church;
Mothering Sunday	for the work of The Mothers' Union and Women's Institute
28	All fathers
29	Our Parish
30	Churches in Heybridge and Langford
31	St Mary's Parish, Maldon



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	Derek Hall	01621 741690
Flower Group	Betty Smith	01621 854143
Bible Society	Joan Downham	01621854655
Childrens Society	Elaine Brown	01621 850484
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and	Zoe Franklin	Email
Explorer Scouts (14-18yrs)	1stmaldonallsaintsscoutgroup@gmail.com	
Meeting Point	Barbara Gale	01621 928538
Maldon Pioneers	Mike Frederick	01621 840951
Maldon Ladies Group	Vivien Clark	01621 869667
Ramblers Club		
Prayer Group		
Messy Church	Elaine Brown	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
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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
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Website www.allsaintsmaldon.com

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