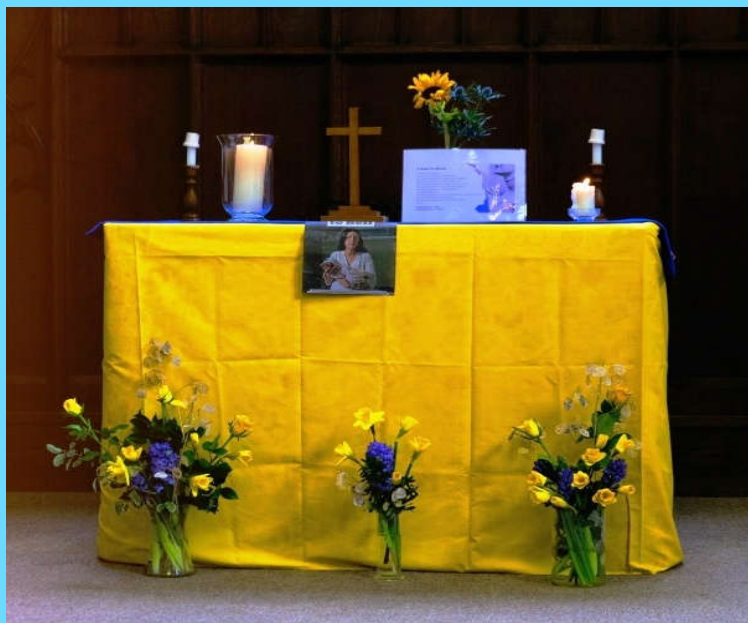


ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

April 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).
6:00 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: The Alter in the D'Arcy Chapel during the Ukraine vigil. Photo by Mike Ovenden



THE PARISH LETTER

Last month we celebrated the feast day of St Cyril and St Methodius and remembered the central part that they played in bringing the gospel into Eastern Europe, codifying an alphabet (Cyrillic) for the Slavonic language and setting scripture and liturgy to this new textual base.

They share a saint's day with St Valentine and so often get overlooked, but this year we made an especial point of remembering their efforts as we prayed for peace in Ukraine. Their feast day fell on a Monday and so that day we had Communion at St George's, with a particular focus upon them and their ministry.

We prayed about the great schism of 1054 which saw the Catholic and Orthodox churches formerly split for political and theological issues (in that order) and for the symbolism of us celebrating their saint's day in our western tradition, whilst our eastern brothers and sisters did the same. There was a prophetic point of unity which took on extra salience, given the brewing conflict in Ukraine.

Sadly, in the intervening time, cooler heads have yet to prevail and we remain horrified by man's inhumanity to man and compelled afresh to pray and pray again. We have acted through donations, so ably co-ordinated by Julie and her team, and giving through CAFOD. And yet it feels somehow, even still, insufficient.

The truth of the matter is, that insufficiency abounds in this crisis. There is an air of insufficiency in the actions taken by our Government and those of neighbouring countries. At the time of writing, the government of Ukraine are asking for a no-fly zone over their country. NATO says, no. 1.5 million refugees are fleeing to the west and are finding homes with strangers, camps, churches and even empty Airbnb properties.

Even this, feels somehow, insufficient.

We look at the pro-Russian rallies being held in Belgrade in recent days and they seem discordant in the 21st Century, but their roots spin back to the Balkan wars at the turn of the 20th Century and the ready finance that Serbia was able to garner from France and Russia through their entente. This simple point draws our mind to the reality that history remembers what we choose to forget, and repeats itself upon the unwary.

Government energy policy across all shades of party persuasion these past 20 years or more has led to our reliance upon gas from Russia. We see the



consequence at the pumps. The war in Ukraine affects our cost of living and the fragility of our energy supply impinges upon the choices available to our Government. As Lenin famously noted, everything is connected to everything else. In our interdigitated world, that axiom only grows more apt.

To try and frame this war in a wider setting and to better inform my prayers, I have returned to Christopher Clark's 'Sleepwalkers' – a book looking at how World War I began. It is eerily reminiscent of recent events; tragically so.

Yet it is the title and indeed its concluding point that resonates most. It reminded me of a line from Revelation 3, in the letter to the Church of Laodicea.

15. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!

16. So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Sleepwalkers are neither awake, nor asleep. They are akin to the lukewarm Christians that are urged to repent in this passage. God has a prophetic message to the Church in Laodicea – stop being lukewarm, or find yourself on the wrong side of history.

Understanding the context of this passage is important, to make clear sense of it. Laodicea had been levelled in an earthquake in AD61. In the midst of the rebuilding, the church was depicted as being self-satisfied 'I am rich, I have prospered. I need nothing.' (v.17) Curiously, this doesn't really seem to meet the description of lukewarm.

So, the context – up the road is Pammukale, famous for its hot springs. Down the road is Colossae, famous for its cold springs. In the middle is Laodicea. Reliant upon lukewarm water piped in from 5 miles away along encrusted pipes. The water had no medicinal value, was unfit for drinking and would have been left to cool and settle before it became potable.

You'd throw up if you drank it from the pipe. God is saying to Laodicea; your self-satisfied attitude makes me want to throw up. Revelation uses the local knowledge to drive the point home.

The sleepwalkers of 1914 were similarly self-satisfied. They too – pretty much across the board said, 'I am rich, I have prospered. I need nothing.' Yet, their self-satisfaction; their sleepwalking – their lukewarm attitude to God paved the way to the Great War.

The parallels between this indictment and the current crisis are all too clear to see.



The Challenge for us is to pray. To humble ourselves and pray. To use our Lenten journey to revisit our own lives and confess those sins of self-satisfaction that are all too easy to harbour. And then to pray again, remembering the words of St Theresa of Avila, 'God is enough'. We are not, but together with God we stand. His grace is sufficient for all our needs. Let us put that promise to the test in prayer. He will not be found wanting.

Asa

HOLY WEEK

- Sunday 10th (Red) – BST Sacred Cantata 6pm All Saints, Maldon – Isaiah 5: 1 – 7
- Monday 11th (Red) – Compline 7.30 Andrew's, Heybridge – Lamentations 2: 8 – 19
- Tuesday 12th (Red) – Compline 7.30 St Giles, Langford – Galatians 6: 11 – end
- Wednesday 13th (Red) – Compline 7.30 St George's, Heybridge Basin – Psalm 88
- 14th – **Maundy Thursday** (White) Exodus 12: 1 – 14
Stripping the Altar and foot washing 7pm - St Andrew's, Heybridge
Stripping the Altar 7.30pm – St Mary's, Maldon
- 15th – **Good Friday** (no hangings) Psalm 22
Walk of Witness service at All Saints, Maldon 11am
Hours Service 2pm - St George's, Heybridge Basin
- 16th – **Holy Saturday** (no hangings) 1 Peter 4: 1 – 8
Easter Eve Service - St Giles, Langford 7pm
- 17th – **Easter Sunday** (White) Acts 10: 34 – 43 BCP P128
6am - St George's, Heybridge Basin Dawn Communion with breakfast
8am - BCP Communion All Saints, Maldon
0930 - Communion St Giles, Langford
0930 - Communion All Saints, Maldon with Baptism
1115 - Communion St Andrew's, Heybridge

My thanks go to all those who are ministering across these services and for the team who pulled this schedule together. Having a service a day and sharing them across the churches is intended to provide a point of unity in our collective worship this year. The discussion we had at All Saints PCC about what 2023 might look like was a fruitful one, too. It'll be good to worship together in person again this year.

Asa



LIVING AS A 'BIPOLAR BEAR'

When I first told my PCC in Danbury in the autumn of 2011 that I had a serious mental illness they were stunned. For many years their parish priest had looked and sounded perfectly normal and had only taken time out for major surgery or chest infections. Nine months later I took early retirement, the condition being compounded by complete burnout and a former lung operation. It was only then that I felt safe enough to confide my history to the diocese.

Bipolar Disorder is a treatable but permanent mood disorder which swings between euphoria (hypomania) and depression. If you have the sort where depression predominates (as I have) then it's classed as Bipolar II. It's unpredictable but thanks to long-term medication, periods of stability occur. However sometimes one relapses.

What symptoms does a 'bipolar bear' get? Well, when I'm in an elevated mood I talk more excitedly, I feel well (which I'm not), the grass is very green and the sky exceptionally blue, impulsive behaviour can be a feature (eg reckless online spending!), and I may feel very important. The one thing which is most uncomfortable are racing thoughts. You notice them most when trying to sleep at night (though you feel you need less sleep in any case): such thoughts are bizarre and nonsensical. This hypomanic phase can last anything up to 6 weeks.

So what I am saying is that basically my inner computer is scrambled and any data is no longer where it should be. You are scared you might break into gobbledygook.

The flip side will follow as surely as night follows day. Bipolar depression can be severe (the condition is considered a suicide risk) and follows a familiar pattern of hopelessness, low self-worth, demotivation, tendency to self-isolate and poor concentration. These episodes take longer to resolve: the 'long slog' as I call them.

If I am really unlucky I can go through short periods of what is called 'rapid cycling', ie when both moods alternate or see-saw within the course of one day.

It's not easy to convey what living with these symptoms is like. However, bears do get together sometimes and we compare notes about meds, feelings or anything which helps. Some time ago I was secretary for 6 years of the



local Maldon Bipolar Group; I have also had a good deal of therapy throughout my life. The great thing is to know your illness well, recognise the triggers and take evasive action. I have had to do this twice in a parish setting in the last 10 years.

In any walk of life one wants to be able to offer one's best: and in the spiritual life of a priest especially so. That's why it's important not to ignore times when you are unfit to advise or console others. It also teaches you to receive – and I am experiencing great kindness from so many of you.

The late Revd Dr Martin Israel was a notable exorcist working in London largely through a ministry of personal prayer. I learnt an enormous amount through him about the psychic realm. However he was plagued by lifelong clinical depression. The struggle to access the light of God was so much more difficult for him. He nevertheless approached this with courage. His wisdom and gifting remained undiminished during the times when it mattered.

All bipolar bears have to learn to accept limitations on their lives, eg fewer parties, more limited travel, identifying 'safe zones' and avoiding 'energy vampires'. Many have a rich inner life – but solitude can at times morph into loneliness.

I am so lucky in having Liz. But she has to do the watching – and it's easier to spot when the house bear is low than when he's high!

To those of you out there who suffer in similar ways, you are not alone. A lot of the time it may well feel like it. God may seem very distant, at times absent. But as the psalmist reminds us (Psalm 97:2) He is as much to be found in the mystery of the clouds and darkness as in the bright morning rays.

(PS And as many of you know, I did direct a play)

Canon Graham

N.B.

**COPY DEADLINE FOR MAY MAGAZINE
17th APRIL**



Deputy Warden's Waffle

This morning when I thought about what to write in this months 'waffle' I could not really think of any good news – but this afternoon we heard the wonderful news that after years of trying so hard to obtain the release of Nazanin, Richard Ratcliffe and daughter Gabriella, were at last to have their wife and mother returned to them, in fact she is in the air on her way home as I write . Also released with her is the retired civil engineer, Anoosheh Ashoori. Of course by the time you read this, they both will have been reunited with their families. I cannot begin to know how they must be feeling – such joy, relief, thanks, wonder, etc. indeed much needed 'good news'



**Nazanin, husband
Richard and seven-
year-old Gabriella**
Photo courtesy of Sky News

In the notices last Sunday, Lent 2, I was able to announce some good news which was good, encouraging and generous, but something we all wish was not needed. The desperate plight of the Ukrainian people. However we should all be proud of ourselves, as in a few short days we had collected enough donations to fill a horse box and more, and a cheque for over £1500 has been sent to CAFOD for much needed aid. On this months front cover of the magazine is a calm, serene moving picture taken by Mike Ovenden of the prayer vigil we held for anyone who needed a moment for themselves and for Ukraine and indeed for all countries shattered by war. Surely the greatest of all evils –War- However like so many people who find strength and support within their community, the horrors brought us closer together, over the few days of the Ukraine appeal, I had several folk say that they have really felt part of the All Saints family. We came together and felt the strength and compassion such times can promote. I would like to say thank you to you all.

Moving on we have some exciting things to look forward to. On Palm Sunday, as well as our service at 9.30 to celebrate this special day, in the



evening at 6pm our choir along with members from other choirs come together to sing this most beautiful of a sung celebration., Faure's Requiem . Really something not to miss.



The horse box waiting to be filled and part of the many donation.
Photos: Mike Ovenden

On April 23rd at 2pm Messy Church will again be up and running. Who will ever forget 'Our God is a Great Big God'? and finally but so importantly we welcome our new curate Jordan and family who will be living in the vicarage from June I believe. So as we approach Spring, daffodils, warmer/longer days let our friendship and outreach continue to embrace all who come through our church door.

In love and friendship, *Vicky Deputy Churchwarden*

Donations for Ukraine a massive THANK YOU to everyone who brought donations to church for Ukraine. To say we were overwhelmed would be an understatement! We were open for donations on the afternoons of 6th and 7th March. On the Sunday evening the Essex Young Farmers collected our donations from that day in a horse box and two trucks, it was quite a sight in the High Street and on Thursday 10th, the remaining donations were kindly taken by Steve Collins to Chelmsford Fire Station who arranged their onward journey. My heartfelt thanks go to those lovely ladies and gents who worked hard over the two days and especially to those who returned on the Sunday evening to help with the big load-up. It was a lot of hard work but extremely worthwhile.

On Saturday 12th March we held a coffee morning in the D'Arcy Room to raise cash for the Ukraine appeal and raised a fantastic £ 754

When we know if donations are still required, I'm sure All Saints will once again step up and help.

Brilliant work, "Team All Saints!!"

Julie Ovenden, PCC Secretary

Philip Larkin



I read an article last week about poet Philip Larkin. The article was about the fact that the centenary of Larkin's birth will be celebrated on 9th August this year. I was particularly interested as some years ago when I took 'A' level English, Larkin was a featured poet in the course and I grew to like his work. Larkin was for many years the librarian at Hull university and is considered by many to be one of the greatest poets of the last hundred years. He was noted perhaps for writing about the mundane and everyday things in life but observes them with simple but great clarity. In an unfinished poem he wrote in 1953 he said:

"At thirty-one when some are rich/ and some are dead, / I, being neither, have a job instead."

My favourite Larkin poem is his most famous one, the Whitsun Weddings". In this poem he was on a train journey from Hull to London and observed people at various railway stations who were either coming from or going to a wedding in the days before we all had cars. His descriptions of the various people he could see attending the weddings is rather patronising, even critical, but critics have said that it was because he wanted to distance himself from such people. His early difficulties with girls are well documented, although in adult life he did have relationships with several women. Larkin was offered the position of poet laureate upon the death of Sir John Betjeman, but declined it as he was a man who did not seek or desire material status or wealth. There is much more than the few words I have written here, to the complex man who was Philip Larkin but information can be found on the Web or by reading the many poems he wrote.

Incidentally, I did not take my English 'A' level until I was 51 and did it at



evening class. This was to please my daughter who was taking her course at sixth form college and thought it might be a good idea if I did similar so that we could discuss the books together. Of course I could not get a similar syllabus but nevertheless signed on for a course to broaden my own knowledge. Naturally, having a job that meant I travelled a lot I only managed to complete eight lessons and then could not attend any more. I gave up entirely after that but by chance I happened to get on a train home one evening with a young lad who had been on the same course. He told me that the exam was in three weeks and please would I come along and meet all the other youngsters on the course. I managed to get a one week holiday and read each of the books three times although I could not get any quotations to stick. I took the exam and passed with a 'C' grade. I suppose that was acceptable after only eight lessons!

A small extract from the Whitsun Weddings:

The fathers with broad belts under their suits
And steamy foreheads; mothers loud and fat;
An uncle shouting smut; and then the perms,
The nylon gloves and jewellery substitutes,
The lemons, mauves and olive ochres that
Marked off the girls unreally from the rest.

It is worth a read as are his poems about churches (he was referred to as 'a religious agnostic').

Ken Downham



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

Simnel Muffins

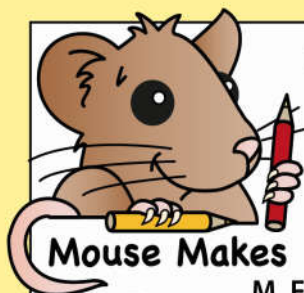
Asa sent be a recipe for Simnel muffins but unfortunately I do not have room to print the whole recipe. Here however are the ingredients:

- 250g mixed dried fruit
- grated zest and juice 1 medium orange
- 175g softened butter
- 175g golden caster sugar
- 3 eggs , beaten
- 300g self-raising flour
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- ½ tsp freshly grated nutmeg
- 5 tbsp milk
- 175g marzipan
- 200g icing sugar
- 2 tbsp orange juice for mixing
- mini eggs



The full recipe can be found at :

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/simnel-muffins>



Mouse Makes



Who betrayed Jesus?
Who denied Jesus?

Read Matthew 26:17-75



What did the soldiers put
on Jesus at his crucifixion?
What time did Jesus die?
Whose tomb was Jesus
buried in?

Read

Matthew 27



HAPPY EASTER!

Jesus has risen!
Jesus is with us!
Jesus will come
again!



What did Jesus send the
disciples to find?

What did the
crowd do?

Read
Matthew
21:1-17



What did
Jesus do
at Passover?

Read Matthew 26:17-30



On the third day who
rolled away the stone
covering the tomb?
What had happened
to Jesus?

Read

Matthew 28



Find these words from the Easter story in the word search:

DONKEY • ROAD • BRANCHES • PALMS • KING • HOSANNA
PASSOVER • ROOM • BREAD • WINE • CUP • MEAL • BODY • BLOOD
KISS • MESSIAH • CHRIST • JESUS • CRUCIFY • CROWN • THORNS
ROBE • TREE • NAILS • CROSS • DARKNESS • QUAKE • DEATH • LOTS
TOMB • LINEN • STONE • BODY • BURY • THREE DAYS • MORNING
MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN • GOD • RAISED • JOY • GO TELL
GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT • SAVIOUR • PRAISE • EASTER



The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

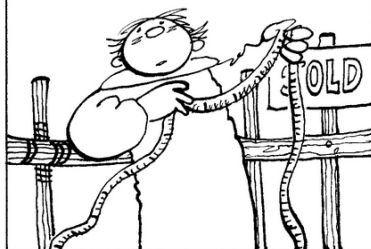


OH!
NO!!



BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



YES - I CAN
COME TO YOUR
PARTY

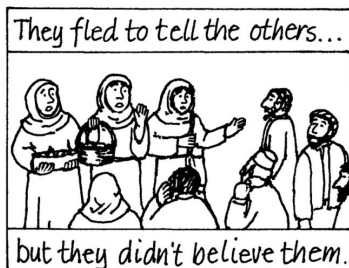
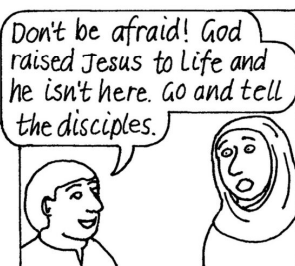
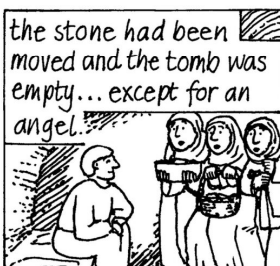
THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

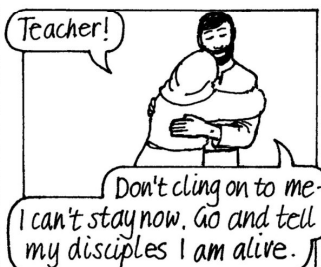
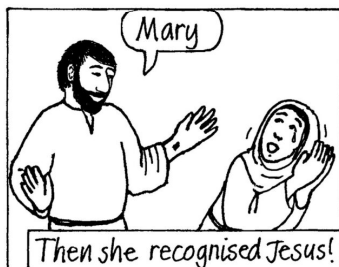
It can be read in the Bible in
Mark 16:1-8, John 20:1-18

Jesus' tomb had been sealed with a large stone.
Very early Sunday morning, some of Jesus' friends went to put spices on his body.



They saw the tomb was empty and only the cloths that Jesus' body had been wrapped in lying there. So they went back to the others.

Mary Magdalene stayed by the tomb, crying. She didn't understand that Jesus was no longer dead. When she looked in the tomb there were 2 angels.





Prayers across Europe for peace in Ukraine



The Bishop in Europe, Bishop Robert Innes, writes:

“Our little church in Kyiv is right at the centre of this crisis,” he explained. “Some of them have fled the city by car, others are still there. These are our people, our brothers and sisters, and of course we are very concerned for their wellbeing and safety. In the face of military action and aggression, we feel powerless. What can we do? One thing that we can all do is pray.”

“The situation in Ukraine is very deeply troubling. President Putin is leading a completely unjustified and aggressive war against Ukraine, a war which many ordinary Russians deeply deplore.

Leaders from many Christian churches, including the Ukrainian Orthodox (Russian Patriarchate) Church have condemned the invasion of Ukraine. Our hearts cry out for justice and peace. We are most especially concerned for the wellbeing of those in Ukraine who are directly affected by the war.

This includes particularly the members of our own congregation of Christ Church, Kyiv. The Churchwarden there, Christina, messaged us this morning saying: ‘Please pray for us as we are standing here for our land and for our roots. The battle for Kyiv has begun; it is fierce and intensive. Pray for us.’

In the face of military action, we can easily feel powerless and fearful. But one thing we can do is pray. We can pray in solidarity with those most affected. We can pray that God will yet overrule in the hearts and minds of those with power and authority. We can pray that the victims will be few and that the innocent will be protected. We can pray that peace will come through justice and not through the infliction of the will of a stronger party on a weaker.

Taken from the Parish Pump website



REFLECTED FAITH SERIES:

"TOGETHERNESS"

BY JO WHITE

Last month we began our Lenten journey with ashes on Ash Wednesday, reminding us of our beginning and our ending; and this month we will conclude that time with Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. Such a relatively short time for so great a distance.

I'm reminded of this by the opening words used in Church of England services at the Palm Sunday services: *"Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters His own city to complete His work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with Him in faith and love, so that, united with Him in His sufferings, we may share His risen life."* It's all about togetherness.

Together as a small group of people in that one church where we worship. Together with 'the' church across all denominations and throughout the world. Together with Christ Himself.

It's one of the reasons that we process on Palm Sunday. Ideally a joyful and noisy procession with banners and rejoicing – reminding us of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as much as into our own lives.

This month

It's in this joy wherein lies the contrast with our solemn and silent procession on Good Friday. We need them both. One on its own doesn't tell the full story. Just like a play on Good Friday without its follow-up on Easter Sunday leaves you hanging. We all know that social media tends to only show happy occasions but that underneath all those meals and holidays and smiling faces there can be great heartaches and sorrows.

It's the togetherness of both of those emotions where the true depth of joy is to be found and not on the surfaces.

How do we greet Christ anew on Resurrection Sunday without the devastating loss of Good Friday, or that long week travelling in and out of the city walls? May you find real joy in togetherness this Easter!

Taken from the Parish Pump website



Continuing our correspondence between Eustace, rector of St James the Least, and his nephew.... Taken from the Parish Pump website.



The Rectory
St James the Lest

On how maintaining the churchyard can lead to turf wars

My dear Nephew Darren,

Consider yourself fortunate that your churchyard consists of no more than a small, paved area, and that keeping it tidy requires ten minutes of picking up discarded takeaway boxes on Sunday morning. Our four acres of grass and randomly placed gravestones absorbs a large portion of the time and energy of half the parish.

By getting different people to adopt sections of the churchyard, the hope was that an element of competition would be introduced; Major Rutherford would never let Admiral Crompton's section look tidier than his and the local farmers would want to show the amateurs that they knew far more about land maintenance.

Sadly, human nature has got in the way – as it invariably does. Miss Timmins has declared her section a nature reserve, so that the cuddly field mice and darling hedgehogs have somewhere to live in. This now means that crossing from her patch to the next feels like crossing from Kew Gardens to the Amazon Rainforest. Two feet high grass and a profusion of dandelions give way to manicured lawn with any weed daring to pop its head above the parapet being beheaded in seconds. Miss T is toying with erecting a fence round her plot, to keep her dear furry friends safe and Sir Horace is threatening to have it electrified, to make sure they do not defile his grass billiard table.

Mr Tremble, a retired health and safety officer, whose well-meaning advice on avoiding accidents is such a burden, is applying to have all the gravestones on his patch levelled, so that no one could be killed by having a fall on them. The fact that this has never happened in 600 years, seems an irrelevance to him. On the other hand, his neighbour spends summer evenings painting his stones with sour milk, in order to encourage lichen. Mr Tremble's warning that some lichens can be quite poisonous have so far fallen on deaf ears.



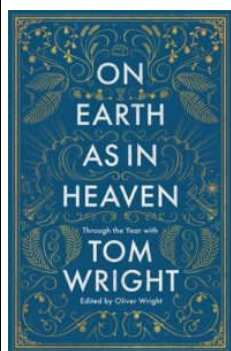
A local farmer, who maintains the boundary walls, generously planted cherry trees all around the perimeter; not only for their looks in Spring, but so that the birds would have somewhere to roost. Sadly, Lady Lipton, while resting from maintaining her plot, tends to stupefy them when she smokes her briar pipe.

The only area which no one dares criticise surrounds the mausoleum of the Luscombes, maintained by the gardening staff of the present Lord. It contains such a collection of rogues and miscreants that parishioners fear their anger at being disturbed may even cross the divide of death.

I hesitate to admit it, but the thought of an area of concrete with a few pizza boxes scattered round does at times hold a certain attraction.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Book Reviews

On Earth as in Heaven. through the year with Tom Wright By Tom Wright, SPCK, £19.99

Christians of all traditions have long regarded the writings of Tom Wright as a rich source of guidance for living faithfully in today's world. His bestselling books, including *Simply Christian*, *Simply Jesus*, and *Surprised by Hope*, have encouraged millions worldwide.

Now, whether you are new to Wright's books or already a fan, you can enjoy their wisdom each day with this thoughtful selection of 365 daily meditations that feature short passages from his classic works.

The devotions begin on Easter Day, the first day of new creation, and then follow the seasons of the Christian year to end with a second Easter and the invitation to begin again.

Reflecting on the biblical themes of beauty, power, spirituality, justice, truth, freedom and love, these daily meditations will invigorate and sustain you as you cultivate a Christ-like life 'on earth as in heaven'.

Taken from the Parish Pump website



HOLY DAYS

17th April: **EASTER, the most joyful day of the year**

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for the first Good Friday: Friday 7th April 30 AD or Friday 3rd April, 33 AD with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these two Fridays to be the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22nd March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25th April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

Taken from the Parish Pump website



**ST MARY'S CHURCH
CHURCH ROAD
LITTLE BENTLEY
CO7 8SE**

JOHN STAINER
CRUCIFIXION

**Friday 15TH APRIL
2022**

6.30pm

**The Deanery Choir
and friends**

**Tenor Graham Bell
Bass Peter Kenvyn Jones**

**Organist Rev Stephen Carter
Conductor Sally Pudney**

Retiring collection for St Mary's Bell restoration fund





FAURÉ REQUIEM

**WILL BE PERFORMED
BY AN AUGMENTED
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
CHOIR,
IN ALL SAINTS'
MALDON,
ON PALM SUNDAY,
10TH APRIL AT 6pm
ENTRY FREE,
RETIRING COLLECTION**



After Eight Social Club



Anniversary Dance



Saturday 16th April

Maldon Town Hall

Doors open 8.00pm

Admission: £5 members, £7 guests

Come along and celebrate the club's Anniversary

Dancing to music from all the decades

**Please bring a plate of food to share
on the buffet table**

NO BAR — BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS!



The after *eight* social club runs various activities every month of the year.

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

If you require further information call Mike on 01621 856219

www.aftereightsocialclub.co.uk



Dem Bones, dem bones

It has been said that the body of any organisation is made up of four types of bones....

There are the Wishbones – who spend their time wishing someone else would do something about the problem under discussion....

There are the Jawbones – who spend their time talking about the problem.

There are the Knucklebones – who spend their time knocking everything that everyone has already done or would like to do.

Finally, there are the Backbones who quietly come along, get under the load, and carry it!

Which type of bone are you?

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Now that covid restrictions have been eased,
Men's Breakfast has resumed.

We next meet on Monday 11th April at 9am at
the Rose and Crown (Witherspoons) in the High
Street. We will then meet on every 2nd Monday
of the month at the same venue.

See you there.

From the Registers

Baptism

20th March 2022 **Alice-Rose Stephens** of Maldon

Funerals

3rd March **Clare Montgomery** aged 63 of Heybridge

4th March **Ann Foster** aged 82 of Maldon

24th March **Rachel Dawes** aged 50 of Maldon





Prayer Diary

April 2022

1	Resolve for peace in Russia and Ukraine
2	Our spiritual life as Passiontide approaches
3	5th Sunday of Lent Passiontide begins
	All Priests and Ministers of the Church
4	Retired Clergy
5	Christians throughout the world
6	Chelmsford Cathedral Staff
7	All who are bearing children
8	All Midwives
9	All employed in Hospices
10	Palm Sunday
	Our Ministry Team
11	Monday of Holy Week
	Our Parish
12	Tuesday of Holy Week
	Free Churches in Maldon
13	Wednesday of Holy Week
	St Mary's Parish, Maldon
14	Maundy Thursday
	Christians in the Holy Land
15	Good Friday
	The witness of all Churches in our Diocese
16	Easter Eve
	Those who are newly Baptised and Confirmed
17	Easter Day
	Christians throughout the world
18	Monday of Easter Week
	Christians who are persecuted for their faith
19	Tuesday of Easter Week
	Those suffering from cancer
20	Wednesday of Easter Week
	Those addicted to alcohol
21	Thursday of Easter Week
	The unemployed
22	Friday of Easter Week
	Our Area Bishops
23	Saturday of Easter Week
	St George Churches dedicated to St George and members of The Scout Association
24	2nd Sunday of Easter
	Christian Youth Workers
25	St Mark
	Churches dedicated to St Mark
26	
	The Royal School of Church Music
27	
	Maldon Food Pantry
28	
	The United Benefice of St Andrew, St George and St Giles, Heybridge and Langford
29	
	All Churchwardens
30	
	Our Archdeacon



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 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 Tel 01621 784354
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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trade.*

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**Home & Garden
Construction & Farming**



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**Broad Street Green Road,
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www.allsaintsmaldon.com