

ALL SAINTS' MALDON



PARISH NEWS

September 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 stories songs and prayers. service of 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	SERVICES
Evening	Morning Prayer is usually said in church at 8.30am on Monday - Friday. Prayer is usually said in church at 5.30pm on Monday - Thursday
1st	Thursday 11:00am Holy

*Due to the current situation services may change
Please see the Link or the website for details.*

Cover Picture: A **Humming Bird Hawk Moth** photo'd by Stuart Pegler in the Dordogne 3 years ago. One turned up in his garden recently



Thanks to Our Sponsor

We are most grateful to Joan and Kenneth Downham for sponsoring the magazine this month. Ken wrote to me saying why they wish to sponsor the magazine this month and on behalf of you all may I wish them both a very happy 'Diamond Anniversary'.

Ken said:

"We are sponsoring the magazine this month because on September 1st Joan and I have been married for 60 years.

We were married at the parish church of St. Thomas Becontree, which then was in the County of Essex.

We have been coming to All Saints for about twelve years now and have made many friends as a result. We really do consider everyone at All Saints as our 'Church family'."

Please read Ken's article on the changes he has witnessed during those sixty years, on page 6 of this magazine. *Ed*

THE PARISH LETTER

Not from the Vicarage (September 2022)

How bittersweet it was to be back in Portstewart last month – the joy of a summer holiday in a place I love, but with the sadness of knowing it was most likely my last time staying at my mum's house; the restfulness of time off work, but the rather daunting task of sorting through photos and the family 'heirlooms' with my two sisters. In the end, it proved to be relatively painless – no hair pulling, biting or sulking – and we agreed very amicably on the few precious items. Each of us having slightly different memories and tastes made it easy to share, and with modern technology we can easily copy any photos that we all want to keep.

It was one of my last Sunday services at Agherton Parish Church too. Like All Saints, they have modernised - the service was projected onto a wall; an area at the back is set aside for people to have coffee and catch up with each other; and a few pews have been removed from the front to make a more flexible space. On this particular Sunday, the space was being used by a harpist to play during the distribution of Communion, which was an uplifting experience. Agherton is also using the same lectionary, so as Luke 12 was read as the Gospel, I felt a sense of continuity with All Saints.

I was struck by the reading which started "Do not be afraid". In Luke's Gospel, it is not uncommon to find this phrase. Think of the angels appearing



to Zechariah and then to Mary in the very first chapter – “Do not be afraid”; or appearing to shepherds in the next chapter). Not an unreasonable opening perhaps if surprised by an angel, but deeper than that I expect. Partly it is a reassurance to not be afraid of the angel itself, but more than that - it’s about not being afraid of what this means, or what comes next, or what will be required of you.

Modern day psychiatry puts fear and love as the two primary emotions and as the opposite of each other (which looks a lot like what was being said in the First Letter of John written 2000 years ago). Fear is thought to be the driver of a number of our other emotions. Feelings of unease, anxiety, resistance, dislike, hatred even, perhaps all have their root in fear. (It’s easy to forget that words commonly used to convey hatred, intolerance, or dislike – words like homophobia - have ‘phobia’ as their root – fear.) And while fear can be a useful feeling – triggering the flight or fight response when we might need it – it can also be a very negative, causing us to fail to act, to act in ways that cause harm, or to just overwhelm and cloud our thinking. Love is the driver behind positive emotions and actions - kindness, patience, truth. (I know, I know, you don’t need modern psychiatry to tell you that, 1 Corinthians had it covered.)

Our fear can be of many things; fear of change, difference, the unknown, fear of failure, of losing face, status, friends... even fear of forgetting.

I wonder if this fear of forgetting is why I came home with more “stuff” than I thought I would, and why I dithered in deciding what would best help me remember. Perhaps I feel a little bit like if I don’t have the photos, the knickknacks, the pictures, the books, I will forget - not only my parents, but the stories of my childhood. Only my sisters and I share those stories now – and we don’t know them all.

Ironically, surrounding myself with ‘stuff’ (to combat the fear of loss and forgetting) is exactly the opposite of another verse in that reading from Luke - “Sell your possessions and give to the poor; store up treasure in heaven not on earth.” To be fair, there were several charity shop runs from the wee house in Portstewart - my parents’ modest possessions were never going to make it onto Antiques Roadshow or Cash in the Attic, and we knew our parents would have wanted us to make sure someone else got good use out of the things, or pleasure in having them.

There are a lot of people of course, who do not have many possessions to worry about – their worries will be on getting through the autumn and winter. The news is full of stories of those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. Fuel poverty is a big factor. In Northern Ireland it is estimated that 71% of families will experience fuel poverty this year i.e. it costs more than 10 % of household income to keep the home reasonably warm. In England where the definition of fuel poverty is different - if you are below the



poverty line once you have spent the amount you need to heat your home - the official estimate is that 12.5% or over 3 million households will be in fuel poverty this year. And this is only one factor in the cost-of-living crisis faced by many households this year. Even food banks across the country are struggling to put together a decent 3-day supply of food for a reasonable cost. When faced with the information and the real-life stories, we might feel overwhelmed, guilty, powerless, anxious about what is ahead for people this year – fearful, dare I say.

But Luke's Gospel gives the example of Jesus' great love for the poor. This gospel is for the poor and those who society might look down on. Think of the birth story – it is the shepherds who come to the manger; only Luke tells us the parable of the rich man and Lazarus; in Luke's account of the Beatitudes it is the poor and hungry who are blessed.

So where does that leave us if we want to share the good news of the Gospel? Simply telling someone who is in the grip of poverty that this is good news is not likely to be helpful or well received. Fortunately, St Francis of Assisi put it neatly when he is attributed as saying "*Preach the gospel at all times and if necessary, use words*". We may suspect he didn't quite use those words but we get the point that he was asking his friars to preach by deeds as well as words.

So we are all preachers of the Gospel in our own and many varied ways. Keep up the good work folks; we need to share it more than ever.

Adrienne

SUMMER FETE



The treasurer wishes to express his sincere thanks to the organisers and band of helpers who arranged a truly successful fete, for which the magnificent SUM OF £647.30 pounds was raised. Without such events the purse strings would be very tight and short.

Best wishes for any future fund raising that the Parish might hold.

Eddie Sewell Treasurer Photo by Ken Russell



CHANGING TIMES

In September this year Joan and I celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary. This is obviously a big occasion for us and we are delighted that each of our choices so long ago turned out to be the correct one for both of us. Having shared our lives for so long, it is natural that on occasion we tend to look back over those sixty years and note things that have influenced us and what has happened in life in general during that time. There have been many changes in the way we live and things that have influenced the way we live. We were both born before the second world war and so have many memories of that war, but here I want to think about non-violent events and just mention a few inventions that have had a profound effect on our lives.

For me, the biggest single change in our time has been the advancement of communications. When I met Joan I was a junior officer in the Merchant Navy and made many voyages to North, South and Central America. It was possible to make a telephone call home, but it usually took quite a time to get a call home the radio officer on board had to make various connections before he could achieve a call from the ship to the UK. Sometimes this could be the next day when the connection was made! I never did use this service as it was quite costly and my parents (and later, Joan) never possessed a telephone. Nowadays mobile phones allow us to be connected to anywhere in the world almost instantly and at a relatively small cost. In 1962, television was not the powerful organ that it is today and there were, I think, only about three channels on BBC and ITV to view, Now there seem to be thousands, many of them being subscription channels. Add to this I-phones, I-pads and many more electronic pieces of equipment and the difference the years have made becomes clear.

As a result of the change in communications, shopping has also changed. When we were married there was more or less only 'corner' shops although some small supermarkets were starting to emerge. We shopped every Friday night on our way home from work. I had left the MN by then and we both worked in London. Our shopping budget was six pounds per week for food and household sundries and we were served by the owner of the shop who fetched each of our requirements from one of his shelves personally to us. It is not quite the same today! Of course, we can now also shop on line because of the invention of home computers. Just sit at your desk and with a few clicks order anything from the weekly groceries to a say a wristwatch or a new vacuum cleaner. Sixty years ago this would have been like fantasy land.

What about home comforts? Our parents were Council house tenants in Dagenham and Joan's family only lived one hundred metres from my family but Joan and I did not know each other until I was twenty five. The reason



for that? I was too shy to talk with girls? NO Really. it is true even though you would never guess that today. Fortunately, I did pluck up the courage to speak with Joan one evening as we got off the bus and after trying to attack me with her umbrella she did speak with me and here we are today! But back to the main subject. Many of my parents relatives still lived in the slums of east London and had no indoor toilets or hot water except that which could be boiled independently. We were able to buy a house in Romford and had a proper indoor bathroom and with the aid of two gas water heaters which we had installed were relatively comfortable, It would be inconceivable today not to have automatic hot and cold water to the kitchen and bathroom but it was not always the case back then. Incidentally our house cost £3,200 of which £2,400 was on mortgage and the interest rate was 5.5% and at the time we thought it was good. About a year into the mortgage the building society wrote and said they were increasing the interest rate to 6%. I was not pleased and wrote back saying that I did not agree with this as I thought my original rate was set in stone. They very quickly conceded, and we carried on. Could you imagine this happening today? All communications of course were in longhand as we did not have computers

There are many more things which have changed and no doubt everyone has their own likes and dislikes of what has happened over the years, But one thing that has not happened in our lives and which pleases me more than anything is that Joan and I still have the same love and feelings for each other that we had when we married, (Or at least that's what she lets me believe!).

Ken Downham

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Listen up

While I was giving a sermon one Sunday, two teenage girls at the back giggled and disturbed people. Finally, I interrupted my sermon and announced sternly, "There are two of you here who have not heard a word I've said." That quieted them down.

When the service was over, I went to greet people at the front door. Three members of the PCC shuffled by, apologised for going to sleep in church, and promising it would never happen again.

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N.B.

**COPY DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER MAGAZINE
18th SEPTEMBER**



Deputy Warden's Waffle

I am not going to repeat comments made in Colin's excellent warden's piece last month, but what I will say is I do hope we all appreciate what was being said and we all must pull together and support and help one another when we can. I do sense we are entering 'the Rainbow' time; we all know without rain there is no rainbow and I think it is fair to say the past few months have certainly been the dark cloud/rain time—but now I really do feel we are facing a brighter future. Life in our church is certainly getting back to full activities.

What about us all coming together at Jean and Ken's 'thank you' tea party, a wonderful afternoon with Jean and Ken surrounded by family and church friends, and Ken making a delightful speech! I heard so many people say it was lovely to be together and have time to sit and chat over a cup of tea and homemade cakes, weren't they yummy! Jean's long tea making service to the Sunshiners was recognised by Gill Nelson, who presented her with flowers and a gift. And how wonderful it was to see Gill looking so well after her grueling months of chemotherapy. This was followed the next weekend by the church fete, which apart from being a good source of revenue, what really struck me was what a marvelous 'outreach' the fete offered: we had passers by coming in to look round, have a go at finding the hidden treasure, guessing the dolls name etc, stopping for a cup of tea and more tasty cakes and rolls. Everyone I spoke to was so friendly even if I did not know the name of the plant they were buying!! All were so pleased to see activities at the church again. A lot of people also went inside the church to have a look round or light a candle. The church being open and available to the town is so important. Of course all the preparation is hard work, but we must pat ourselves on the back for running such a positive and enjoyable event.

More excitement lies ahead, Jordan is eligible to wear a dog collar, in a few weeks, a really important and proud moment for him and all his family. We will all want to congratulate him, with friends from Heybridge and Langford, where Jordan as well as the Woodhams will be working, watched over by his personal 'Mother Hen' Julie Willmot.

Rev Noelle will be taking some services very soon all of which means there are more people who can help ease the situation. I think the rainbow time HAS arrived we are looking at a bright colourful way ahead for us all. We do have a lot to be grateful for.

Vicky, Deputy Churchwarden



THANKS



On Sunday 14th August All Saints held a tea party for Jean and me as a thank you for our service to All Saints Church over many years and in many ways. It was a wonderful afternoon and we both wish to thank everyone for attending on a very warm day. Having so many people there helped to make it a very special afternoon for us.

We would also like to give a big thank you to all those involved in the preparation of the food and those who provided cakes. Everything was delicious and so much time and effort had been put into everything.

We were given a book with good wishes and comments, which we have enjoyed reading and Jean was presented with flowers and a lovely engraved paperweight as a thank you for her help with the Pram Club, now the Sunshiners and tea making over many years. We were over whelmed by it all. Thank you all so much.

Jean and Ken.

Photos by Mike Ovenden

Archdeacon Elizabeth's Farewell Service to take place at Chelmsford Cathedral, Sunday 2nd October, at 5pm



A farewell service will take place at Chelmsford Cathedral on Sunday 2nd October at 5pm, followed by refreshments. Further details and a link to register your attendance in September to follow



VIEW FROM A BYSTANDER: FULL CIRCLE, SORT OF.....

The very first piece I ever wrote for the All Saints' magazine was called 'View from a Bystander' and it dated from before I became a regular member of the congregation, later the Ministry Team. Now here I am some 8 years on, writing one about a slow-burn spiritual transition which came to a head earlier this year. Hopefully you will not only find it interesting but also helpful in explaining why you see less of me. You will understand that this has nothing to do with how I feel towards All Saints or my many friends there.

The Christian life involves a journey, and spiritual journeys are prominent in the Bible. Abraham and Moses in particular had very challenging ones; and the implications of following Christ led to difficult, dangerous horizons for the disciples. Mountain-top experiences had their place. But the hard graft of working out what they meant were undertaken on the plain: the unpredictability of ordinary life.

When I went to train for the ministry at Queen's College, Birmingham in 1982 I had to accept that it was my 2nd choice. I wasn't really that interested in training at an ecumenical college (50% Anglican/50% Methodist). But in retrospect it was the best place I could possibly have gone. Whilst my primary spiritual home was to be as an Anglican for 40 years, I had started out as a Scots Presbyterian. In those earliest years I had little understanding of what a congregational approach really meant. Having ministered in the 'top down' Church of England since 1984, I found during the past five years I was being pulled towards other expressions of God. Which meant casting off belief structures which had become personally constricting. When I crashed out with a bout of serious bipolar this February I was aware it would probably be short-lived; and so it has proved. It was about facing a crisis of profound change.

As many of you know I started attending Quakers (as well as All Saints) about 5 years ago. I found worship difficult to start with – an hour's corporate silence punctuated only by brief spoken ministry from amongst those present. It's surprisingly awkward when you feel nudged – sometimes pushed even - by the Spirit to get up and say something. But all of us are focusing on the Light, God's goodness and his benediction.

After I'd surrendered formal ministry here in the parish I found myself strongly motivated to find a way forward. Within a month I felt directed to attend the United Reformed Church on Market Hill. I immediately felt at home with the worship and structure of the services. I still go to Quakers as well.

All this is not at all where I expected to be as I approach 70 early next year.



During my ministry I've run the gamut of Anglo-Catholic and middle-of-the-road sacramental worship. But I've always been at ease with services of the word. When I was rector of Danbury monthly worship always alternated between the two.

I thought that giving up the 'status' of being a minister would be hard. Unexpectedly it hasn't been. I just have a wardrobe full of robes that won't be called upon very often! However the old dog will still be seen wearing his collar sometimes.

I've got a lot more used to lay ministry and learning from our many preachers. And in the URC you don't have to be an ordained minister to take a communion service. Added to which I'm on the music rota – so I have the bonus of being able to play that superb Bechstein.

I won't pretend that leaving has been easy: far from it. There has been spiritual as well as emotional pain. But you have to follow God's leading. I've always tried my best to do that.

'God of surprises, God the practical joker' (he's always made me look like the maverick I am): but along with self-acceptance comes the call to new life.

"Brothers and sisters, I know that I still have a long way to go. So I set aside what lies behind and struggle for what lies ahead."

(Philippians 3:13)

Grace and peace

Graham

VACANCY

Now that the period of notice of resignation, that Revd Asa Humphreys gave to the Diocese, has expired, and he is no longer 'Priest in Charge of All Saints,' we are now in Vacancy, (or Interregnum as it was formally called).

We can now commence the procedure to look for a replacement Priest, which I am sure will be on the agenda of the imminent PCC meeting and, no doubt, the Churchwardens will keep us informed of progress.

As you are all aware, we are still in the Benefice that includes St Gile's, St Andrew's and St George's, consequently the new Priest will be appointed as priest in charge of all four churches.



The Energy Bills Support Scheme and how you will get help.

All households with a domestic electricity connection in Great Britain are eligible for the £400 discount.

How will I get the discount?

- The £400 discount will be paid, by suppliers, to consumers over 6 months with payments starting from October 2022
- households will see a discount of £66 applied to their energy bills in October and November, rising to £67 each month from December through to March 2023
- the discount will be provided on a monthly basis regardless of whether consumers pay monthly, quarterly or have an associated payment card
- households will never be asked for their bank details, and those with a domestic electricity connection will not need to apply
- there is no need to contact your supplier as all domestic electricity customers will be automatically eligible. Electricity bill payers should enquire with their supplier if they have not received their first instalment by the end of October.
- ◇ **direct debit customers** will get the discount automatically as a reduction to the monthly direct debit, or as a refund to the customer's bank account following direct debit collection during each month of delivery
- ◇ **standard credit customers and payment card customers** will see the discount automatically applied as a credit to standard credit customers' accounts in the first week of each month of delivery, with the credit appearing as it would if the customer had made a payment
- ◇ **smart prepayment meter customers** will see the discount credited directly to their smart prepayment meters in the first week of each month of delivery
- ◇ **traditional prepayment meter customers** will be provided with redeemable vouchers or Special Action Messages (SAMs) from the first week of each month, issued via SMS text, email or post. These customers will need to take action to redeem these at their usual top-up point and should make sure that their provider has up to date contact details for them so as to receive the vouchers and instructions.

I pay for energy in my rent - how do I make sure my landlord passes on the reduction?

- Landlords who have a domestic electricity contract with a licensed



electricity supplier and then resell the electricity to their tenants based on energy usage must comply with the maximum resale price rules.

- the maximum resale price for electricity is currently set as the same price as that paid by the person reselling it. Under these circumstances, we expect landlords to pass on the discount received to each tenant
- landlords with a domestic electricity connection who charge ‘all inclusive’ rent, such as the case for many student houses, where a fixed cost for energy costs are included in their rental charges, should also be passing on the discounted payments to tenants.

Will I get the discount if I live in a park home, houseboat or am an energy consumer living off the grid?

- the government has confirmed that further funding will be available to provide equivalent support of £400 for energy bills for the 1% of households don’t have a domestic electricity connection. Details of this will be published in the autumn.

What happens if I switch energy suppliers or my household circumstances change?

- Electricity suppliers will apply the discount to bills from October 2022. This will be done by meter points, so it won’t matter if you switch supplier
- the Scheme will now provide 6 monthly payments based on 6 qualifying dates than a single date in October. This allows new eligible households to benefit from the relevant portion of the total £400 as there will be multiple qualifying dates

What if my energy supplier goes bust or I change my payment method?

- Government will ensure that customers who switch payment methods, or whose energy suppliers fail, will not be penalised

How will it work for customers in arrears / in debt?

- All households with a domestic electricity connection in Great Britain are eligible for the £400 discount

If you would like advice on this, or any other subject, please get in touch with Maldon & District Citizens Advice. See our new website www.maldoncitizensadvice.org.uk for details, or by ringing 01621 875774 We look forward to hearing from you.

Lucy Bettley



September 2022

Paul J King

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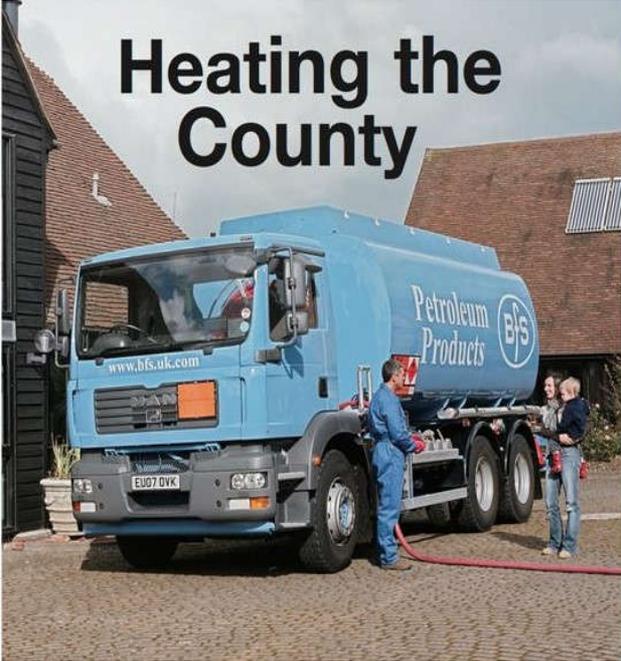
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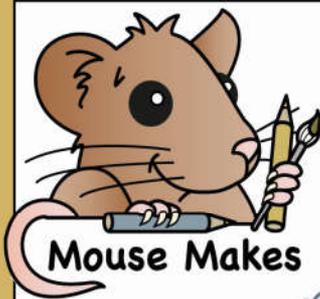
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Mouse Makes



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and **does** them will be like a



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and does **not** do them will be like a

The _____ fell,
The floods came and the _____ blew.

Matthew 7:25



_____ man.
On what did he build his house?

Matthew 7:24

_____ man.
On what did he build his house?

Matthew 7:26



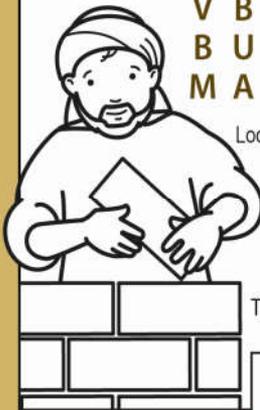
Matthew 7:24-27
and
Luke 6:46-49

What happened to the houses?
Read
Matthew 7:25 and 27

R J E S U S W I N D S D
O O W R H T O R R E N T
C R I V E R F E F S I L
K A S T A E O O L T S G
R I E D R A U W O R D S
U N A F I M N U O O U O
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V B U I L T I W K O E E
B U R S T H O U S E P B
M A N H S A N D W S J I



What was the reaction of the crowd to Jesus' teaching?
Read
Matthew 7:28-29



Look up the Bible references to find the missing words then look for them and the words below in the word search

JESUS • HEAR • LISTEN • WORDS
DOES • BUILT • FOUNDATION • MAN
DUG • DEEP • SOLID • GROUND
STREAM • RIVER • BURST • FLOODS
TORRENT • HOUSE • FELL • COLLAPSED
RUIN • DESTROYED

How many other words can you make from the word

FOUNDATIONS



Sep22 © deborah noble



The Hired Workers



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS - WE CALL THEM PARABLES.

ONE WAS ABOUT PEOPLE WAITING TO BE HIRED TO DO SOME WORK.



A HOUSEHOLDER HIRED A GROUP OF WORKERS FROM THE MARKET PLACE, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING. HE AGREED UPON A FAIR WAGE.



A BIT LATER ON THE HOUSEHOLDER RETURNED TO THE MARKET PLACE AND HIRED SOME MORE WORKERS.



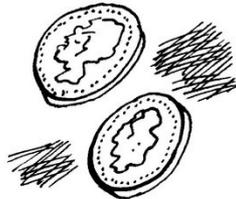
HE RETURNED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE DAY, EACH TIME HIRING MORE WORKERS. HE EVEN HIRED SOME PEOPLE JUST AS THE SUN WAS SETTING!



WHEN THE DAY WAS OVER THE HOUSEHOLDER BEGAN TO PAY THE WORKERS, STARTING WITH THOSE WHO HAD ONLY JUST ARRIVED. HE PAID EVERYONE THE SAME.

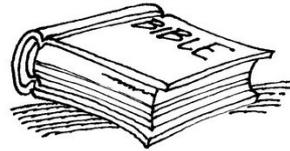


THIS UPSET THOSE WHO HAD WORKED ALL DAY. THEY THOUGHT THEY SHOULD GET MORE.



BUT THEY WERE BEING PAID WHAT THEY HAD AGREED AT THE START OF THE DAY.

JESUS CONCLUDED "SO THOSE WHO ARE LAST WILL BE FIRST, AND THOSE WHO ARE FIRST WILL BE LAST" - IT'S A HARD PARABLE!



see Matthew 20:1-16



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

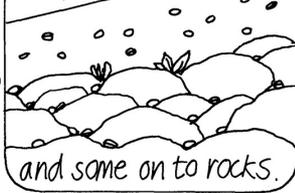
It can be read in the Bible in
Mt. 13: 3-8, Mk 4: 1-9, Lk 8: 4-8

Crowds of people now came to hear Jesus, so he used stories to teach them; those who really wanted to learn would work out the meaning.

A farmer went out to sow a field of corn.



Some seed fell on the path



Some fell among thorn plants and



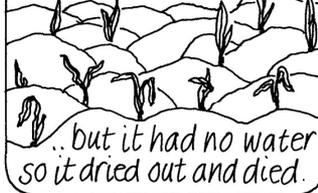
and some on to rocks.

some fell on good soil.



The seed on the path was eaten by birds

The seed that fell on the rocks sprouted...



...but it had no water so it dried out and died.

The seed that fell among the thorns grew well to start with,



then it was outgrown by the thorn plants.



But in the good soil the seed grew well and gave a fantastic harvest!

Jesus explained to his disciples what it meant.



Some people don't even listen to what he says.

For some it is the best thing ever!



But soon they move onto another 'best thing.'

Some listen gladly...



but then worries and busyness take over.

But some hear what Jesus says and learn from it.



and that makes all the difference!



HOLY DAYS

19th Sept Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury in troubled times

Theodore had several things in common with Justin Welby: despite living in troubled times, and in the aftermath of a severe national plague, he made extensive tours of his archbishopric, spoke at many Synods, and worked tirelessly to unite the bickering factions of the Church in England.

But, unlike Justin Welby, Theodore did not start off as English. He was a Greek living quietly in a Roman monastery when in 664, after Archbishop Deusdedit died, the Pope began looking for a new Archbishop of Canterbury. Theodore was recommended as a good candidate, even though he was not even ordained at the time.

The Pope moved quickly: Theodore was ordained deacon, and four months later (when his hair had grown long enough) he was ordained priest and immediately consecrated bishop. Then he was sent, with some companions, off to Canterbury to be Archbishop. It was a very long journey, but Theodore used the weeks on the road well: by the time he arrived in Canterbury he could at least speak English.

Theodore arrived in Britain in May 669, and soon set about strengthening the leadership of the Church through appointing more bishops, improving administration and order, and setting up a yearly meeting for the whole church.

His main challenge was settling the areas with Celtic tradition, and bringing them gently but firmly into the Roman Church. He wisely allowed a blending of Roman and Celtic traditions, which went well, and which began to give a common and unique identity to the church in Britain.

Theodore's legacy was immense: he is regarded as being the principal force behind the common Church in Britain. He was a gifted theologian and teacher, teaching science, astronomy, law, Latin and Greek. Above all, Theodore was an astute church politician and a visionary leader. Little wonder he is credited with having overseen one of the most fruitful periods of the church in Britain.

Taken from the Parish Pump website

Back to school

Young James finished his summer holidays and went back to school. Two days later his teacher phoned his mother to tell her that James was misbehaving. "Wait a minute!" protested his mum. "I had him here for weeks and I never once called YOU when he misbehaved!"



Big Perspective, Big Questions

This summer the first operational images from the James Webb Space Telescope astonished and delighted astronomers, as well as the rest of us.

Those of us who have grown up in an age when ‘astronaut’ is a career option (albeit a pretty specialist one) might struggle to identify with the wonder of these events, and the true scale of the challenge. Human Beings developed the technology to send first a probe, then living people, out of Earth’s atmosphere, and cross the 252,000-mile gap to the moon. It was in 1959 that the Luna 3 probe managed to send back grainy images of the far side of the Moon, and in 1969 Apollo 11 managed to actually land on it, take off again, and arrive back in one piece. It’s the safe arrival home that gets me – like hitting the bullseye twice in a row.

For some space-travellers, seeing Earth from a distance is a life-changing experience; a shift in thinking dubbed ‘the overview effect’. The observer feels a sense of awe at seeing the whole planet as a single entity rather than a fragmented collection of countries, and at getting a sense of the fragility of the whole system. It brings people out of themselves – something psychologists call a ‘self-transcendent experience’.

Some people claim to have a ‘nothing but science’ approach to life that trusts only in things for which we can produce very concrete, measurable, evidence. Is it perhaps ironic, then, that this overview of the whole globe – which is made possible by science – can trigger such a deep sense of meaning?

Science can bring us to the big questions of meaning and purpose, but it doesn’t answer them. It’s important to recognise that science, wonderful though it is, has limits. Beyond those boundaries we step into other ways of knowing, such as philosophy or theology. At the interface between science and theology we can have some fascinating conversations.

The discussions about science and religion that I enjoy most happen when people share what really matters to them. What do you find beautiful? Which scientific discoveries changed the course of your life? How do you see yourself in relation to the cosmos?

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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 save electricity in church

My dear Nephew Darren,

Your church certainly seems to have taken to the idea of green electricity with a vengeance. To have covered the whole of your roof with solar panels was a brave move, and it makes quite a sight – especially when the sun catches them, dazzling motorists on the by-pass and causing multiple pile-ups. I pity the local pigeons, who try to land on it and then do a gentle glissade into the gutters.

I know there have been objections to your proposal to erect a wind turbine in your car park – although no one could claim that it spoils the aesthetic appearance of your church. Nothing, my dear Darren, could do that.

May I humbly offer you some further suggestions for reducing your electricity consumption. If you cut your sermons by half, then everyone could go home 20 minutes earlier. Similarly, if you only sang each chorus once instead of your customary 17 times, that should cut your service times in half. And why have lighting so good that everyone can see everyone else? That is the last thing our own congregation ever want to do.

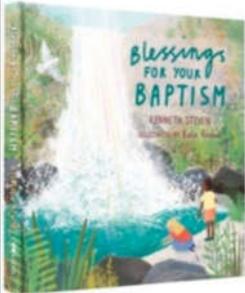
I raised the issue at our last church council meeting, but having only recently gone on to electricity, there seemed little enthusiasm for yet more change. Major Hastings still fondly remembers our old acetylene plant in the churchyard, destroyed during one Mattins when the verger was unaware of the gas leak and lit up a cigarette. We still occasionally find pieces of his cassock when mowing the grass.

Mr Prentice, with a slightly malicious gleam, suggested building a treadmill, to be worked by the Young Farmers – which would also keep them out of the pub while Evensong was taking place. I couldn't help feeling that our Ladies Group would have far more determination to keep the thing rotating – probably providing enough energy to light the entire County. I was tempted to suggest we invite the vicar from our adjoining parish, St Agatha's, to preach every Sunday, as that would fill our church with more than enough hot air.



I finally stopped all further discussion on the subject when a solar panel consultant arrived at the Rectory and began his sales pitch with the phrase: "I've come to convert you".

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



Book Reviews

Blessings for your Baptism **By Kenneth Steven and Katie Rewse,** **Lion Children's books, £8.99**

This book could be a good baptism gift for a godparent, grandparent, or family member to give to a young child, as it is full of blessings for their life ahead. Inspired by sensing God's presence through the natural world around us, the book includes space to write your own words of blessing.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website.

RIDE+STRIDE

Saturday 10th September 2022

This year's Friends of Essex Churches Trust, Ride and Stride takes place on Saturday 10 September.

By taking part in the Ride+Stride sponsored fundraising event you can help to preserve and maintain church buildings of all denominations and improve and enhance church facilities.

To find out more about how you can get involved as an individual or a church, please contact the following:-

rideandstrideorganiser@friendsofessexchurches.org.uk for queries



September 2022

After-eight Social Club

Dance Night!

**PUT YOUR GLAD RAGS ON AND...
Cold Norton Village Hall
Saturday 10th September**

Doors open 8.00 pm

Admission: Members £8 Non-Members £10.00

**No bar at this venue so bring your own drinks.
Please feel free to bring your own nibbles and snacks**

Everyone Welcome!

The after eight social club runs various activities every month of the year including quiz nights, meals out, coffee evenings, excursions etc

For further information call Mike on 01621 856219

www.aftereightsocialclub.co.uk



In the midst of this summer heat wave, please make sure these dates are in your diary for this years **ALL SAINTS CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**



Friday, Saturday, Sunday
9th, 10th, 11th December 2022

Please keep the dates free!!!!

Planning is already underway and groups/individuals will be contacted

julieovenden@hotmail.com





MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast has resumed.
We next meet on **9am** at the Rose and Crown
(Wetherspoon's) in the High Street. We meet
on every 2nd Monday of the month at the same
venue.
See you there.

JEANS INSTEAD OF VESTMENTS?

Have you noticed any local clergy dressing more informally in recent months? If so, there is a good reason for it: C of E clergy were given the go-ahead last year to choose whether or not to disregard their robes, and dress down for services, after a vote by General Synod.

That means that if the vicar wants to wear jeans when leading a service, the Church of England will no longer object. It is believed by some that such a change can help the Church by 'reflecting the way society has gone in the way of informality', according to one vicar.

Taken from the Parish Pump Website

From the Registers



Wedding

13th August **Jack Drury and Jodie Little** of Carter Avenue



Prayer Diary September 2022

1	Students returning to school this week
2	Students starting a new school this week
3	The Headteacher and Staff of All Saints'
4 Trinity 12	Bishop Guli
5	Members of our Ministry Team
6	South American Missionary Society
7	All who work in education
8 Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Maldon Ladies Group
9	All who work on the land
10	The work of the Friends of Essex Churches
11 Trinity 13	Members of our Junior Church
12	All Christian Teachers
13	Students preparing for College and University
14 Holy Cross Day	The Mission and Outreach of our Church
15	Those who have lost their faith
16	Our Uniformed Groups
17	The work of Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis
18 Trinity 14	All Choristers
19	All Christian Musicians
20	Our Flower Group
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 Trinity 15	The Church Army
26	Members of the Fire Service
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	The unemployed and those struggling financially

**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	In Vacancy
AUTHORISED LOCAL PREACHERS	Mrs Adrienne Knight Tel 01621 841329 Alan Marjoram Tel 01245 243868
CHURCHWARDENS	Dennis Johnson Tel: 01621 842410 Colin Brown 01621 850484
DEPUTY CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs Vicky Tropman Tel: 01621 857291 Mrs Jenny Clinch Tel: 01621 840057
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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