



'God Save The King'

ALL SAINTS' MALDON **PARISH NEWS**

£1

May 2023

Cover photo taken by Geoff Dickman,

Church info

Visit our website:
<https://www.allsaintsmaldon.com>

MAY

1st Sunday 7th Easter 5 Coronation Weekend	08.00 09.30	Holy Communion Worship for All	Fr John Rev Jordan & Mary
2nd Sunday 14th Easter 6	08.00 09.30 6.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Evensong	Alan Fr John Alan
Thursday 18th Ascension Day	10.00	MMU HOLY COMMUNION at ST MARY'S MALDON	Fr Andrew Appiah
3rd Sunday 21st Easter 7	08.00 09.30	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Fr John & Rev Jordan Rev Noell
4th Sunday 28th Pentecost	08.00 09.30	Holy Communion Holy Communion	Fr John Fr John & Rev Jordan

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The Parish Letter

Dear friends,

As I type I am also looking out at my garden which is beautiful with spring flowers and full of promise.

What kind of Community do we have in our church? Could it be described as beautiful and full of promise?

In the early chapters of Acts we read about the community of the first converts in Jerusalem to “the Way”, and the loving care they took of one another. People saw first-hand the power of the Holy Spirit working through the action and words of the apostles and saw the way that first Christian community lived and wanted to be part of this new way of being, to the extent that care of those in the community soon had to be organised as more and more

people streamed into the early church family and complaints arose that not everyone was getting the attention they needed! – a community that was beautiful, full of promise but with its problems too, perhaps a good description of us.

The first Christian community was going through a time of immense change as they moved from a community of converted Jews towards accepting gentiles too and into a process of figuring out just what rules this new way of life demanded.

2000 years on It seems as if humanity itself is now having to figure out new ways of being and rules that might have to apply if we are to ensure the survival of this planet. Life doesn't feel very secure at the moment does it? And being in Vacancy adds a layer of insecurity to our community life.

I wonder if some of the events in May can offer us any gleams of hope? We of course have the coronation of our new King. I thought the death of Queen Elizabeth II would be a devastating blow to the country however King Charles III appears to be assuming his new role with aplomb and confidence.

Ascension Day too is this month (18th) although it is a celebration that isn't much regarded today it signalled a profound change for the disciples – the Lord's physical presence was no more but unlike the first time this happened, at Jesus' death, the disciples were ready and full of anticipation for what was coming next. It was the recognition of who Jesus really was and trust in his promise of the Holy Spirit that made the difference and enabled the disciples to take the Light of the World out to the world.

As we move through this time of vacancy are we allowing the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to whoever God is calling to serve this area for the next stage of our journey of faith? I am sure it won't be an entirely comfortable experience but God doesn't seem to call us to comfort. God calls us to leave our comfortable certainties and step out into God's new way of life and freedom!

My garden is full of beauty and promise and amazingly that is how God looks on us. As beautiful and full of promise. So let us keep our eyes on our Lord and allow him to enable us, as he did his first disciples, to step out into whatever the future holds. Remember he promised we would not do this alone for he promised to be with us always.

God bless us all.

Love from Noelle

- Bishop protests about election law changes
- Bishop's Bill to remove two-child limit on benefits clears House of Lords
- Church of England Cathedrals showed recovery in 2021 amid Covid-19 measures
- 3rd – 11th June - Communities will count wildlife in 'undisturbed' churchyards
- Bishop of Durham responds to immigration proposals
- New foundation launched to help churches and dioceses tackle housing crisis
- Christians helping to clean up after the earthquakes in Turkey

CHURCH NEWS

A very brief look at
Current Church news
Compiled by Parish Pump

Bishop protests about election law changes

A senior Church of England bishop has raised serious concerns about new election laws that he believes could adversely impact "the poorest and the most marginalised." The Bishop of St Albans, Alan Smith, has spoken out against new regulations that mean voters will have to bring photo ID with them when they come to the polling stations. The new rules come into force at local elections in May.

Bishop Smith, who convenes the CofE bishops sitting in the UK's House of Lords, said: "All the evidence suggests that this is likely adversely to affect the poorest and the most marginalised.

"If you're struggling to make ends meet, and you're working long hours, to have to go and get another form of identity if you haven't got one readily at hand...it's much more likely to mean that people may say, 'It's just too difficult.' "We already have a problem getting people out to the ballot boxes, so why make it more difficult?"

The controversial new rules were introduced in response to allegations of voter fraud, but figures released by the [Electoral Commission](#) show low levels of proven fraud across all types of elections. Bishop Smith said: "We're asking 47 million people to have to go through extra hoops for what is a pretty minor problem."

In response to the change in election law, the bishop is encouraging all churches to publicise the change so that people are not caught out at the polling stations. He said: "I would encourage people, if it's possible, to put up a poster, raise it with people – we want to encourage people to engage in the democratic process. "That's what healthy democracies do – we want to actively try and get as many citizens as possible thinking about how society can best serve and care for people, but particularly look out for the people who are struggling for various reasons."

Bishop's Bill to remove two-child limit on benefits clears House of Lords

A Private Member's Bill brought by the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, to abolish the two-child limit on Universal Credit has recently completed its passage through the House of Lords. The Bill will now be considered in the House of Commons.

The Bill would amend previous legislation which limits the number of children counted when calculating benefit payments to a household. The limit restricts means-tested benefits to the first two children in a family if they were born after April 2017. Bishop Paul said that while the policy, introduced six years ago, may have been in-

tended to help families and create a level playing field, the effect had been the reverse.

Church of England Cathedrals showed recovery in 2021 amid Covid-19 measures

Latest worshipping and visitor data collected from England's 42 cathedrals and Westminster Abbey during 2021 shows attendance began to recover, despite ongoing Covid-19 measures. The data showed a weekly total of 15,800 people were reported at cathedral services in 2021. This is 22 per cent more than the equivalent figure from 2020, although still 58 per cent below the 2019 figure. Meanwhile, the number of cathedrals offering online worship in addition to, or augmenting in-person services remained high, with 94 per cent of cathedrals continuing to offer this.

3rd–11th June - Communities will count wildlife in 'undisturbed' churchyards

Parishes across England and Wales are registered to participate in Churches Count on Nature, an annual scheme where people visit churchyards and record the plant and animal species they encounter. The biodiversity survey, supported by environmental charities *A Rocha UK* and *Caring for God's Acre*, as well as the Church of England and the Church in Wales, will take place from 3rd to 11th of June this year.

In the last two years, 900 counting events took place across churches in England and Wales, and over 27,000 wildlife records were submitted. Churches across all denominations take part in the count each year. The data will be used to determine where rare and endangered species are located in the country, and also to aid churches of all denominations to increase biodiversity on their land.

As graveyards and church land are usually undisturbed, they can be host to a great variety of wildlife not seen in other green spaces. Old churchyards often have fantastic flowery and species-rich grasslands. Churches Count on Nature is part of Love Your Burial Ground Week.

Bishop of Durham responds to immigration proposals

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, who speaks for the Church of England on refugees, has recently issued the following response to the Home Secretary's statement on the Illegal Migration Bill. He said: "No one wants to see people risking their lives to reach safety, but we must ask is this Bill the right response - one that is built on compassion, justice and moral leadership? "It's likely to push thousands of people, including children, into a prolonged legal limbo and imprisonment, and does nothing to support timely and effective consideration of asylum requests. "It would label all those crossing the Channel illegal entrants and therefore people to whom we do not owe a responsibility and would criminalise the act of claiming asylum - without acknowledging that many are highly vulnerable people escaping persecution and war, who have been left with no safe routes. "Providing safe and legal routes is part of the solution and not one only to be explored after Channel crossings have ended.

"The Home Secretary acknowledges the growing global refugee crisis, which we can't solve on our own, but it is disappointing that the Government has decided to not take on a greater role in leading the world to equitably support those forced to flee their home. "The consequences of this will be felt by vulnerable migrants, and by poorer countries in the global south already supporting the vast majority of the world's refugees. "We must not abdicate our legal and moral responsibility to some of the world's most vulnerable by simply treating asylum seekers as a group not to be welcomed or integrated, but detained and returned. We must do and be better."

New foundation launched to help churches and dioceses tackle housing crisis

The C of E has launched a new foundation to give practical advice and guidance to churches and dioceses hoping to help tackle the housing crisis in their communities. The Church Housing Foundation will promote collaboration between churches and dioceses and experts in a range of areas from community engagement around housing need to planning and legal issues. Leaders, housing professionals, and those involved in or wanting to start local projects will be able to contribute to the Foundation and make use of the connections and resources offered.

The Foundation is being led by the Church of England's Lead Bishop for Housing, **the Bishop of Chelmsford, Guli Francis-Dehqani**. It takes forward key recommendations from *Coming Home*, the landmark report published by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York's Commission on Housing, Church and Community.

Christians helping to clean up after the earthquakes in Turkey

More than 50,000 people were killed, and tens of thousands injured, when the massive earthquake in Turkey and Syria struck on 6th February, causing thousands of homes and buildings to collapse across a vast area.

Only a week later, on 13th February, the Christian aid agency Samaritan's Purse opened an Emergency Field Hospital in Turkey, accepting dozens of patients within hours of opening.

That mobile hospital soon included two emergency operating rooms, four intensive care unit beds, a pharmacy, and 52 beds. It has a staff of about 100, including doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel.

Samaritan's Purse has also distributed thousands of tents, as well as mattresses, food boxes, solar lanterns, and hygiene kits (including soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper, and more) in partnership with First Hope Association.

Through these local Christian partners, teams are also in the process of installing 120 mobile hygiene containers, each complete with three showers, three toilets, and sinks. Arriving on large trucks and lifted onto level ground by cranes, these facilities will be maintained for up to a year through our partnerships in Turkey.

If you would like to help the on-going relief effort, please go to: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk>

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Stop. 3, Call upon. 9, Regular. 10, Octet. 11, Inner. 12, Hudson. 14, Holy Communion. 17, Myself. 19, See to. 22, About. 23, Iterate. 24, Monarchy. 25, Stet.

DOWN: 1, Straight. 2, Organ. 4, Abraham's faith. 5, Lloyd. 6, Puteoli. 7, Note. 8, Cleric. 13, Innocent. 15, Lay down. 16, Ussher. 18, Enter. 20, Enact. 21, Balm.

FROM THE CHELMSFORD DIOCESE

An Easter message from Bishop Guli

One of the most famous post-resurrection appearances of the risen Jesus is his meeting with two of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. The two of them are downcast as they talk about all that has happened in the preceding days, and they relate this to the unknown traveller who joins them. The friend and teacher in whom they had invested so much had been taken away from them, and his band of followers had broken up in defeat. But Jesus unpacks Scripture for them and when he breaks bread for them, their eyes are opened, and they suddenly recognise him. The encounter is so transformative that they rush back to Jerusalem to find the eleven: "Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of bread" (Luke 24: 13-35). Many Christians today still have similar experiences. We meet with Christ when we dwell in the Scriptures, when we meet with one another, and when we break bread together. But there are also times when, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we fail to recognise Jesus even when he is walking alongside us. Do we see him in the face of the person with whom we profoundly disagree, or the face of someone completely different to us? Do we treat one another as if we are meeting with Christ? What the story of the encounter on the road to Emmaus expresses is our need of one another and the importance of travelling well together. The very word 'companion' has its meaning in the Old French 'compaignon', literally 'one who breaks bread with another'. The Christian journey is not one that we can undertake alone, but only with God and with one another. Through God's grace, we are part of one body and each part of that body needs the other. It is together that we are sent out to love and serve the world, together that we build the kingdom of God, in the name of our risen Lord.

About Bishop Guli

The Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani has served as Bishop of Chelmsford since April 2021. Chelmsford is the second largest diocese in the Church of England in terms of population and serves the communities of Essex and East London. In January 2021, Bishop Guli was also appointed as the lead Bishop for Housing for the Church of England and she has served as a member of the Lords Spiritual in the House of Lords since November 2021.

Between 2017 and 2021, Bishop Guli served as the first Bishop of Loughborough in the Diocese of Leicester. As well as assisting the Bishop of Leicester across the Diocese, her specific responsibilities included overseeing and supporting the vocations of those called to lay and ordained ministries. Before she became Bishop of Loughborough, Bishop Guli led Curate training in the Diocese of Peterborough.

Bishop Guli is currently Vice-President of the Conference of European Churches, Vice Chair of the Board of the Church Army and a contributor to BBC Radio 4s Thought for the Day.

Born in Iran, Guli's family left the country in the wake of the Iranian Revolution in 1980, when she was 13 years old, and to date she has been unable to return. She is married to Lee, also a priest and they have three children.



All Saints' NEWS & VIEWS



Good Friday

After the Walk of Witness along Maldon High Street on Good Friday morning, the Cross was carried into All Saints' churchyard. It was then followed by a short service conducted by Father Andrew (St Mary's). Coffee and over 200 hot cross buns were served afterwards.





Easter Sunday at All Saints'

This picture of the egg rolling contests outside the church, was taken by Avanti Photography just as it was the turn of the clergy to try their hand at bowling, or was it throwing, the hard boiled eggs. I don't know who won or how you can tell who won, but a lot of eggs lost the battle as they hit the paving stones on their way to the finish line about fifteen feet away and disintegrated. Do birds like eggs?

Eggs, were a traditional symbol of fertility and rebirth, in Christianity, for the celebration of Eastertide, Easter eggs symbolize the empty tomb of Jesus, where Jesus was resurrected. An ancient tradition was the staining of Easter eggs with the colour red "in memory of the blood of Christ, shed at that time of his crucifixion."

Lord, let the grace of your blessing + come upon these eggs, that they be healthful food for your faithful who eat them in thanksgiving for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever.



Next month there will be a very special flower display to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III



All Saints' **flower power**

Seeing flowers in the church on Easter Sunday is an uplifting experience, especially after the time of abstinence during Lent. No flowers are allowed because Lent is a time of repentance and focus on spiritual exercise in empathy with the suffering of Jesus. It is deliberately meant to contrast with the Easter celebration in which flowers are a central emblem.

We, at All Saints, are lucky to have a team of flower arranging experts who regularly give up their time to make displays each week for everyone to enjoy, whether they come for the services or just a visit.

NEWS

Wednesday 3rd May All Saints' Celebrates the Coronation in Flowers

Our flower group are planning to decorate the church on Wednesday 3rd May for Coronation weekend.

They are inviting anyone from the church family to take part, children, gentlemen and ladies all are welcome.

Sunday May 7th Picnic Brunch (10.30am)

**Picnic Brunch in the Vicarage
Garden to celebrate the King's
Coronation**

Saturday Aug 5th Carnival Day (11.00-2.00pm)

'Cook-out' and stalls



My thanks for the photo's this month to -

Liz B.	-	(page 8)
Geoff D.	-	(frontpage + page 16)
Ken D.	-	(page 21)
Ken R.	-	(page 23)
Avanti Photographics		(page 9)

TEN to **TEN** The RAMBLING GROUP 15th April 2023

We had a lovely sunny morning for our walk on this Saturday in April. Six of us set off from the Bell at Tolleshunt Major this time led by Peter. We made our way across fields in the direction of Goldhanger so at times we could view the Blackwater Estuary in the distance. It was quite hard walking as the fields were very muddy after the heavy rain the night before and during the previous week. After a circular walk of about five miles we returned to the Bell and had a very enjoyable lunch together.

The next walk will be on Saturday May 13th starting at the usual time of ten-to-ten. The route has yet to be decided but for more information nearer the time please ring Sue on 01621 854056. An email will be sent round to regular walkers the week before. Everyone welcome!

Sue Smith

There will be a

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MALDON
MONDAY 22ND MAY 2023 at 19.30
for the purpose of electing
TWO CHURCH WARDENS.

All persons whose names are entered on the **CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL OF THE PARISH** and all persons registered in the parish and whose names are entered on the **REGISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORS** by reason of such residence shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

Annual Vestry Meeting

Opening Prayers and Bible Reading
Election of two Churchwardens

The ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

will follow. Only those persons whose names are entered on the **CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL OF THIS PARISH** are entitled to vote at this meeting.

AGENDA

Apologies for absence
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting held on 16 May 2022
Matters Arising
Presentation of the Electoral Roll
Election of three members to the Deanery Synod
Elections of eight members to the Parochial Church Council
Appointment of Sides Persons
Annual Report of the PCC for 2022
Appointment of The Independent Examiner of Accounts
Treasurers Report – To adopt the PCC Accounts for the year end 2022
To receive the report on the Fabric
To receive the report of The Deanery Synod
To receive the report of The Churches Together in Maldon
To receive the report of All Saints School Foundation Governors
Safeguarding
Any Other Business proper to an Annual Parochial meeting
(please inform the Secretary of any matters prior to the meeting)
Closing Prayers

Reflections of a Curate

I don't need to use the Drawing Pin!

Being in my first year of Curacy has come with a fair amount of 'firsts', the first time walking down the high street in my clerical collar, the first time leading a Remembrance service or the first time being referred to as Reverend. Yet nothing has made me more nervous than taking my first funeral.

A few days before the funeral there was opportunely some Diocese training on conducting Funerals, which was practically and theologically very useful.

The person leading the session spoke about the 'drawing pin technique' explaining that if we ever get overcome by emotions and feel the need to compose ourselves that the 'drawing pin technique' is helpful. She explained that someone had once told her that a short sharp prick of a drawing pin into one's finger was a good way to shock oneself back into a composed manner. She continued to explain that taking this concept (not an actual drawing pin) into the context of a funeral could help, if you felt yourself overcome by emotion suddenly you could drive your finger nail into your thumb which worked in just the same way as a pin. I thought this was a funny idea and disregarded it quickly because I thought I don't tend to cry publicly, and I felt particularly sure that the funeral I was about to take would not be an overly emotional one, because the family were so at peace and wanted to celebrate their father's life.

Eventually the day came and taking the funeral went smoothly, I was happy with the address I gave and how I was holding the service. Although touched, I didn't feel particularly emotional as I led the service

and I remained this way whilst listening to the first part of the Tribute. But....Just then one of the sons toward the end of the tribute described how in his father's last months they had gone on a walk and he had the opportunity to say 'thank you dad, you really gave us the best childhood and have been such a great Father to us throughout our life'. The son went on to say how in that moment his Dad looked at him and simply replied 'I tried'. On hearing this my body was flooded with emotion, my eyes welled up and I felt the tears coming, although I didn't feel I needed to hide my emotions I was equally aware that the son was now saying the last sentence of the tribute and I would have to stand up and conduct the next part, I had to steady and compose myself. So, to my absolute surprise I did in fact use the drawing pin technique at my very first funeral and it worked!

After the funeral was over, I got in my car, and cried the whole way home. Surprised by emotion I eventually realised that what hit me so hard was realising that I am a father to two older boys and a youngest daughter, just like the deceased. There was a realisation that one day my children will mirror that dynamic and be at my funeral. In the complexity of life, I am aware of how often I fall short as a father to my children, yet all any of us can hope for at

the end of our life is that our most loved ones know that we tried!

Whilst the drawing pin is a great resource to have in my back pocket, this moment was a reminder of what it means to be human and to be open to the divine.

Of course, in Jesus' own ministry we see moments where he is deliberate and focused on his purpose and at times will not let emotions lead the task at hand. On healing the lepers, who are ecstatic he charges them to tell no one, when casting demons out of man who in response begs to go with him Jesus denies him this and tells him to go home, even the man who wants to bury his father before following Christ, Jesus rejects this way of thinking.

However Jesus did allow himself to be moved or his emotions to lead regularly. One good example of this is Luke 8:40-53 where Jesus is on the way to heal Jairus's daughter, moving through the crowds a woman who has had a disease for years grabs his garment. At this point he could have ploughed on and not get distracted, after all he is doing a good work, God's work! Yet he allows himself to be exposed to the desperateness of one who is near him. He stops and is open to being led by his interaction with

people around him, to be influenced by the lives of others.

We see several times in scripture that Christ is moved with compassion and at other times seemingly not, after all this is part of what it means to be human. This is not to say that Jesus didn't care for all God's children, but that part of his reality like ours is that some things impact us more than others and it would be inhuman and dare I say un-Christ like to become impenetrable in the name of impartiality, professionalism or something else.

So, I am glad that I had to use the drawing pin, because it means that I was emotionally impacted. I also give myself permission that I will not always be moved in the same way each time by the sad or painful things I witness, however I must be wary of becoming numb once my first's become my hundredth time.

We may feel that to be planned and controlled is honouring God, maybe, but just like Jesus we must always remain open to the slightest touch of our garment to break us from the task we think is at hand.

Revd. Jordan

Beware your dog's tracker app

A number of apps which offer to keep an eye on your pet are also recording the log-in details and locations of YOU.

Such is the finding of a recent study. It seems that many tech companies which offer smart collars, GPS trackers, and wearable cameras for pets, may also be creating cyber security risks for their owners.

"We would urge anyone using these apps to take the time to ensure they are using a unique password, check the settings and ensure that they consider how much data they are sharing or willing to share."



John Wesley: It's not just the hymns

*hymns were not
allowed to be sung in
the Church of England
until 1820*

May 24th is regarded as Wesley Day, or Aldersgate Day, when in 1738 the Church of England priest John Wesley attended a group meeting in Aldersgate, London, and where he received an assurance of his new birth. This was the pivotal event in Wesley's life that ultimately led to the Methodist movement, which he started in the USA in 1784. For many Anglicans John Wesley was a respected church founder and pioneer, but to Methodists he was also a theologian of the Christian life *par excellence*. His entire teaching and writing ministry was arguably focused on answering the question, "what does it mean to be a Christian?" or to put it another way "what makes a life to be Christian?"

Though remembered so fondly for his many achievements, what is often missed is the enormous contribution that Wesley made to ecclesiology, or the doctrine of the Church. For Wesley, the Christian life cannot be properly understood if it is not set within the context of the ecclesial community, the Church.

Wesley developed his understanding of the nature and mission of the Church throughout his adult life and ministry. As a number of scholars have noted, Wesley's ecclesiology is rich and complex because it was shaped by a variety of theological and spiritual traditions. The main source which informed his conception of the Church was the Catholic tradition, but filtered and mediated through the Anglicanism of his day. In addition, he was influenced by the believers' church tradition of the Moravian Brethren, until he



left to start his own ministry. His clearest definitions of the Church are found in his Explanatory Notes, written between 1743 and 1754, where he described the Church variously as “the believers in Christ”, “the whole body of Christian believers” and “the whole body of true believers, whether on Earth or in Paradise”. His conception of the Church is perfectly in line with the ecclesiology of the great ecumenical creeds, like the Nicene and the Apostles Creeds: “by the grace of God at once one, holy, catholic and apostolic”, in other words, Christian fellowship (koinonia) in the Holy Spirit, grace that guides and brings to maturity a Christian, the universal reach of God’s salvation, and the succession of the teachings of the apostles in those who have faithfully witnessed.

Besides these traditional characterisations of the Church, there are several other distinguishing features in Wesley’s ecclesiology. For him, the Church must be both

And Can It Be

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior’s blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father’s throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam’s helpless race;
’Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For O my God, it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature’s night;
Thine eye diffused a quick’ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th’eternal throne,
And claim the crown, thru Christ my own.

*Amazing love! How can it be,
(Amazing love! How can it be,)
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

**24th May: The hymns of the Wesleys
The Church calendar celebrates the lives
of
John and Charles Wesley.**

**John’s great gift to the Christian cause
was the founding of Methodism. .**

**His brother Charles wrote over 6,000,
hymns**

evangelistic (proclaim the Gospel to the world) and prophetic (display concrete witness of unconditional love [agape] for the neighbour and a profound concern for the common good). Thus he firmly believed that the Church must serve society by reaching out to its most vulnerable members and by standing fast against all injustices: "the making of an open stand against all the ungodliness and unrighteousness which overspreads our land as a flood, is one of the noblest ways of confessing Christ in the face of his enemies". Is it little different today, one could ask? To Wesley the Church is unequivocally a sacramental body: Baptism and the Eucharist are integral because they are sacraments – the means by which the grace of God is made present, real and efficacious -- confessing Christ in the face of his enemies. As the means of divine Grace, the sacraments enable Christians to live the ecclesial life, which is established in Christ and energised by the Spirit – a life lived for the glory of God. Thus Wesleyan Theology held that Christians could achieve a state where the love of God "reigned supreme in their hearts" and gave them not only outward but inward holiness.

John Wesley remained within the established Church of England all his life, insisting that the Methodist movement lay well within its tradition. His travelling outdoor preaching set up numerous small Christian groups, and some of their leaders were at the forefront of many social issues of the day, including the abolition of slavery and the reform of prisons. He

rode 250,000 or more miles, preached over 40,000 sermons, wrote numerous treatises and gave away £30,000. After early banishment and persecution he later became widely respected, so that finally in his latter years was described as the "best loved man in England". God's grace indeed.

PS—His brother Charles wrote 8989 extant religious poems, of which 6500 are considered hymns, and is considered England's most gifted hymn writer. This achievement represents writing on average 10 lines a day, every day, for 50 years! And some have been shortened considerably over the years, like *Soldiers of Christ Arise* which originally had 18 verses! Indeed, none of Charles' hymns were ever sung in Sunday church in his lifetime as Methodists were still members of the Church of England then, and they were only sung at midweek Methodist meetings outside church.

At first hymns were not allowed to be sung in the Church of England until 1820, and then only by "lining out" – a leader would say a line and the congregation would repeat it, because printing books was not cheap and most people could not read anyway. Even in the 18th century hymn books only printed the texts with no musical score, and both were not shown together until 1831 in USA, where in fact Wesley's first hymn book was printed in 1837 in Charleston. Even then he only showed the melody because he said it was unpropitious to sing parts in church.

Derek Trueman

PPS. - Talking of hymns, may I pose a question? What do you remember more about a hymn? Its words or its tune? As one who loves singing I remember the tune and can hum it anywhere, but the words? I have to admit, for most hymns I give up after a few lines, but then berate myself for not appreciating the rich language. - You?

PPPS. - How many hymns written by Charles Wesley can you remember? Many, no doubt. But what about John Wesley?

A.G. Smith

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When we were Young and cars were → *fun*

We recently sold our small car as we now no longer require two cars. It was a way-point in our life not to have a car each to drive if it was necessary for us to be doing different things at any time, but it is not really essential now and it gets a car off the road which helps the environment and also it saves us the cost of maintaining it. In selling the car, Joan and I got to talking about cars we have had over the years and one in particular that always has a place in our hearts. This little car was a 1934 Morris 8 saloon which I bought in 1962 for the princely sum of five pounds. Yes, FIVE pounds.

Why was this car special to me? It was special in that I only bought it as I could not afford a more expensive model because Joan and I had just put a deposit (Also £5) on a house we were buying prior to us getting married. We needed a car because the house we were buying was in Romford and we lived about five miles away in Dagenham. The idea was that each evening we would drive the car from Dagenham to Romford to work on the house and then get home again in time for bed. Fortunately, we lived near each other with our respective parents. We were lucky in that we both had jobs where we were given a good lunch and so did not have to eat dinner before setting off on our labour of love but just took a sandwich that our mothers' had ready for us. We could make hot drinks in our own house (which was also 1934 vintage and had been occupied by an elderly lady who was a war widow and had not been able to maintain it properly). So from April 1962 until our wedding in September of that year we spent all our free time in Romford working on our house, and by the wedding day had managed to reno-

vate the kitchen, the lounge, one bedroom and the bathroom. Joan and her logical mind had decided that those rooms were enough for us to start married life and the rest could be done later.

But of course, the star of the show was our little old car! Being made in 1934, the car naturally had a manual starting handle as well as the electric ignition. Being an old car, the starting handle was needed as much as the electric ignition and cold starting had to be made with the 'choke' in use to give more petrol. Sometimes I used the choke too much and then had the slightly risky business of using the starting handle, which seemed to have a nasty habit of kicking back and could easily have broken my wrist if I did not let go quickly enough. I feel sorry for younger drivers who never have the pleasure of starting their car in this way on a cold and rainy morning. The car also had a hole in the roof, although goodness knows how it got there. Joan used to keep a jam jar in the car to catch the rain as it came through the roof and by doing so she kept me dry. To further add to the problems with rain, the electric windscreen wipers did not work, and the law was that you did not have to have wipers but if the car was fitted with them then they must work. So, on many occasions if it was raining and we spotted a police car then Joan had to lean over and use the little handle that worked the wipers manually. Added to that we had 'trafficators' which were the forerunner of flashing indicator lights, and they did not always pop out to the side of the car when they needed to, so again Joan had to lean to one side of the car or the other and bang the side of the car hard to make them work. Yes, it was a two person job to drive that car! The



biggest and best defect was however underneath the car. One morning on our way to work we were driving through Barking when I was flagged down by a police patrol car. A uniformed officer then came over to me and said the usual things like "Is this your car sir?" and "may I see your driving licence". I asked why he had stopped me and he said "because your car is crabbing sir". "Crabbing?" I said with a question in my voice. "Moving along sideways" replied the officer. Then he said to me "I will get under the car and see what is wrong". To my astonishment, that is exactly what he did. After a minute or so under the car he came out and said that the shock absorbers were broken. (I already knew this but played dumb). He asked me where I bought the car and I said that I had bought it in a pub (Not the

truth as my brother had bought it somewhere for me). The officer advised me to go back to the pub and ask for my money back and said that he did not want to see me in this car again! With that he got back into his car and off they went! Having had this experience Joan and I took a different route each morning for fear that the officer might see us again, but we never did see him and about three months after we were married, we sold the car to a car breaker for £2.50 but not until a friend had taken out the front seat and I had to drive the car to the breaker sitting on an orange box! Would a police officer nowadays do what that officer had done for me when he got under my car to help me and then did not give me a 'ticket'? Oh happy days!

Ken Downham

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE MAGAZINE — MAY 15th

A Smile

A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts for ever. None is so rich and mighty that he can get along without it, and none is so poor but that he can be made richer by it

A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business, and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen – for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away.

Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.
Anon

There is a great story about the Ascension, in which Jesus arrives in heaven after the agonising events of Holy Week, and his resurrection appearances. At the gates, Michael (Peter hasn't arrived yet) asks Jesus how it went, and Jesus says, 'All was as it should have been: I've left Peter and Mary, John, James, and another Mary to carry on.'

"Sounds good," Michael says, "but obviously you've left them with the programme, the strategy, the timelines, and budgets to make sure what you did is rolled out and not wasted?" Jesus looks at Michael and says: "I have made no other plans."



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REME 1952 - 1954



The coming of the Coronation of King Charles III had me thinking about where I was when Queen Elizabeth II was crowned. I was, in fact, doing my National Service in the REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical engineers) at the REME unit based at Lydd in Kent from 1952-54.

Two of our unit were picked to go to London to be in the REME unit in the parade. The two who were chosen were the tallest in the unit. They were both given new uniforms for the parade. We all had extra parades and inspections.

In our workshop we made a crown which the electricians wired up and fitted lights to. We took it to All Saints Church, Lydd and then up the tower in small parts to be reassembled on the top .

As Lydd was on the very edge of TV range we built two very large TV aerials. One for the Officers' Mess and one the Sergeants' Mess for viewing the Coronation. Other ranks didn't get to watch it. In the morning of the Coronation day we put on our best uniforms and were inspected on parade. Later that day the Warrant Officers and Sergeants took two of the guns out of the training unit to the green in Lydd and fired a 21 gun salute. I have a photo of this taken with a 1950's camera so it is not very clear. In the evening we went to the Royal Oak pub to drink the Queen's health. I understand in some quarters that it was not well taken, the REME firing a Royal salute. We were supposed to mend them not fire them.

On my Demob I spent two years in the Territorial Army with the Essex Yeomanry.

Ken Russell.



Did you know?

Ten Facts about King Charles III

He was born at 9.14pm on 14th November 1948, to Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, at Buckingham Palace in London.

He has been **heir-apparent** to the throne since he was three years old.

He is the first monarch in British history to have earned **a university degree**. From 1967 to 1970 he studied history at Cambridge University.

He can **speak Welsh**. He spent two months learning the language in 1969, as he prepared to become the Prince of Wales. He still speaks it today. He is a **qualified pilot and diver**. While serving in the military in the 1970s, he trained as a jet and helicopter pilot and became a confident diver.

He is a keen **watercolour painter**, a **published author**, and a **music lover**, who played the cello at Cambridge. He has **done some TV**: making a guest appearance on Coronation Street, and presenting the BBC weather forecast.

As Prince of Wales, he **founded nearly 20 charities**. Together, they raise £140million each year for good causes. He is **passionate about the environment**, speaking out against plastic pollution as early as 1970. He has planted many trees during royal engagements.

Aged 73, King Charles III is the **oldest monarch ever to be crowned** in British history. He became King on 8th September 2022, after the death of his mother, the Queen, in Balmoral.

As head of the Commonwealth, King Charles III **is monarch of each of the 14 Commonwealth realms**: Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. As King, he's also the only person in the UK who can travel abroad in the Commonwealth without a passport and drive without a licence.

King Charles III has two children, Princes William and Harry, and five grandchildren. Prince William is next in line to become King and was named the Prince of Wales in 2022.



COUNTDOWN TO THE CORONATION **Of His Majesty the King** **and** **Her Majesty the Queen Consort**

On Saturday 6th May the Coronation will take place.

It is based on a solemn religious ceremony which has remained largely unchanged for more than 1000 years. For the past 900 years, the ceremony has taken place at Westminster Abbey, and is conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

King Charles III will be crowned, and then in a similar, but simpler ceremony at the same service, the Queen Consort will also be crowned.

From 6th to 8th May Coronation Big Lunches will be held
up and down the UK, and also across the Commonwealth.

On Sunday 7th May a Coronation Concert will be held
at Windsor Castle, with iconic locations across the UK lit up using projections, lasers, drone displays and illuminations.

On Monday 8th May there is a special Bank Holiday
giving everyone the opportunity to join in with their communities and good causes through Big Help Out activities.
(More details at: <https://thebighelpout.org.uk>)

From All Saints School

the **BIG** question

Our latest big question, what would you answer?

What does Easter mean to you?

Nearly everyone thinks that it is all about the chocolate but to me it is all about celebrating Jesus.

And eating hot cross buns!!! – **By Isabella**

Spending time with my family is one of the things I like about easter because my family are really kind and polite and they are just so nice and I love them!

Every easter my neighbours tie the end of a rope to a giant easter egg! Usually it is a smarty one mmmmmm! – **By Tilly**

Easter means to me that I always think about Jesus. – **By Charlotte**

other news in school

The All Saints' Primary School Easter Service at the Church

Every month, we hope to give you news about our school! We are excited to share with you what is happening!

Today it is us, Tilly and Charlotte, who are talking about the Easter Service and Jesus. We have just come back from our Easter break and it was really fun but we can't wait to start school again.

Near the end of the spring term it was our Easter Service at the Church and all of our adults came to see it and loved it.

In our Easter Service we told the story of the three trees. Three trees were growing on a hill and one of the trees said it wanted to grow and be used to make a treasure chest filled with precious things. The 2nd tree wanted to be turned into a mighty ship to transport the King and Queen to different



places and have adventures. The 3rd tree wanted to grow tall and big so that people would look up and think of heaven and God.

One day three men came to the three trees. One of the men said I will cut down this tree and make a manger for a barn filled with hay to feed the animals. The 2nd man said I will cut down this tree and make it into a fishing boat to go across the sea. The 3rd man said I don't need anything special from this tree so I will cut it down and make it into some planks of wood and keep it in a dark place.

The 1st tree did not hold the gold he wanted but he held the greatest treasure on the whole earth, Jesus. The 2nd tree did not hold the king and queen it wanted but it held Jesus and was part of a great adventure when he stopped the storm. The 3rd tree was made into the cross we all know and it held Jesus! And we all remember the Easter story.

At the end of the service we asked the parents if they want to join in with the last part of the story. They put a flower with the part of the story they thought about the most. My favourite part was when they put the flower down, my nan did it because it's about Jesus.

The readers in church were really good, they had a really nice voice. It was nice and clear. I liked the person called Reverend Jordan who told us about Jesus and how he died on the cross. I also like our EYFS children. They sang the tree song for everyone.

In All Saints church we all sing songs and we sang in the Easter service. Now we're talking about the '*Lord Of The Dance*'. I love this song it's my favourite, it's really nice and when I sing it, it makes me happy. My other favorites are '*All In An Easter Garden*' and '*Kumbayah My Lord!*'

We love church and we love that our grown ups came to church. It was fun for us. Thank you parents for coming and thank you nans, mums grandads and dads for coming to church.

We hope you all had a happy Easter!



By Tilly and Charlotte

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SOME popular health myths DEBUNKED



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The best ways of staying fit and healthy may be different from what you thought. Here are some fitness dictats which were originally based more on marketing than on science.

You need eight hours sleep:

This notion goes back to Victorian times! During the industrial revolution, it was thought that the best daily regime was eight hours labour, eight hours recreation, and eight hours rest. But in fact, modern studies have found that the amount of sleep you need is highly individualised. Some people get along fine on less than six hours, while others need ten hours.

Two litres of water a day:

For decades, the advice has been to drink two litres of water a day, or about eight glasses. But our fluid requirements vary, depending on exercise, the weath-

er, climate, and our age. You may need as many as six, or as little as one. For, according to a professor of nutritional sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, "a lot of your water comes from the food you eat."

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day:

This advice began to be spread in the 1920s, when cereal companies were running marketing campaigns to get people to eat their products for breakfast. But nutrition experts point out that breakfast is only good for you if you eat the right kind of foods. Highly processed foods and a large sugar content is likely to do you more harm than good

Walk 10,000 steps a day:

This goal has been a popular mantra for years, and it has even been adopted by the World Health Organisation. But the number was chosen arbitrarily in a Jap-

Why we are turning to soap bars

It's official: we are buying more soap bars these days. And that is a good thing.

It is all a part of the major consumer backlash against unnecessary plastic waste. More and more of us want eco-friendly versions of our everyday needs. Thus, we have 'bags for life', loose fruit and veg, and now – bars of soap.

anese boardroom in the 1960s. The company, Yamasa, simply dreamt up the figure in its effort to promote the world's first step counter, ahead of the Tokyo 1964 Olympics. Instead, recent studies, including one at the University of Alabama, have found that taking between just 6,000 to 8,000 steps a day may be fine. And even if you take far less than that, then just adding an extra 500 steps a day will bring you significant health benefits. Research does suggest that it is not a great idea to take less than 5,000 steps a day.

2,000 calories a day:

The NHS recommends a daily calorie intake of 2,000 calories a day for women and 2,500 for men. But your actual calorie needs depend on your age, gender, height, weight and physical activities levels. Some of us need to eat much less, and some of us need to eat more.

How your friends may be keeping you alive

Take care of your friendships, and they will take care of you.

A recent study has found that if, in later life, you enjoy your friends on a regular and frequent basis,

then the joy that they bring you may even halve your risk of death within five years.

The book of Proverbs (27:9) compares the balm of ointments and perfumes to the soothing effect of a good friend, and an analysis of the research would seem to confirm this. People in their later years who socialised every day were healthier than those who didn't. Even those who saw their friends only once a week were healthier than those who saw no friends on a regular basis. In fact, the team reported having found a 'dose response', with the greater the frequency of socialising, the greater the likelihood of living longer. As one doctor put it: "The more frequent the social activity, the more prolonged the survival time."

The study was published in the *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*.

GOING BANANAS

Did you know that it was National Banana Day last month? Yes, apparently it was held on April 19th — not many people know that, but did you also know that bananas are good for you?

Bananas contain healthy stuff like potassium, which helps to lower blood pressure, vitamin B6 and fibre which may help prevent type two diabetes, as well as giving more energy to

do those jobs you put off for a rainy day.

It's getting harder to see your GP

When did you last see your GP, and for how long did that appointment last?

According to a recent international study of 10 high-income countries, British patients are given the shortest GP appointments and are also the least likely to see a doctor in person.

The Health Foundation found that Britain has the shortest appointment times, at ten minutes, along with Germany. Most countries average 15 minutes per patient, with 20 minutes in Switzerland and the USA, and 25 minutes in Sweden.

The British GPs also reported far more use of remote appointments than any of the other countries in the study. Just four in 10 took place in person between February and September 2022.

"GPs and our teams want to deliver safe, appropriate and timely care for our patients, but with the intense workload and workforce pressures we are working under, this is becoming ever more difficult."

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ASCENSION DAY

It was while we were on holiday last June that I learned that Ascension Day is celebrated in quite a big way. We were in Holland and visiting the Floriade flower festival, with the club (*the After Eight Club - we arrange short holidays, in this country mainly, but occasionally to Europe as well*). During one of our days out we were waiting for a train to take us from Wognum to Nibbixwoud. (Yes, I've never heard of it before either, it's about 30 Kilometers from Amsterdam.) And this woman (the one you can see above) walk by. To say she was heavily clothed would be an understatement. I thought I'd take a photo of her so I got Yvonne to stop her and ask if she minded. No she didn't mind a bit and went on to explain why she was dressed as she was. Today was Ascension Day and a people dress up in tradi-

tional Dutch costumes specially. Yvonne asked her how many petticoats she had on and immediately she started to lift them and count them one at a time. I can't remember now how many she had on but Yvonne thought it was at least eight. Being discrete I only took the picture you see above!. Looking around I could see several other people dressed up in trad. garb. as well. Ascension Day is a public holiday in Holland and it seems everyone and his dog stay at home for it.

Travelling back to our hotel, later that day in the coach we couldn't help noticing that the motorway traffic was considerably less than on previous days. No traffic jams. Instead of the usual two and a half to three hours, we got back in just over half an hour.

We used to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. There are no processions nowadays, and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which is more accurate but needs explaining.

As the first holiday of the summer, Whitsun was one of the favourite times in the traditional calendar, and Whit Sunday, or the following week, was a time for celebration.

Day of Pentecost: *Whit Sunday*

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.



A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born. Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples, but He knew they could not do the work themselves. They would need His help.

And so, they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues, to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1-9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus. The Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

St James the Least of All

Editor: The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'... If you would like a copy of our published booklet of Uncle Eustace's letters, please email us at: enquiries@parishpump.co.uk They make good birthday presents!

Beware those modern choruses

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am afraid we shall have to agree to disagree on yet another topic – although I suspect the list of items that we agree to agree on would be considerably shorter. I like to think my appreciation of hymns resembles a connoisseur of fine wines savouring a grand cru claret, yours seems to resemble a Russian female tractor driver who is a Hero of the Nation.

We at St James the Least are more than happy with *Hymns Ancient & Modern* – the original 1861 edition, naturally – the later editions display a dangerous tendency towards modernism. Sadly, St. Paul was not able to sing *Onward, Christian soldiers*, but I am sure he regretted the fact that it had yet to be written. The hymns our grandparents pretended to sing when they were in church are quite good enough for the ones we pretend to sing when we sit in the same pews.

At least when we come to the last verse, we know that we can then sit down, mission accomplished. The last time I attended your church, just as I saw the last words and therefore the finishing line of one of your choruses coming into sight, we were told it would be splendid to sing the thing another three times. At least it gave me another analogy to use when I next preached on eternity in hell.

And your method of singing would plunge our congregation into an existential crisis. What do they do with their hands when they don't have books to hold and are

obliged to look at a screen?

To be deprived of being able to hold a book in

church is like a smoker who is trying to give up being unable to grasp a cigarette when in the pub.

The ladies do not know whether to clasp their handbags, which then makes it look as if they suspect the rest of the congregation of theft, or to hold some flowers, which looks a little too matrimonial. The men experiment with putting hands in pockets, which they then realise looks scruffy, so they try to hold on to the pew in front, which is inevitably too low, so they have to adopt some form of half crouch, which makes them look as if they have recently had hernia operations.

Your choral tradition – if I can flatter it with such a description – also seems to require half an hour before the Service spent singing for our congregation, that time is more usefully spent discussing Government incompetence, livestock prices and why Miss Threlfall always wears a red felt hat with her tangerine coat.

Should we ever have a joint Service, I can't imagine how we'll all get through the first hymn together.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace





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THROUGH THE FURNACE

BY F.E. READE

Continued from last month

"... and I have just had two ladies here, mother and daughter, asking in pretty mincing voices, 'Won't I take them in? They will give no trouble.' I asked them what attendance they would need, just to see what they would want all their meals at home, the use of our sitting-room to have them in, early cups of tea taken up in the morning, plenty of hot water every night, and I don't know what besides."

"Two ladies would certainly never do," remarked Mr. Harvey, "but one quiet lady, as I said before."

"I don't believe in a quiet lady," said Margaret, obstinately, "if she was quiet, she would probably be sly and come meddling round in the shop and kitchen."

"There is someone in the shop now," said Mr. Harvey, glancing through the glass door; "it is the Vicar again. How kind! he was here for a good time this morning."

He went through into the shop, but the Vicar asked for Margaret, and advanced to meet her with a grave face, but with a smile lurking in his eyes.

"I have come in the hope of softening your heart, Miss Harvey, that is, if your room is still to be let."

"Yes, I have only had one application and that was quite unsuitable," replied Margaret.

"Then will you listen to mine, which I want to make on behalf of a widow who wishes very much to settle in Ramford to be near her only son. He is one of our choirmen and seems to be a splendid fellow. His name is Pervis, he is apprenticed to Rose, one of the leading chemists here, and lives with the family; do you know anything about young Pervis?"

"No, Ramford is such a large place, and we have not many acquaintances," said Margaret.

"I have seen more of him than of our oth-

er young men, since I came," said the Vicar, "and I have formed a high opinion of him. His master seems to have done the same, for Pervis is to be taken into the business as soon as possible. It seems that respectable lodgings at a moderate rent are very hard to get here, and he came to me just now, in his dinner hour, to say that he had seen your advertisement in the paper but did not like to apply to you for his mother, because the room was only offered to a gentleman."

"That shows that he has some sense in his head," said Margaret, with a smile.

"And you mean to imply that I have none," returned the Vicar, laughing, "but, seriously, Miss Harvey, do think it over. Here is a highly respectable person, with just enough money to keep herself. She will do her own room, fetch up her meals from the kitchen, and give as little trouble as she possibly can, and she will pay her rent in advance."

"I am very sorry to refuse you," said Margaret, "but I have made up my mind firmly on this subject. I do not wish to have another woman in the house, and I think that a widow with an only son would be worse than anybody. The 'dear boy' would always be coming to see her, especially on Sunday, and it would be like having two lodgers instead of one."

The Vicar did not try any further arguments, for he saw that they would be useless, so he merely shook his head at her and departed.

Margaret bore a rebuke from her father in silence, but with a quiet air of determination which showed that she meant to take her own way.

In the evening, When the shop had been closed, after a very successful day's work, Margaret had a visitor. This was a girl friend, named Amy Brandon, who was in the habit of dropping in from time to time. She was very fair, and had restless,

blue eyes and a quantity of yellow hair which could never keep within bounds. She professed great affection for Marga-



"Margaret, I believe that I've heard of a lodger for you."

ret, which the latter accepted but did not feel obliged to return. Amy's manner was always more or less excitable, but this evening she appeared to be bursting with something, and she was no sooner seated than she came out with it.

"Margaret, I believe that I've heard of a lodger for you."

"Margaret has refused a good one today already, recommended by the Vicar," remarked Mr. Harvey, drily, "but perhaps she will be more willing to listen to you, as you are of her own age."

"But this would be the very thing. Mr

Bond, my brother's friend, is a friend of his; they have been talking about him this evening, so I just ran round to tell you."

said Amy, in her rapid, incoherent way. "He is ever so clever and musical, so Mr. Bond says, and we are anxious to have him near us; we all love music."

"There is no piano in this house, and I am rather glad of it," said Mr Harvey.

"Oh no, but we have one, and that would be quite enough. Margaret dear, do say something," and Amy flew out of her chair and seized Margaret by the hand.

"What is the name of this wonderful person, and why should he want to lodge here?" asked Margaret, calmly.

"His name is Newlyn; isn't it sweetly pretty? And he wants to move from the boarding house where he is now, because he is very uncomfortable, and the other boarders are vulgar. He told Mr. Bond that he would give anything to find a quiet room where he could live in peace."

"What is his occupation?" asked Mr. Harvey.

"Oh, he is looking out for something; he is so clever that he could do anything. Mr. Bond says, and his singing is wonderful."

"But his singing, however wonderful, is not likely to pay either for his rent or his bread and cheese," said Mr. Harvey.

"Dear father, how practical you are getting since we have opened the shop," said Margaret, smiling.

"I have seen the evil of being unpractical," returned he, "and I hope that you will not dream of taking this young man until he is earning a fair income."

"Oh, I forgot to say that he has a little money of his own," put in Amy, breathlessly; "his parents are dead, and they left him with something."

"That makes matters rather worse in my opinion," said Mr. Harvey, "having a little of his own may tempt him to be lazy."

Margaret tightened her lips and an obstinate look came into her eyes. This opposition on her father's part had the unfortunate effect of stirring up the self-will in her nature.

"I cannot agree with you, father," said she after a moment's silence. "I think that to have a lodger with money of his own to fall back upon will be the very best thing for us. Everybody is liable to be out of employment or to be ill at sometime on another, and I would rather have a man with a penny in his pocket than a man without one."

"Yes, provided that the penny *is* in his pocket and has not burned its way out of it," rejoined Mr. Harvey.

"Besides, Mr. Bond would not recommend him if he knew he were dishonest," exclaimed Amy. "I am quite sure that he will pay his rent, Mr. Harvey; you see, Mr. Bond is a great friend of my brother's, and Mr. Newlyn is a great friend of Mr. Bond's, so it is almost the same as if he were a great friend of ours, and I hope that he will be some day."

Mr Harvey and Margaret could not help smiling while this was all rattled off in Amy's good-natured, brainless fashion. She paused to take breath, and then continued,

"But I have kept his greatest recommendation to the last, at least, I know that it will be a great one in Margaret's eyes, and I expect in yours too, Mr. Harvey; he is either engaged to be married, or else very near it. At all events he is paying the greatest attentions to Mr. Bond's cousin, Edith, that pretty girl with the auburn hair whom you have seen at our parties, Margaret."

"Ah !" exclaimed Mr. Harvey, with a sigh of relief, "that is indeed a piece of good news."

"Father is so absurd," said Margaret, with a blush, "he thinks that no young man can come near me without falling in love."

"Oh, Mr Harvey, you don't know how stiff she is with young men," said Amy. "She keeps them all at a distance when she comes to our house. Tom says that he has never seen anyone so stand-off, he wouldn't venture to pay her the slightest compliment; and now I must be running back. Mr. Bond is waiting for me to try over a song: shall I tell him that Mr. Newlyn may call and see you?"

"Father, do you really object to my having him?" asked Margaret. "I will not go against your direct wishes."

"No my dear; I will make no further objection; it will be better for you to go your own way and to see what comes of it; experience is the only thing that will ever teach you anything."

Amy departed in high spirits, and a note came from her on the following afternoon to say that Mr. Newlyn would be glad to call on Monday evening.

On Saturday afternoon, when the shop closed early, Margaret went upstairs to give some final touches to the spare room. She put up the clean curtains, which she had reserved until there was some chance of letting, and she brought in a comfortable arm-chair and a nice writing table. She then began to change some of the pictures, taking down two or three which she thought looked rather common and staring, and hanging up some from her own room which were in better taste.

While she was thus employed the Vicar called and had a long talk with Mr. Harvey. When she came downstairs the Vicar had left, but there was a little book on the table, and Margaret took it up in a casual way to look at the title.

Mr. Harvey put out his hand as though to stop her, but conquered the inclination, although a deep blush mounted to his pale face.

" 'Self-Examination' !" exclaimed Margaret, "why has the Vicar left such a book as this here?"

(Continued next month)

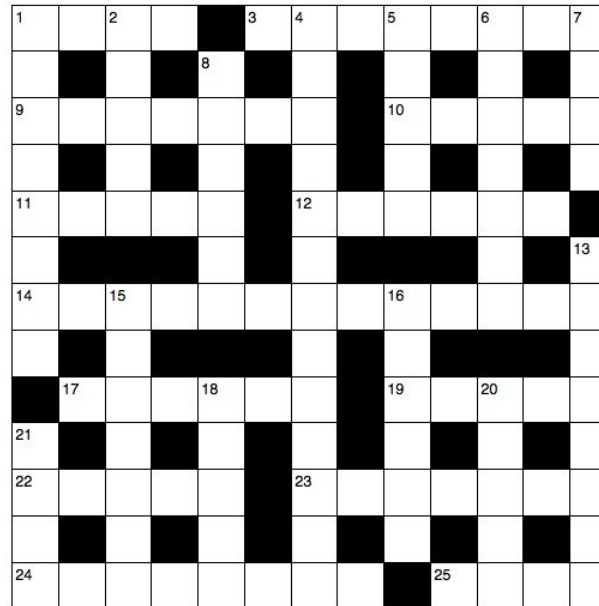
CROSSWORD

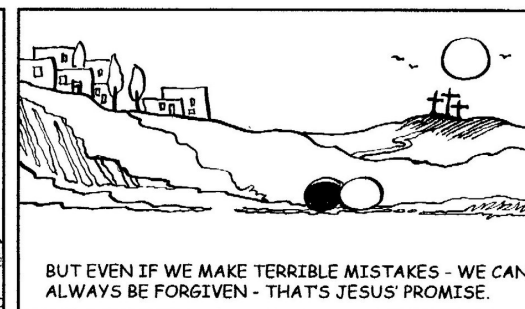
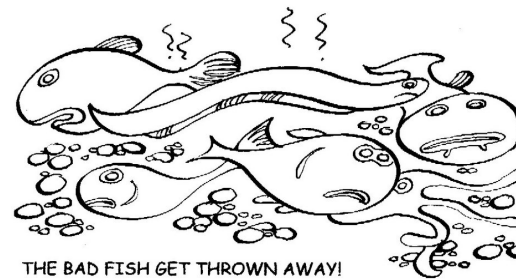
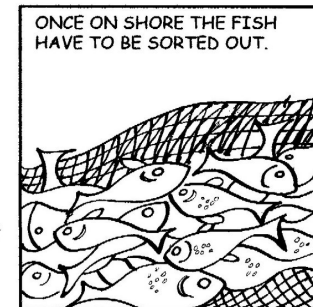
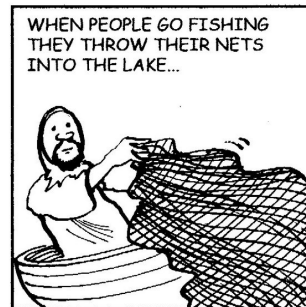
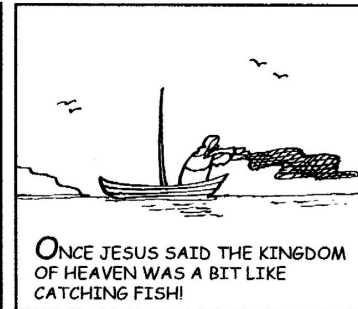
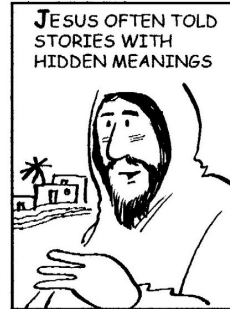
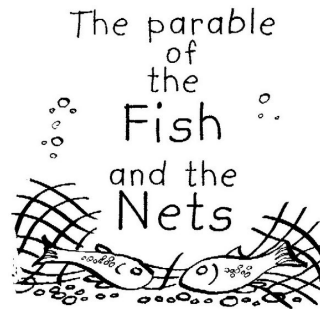
Clues Across

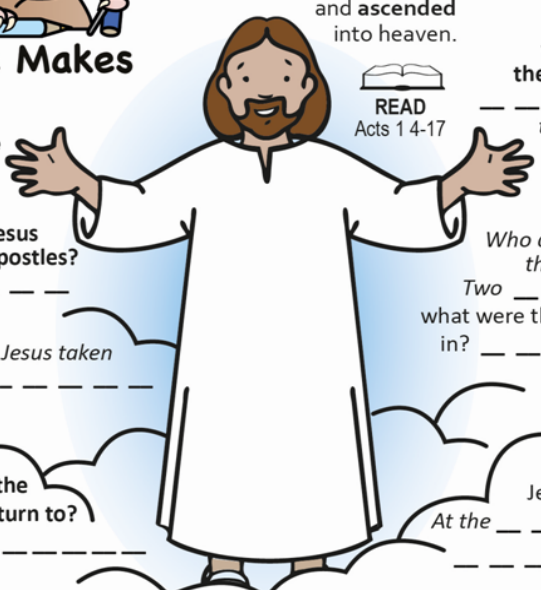
- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' Romans 14:13 (4)
 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
 9 According to a prearranged timetable Numbers 28:3 (7)
 10 Group of eight (5)
 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas Acts 16:24 (5)
 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)
 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' 1 Corinthians 9:27 (6)
 19 Attend to (3,2)
 22 Approximately Acts 4:4 (5)
 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
 25 Test (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed Acts 9:11 (8)
 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous'
 Rom 4:9+8,5
 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome Acts 28:13 (7)
 7 Observe Ruth 3:4 (4)
 8 Minister of religion (6)
 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' Matthew 27:24 (8)
 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' John 15:13 (3,4)
 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' John 3:5 (5)
 20 Establish by law (5)
 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties Jeremiah 46:11 (4)

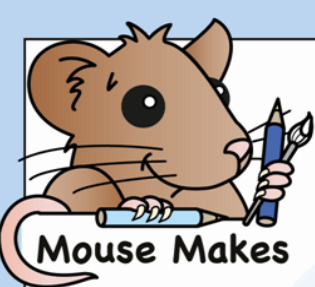






Forty days after His resurrection
Jesus appeared to the Apostles
one last time. He told them
that the Holy Spirit would
come, then He blessed them
and **ascended**
into heaven.

READ
Acts 1 4-17



Mouse Makes

Find the
answers in the
word search

What did
Jesus say
that the
Holy Spirit
would give
the Apostles?

_____ to be Jesus' witnesses.
Acts 1:8

What did Jesus
say to the Apostles?

a _____
Acts 1:9

Where was Jesus taken
up to? _____
Luke 24:51

Who appeared to
the Apostles?

Two _____ and
what were they dressed
in? _____
Acts 1:10

Where did the
Apostles return to?

Acts 1:12

Where is
Jesus seated?

At the _____ of God.
Mark 16:19

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

JESUS • CHRIST • FORTY DAYS • APOSTLES • ASCENSION • TAKEN • LOOKING
SKY • RETURN • BLESSED • WORSHIPPED • JOY • PRAYER • GOD • SAT
GATHERED • WITNESSES • HOLY SPIRIT

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Prayer Diary May 2023

1	St Philip & St James	Churches dedicated to St Philip or St James
2		Peace in Ukraine and Russia
3		Churches currently in vacancy
4		Families preparing for Baptism
5		Newly elected Local Councillors
6		Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla
		King Charles and Queen Camilla and all the Royal Family
7	Easter 5	All who lead Services today
8		All volunteers
9		The work of Farleigh Hospice
10		Mothers with new-born babies
11		Those living with chronic pain
12		All who have recently moved house
13		Bradwell Episcopal Area
14	Easter 6	Our Ministry Team Christian Aid Week begins
15		St Matthias Churches dedicated to St Matthias
16		Christian Aid
17		Archdeacon of Southend - Revd Canon Mike Power
18		Ascension Day Teachers of God's word
19		Those who work on the land
20		Arable and Dairy Farmers
21	Easter 7	Our Parish
22		Eucharistic Ministers
23		Newly elected Church Officers and PCC Members
24		All Hymn and Worship Song writers
25		Those who preach God's word in hostile circumstances
26		The Church Army
27		The work of The Salvation Army
28	Pentecost	The Christian Church throughout the world
29		Christian Members of Parliament
30		Leaders of Political Parties
31		Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth Nurses and Midwives

Maldon & District Citizens Advice

The general, public, email address will be
office@maldoncitizensadvice.org.uk

FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 2023

	All Saints 08.00	All Saints 09.30	All Saints 18.30 Apr-Oct 16.00 Nov-Mar	St Giles 09.30	St Andrew's 11.15	St Georges 09.30
Monday 1 May BANK HOLIDAY						NO SERVICE
1st Sunday 7 May Easter 5 Coronation Weekend	Holy Communion Fr John	Worship for All Rev Jordan and Mary		Holy Communion Rev Julie	Holy Communion Rev Julie & Rev Jordan	
Monday 8 May BANK HOLIDAY						NO SERVICE
Second Sunday 14 May Easter 6	Morning Prayer Alan	Holy Communion Fr John	Evensong 6.30pm Alan	MP&P Gerald & Irene	Holy Communion Fr John	
Monday 15 May						Holy Communion Fr John
Thursday 18 May Ascension Day	MISSION & MINISTRY UNIT COMBINED HOLY COMMUNION 10am at ST MARY'S MALDON Fr. Andrew Appiah					
Third Sunday 21 May Easter 7	Holy Communion Fr John & Rev Jordan	Holy Communion Rev Noelle		Holy Communion Fr John & Rev Jordan	MP&P Lynne & Julia	
Monday 22 May						MP&P Julia
Fourth Sunday 28 May Pentecost	Holy Communion Fr John	Holy Communion Fr John & Rev Jordan		Holy Communion Canon John Brown	Holy Communion Fr John & Rev Jordan	
Monday 29 May BANK HOLIDAY						Holy Communion

ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Choir Prac/Thu (7:30pm)	Dr. Stuart Pegler	01621 850530
Choir Prac/Sat (11.30am)		
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
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 tel: 0800 169 5901.

From the Registers

Funeral

27th April Alan Raymond Perrett aged 88 years of
Wentworth Meadows



PARISH DIRECTORY

VICAR	In Vacancy
ASSISTANT CURATE	Rev Jordan Palmer All Saints Vicarage, Church Walk, Maldon CM9 4PY Tel 07535 001840 jordanmpalmer@outlook.com
HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIESTS	Rev John Dickens Tel 01621 858136 Rev Noelle Taylor Tel 07779 49172
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
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Mrs Elizabeth Blyth Tel 01621 854068 Email: elizabeth.blyth@gmail.com
PARISH NEWS EDITOR & WEB SITE MANAGER	Mike Kneller Email: bigglesworth@btinternet.com

Website www.allsaintsmaldon.com

Take Time

Take time to THINK,
It is the source of power.
Take time to PLAY,
It is the secret of perpetual youth.
Take time to READ
It is the fountain of Wisdom.
Take time to PRAY
It is the greatest power on earth.
Take time to LOVE
and BE LOVED,
It is a God-given privilege.
Take time to BE FRIENDLY,
It is the road to happiness.
Take time to LAUGH,
It is the music of the soul.
Take time to GIVE,
It is too short a day to be selfish.
Take time to WORK,
It is the price of success.
Take time to DO CHARITY,
It is the key to heaven.

After the Ascension, what?

The New Testament tells us that Jesus ascended into heaven, and now intercedes for us at His Father's right hand. Have you ever wondered what this means?

Some have thought that the Lord is somehow constantly 're-offering' the sacrifice of His death before the Father in heaven, and in so doing is 'pleading' on our behalf. But the New Testament is clear in its insistence that Christ's death was historically once and for all achieved.

Hebrews 7:25,27 tells us "...He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them....He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily.... Since He did this once for all when He offered up Himself...."

Instead, Jesus is now in heaven to 'represent us before the Father' (1 John 2:1). He is there to escort you into the Father's presence every time you turn to God in prayer. That is why Christian prayer always ends with 'In Jesus Christ's Name'. He is our only way through.

An important spiritual discipline is *prayer*, where we can both listen and talk to God. However, it's not always easy, and as Pentecost tells us, we have the Holy Spirit to help us to pray.

'In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in ac-

cordance with the will of God.' (Romans 8: 26,27)

The Spirit helps us in our weakness

We often don't know how to pray for a person or situation. The Holy Spirit is alongside to help: *'He bears the burden with us'*. He enables us to connect with God and assures us that He loves to hear our prayers: *'And by Him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'* (Romans 8:15).

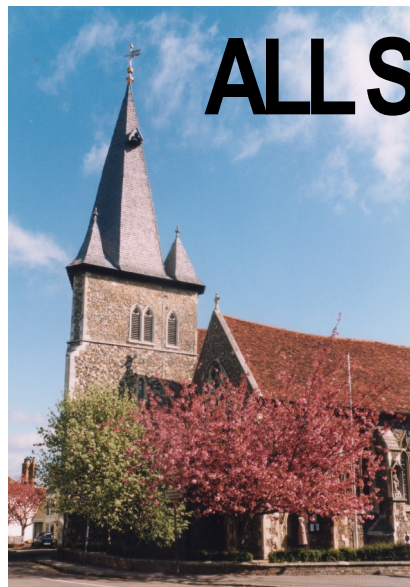
The Spirit helps us in our ignorance

When we don't know what to ask in prayer, the Spirit prays for us with a perfect understanding of God's will. The Spirit pleads on our behalf in *'wordless groans'*, which go beyond mere words. We are never alone when we pray, since the Spirit takes our words and brings them to the Father.

The Spirit helps us in our requests

The Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God. He translates the prayers we can't articulate or the requests we get wrong, so that they come to God in accordance with His will. In prayer we attune ourselves to the Spirit with our words or groans. Reading the Bible alongside our prayer is helpful, so that we can pray in agreement with God's Word.

When we pray, let's confidently ask: *'Come Holy Spirit.'*



ALL SAINTS *MALDON*

www.allsaintsmaldon.com

PARISH OFFICE

Requests for Baptisms and Marriages should be made at the Parish Office situated in the Church (St Katherine Room) - 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

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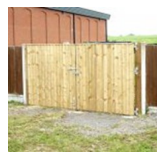
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