



The Parish of Maldon St. Mary with Mundon

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Priest in Charge: Fr. John Dickens 858136.

Associate Priest: Fr. Robert Wiggs 01245 359138.

Churchwarden: Dawn Mundy 854065, (also Treasurer),

Director of Music: Colin Baldy 856526. *Pastoral Team:* Jenny Andrews.

Parish Newsletter March 2020.

In this edition you will find

- **Parish News**
- **Lent Courses**
- **Bishop's Lent Appeal**

Welcome to the third monthly newsletter. As I write this we have just started Lent and the newsletter contains details of various Lent courses and the Bishop's Lent Appeal. We started Lent with our usual Ash Wednesday liturgy and it was so good to welcome members of All Saints' church, including Fr Stephen and Sue. Stephen has resigned as vicar but will not be moving from the vicarage until the middle of March. We said farewell to him at St Mary's at Choral Evensong at Candlemas. As I said then, Stephen has been a good friend to the clergy and people of St Mary's; we will really miss him. We wish Stephen and Sue well in their retirement home in Manningtree.

Another feature of the Ash Wednesday service was the superb singing of the choir. It was so good to have the Junior Choir with us, even though it was a school night. The Junior Choir has added a new dimension to the church. We are grateful to Colin for all the work he does and to Sue Mayes who looks after the children on a Wednesday evening. The Bulletin has an appeal for people to help with the cooking on Wednesdays. Wednesday evening is a fun occasion with games, the serious business of singing and the shared meal. It is St Mary's version of "Messy Church".

Renewal Project

The gallery for the organ has been designed and we have now received tenders from builders. The PCC has to make the final decision on which tender to accept. The work is likely to start very soon and this may cause disruption to mid week services, with Tuesday Mass and Morning Prayer having to move to the Octagon on some days. At the moment we think Sunday Mass will be able to stay in the main church. The date we have for the start of the organ installation is Tuesday 21st April.

Most of the cost of the organ project is coming from church investments but we are also launching an appeal. The appeal leaflet is now being printed and should be available soon. You can see it on St Mary's website. Many of you will have seen the article about our project in last week's Maldon and Burnham Standard. The second part of the project, the floor levelling, improving the heating and lighting and so on

will mainly be grant funded. We have employed Spires to identify and apply for the streams of money available.

Parish Profile

Dawn has been leading the profile writing team. The joint St Mary's / All Saints' profile is nearing completion and it is hoped to send it to the Archdeacon in the next week or two. The Archdeacon will suggest any amendments, then when it is finalised it will be put on the Chelmsford Diocese website and a job advertisement for the new priest to be in charge of St Mary's and All Saints' will be produced.

Parish Giving

Dawn wrote a lengthy article about this in the February newsletter so I will not repeat what she said. There is to be a presentation at Mass on 22nd March, (Mothering Sunday) followed by a parish meeting. You will hear more about this in due course.

Alpha Course

I am delighted how well this is going. We have now had three sessions and the videos are stimulating lively discussion amongst the participants. One person said to me last night, "I now understand for the first time why Jesus died for us on the cross". I am grateful to Fr Robert for organising this and to Cyrus his technical assistant. Thanks are also due to those who cook. It is still not too late to join us on Thursday evenings.

Website.

Cyrus Pugh and Mike Robinson are working behind the scenes on the design of a new website. Look out on the Bulletin for the date of the launch. It is especially important to have a good website at present because it is the first place potential applicants will look.

St George's Church Centenary 1920-2020

Joy Norman has sent details of St George's centenary celebrations. She writes, "St George's Church in Heybridge Basin celebrates its Centenary on 4th March 2020. This fragile building owes its creation to the Bentalls family, an aerodrome from the early days of flight, and the unfortunate death in the Great War of Second lieutenant Ernest Hammond Bentall."

Sunday, 1st March: 5.30pm Taizé Service

5.00pm Pre-service talk by Josephine Wood -The music of Taizé *Songs of Everlasting Praise*

Wednesday, 4th March: 7pm Rededication Service: Taken by an RAF Chaplin.

5.00pm Pre-service talks with slides: Molly Polden – A Century of Life in the Basin, Peter Manley – A Century of Life in St George's

Friday 6th, March 7.00pm Talk by Professor William (Bill) Tamblyn - *A Century of Congregational Singing*

Sunday 8th March 11 am – Sung Eucharist celebrated by Fr Stuart Batten

Churches Together Lent Course

This will take place at All Saints' church from 10.30am to 12 on Wednesday mornings. The topic is "The Young Church in Action", studies from Acts chapters 1-10. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on what they can learn today from the early church. The detailed programme is shown below.

Date	Bible passages	Topics	Leader
4th March	Acts 1 & 2	Ascension Pentecost Christian Living	Fr John St Mary's
11th March	Acts 3-4:31	Healing of the lame man Peter's defence and arrest	Asa Humphries, Heybridge benefice
18th March	Acts 4:32- 6:7	Common ownership Escape from prison Election of elders/deacons	Rob Sefton Elim Church
25th March	Acts 6:8- 8:40	Martyrdom of Stephen Simon the Magician Philip and the eunuch	Ted Mint, Broad Street Green Chapel.
1st April	Acts 9 &10	Conversion of Paul Peter and Cornelius	Andy Mugford, Fullbridge Church

Bishop's Lent Appeal. The Bishop writes:

This year we are partnering with the Anglican Communion's microfinance charity Five Talents to raise funds for their work in our link diocese of Marsabit in Kenya.

Five Talents provide training in literacy, numeracy and basic business skills to free people from dependency and help them live more abundant lives.

What prevents people from living an abundant life? In many parts of the world, access to food, water and education are just some of the barriers.

Another barrier is dependency – that sense that an individual can do nothing without constant help from another person.

This year's Lent Appeal seeks to help people in Marsabit in northern Kenya discover that life can be more abundant.

Many people in this dry and arid region live below the national poverty line of less than £25 a month, whilst climate change and scarcity of water and pasture has left them vulnerable to food insecurity. In addition, only 28% of women and 47% of men are literate.

With your help, Five Talents will be able to train twelve groups this year across Marsabit in literacy, numeracy and basic business skills.

This will enable these groups, predominantly of women, to create savings and loans co-operatives, which will help them to become more financially independent, develop businesses and ensure that their children can access education for themselves. Five Talents will be working closely with our link diocese in Marsabit, and particularly the Mothers' Union to achieve this goal.

This is a programme that has already helped people in other parts of East Africa to be set free from dependency, and live a more abundant life.

Your donations will release the people of Marsabit to live such a life for themselves.

Lent Lectures: Environmental and Climate Crisis: a Christian Response

This Lent, the Bishops of our diocese and Archdeacon Elizabeth Snowden, Archdeacon of Chelmsford and Chair of the Diocesan Environment Group, will be presenting a series of lectures on the topic of environment and creation.

The five week series covering the themes of air, water, fire, earth and life encourage us to reflect on our situation and our calling to live distinctively Christian lives in response to the climate crisis.

The free lectures, will take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout Lent at 7.00pm – 9.00pm.

More information, can be found at www.chelmsford.anglican.org/lent-lectures-2020.

Ian's Mother: Ian has submitted a moving tribute to his mother.

As most of you know, last September my mother passed away, so this March is the first time that I haven't had to buy a "Mothering Sunday" card. In losing my mother, I lost my last direct link with the war generation, Mum being born on 9th October 1939.

I would meet my mother on Thursdays, before she was unable to walk up to the town, and have coffee with her. I would talk to her about all kinds of subjects especially my discoveries from the Course in Christian Studies. Mum was a font of disparate knowledge, Her mind was a sort of rag bag of facts which were of no use to anybody, but as a result she was always an ace at quiz nights.

I have been thinking about what my mum had witnessed in her eighty years. She recalled seeing the armada of planes that flew over Clacton on "Operation Market Garden", and she remembered being handed over to her neighbours, when the air raid siren sounded. She remembered the wedding of Princess Elizabeth to the Duke of Edinburgh. She witnessed the conquering of Everest, in 1953, and the coronation of our present queen in the same year. In 1961, she watched the news reports of the building of the Berlin Wall, and then she saw it being pulled down thirty years later. The death of President Kennedy in 1963 was another significant moment in her life time. She saw man walk on the moon in 1969 and stayed glued to the wireless when Apollo 13, had its disaster in space. Like me saw the shuttle take off and its triumphant return to Earth. There are of course many other events that my mother witnessed during her long life.

My mum was so much more to me than just a mother; she was my confidante and friend. I know that I'm not the first son to lose his mother, and I won't be the last but at the moment everyday is part of a healing process. On this Mothering Sunday, I will thank God for my Mum and her life and her love.

Ian Littlewood

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST MARY'S 2020

Palm Sunday, 5th April

10:00 am **Parish Mass** with blessing of palms and procession

6:00 pm **Choral Evensong**

Monday of Holy Week , 6th April

7:00 pm **Compline and Stations of the Cross**

Tuesday of Holy Week, 7th April

10:00 am **Mass**

7:00 pm **Compline and Stations of the Cross**

Wednesday of Holy Week, 8th April

7:00 pm **Compline and Stations of the Cross**

Maundy Thursday, 9th April

11:00 am **Chrism Mass at Chelmsford Cathedral**

7:30 pm **Mass of the Last Supper** with footwashing and procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose, followed by the watch.

Good Friday, 10th April

9.30 am Service at the RC church and **Good Friday Procession**

2:00 pm **Good Friday Liturgy** including the reading of the Passion Gospel

7:30 pm **St John Passion** with St Mary's Choir.

Preacher: The Bishop of Chelmsford

Holy Saturday, 11th April

9:30 am Morning Prayer

7:30 pm **Easter Liturgy at All Saints' Church**

Easter Day, Sunday 12st April

10:00 am **Parish Mass for Easter Day** followed by Easter Egg Hunt.

6:00 pm **Evening Prayer**