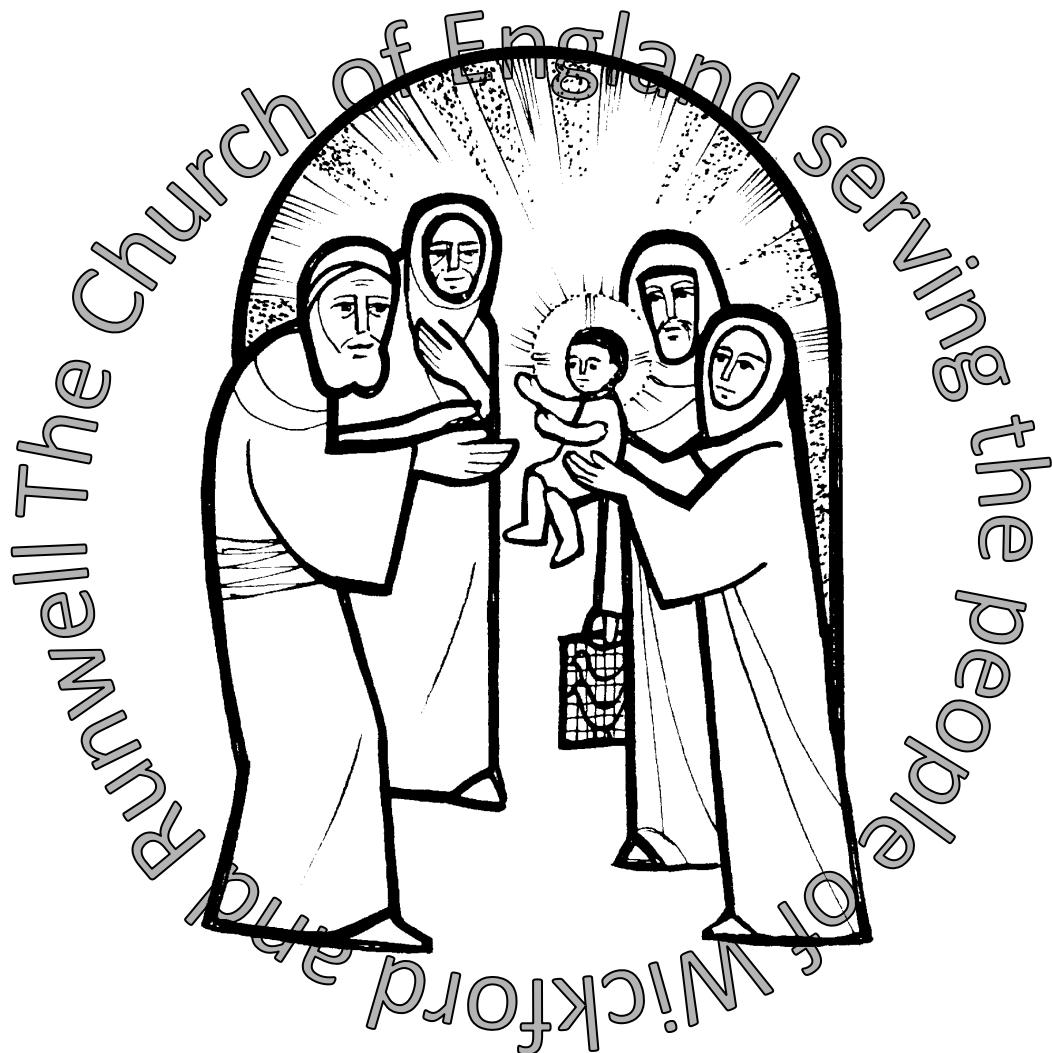


Parish Magazine

February 2017



50p

Our regular monthly events include:

Every week:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Tuesday | Meet and Make 2 - 4 pm St Andrew's Centre |
| Saturday | Coffee Morning at St Andrew's Centre |

First week of the month

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Thursday | Mothers Union - Quiet time (from 11-45 am) followed by lunch and meeting |
| Saturday | Coffee Morning in St Catherine's Hall |

Second Week of the month

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Wednesday | Coffee Morning in St Mary's Church Hall 10 am - 12 noon |
|-----------|---|

Third week of the month

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Wednesday | Mothers Union - 7:30 pm Meeting at St Catherine's Hall |
| Thursday | Prayer and Meditation - 2 pm St Catherine's Church |

Fourth week of the month

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Wednesday | Coffee Morning in St Mary's Church Hall 10 am - 12 noon |
| Thursday | House Group - 10 am at 2 Adam Way |
| Saturday | Men's Breakfast - 8:30 am (always last Saturday of the month) |

Supporting Basildon Women's Refuge

Due to lack of space; Please only take items to St. Andrew's Church on the last FRIDAY (or as near as possible) of each month; then they can be taken to the refuge. If you are unable to take our offering to St. Andrew's then please do pass it to one of your Church Wardens or your Priest.

100 club winners

1st C. Feldwick 2nd N. Craig 3rd J. Knowles

Treacle



Sometimes I feel as if I am walking through treacle. I have never ever walked through treacle, but the metaphor is such a strong one that I can physically feel it.

January with its cold and darkness always promises to be a treacle-month. It never fails to deliver.

The hopeless decisions made last year and the divisive nature of the campaigns, both at home and abroad, even prompted Prince Charles to speak up before Christmas.

This year has begun with the out-working of two major decisions made last year - the referendum which prompted the Government to look to bring the UK out of the EU and Mr Trump taking over from Mr Obama in the US.

Both of these make me feel a little queasy when I contemplate them. Both results spelt, for me, a rise in division, disquiet and dishonesty. I am, sure these have always been there but just brought sharply into glorious Technicolour (to show my age).

One morning recently, feeling particularly bruised and cross (feelings I seem to be encountering a bit too much recently), I made my way across the road to St Catherine's Church. I was cold. I was annoyed. I was struggling to understand why the world was not organised in a way that I felt appropriate. So many disappointed thoughts spiralled around me.

I stepped onto the path to the church and stepped over some litter. I was already annoyed that the cars were racing down the road so I wasn't going

to pick up the litter! I stepped over it bemoaning the throw-away consuming society in which I lived, the lack of responsibility of those who leave litter (you can see the glaring ironies I'm sure ...).

The treacle around me was thickening and the day was going to be absolutely rubbish (and no one would deign to pick it up for me).

Then it happened.

Shrill and strident. Sharp and dangerous. Stopping me and tearing my head upwards. A robin sang.

In that moment I was brought crashing into the present. Consider the robin. The tree it was on showed frosted buds, a promise of spring. Consider the trees. Be still, young (I flatter myself) man!



©Warren Photographic

Brought sharply to heel, I paused and looked. The clarity of the cry spoke through the treacle that stuck to my heart, the darkness of my obsession with the world stage. For a moment I was caught, captured by the almost mocking song that tempted me to see something truly remarkable. Without need for my permission, without any action from me, without any regard for the angst, this small creature and the tree it sat upon shouted out.

The cry was to see that there is always hope. There is always beauty, there is always God.

You might be familiar with T S Eliot's thrush at the beginning of *Burnt Norton*, the song of which captivated that poet. But soon it resonated with a cry:

**Go, go, go, said the bird: humankind
Cannot bear very much reality.**

And so I was cast back into the world. It had not changed (although I did pick up those two wrappers) nor was it transformed. However the treacle was thinner and the path was somehow clearer. The robin's clarity had dragged this foolish man from a path of despair to one a little brighter.

Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

Jo

The Gateway Project is looking for a Volunteer!

Is there someone who is willing to give up their time on a Thursday morning every week to undertake the reception desk for the food bank from 9:30am to 11:30am (2 hours)

Their duties would be:

- To meet and greet people coming into the food bank
- To ensure that they are registered with the project if not register them and check their ID
- To keep records of those attending
- Not over complicating but needs someone who is friendly and are good with people.

If you feel could do undertake this duty please speak to one of the clergy or to Paul Waldren (769761).

The main reason for this extra volunteer is to free Paul up to develop the project further and to be more hands on with the people that attend the project.

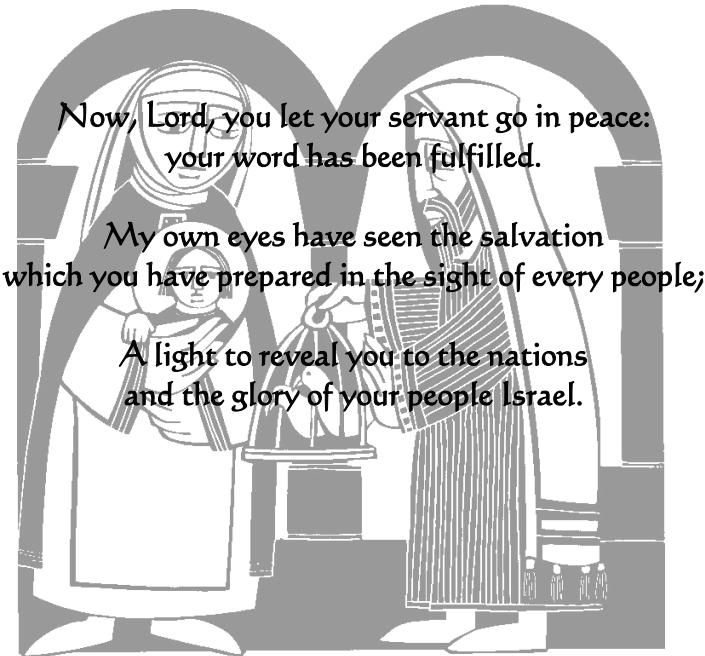
A Team Eucharist to celebrate . . .

The Presentation Of Christ at the Temple

St Mary's Church at 10:30 am

Sunday 5th February

An opportunity for us all to worship together



Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

FOLLOWED BY LUNCH . . .

Wickford and Runwell Mother's Union



St Catherine's Hall was bursting at the seams for our Carols by Candlelight evening on December 21st. It was good to welcome friends from the congregation who certainly helped the singing along, encouraged by Barry Pocock who accompanied us on the Keyboard.

IT WAS GREAT

The men certainly held their own when it came to singing Good King Wenceslas.

The carols were interspersed with snippets from times long past--- and we just had to include, for everyone's delight, a PANTOMIME, SNOW WHITE--- This was performed by an amazing theatre company (unfortunately, because of cutbacks, there was only one dwarf!) A most enjoyable evening.

Thank you, Matt, for taking such a lovely Epiphany Service on January 5th, sorry you were unable to join us for lunch, perhaps another time.

The meetings for February are as follows:

Feb 2 nd	12 noon	quiet time
	12.30pm	shared lunch
	1.30pm	domino afternoon

Feb 15 th	7.30pm	"Marriage and all that"
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Coming up in March!

Lent Course

Starting week beginning 6th March
forms for groups to be in church over the next few weeks
provided by USPG



Photo Courtesy of Shutterstock

LIVING AN AUTHENTIC LIFE: A FIVE-SESSION LENT STUDY COURSE EXPLORING DISCIPLESHIP WITH THE WORLD CHURCH.

Our Lent study course for 2017 explores what it means to be a disciple of Christ by looking at the Bible and reading about the experiences of Christians around the world.

It is not intended to offer definitive answers, but rather encourage you and your study group to investigate what discipleship means to you personally and collectively.

The result, it is hoped, will be that we feel more able to live an authentic life, being true to ourselves, true to those we meet, and true to God.

We have allocated a space as part of each study for you to note down something you have learned that you could incorporate into your practice of discipleship.

Forms will be with you from 5th February

LISTENING



To listen to someone is one of the most precious gifts that we can give. It is at the heart of pastoral care and is essential to good relationships. To listen well is to value and to affirm; 'You matter to me.' Compare the times you have been listened to with those when you thought nobody was listening. How did you feel?

Good listening is not easy but it is something that can be improved. Our Pastoral Visitors have all been trained in listening skills but it is something we can all gain from.

On 4th March I shall be training a group from Sue Mann's new churches. The details on are on the poster accompanying these few words. If you would like to improve your listening then why not join us? If you need to know more before committing yourself then talk to me, or to any of the Pastoral Visitors, who will tell you how listening well is such a gift.

Sue

Effective Listening Practice

A two session training event taking place
on

Saturday 4th March 2017
10.00am – 4.30pm

Orsett Churches Centre
High Road, Orsett
RM16 3ER

Cost £ 16, includes workbook

For application forms and enquiries
contact:
suemann23@hotmail.com
01375 891254



St Mary's Murder Mystery Returns



Tickets are available (from the usual suspects)

Linda Payne and wardens . . .

once again:

at St Andrew's Church and Centre

February 18th . . . 7 for 7:30 pm

Wickford and Runwell Youth

Our parish youth group meets every month. We enjoy a variety of activities ranging from visiting Base Jump at Rayleigh, going ten pin bowling, to enjoying a South African style BBQ. Every other month we meet for "Bible & Crisps" an opportunity to reflect on the Bible while we share crisps and snacks.

The group is open to anyone aged from 9.

WARY group activities 2016 / 2017		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sunday 12.02.17	3:30pm – 5:00pm	Bible & Crisps
Sunday 12.03.17	3:30pm – 5:00pm	Activity - TBC
Sunday 09.04.17	3:30pm – 5:00pm	Bible & Crisps: Easter reflection
Sunday 14.05.17	3:30pm – 5:00pm	Activity – TBC
Sunday 11.06.17	3:30pm – 5:00pm	Bible & Crisps
Sunday 09.07.17	3:30pm – 5:00pm	Summer BBQ

The meeting point for activities and venue for Bible study sessions will be **27 Blake Hall Drive, Shotgate, SS11 8XA** unless alternate arrangements are made prior to an event.

Contact: Marina Bailey: 078007 60975



Saturday 11th February

St Andrew's Church and Centre

2 - 4 pm

"Catching Fish"



From our registers:

St Catherine's Church

Baptism

December 18th

Grace-Mae McGonnell

St Mary's Church

Weddings:

December 23rd

John Chance and Claire Chappell

December 31st

Neil Gulliford and Teresa Lacey

Funeral:

December 21st

Carol Johnson

Bishop Stephen's School for Disciples



Some of you will remember arriving at Christ Church in Billericay a few years ago, for a meeting with Bishop Stephen, when he encouraged us to think about the ways in which we look outward to our communities, and how, by doing that, we might make God's story and God's love known to our neighbours. As always, our bishop encouraged and enthused us - and he is planning to do it again.

On **2 February** the venue will be St Gabriel's, Pitsea, and this time we are invited to think about how we are or might be part of a 'school for disciples', how we go on discovering for ourselves and help others to discover what it means to live as Christians.

The plan is for six or more members of each church in the deanery to be there: is this something you would like to part of?

If so, please speak to one of the clergy, or sign up in church.

SHROVE TUESDAY

28TH FEBRUARY 2017



Do you like pancakes but can't be bothered to make them?

If so, come along to St Catherine's Hall on Shrove Tuesday afternoon for a Pancake Party.

Drop in between 2-4pm and enjoy
2 Pancakes and tea or coffee
only £3

Sign up sheets in churches

Is ‘equality’ a red herring?

Wednesday 22nd February at 8.00pm,

Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House.

I suspect that most of us who lived through 2016 have at some point thought about the question, “How are we to live together well?” In the light of the continuing refugee crises, the ever more brutal and complex Syria conflict, and the no-holds-barred Brexit and US presidential campaigns and the socially toxic fall out from both, it’s a question that seems painfully – and increasingly - relevant.

In a lecture I’ve been invited to give to the Chelmsford Theological Society, I’ll be reflecting on that question by exploring the idea of “equality”.

Equality is a word that’s used very often: it’s generally treated as a good thing and an important thing for living together well. And from the Pope, to economists, to the popular press, its opposite – inequality - is criticised as a bad thing.

But in recent years a number of writers have started questioning whether equality is actually a useful idea at all. What do we *really* mean – and what do we *really* seek – when we talk about ‘equality’, they ask. What if it’s a word that is so poorly defined and lazily used that it is actually distracting us from much more pressing and important concerns? And is equality an idea that Christians should endorse? Can it be found in the Bible?

In other words: is equality a red herring?

In my talk, I try to explore those criticisms of equality and show that equality is an important idea: an important idea with strong Christian roots, but an idea that is on the verge of disappearing if we don’t use it carefully.

I think there is a small charge on the door, but all are very welcome and I’d be delighted to see familiar faces in the audience, of course!

Matt

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Am I Being Unfair to You?

PRAYING FOR
THE PHILIPPINES

Friday 3rd March 2017
ALL ARE WELCOME

St Andrew's Church
(by Police Station)

10.30 am



from Mike Tricker

If you have a view, a thought, an experience, something that you feel is worthy of comment - please write it down and pass it to me (Jo) and I will try and find a place for it.

We really enjoy your thoughts on, say, Messy Church, the January Pulpit Swap, Team service, the School for Disciples

. . . . be bold!

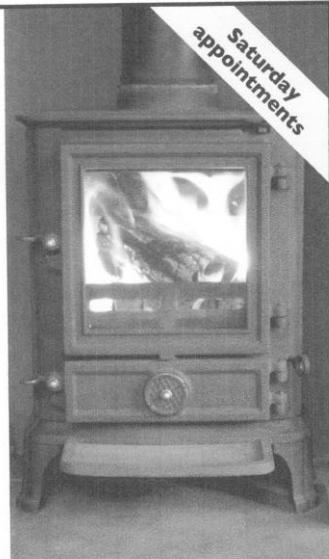
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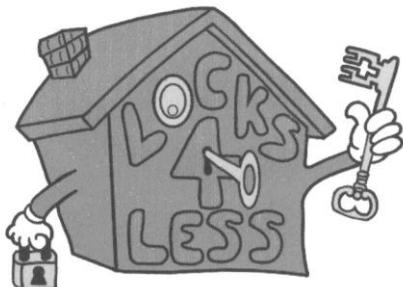
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Advertising in the Magazine is simple. Just send the advert to delfgou@live.co.uk or contact Fr Jo on the number on the inside cover.

Charges for 2016: £26 small size - £40 large size - £75 half page per year
The magazine is also found on our Church website increasing the circulation

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Graham & Anita Hellewell

WICKFORD AND RUNWELL TEAM MINISTRY

<u>CLERGY</u>	Jane Freeman Norbert Mutuku Jo Delfgou Matt Simpkins Sue Wise (available Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)	St. Andrew's Church St. Catherine's Church St. Mary's Church	734077 733147 732068 765524 07941 506156
<u>Reader</u>	John Knowles		
<u>P.C.C.</u>	Vice-chairman Secretary Treasurer Electoral Roll Officer	Pam Petts Sian Simpkins Yvonne Branson Pam Petts	734183 765524 458778 734183
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<u>Mothers' Union</u>	Enrolling Member	Jeannette Cardnell	452309
<u>Parish Magazine</u>	Editor	Jo Delfgou	

FOR INFORMATION ON **GIFT AID AND PLANNED GIVING PLEASE CONTACT
CHRIS BEAUCHAMP ON 762205.**

SUNDAY SERVICES

<u>St Andrew's</u>	9:30am 6:30pm	Sung Eucharist Healing Eucharist (<i>on 3rd Sunday</i>)
<u>St Catherine's</u>	8:00am 9:30am 11:00am 6:30pm	Holy Communion Family Worship Sung Eucharist Evening Prayer (<i>Sung Evensong 4th Sunday</i>)
<u>St Mary's</u>	9:30am 6:30pm	Sung Eucharist Taizé (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monday	9:00 am	Morning Prayer at St Catherine's
Tuesday	9:00 am 7:30 pm	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's Eucharist at St Mary's
Wednesday	9:00 am 9:30am 10:30 am	Morning Prayer at St Catherine's Eucharist at St Catherine's Eucharist at St Andrew's
Thursday	9:00 am 10:00 am	Morning Prayer at St Mary's Eucharist at St Mary's
Friday	8:30 am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's
Saturday	9:30 am	Morning Prayer at St Catherine's (on the first Saturday of the month)

OFFICE HOURS

St Andrew	Saturdays	11:00 - 11:30am	in the Church
St Catherine	Mondays	7:00 - 8:00pm	in the Church
St Mary	Mondays	7:00 - 7:30pm	in St Mary's Hall

Articles for the next Magazine to the Editor by 15th of the month
Thank you - email: delfgou@live.co.uk

And our website: <http://wickfordandrunwellparish.org.uk/index.php>