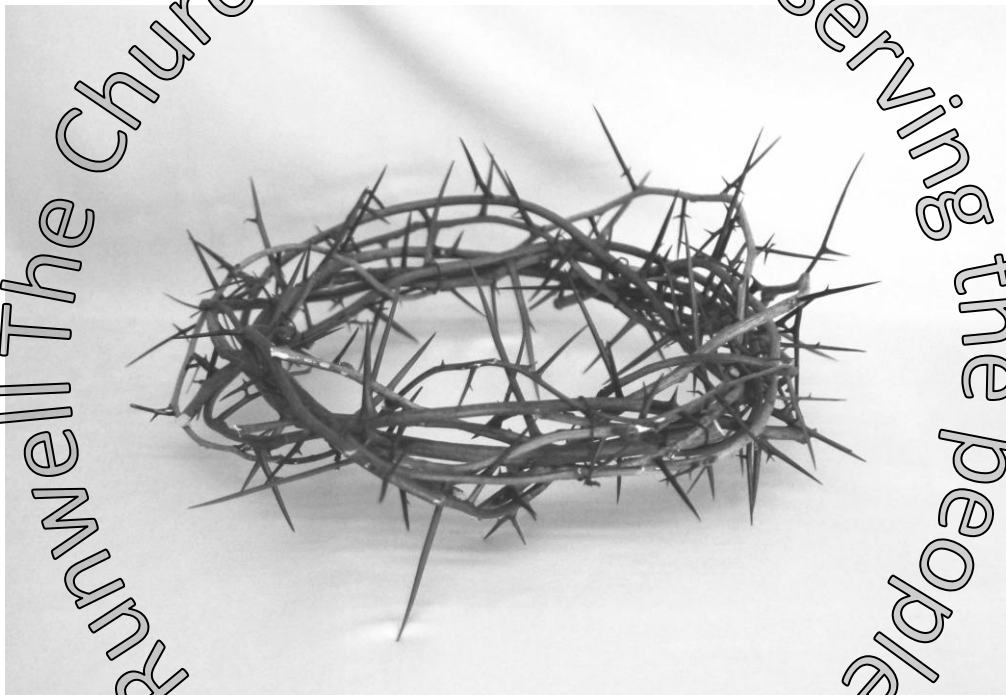


# Parish Magazine

FEBRUARY 2018

and Rumwell The Church of England serving the people of Wickford



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

## ***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.

## **The Gateway Project**

The foodbank is in need of the following:

**Jams**  
**Cereals**  
**Tinned Potatoes**  
**Custard**  
**Biscuits**

# Be more fruitful: cut back



We have arrived at that time of year when the green-fingered among us set their minds to the task of pruning. The Bible is full of imagery of pruning – of vines and olive trees in particular. Many of these images concern the removal of branches, and sometimes their burning. This might lead us to think of “cutting back” as something we must *always* fear.

We might reach a similar conclusion from seeing how big businesses or governments tend to approach “cut backs”.

Such fear is challenged, however, by one particularly fascinating pruning story that Jesus tells (John 15.2). Here Jesus speaks of himself as the vine and God the Father as the vine-grower. He starts as we might expect, explaining that “[the vine-grower] removes every branch in me that bears no fruit”. Yet what he says next is both intriguing and challenging: “Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.”

By describing the pruning of *every* already fruitful vine in order that it may bear *more* fruit, the image of “cutting back” is set free. No longer does it only represent a terrifying negative judgement, but now also represents a positive, healthy and *necessary* aspect of growing in fruitfulness. Pruning itself becomes a sign of fruitfulness!

Jesus’s image is also a stark challenge to the idea that it’s always best to focus money, resource and effort where there is already growth, just as any sensible business might. Jesus does not speak of giving extra fertilizer to maximize the vine’s fruitfulness; he speaks of cutting it back to ensure its fruitfulness. This may well be sound horticulture, but it is also straightforwardly bad business-sense.

With Lent approaching, we might do well to consider where we might cut back to encourage our continued fruitfulness to God. As we've seen in Jesus's teaching, *this* sort of pruning isn't a sign of failure, but rather of fruitfulness. We could consider this on many levels: where might we "prune" in our own lives as disciples, in the lives of our congregations, in the lives of the parish and community, or in the life of the Church more generally?

The structures and activities of our lives, our parish and the diocese should enable the vine to bear fruit: which means, sharing Christ with our communities. So these structures *must* be lovingly tended and nurtured, just as a vine-grower tends a vine. But just as with vines, this tending and nurturing always involves pruning. Otherwise, the structure of the vine can overwhelm its fruitfulness – all vine, and no fruit! Similarly, we need to be alert to the danger that we may find ourselves desperately maintaining ever-more demanding structures and activities, and neglecting what those structures and activities are supposed to be enabling: our mission to share Christ with our communities. All vine, and no fruit!

It's never wrong to admit feeling overburdened by the demands of the Church's activities and structures. It's never wrong to feel the need to prune. Jesus does not call disciples to be exhausted under the weight of self-expectation, or under the weight of other peoples' expectations. Rather, God calls disciples to do one thing: bear fruit. And he tells us that this must involve pruning. This is true for all parts of the vine, not just those with named roles. The most important parts of the vine, remember, are those who bear fruit by living as disciples of Christ in the world through their everyday lives.

So let's reflect on what can be pruned – in our lives, in our churches, in our diocese. But not pruned out of fear – like the last minute cut backs of some failing business. Nor pruned in order to be immediately replaced with something else. But pruned as an essential part of the process of fruitfulness. Pruned in the joy of the knowledge that God calls disciples not to exhaustion and collapse, but to bear fruit in abundance.

Matt

# FILMS AT ST ANDREW'S

*COME AND JOIN US TO WATCH*

## GROUNDHOG DAY



A story of redemption, repetition, rescue, repetition,  
re-evaluating and repetition .....

5.30 pm 4th February 2018 at St Andrew's

**WICKFORD AND RUNWELL TEAM MINISTRY**

**Saturday 10th February**



**St Andrew's Church and Centre  
2 - 4 pm**

# **A Messy Candlemas!**

**Come and find out more about our link in Kenya**

**11th February St Andrew's Church  
3pm**



We will be welcoming one of the many volunteers who will be speaking about her experience and the amazing work our charity is achieving in the complex world of HIV+

# SHROVE TUESDAY

13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018

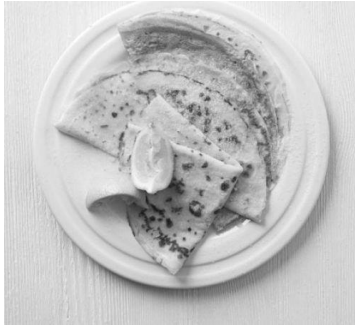
Do you like pancakes but can't be bothered to make them?

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 at the back of the church



Ash Wednesday  
14th February



Eucharist with imposition of ash

St Catherine's Church at 9:30 am

St Andrew's Church at 10:30 am

St Mary's Church at 8 pm

## Wednesday Cuppa and Chat

On the **second** and **fourth** Wednesdays of each month St Mary's Church hall will be open from 10 am to 12 noon.

In February that will be 14th and 28th .....



Please pop in for a tea or coffee and a chat!

### From our registers:

#### NOVEMBER

#### St Catherine's Church

Baptisms  
10<sup>th</sup>

Edward and Alexander Hatton

#### St Mary's Church

Baptisms  
3rd  
19th

Teddy Hardy  
Toby King

Weddings  
2nd

Philip Turnbull and Robyn Brasier

Funerals  
6th  
20th

Terrence Edmead  
George Lee





## WICKFORD & RUNWELL MOTHER'S UNION

Many of our members braved the gale force wind on January 4<sup>th</sup>. And were rewarded with piping hot vegetable soup and crusty bread, a real winter warmer, and a chance to catch up with each other's Christmas news, this was followed by a recipe swap.

We welcomed back Fr. Jo to our Wednesday evening meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>. He had entitled his talk "Deliverance" We were all curious as to what this was all about. We soon found out as Jo told us about his work as "Healing and Deliverance Priest" in the Bradwell area. It was a very enlightening talk and held our interest the whole time. We went home a lot more informed than when we arrived. Thank you, Jo, for sharing this with us and God bless you in this very special ministry.

We no sooner seemed to have finished up the Christmas leftovers than we are thinking of Lent and our Lent Group. This starts on Monday February 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at St. Andrew's and weekly on the following 4 Mondays

### Meetings for February

1<sup>st</sup>. February Quiet time 12 noon

Shared lunch 12.30pm

Candlemas Service 1.30pm led by the Rev'd Sue Wise

21<sup>st</sup> February "Flowers for Beginners" Margery Clark

Branch Leader: **Mrs Jeannette Cardnell –01268 452309**

# **First Communion**

**We are going to be beginning classes for those who would like to receive communion and are of Junior school (or older) age ....**



# **Confirmation**

**For those who have been baptised and wish to confirm those beliefs before the Bishop .....**

**..... please speak to one of the clergy as soon as possible (so we can organise classes!)**

**And other dates to note:**

**Reading in Church?  
For all those read (or would like to read) in Church  
3rd March 2pm at St Andrew's Church**

**Concert at St Andrew's  
10th March  
More details to follow ....**

## LIVING WITH GODS - AN EXHIBITION AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM



An exhibition tracing the history of religious belief, through dozens of artefacts, quantities of 'stuff', might not strike you as the most exciting of outings.

But this is not one to miss. The oldest item on show is the most mysterious, a 40,000 year old carving known as the 'Lion Man'. At some point in the Ice Age, hours if not days were spent with the most primitive of tools making this figure which draws together lion and human, and represents in ways we can only begin to guess at the deep human instinct to explore, to think about the world beyond ourselves, to try to make sense of our place not just in the world but in the cosmos.

There are many things in the exhibition which we would recognise; crosses, chalices, rosaries. Many more which come from traditions which are strange to us, or expressions of Christianity very distant from our own in time or geography. Some are intrinsically valuable, made of precious metals, ornamented with jewels, some are very domestic, and their original owners would be amazed to know that they had even survived.

Running through the whole is a reminder that exploring our purpose, our identity, our place in the big story of God or gods, is essentially something which is shared, an undertaking done by communities, experienced by communities, and itself helping to create communities. The implication for western society, especially, is the loss of community with the loss of faith and its practice.

By implication, if we are part of a community, we have a responsibility to others: our care cannot just be for ourselves. 'Living with Gods' ends with its most poignant, challenging and recent exhibits: the Lampedusa Cross, roughly painted by a Sicilian carpenter and fashioned from refugee boats wrecked off the island's coast, and two small white shirts, dipped in plaster of paris so they kept their shape, taken from the bodies of children, drowned as they tried to make the crossing from Syria to safety.



It's rare to leave an exhibition moved to tears.

Jane

## WARY

If your question is WHO? Then let me introduce you to **Wickford and Runwell Youth!** A group of young people between the ages of 10 – 14 years who get together usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month to talk about topical issues, go out on activities and just generally HAVE FUN!!!!

The young people do not all regularly attend a church or even belong to one. We do talk about scripture and read the bible and pray, but everyone participates as they feel comfortable.

If you would like to find out more or know of a young person who may like to join us, please feel free to talk to Marina or Mike at St Andrew's. 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

# POPPIES CAFE AT ST ANDREW'S



The new arrival at St Andrew's, Poppies Cafe, run by students from Castledon College, opened at the beginning of the school term, and has proved a great success. Tables are laid with poppy cloths and elegant china, poppy-decorated, of course, tea and coffee arrive in smart individual pots, and there are super-cakes from Cossons. Above all, the young staff are getting to grips with the challenge of running a cafe, and definitely seem to be enjoying it. There's a real buzz, with friends and family from the college, church members, and customers from the wider community enjoying their hospitality.

As a church, we are delighted to be able to offer them space and support, and to see St Andrew's long held reputation for hospitality finding a whole new expression.

If you haven't tried it yet, pop in one Friday morning:  
the cafe is open 10.30 - 12.30.

**“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink”**

## **Bishop’s Lent Appeal 2018**

**By Revd Lee Batson**



Amidst the current debate about the extensive use of plastic in our society, and the ethics of buying bottled water, it is easy to forget just how easy it is for us to access the water we need to survive. An eight hour flight from Heathrow, however, takes us to northern Kenya - a place where water is incredibly scarce. It is a place where people often have to walk long distances to find a reliable source of water, impacting upon sanitation and the ability of people to access education and more reliable work.

The Diocese of Chelmsford has been linked with this area for forty years, and has decided to partner with the Diocese of Marsabit to help alleviate this situation. Our partner Bishop, Rt Revd Qamicha Wario (who spent time in our Diocese in 2017) has asked us to help raise funds for a Water Bowser. This vehicle will be used to take water to communities across an area the size of England when drought means that other sources have run out, and will fill local water containers so that supplies are replenished and normal life can continue.

As well as meeting the primary need for water, the Bowser will also convey a powerful message that Christ wants to come alongside people when they

are in need, and that He is interested in the well-being of their bodies as well as their souls. It will, in other words, be a means to proclaim a holistic Gospel.

Please do consider supporting this project this year – perhaps by donating the money you would have spent on bottled water as you quench your thirst from the taps that we so often take for granted.

For more information about this project and to donate, please visit [www.chelmsford.anglican.org/lentappeal](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/lentappeal) or contact Revd Lee Batson, [ibatson@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:ibatson@chelmsford.anglican.org)

## **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**The Christian Women of Suriname have prepared this year's ecumenical service and it is entitled "All God's Creation is Very Good"**

**This year's service will take place at the Wickford Christian Centre (Pentecostal Church) in Crouch Drive off the Southend Road near the ring road**

**The date is Friday 2nd. March. The time is 10.30 a.m and there will be refreshments afterwards.**

**Please be very careful crossing the Southend Road and be sure to use the nearby pedestrian crossing which has lights as we would love to see you at the service!**

## FEAR OF DEMENTIA

If one day I should lose my mind  
Lord, let me still be in yours,  
even if I cease to understand  
what being 'yours' may mean.  
I fear the indignity of people saying 'poor soul,  
they're not the person that they used to be'.  
Lord, if this should happen,  
let my condition be  
an offering for millions of others  
who have faced inner confusion and the loss of self.  
O God, even if my fear of 'going mad'  
is outstripped by your love  
Into eternity,  
so help me to forget about tomorrow  
and concentrate on living today.

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LRAM**

on **01268 734589**

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Graham & Anita Hellewell

## WICKFORD AND RUNWELL TEAM MINISTRY

<u>CLERGY</u>	Jane Freeman	St Andrew's Church	734077
	Norbert Mutuku	St Catherine's Church	733147
	Jo Delfgou	St Mary's Church	732068
	Matt Simpkins	<i>(Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday)</i>	765524
	Sue Wise	<i>(Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)</i>	07941 506156
<u>P.C.C.</u>	Vice-chairman	Pam Petts	734183
	Secretary	Sian Simpkins	765524
	Treasurer	Yvonne Branson	458778
	Electoral Roll Officer	Pam Petts	734183
<u>St Andrew's</u>	Churchwarden	Val Bryan	561446
	Churchwarden	Marina Bailey	424899
	D.C.C. Secretary	Marina Bailey	424899
	D.C.C. Treasurer	Mike Gibson	734293
	Hall Lettings	Reg Warne	766749
<u>St Catherine's</u>	Churchwarden	Richard Feldwick	733362
	Churchwarden	Andrew Morl	
	D.C.C. Secretary	Sarah Randall	
	D.C.C. Treasurer	Steve Lissenden	763670
	Hall Lettings	David Jackson	735458
<u>St Mary's</u>	Churchwarden	Val Harris	571933
	Churchwarden	Lyn Gordon	421685
	D.C.C. Secretary	Coral Upham	
	D.C.C. Treasurer	John Skinner	456892
	Hall Bookings	Alan Jones	765360
		Linda Payne	732033
<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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</i> )
<u>St Mary's</u>	9:30am 6:30pm	Sung Eucharist Taizé ( <i>2<sup>nd</sup> 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
Saturday	9:30 am	Morning Prayer at St Catherine's ( <i>1st Saturday of the month</i> )

## 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

Find us online:

[www.wickfordandrunwellparish.org.uk](http://www.wickfordandrunwellparish.org.uk)