

Parish Magazine

April 2018

The Church of England serving the people of Wickford and Runwell



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 Cuppa and chat at St Mary's Hall

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 Cuppa and chat at St Mary's Hall
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 - Foodbank

Milk
Sugar
and in urgent need of carrier bags for life
Also please do not forget Easter Eggs

God's Garden

THE Lord God planted a garden
In the first white days of the world,
And He set there an angel warden
In a garment of light enfurled.

So near to the peace of Heaven,
That the hawk might nest with the wren,
For there in the cool of the even
God walked with the first of men.

And I dream that these garden-closes
With their shade and their sun-flecked sod
And their lilies and bowers of roses,
Were laid by the hand of God.

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,--
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.

For He broke it for us in a garden
Under the olive-trees
Where the angel of strength was the warden
And the soul of the world found ease.

By Dorothy Frances Gurney

I've known that line about being 'nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth' for many a year, but not really considered it. I've probably only connected the beauty of a well-kept garden with the beauty of Creation seen around me. I love my garden, but it isn't always beautiful, sometimes it looks neglected and dying while at other times it is neat and blooming. That's the nature of gardens and growing things though, isn't it?

During Lent we remove the flowers from our churches, in keeping with the 'penitential' nature of the season. Easter Sunday, by contrast, is a riotous display of floral decoration and floristry skills, often including an 'Easter Garden'. I've seen some magnificent examples, not least at the Cathedral.

The 'journey' starts and ends in a garden. It was in a garden where Genesis tells us that humanity made its first disobedient move and suffered the consequences.

Then the Lord God said, 'See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever'— therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. (Genesis 3: 22-23)

It was in a garden where Jesus prayed for strength, along with disciples that could not stay awake, that the betrayer came and handed him over to the authorities.

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him,

also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. (John 18:1-2)

It was in a garden that they buried the broken body of our Redeemer, who gave his life that we might be set free of sin.

Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. (John 19:41-42)

It was in that same garden that Mary found him, mistaking him for the gardener, when he showed us that he had conquered that last great enemy, death.

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' (John 20:15b-16a)

I guess we really are nearer to God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth.

Jesus himself said that 'unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.' (John 12: 24) We plant seeds, which look like nothing alive, in the soil and hope that they will grow into mature and beautiful plants. Experience tells us that this miracle will happen if we look after the soil, and the emerging seedlings.

Our faith tells us that Jesus died and rose again for our salvation. In doing so he gave us hope, a promised new life in a new

creation. We also are God's planting, and he wants us to bear fruit. Every time we tell the stories to those who do not know, we plant seeds. The story at Christmas has that 'aah' factor, but the Easter story is more complex, showing the fullness of God's love in sacrifice as well as the hope of the new kingdom. So we often use the new life of a beautiful Spring garden as an image for the Resurrection (along with baby bunnies, chicks and lambs.) How wonderful it would be if we had as many travel with us at Easter as at Christmas and come to know the promise that it holds. It's up to us, to sow the seeds, trust that some will grow where the soil is right, and to tend the seedlings.

One day maybe God's garden on earth will be the beautiful place it should be.

Sue

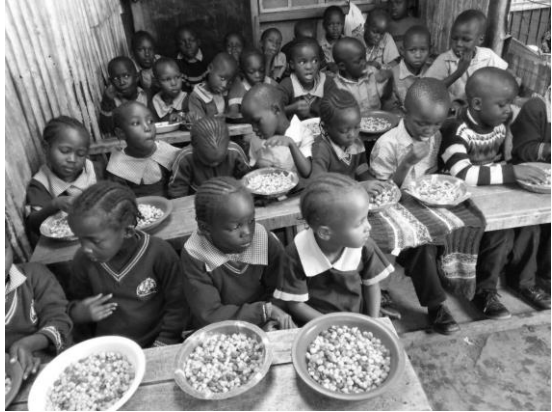
A Messy Easter

14th April - St Andrew's Church
2 - 4 pm



A snapshot of our Kenyan partners:

We were fortunate to have one of the volunteers come to speak with us about the work carried out with women and children affected by the HIV+ and AIDS epidemic in Africa.



We were shocked to hear of their hand to mouth existence in a small town built around a rubbish dump.



These photographs attest to the excellent work that they achieve and the amazing way our small donation helps them.



We can learn a lot from their sense of community, accepting and helping the vulnerable and challenging the social norms.



From our registers in February 2018:

St Mary's Church

Weddings	4 th	Luke Dale and Victoria Dale Peter North and Ashlee Keeble
Funerals	8 th	Dawn Bassi
	22 nd	Audrey Davey

St Catherine's Church

Funeral	13 th	Joyce Arnold
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APCM



The **A**nual **P**arochial **C**hurch **M**eeting is an opportunity to read, hear and reflect upon the last year's ministry that we have all shared.

At the meeting we elect our six Church Wardens, members to our PCC (Parochial Church Council – the legal body of the Team Ministry), members to our three DCCs (District Church Councils – which manage the running of the three churches) and to review our accounts.

We also hear some interesting feedback from those who have played a part

..... and we share some food beforehand!!

Please do come along and meet, listen, laugh and eat

Sunday 15th April – at St Andrew's Church, London Road

'Basildon Night Shelters for the Homeless Initiative' Winter 2018

This winter has seen many nights at below zero temperatures and even snow during some weeks and the homeless shelter initiative in Basildon has run 5 nights a week to be a roof under which to sleep and receive much needed warmth, welfare and refreshment.

When I arrived for my volunteer night, there were people outside the door already waiting to come in. Different churches within the Basildon area opened their doors on different nights to let people in to stay for the night, free of charge. Once inside, there was amicable chit chat between the residents most of the time and between the volunteers, happy to help. Support was offered by the Shelter Coordinator to signpost individuals to further help they could access. Once everybody had eaten and had a drink, a maximum of 15 or so people on any one night settled down to sleep whilst overseen by a member of staff and a volunteer overnight.

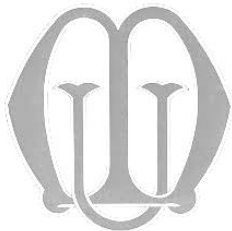
The guests were allowed to smoke outside of the premises but if they appeared to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs they were not allowed to stay.

Hopefully this will inspire some readers to become volunteers. For further information on how you may be able to help with this community project - see details below:

Basildon Night Shelter Coordinator
Email: shelterlinks16@gmail.com
Mobile: 07375 622117

Emma Houghton

Wickford and Runwell Mother's Union



We were pleased to welcome the Reverend Sue Wise to our shared lunch on February 1st at St. Andrew's Centre, this was followed by a quiet hour for Candlemas interspersed with beautiful prayers and very meaningful poems- a really peaceful time. Thank you, Sue, for all the time and effort you put into it- it was very much appreciated.

The "Beast from the East" had an effect on our March meetings. We cancelled our lunchtime meeting on March 1st. Tony Wagstaff was coming to tell us all about "Pigs Ears". We are still left wondering what it was all

About, but, hopefully, Tony will be able to come later in the year and put us out of our suspense.

We also had to cancel our second Lent session due to the weather. So our course ran into the Monday in Holy Week. We hope that this did not put people out too much.

We hope it is not too late to wish you all a happy Easter.

MEETINGS FOR APRIL

5TH. April

12 noon quiet time in St. Andrews

12.30pm shared lunch

1.30pm "Who do you think he was?"



18th. April 7.30pm Emma Doe “Holy Space in Church Schools”

Margery Clark showed how even beginners could create the beautiful flower displays in the photographs below.

The demonstration took place at the MU February evening meeting and encouraged all those attending to get involved with the flower decorations that adorn the

church.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the flowers at St Catherine’s Church, then please do speak up!



Sadly, the magazine is printed in grayscale so you do not really get the full burst of beautiful vibrant colour.

St. Catherine's Spring Fair

Saturday April 7th.



9.30 – 12 noon in St Catherine's Hall

Books, Bric-a-brac, cakes, tombola,
refreshments and more.

We look forward to seeing you there



Snow and God's Delight

Putting to one side the immense hassle of driving or travelling anywhere, there's not much that can beat the simple beauty of waking up to a clear and snowy dawn.

It's a beauty for all the senses, announced to those waking by an uncommon stillness, and the streaming of pure light through and around curtains.

If we venture outside, we step into an absence of everyday din, hushed by the fresh snow's softness. We relish the satisfying crunch of our footfall. As we draw icy air into our lungs, we smell and taste its delicious purity.

We might look in wonder at the jewel-encrusted handiwork of spiders, the striking skeletons of leafless trees against the blue sky, or a familiar building transfigured by the clear light.

For these few short hours the homes, streets, shops and roads of Wickford and Runwell glisten. The everyday details usually so easily ignored become breath-taking and beautiful. And it's as if the preciousness of this place, and all its people, shines out confidently at us – for once refusing to be overlooked, for once freed from the surface noise and distraction that obscures it.

For me, mornings like this give the tiniest hint of how God sees this place in which we live, and all the people we share it with: as precious and utterly lovely.

This all sounds rather neat and charming, of course, but when

we're tired and stressed and harassed it's rather difficult to see our own preciousness let alone any preciousness around us. Yet despite the flaws we each have, despite all the moments in which we've fallen short or messed things up, despite the times when others have treated us badly, there remains a preciousness and loveliness at the core of each and every one of us. God delights in us. God delights in every person.

So, as Lent finishes and the Easter season begins, why not give yourself two minutes each day to look carefully at the familiar places and people around you, and maybe even yourself?

Despite the flaws and failings, can you catch a glimpse of that loveliness and preciousness that can never be lost?

Can you see it shining out, like pure light on a snowy dawn?

Matt



The Wickford Flood Exhibition: WE NEED YOU!

Remembering the Great Flood of 1958

20-22 September 2018

This September marks the 60th anniversary of the great Wickford flood of 1958. The great flood, actually one of several floods that summer, was a nationally significant event that received press coverage not only across Britain but also in Europe. It not only had a big impact on the story of our town and the lives of those who lived here, but also left its mark on the shape of Wickford and changed the River Crouch for ever.



This anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to remind our community of its shared story and heritage, and to bring people together across the generations to explore this.

There are many people in Wickford who lived through this event, and within our own congregations there are some particularly vivid memories (including one person who was married at St Catherine's on that day!). And it is, of course, also of great interest to the town at large.

From 20-22 September it is planned that St Andrew's will host a community exhibition to mark this anniversary. The exhibition will feature fascinating witness material, photographs and press cuttings from the Wickford Community Archive, historical maps from Wickford library, and other memorabilia and films. It will also feature artwork, writing and other creative work about the flood prepared by a number of local schools.

The exhibition will climax on the afternoon of Saturday 22 September with a community tea party: an opportunity for those who have their own memories of the flood to share these stories with others.

Also, on the Saturday, the new Bishop of Bradwell, Dr John Perumbalath will visit the tea party before leading a service to remember the flood – a Eucharist celebrated at a central altar in St Andrew's, surrounded by the exhibition.

For this to go ahead, we need to gather a small group of 4 or 5 people from across our churches to be involved in an organising group.

The idea is that the organising will be kept very simple (and fun!), which is possible because the visiting schools and groups will prepare and bring their own work.

If you are interested, please contact Matt.

100 club winners

1st.J. Salmon 2nd M. Dalby 3rd J. Whyte

A 'Feel-Good' Story

Paula takes our little dog, Daisy, to see a chap called Joe (I've changed his name for the story) at the Residential Home every week. Joe lost his little dogs and isn't allowed to own one at the home (and probably couldn't take care of one now). Joe is a lovely old boy.

On the day of her visit, Daisy gets a bath and a trim, and her nicest winter coat, and she gets excited when we say to her "shall we go and see Joe" and gets really happy as we approach the grange. She trots in and knows the world is all about her!

Joe is very gentle and often says, "isn't she lovely", and "you can't ask more than that". Daisy opens her BIG brown eyes, little tail wags and lays her head on Joe's arm.

In that moment an old man, sits with a little dog, and they share each other's company. Both serenely happy.

Joes grip on the day to day is a little loose, but his world is in the main a happy one.

Some weeks we have been shepherded out because he has to have his car fixed and the MOT has to be done today (although he hasn't driven in a number of years).

Other weeks we have chatted about West Ham players that played 30 years ago and in Joe's world they are still in their prime (I wish) and astride the stage playing at the Boleyn.

I had a lovely conversation recalling the glory of Trevor Brooking in his prime, and Billy Bonds. John Lyall is still in charge for Joe.

Other weeks he has been very sad as they "took his dogs away", where the truth is a lot different and both his dogs got quite ill...

However, this week things were a little different. Paula took daisy, and Joe saw her.

Joe finds it hard to remember people' names, and his grasp on things can be a little loose, however as Paula walked in today she got a BIG smile. "Hello Daisy" he said.

We have since found out that he tells everyone that a little Dog called daisy comes to see him.

Maybe this is God bringing peace to his creation in ways only he understands. Through the medium of a little dog

Mike

Janet & John Trimmer have moved to:

7, La Borie,
Cenac, St, Julian
France 24250

Should you wish to visit or spend a holiday here we would love to see you, just let us know! This is a very beautiful place with plenty of places to visit.

We can accommodate two extra people in our new home and can organise trips to view many of the tourist places in the area.

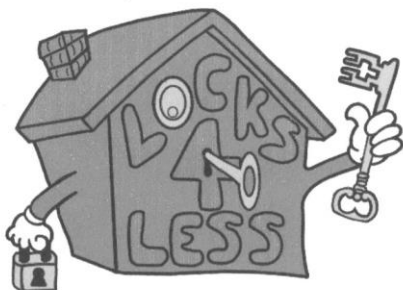
It is starting to get quite warm here now, although it will be a few weeks before the really hot weather sets in. At the beginning of April we are going to a Church of England Service held outside of the Church, weather permitting. Our life is now coming together.

We Look forward to hearing from you and any of the congregation.

Our love to you all.

Janet & John

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Graham & Anita Hellewell

Many apologies for the lack of a magazine last month – the complexities of modern technology could not cope with the inadequacies of the human operator

This magazine has been drawn phoenix-like out of the ashes of a 2016 version – so if you find any errors please let me know (in a nice way).

Thank you for your patience – Jo

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		765524
	Sue Wise (available Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)		07941 506156

<u>Reader</u>	John Knowles		735837
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<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 Bayley	730571
	D.C.C. Secretary	Marina Bayley	730571
	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		

<u>St Mary's</u>	Churchwarden	Val Harris	571933
	Churchwarden	Lyn Bear	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
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<u>Parish Magazine</u>	Editor	Jo Delfgou	
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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 11:30 am	Morning Prayer at St Catherine's Eucharist at St Catherine's Eucharist at St Andrew's Eucharist at St Mary's
Thursday	9:00 am 4:00 pm	Morning Prayer at St Mary's Evening Prayer
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://wickfordandrundwellparish.org.uk/index.php>