

Parish Magazine

AUGUST 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

Female hygiene products, new briefs, hair brushes and shampoo for the women and for the babies and children nappies, wipes, clean bed and cot linen.

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 M. Mutuku 2nd B. Wilson 3rd L. Seaman

Did you have a good time off?

How do I begin to answer this question? Where do I start?

No..... and yes!

The extended study leave (or sabbatical - to give it the old name) was challenging, creative, frustrating, relaxing, invigorating and complex in its simplicity. Maybe I should just lay out how it worked for me and then you can see whether you think there is an easy answer.

During my time I:

- spent 8 hours a week at Brockfield House fulfilling my time with the NHS as chaplain to the unit. This was challenging as it meant I could not fully let go of my active priest identity
- read a couple of books about 'mindfulness'
- read a couple of murder mysteries (that have found their way across the Parish!)
- actively made space to be still
- visited the shrine of Julian in Norwich
- visited Angela Woodward in Loughborough and found her very settled and happy
- heard an amazing post election sermon from a dynamic woman who had been one of the first women to train at Mirfield Theological college (interesting reflections)
- went to two Catholic masses in France, whilst chilling out at the generosity of a friend
- spent time in Newcastle and ended up preaching at the Cathedral
- welcomed friends and visited others
- dealt with a swarm of bees that landed in our garden
- planted trees, herbs and tended the garden (I actually hate gardening - but somehow this was a part of my mindful appreciation of the world)
- helped a slightly panicked son through the end of a degree
- tidied the house - although you might not know that if you saw it now

- edited 2/3 of my novel (book one) and recognised that I need to make time for this in my life pattern
- attended to many things I had previously neglected
- not least spending an hour a week with a psychotherapist exploring me
- got cross in the debates about the future of the country (the election)
- enjoyed celebrating a 50th wedding anniversary
- walked 95 miles-ish along the 'Camino' from Santiago de Compostella to 'the end of the world' and on along 'the coast of the dead'
- read a fascinating comparison of Buddhism and Christianity
- found some stuff I thought I'd lost - both physical and metaphysical
- contemplated the future - for the world, the church, our Parish, my family and me

All this has left me a tad overwhelmed and dazed. The space was excellent, the many things I have managed to do and be will reap rewards, yet it was not a holiday, nor was it simple. I am so very thankful that I have this amazing opportunity and that we have such excellent people who seamlessly step in to ensure that those things that are important still continue.

Many thanks to my priestly colleagues especially Sue - for enabling this journey.

I look forward to opportunities that present themselves where I can offer more insight to some of the things on this list.

In the meanwhile I will leave you with that magnificent person in an apt t-shirt that awaited my return



The caption reads: "In my defence, I was left unsupervised"



Family Event

FUN

GAMES

LUNCH

ACTIVITIES

*Join us for fun and food each Wednesdays of the
Summer Holidays between 12noon and 2pm*

*26th July, 2nd August, 9th August,
16th August & 23rd August*

at Abacus Primary School, Tresco Way, SS12 9GJ

*On 30th August join us for a BBQ in the garden
of Miracle House, Silva Island Way, SS12 9NR*

*To book your place contact tel. 07563 189170 or send an
email to: administrator@wickfordchurch.org.uk*

Maximum 2 parents/carers per family. Adults must remain and be responsible for their children and a registration form must be completed on attendance.

St Mary's Art Exhibition



A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this event such a success: the exhibitors, volunteers who helped keep the Church open, Paula & Jim who helped set up and dismantle the displays, and the people who advertised the event on the website and social media.

We had a larger number of exhibitors this year and 109 visitors (compared to approx 75 last year), which included people from Pitsea and Kent. We collected £60 in donations, and received 5 sheets of very positive comments. Here are a few examples of these lovely comments:

Enjoyed all the pictures & art work, well done to you all.

Beautiful work shown, a joy to see.

Excellent exhibition of talent, artwork and writings.

Once again a wonderful exhibition, well worth the visit, it gets better each year!

A beautiful exhibition, very uplifting.

Thank you for inviting Castledon pupils to your beautiful display of arts and crafts.



You can find the comment sheets pinned in St Mary's porch, if you would like to read the excellent reviews people gave. 2018 will our 5th year of holding The Art Exhibition: dates and theme to follow as soon as possible as we have been asked to give as much notice as we can for people to get their creative thoughts flowing!



Lyn Gordon

CONGRATULATIONS TO EMMA & MIKE!



As you may know, two people from our congregations, Emma Doe and Mike Tricker have recently been exploring whether God might be calling them to licensed lay ministry.

Emma and Mike were put forward for a “conference” intended to discern whether the diocese feels that God is calling them to this ministry. Happily, after attending the conference in July, both Emma and Mike were selected for training.

I’m certain that we all very warmly congratulate them!

Please keep Emma and Mike and their families in your prayers as they begin their formal training this autumn. And, of course, please also keep Steve in your prayers as he continues his training as a priest.

If you would like to discuss the feeling of a call, do please speak to one of the clergy team.



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2017

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COMMUNITY



Autumn Encounters

*short seasonal programme with
the Iona Community*

21-28th October

Walking into Winter.

Led by Jan Sutch Pickard, Joy Mead, and Ruth Burgess

28-4th November

Stillness, Silence, and Song.

Led by Alison Adam and Cara Riley

4-11th November

Cycles of Grace: Exploring the Ten Beatitudes.

Led by Alastair McIntosh

Book online at www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk
or phone **44 (0)1681 700 304.**

Walking into Winter.

Led by Jan Sutch Pickard, Joy Mead, and Ruth Burgess

As the seasons change and the year draws towards its close, what words and images come to the forefront of our minds? How can we make creative use of these – through storytelling, poetry, and writing – to help us shape our journeys into winter? A week of conversation and collaboration with three well loved Wild Goose authors and Iona Community Members.

Jan Sutch Pickard is a poet, preacher and storyteller living on Mull. She is former Warden of Iona Abbey, Vice President of the Methodist Conference, and Ecumenical Accompanier. Her many books resources include *A Pocket Full of Crumbs*, *Walking Through Advent*, and *Between High and Low Water: Sojourner Songs*. She is also a frequent contributor to IBRA's Fresh from the Word daily reading series.

Joy Mead is a member of the Iona Community and the author of *Glimpsed in Passing*, *Walking Our Story*, and *A Way of Knowing*. She leads creative writing groups, and has been involved in development education and justice and peace work.

Ruth Burgess is a member of the Iona Community and the author of *Winter, Moments of Our Nights and Days*, and *Saying Goodbye*. She lives in Dunblane and spends her retirement watching the antics of crows, writing, and gardening.

Stillness, Silence, and Song.

Led by Alison Adam and Cara Riley

In the changing light and landscapes of autumn on Iona, come and experience an unhurried week of meditation and song on this sacred island. There will be space for stillness and reflection, time to roam, and room for encounter with self and others, Creation and the Creator.

Alison Adam and Cara Riley are Members of the Iona Community and have regularly led weeks for the Community on Iona. Alison brings her gifts as a song and worship leader who is passionate about the transformative power of song and enabling folk to sing together. Cara is an accomplished facilitator working with diverse groups and individuals, helping them to reflect on their place and imagine new ways to move forward.

A gentle week to help you explore and connect with your own life journey.

Cycles of Grace: Exploring the Ten Beatitudes.

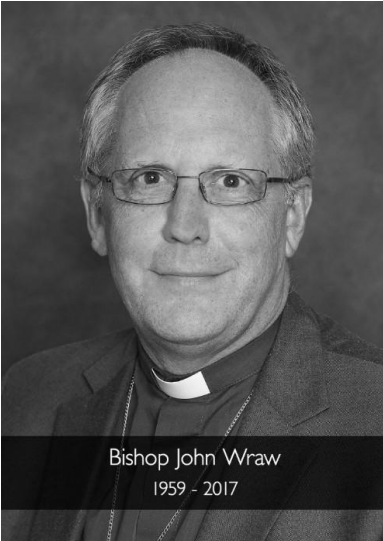
Led by Alastair McIntosh

The Beatitudes set out by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount are the essence, not just of the Christian faith, but of all faiths that are drawn from the wells of love. How can we live well when the world seems graceless? What gifts from the Beatitudes might wait for us to share? Under the expert guidance of activist, author, and poet Alastair McIntosh we will reflect on ten Beatitudes and on how we might complete the cycles of grace they set in motion.

Alastair McIntosh is an Associate of the Iona Community and an honorary fellow in the School of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh. He is the author of many books including *Soil and Soul: People versus Corporate Power (Aurum)*, *Spiritual Activism: Leadership as Service (Green Books)*, and most recently, *Poacher's Pilgrimage: an Island Journey (Birlinn)*.

It is with tremendous sadness that we hear of Bishop John's death. Below is how the Diocese responded:

A Tribute to the Life of Bishop John Wraw



The Bishop of Bradwell, Right Reverend John Wraw, died peacefully in his sleep at home in the early hours of 25 July 2017. He was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2014.

Bishop John said at the time of his installation as Bishop of Bradwell in 2012 that he believed the Church of England needed to “reach out and change society”. He unpacked this theme in his 2016 Lent lecture when he said: “Ministry is not about serving the Church. It is about serving God in the world”.

Stephen Cottrell, the Bishop of Chelmsford, has said: “Bishop John was a wonderful servant of the gospel and a fantastic colleague. As an archdeacon in Wiltshire he was known to be dependable and creative. As a bishop serving in this great diocese of Chelmsford these qualities blossomed and bore fruit as he helped take forward our diocesan vision for growth and renewal. He quickly won the confidence of the clergy and the love of the people he served.

“When he was diagnosed three years ago, despite the obvious shock, he was determined to carry on with his ministry. Many people would have simply retired. Bishop John just got stuck in, teaching the Christian faith, visiting the parishes he served, and refining his understanding of the gospel so that his life now matched his ministry in a way that was humbling and inspiring to experience.

“He not only spoke about the wonderful inclusive hospitality of God's love, he lived it to the last. I could not have wished for a better colleague. We will miss him hugely.

“Please hold Gillian and their family in your prayers.”

Bishop John called for change in the Church especially in the encouragement of vocation among people God is calling to ministry. In a blog on vocations in October 2016 he wrote: “the Church and its processes... need radical change to value and create space for those whom God is calling”. Bishop John was very encouraging to young people and young adults. The Encounter scheme in Chelmsford Diocese, which has given young people an opportunity to explore their vocation, was his initiative. He served as the Chair of the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Education, acted as a mentor to a group of young disciples, and hosted Take Over Challenge days with young people.

The arrangements for Bishop John's funeral will be announced in due course.

As a Parish we have enjoyed from Bishop John's generosity, company and friendship. His strength and bravery was certainly noticeable at Matt and Sue's ordination last year.

We have also had the joy of his visits, both at our Team service and individually at each of our three churches.

As clergy, we have truly felt the benefit of his straight yet compassionate way of addressing complex issues and his candid way of speaking when others might not.

We will miss him - and our prayers certainly go out to Gillian and all of his family and many close friends.

SAVE THE DATE:

SATURDAY 21st OCTOBER

the fabulous

SID

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Look out for posters and tickets very soon!

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!

“Encounter in the Garden”

reflecting on Mary Magdalene through story, poetry, art, music, & worship

Twenty-two of us enjoyed a wonderful Parish Quiet Day at Pleshey on July 22nd. Led by Sue and Matt with Emma, it focused on the story of Mary Magdalene’s encounter with the resurrected Jesus through story, poetry, art, and music. Here are some images and words that capture something of what we shared there:



Encounter in the Garden

written at the Parish Quiet Day July 22nd 2017

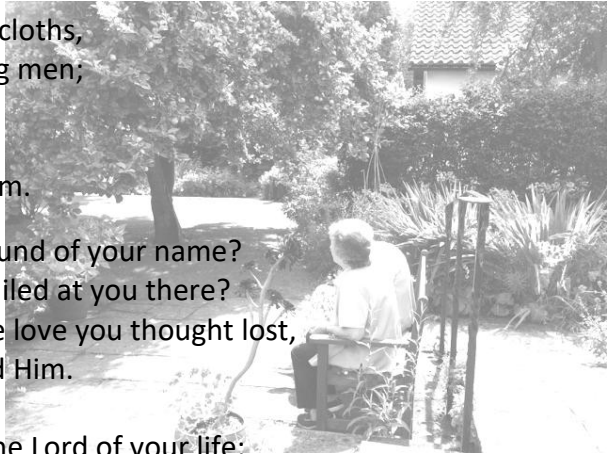
Were birds singing in the trees as you strode along?
Purposefully, expecting to serve,
eyes wet with tears,
heart sunk at your loss –
would you have heard them?
Were there bees buzzing among the flowers that day?
Stunned and subdued,
eyes wet with tears
hopes dashed by your loss –
would you have seen them?

The empty tomb, the folded cloths,
bright angels and disbelieving men;
eyes wet with tears,
amazed and astounded,
you saw them and heard them.

Did your heart leap at the sound of your name?
Did your eyes shine as He smiled at you there?
You reached out to touch the love you thought lost,
when you saw and you heard Him.

Not gardener, but teacher, the Lord of your life;
in that brief encounter, the sun rose in your eyes.
The beauty around, seen through eyes wet with tears,
now seemed brighter than ever
as you saw and you heard Him.

How did they feel when they heard your news,
as your words burst forth from a heart filled with love?
Tears of joy filled those eyes that once had been weeping.
You announced the Son's rising
so the whole world could hear.



By Sue

Parish Quiet Day 'Encounter in the Garden: Mary Magdalene'

I have attended several Quiet Days now and always find them very helpful as I try to progress in my journey as a Christian. Even though I live alone, I always find that there are many distractions, which prevent me from spending any significant amount of time thinking about my faith.

About 20 people from the three churches in the parish gathered at the Diocesan Retreat House in Pleshey on Saturday 22nd July. Our curates, Matt and Sue, led the day with input from Emma Doe, who is Spiritual Advisor to the staff and children at Wickford C of E Primary School and worships at St. Catherine's church.

The Gospel for the day was John 20: 1-2, 11-18, which is the story of the discovery of the empty tomb and Mary's encounter with Jesus. There was a short act of worship followed by the first of three presentations.

Emma told the story using 'Godly Play' as she does with the children. She uses models and figures to focus thoughts towards individuals involved in a bible story. In this case Mary Magdalene and her encounter with Christ following His resurrection. I have watched Emma use this technique at Messy Church and always find it a powerful experience.

This was followed by 45 minutes of quiet time during which we could reflect on the bible passage and Mary, or do whatever we wanted – other than talk inside the room we had been allocated for the day!

Craft materials were available for those who wanted to use them and there was plenty of tea, coffee and biscuits.

The gardens at the Retreat House are beautiful, as is Pleshey Village, and some people went to sit outside and read, think or pray, or walk and talk with a friend. Our curates were available if anyone wanted individual spiritual guidance or advice.

At 11.45 we were invited to look at a number of pieces of art depicting the familiar story. No guesses as to who provided the picture featuring Lego figures! This was followed by another period of silence for reflection. There were a number of questions on laminated cards that we could read and use to help us. I picked one as follows: "Jesus said to her, Mary!' By what name does Jesus call you?" I wrote a piece of reflection based on this but chose not to share it.

From 1pm we had an hour's lunch break, and a break from silence!

At 2pm the third presentation was the telling of the story through poetry and music. During the following period of silence it was suggested that we might like to write our own poem, though there was no pressure to do so.

At 3pm we all filtered into the beautiful little chapel for a short Eucharist. Some people had drawn pictures, or contributed their colouring sheets, which were displayed in front of the altar. The Gospel reading from the morning was repeated and some folk had written prayers on a sheet of paper available during the day for this purpose. These were used as the intercessions. As no one wanted to share a personal reflection Sue read one of hers in lieu of a sermon.

After the Eucharist there was more tea, coffee, biscuits, cake and chat and all too soon it was 4pm and time to leave for home.

If you have never attended a Quiet Day, I would recommend that you consider it next year. It makes me carve out a few hours from the business of life and provides opportunities for exploring one's faith in a non- threatening way.

There is always plenty of food for thought, the opportunity to be creative, or not, as you choose and the opportunity to share your creations or not!

Personally I would like to thank Sue, Matt and Emma for a thought provoking, relaxing and enjoyable day.

Val. Harris.

Sowing

A few Sundays back, we heard Jesus's famous Parable of the Sower. It's tempting to conclude from it that Jesus wants us to divide humanity up into four chunks. He tells us that each person is one of four types so that we can know which type it's worth bothering with when we seek to share our faith.

Type one hears the word of the Kingdom, but simply doesn't "get it" and so Christian faith does not begin to grow in them.

Type two enthusiastically receives the word, springs up fast, but fails to put down roots – and so a brief flourish of faith falls away to nothing.

The third hears the word, but is so preoccupied with wealth and stress and their troubles, that their faith is smothered by these other concerns.

But type four hears and understands, and bears great fruit.

Great – show us to the type fours!

As disciples, we are to look for the type fours. Once we've diagnosed people as one of the other, unresponsive types we can move on from them to the fertile ground of type fours! *This* is the way of efficiency in evangelism!

...

Well, *that* - of course - is a ludicrous reading of this parable and a perverse approach to evangelism. Why? Because we know that God seeks all without distinction, without ever giving up on them. And we know that God sends us out to share 'the word of the kingdom' with all, without distinction. By the usual rules of farming, the sower Jesus describes is pretty rubbish: spreading seed in the hopeless places as well as the fertile mission field. But where the world often sees waste and profligacy, God shows us grace, generosity, hope, and love. And so the seed of the Gospel is to be sown in all places.

Jesus does not call this the “Parable of the Sower” or the “Parable of the Sown-To”, but the Parable of Sower. This suggests that its focus is the person doing the sowing and the task of sowing, and *then* those who’ve had seed thrown at them. So the “four types” are *not* provided so we can divide humanity up into those who’ll receive and those who won’t. They are given so that we might reflect on what it is to be a sower – i.e. what it is to be disciples sent to spread ‘the word of the Kingdom’.

As sowers, we should consider how Jesus’s four images relate to how *we* have received the Gospel. I don’t need long to think of times when I have been utterly resistant to it, times when I blossom with short-lived enthusiasm only to shrink away, times when my worries and obsessions suffocate any interest, and – I pray – times when the Gospel bears fruit. I suspect I regularly shift between these four images!

The point is that even disciples don’t stay as fixed types – think of St Peter and St Paul for a start! *We* don’t stay as fixed types, and so we must never treat others as though they are forever stuck as fixed types. If we do so, we effectively abandon many – we give up on them, *something God will never do*. There are four types of *response* disciples encounter, may be, but not four fixed types of people. And so we must continue to be profligate sowers when sharing the Gospel – sowing to all, understanding that only God knows how they will receive today, and how they will receive tomorrow.

So as the Body of Christ called to this place at this time, let us keep sowing! Sow everywhere. Sow in the darkest, most awkward, least inviting corners. Sow in the places that no one with any business sense would bother to sow. God doesn’t need management consultants who bluff that they can predict the results of mission, or know the most effective way to evangelise. God just wants faithful labourers who are willing to answer his call and trust the results to him. So continue to sow: continue to be profligate in loving, generous to a worldly fault, continue to be hopeful and joyful and faithful. And when you see - as you will - what God is already doing and growing here and now, then rejoice and give thanks, and sow some more.

Matt

MOTHERS' UNION WICKFORD & RUNWELL PROGRAMME 2017

St Andrew's

7th September: 12 noon Corporate Communion

followed by Shared Lunch and Branch Review

St Catherine's

20th September: 7.30pm

'Teach us to sit still' - Fr Jo

Unless otherwise stated Thursday meetings are held in St Andrew's Centre and Wednesday Meetings are held at St Catherine's Hall. We start our afternoon meetings with a Quiet Time in St Andrew's Church at 12 noon

There are no meetings during August.

Branch Leader Mrs Jeannette Cardnell –
Telephone No 01268 452309

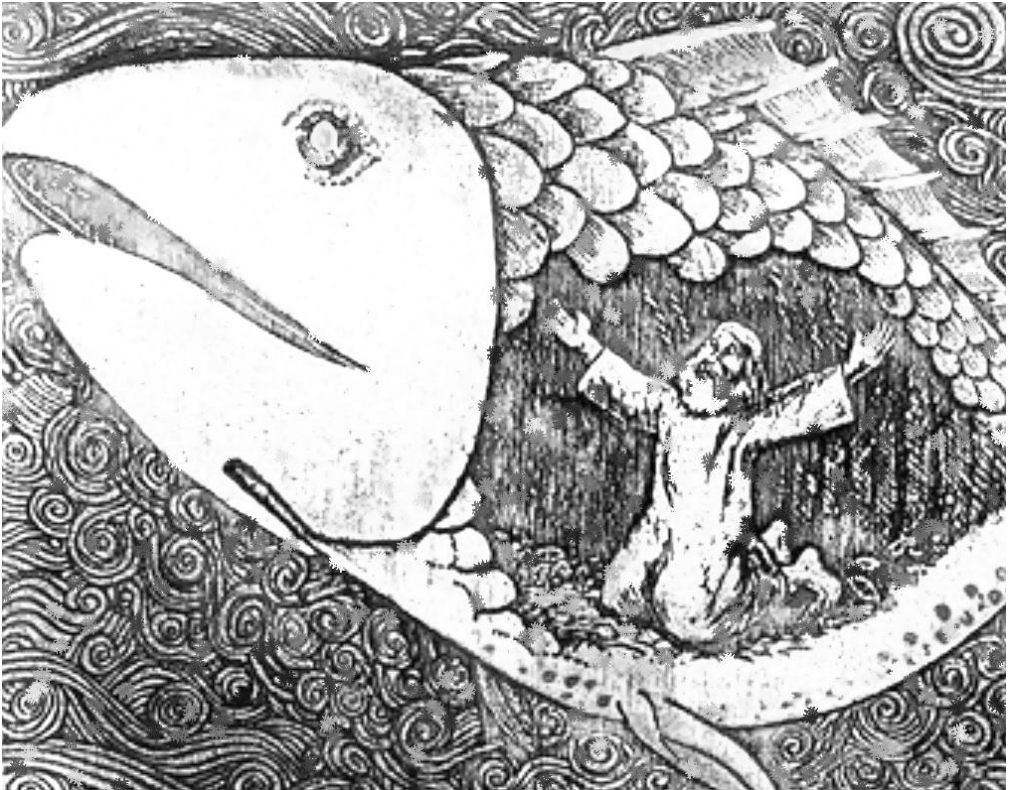
Matt's Commissioning

Matt will be commissioned as Chaplain to Bishop Stephen during Evensong at the Cathedral at 3.30pm on Sunday 3rd September.

The dean has extended a very warm invitation to this parish to attend the service: it will help the cathedral to know how many are expected, so please look out for a sign up sheet in the coming weeks.



Saturday 12th August
St Andrew's Church, 2 - 4 pm



Messy Jonah

ALL WELCOME!

From our registers:

St Catherine's Church

Funeral:
Harry Skeggs

St Mary's Church

Baptisms:
Nicholas Walkey

Weddings:
James Westley and Charlotte Kennett

St Andrew's Church

Funerals:
Richard Llewellyn

FATHER'S OCCUPATION.	WHEN BAPTIZED.	WHERE BAPTIZED.	BY WHOM.
Labourer	August 16th 1863	St Andrew's Church	Rev. T. J. Jones
	August 23rd 1863	St Andrew's Church	Rev. T. J. Jones
	August 23rd 1863	St Andrew's Church	Rev. T. J. Jones
	128th	St Andrew's Church	Rev. T. J. Jones
		St Andrew's Church	Rev. T. J. Jones
		St Andrew's Church	Rev. T. J. Jones

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.

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



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The magazine is also found on our Church website increasing the circulation

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3

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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
	<i>(from September: in the parish on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday)</i>		
	Sue Wise	St Mary's Church	07941 506156
	<i>(available Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)</i>		
<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	Sung Eucharist
	6:30pm	Healing Eucharist (<i>on 3rd Sunday</i>)
<u>St Catherine's</u>	8:00am	Holy Communion
	9:30am	Family Worship
	11:00am	Sung Eucharist
	6:30pm	Evening Prayer (<i>Sung Evensong 4th Sunday</i>)
<u>St Mary's</u>	9:30am	Sung Eucharist
	6:30pm	Taizé (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monday	9:00 am	Morning Prayer at St Catherine's
Tuesday	9:00 am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's
	7:30 pm	Eucharist at St Mary's
Wednesday	9:00 am	Morning Prayer at St Catherine's
	9:30am	Eucharist at St Catherine's
	10:30 am	Eucharist at St Andrew's
Thursday	9:00 am	Morning Prayer at St Mary's
	10:00 am	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 (<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

**Please email material for the next magazine
to the editor by the 23rd August Thank you**

Find us online: www.wickfordandrunwellparish.org.uk