

Parish Magazine

JULY 2017

The Church of England serving the people of Wickford and Runwell

A close-up photograph of a bee on a flower stem. The bee is positioned vertically, facing downwards, with its head near the base of the stem. The stem is light green and tapers towards the top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The text 'The Church of England serving the people of Wickford and Runwell' is written in a light green, sans-serif font, curving around the central image.

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

Ladies: good clean linen

Babies: new Clothing

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. Clark 2nd C. Jackson 3rd D. Moody

Cover Image: a Coelioxys Bee roosting on Crow Garlic at South Woodham Ferrers, photographed by Linda Peall.
See her explanation later in the magazine!



FEARFUL TIMES

What else will have happened by the time this has been printed and you are reading it?

I'm writing in mid-June. In the last few weeks we have seen terrorist attacks at a concert in Manchester, outside the Houses of Parliament, and on London Bridge: and then the horror of the fire at Grenfell Tower. We are still waiting to hear just how many lives were lost in that latest tragedy, and as the waiting continues, this morning brought news of a yet another brand of terror, the vicious copy-cat attack on worshippers from a Finsbury mosque.

Each of these terrible events will have had its own origins; individuals and small groups have been so stirred up to hatred of others' ways of life that bringing death and destruction seems not just acceptable but even justified and admirable. The destruction of a tower block may have been

the product of negligence, of cost-cutting and short-sighted planning; already there are demands for the fullest of enquiries into what has led to so many deaths, so many homeless in one of the wealthiest corners of our country.

Between all of these stories, however, there runs a common thread. They could only happen where people and institutions have abandoned an understanding of the absolute value of every human being, whatever each person's background, age, ethnicity, wealth or poverty, culture or faith.



We speak, very easily, in the Christian tradition of humanity 'being made in the image of God.' Implicit in that phrase is a profound respect for each individual. The small contribution each of us can make to the healing of our country's hurts is to live out that respect, to remember that friends and neighbours, strangers and visitors, the

people we read about in the news, the ones who are celebrated and the ones who are belittled or condemned, are not just made in the image of God but are loved by God, just as we are.

Jane

ART EXHIBITION

AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, RUNWELL

"Seasons of Life"



1 - 5 pm Tuesday 11th to Friday 14th July
and 12 - 6 pm on Saturday 15th July

*an exhibition of local art in St Mary's Church
in all media - of all skills*

All contributions welcome
contact: Lyn on 421685 or Val on 571933

CELEBRATING FUN AND CREATIVITY: GRANGE FEST 2017



From late in the evening of 15th June, there were a series of strange comings and goings at Grange Primary School, Wickford. Tents of various sized popped up on the field, the playground was piled high with cardboard boxes, and miles of hand-made bunting was hung everywhere. A small team of people could be seen scurrying around carrying carpets, tables, pom poms, and logs.



By 11am on the 17th, when Grange Fest was officially opened by the mayor, there was a large stage, arena, portaloos, fast food vans, a converted VW camper-van cocktail bar, and marquees and tents full of activities and all beautifully decorated. It was just what the head mistress, Lyn Corderoy, had imagined when she first came up with the idea of running a day-long family festival celebrating the arts for the community of Wickford.

There were ten hours of performances from local dancers, singers, martial arts groups, musicians of all ages, and it was great to see the Air Cadets and ensembles from Grange and Bromfords schools performing too. There was

also an exhibition of work by local artists – again of all ages- and the chance to create your own works of art on the day. Around the site, which was organised into the music, theatre, craft and story zones, there were a huge variety of free activities, including drumming and singing workshops, drama workshops for pre-schoolers, creative writing sessions, story trails, and woolly-octopus making. There was the chance to create huge chalk works of art on the playground, to build enormous towers, mazes and forts out of boxes, weave on giant looms in the nature trail and to ‘take a paint brush for a walk’.



People from Wickford and slightly further afield in Essex gave generously of their time and their talents - among others, illustrator Tom Knight came from Mersea, and the Great Antonio bought his bed of nails from Colchester. It was also great to have Wickford library there, reading stories, signing up new members and promoting their summer reading challenge for primary

school children.

All the feedback was incredibly positive, and despite the very sticky hot weather, great fun was had by all - it was truly a celebration of creativity and the arts for all, and hopefully sparked a few imaginations.



Sian Simpkins



“Encounter in the Garden”

reflecting on Mary Magdalene
through story, poetry, art, music, & worship
our Wickford & Runwell Parish Quiet Day 2017

**Pleshey House of Retreat,
Saturday 22nd July, 10am-4pm**

Please bring your own lunch.

To join us, please complete a sign up sheet at the back of each church, or contact a member of clergy.

INEQUALITY – WHAT’S THE PROBLEM?

Last month, I was privileged to be invited to contribute to a ‘colloquium’ (i.e., an academic talking shop!) on the ethics of equality and inequality at the McDonald Centre for Theology, Ethics, and Public Life at Christ Church, Oxford University.

Over the past few years I have published a few academic articles on equality, and I gave a lecture setting out a Christian view of equality earlier this year at Chelmsford Theological Society. It was a great thrill to be able to put this work to good use and to represent Wickford and Runwell in a small group that included Nigel Biggar (Regius Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology at Oxford University), Andrew Henley (Professor of Entrepreneurship and Economics, Cardiff Business School), and Nick Townsend (Tutor in Christian Doctrine and Ethics at the University of Kent).

Academic discussions like these might (and often *do*) seem dry and disconnected from the real world. But in the shadow of the Grenfell fire, the seriousness of the issue of inequality was painfully obvious.

Across the day we talked through what the Bible might (or might not) have to say about equality and inequality, then about theological ideas of equality, and finally we explored political philosophy.

I think this discussion is far too important to be left to academics, however. I’d love to hear what *you* think. Perhaps you might like to reflect on some of the questions the colloquium considered:

- What might passages such as 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, Galatians 3:28, the Magnificat, and the early chapters of Acts tell us about equality, if anything?
- In order to believe that every human has equal value, is it necessary to believe in God?
- What *specifically* is wrong with inequality?
- When it comes to stuff, what’s more important: that people have the same, or that people have sufficient?
- How much is enough?

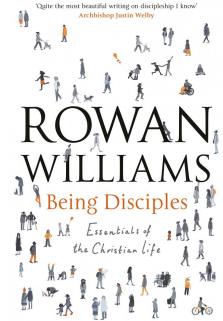
My own work on equality has led me to believe that what God desires of us is that we give equal *care* to all those in need. Talk of aiming for strict sameness, or of simply needing to provide “sufficient” are red herrings. We are called to *love* - and that means responding to different needs in different ways, through a sincere willingness to give of ourselves for others.

Matt

EVERY DAY DISCIPLES

What does it mean to be a disciple and have Christ as your friend?

In his book, *Being Disciples*, Rowan Williams says that “discipleship means being a student” (if we take the literal meaning of the Greek word used in the New Testament). But Rowan goes on to explain that Christian discipleship “doesn’t mean turning up once a week for a course, it is not an intermittent state either, it is a relationship that continues and grows”. As disciples of Christ we follow Christ and have a relationship with him.



What might that relationship look like? I want to tell you about two of my relationships.

The first is my relationship with Tom. Tom is my little Yorkshire terrier and our relationship has grown considerably since Clare passed away. Tom looks at me with his puppy dog eyes when he wants something. He hangs his head when he knows he has done something wrong. And he is really pleased to see me, wagging his tail, when I get home from work or from church. Those of you who have had dogs will know what I mean!

But the strength of our relationship is twofold. Firstly it is one of trust: he trusts me with his life - he knows that when I feed him it is OK and I will not harm him. He trusts me to pick him up and not to hurt him. And of course I trust him: I trust he won't bite me! Secondly, it is about love, I love him and I hope he loves me. *That* is the strength of a relationship but it has to be two-way: there are two parties involved, relationships are about giving and receiving. If it is not two-way, if it is not mutual, then it almost becomes idolisation, one side regarding the other with blind adoration or devotion.

The second relationship is the relationship I had with my Dad. Yes, I looked up to him with adoration and probably even with some devotion. I used to look up to him, watch what he did and studied him and how he did things. Hang on moment - “I used to look up to him, watch what he did and studied him and how he did things.” – doesn’t that sound like discipleship? Though I wouldn’t have described my relationship with my Dad as discipleship, it *was* a relationship in which I loved him and I know he loved me: it was a full-on two-way relationship.



The film, *The Shack*, which is in the cinemas at the moment, shows us something of the relationship that God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit has with us. It’s a relationship in which God hurts alongside us, as any parent would with their child.

I think this is the real meaning of being a disciple of Christ. Yes, we are followers of Christ, but we are also people who have a real loving relationship with God. A real two-way loving relationship that God –

Father, Son and Holy Spirit – has with us.

How do we live and show our relationship with God to those around us? How can we be disciples *all* the time? We only need to look at the news recently to see how people have reacted towards each other. I think these reactions tell us something about living as disciples.

In Manchester, London Bridge and around Grenfell Tower, communities have been devastated and many people impacted. But look at how people responded to these events. In their love and kindness, by opening their hearts, churches, mosques and other places opening to provide

shelter, food and comfort, they have shown us important parts of discipleship. We have seen people of love, people who can come together for the common good. It was not just Christians, but people of all faiths, who came together to show love to those impacted, not expecting or demanding payment, just acting out of love for their neighbours.



I think also that in these actions we are not only sharing our love of God with the people around us but we are sharing our love *with* God. I wonder if this is what Jesus meant when he sent out the original twelve disciples to go “to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” and “proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near’”? Not by words, or with a great flourish but by showing love to those in need, when they need it.

Steve



MATT'S LICENSING

As most of you will know, from September Matt will be splitting his time between his curacy here in Wickford and Runwell, and a new role as chaplain to Bishop Stephen.

(Almost) always, when someone takes up a new responsibility within the church, it is marked by a commissioning or licensing, and Matt will be licensed as chaplain at evensong in Chelmsford Cathedral on 3 September next.

We won't, by any means, be saying goodbye to him, but this will be a new stage in the development of his ministry. Part of what has brought him this far on the journey has been the time he has spent among us, and all that has been learned from life in the parish and the communities of our three churches. I know that he would very much value the presence of friends from Wickford and Runwell on that afternoon, as those who have travelled with him and the family over the last two years.

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 nearer the time we will ask you to sign up if you are interested in coming.

In the meantime, please keep Matt in your prayers as he prepares for this new and different ministry.

Jane

A PLEA FOR VOLUNTEERS:

ST CATHERINE'S 'A MEAL ON SUNDAY' QUARTERLY COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Loneliness in today's society has become a real problem and people who live on their own find Sunday to be the most difficult day of the week. Twelve years ago, St Catherine's started holding 'A Meal on Sunday', which has been held quarterly since. A team of 3-4 people prepare a two-course meal in St Catherine's Hall for around 30 people who live on their own.

Through health problems now being experienced by our volunteers we are really in need of more help going forward. Is this something you might be able to consider doing just once a year? The meals are held on the second Sunday of the months of January, April, July and October, starting at 12.30 – 1.00 pm.

Until now the meal has been a roast dinner, as most find that this is the easiest meal to prepare, although another type of meal could be made. As well as cooking, there are other ways to help, setting up tables, serving the meals, washing up etc.

This is not a fundraising event but an outreach to the lonely. It is very rewarding because the people so enjoy the company, and the fellowship, and come from all around the parish.

**If you would like to find out more, or to volunteer
please contact Margery Clark on 01268 462261**

NEXT "A MEAL ON SUNDAY":

9TH JULY 12.30PM FOR 1PM, ST. CATHERINE'S HALL

A SHARED PASSION

Shepshed near Loughborough in Leicestershire is a provincial town with the usual glories and problems. Below is an account of what happened when a group of churches in the town sought to address the frustrations faced by the young people there. It is a good reminder of what God can achieve through the care paid by churches to the needs of their communities, and is an interesting parallel to what continues in Wickford & Runwell through our Gateway Project.

In 2007, with his Manse and Church in the town centre of Shepshed, the Baptist minister was well positioned to observe the town's young people in the evenings and at weekends. Many of them would congregate in the town centre, call in at the chippy and the mini market, then wander about listlessly, sometimes getting into mischief. There was a local park they could go to in the summer, but in the winter the high street is not a very hospitable alternative and they were an easy target for drug pushers. It would be nice, the minister thought, if they had an indoor place that they could go to, relax with their friends and enjoy some refreshments alongside some helpful, trained youth workers.

There had been a youth group at the church but getting through the church door had proved intimidating to many. An indoor meeting place for these young people was another impossible dream he thought. Where would he find the accommodation, the money and the staff? Best forget it. But the idea would not go away. So he prayed; he took the idea to the town's next 'Churches Together' meeting. His fellow Christian Church leaders enthused over the idea; this they thought gave them a vision of how to reach the young people of their town. They prayed together and before long, with hard work, things began to happen. A project management team was formed, a building secured, funding agreed from the Anglican Diocese of Leicester for a youth worker and a programme of fund raising started.

With the help of some twenty volunteers in 2009 PASSION was born, a drop in centre for young people between 11-18 years of age giving them a safe space in the centre of Shepshed which is open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. About 130 young people a week take advantage of this facility, with socialising, indoor games, and Christian counselling where they can talk about their problems.

Contributed by Arthur Paul



Saturday 15th July

St Andrew's Church, 2 - 4 pm

A stylized illustration of a woman, Ruth, wearing a blue hooded cloak and carrying a bundle of harvested wheat. The background consists of broad, diagonal stripes in shades of blue and red.

Messy Ruth

ALL WELCOME!

MOTHERS' UNION WICKFORD & RUNWELL PROGRAMME 2017

St Andrew's

6th July: 12.30pm Garden Party - Shared Lunch
in the garden of Muriel and John Knowles

7th September: 12 noon Corporate Communion
followed by Shared Lunch and Branch Review

Mon 17th July: Basildon Deanery Quiet Day - 10.00am – 3.30pm at Emmanuel Church, Billericay

Chelmsford Diocese 'Wave of Prayer' 18th - 20th June 2017

Diocese Links: South Sudan – Rejaf: Florence and Rose, Kenya – Military Episcopate: Beryl,
Nigeria – Doko: Keturah, and Owo: Grace, England - Chelmsford: Judith, Jamaica & Cayman
Islands: Sandra

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
Branch Leader Mrs Jeannette Cardnell – Telephone No 01268 452309

St Catherine's

19th July: 7.00pm
Summer Supper followed by Compline in Church

20th September: 7.30pm
'Teach us to sit still' - Fr JO

Our Cover Photo Explained:

The bee in the photograph is roosting! It sleeps like this after clamping its powerful jaws onto the plant! It is one of the very few and rather rare *Coelioxys* bees that live in the UK, and I spotted this one near the river in Marsh Farm Country Park. The *Coelioxys* bees are commonly known as Sharp-tailed Bees. These are a variety of "cuckoo bee", so named because like the infamous birds, they lay their eggs in the nests created by a host bee, the Leaf-cutter Bee! These cuckoo bees are usually active from June to September. When a leafcutter bee has finished her nest, she plugs the entrance with a wall of leaf fragments precisely to thwart predators and parasites. Unfortunately for the host, the Sharp-tailed Bee has an abdomen specially equipped with a blade-like tip. She simply slices a gash in the leaf wall and lays her own egg inside. The larva hatches before the leafcutter grub and crushes the host egg with its powerful jaws before tucking into the pollen ball which the female Leaf-cutter Bee had provided for her own young. Nature never ceases to surprise!

Linda Peall

RETURN TO SENDER:

Grappling with Paul the Apostle through his letter to the Galatians

An accessible & short 5 week course written and led by Rev'd Matthew Simpkins

Starting 7.30pm Mon 12th June at St Andrew's, Wickford

THE COURSE CONTINUES UNTIL 10th JULY – YOU CAN JOIN AT ANY POINT!
If you are interested, please email revdmattthewsimpkins@gmail.com or speak to one of the clergy team



WICKFORD & RUNWELL MOTHER'S UNION

Our "Quiet Hour", led by Sue Wise on May 17th was beautiful. Unfortunately the weather was so bad that only 7 of us managed to be there, but I know that we all benefitted from the time spent with God in the peace and quiet of St. Catherine's. 22 of us went to Riverside Nurseries on June 1st and had a most enjoyable time, finishing with afternoon tea. On July 6th we shall be meeting in John and Muriel's garden for our garden party, commencing at 12.30pm with a shared lunch and on July 19th we have our Summer Supper in St. Catherine's hall at 7pm, followed by Compline in the Church.

Also in July:

Monday 17th

Deanery quiet day at Emmanuel church, Billericay. Judith Meaden, our Diocesan President will be there, it commences with coffee at 10 am. And finishes at 3.30pm. Please bring some lunch to share

From our registers:

St Catherine's Church

Baptisms:

Henry Stuart Blackham
Grace Karen Alice Trendell
Poppy Rae Crittenden
Charlotte Patricia Joan Cline
Freddie Roy Harrison
Matilda Rose Iris Stanton

Funeral:

Hazel Wood

Wedding:

Matthew Wadhams & Abbey Skinner

St Mary's Church

Baptisms:

Nicholas Walkey
Esmal Brown

Wedding:

James Westley & Charlotte Kennett

St Andrew's Church

Baptism:

Maisie Elizabeth Lee



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 2017		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun 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



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just send the advert to the editor whose contact details are on the inside cover

Charges for 2017: £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	St. Andrew's Church	734077
	Norbert Mutuku	St. Catherine's Church	733147
	Matt Simpkins		765524
	Sue Wise	St. Mary's Church	07941 506156
	(available Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)		
<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	Matt Simpkins (for May - July)	

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 (<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 July**

Thank you

Find us online: www.wickfordandrunwellparish.org.uk