

Parish Magazine

December 2018 – January 2019



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

We need:

Milk - Sugar – Coffee – Toiletries – Toilet Rolls

More and more people are using the foodbank – please add your contributions in the churches or the Co-op

December Thoughts

I think our parish is very much in the same place as much of the Bible this month. Great change is happening, and we wait for God to guide us through some uncertain times ahead. Jo, Norbert and Matty, are bestowing their great gifts to other parts of the world that need them, Jane is preparing for new horizons.

Then we have all the hustle and bustle of daily life as we try for that “perfect” Christmas, the one where everyone beams with adoration at the perfectly roasted turkey with our favourite carol playing softly in the background. Our families reform themselves into the image we have of how they should be at least for one day, every present is marvelled at, and no repeats are on TV.

The great thing is we can bring all of that to our Lord; he is interested in every detail of your life. He wants you to bring all of that excitement, sadness, uncertainty and share it with him. He wants to help guide us all through the changes ahead. He wants to help us through the less than perfect Christmas we will probably have, enjoy the repeats, help us love our family as they are, and endure Wham or Slade played too loudly on the radio. See that’s the thing; Christmas is about waiting for our Lord who knows us, who knows that our families, our cooking, TV, gifts, and world are less than perfect. He knows we worry about what's ahead, we miss those we don’t see so often, and we mess up as we muddle through all of those things. He wants to help in every little thing, he loves us SO much he is about to

give us the gift of his only son to love us as we are and bring us into an eternal relationship with our Lord. Take everything to him, because he is about to give everything he is for you.

Mike

Our New(ish) Assistant Priest



With much rejoicing, Sue Wise will be licensed to her new role as Assistant Priest to the parish by the Archdeacon of Southend on 18 December, 7.30 pm, at St Andrew's. Please do come and join in the celebrations as we mark this new stage in her ministry. There will, of course, be cake afterwards.

NB No service at St Mary's that evening.

Bazaar Mulitbuy

It's that time of year again. Three churches, three great pre-Christmas events. As I write, St Catherine's Bazaar is still to come, but two weeks ago 'Bettie's Tea Shop and Bazaar' arrived at St Andrew's, The knitted dinosaurs sold out almost in minutes, a family of hedgehogs were rapidly rehomed, and much cake was consumed. The substitute waiters did pretty well, but we missed our ace serving team from other years! And last Saturday Runwell Village Hall was packed as ever for the St Mary's Bazaar. So many stalls, so many opportunities to win; how come the odds were stacked so firmly against the rector? Secular Christmas was honoured by Father Christmas and very hardworking elves, and school choirs reminded us what we are really about as they sang their carols.

Thank you to everyone who contributed so much.
Jane



Father Christmas makes a very early visit to Runwell

Our Next



Messy Nativity

Wednesday 12 Dec

3.30 - 6 pm

St Andrew's Church

*And in January, we shall be travelling with the Magi to
a **Messy Epiphany***

12 January 2- 4 pm at St Andrew's

Publication Dates. Our Parish Magazine will be appearing every two months for the foreseeable future, due to pressure on the Team Rector's time. Apologies to all those eager readers for whom its arrival at the beginning of every month is such a treat!

Batty Thoughts

What is she on about you wonder? Well, while singing away at the Remembrance Sunday Taize service at St Mary's we were joined by one of our tiny bat friends. I watched as it flew with unerring precision between the rafters, straight as a die. In some ways it reminded me of an aircraft heading for its destination, unwavering and determined. I have no idea what it could hear over the sound of our singing. It was quite mesmerising, but I began to wonder what it could find to eat if it never left that space, ringed round by the rafters. Then suddenly it took a turn and veered off into the body of the church, no doubt to explore new opportunities and new food sources.

So to the batty thought; sometimes we have to break free of what has held us safely enclosed and protected in order to step out into the wider world to find new adventures and new opportunities.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year, may all your 2019 opportunities bring you joy and blessing.

Sue

Appointing our new priests.

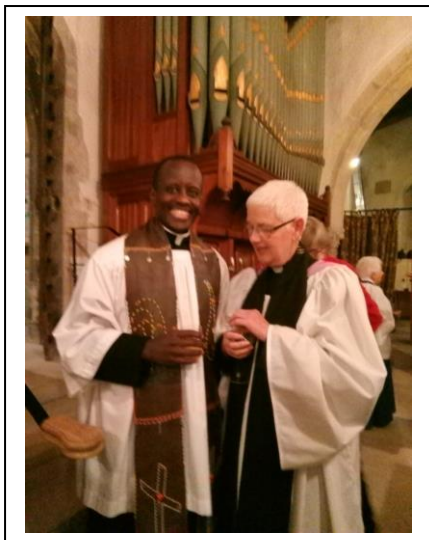
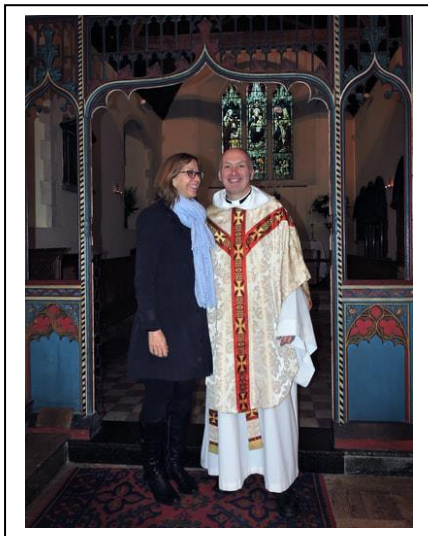
I'm regularly asked when we will have new priests in the parish: and I would love to say 'very soon'. However, the process of appointment in the Church of England does work slowly. It can be frustrating at times, but the intention is for both the parish and any potential applicants to have a chance to discern what might be right – to think about a 'good fit' between parish and priest. The first step has been to put together a profile of our parish, and I am very grateful to everyone who contributed their thoughts on 'what our church community means to us' and especially to the small team drawn from the three churches

who have worked on the final document: over 20 pages describing who and where we are, how we 'do' church and mission and ministry. We hope that an advertisement will go out in the New Year: please pray for everyone involved in the process, and especially for those who might think about joining our team here. In the meantime, Sue and I would like to thank all of you who pray for us, and support us in so many ways during this time of change.

Jane

And talking of change

It was a great joy to see Norbert welcomed into his new ministry at Bledlow in Buckinghamshire.



And very sad to say farewell to Jo at St Mary's.

Our love and prayers go with them all as they discover all the joys and challenges of new places, people, and ways of serving.

Getting ready for Christmas isn't just about being busier and busier And for some people, this isn't a time of year filled with good cheer.

If you would like to find 'time out' from the rush, a chance to calm mind and body, a place to recognise that this can be a difficult season as well as a delightful one, why not try some

ADVENT QUIET

**7.30 pm St Andrew's Church
10 and 17 December**





Wickford and Runwell Mothers' Union

We will not be meeting in St. Andrew's Hall on Thursday, December 6th, but will be sitting down for a Festive Lunch at the Duke of York, Billericay. Having booked your place and paid your deposit, you now need to make the final payment to Caroline as soon as possible. Arrangements are also in hand for lifts for those without transport.

The open evening on December 19th will start at 7.30pm with the lighting of the Advent Ring, leading on to "Carols by Candlelight" This is always a popular evening and we look forward to welcoming many of you.

We wish everyone a blessed and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

And in the New Year –

3 Jan St Andrew's, 12 noon Quiet Time, followed by soup and roll lunch at 12.30 pm, and 1.30 pm 'Talking Point'

16 Jan St Catherine's Hall 7.30 pm Steve and Beth Lissenden, 'Kenya and 'Poistive Life Kenya''

Parish Prayer Circle. In times of particular need or trouble, please contact Jeannette Cardnell on 01268 452309, and members of the circle will offer their prayers for the situation or person concerned.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

A journey from darkness to light



ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH
6.30pm SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER

And still in Advent

An Invitation to a special evening in St. Catherine's Hall

Wednesday December 19th at 7.30pm

Journeying from Advent

Lighting the Advent ring with Carols and readings

Leading to

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

With mulled wine and mince pies

ALL WELCOME

Our Christmas Services

Sunday 23 December

Parish Carol Service 6.30 pm St Andrew's

Christmas Eve

Christingles at St Catherine's 2 pm, 3pm, 4pm

Crib Services at St May's 2 pm and 4 pm

Crib Service at St Andrew's 5 pm

Midnight Mass at all three churches, 11.30 pm

Christmas Day

Eucharist for Christmas Morning at St Andrew's, 9.30 am

Eucharist for Christmas Morning at St Mary's, 9.30 am

Eucharist for Christmas Morning at St Catherine's, 11.15 am



AND FOR THE NEW YEAR

On January 1st 2019 we will start the New Year off by meeting at St Mary's Church Hall at 12pm then off for a brisk walk around Memorial Park. This will be followed by a Eucharist in the church at 1pm, and then we will retire to the Hall for a 'bring your leftovers' shared lunch with good company to start the year off.

Coffee with Cops

Still missing our local police station? Wondering where the bobbies on the beat have gone? Partly because of funding cuts, partly as a result of social change, we are less and less likely to see our local law officers unless something goes seriously wrong. But neighbourhood policing still matters: the chance to express our concerns, raise our questions, and to sustain the trust between police and people. So when our local PCSOs asked if they could have a space at St Andrew's coffee morning once a month, we were delighted to say 'yes', to welcome them in, to get to know them better, and to welcome anyone looking for a chance to talk about issues for ourselves and our community. And to fill them with cake and coffee, of course.

Look out for the posters showing the dates that they are around.



There's a shortage of police , so Meet and Make knitters stepped into the breach and supplied two of their own

ST CATHERINE'S FILM SHOWS



Please note that the film crew are on a sabbatical during Dec.2018 and Jan. 2019, in the south of France researching films for our next season.

We would like to thank you for your support and wish you all a

“ HAPPY CHRISTMAS”

*Hmmm – perhaps we should check where the bazaar profits ended up.
Ed.*

St Catherine's Hundred Club Winners

1st. P. Petts 2nd F. Bristow. 3rd. J. Radley

Or are the film crew the Hundred Club Winners? I think we should be told...

The Gateway Project

Our joint churches' foodbank offering to those in need in our community

If you are reading this in early December, there is still time to contribute a 'Christmas goodie' bag. Sweets, a box of chocolates, crisps, biscuits, and mince pies, please – and do check that they are in date.

It is hoped that on Thursday 6th and Thursday 13th December Gateway will be providing a Christmas breakfast for those attending, bacon rolls, sausages in a roll etc.

Although pleased to be able, with our fellow churches, to help provide a foodbank, it is with a deep sense of horror that we, in our affluent country, find that those on low income, including many of our public service workers (nurses, teachers etc.), are finding it impossible to survive without our generosity. Sadly, the number of users is steadily growing.

In our current political upheavals, we find ourselves asking what sort of country we are and should be. Perhaps one answer would be a country where foodbanks are not needed.

**WICKFORD AND RUNWELL TEAM
MINISTRY**

CANDLEMAS



***A JOINT SERVICE FOR THE WHOLE PARISH
10.30 am 3 FEBRUARY 2019
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH***

This will be the only Sunday morning service in our three churches that day – all are welcome, as we celebrate young and old coming together at the Feast of the Presentation.

After the service you are invited to share in a simple lunch and to make a donation to Positive Life Kenya.

Looking forward to the New Year

Some dates for your diary

Parish Study Day

28 January at St Andrew's



St Mary's Murder Mystery Evening

23 February at St Andrew's



Almost the last word the story we never tell at Christmas

‘Having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road’

And that’s where we leave the Christmas story. At a carol service we might then skip to the beginning of John’s gospel, and grapple with the mysterious truths of the incarnation, but we certainly don’t pick up the next five verses of Matthew’s second chapter.

We don’t remind ourselves that the gifts offered by the wise men were rapidly followed by the family’s flight over the border into safety; or about the children whose parents did not flee, or the quotation from Jeremiah

‘A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

Holy Innocents day falls on 28 December, and we scarcely notice it.

Yet the flight and the cruelty both echo down the centuries and into our own time. To quote the biblical scholar Nico ter Linden, ‘The murder of children is a story from Egypt and it’s a story from Bethlehem. It’s a story of all times. Time and again tyrants will not yield, and time and again innocent children become their victims. Fear rules the rulers, and tyrants who feel threatened strike out. So it goes on through history. The tyrants remain, along with their henchmen; only the names change.’

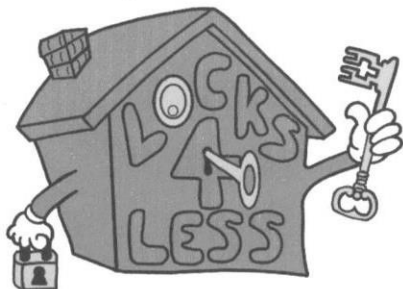
And time and again, distraught parents will gather up as much of their home as they can carry, and set out in the hope of finding refuge. We call them refugees.

Amidst the tinsel and the trappings of Christmas (whether we enjoyed it or not – and I hope we will have done), let each of us spare a thought and a prayer on this year's 28 December for today's refugees, today's holy innocents.

Jane

Syria is the most dangerous place to be a child – of all conflicted-affected countries in the world (Save the Children)

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WICKFORD AND RUNWELL TEAM MINISTRY

<u>CLERGY</u>	Jane Freeman	Team Rector	01268 734077
	Sue Wise	Associate Priest	07941506156

(Sue is available Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday)

<u>P.C.C.</u>	Vice-chair	Pam Petts	01268 734183
	Secretary	Bob Peall	
	Treasurer	Yvonne Branson	
	Electoral Roll Officer	Bob Peall	

<u>St Andrew's</u>	Churchwarden	Valerie Bryan	01268 561446
	Churchwarden	Marina Bailey	07800 760975
	D.C.C. Secretary	Marina Bailey	
	D.C.C. Treasurer	Mike Gibson	
	Hall Lettings - contact 01268 766749		

<u>St Catherine's</u>	Churchwarden	Richard Feldwick	01268 733362
	Churchwarden	Andrew Morl	
	D.C.C. Secretary	Sarah Randall	
	Hall Lettings – contact .01268 735458		

<u>St Mary's</u>	Churchwarden	Lyn Gordon	01268 421685
	Churchwarden	Lisa Griffiths	
	D.C.C. Secretary	Coral Upham	
	D.C.C. Treasurer	John Skinner	
	Hall Bookings - contact either 01268765360 or 01268732033		

Mothers' Union Branch Leader Lilian Irvng, Assistant Branch Leader Caroline Wheeler

FOR INFORMATION ON **GIFT AID AND PLANNED GIVING** PLEASE CONTACT
CHRIS BEAUCHAMP ON **01268762205.**

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	Reflective Prayer (<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

OFFICE HOURS

St Andrew	Saturdays	11:00 - 11:30am	in the Vestry
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 canjanefree@gmail.com by the 15th of the month - Thank you

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