

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

Helpless, but not without Hope

My recent experiences have led me to ponder the meaning of 'helplessness'. * Each day I could not write properly, or wash and dress myself unaided, or pick things up, or hold a knife to eat was a source of extreme frustration to say the least. But I wasn't helpless, because I had Simon there to help me. I may have been 'hopeless' at writing with my left hand but I was not without hope, as things started to get better.

At Christmas, the darkest time of our year, we gathered together to celebrate the birth of a tiny baby. God came down to us as a helpless, vulnerable, baby. His earthly family must have felt helpless against the world, but they trusted and hoped. At a time when the Jewish people were occupied and repressed by the Romans, when they were looking for the Messiah that would win them back their freedom, crying out to God for help, Mary and Joseph dared to believe and to hope.

Many more people attend church at Christmas and maybe this is something about the story of a human child being born in such lowly circumstances that gives hope, a bit of light to shine in a dark, unfriendly world? The times we live in now are such that we find it hard to trust anyone, particularly those 'in charge'; we find it hard to have hope for our children as we see increasing poverty; we find it hard to love out neighbours because they are so different from us, as the world grows further apart. We too might well want to cry out 'help' to God, as the psalmists frequently did, and when nothing changes we doubt and we lose hope.

The help came then and continues now, in the baby who grew to the man; who resisted temptation and turned his back on his divinity to take the long

road to the cross; who taught us how we should treat people, with forgiveness and compassion; who made himself so vulnerable that he went to his death suffering in accepted helplessness. They are the same person, and our faith and hope come from his death and resurrection. Jesus Christ did all that out of love for us, and as we begin to think about the journey towards Holy Week and Easter, we should be just as ready to celebrate and come to meet him.

In this dark world we need Jesus the man, the saviour, as much as we do the baby. We are given the freedom to believe or not, to obey his teaching or not, to turn to God or not. God is helpless to help us if we are not willing to listen to what He has to say. There will still be the darkness of poverty, of war, of discontent, of injustice, if we all just sit back and let it happen. If we do nothing else we can pray, but every kind act, every little sacrifice made for others, every moment of compassion and forgiveness can bring light to the world around each of us, and light spreads. While there is any light there is not complete darkness, and while we may still feel helpless there is always hope.

Sue

^{*} For those who don't know, Sue broke her arm a few weeks before Christmas, which prompted these thoughts, some of which she shared in her Christmas sermon at St Mary's.

Looking back – do you remember December?



At the beginning of the month we travelled to Suffolk for Jo's institution as Rector of Hadleigh, Shelley and Layham. It was a very happy occasion, and we continue to wish Jo and Mary well in their new home and new ventures.

But we miss them!

And a few weeks later, Sue was licensed in her new role as Assistant Priest in the parish (broken arm and all......)



And then there was Christmas

St. Catherine's Christmas Bazaar

Many thanks to all who helped in so many ways to make our Christmas Bazaar on December 1st, such a success .A lot of hard works goes into preparing for this event, both in the weeks leading up to it as well as on the day, but the end result is worth all the effort and, as usual, there was a lovely, friendly atmosphere; the fellowship shared at these events is just as important as the end result. Well done, Sophie, for successfully guessing the name of the dog, Snowie



Carols and a surprise at the Grange

On the 1st Wednesday of every month a small group from St. Catherine's goes to the Grange Residential Home for a short Church Service. We are made to feel very welcome by Catherine, their activities coordinator, and the residents look forward to joining in and



singing the familiar hymns. In December we are joined by our organist, Barry, with the keyboard, and some choir members, for a Christmas Carol Service. This year, after singing all their favourite carols and, much to our surprise, the residents' choir entertained us. Catherine must have put so much work into training them and it was a real treat and a joy to listen to them. They sang "Heart of my Heart, I Love that Melody" they obviously enjoyed singing to us and were word and tune perfect, it was a privilege share that time with them.

Jeannette Cardnell





Messy Wise and Foolish Builders

Saturday 9 February 2 - 4 pm St Andrew's Church

And in March, we shall be thinking about **Messy Forgiveness**

9 March 2-4 pm at St Andrew's

Children and parents/carers all welcome for fun, crafts, singing, mess and food

Messy Church Everything You Wanted to Know but were Afraid to Ask

On a number of occasions recently we have mentioned Messy Church and a look of puzzlement has been seen on some faces. What is this Messy Church thing that they do at St Andrew's? Well, basically it is what it says, church that is messy! It is a way of being church for families who might not otherwise come to our usual Sunday services. Children are invited, and they bring a responsible adult along with them to join the fun.

Each month, a band of willing volunteers, lead by Emma Doe, get together to plan the exciting range of activities that support the theme of the next Messy Church. We always come prepared! Themes can be based on the season, especially for Easter and Christmas, or people and stories from the Bible, or even a more general theme, such as 'Love'.

Each Messy Church starts with a welcome, 'The Lord be with You', and the story for the day is told. This is usually interactive and often involves some dressing up and props. Emma in waders was a recent special highlight. A number of themed craft and game activities are then shared, with paint, glue, card, food and all kinds of other suitably messy things on offer to try. The people running the activities take the opportunity to talk about the related story and the point that their activity brings out from it. The messiest activities, especially those with paint, are often reserved for the clergy for some reason!

After a good chance to get messy we gather together again and recap the story, often in a slightly different way, join in singing and saying our prayers. The prayers may have been written as part of an activity and in the past we have had prayers by parachute, as well as the Lord's Prayer with actions.

It all ends with a meal for the families where we get a chance to just chat and get to know each other. One of our most memorable Messy Churches was Messy Eucharist where we all shared the meal around a big table in the church rather than the Centre.

If you would like to know more or would be interested in helping do speak to Emma, Jane or Sue. A Confidential Declaration, a willingness to talk about faith while getting messy, and a sense of fun are all that is needed. Our numbers are very varied, from a handful to over twenty children. Maybe you know a family you could encourage to try it out?

Sue



Publication Dates. Our Parish Magazine will be appearing every two months for the forseeable 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!

Appointing our new priests.... an update

The advertisement has gone out...... and now we are waiting hopefully and prayerfully for applications to reach the archdeacon.

Closing date for applications is 8 February; and we plan to hold interviews in March.

Please continue your prayers 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 on the subject of prayer......

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.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU READ THE BIBLE?

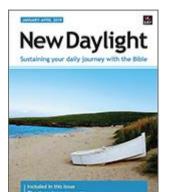
"Read your Bible, pray every day, if you want to grow" is a chorus I remember from a visit to Wickford by the Church Army about 60 years ago. The message is as relevant today as it was then – but what is the best way to go about reading the Bible every day? The Bible Reading Fellowship provides daily notes which are used and appreciated by many in the parish.

Each issue of **New Daylight** provides four months of daily Bible readings and comment, with a regular team of contributors drawn from a range of church backgrounds. **New Daylight** covers a varied selection of Old and New Testament, biblical themes, characters and seasonal readings.

Each day offers a short Bible passage (text included), thought-provoking comment and a prayer or point for reflection, and aims to give a fresh, devotional approach to Bible reading.

It is ideal for anyone wanting an accessible yet stimulating aid to spending time with God each day, deepening their faith and their knowledge of scripture.

If you would like your own set of notes, please speak to the clergy or



contact me and I will be happy to add your name to the next order.

Richard Feldwick



Wickford and Runwell Mothers' Union

There was a good attendance at the first meeting of the year on January 3rd.I wonder, was it New Year resolutions or the draw of hot homemade soup and a roll? Lilian, our Branch Leader, welcomed two guests to our lunch Peter Pack from Laindon and Jimmy Salmon, who made the rolls. They stayed on afterwards for our meeting, "Talking Point" This gave members the chance to air their views on any subject bar BREXIT! The discussions ranged from "Are soup machines a good idea?" to women's equality, education, parenting and a resounding YES to "Too much swearing on Television". So, quite a lively afternoon(with our guests joining in). We are looking forward welcoming Steve and Beth to our evening meeting on January 16th, when they will be telling us all about their trip to Kenya. More about that next time.

Meetings for February and March

Thursday Feb 2nd, 12 noon Candlemas Service with commissioning of Lilian Irving as Branch Leader, followed by shared lunch and fellowship.

Wednesday 20th. Feb 7.30pm Beetle Drive

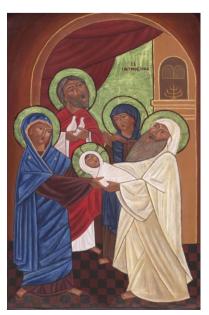
Monday March 4th 12 noon Basildon Deanery M.U. shared lunch in St. Catherine's Hall. Bring and Buy, books cards etc.

Thursday 7th. March 12 noon..quiet time 12.30pm shared lunch, 1.30 pm "Those you have loved"

Wednesday 20th March 7.30pm talk by Marion Ketley

St Catherine's 100 club winners November 1st.N. Beauchamp 2nd. S.Lissenden 3rd. B. Whyte December 1st M.Craig 2nd. J. Cardnell 3rd. P. Bartlett

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.

Becoming an Evangelism Enabler

Stephen, our Bishop of Chelmsford, writes that one strategy for our churches up to 2025 is to have learned ways of doing evangelism that work in the different and varied and fast changing contexts that make up our diocese.

I discovered the Evangelism Enabler role shortly after starting worship at St Mary's when visiting an area vocations day at Rayleigh. Previously I had held a similar role at another church in Wickford and wanted to continue in my 'new' church. I have completed the Course in Christian Studies (CCS) and hope to finish the Evangelism Enablers course this year.

The course ranges from understanding what evangelism is and why it is important, looking at biblical examples, to developing evangelism strategies and delivering them as part of the local church team. I am visiting other churches to learn from their initiatives and understand what might be relevant to Wickford and Runwell. Amidst the many issues demanding attention in our local churches I hope to promote evangelism. Even without 'training' we can encourage each other to work together to share our faith story and the Good News of Jesus Christ both in our respective churches and within our community.

I firmly believe we are called to work with God in His mission to this world, which is why I am doing this course.

Roger Tyler

If Roger has prompted you to wonder how God might be calling you, then this may be for you......

Bradwell Area Vocations Day – a day of discovery

Saturday 23 March 2019 9 am – 3 pm

Meadgate Church, The Orchards, Mascalls Way, Chelmsford CM2 7NS

For more information see posters in our churches or speak to one of the clergy

ST. CATHERINES'S HALL FILM SHOWS

14.00hrs. 28-2-2019

MARTIN SHEEN

IN

THE WAY

A MOVING PILGIMAGE OF DISCOVERY



14.00hrs. 28-3-2019

MAGGIE SMITH

ALEX JENNINGS

IN

THE LADY IN THE VAN

'AN EXPLORATION OF HUMAN BONDS'

World Day of Prayer

(formerly the Women's World Day of Prayer)

Friday 1st. March 2019 at 10.30 a.m

This year's service has been prepared by the women of Slovenia.

The local service will be held at the Wickford Evangelical Church in Nevendon Road, opposite the Fire Station.



There will be light refreshments and a chance to share with friends from other churches after the service.

A message from Muriel Knowles: Bus number 25 to Halls' Corner takes you right there. Be careful crossing the road. I look forward to seeing you there. Muriel

St Mary's Murder Mystery Evening planned for 23 February at St Andrew's



has mysteriously moved to a summer date – keep a keen lookout for more clues

Have you joined the parish giving scheme?

As Lent draws near, the traditional question is 'what are you giving up?'; but perhaps it's also a good time to ask ourselves 'what am I giving?' or even, 'how am I giving?'

Very many of our church members give generously and regularly, either by the envelope scheme or by direct debit; and most people who pay tax agree to 'gift aid' their donations, allowing the parish to claim an additional 25p in every pound back from the government. We are immensely grateful for that generosity (though as a parish we still fall badly short of what the diocese ask us to contribute). We are also very grateful for the careful work done by our treasurers and our gift aid co-ordinator in managing donations and gift-aid claims.

There is a way we can make their life easier — and help our cash flow. A number of people have already joined the parish giving scheme, which offers dioceses including ours a professional service to manage gift aid and gift aid claims. Giving by direct debit via the scheme means that the parish receives the gift aid 25% each month, rather than waiting for the end of the year. The scheme also prompts members each year to think about whether their giving should change; should it go up by the rate of inflation, or perhaps more if we find ourselves feeling prosperous, or are we now beginning to struggle and need to reduce what we give? And perhaps best of all for all those who manage and record our parish finances, it lessens the load on our much valued volunteers.

If you think you might join the scheme or would like to know more, please contact one of our treasurers (details inside back cover).

SERVICES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH 2019



Eucharist with the imposition of ashes

St Catherine's 9.30 am

St Andrew's 10.30 am

St Mary's 8.00 pm

Please return last year's palm crosses to our churches so that they may be burned for this year's ash.

And on Shrove Tuesday

PANCAKE PARTY AT ST CATHERINE'S HALL

Look out for more details nearer the time

LENT GROUPS 2019

This year's Lent Study course will be 'Finding God in All Things: An Ignatian Journey'. This is a course produced by the Diocese of Chichester and explores various aspects of Ignatian Spirituality, through discussion and prayer.

The course will start the week of 11th March, lasting 5 weeks. Forms to sign up will be available from the second week of February. We are planning for sessions on Tuesday evening (7.30pm) and Thursday afternoon (2pm) and evening. If you think you might be able to host one of the groups please let us know.

Ignatius of Loyola was a Spanish Catholic priest who founded the order of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He wrote the Spiritual Exercises, a set of meditations, prayers and mental exercises, which are widely used today.

Forms to sign up for the groups, indicate times which would suit you, and give you a chance to host (!) will be available in each of the churches

If you wish to know more, please ask Jane or Sue.



Or if you want to range more widely you may be interested in



The Lent Modules 2019

A series of short courses running across the diocese between The last week in February and Good Friday 2019.

Courses cost between €7.50 & €40 and themes include:

Last Things - The Great Divorce;

Church

History - Christians and Moslems;

Pastoral Care – Practical insights from Psychology; Christ Pictured; Being Christian Beyond Church;

An in-depth study of the Fourth Gospel;

The

Development of Holy Communion;

Spiritual Companionship and the Big Life Questions;

Introduction to Icons

The Wondrous Cross:

Journeying the Emmaus Road with people with additional needs and dementia; The nature and character of God – an exploration of the Trinity

For further information, brochures, posters and booking forms please contact: Diane Hardy at the Diocesan Office: Tel: 01245 294449

Email: dhardy@chelmsford.anglican.org or download from www.chelmsford.anglican.org

THE ANNUAL MEETING

It's that time of year again, when we begin to plan for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, that gathering at which we are offered reports on the life of the parish, including the accounts, and we elect the people who will hold key responsibilities in our shared community, including churchwardens and members of the parish and district councils

Every community needs a structure, however formal or informal, an agreed way of doing the things which make our common life possible and productive. The Church of England's structures can feel very formal, but they provide the framework within which we shape how and who we are as churches and as a parish. By being a member of the DCC or the PCC, you can bring your voice, your thoughts, your understanding to be part of that shaping: all the more important at this time of change.

Come to the annual meeting if you want to find out about what happens beyond a Sunday morning: come to the annual meeting so you can ask questions; come to the annual meeting and perhaps recognise that you have something to contribute to our church councils. Or come, listen, and take the opportunity to say 'thank you' to all those who give so generously of time and energy in so many aspects of our parish's life.

The meeting is at 2 pm on Sunday 7 April in St Andrew's: put the date in your diary now!

Jane



Exhibiton of Paintings

Elizabeth Gray-King

images through Lent to help us become Easter people



Open when the church is open from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day 2019

Some dates for your diary

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 7 April at St Andrew's



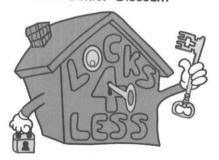
Bettie's Tea Room and Plant Sale 18 May at St Andrew's



Joint service for Trinity, with Bishop John 26 May at St Mary's



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WICKFORD AND RUNWELL TEAM MINISTRY

CLERGY Jane Freeman Team Rector 01268 734077

Sue Wise Associate Priest 07941506156

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

P.C.C. Vice-chair Pam Petts 01268 734183

Secretary Bob Peall

Treasurer Yvonne Branson

Electoral Roll Officer Bob Peall

St Andrew's 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

St Catherine's Churchwarden Richard Feldwick 01268 733362

Churchwarden Andrew Morl
D.C.C. Secretary Sarah Randall
Hall Lettings – contact .01268 735458

St Mary's Churchwarden Lyn Bear 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 Irivng, Assistant Branch Leader Caroline Wheeler

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

St Andrew's	9:30am 6:30pm	Sung Eucharist Healing Eucharist (on 3 rd Sunday)
St Catherine's	8:00am 9:30am 11:00am 6:30pm	Holy Communion Family Worship Sung Eucharist Evening Prayer (Sung Evensong 4 th Sunday)
St Mary's	9:30am 6:30pm	Sung Eucharist Reflective Prayer (2 nd Sunday)

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	

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://wickfordandrunwellparish.org.uk/index.php