Parish Magazine

MAY 2017



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

Sanitary pads; beauty care products; children's clothes and toys; baby clothes and blankets

Due to lack of space: [lease 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 A. Day 2nd C.Sidney 3rd. J. Clarke

Avoiding Anger



There seems to be a rage for everything these days. Rarely a week goes by without some report in the media about some form of violence or anger somewhere in the globe. There are angry people in supermarkets, on buses, on the planes, in parks, in the restaurants and even in hospitals as I got to witness during my hospitalization the other week. As I write this article I am also very much aware of the violence that is taking place in my home country Kenya as the nation is conducting political parties' nominations in preparation for the elections in August this year. Is nowhere safe anymore from anger? Is the world getting angrier that people are more likely than ever before to both feel angry and to express their anger? What's going on?

I think there are perhaps two reasons why anger is on the rise in the world today: on one hand, it is probably that our expectations nowadays have risen quite steadily and on the other hand, so have the stress levels. Our raised expectations mean that, as a society, we have much higher expectations of things around us; we believe we have the right to expect things to go well, indeed, to be perfect. Part of this raised expectation may be fed by the 'customer is right' culture which has mushroomed over the past decade; this culture has led us to have high expectations that we receive excellent service in all aspects of our life. When, as is inevitable, reality falls short of these expectations, we feel that we have the right to get

angry about it. We have the right to get annoyed and demand redress - immediately!

At the same time, as we have become more demanding people, we are also living in a more frantic pace of life, which means our stress levels are raised. This raised stress means that our tolerance for things going wrong is dramatically reduced. Things that go wrong often appear to conspire to stop us achieving some objective in life .i.e. the customer taking too long in front of us is stopping us do our shopping quickly, or the EE customer care who won't give us a refund is stopping us getting access to the justice we think we deserve or, the caterer who didn't deliver our lunch at 12.00 noon is stopping us from having our lunch at 12.30pm. So, because of our stress levels, our tolerance for such obstacles is low and we get angry. This combination of raised expectations and stress levels gives rise to the 'angry personality'; and there seem to be more Mr and Ms Angrys about these days.

Clearly, the things that make us angry tend to mostly fall into a small range of categories; things that frustrate us and stop us reaching our goals, unmet expectations, and perceived injustice or abuse. Our tolerance for all of these is likely to be low when our stress levels are high, and we feel entitled not only to feel angry, but to express that anger when we feel that these rights have been violated.

So, what then can we do to become calmer and to take life's frustrations more easily in our stride? Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh-the father of mindfulness says, we need to lower our expectations and not only accept, but expect that not everything will go as it 'should'. Obviously this doesn't mean that we have to put up with i.e. poor service, but that we can be able to deal more calmly with things when they go wrong. Lowering our general stress levels will also mean that we can tolerate everyday disappointments better and not fly off the handle at relatively minor frustrations. So, don't get mad, get even tempered! Your health and people around you will thank you for it!

EUCHARIST FOR ASCENSION DAY



8pm, 25 May 2017 St Catherine's Church

MEET & MAKE EASTER BONNETS

Our Meet & Make group celebrated Easter in quite some style this year: by preparing their own eggstravagant Easter Bonnets.



Open To Serve God's Tomorrow

As I listened to John Bell's 'Thought For The Day' on Radio 4 on the way to work just after Easter his words spoke to me and encouraged me, and I thought it would be good to share them with all of you through the Parish magazine, so here is Jon's 'Thought For the Day'...

"Scottish Readers of the Sunday Herald may have been puzzled by two of the banner headings on its front page this weekend.

The one said Hibs (that's short for Hibernian whose home ground is called EASTER Road) - Hibs in Heaven. A larger heading read: Why Christianity is in Crisis? Fortunately the promotion of Hibs to the Premiership league was not connected to the alleged crisis in Christianity.

In fact the crisis is not in Christianity but in numeracy, by which I mean that a recent survey of church attendance indicated the number of people regularly worshipping in Scottish churches has halved in the last thirty years — a phenomenon which this nation shares with other parts of the United Kingdom.

Perhaps that was not the most cheering news to read on Easter Day. But then, not everything that happened on Easter Day was cheering news.

A number of artists including Graham Sutherland have produced paintings entitled 'Noli Me Tangere.' They depict Mary Magdalene meeting Jesus in the garden, Jesus with whom she had a fond relationship and, naturally, reaching out to touch him. To her, as John's Gospel records, he says the rather disappointing words, 'Don't cling to me.'

I can't think of that scene without remembering how a good friend of my mother's referred to these very words when she wrote to her after my Father's death. 'Don't hold on to David,' she wrote, 'Don't even keep his clothes. You will only have him if you let him go.'



What, you might ask, has that to do with declining attendances at Christian worship?

Quite a lot I think. Churches, ill. good or are institutions. They are not God or the Gospel. And - as with all human institutions nostalgia for our heritage, a fondness of tradition, and a fear for the future, can people make want sometimes to cling to what has been, rather than be open to what is to come if God is a dynamic presence rather than an historic relic.

For me the validation of the

church's existence is not whether it is true to the 39 articles, or Luther's 95 theses or Calvin's Institutes of Religion or the second Vatican Council, but whether it offers a foretaste of the Kingdom of Heaven, an experience of what it means to be transformed by justice and joy, rooted faith and radical hospitality.

This is not to denigrate every fond tradition, but to ask whether our hands are so tied to the past that we cannot open them to serve God's tomorrow."

If you would like to listen to Jon Bell delivering this himself you can listen again via the BBC Radio 4 Thought For The Day webpage - http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p050hy57



A photograph from our moving and well-supported Churches Together in Wickford & Runwell Walk of Witness on Good Friday.

A Poem in Reflection on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24)

Jesus, make my heart like yours
Heal rust on locks, and broken doors
Make fast the seal, on bygone scores
Open me wide forever more
Then Jesus,
Jesus make my heart like yours.

Mike Tricker

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

nessy church

April's Messy Church saw youngsters and adults gathering in St Andrew's to explore "Messy Last Supper".

Activities and crafts included foot-washing, decorating chalices, broken

biscuit fixing, coin rubbing and even making our very own Last Supper painting! The afternoon climaxed with a shared meal in the middle of the church. We broke and shared a loaf of bread and shared grape juice, before enjoying shepherd's pie. As we did this, we reflected on Jesus's words at the Last Supper, and thought about the Eucharist.







Saturday 13th May

Messy Noah

St Andrew's Church, 2 - 4 pm



OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on 23 April (following a delicious shared lunch!).

The following people were returned as office holders or representatives:

CHURCH WARRENC

| | CHURCH VVARDENS | |
|---------------|------------------|------------|
| St Andrew's | St Catherine's | St Mary's |
| Marina Bailey | Andrew Morl | Lyn Gordon |
| Valerie Bryan | Richard Feldwick | Val Harris |
| | | |

PCC REPRESENTATIVES

| St Andrew's | St Catherine's | St Mary's |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Mike Gibson | Steve Lissenden | Bob Peall |
| Mike Tricker | Pam Petts | John Skinner |

DEANERY REPRESENTATIVES

C+ 1 / a. m. / a

| St Andrew S | St Catherine s | St Wary S |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Margaret Maguire | Diana Taylor | Yvonne Branson |
| Marjorie Standford | | John Trimmer |

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St Andrew's District Church Council:
Julia Glover, Angela Wagstaff, Fred Towler, Mick Maguire, Seye Abiodun

ST CATHERINE'S DISCTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL:
Sarah Randall, Barry Pocock, Jeanette Cardnell, Margaret Small,
Emma Doe, John Knowles

ST MARY'S DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL: Coral Upham, Patricia Watson, Christopher Salt, Roger Tyler, Alan Jones, Linda Payne

Thank you <u>all</u> for all that you do for the people of the parish of Wickford and Runwell



WICKFORD AND RUNWELL OPEN THE BOOK TEAM NEEDS **YOU**

We recently started going into two new schools having completed our time at North Crescent Primary School. We now take our dramatised Bible stories into Runwell Community Primary School on a Tuesday morning each month and into The Grange Primary School on a Tuesday afternoon, once each half term. If you would like to have a go at a bit of acting and have some time to give please think about volunteering. A DBS check would need to be done but it is great fun and very worthwhile. If you have any questions please ask Sue or any member of the current team. Thank you, **Sue.**

MOTHERS' UNION WICKFORD & RUNWELL PROGRAMME 2017

St Andrew's

4th May: 12.30pm Shared Lunch

1.30pm 'English for Women' - Sarah Carter

1st June:

Outing to Riverside Nurseries for Afternoon Tea

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

St Catherine's

17th May: 7.30pm

'Quiet Evening' - led by Rev'd Sue Wise in St Catherine's Church

21st June: 7.30pm

'Wave of Prayer' and update on our Links - Lucy Bubb

19th July: 7.00pm

Summer Supper followed by Compline in Church

20th September: 7.30pm

'Teach us to sit still' - Fr Jo

<u>Tues 13th June: Basildon Deanery Outing to St. Alban's Cathedral - Cathedral Tour, Communion Service & Afternoon Tea</u>

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: <u>South Sudan</u> – <u>Rejaf</u>: Florence and Rose, <u>Kenya</u> – <u>Military Episcopate</u>: Beryl, <u>Nigeria</u> – <u>Doko</u>: Keturah, and <u>Owo</u>: Grace, <u>England</u> - <u>Chelmsford</u>: Judith, <u>Jamaica & Cayman</u> 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

TIME TO VOTE!

Local Election – Thursday 4 May 2017 General Election – Thursday 8 June 2017

YOUR VOTE MATTERS MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN



Make sure you're registered to vote Register at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

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 | EVENT | | |
| Sun 14.05.17 | 3:30pm – 5:00pm | Bible & Crisps | |
| Sun 11.06.17 | 3:30pm – 5:00pm | Bible & Crisps | |
| 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



WICKFORD & RUNWELL MOTHER'S UNION

Our Lent course on Monday afternoons at St. Andrew's Church was well attended by members and non-members. Five members each took a turn leading a meditation on aspects of Our Lord's passion. Preparing these tasks takes a lot of time, thought and prayer, so a big "thank you" and "well done" to those who took a session. Those attending found them helpful and moving in the run up to Holy Week and Easter.

We welcomed back our old friend Pauline Briggs to our Thursday lunchtime meeting on April 6th. Pauline spoke on our theme for this year: Faith in Action). She began by saying, having listened to our notices, that we were certainly putting our "faith in action" by donating money to the "Make a Mothers' Day" appeal, which funds projects both here and overseas, and by donating the M.U. relief fund for those caught up in the dreadful famine in Africa. In her thought provoking talk, Pauline made us realise that we put our faith into action many times without knowing that that is what we are doing.

Wednesday 19th April proved to be an inspiring evening as Gerry Gould spoke to us about the charity "Brainwave" as it works to help build a world where every child with disabilities reaches their potential. Professionals create a tailor-made programme of daily exercises for each child and support parents in supervising them. Gerry brought along some of the simple equipment that is used and given to the parents. Brainwave relies completely on charitable donations, a retiring collection was held at the end of the meeting. Find out more about this amazing work at: brainwave.org.uk

Our May meetings:

May 4th 12 noon quiet time in St. Andrew's Church

12.30pm shared lunch

1.30pm a talk by Sarah Carter: "English for Women"

May 17th 7.30pm quiet hour in St. Catherine's Church

led by the Reverend Sue Wise, followed by coffee in the hall

COME AND SING!

A fun afternoon exploring the joy of singing together led by Rev'd Matthew Simpkins

Saturday 20 May, 2-3pm, St Andrew's

Absolutely no experience necessary.

All are warmly welcome: just turn up!





John Knowles: 32 Years as a Lay Reader

At this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Canon Jane was delighted to present John with a certificate from Bishop John honouring him with the title "Reader Emeritus". Below, John's wife, Muriel, looks back on his 32-year ministry as a Lay Reader.

John began training when Revd. Roy Thomas was the Rector in the parish. His tutor was Revd. Peter Ashton, the then Rural Dean and Rector of Billericay.



Early on Roy sought Bishop's permission for John to administer the cup and read the gospel and began preaching. He was sent out to take Mattins and Evensong in our 3 churches and many neighbouring ones. He has taken services in most churches in the deanery and was also used by Revd. David Atkins of Downham in his team. The most regularly frequented churches in the Deanery were South Hanningfield, Great Burstead and Crayhills for almost 30 years on a monthly basis.

John was licensed in 1985 during an interregnum in the parish followed by a small party at his home with close family and friends. When Revd. David Lowman arrived he was happy to send John out and about as the parish was well staffed. During this time he was on rota for Sunday evenings at Chaplain Lodge. He conducted occasional funerals during school holidays. He retired from teaching when Canon Christine McCafferty was rector and his funeral ministry increased to 3-4 per week. He took services in the care homes- notably Holy Mead, the Laurels, Sycamore court and the Grange on a monthly basis. He also took communion to parishioners in the above care homes plus Beech house, Ghyllgrove, Chaplin Lodge and Bradwell house and as well as those who were housebound in their own homes. He spent 2 whole days a month on these visits.

He reduced some commitments gradually by not taking on more home communion and ceased to take funerals as his own health declined. Until recently he read the gospel in church and still announces the hymns during services at St. Catherine's.

Christian Aid Week: standing with refugees



Nejebar and her family have fled horrors in Afghanistan, where her husband was threatened with torture and death for being a government worker.

But now they've arrived in Greece, all they have is a tent. They have no other protection against wind and

rain. There's no school for their five children. And they have no certainty or clear idea of what will happen to them now. They thought they would stay here for 10 days, but it's already been six months and there's no end in sight.

Nejebar's husband Noor describes their initial reaction to arriving in the camp in Greece: 'It was like suicide for us. But we took the decision that it is better to die here than to die there from war.'

You've helped us be there for refugees since 1945

Thanks to you, Christian Aid has been there for refugees like Nejebar since 1945, providing essential food, shelter and legal assistance for people far from home. And we still believe in life before death.

This Christian Aid Week, 14-20 May, our church is continuing to walk with refugees by having a collection in church and, where possible, street collections. Please do whatever you can to help.

We're not going to turn our backs on refugees now.

Please speak to Richard Feldwick (01268 733362/feldwick1@gmail.com) to join us.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: MAY 14th - 20th

From our registers:

St Catherine's Church

Baptisms:

19th March Isabelle Louise Randall

Emily Charlotte Hinton Austin Devon Hunt

St Mary's Church

Baptisms:

2nd April Mila & George McCue

9th April Ellie Wood
16th April Ellena Booth

Funeral:

12th April Eddie Herring

St Andrew's Church

Baptism:

22nd April Summer Rose Nelson





RUNWELL HOSPITAL BOWLS CLUB ST LUKE'S PARK

Have you ever thought about playing bowls, but didn't know how to go about it?

Come along to our Open Day on Sunday 21st May at 2pm

Friendly faces and tuition available.

Only flat shoes needed, trainers are ideal. All other equipment provided to start with.

For more information or to arrange a different day, 'phone Pam Petts (Ladies Captain) on 01268 734183

National Cream Tea Day Friday June 23rd 2017

To celebrate this event, there will be a Cream Tea at St Catherine's Hall 2pm to 4.30pm

Tiptree Jam, Cornish cream and delicious home made scones.

All accompanied by unlimited cups of tea.

Drop in or spend all afternoon

Tickets £4 each which includes a free draw for a bottle of bubbly! available in church or 'phone Pam Petts on 734183

Sponsored by Tiptee Jam and Rodda's Cornish Cream

Tickets available soon . . .



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Advertising in the Magazine is simple:

iust send the advert to the editor whose contact details are on the inside cover Charges for 2018: £26 small size - £40 large size - £75 half page per year The magazine is also found on our Church website increasing the circulation

PIANO TEACHER

Has a few vacancies for pupils BEGINNERS TO ADVANCED

Adult beginners very welcome

Please telephone: MARGARET ROWAN ALCM IRAM on **01268 734589**

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Graham & Anita Hellewell

WICKFORD AND RUNWELL TEAM MINISTRY

| CLERGY Jane Fre | eeman | St. Andrew's Church | 734077 |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Norbert | Mutuku | St. Catherine's Church | 733147 |
| Matt Sir | npkins | | 765524 |
| Sue Wis | e | St. Mary's Church | 07941 506156 |
| | (available Sunday, Tuesda | ay, Wednesday and Thursday) | |
| P.C.C. | Vice-chairman | Pam Petts | 734183 |
| | Secretary | Sian Simpkins | 765524 |
| | Treasurer | Yvonne Branson | 458778 |
| | Electoral Roll Officer | Pam Petts | 734183 |
| St Andrew's | 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 |
| St Catherine's | 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 |
| St Mary's | 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 |
| Mothers' Union | Enrolling Member | Jeannette Cardnell | 452309 |
| Parish Magazine | Editor | Matt Simpkins (for May - July) | |

FOR INFORMATION ON **GIFT AID AND PLANNED GIVING** PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BEAUCHAMP ON **762205**.

SUNDAY SERVICES

| St Andrew's | 9:30am | Sung Eucharist | |
|------------------|---------|---|--|
| | 6:30pm | Healing Eucharist (on 3 rd Sunday) | |
| St Catherine's | 8:00am | Holy Communion | |
| | 9:30am | Family Worship | |
| | 11:00am | Sung Eucharist | |
| | 6:30pm | Evening Prayer (Sung Evensong 4 th Sunday) | |
| St Mary's | 9:30am | Sung Eucharist | |
| | 6:30pm | Taizé (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 |
| Friday | 8:30 am | Morning Prayer at St Andrew's |
| Saturday | 9:30 am | Morning Prayer at St Catherine's (1st Saturday of the month) |

OFFICE HOURS

| St Andrew | Saturdays | 11:00 - 11:30am | in the Church |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| St Catherine | Mondays | 7:00 - 8:00pm | in the Church |
| St Mary | Mondays | 7:00 - 7:30pm | in St Mary's Hall |

Please email material for the next magazine to the editor by the 15th May Thank you (revdmatthewsimpkins@gmail.com)

Find us online: www.wickfordandrunwellparish.org.uk