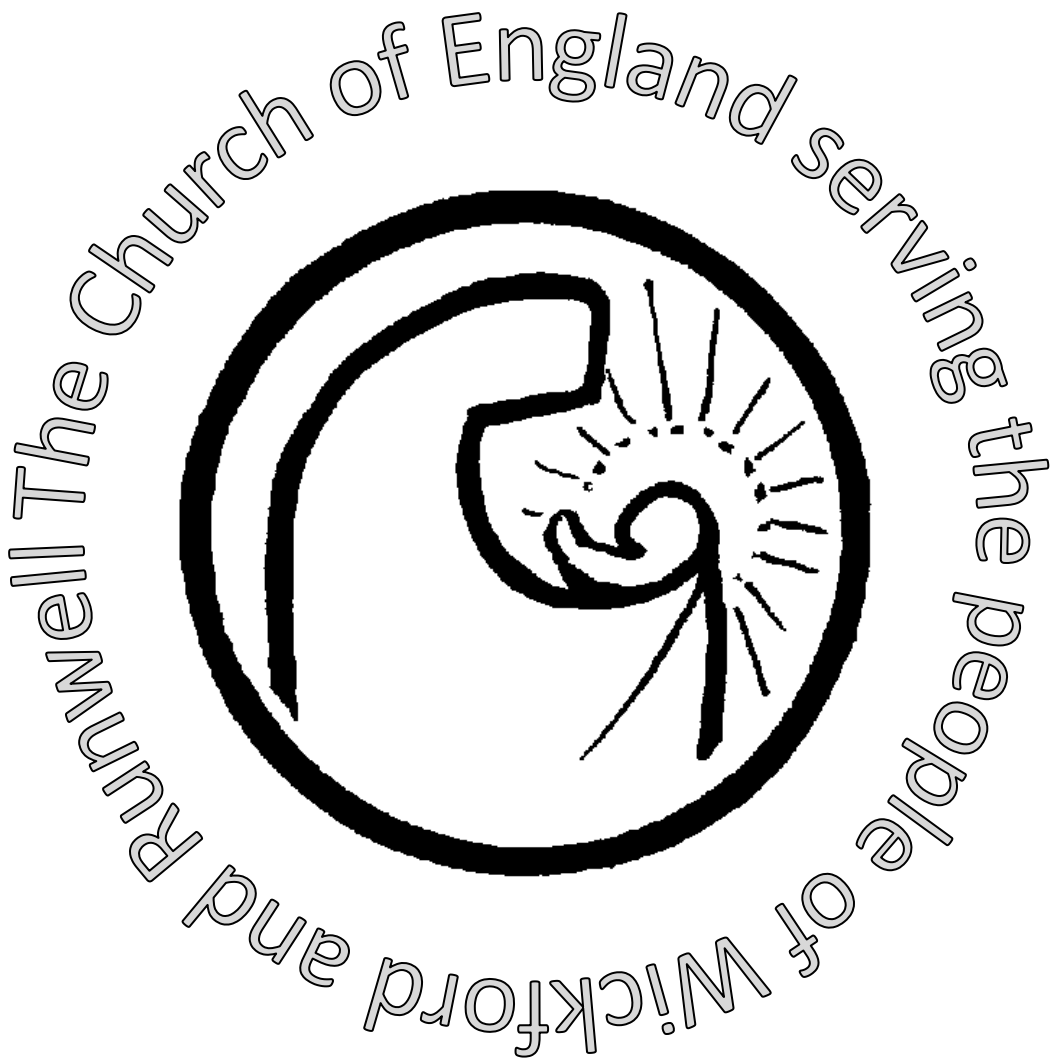


Parish Magazine

DECEMBER 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 at St Andrew's Church and Centre
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.

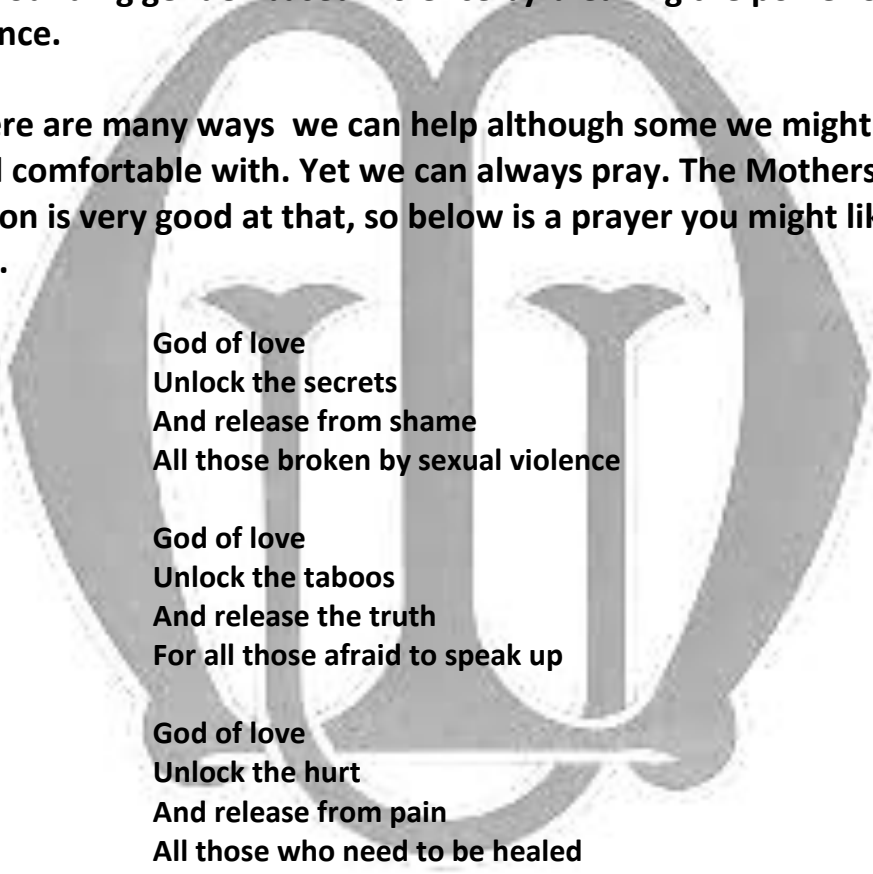
Due to lack of space: please only take items to St. Andrew's Church on the last FRIDAY (or as near as possible) of each month; then they can be taken to the refuge. If you are unable to take our offering to St. Andrew's then please do pass it to one of your Church Wardens or your Priest.

100club winners

1st. S. Lissenden, 2nd. Sue Hine. 3rd. M. Cardnell

The Mothers' Union is a global movement and, with the support of the U.N., we are focussing this year on combating the stigma surrounding gender-based violence by breaking the power of silence.

There are many ways we can help although some we might not feel comfortable with. Yet we can always pray. The Mothers' Union is very good at that, so below is a prayer you might like to use.



**God of love
Unlock the secrets
And release from shame
All those broken by sexual violence**

**God of love
Unlock the taboos
And release the truth
For all those afraid to speak up**

**God of love
Unlock the hurt
And release from pain
All those who need to be healed**

We pray in the name of the one whose transformational touch healed and brought new life Amen.

Waiting

When I worked selling furniture in a department store in the 80s no-one seemed to bat an eyelid when you told them that delivery was in eight to twelve weeks. It was the norm. The stuff needed to be made, delivered and checked then redelivered. It all took time. There were some people who wanted it quickly and they were seen as pushy and annoying. I was told it was because, as a nation, we were good at queuing and waiting.

Now, though, everything seems to thrive on being instant. From coffee to delivery, to selecting goods and having them. The 'buy it now' button and the next-day-delivery option are now a part of our rushing busy world. Why wait for the tea to brew when a tea bag takes seconds? The day saved by having a washing machine has been lost to doing more and being instant.

The moments of waiting at a till or cashier desk seem to have lost their buzzing conversation and have become an inconvenience.

I guess that is my sadness that Christmas begins in earnest so early. On 26th November we gathered to sing carols at the lighting up of Wickford, but some considered this rather late, because it had already begun in the shops.

What of Advent? Our time of waiting. The ancestors tell us their story that points forward, prophets voices speak out again of an event to come, the voice in the wilderness cries out once more that we must prepare the way and finally we consider the pregnancy of Mary. And so we wait. We wait. Patiently (psalm 40 - I waited patiently on the Lord).

The Advent calendars are opened a day at a time. The candles are lit a week at a time. Don't rush it! Don't miss the breath that you can breathe in. For in the air around dances the very spirit of Christ expectant.

With every good wish to you on the 25th - when the advent season has percolated and the story is ready to pour.

Half an hour every Monday night at 8:30pm.

Escape the seemingly hectic demands of Christmas

Gentle Poetry, Prayer & Music.
Remember we are waiting for our Lord.



The Services are at 8:30pm at St Catherine's

4th 11th and 18th of December

You are very welcome.

St. Catherine's Bazaar

Saturday December 2nd
9.30am -12.30pm



St. Catherine's Hall

Raffle, bottle tombola,
cakes, gifts, refreshments
and more



THE GATEWAY PROJECT
Churches in Wickford and Runwell



CHRISTMAS ADVENT BAG 2017

Christmas is a time when we think about the joy of giving. God sent his Son Jesus into our world to show us how to live. In return we can bring joy to others. The countdown to Christmas begins with the advent calendar where a little treat can be found each day from the 1st December to Christmas day.

The Gateway Project is running an advent calendar in reverse. For one week only we ask you to put an item in a bag as a treat for someone this Christmas. Starting on Friday 1st December till Thursday 7th December.

What to do:

1. Find a carrier bag...
2. Each day add one item from the shopping list to the bag...
3. Once completed drop the bag into the Gateway Project or your local church by Thursday 14th December...

Shopping List:

- Christmas Pudding
- Small Box of Chocolates
- Packet of Sweets
- Small Christmas Cake
- A Large Packet of Crisps
- A Box of Mince Pies
- An item of Toiletries

Please ensure that all use by dates are up to or after 25th December 2017



For more information, contact Paul on 01208 769761 or email paul.waldron@salvationarmy.org.uk

COMING SOON

to a church near you



lifts available to
the evening service

Sunday Film Night

St Andrew's 3rd December

3:30pm

Sleeping Out

In a few weeks time the Wickford and Runwell Youth Group (and a few friends!) are once again sleeping out to raise money for the Church Urban Fund in support of churches across the country who are running winter night shelters. You can sponsor them at:

<https://sleepoutchallenge2017.everydayhero.com/uk/team-wickford-and-runwell>

or via Mike Tricker, Marina Bailey or Sian Simpkins.

They would be very grateful for any sponsorship, so they can help make a real difference to the lives of people who are experiencing homelessness in England this winter.

Thank you!

Advent Carol Service



St Catherine's Church

6:30 pm

An opportunity to begin our waiting for the
nativity, to hear the prophetic readings and
bask in the beauty of Advent hymns

PARISH EVENTS



Messy Nativity

at **St Andrew's**, London Road
Wednesday 13 December, 3.30-6pm

Pop down after school for FREE Christmas fun for children & their adults.

Craft activities, stories, songs & dinner provided for all kids

Parish Carol Service

at **St Andrew's**, London Road
Sunday 17 December, 6.30pm

Favourite carols and well-loved poems.

PLUS free mince pies & refreshments.

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

St Andrew's, London Road

<i>Christmas Eve</i>	5pm	Crib Service <i>(especially for children and families)</i>
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
<i>Christmas Day</i>	9.30am	Eucharist with Carols

St Catherine's, Southend Road

<i>Christmas Eve</i>	2, 3 & 4pm	Christingle Services <i>(especially for children and families)</i>
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
<i>Christmas Day</i>	10.30am	Eucharist

St Mary's, Runwell

<i>Christmas Eve</i>	3pm	Crib Service <i>(especially for children and families)</i>
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
<i>Christmas Day</i>	9.30am	Eucharist

Bettie's Tea Shop and Bazaar - 18th November at St Andrew's Church

A charming morning spent with friends, good service, entertainment, tea, coffee and cake. What could be better?

Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to create the atmosphere and deliver the event.



St Mary's Christmas Bazaar

Many, many thanks to Alan Jones for his expert coordination, Linda Payne for her creativity and the cohorts of excellent helpers, sellers, creators, bakers and friendly faces that made the event such fun.

The Preschool stole our hearts with their rendition of 'When Santa got stuck up the chimney' (a song strangely missing from our carol services) and Wickford Junoir School showed their talent with some equally moving Christmas themed tunes.

The event did raise a good amount of money but excelled itself in presenting an opportunity for the Runwell community to meet together and have fun.

So thank you to all of you who came and to those of you who helped!

Before:



During:



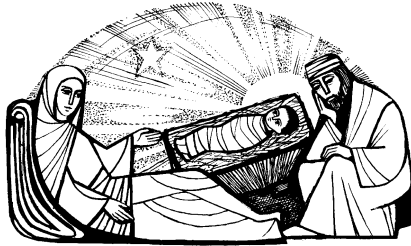
SHOE BOX APPEAL



From Church to van - our shoe boxes are on their way to bring a happier Christmas to 102 of the world's poorest children.

Sincere thanks to everyone who contributed this year.

BISHOP STEPHEN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2017



Venting his fury at a potential rival, Herod plays a percentages game: he spreads the net of his anger widely; kills every boy under two in order to ensure he kills just one. He fails. Fury and anger usually do - though that is scant consolation to the mourning families of the innocent who suffer. Meanwhile Jesus, the Saviour who is saved, is visited by unlikely people: in this case, shepherds and foreign rulers.

The shepherds, virtual outcasts in their own society and looked upon with grave suspicion, hear a song of peace. It is deeply attractive, and it sends them to Bethlehem.

The wise men have followed a hunch in the form of a star. They are about to learn that all their maps are wrong. They will return by a different route.

Tyrants like Herod still strut about the world today, their vanity and hubris still causing havoc and misery. But the door of the stable at Bethlehem still stands open for those who long for peace and those prepared to have their lives redirected.

Might you be one of them?

Have an interesting Christmas!

Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell
Bishop of Chelmsford



WICKFORD & RUNWELL MOTHER'S UNION

We spent a lively afternoon with Vivien Chapman on Thursday November 2nd.

Vivien was speaking on "Social Policy". She asked us "What are your concerns at the moment?" which opened a floodgate of concerns on many things which were discussed and debated about.

We didn't come up with many answers but it gave us something to think and pray about.

Vivien ended the session telling us about "The sixteen days of activism against gender based violence" (see article elsewhere) and ended with lovely prayer for women who suffer in this way.

Monday November 6th saw eight of us attending the especial day at the Cathedral. Bishop Stephen, in his address, suggested that the next time we saw a homeless person on our street we should buy them a sandwich and a cup of tea. Lynne Temby, Mothers' Union worldwide president, was visiting us and spoke in the afternoon, she asked the question "What is God asking of you?" What a challenging day! Lots to think about on the way home.

A colourful and fact finding evening was spent on the 15th. when Sandra Baines (Jeannette's daughter) came to speak and show slides of her visit to her son in Guatamala, just before Easter, thank you Sandra

December meetings

Thursday December 7th Christmas Lunch at The Duke of York 12 NOON
Come and prepare for Christmas

Branch Leader: Mrs Jeannette Cardnell –01268 452309

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO ST CATHERINES' HALL
7.30PM, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20th
TO
A Mothers Union
"CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT"
CAROLS, READINGS, POETRY
MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES
IN PREPERATION FOR CHRISTMAS

OCTOBER

St Catherine's Church

Funeral
3rd

Brenda Sears

St Mary's Church

Weddings
13th
21st

James Trigg and Charlotte Pharez
Samuel Pitt and Emily Coleman

New Year's Day 2018

Eucharist at St Mary's Church @ 12 noon

..... followed by at walk along the river at South Woodham

..... then Coffee, tea, cake and stuff back at St Mary's Hall

Bring along your savoury and sweet leftovers!!

WARY

If your question is WHO? Then let me introduce you to **Wickford and Runwell Youth!** A group of young people between the ages of 10 – 14 years who get together usually on the 2nd Sunday of the month to talk about topical issues, go out on activities and just generally HAVE FUN!!!!

The young people do not all regularly attend a church or even belong to one. We do talk about scripture and read the bible and pray, but everyone participates as they feel comfortable.

If you would like to find out more or know of a young person who may like to join us, please feel free to talk to Marina or Mike at St Andrew's. 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

Wednesday Cuppa and Chat

On the **second** and **fourth** Wednesdays of each month St Mary's Church hall will be open from 10 am to 12 noon.

In December that will be 13th (surprisingly not 27th though!)



Please pop in for a tea or coffee and a chat!

An Angelic Salutation

For a long while they sat opposite each other, gently holding hands. She with her head bent, her body racked with sobs; the Angel calm, still, waiting for the word that would have to be spoken. At last the woman lifted her head, pushed her hair away from tear stained cheeks, and said, simply, "I can't". Silence followed. She was gathering her energies to offer a reason, a rationale for why her courage had failed her; why she, who had always been obedient to God's will and law, was now withholding her consent. "Don't be afraid", said the Angel. He'd used those words before, at the very beginning of the meeting, when his sudden presence, and the light that quietly emanated from him, had so clearly scared her. Now half-formed sentences began to tumble from her: about her place within this close knit community; the shame that the inevitable gossip and accusations would bring both on her and her family; the loneliness of a life as a tainted woman, one no man would take as wife; the pull towards prostitution, in the struggle to sustain herself and the child she would bear. It was too much. Please let this cup pass from her.

The Angel still held on to her as tightly as ever. Only when she had emptied herself of both her words and her tears did he respond. "Fear not", he said, for a third time. "God loves you. He loves you as deeply as ever. This was never a command, always an invitation to come on a particular journey with him. Go in peace. Marry. Have children, and bring them up in that same love of The Lord which you yourself know. And teach them this; that God, in their generation, will do this great thing. Tell them to be alert, to watch for the signs that the Promised One is coming among them. Live long, do not regret your decision today; but of your mercy, when you hear of Him, pray for His mother."

He stood up, passed out of the house, walked perhaps a stone's throw away from the building, then stopped to wipe a hand across his eyes. He gazed back at the woman's home for some minutes. Silently, he held her and all that she was before the One who had sent him. From somewhere within his robes he pulled out a scroll and unfurled it. It was a list of names, women's names. Many had already been crossed through, and now there was another to strike out.

He looked at the details for his next assignment. Another unpromising village, another pious but conventional upbringing.

Another dispiritingly traditional name. Mary.

David Walker is the Bishop of Manchester

A seasonal cartoon:



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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
	Jo Delfgou	St Mary's Church	732068
	Matt Simpkins	<i>(Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday)</i>	765524
	Sue Wise	<i>(Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)</i>	07941 506156
<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 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
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

Find us online:

www.wickfordandrunwellparish.org.uk