

Parish Magazine

NOVEMBER 2017

The Church of England serving the people of Wickford and Runwell



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

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 J. Knowles 2nd J. Pocock 3rd J. Clarke

Forget “normal”: God wants an atmosphere of acceptance.

Earlier this month, I was privileged to visit the Cathedral Archer project in Sheffield. This project seeks to help homeless and vulnerable people achieve a better life by supporting them to develop their independence and well-being, and equipping them to tackle setbacks. It does so by offering access to cooked meals, accredited courses, doctors and dentists, telephones and computers – facilities which we take for granted, but which are very difficult to access without a fixed address.

During my visit, four employees of the project – each of whom had been a client in the past - spoke very candidly about their lives. What they communicated very movingly was both their sense of hope *and* their sense of realism. Many of those who use the project have been affected by addiction. Those employees I met had been too.

What struck me most powerfully about the project was that its focus wasn't imposing or establishing standards of “normal” behaviour or “normal” life; rather the project strives to maintain an atmosphere of acceptance. For many of those clients whose struggles with addiction are on-going, having a standard of “normality” imposed upon them is not only unhelpful but actually counterproductive. And it was very clear that this atmosphere of true acceptance had been extremely important for those four employees.

This is a Christian-rooted project, and I was told that those parts of the Gospel where Jesus meets the outcasts of 1st century Palestine - loving them as he finds them – are the chief

inspiration behind this atmosphere of acceptance. I found myself wondering whether when I've read these passages, I've lazily assumed that after having sat with Jesus these prostitutes, tax collectors, and other reviled people simply conformed to the "normal" lifestyle of their time? I wonder what the reality was?

All this is a reminder that in all we do as Christians, whether in social action or in worship or whatever, we must guard against expecting that those we encounter should simply be conformed to *our* standard of "normal". Instead, the only expectation that matters is that God's love for them should be made manifest. Each of us may have a very clear understanding of what we enjoy or value in worship or in Christian life, but if that understanding gets in the way of an atmosphere of true acceptance and welcome, then it's time for us to reflect on whether it is an understanding shared by God.

Welcome Back

It's wonderful to have Norbert back ministering among us again, and we thank God for his recovery and return.



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 01268 769761 or email paul.waldron@salvationarmy.org.uk

COMING SOON

to a church near you



Sunday Film Night

St Andrew's 5th November

A BIG NIGHT WITH THE BIG BAND



The Sid Bolan Big Band had feet tapping and shoulders swaying with a brilliant programme of classic songs and jazz standards; there were moments when we wondered whether the roof would stay on St Andrew's.

They promised they'd be back - and they'll get a very warm welcome.



A Messy St Paul

11th November
2 to 4 pm
St Andrew's Church



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 November that will be 15th and 29th



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

Bettie's Tea Shop and Bazaar



9am-1pm

18th November

at

St Andrew's Church

Please join us for
teas, coffees,
delicious cakes,
music, tombola,
kids crafts and
more



ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

November 25th

1:30 pm to 4 pm

at

Runwell Village Hall

DOORS OPEN 1.30 P.M.



RAFFLES

CHRISTMAS ACCESSORIES

GAMES

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

BOTTLE STALL

CAKE STALL

LOCAL SCHOOL CHOIRS

REFRESHMENTS



and FATHER CHRISTMAS

ENTRANCE FREE - PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS





ST CATHERINE'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

AFTERNOON TEA AT 3PM
IN ST CATHERINE'S HALL

FOLLOWED BY

A SHORT SERVICE OF

SONGS OF PRAISE



The Gateway Project: Foodbank

We have been blessed with the amount of food that has been donated and is still being donated from schools from their Harvest Festivals. Since we started the foodbank I have never seen so much food and other items been donated. This is good to restock and also help people/families over the winter period.

Many thanks to Alan Jones who works hard to ensure that the food is in date order and is stored correctly.

I have signed the Gateway Project up to a charity called 'Fareshare'. Fareshare works with large supermarkets to ensure that food is not thrown away. The way this is going to work for us is that I will receive a text from the two Tesco express stores we have in Wickford on a Wednesday night informing me of what they have available to give away. (things such a bread, rolls, fruit, veg etc). I then reply yes or no if we want the food. If I reply yes then I have to pick it up from the stores on Thursday morning. We can then hand out at the foodbank. If you have anyone who would be willing to collect this food on a weekly basis on a Thursday morning please let me know.

Over the next few weeks there is going to be changes in the benefit system which could see the numbers using the foodbank increase. God has provided the food we wait for the people.

We are also running money management courses in November. This course runs for 4 weeks and will help people manage their money better through budgeting. Please prayer for the trainers and the people who attend this training.

God Bless

Paul Waldron

The Salvation Army, Jersey Gardens, Wickford, Essex, SS11 7AE
Telephone 01268 769761 | Mobile 07582 773420

A Team Service to celebrate:

The Feast of Christ the King



26th November

St Andrew's Church at 10:30 am

followed by lunch

An opportunity to worship alongside one another and to be Team in one place.

Please make every effort to attend - lifts will be available (just ask the Church Wardens)

The Feast of St Andrew the Apostle



Festival Eucharist

30th November

7:30 pm

St Andrew's Church

followed by refreshments



Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

It's shoebox appeal time! – a time when we invite schools, organisations and individuals from across our town to share with us in the joy of giving to others through Samaritan's Purse.

The idea is simple: to bring pleasure and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through practical gift-filled shoeboxes. The shoeboxes are given to children regardless of gender, race, or religion in countries across the world.

Over the past few years many hundreds of shoeboxes have been gathered from our churches and many local schools, collected together at St Catherine's and sent across the globe!

If you, a friend, or an organisation you know would like to fill shoeboxes, please get packing now and bring them to St Catherine's for **14th November**.

All the information you need is here: www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/

Let's see if Wickford & Runwell can send more shoeboxes than ever before!

TAKING THE LONG VIEW - OUR PARISH DAY

Friends from across our three Churches, many with long roots in our congregations and some more recent members, gave up a Saturday in October to come together to consider our common life, and lay some foundations for thinking about the future we will share as part of the body of Christ in Wickford and Runwell. The clergy team led the day, but all the responses described below came from lay people across all the congregations.

What are we for? That was the first question. We were invited to think about our purpose - why do we do what we do, how does that fit with our calling as part of the body, as a parish, as a team, as individual churches? One very strong theme emerged. Many responses spoke of God's love, and our calling to show that love to those around us. It was sometimes a challenge to think beyond 'what we do' to the 'why', but encouraging that almost all the comments were about people not buildings! There was also a tension, which ran through the day, of whether we are about drawing people to us, to our church buildings and acts of worship, or going out to them in mission and service.

The second exercise asked us to look at ourselves and describe what we saw. In the first instance, to look at our personal lives and think about where and how we are. There were some very brave and candid acknowledgments of ill-health, of doubts, of the experience of ageing, and the approach of life's end, but also affirmations of faith and a sense of peace. Describing where we are as Churches also prompted great honesty, recognising that our congregations are mainly getting older, that numbers of regular attendees are lower than in the past, that we are short of

volunteers for key roles in the way the life of the institution is structured. There were also celebrations of welcome, hospitality and outreach, of the ways both old and new in which we are engaging with children and young people in and beyond our traditional services and buildings. 'We are doing lots of things with very few people'.

Finally, we offered our hopes and our fears. Impressively, some people looked beyond our parish boundaries to the world in which we live, which so often seems to be filled with violence, cruelty and the reality and threats of war, and expressed their hope for God's peace to be at work. There were hopes for more people in church, and well-grounded fears that our current pattern of worship and priestly presence are unsustainable.

For those who came, the day was a valued exercise in voicing and sharing our experience as a parish and in listening to others' hopes and fears. It was designed to be an opportunity for us all, whether we see ourselves as holders of key roles within the parish's life or occasional worshippers, to think more deeply and more openly about our purpose and calling, and how we respond to that now, and how we may do in the future. There was an impressive realism in recognising our challenges, but also a buoyant hope in God, and in our participation in God's sending of us as his people. This will be a day on which to build as we think further about that small part of the future which is ours to shape.

Jane.



WICKFORD & RUNWELL MOTHER'S UNION

Our Thursday lunchtime meetings always start in church with “Mid-day Prayers”, praying for the work of the Worldwide Mothers’ Union and for international issues affecting families, this is a practice carried out wherever M.U. members meet in the world and has become known as “The Wave of Prayer”.

Following our time in church on October 5th. We adjourned to St. Andrew’s hall and enjoyed fellowship together over a fish and chip lunch, this was followed by a Chinese Auction which raised £50.

We were delighted to welcome Canon Jane on the evening of Wednesday 18th. recounting her trip to Australia complete with pictures, we all know something of Australia from our TV screens but there is nothing better than some-one who has actually been there describing their experiences and impression of the country. I think we all learned a lot and began to realise how vast the country is. Thank you Jane for a lively and informative evening

Meetings for November

Thursday 2 nd	12 noon	Quiet time in church
	12.30PM	Shared lunch
	1.30pm	Vivien Chapman (Vice President) Social policy of the Mothers@ Union
Wednesday 15 th .	7.30pm	A Guatamalan experience—Sandra Baines

Please note, November 6th. Chelmsford Diocesan Mothers’ Union Council and annual meeting in Chelmsford Cathedral, 11 am Celebration service with Bishop Stephen and special guest Lynne Tenby, our worldwide president

Branch Leader: Mrs Jeannette Cardnell –01268 452309

From our registers:

SEPTEMBER

St Catherine's Church

Baptisms

13th Alfred Gregory
Ava-Ann Remblance
17th Harry Ward
24th Grayson Strange

Weddings

2nd Darren Sailes and Louise Sullivan
9th Neil Haydon and Laura Mancini

St Mary's Church

Baptisms

3rd Madison Lowe
10th Jessica Listed
Isabel Listed
24th Ruby Beck

Weddings

2nd Elanor Browne and Chris Taylor
30th Dineke Robinson and Michael Whiteley

Street Spirit

Some of you may know that I give some of my time (as does Paula, and more recently, Allison) to helping out with a street kitchen for the homeless called Street Spirit. They meet in Clarence road car park in Southend. The founders and the original people that started the group are still active and put much, much more love and effort than I do. Everyone that comes is called a "guest" and they get food and clothes.

The wonderful ladies of Meet and Make have been contributing the blankets and hats and scarves they make for a while now. Production has been speeding up as the weather has drawn in. I can't say how touched I am when that happens, makes me so proud of our community. I have explained where these gifts have come from many times. Meet and Make are well known in our Car Park. Blankets handed out are often met with someone saying "Those blankets your church makes are lovely".

It's very direct, you see the effect a warm blanket has, a scarf for a man or woman whose only clothes are open necked, the gloves on a hand that's ghostly white from days of being stiff frozen. Things like belts, (one chap walked one handed for a week as the trousers he had fell down the moment he let go). The cold ages them very fast, and there are dear friends I still miss who through their various problems found a path to Jesus. Trevor the boxer is a chap I think about all the time, Joe who always played a full repertoire of 60's hits on his guitar.

The thing that lasts apart from some stories that show how inhumane we can be to each other, is how people who in that rough car park come in as shadows yet in a short while are all talking to each other, happy to have bellies full, and essentials replenished. To be looked at in the eye and spoken to, valued as a human being, asked how their week went, how they are, what's happening in their lives is so important. They have been a part of the landscape we hurry past, so the humane contact is vital.

God is in that car park. I have a little store of Gideon's Bibles in my boot and over the years I have given out a few when people promised to read them.

When you're leaving 30-40 people in the cold and wet as you drive home to a nice warm bed, it does make you ponder, when you hear the stories you know how few steps apart we all are. The homeless, some my friends, some I miss very much, all are precious before God and on our doorstep.

Just to add:

Don't throw out your duvet's or belts, or blankets, or clothes (in decent condition please) - men or women's. Thankfully children and babies are rare (we have had homeless mothers and babies). As long as they make it back to St Andrews, or back to me, or need picking up if I can I always will get them to Street Spirit.

Lastly if you don't have any spare clothes etc. , please pray for all those souls in the car park in Southend, as the more you find out the more you know the problems persist because of something inside, and that of course is where our Lord does his best work.

Mike Tricker

The Kingdom

It's a long way off but inside
There are quite different things going on:
Festivals at which the poor man
Is king and the consumptive is
Healed; mirrors in which the blind look
At themselves and love looks at them
Back; and industry is for mending
The bent bones and the minds fractured
By life. It's a long way off, but to get
There takes no time and admission
Is free, if you will purge yourself
Of desire, and present yourself with
Your need only and the simple offering
Of your faith, green as a leaf.

R S Thomas

St. Catherine's Bazaar

Saturday December 2nd

9.30am -12.30pm



St. Catherine's Hall


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

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.

So, what are we doing between now and Christmas:



Advent
Sleep-out



Guy Fawkes

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

Training for Chalice Ministers

2 pm

St Andrew's

19th November

Advent

We will be holding a quiet reflective service during Advent.
There will be a mixture of readings, music and quiet.



St Catherine's Church
Monday 4th, 11th & 18th December
8:30 pm

It will be a time of reflection and stillness. It will allow you to stop and reflect on advent and give you an opportunity to take a break from the busyness of the season.

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Advertising in the Magazine is simple:

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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LRAM**

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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