

in touch

50p

All Saints' Church, Springfield

The postcode for Sat Nav users is CMI 7HS



OCTOBER 2025

www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk



WHO'S WHO

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Assistant Warden

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PCC Secretary

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Children-in-Church Co-ordinator

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All Saints' Connect Café

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Organist

Paul Strong 07732 368624

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From the Revd Sally

Dear Friends

Welcome to Autumn!

As the nights draw in and the days get shorter, please make sure that you keep connected with each other. Come along to the Café on Thursdays, Prayers on Tuesdays or the Communion Service every Wednesday. Mondays are my day off, but I know that there are activities on at the church after lunch which provide a space to meet others.

If you are struggling, please let me know and we can work out a plan. We are beginning to establish a Pastoral Team in order that we can visit more people who are housebound, sick or unable to come to church. If you or anyone that you know would appreciate a visit, then please let me know. It is our responsibility as Christians to reach out the sick, the vulnerable and the lonely in practical as well as spiritual ways. If you feel called to pastoral ministry, then contact me for a chat.

There is a Bradwell Area Vocations Day on Saturday 18th October at Emmanuel Church, Billericay. This is an opportunity for those of you who feel that you would like to do more within the church to explore what is available and where your talents may be used and developed. *Full details are on the next page*. There will be people there to explain the various opportunities. There will also be an opportunity to explore ordination in its many forms if you feel that God is calling you to priesthood. I am happy to talk further with you if you are unsure or need more information, and there are also plenty of experienced volunteers in these roles at All Saints' that would be happy to share their experience.

At the beginning of this month, we are beginning fundraising events that will enable us to carry out essential work to maintain the church and hall buildings. Alongside regular giving, these events will help All Saints' Church continue to serve the community in which we sit. It's important for us to provide a place where people can gather to pray, find solace, get married, baptise their children and say goodbye to their loved ones, as well as a worship space to glorify our generous God. **Come along to the quiz if you can on Saturday 4th October** and look out for the next fundraising event coming soon!!

Lastly, we are having our annual memorial service, to remember those whom we love but see no longer, on Sunday 2nd November at 4pm. Invitations will be sent out, however all are welcome to attend this reflective service, with refreshments afterwards.

Blessings



...if you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this sermon...

Plastic carrier bags

This year marks ten years since England introduced the 5p charge for single-use plastic carrier bags. The charge has had a dramatic effect – with a reduction of 98% in sales

In 2014, 7.6 billion single-use plastic bags were sold in the UK. By 2023, 133 million single-use bags had been sold in the major supermarkets. The average person in the UK now buys only about two single-use plastic bags per year.

We've won the ACE Gold Award!

ACE – the Association for Church Editors – ran a competition this year for church magazines that use black and white printing. So I submitted a couple of our magazines in April.

At the end of September I attended the annual meeting of ACE, which was held in Birmingham. The final item on the day's agenda was the Presentation of Awards. The panel on the right gives the various categories and then the overall Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards were presented. I was delighted to be called up last, to receive the Gold Award.

The citation for our award was read out:

"The Gold award this year goes to a magazine that was a clear winner with outstanding scores. Robin Stevens edits In Touch magazine for All Saints' Springfield Parish Church in Chelmsford, Essex. The magazine aims to keep the local community 'in touch' with the faith of the church, its worship and activities. It is part of the church's communication strategy and is printed at the Diocesan Office. It has an appealing cover, includes some great photos, has a variety of pieces incorporating the Christian message, plus some of general interest, has good quality printing and paper and is a very attractive publication. A worthy winner - well done!"





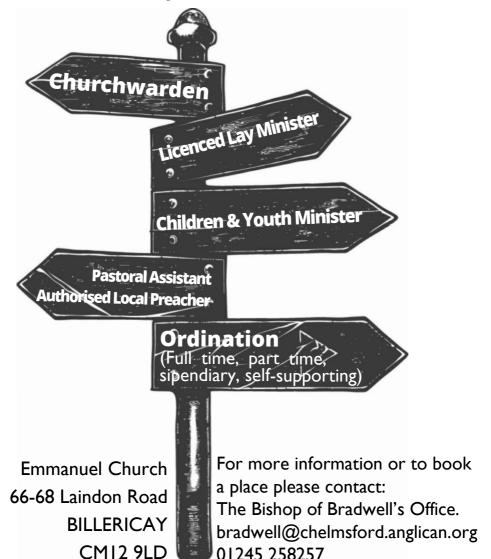
The chairman presents the award

Well done to all those who contribute to our magazine each month.

Robin Stevens

Bradwell Area Vocations Day

9.30am till 1.30pm Saturday 18 October 2025





Reduce, reuse and ... FREEcycle

Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none.

Luke 3:11a

"We do far too much recycling." Really?

Yes, really. We've grown so used to recycling that we feel we're doing our bit for the environment if we just keep up the recycling.

But there are many things – especially household items like furniture and electrical appliances – which are harder to recycle and often end up going to landfill. And it's making new things which generally creates the biggest environmental impacts, from their raw materials, manufacture, packaging, transport, and their eventual recycling or disposal.

The answer? Buy fewer new things in the first place, and instead look for more 'preloved' and refurbished items. This will save money as well as being good for the environment! And when we no longer need things, pass them on to people who can make use of them. There are many ways to do this, here are a few suggestions ...

Chelmsford Freecycle Network

Online freecycle networks are a great community-based way for people to give and get things for free in their local areas, so they are reused and not wasted. First

you sign up by creating an account at www.freecycle.org and joining one or more town groups. Then you can make posts about things you'd like to give away or to receive, and when other group members reply you arrange a pickup time and place. It's as simple as that!

The Chelmsford network is very good and active. Here's a small selection of what's being offered at the time of writing this article: dining chairs, shoe rack, microwave, decorations, wetsuit, electric cooker, glasses, suitcase, music keyboard, clothes lines, baby bouncer, wheelchair ... all available for free!

Charity shops

Donating things you don't need to a charity shop, and buying them from charity shops instead of buying new, is a very good way to ensure they are reused while raising money for worthwhile causes. Charity shops may be more suitable outlets for clothes and smaller household items than the Freecycle network

Buying and selling 'pre-loved'

People used to be reluctant to buy things secondhand – but not anymore! Buying and selling 'pre-loved' clothes has become

quite fashionable as a way for people to update what they wear regularly at a fraction of the cost of buying new. Using websites or shops with a good returns policy ensures they are protected. And it's not just clothes: there are 'marketplace' websites offering just about everything you can think of. Getting a refurbished smartphone, for example, is a lot more cost-effective than purchasing a new one.

Repair - not replace

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it." But if it IS broke, DO fix it if you can. Manufacturers sometimes don't make it easy, but it's nearly always better and cheaper to give something a fresh lease of life by repairing it (or having it repaired) if possible.

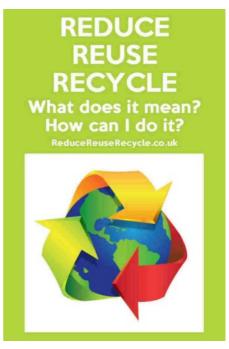
Books, newspapers, magazines

Electronic versions of most books and periodicals (including 'in touch' magazine!) can be read on a mobile, tablet or ereader, often at a lower cost or for free. Some e-publications can be borrowed from the library. This avoids all the environmental impacts of producing and distributing printed versions. You can also adjust the font size to suit your eyes! For printed books, using the library and/or secondhand bookshops is more environmentally-friendly than buying new.

Eco Questionnaire 2025

Please help us by filling in the green lifestyle questionnaire which you'll find on the centre pages of this magazine. I hope this article may be useful when answering question 2: "I try to reduce and reuse my waste as much as I can, and to recycle the rest."

Roger McFarland



To find out more or to share your ideas on Eco Church please go to the website www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk/church-life/eco-church

or speak to one of the Eco Church Group – Roger McFarland, Nicky Morecroft, Chris McFarland, Ian Poston, Dave Gauld, Beth Cornish, Ann Salmon, Shirley Duggan.

This month's eco suggestions

- 'How Green is our Lifestyle?' – it's time for us to fill in All Saints' eco questionnaires for this year
- Adjust heating controls if possible to save energy and money

Prayers we remember

This is one of a monthly series of 'prayers we remember' which I'm sharing with you through in touch magazine, in the hope that you will find them as helpful as I do. They are well-known or special prayers which, I feel, capture what we want to say to God in a way which touches the heart.

St Richard of Chichester (1192-1253) was an orphan member of an aristocratic family. During his life he served as the Chancellor of Oxford University, and Chancellor to two Archbishops of Canterbury. After becoming a priest, in 1244 he was elected Bishop of Chichester.

According to tradition, Richard said this prayer on his deathbed, in Latin. The rhymes (clearly-dearly-nearly) which make the prayer so memorable and powerful today didn't appear in English translations until the early twentieth century. The prayer was also the inspiration for the song 'Day by day' in the 1971 musical Godspell.

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have given us,

for all the pain and insults which you have borne for us.

O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,

may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day.

Amen.

Roger McFarland

Churchyard

As I was away on holiday, Chris McFarland kindly led the gardening team in September.

She told me that "A small but hard working group of gardeners met on a sunny and warm Saturday morning for our monthly tidy up of the churchyard. Most of our time was spent on clearing up the crab apples from the grass and the flower beds at the front of the church.

"The wild flower area was strimmed as now all the seeds will have been dispersed ready for growing in the spring.

"The area around the preschool garden was tidied and unwanted plastic containers were removed.

"Many thanks to all who gave up their Saturday morning to help to keep our churchyard looking beautiful."

The next diary dates to come along to help out are 4 October and 1 November. I hope to see you then for any time you can join us between 9.30am and noon.

Many thanks
Barbara Garside

PASTORAL CARE

New phone number 07421 518372

Peter & Linda Balls

for confidential prayer support

Women's Fellowship

Doreen welcomed us all back after our summer break. She read the story from Matthew 14 about the disciples crossing Lake Galilee, when the water suddenly became very choppy and they were in danger of sinking. Initially terrified at the sight of Jesus walking on the water, Peter accepted His invitation to walk to him and did just that until he took his eyes off Jesus and began to sink. But he was rescued by Jesus's outstretched hand.

Doreen said it reminded her of an old chorus from her childhood:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.

Doreen then welcomed Robin as our speaker, who told us about the cruise he and Elizabeth had taken from the UK to Croatia (the sea remaining calm all the way there and home again!). They crossed the Bay of Biscay into the Mediterranean Sea then all the way to Croatia – passing and calling at many beautiful and interesting places, including Malta and Sicily.

We were treated to many beautiful photos of places basking in the sun with a backdrop of snow on the mountain tops, narrow streets in historic towns, cats



roaming the streets, ancient buildings and beautiful purple flowering Jacaranda trees. He couldn't speak highly enough of all the thought and organisation that had gone into their cruise and I am sure they came home fully refreshed.

Special mention was made and thanks given for Gina playing the piano for us. She feels the time really has come for her to give up but, at 99, we can't complain! We shall miss you, Gina. Thank you.

Gordon has agreed to play for us when he is free to do so.

Our October meeting will be a celebration of Harvest with a ploughman's tea.

Mary Bartlam

Miscellaneous observations on everyday life

People who sing their own praises usually do so without accompaniment. - *Anon*Confidence is keeping your chin up; overconfidence is sticking it out. - *Anon*When you get to the point where you understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.

Calendar for OCTOBER

A recording of the Sunday 10.30am service will be available on YouTube, accessible from the church website, soon after the service.

We	ı	9.30am	Children in Church
		10.00am	Holy Communion
			president & preacher: The Rector
Th	2	2.00pm	All Saints' Connect Café – weekly social gathering
Fr	3	12 noon	Chelmsford Cathedral Lunchtime Concert – Organ
Sa	4	9.30am	An opportunity for churchyard gardening (to noon)
		7.00pm	Quiz Night with a Harvest Supper – tickets £10

Su 5 HARVEST FESTIVAL

8.00am Holy Co	mmunion		
president:	The Rector	preacher:	Robin Stevens

10.30am Worship Together

leader & preacher: The Rector

Mo 6 8.00pm Beer & Bible Hour at the Tulip – all welcome Tu 7 10.00am 'Start the week' prayers in church

We 8 9.30am Children in Church

10.00am Holy Communion president: The Rector

preacher: Dave Gauld

Th 9 2.00pm All Saints' Connect Café – weekly social gathering

2.30pm Women's Fellowship – Harvest Tea

Fr 10 12 noon Chelmsford Cathedral Lunchtime Concert – Forest School Big Band

Sa 11 7.30pm Caprice Autumn Concert at the Girls County High School

Su 12 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR THE NOVEMBER MAGAZINE

10.30am Holy Communion

president: The Rector preacher: Peter Balls

10.30am The Sunday Special Service

leader: Julian Mallett

Mo 13

Pull out, complete and return



How Green is our Lifestyle?

Please help us by filling in this year's short Eco Church questionnaire, so we can compare the results with last year's and see what progress we are making in the ways we care for the environment. You can download copies of the questionnaire from the church website at

www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk/church-life/eco-church

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- ☑ put it in the box in the church porch or at the entrance to the church centre
- ☑ or post/hand deliver it to Roger McFarland, 79 Humber Road CM1 7PF

Please return your completed questionnaires by **Friday 31st October**. *Thank you!*

1.	I see living a 'green' lifestyle as an important part of my Christian faith. Yes \square No \square
2.	I try to reduce and reuse my waste as much as I can, and to recycle the rest. Yes \square No \square Sometimes \square
3.	I enjoy visiting green spaces and being in the countryside. Yes \square No \square
4.	I am interested in the natural world and how I can help wildlife. Yes \square No \square Sometimes \square

5.	I usually walk or cycle to \Box	church se No □		
6.	In my household I/we ha (please tick all that apply) No car □		ollowing	car or cars
	1 petrol/diesel car □	2 or mo	ore petro	ol/diesel cars □
	1 electric car □	2 or mo	re elect	ric cars 🗆
	1 hybrid car □	2 or mo	ore hybr	id cars □
7.	I try to reduce my car use	when I	can.	
	No car □	Yes □	No □	Sometimes □
8.	I try not to use more ener by switching off lights and Yes □	-	ces whe	n not in use).
9.	I use LED bulbs in my ligh Yes □	ts at ho		-
10.	My home electricity is rene Yes □	ewable. No 🗆	Don't k	now □
11.	I have solar panels at hom Yes □			
12.	I have changed my diet to meat and dairy).	o be mo	ore plant	-based (less
	Yes □	No □	Someti	mes 🗆

13. I like to buy Fairtrade goods where possible.
Yes □ No □ Sometimes □
14. I try to buy British/locally-grown or organic food when I can.
Yes □ No □ Sometimes □
15. I take part in activities to help the environment (e.g. litter picking, volunteering, member of an environmental group).
Yes □ No □ Sometimes □
16. My garden has a water butt, compost heap, vegetable growing area, tree, bird feeder and bug hotel.
Most of these \square Some \square None \square No garden \square
17. I support a charity which cares for the environment (like the National Trust or Essex Wildlife Trust).
Yes □ No □
18. I have completed a check to measure my own 'environmental footprint' within the last year.Yes □ No □
163 🗖 116 🗖
19. My bank and/or savings accounts are with 'ethical' organisations which generally don't fund activities that harm the environment.
Yes □ No □ Some □ Don't know □

20. Which of the following Eco Church activities have helped you in living a more environmentally friendly lifestyle? (tick all that apply):
Sermons and talks "in touch" magazine articles Environment Sunday service 'Season of Creation' services ECO event days Church social media posts (Facebook) The church website None of these
I am aged: under 21 □ 21-40 □ 41-60 □ Over 60 □
I often go to All Saints' services in the Church Sunday Special Children-in-Church Online □ Other/none
Do you have any other comments?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Tu 14 10.00am 'Start the week' prayers in church 7.30pm The Ministry Team meets 9.30am Children in Church We I5 10.00am Holy Communion president & preacher: Canon Keith Anderson Th 16 2.00pm All Saints' Connect Café – weekly social gathering Fr 17 12 noon Chelmsford Cathedral Lunchtime Concert - Violin Sa 18 LUKE THE EVANGELIST 9.30am Bradwell Area Vocations Day (see page3) Su **EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY** 8.00am Holy Communion president & preacher: The Rector 10.30am Morning Prayer leader & preacher: Julian Mallett 10.30am Sunday Special Holy Communion president: The Rector

Su 26 LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.30am Holy Communion
president & preacher: Canon Keith Anderson
10.30am The Sunday Special Service
leader: Roger McFarland
Mo 27
Tu 28 SIMON & JUDE, APOSTLES
10.00am 'Start the week' prayers in church
We 29 9.30am Children in Church

10.00am Holy Communion

president & preacher: Canon Keith Anderson

Th 30 Fr 31 12 noon Chelmsford Cathedral Lunchtime Concert – *choir*

Celebration time!

On the morning of Sunday 31st August a large congregation, with many familiar faces and some new ones, gathered in the churchyard for a Communion service to celebrate All Saints' Eco Church Gold Award

The service was led by the Ven Jonathan Croucher, Archdeacon of Chelmsford. We thanked God for the fine sunny weather, for his wonderful creation, and for enabling the vision and actions which had led to the award. We asked God to give us the strength and the determination to keep on caring for his creation as well as we can.

In his address, the Archdeacon spoke about how Jesus had stressed the importance of putting words into action — and Eco Church is a good example of doing that. Looking after God's creation and sharing what he has given us with people in need and people coming from other countries, have always been core Christian responsibilities.

During the service we were all invited to make a promise to do something specific to reduce our carbon emissions, such as to use less energy, or change how we travel, or buy fewer new things, or eat less meat. or plant a tree. Our promises were written on 'hands' and used to make a Season of Creation display.



After the service Chelmsford's MP Marie Goldman, with her husband City Councillor Simon Goldman, came to see us. Our eco group were able to show them what All Saints' has been doing to help the environment, and to discuss with Marie the opportunities to press for action on climate change within Parliament.

Meanwhile the rest of the congregation enjoyed a delicious and abundant bring-and-share picnic!

Roger McFarland



The ECO Church Group with the MP, the Archdeacon and others.

Peace, justice and hope for Creation Monday 6 October 202 **Chelmsford Cathedral**

Evensong with a Creation Theme

5.15pm

Including an address from Bishop Roger, Diocesan Environment Lead and participation from a secondary school in the Diocese.

Refreshments and stalls

6.00pm

A chance to chat and find out about some of the organisations you or your church could link with or get involved in.

Panel O&A

6.30pm



Gideon Commey, Eco Theologian and Founder of Ghana Youth Environmental Movement and Wild Rain ecovillage.

Rev. Vanessa Elston, Vicar of St. Barnabas, Southfields, Chaplain to the Bishop of Kingston, and pioneer for climate spirituality and action.

Paul Powlesland, Founder of Lawyers for Nature, barrister and river guardian, campaigner for the rights of nature.

Save the date

Saturday 6th December

Christmas Fayre

10am - 12 noon

If you'd like to be involved, please speak to Sue Chorley or Sally Smith



PEACE

It's all about GRACE

If you ask your computer about Grace, you get this - "God's grace is a theological concept referring to God's unmerited favour, a free and spontaneous gift of divine kindness that cannot be earned, but rather received by faith".

Grace is often described as God's love in action, providing what is not deserved and allowing us to live as children of the Almighty. Many years ago we were given this acronym, that Grace is -

God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

Both of these sayings are partly correct, but miss the awesomeness of God. What Jesus did for us by His sacrifice on the cross cannot be summed up in a clever little acronym. What would be the meaning or the purpose of our life if it were just, being born, growing up, working, getting old and dying?

I know that during these various stages of life we enjoy many highs and lows, but what is the purpose of life without hope for the future. The grace of God offers all, the forgiveness from past and future sin, the hope of eternal life with him in heaven, the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to move in power and give the Glory to God. Also, to be part of his family ensuring our future inheritance. Grace is also about being "Holy and blameless in God's sight".

This is all such a tiny part of the meaning of grace!

We were also encouraged to "Look at the Creator and not his Creation".

Again this is partly correct, but to not look at both is missing the point. God's creation is magnificent and full of wonder as yet unseen. There will always be more to discover!

The danger is that we start to worship creation and take our eyes off the creator of all things. I believe that Grace and God's Creation are linked.

Let me try and explain. On television now, we get so many pictures taken by drones. What we cannot see at ground level looks so beautiful from an elevated viewing. I wonder, do you have a picture in your mind right now, of a scene that was so beautiful that you wanted to bottle it and take it home? Take a moment now to think about what that memory was like. I'm trying to make the point that the beautiful scene was there before you saw it, and it was there after you had seen it. It didn't disappear or fade, it was visible before you saw it, and will be visible to those who come along after you.

God's grace is like that! It's always there and forever will be. God's Grace and forgiveness will always be there for any person who asks Jesus to be Lord! We can't earn it, we can't buy it. Grace is freely given by God and was purchased through His Son Jesus.

Please take a moment to ask for Grace. God will give it to you.

We would love to hear your thoughts. God bless you.

Peter and Linda.

How Christianity 'works' in China

Pat Otter drew our attention to this piece in the Bible Society's "World in Action" summer magazine. It was written by a lady who works at China Partnership, which helps organise Bible Society's work in China.

China has a population of more than 1.4 billion. There are 46 million Christians according to official estimates, but the real number could be around 100 million.

According to China's Constitution, citizens enjoy freedom of religious beliefs, and the government officially recognises five religions: Christianity, Catholicism, Islam, Buddhism and Taoism. To legally attend any religious service, receive religious education and practise any religion, one must be 18 or older. For foreigners visiting, working or studying in China, the country's laws also protect their rights to practise their religions as long as their practices are compliant with the country's religious regulations.

China requires places for religious worship and religious personnel to be registered with the government. Religious instruction, training and evangelism can only take place in registered places of religious worship and not in public spaces. Registered Christian churches are allowed to operate bookstores to sell religious publications including Bibles, Christian books and other religious paraphernalia. Christians who need such items can purchase them from these bookstores and not online.

For religious groups and religious personnel, including those from Christianity, that refuse to register

themselves with the authorities, they are illegal. In some places where the enforcement of religious regulations are not as strict, such unregistered groups could still run their religious activities, although not without risks. But in other places with strict enforcement of religious regulations, unregistered religious groups will be prevented from gathering and their activities can be stopped.

In Bible Society's nearly 40 years of serving the registered churches in China, we have not heard of these churches being persecuted. They do face restrictions at times in what they can or cannot do, but they are not persecuted. They continue to gather for worship and administer the sacraments, preach the Gospel, print and distribute Bibles and conduct discipleship training. However, for unregistered churches, because they are illegal, their situation will vary depending on how strictly the local authorities enforce the laws on religious regulations on them.



A preacher ministers to a group of Christians in a believer's home in rural Chongqing last September. 'God Loves the World' is written on the wall. Photo credit: UBS/CP



on Saturday 4th October at 7.00pm

Tickets £10 – include a harvest platter Bring your own tipple

Make up your own team (8 max)

or come as individuals and we'll link you up into teams

Robin Sciences you up into teams but don't let but bot you all Bring cash for the raffle!

Tickets available from The Rector, Sue Chorley 07835 255707 and Robin Stevens 01245 268042



Our next monthly meeting is on Monday 6th October from 8pm until 9pm.

We are going to look at the Book of Ruth which is a short story but is filled with reference to grief, hope, love, and much of what we need for living in today's culture.

Following meeting - Monday 3rd November Peter & Linda Balls

> You are welcome to this very informal opportunity to meet and discover, chat and meet new friends

This is an initiative of All Saints' Church, Springfield







capriceorchestra.co.uk



£35 PER PERSON MAX 8 GUESTS

THURSDAY **16 OCTOBER** 12-3 PM

LITTLE CHANNELS CHELMSFORD

f 📵 X

MSE.CHARITY@NHS.NET 0300 443 0052



All Saints' Orchestra

All Saints' Orchestra Springfield was founded in 2005 by Joy Bome MBE to give people of all ages the opportunity of playing together and it continues to meet monthly in the Church Hall.

Its membership has expanded to bring in younger players and those from a wider area. There are regularly around forty players who come and enjoy making music on a Saturday morning from 09.30am - 12.00pm.

Recently the orchestra has given concerts in Writtle and Stock churches to enthusiastic audiences as well as performing seasonal music in the run up to Christmas in the Church Hall, All Saints' Springfield.

So, we do encourage those of you who play (or used to play) a musical instrument to come along for a 'taster' session on a Saturday morning. Come and join a very friendly group who believe in the need to create music, which is above all a heavenly gift and one that is badly needed these days.

The Saturday rehearsals in the next few months will be held on October 18th, November 15th, December 20th and January 17th.



Two concert dates:

- Saturday 29th November at 3pm. in Stock Church
- Saturday 20th December at 12pm. in the Church Hall, Springfield

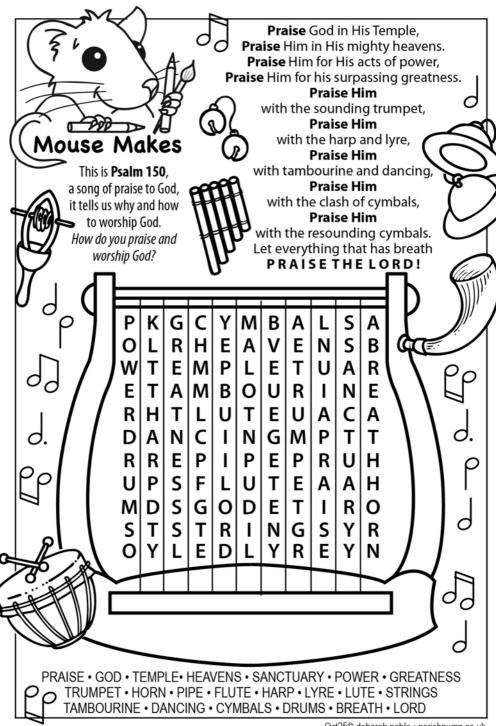
We look forward to seeing you! Please contact Peter Cross on 01245 631248



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