



in touch

50p

All Saints' Church, Springfield

The postcode for Sat Nav users is CMI 7HS



All Saints' Church,
Springfield

APRIL 2026

www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk



Congratulations to Gina Shadrack, who celebrates her 100th birthday this month

WHO'S WHO

Rector

The Revd Sally Croft 07850 361101
The Rectory, 4 Old School Field, CM1 7HU
rector@allsaintsspringfield.org.uk
(Day off: Monday)

Priests with PTO*

Revd Keith Anderson 07731 904550
keith.anderson20@btinternet.com

Revd Andy Hudson 07946 115396
andrewjhudson57@gmail.com

Churchwarden, PTO* Reader, Magazine & weekly sheet editor

Robin Stevens 01245 268042
rmsrobin@icloud.com

Churchwarden

Sue Potts 07855 802867
susan_a_potts@yahoo.co.uk

Vice chair of the PCC

Barbara Garside 01245 258343
bgarsideAS@gmail.com

Parish Administrator, Facebook editor

Bex Shaper 07873 215612
administrator@allsaintsspringfield.org.uk
Working hours: part time

PTO* Reader, Website editor,

Eco Church Coordinator

Roger McFarland 07900 906929
roger.mcfarland@icloud.com

PTO* Reader

Pat Otter 01245 267093
pshea@otters.me.uk

Assistant Warden, &

Authorised Local Preacher

David Gauld 01245 357276
dave.gauld@blueyonder.co.uk

Authorised Local Preachers

Julian Mallett 07538 551166
julian_mallett@yahoo.co.uk

Peter Balls 07984 099632
peterbe63@yahoo.com

Assistant Warden

Jack Spencer 07904 957544
jspencer1879@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Karen Tsui 07362 256433
safeguarding@allsaintsspringfield.org.uk

PCC Treasurer

Ian Poston 01245 264124
treasurer@allsaintsspringfield.org.uk

PCC Secretary

Paula Hiatt 01245 283729
secretary@allsaintsspringfield.org.uk

Sunday Special Co-ordinator

Carol Leverett 07774 660092
carol.leverett@btinternet.com

Children-in-Church Co-ordinator

Jan Penney 01245 351586
1957jdp@gmail.com

Church Flowers

Christine McFarland 01245 263112
chris.mcf23@icloud.com

Boys' Brigade – contact

Liam White 07837 260031
captain@7thchelmsford.org.uk

Women's Fellowship

Doreen Cox 01245 612288
doreencox59@hotmail.co.uk

All Saints' Connect Café

Contact the Rector (*see above*)

Ringling Master

Philip Saunders 07764 355917
saundersp4@sky.com

All Saints' Orchestra

Peter Cross 01245 631248
peterandsuecross@gmail.com

Electoral Roll

Peter Downes 07758 729559
22 Sherborne Road

Planned Giving & Gift Aid Recorders

Tim & Angela Pearce 01245 465577
plannedgiving@allsaintsspringfield.org.uk

Organist

Paul Strong 07732 368624
k.strong1@btinternet.com

Pastoral Care

Peter & Linda Balls 07421 518372

For confidential prayer support

* PTO = Permission to officiate

From the Revd Sally

Dear Friends

I hope this magazine finds you well and enjoying the Easter celebrations. I am off on a pilgrimage to Rome after Easter. I am walking the last 100km of the Via Francigena from Viterbo to Rome, which takes around 6 days. The full route from Canterbury to Santa Maria di Leuca in the Puglia region of Italy is around 3,200km, approx. 2,000 miles, and I am not sure I can take that amount of time off!

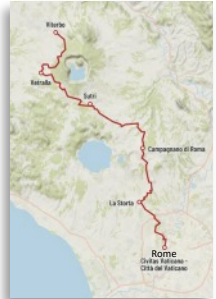
This will be my third walking pilgrimage, the first was back in October 2019 in preparation for my Ordination. I walked with four friends along the beginning of the Camino Frances from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port in the foothills of the Pyrenees, over the mountains into Spain, ending in Logrono, the capital of the Rioja region. The second walk was just before I joined All Saints' in April 2023. This time we walked the last 100km into Santiago de Compostela.

I find the rhythm of walking over a period of days a time when I can truly relax and reflect. The noise of everyday life is silenced, and I find space to connect with God in his creation. There is no expectation, no rules, no agenda, but to arrive at some point that day in the next town along the route. We carry our food and drink (we opted out of carrying our bags, it is supposed to be a holiday not an endurance test), eat when we are hungry and stop for a coffee when we are tired.

We all need to set time aside to silence the noise of the world and find God again. We need to set aside time to reconnect and hear what God is telling us. How are you called to do this?

It's halfway through the 100 days of prayer in which we are praying for the future, sustainability and mission of our churches across this diocese and in particular for us here in Springfield. How is this going for you?

On Sunday 19th of April we are holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, APCM. This is when we review the past year and elect our churchwardens, deanery synod representatives and PCC members. This year we are meeting directly after the church services in The Traditional and Sunday Special Church, and this year we are going to hear from our younger members of the congregation about what church means to them.



From the Rector continued

I urge you all to put your Sunday lunch back an hour and stay to hear about your church and the exciting things we have been doing and what God is calling us to do with our church and outreach in the community.

I think that All Saints' is a growing, thriving, engaging place in which to worship and feed ourselves with the spirit of God, but then to take that spirit into our community and share the Good News of the Gospel of Christ. But in order to continue to grow we all need play our part and uphold one another in whatever way God is calling us.

So use this time to 'walk' your own pilgrimage, listening to God's plans for you and how you need to use your talents to join the growing Body of Christ at All Saints' Church

Joyous Easter Blessings



Nooks & Crannies

This story starts at the March Women's Fellowship meeting when a member told me how she had recently worn a ring to a Sunday service but later found it missing from her finger. Had it slipped off in church, perhaps?

Knowing it was my turn on the rota for church cleaning the following week I assured her that I would look for the ring.

On thinking about this task, I thought it would be best to take a torch with me to use. So there I was, a few days later, torch clutched in one hand, broom in the other.

Did I find the ring? Sadly, no. But I thought you may be interested to see the list of the things I did find in the nooks and crannies (apart from fluff and cobwebs):

- Fifteen coins to the sum of £2.69;
- One Polish 10 groszy coin (hands up if

you know how much that's worth).
[Editor: 2p];

- Four small plastic toys;
 - Two colouring pens;
 - One pencil, one Biro, one Biro lid;
 - Two hearing aid batteries;
 - One chunky bead;
 - One rubber heel from a lady's shoe;
 - Two crumpled tissues;
 - One sticky jelly baby, plus half of a bourbon biscuit – which only goes to prove we don't have a church mouse!
- No two items were found together.

Church cleaning is usually uneventful, so if you have a spare hour or so every five weeks do come and join one of the teams, you would be very welcome.

Brenda Harris



Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday – 29 March

10.30am Holy Communion, starting with a procession

10.30am The Sunday Special Service

Monday 30 March

7.30pm Compline

Tuesday 31 March

7.30pm Compline

Wednesday 1 April

10.00am Holy Communion

7.30pm Compline

Maundy Thursday – 2 April

7.30pm Holy Communion – ending in silence

Good Friday – 3 April

9.40am Walk of Witness gathers on Springfield Green
for the walk with other churches into the city.

11.00am United Act of Worship in the High Street

2.00pm A service of readings and music in church

Easter Day – 5 April

8.00am Holy Communion

followed by an Easter Breakfast in the hall at 9.00am

10.30am Communion Together

‘Enjoy your meal!’

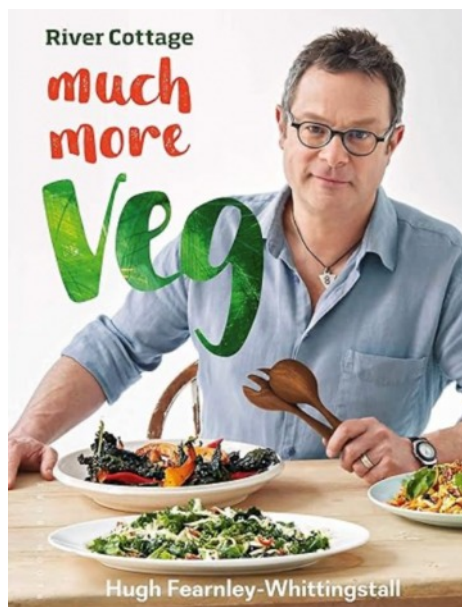
God said, ‘Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food.’ *Genesis 1:29*

In our house we enjoy having mostly vegetarian meals; so, for this month’s eco article, we’d like to share some of our favourite recipe ideas! Vegetarian food is tasty, healthy, easy to prepare, and cheaper than eating meat. It’s also better for the environment because of lower greenhouse gas emissions.

There’s a huge range of ingredients which can make delicious veggie meals. As well as the usual vegetables, we use things like mushrooms, avocados, aubergines, peppers, pulses, sweet corn, asparagus, nuts and sweet potatoes to add variety and flavour – not forgetting veggie sausages and burgers! And in case you’re worried about ‘food miles’, a lot of vegetables that used to be imported are now grown in greenhouses in the UK.

For a typical breakfast, cereals, toast and pastries are all vegetarian. If you’d like a cooked breakfast, you could try veggie sausages and sliced avocado with your fry-up, or a mushroom omelette.

At lunchtime we often have soup. We start by sautéing a potato and onion, and then add vegetables and stock to cook them before liquidising. Parsnip and apple, carrot and coriander, and pea and mint are some of our favourites.



Vegetarian quiches, pasties, pâtés, dips with crudités, jacket potatoes, and salads are all good for a lunch or a light meal. The halloumi, broad bean and tomato salad with a dressing is especially good!

Many main meals containing meat can be adapted to be vegetarian. For instance, a lamb curry recipe can be changed into a very nice mushroom and potato curry. Kedgeree can be turned into ‘vegeree’ by leaving out the fish and adding roasted aubergines and courgettes sprinkled with

curry powder. Mushroom stroganoff is made the same way as beef stroganoff. Pea and parmesan risotto uses the hard cheese instead of ham to complement the pea flavour. ‘Spaghetti bolognese’ made with lentils and tomato purée tastes surprisingly like the meat version! Vegetable paella, vegetarian shepherd’s pie, and veggie lasagne are all straightforward to prepare using all kinds of vegetables. And if you like pasta, rice and stir-fry dishes, there are countless recipes to choose from.

On Sundays we often have a nut roast made with a variety of nuts, plus all the other roast trimmings. Or it could be stuffed mushrooms; or a mixture of roasted peppers, aubergine and courgettes topped with halloumi cheese; or Yorkshire puddings filled with vegetables cooked in a sauce.

One of our favourite recipes is cabbage rice! It sounds boring but it’s delicious. Fry one grated onion, carrot and half a cabbage until tender. Add a cup of cooked rice and some soy sauce, stir, and serve topped with roasted cashews!

Desserts and cakes are nearly all vegetarian, so you can just stick with those you like best and tuck in.

And finally, is veggie eating *good* for you? There isn’t space to go into the details here, but research has shown that a

balanced vegetarian diet provides all the protein, vitamins and other nutrients that are needed for a healthy life. And compared with non-

vegetarians, on average vegetarians have lower blood pressure, lower cholesterol, and a lower overall risk of getting heart disease, type 2 diabetes, or cancer. So, even if you don’t want to go fully vegetarian, having fewer meat meals and more veggie food can be good for your health, as well as being really nourishing and enjoyable. Why not give it a try?



Chris and Roger McFarland

This month's eco suggestions

- **3Rs:** **reduce** how much we buy, **re-use** what we've finished with, and **recycle** what can't be re-used
- **Go green with money** through ethical banking and savings – find out how at justmoney.org.uk

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.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

We are trying an experiment this year in that we are holding our meeting straight after the 10.30am morning services on Sunday 19th April. Moving from worship into the meeting will help to highlight that this meeting celebrates our church life and provides a vital opportunity for shaping its future. It's more than a purely bureaucratic necessity. We can enjoy our usual refreshments during the meeting.

You may have questions about what is this meeting for, what will happen and can I be there?

Election of churchwardens

However, before the APCM takes place, there is a very short meeting called the Vestry Meeting, to elect the churchwardens. This is a separate meeting because anyone who lives in the parish can attend and vote, whether they come to church or not. The churchwardens can be anybody from the parish as long as they are "actual communicants, baptised and over 21". They are the only people who have the authority to evict people from church! Their term of office is for one year.

What is the APCM?

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is an important annual gathering where church members review the past year and plan for the future. There will be an opportunity to receive and discuss various reports that will be presented, including:

- The financial accounts of the church (*you can read a summary on coloured pages in the centre of this magazine*)
- A review of the church's activities over the past year. You can read the written reports at <https://shorturl.at/LDRvU>. Ask if you need printed copies.

We will also elect our representatives on the Deanery Synod and new PCC members, but only those named on our Electoral Roll can vote.

What is the Electoral Roll?

The Electoral Roll is the official register of church members. You can put your name on the roll if you are baptised, aged 16 or over, live in the parish or have worshipped regularly for 6 months. It is not the same as a civil electoral register used for political elections, but rather a way for church members to have a voice in how their church is run.

Being on the Electoral Roll allows you to:

- Vote at the APCM, but your name must be on the roll before 4th April.
- Stand for election to the PCC.
- Help shape the future of the church's mission and ministry.

What is the PCC?

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the governing body of a parish church. It is responsible for making decisions about church life, finances, and mission.

The Church's rules say that "it shall be the duty of the Rector and the parochial church council to consult together in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical."

So eating cake is an important part! Our PCC meets six times a year and comprises:

- The Rector
- The two Churchwardens (who are officers of the bishop)
- Three Deanery Synod representatives (who connect the church with the wider diocese).
- Twelve elected lay members (who represent the congregation).

Each year, four members have to step down, meaning **we need new people** to join to ensure the congregation – both traditional and the Sunday Special Service – are well represented.

You don't need to be an expert in anything – just come with a willingness to pray together, share your thoughts, and work as part of a team.

Why does this matter?

Having your name on the Electoral Roll, attending the APCM, and electing members to the PCC are all ways in which church members can actively participate in the life and governance of our parish. These structures ensure that the church remains accountable, well-managed, and focused on its mission to serve God and the community.

If you are not yet on the Electoral Roll, consider signing up - it's a great way to show your commitment and get involved in the future of your church! Peter Downes' contact details are on the inside front cover of this magazine.

If you have never been to the annual meetings why not give them a try?

What me? PCC?

Every year a number of PCC members retire having served on the council for three years. It would be great if you could

think about offering yourself for membership of the PCC or as a representative of the church on the Chelmsford deanery synod. Further details of what it means to be on the PCC can be obtained from the Rector, the church wardens or any current PCC member.

So, in summary, what's in it for me?

- The APCM is the place for church members to ask questions, influence decisions, and shape the future of their church.
- Those who have put their names on the Electoral Roll have the power to elect members to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and vote on key decisions.
- Those who attend the meeting show their commitment to our Church in the community and help the church stay well-managed and focused on its mission.

Robin Stevens



Calendar for APRIL

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

- We 1 10.00am Holy Communion
president & preacher: The Rector
7.30pm Compline
- Th 2 MAUNDY THURSDAY
2.00pm All Saints' Connect Café – weekly social gathering
7.30pm Holy Communion
president: The Rector *preacher:* Roger McFarland
- Fr 3 **GOOD FRIDAY**
9.40am Walk of Witness gathers on Springfield Green
11.00am United Act of Worship in the High Street
2.00pm A service of readings and music in the church
- Sa 4 9.30am An opportunity for churchyard gardening (to noon)

Su 5 EASTER DAY

8.00am Holy Communion

president & preacher: The Rector

followed by an Easter Breakfast in the hall

10.30am Communion Together

president: The Rector

preacher: Julian Mallett

Mo 6

Bank Holiday

8.00pm Beer & Bible Hour at The Tulip – all welcome

Tu 7

10.00am 'Start the week' prayers in church

We 8

10.00am Holy Communion

president & preacher: The Revd Andy Hudson

Th 9

2.00pm All Saints' Connect Café – weekly social gathering

2.30pm Women's Fellowship – National Coastguard

Fr 10

Sa 11 9.30am Family (Prayer) Breakfast at Wetherspoons

Su 12 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR THE MAY MAGAZINE

10.30am Holy Communion

president & preacher: The Revd Andy Hudson

10.30am The Sunday Special Service

leader: Julian Mallett

Financial Affairs of the Church

The highlights of 2025 (*in round figures*)

Barbara Garside, chair of the finance committee, and Ian Poston, treasurer, unpack the details:

Giving & income

- There are now 62 members in our Planned Giving Scheme. Planned Giving in 2024 contributed £70,000, with Gift Aid providing an additional £20,000 of income tax reclaimed from the taxman.
- The cash in collection bags provided income of just over £6,000 this year.
- Fewer fundraising events were held this year and brought in £4,500. Donations of £8,200 were also received, which provided a very welcome addition to our income. Some gifts were given with Gift Aid, which is included in the £20,000 noted above.
- Income from the use of the church centre continues to improve and has finally returned to pre-Covid levels. Donations generated £15,800.
- The PCC receives a small fee for our clergy or lay ministers officiating at funeral services at the crematorium. These fees together with those for wedding and funeral services held in church provided income of £2,300.
- Advertising in the church magazine provided income of £700 with the sales of the magazine more than covering the print costs.
- The house we own in Chichester Drive provided rental income of almost £12,300, which represents a good return on the capital tied up in the property.
- As the churchyard is closed, maintenance is the responsibility of Chelmsford City Council. Members of the congregation undertake the day-to-day upkeep and maintenance of the grounds and the PCC is able to apply for a small grant to cover costs. We received a grant of £470. We are most grateful for this grant which helps to cover the relevant costs.

What we spent

- Having again been assessed in 2025 for Parish Share of over £102,000, we were only able to pay £72,000. (70.5%)
- We were still able to pay the usual bills to heat, light and insure the church buildings.
- From the General Fund we spent £34,600 on repairs and maintenance of the church and church centre, and £830 at Chichester Drive.
- From the General Fund we again gave £200 to the Bishop's School, £25 to the Friends of Chelmsford Cathedral, and £18 to The Royal British Legion in lieu of a new poppy wreath. Total £243.
- In 2025 we gave our Independent Examiner a thank you gift voucher for £50 in recognition of her undertaking the examination of the 2024 accounts and for the assistance she provided to the Treasurer and PCC throughout the year, all at no cost.

Charitable giving

- Our level of charitable giving was at a slightly lower level this year with donations made through collections at services e.g. Remembrance Sunday and at Christmas.

Increasingly people are making their own personal donations directly to the charities through online giving.

- We were able to support the Angel Tree Project, The Children's Society, The Church Army, YMCA Essex, Church Mission Society, Embrace the Middle East, A Rocha UK (for Eco Church), Chelmsford CHES, Chelmsford Foodbank, Leprosy Mission, Macmillan Cancer Support, and the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.
- The total amount donated was £3,172 and some of this was also given with Gift Aid.

And this resulted in...

Having supplemented our contribution to the Diocese for Parish Share, we ended the year with a very small surplus on the General Fund of £339. The amount of General Funds retained in hand is maintained at a level to accommodate cash flow variations during the year.

Church Estate

During 2019 with the permission from the Charity Commissioners, the assets of the Church Estate (Charity number 227437) were transferred to the PCC.

The Church Estate charity was closed in 2020. The PCC now holds this permanent endowment, and will continue to use the income from the transferred assets for the original purpose, which is for the use and repair of the church or the poor of the parish.

Statutory Accounts

The Statutory Accounts are an integral part of this report. There is also a summary account available for the church's General Fund. This includes all the day-to-day activities of the church but does not include the funds the PCC holds that are for a special purpose e.g. maintenance of the church building.

Canon Barrie Gauge writes:

We believe God is calling us to growth, to the building of his kingdom in terms of both the deepening of our faith and the seeking to serve others. We are essentially in the church growth business. We are not about simply keeping the institution going but about enabling the creation of a context for Kingdom people. Essential to growth is the encouragement to focus on purpose and direction. Of course the growth of which we speak cannot be produced by man; it is God's doing. Don't ask what will make a church grow but rather, what keeps it from growing?

There are no quick, slick solutions to the matter of church finance. In most parishes the church is a substantial 'organisation' which incurs considerable costs in terms of stipendiary ministry, buildings, maintenance and mission. In a large number of parishes it is inadequately resourced. This is because many, even the majority, of committed members have not given realistic consideration and thought to their giving or to the vision for mission. People are not intentionally mean about giving. It is just not something many have thought about properly.

Levels of Giving must not be determined purely by need. Giving motivated by an overflowing heart in gracious 'hilarity' (2 Corinthians 9:7) and in faithful response to the love and generosity of God will lead and not follow the Church's expenditure.

General Fund Accounts for 2025

Sunday 19th April is the date of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Will you be there to hear how our Church has progressed in the past year (not just financially) and to learn of its future mission? Moneywise the required Statutory Report & Accounts will be presented as required. However, they do not show separately the financial detail of the important GENERAL ACCOUNT which covers the day-to-day running of the Church to maintain its mission. To remedy that and to reach a wider readership it is summarised below.

INCOME	2025	2024	EXPENDITURE	2025	2024
	£	£		£	£
Planned giving	70,001	68,939	Parish share paid	72,000	88,000
Income Tax recovered	19,541	19,232	Church services/Youth activities	8,646	10,296
General collections	<u>6,089</u>	<u>5,282</u>	Admin, incl. printing,		
Sub-total	95,631	93,453	stationery & telephone	7,896	8,083
Wedding & Funeral fees	2,325	2,140	Burial ground & gardens	150	391
Donations	5,271	7,049	Clergy and rectory expenses	1,383	430
Fete, Bazaar & other events	4,249	6,475	Magazine costs	765	750
Magazine sales & adverts	2,023	1,992	Church heat, light, insurance	8,978	10,308
Use of Church Centre	15,851	11,877	Other building expenses inc		
Rent	12,280	11,925	final payment for organ refurb	35,882	9,807
Grants	4,626	–	Charity donations excluding		
In memoriam	–	47	special collections	243	443
Other	355	332	Costs re events	556	1,186
			Centre cleaning/consumables	3,417	3,387
			Other	1,186	2,298
TOTAL	142,611	135,290	TOTAL	141,103	135,379

Our income is increasing slowly although it still has not yet reached the levels achieved prior to the coronavirus pandemic. Notwithstanding this, giving at services and Planned Giving levels have increased compared to 2024. Donations have decreased over 2024 as people have returned to services as their frequency increases.

Our expenses in 2025 are considerably higher than 2024 as a result of the expenditure needed to repair the Church and the Church Centre roof together with some sudden and unforeseen costs arising from storm damage to trees on the Trinity Road burial site. As a result of these costs we were unable to pay all of the Parish Share requested by the Diocese. We were able to pay £72,000 representing 70.5% of the amount requested.

Although our income exceeded our Expenses for the year by £1,508 our Reserves increased by a smaller amount from £15,117 to £15,456 as a result of the need to transfer some funds to our Church and Church Centre reserves to cover some of the cost of future work needed. This Reserve compares to our monthly expenditure which in 2026 is forecast to average around £12,700.

Any query on the above figures? Then visit the APCM to find your answer.

- Mo 13
 Tu 14 10.00am 'Start the week' prayers in church
 We 15 9.30am Children in Church
 10.00am Morning Prayer
 leader: Dave Gauld *preacher:* Pat Otter
 Th 16 2.00pm All Saints' Connect Café – weekly social gathering
 Fr 17 12 noon Chelmsford Cathedral Lunchtime Concert – *Men2Sing*
 Sa 18

Su 19 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00am Holy Communion

president: The Rector *preacher:* Robin Stevens

10.30am Morning Prayer

leader & preacher: Robin Stevens

10.30am Sunday Special Holy Communion

president: The Rector

11.30am The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- Mo 20
 Tu 21 10.00am 'Start the week' prayers in church
 7.30pm The Ministry Team meets
 We 22 9.30am Children in Church
 10.00am Holy Communion
president & preacher: The Rector
 Th 23 GEORGE, MARTYR, PATRON OF ENGLAND
 2.00pm All Saints' Connect Café – weekly social gathering
 Fr 24 12 noon Chelmsford Cathedral Lunchtime Concert – *piano*
 Sa 25 MARK THE EVANGELIST

Su 26 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.30am Holy Communion

president: The Rector *preacher:* Cristian Bora

10.30am The Sunday Special Service

leader: Roger McFarland

- Mo 27
 Tu 28 10.00am 'Start the week' prayers in church
 We 29 9.30am Children in Church
 10.00am Holy Communion
president: The Rector *preacher:* Pat Otter
 7.30pm The PCC's Standing Committee meets on zoom
 Th 30 2.00pm All Saints' Connect Café – weekly social gathering

Churchyard

It was rather soggy underfoot in the churchyard in early March, but we had a good team as usual and one new member too. We mainly worked on tidying up the border along the back of the centre as this was most in need. We removed a lot of brambles and weeds as the herbaceous plants in there were all struggling to show their new season's growth underneath.

The grass is also starting to need a first cut, as and when we get a couple of drier days together! One of the grass-cutting team retired at the end of last season, after long service, so we are looking for a new person to take over one of the three sections. All the necessary equipment is provided, and this job can be done at any time to suit the volunteer. Do contact me if you can help.

The monthly gardening team meet on the first Saturday of each month and the next dates are 4 April, 2 May, and 6 June. Any time you can help out between 9.30am and noon is very much appreciated. I hope to see you there.

Many thanks

Barbara Garside



Some of the tools take a well-earned rest!

Women's Fellowship

Safeguarding at All Saints' – Karen Tsui

Safeguarding is an integral part of how our parish church works. It includes risk assessment, insurance protection and safer recruitment for our shared activities. It is not just to protect children or vulnerable elderly people but also adults like us. Karen gave examples of cases where people were being abused and gave us warning signs of what to look out for.

How I wished I'd known a "Karen" 20 years ago when, in a previous parish, I realised an elderly woman with mobility problems was being abused by her grandson and his wife. They had systematically eaten all her food, spent her savings and collected her pension each week. The kitchen cupboards and fridge were empty. I went to Social Services feeling a bit guilty and wondered if I was being a nosy, interfering neighbour. Should I mind my own business? Thankfully Social Services were a great help and made it impossible for anyone to steal her pension and lots more people were able to help her.

Karen said that if we ever had any doubts about any situation we can always talk to her first.

In April we will have a talk about the National Coastguards.

Mary Bartlam

Getting to know...

Originally from Yorkshire, I was ordained in 1993 after previously working in a number of jobs including labourer in an ice cream factory, photographer, printer, parcel delivery driver, and assistant warden in a night shelter for homeless men.

I served in a number of parishes in South Yorkshire, before arriving to work in Essex in 2004. Here I served in the Parish of St Stephen in Purfleet, which was a dual role including workplace chaplaincy.

After thirteen years we moved to Benfleet, where I became Rector of the Parish of Thundersley.

I am married to Lynn who lived in Tilbury. Together we have six children and eight grandchildren.

We both retired at the end of 2024. We then moved to Springfield. Retirement didn't last long before Lynn took up a role working with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) children at the Cathedral School in Chelmsford. I then also got a new role, which is driving SEND children to and from school for 24x7.

We both thank All Saints' church community for the lovely warm welcome we received after searching for a new church to attend. We look forward to serving the parish in as many ways as we can.

Emergency Food for people in crisis

Thank you for continuing to support the Chelmsford Foodbank.

These items, which can be brought to church, are most needed at present:

Small jars instant coffee and hot chocolate; Long-life fruit juice and fruit squash;
Tinned meat meals; Instant mashed potato sachets; Tinned pulses, tinned spaghetti;
Tinned vegetables, potatoes and tomatoes; Cup soups and tinned soup;
Rice; Pasta sauce; Ketchup and mayo; Cooking oil; UHT milk; Tinned fruit;
Tinned rice puddings; Sponge puddings; Jam and spreads; Packets of biscuits;
Instant custard sachets and tinned custard;
Chocolate biscuit bars/cereal bars/sweets/savoury crackers;
All toiletries inc; washing up liquid, toilet rolls, deodorant, shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, shaving foam;
laundry tabs/pods; Nappies sizes 5 to 7



**The Revd Andy
Hudson**

Chelmsford Deanery Day

The Deanery Day took place on the last Saturday in February at Meadgate Church in Great Baddow. Although it was a dull, wet, unpromising day, I retrieved my bicycle from the shed and cycled the couple of miles from my home to the church. I was grateful to find the cycle stands were undercover and a hot drink available on arrival.

The morning opened with worship and was followed by introductory remarks from Revd Simon Pearce (some of you may remember Simon from when he was our curate only a few years ago) and Jill Readings, as clergy and lay leaders respectively of our Deanery.

We were then invited to choose which of five sessions we wished to attend. I went and joined Ian (our Treasurer) to hear about Support from the Diocese. As someone who still feels new to the role of Churchwarden, being in a small group with a real person from the Diocesan office was extremely useful. Nathan, our guide for this session, spoke to us about the support available in caring for our church buildings (very topical given our church is due its Quinquennial Inspection this year) as well as touching on the services and tools offered by the Parish Giving Office (church officers from All Saints' have already attended a workshop on a software tool, Cornerstone, which gives help in analysing our income and expenditure, fundraising suggestions and a comprehensive list of available grants). Nathan fielded many questions during his talk and there was only a short time available to hear from Olivia about Eco Church. We then had a coffee break.



After coffee, we were encouraged to join a different session and, with my head reeling a little from all I'd just heard, I selected the Wellbeing and Prayer Space for a little quiet time. I was delighted to see Peter and Linda there too. This session was led by Revd Tony Cant and he started by asking us to close our eyes and slowly becoming aware of our breathing, leading us into a meditative state of mind. We were read prayers and extracts from books he'd found helpful including his journals. His voice was comforting and low. I found myself drifting into another space and took some time to return to reality when he closed the session. It had been exactly what I needed.

The other sessions on offer were Unusual Outreach, Multi Parish Working and Meet the Deanery Team (including our very own Rector, Revd Sally) but it was now time for lunch and I found the room set aside for Churchwardens to gather. We enjoyed our packed lunches together whilst exploring

concerns and successes and for some of us meeting fellow churchwardens for the first time. Treasurers, Parish Safeguarding Officer and those involved in Children & Youth were given the same opportunity to meet one another.

In the afternoon the speaker was our Archdeacon, the Ven Jonathan Croucher. He introduced himself by sharing that he was a local Essex boy and had started his ministry at a church in Gipsy Hill, South London. He described some of his ministry there.

With the introductions over, he gave a talk on Mission Action Planning connecting it to Bishop's Guli's Travelling Well Together initiative. The emphasis is for individual churches to work with their congregations and communities to discern what God is calling them to do in their particular situation. He talked about connecting with the lost majority who do not visit church, that everyone was valued and encouraged us to be open to the unexpected. He challenged us to seek God's purpose for our lives and churches – what is our church here for, what are our priorities for the coming years?

After the talk, the day ended with worship led by Revd Dan Pierce.

The Deanery Day was open to everyone – not just clergy and church officers – and around 80 people attended. It was an interesting day – a chance to meet people from other churches in the Deanery, experience different forms of worship and to be challenged. So next time there's a Deanery Day, why not go along for the morning or the afternoon or the whole day?

Susan Potts, Churchwarden

Nicky's charity walk

In May this year, All Saints' Nicky Morecroft is going to walk 100k (63 miles) along the Jurassic Coast in Dorset and Devon in aid of the charity which has been supporting her daughter Eva and her family – the Children's Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF) which is now part of the British Liver Trust. If you would like to make a small donation in support, please go to Nicky's JustGiving page:

www.justgiving.com/page/nicola-morecroft-1



On her giving page Nicky explains why she is doing the walk:

“Protecting your child is every parent's aim, but this becomes difficult when illness develops silently. Last year, we discovered that our 9 year old daughter's immune system was attacking her liver. There were no symptoms, and by the time of diagnosis, liver damage had already occurred over several years.

“In February 2025, she began lifelong treatment to prevent further damage. From the outset, CLDF provided practical support and guidance, including the opportunity to speak with others who understand the ongoing challenges faced by families affected by childhood liver disease, and they will continue to be there over the coming days, months and years.

“We hope that CLDF can continue to offer this support to parents who find themselves in similar situations. Please consider supporting them as I take on a ridiculously long, continuous 100k walk, along the Jurassic Coast!”

For a **home visit**
from a
Foot Health Practitioner
please call

Raul Rodrigues

DipCFHP, DipBMec, MPSPract
on **07425 144983**

Services Include:

- Nail trimming/Thick nails
- In-growing toenails
- Calluses/Corn removal
- Fungal infections/Verucca treatment
- Biomechanical assessments & orthotic corrections
- Bespoke orthoses prescribed
- Diabetics cared for

*Fully insured Member
of the Alliance of Foot Health Practitioners
and CRB checked*



Jesus' granny

The little boy came home from his first day at Sunday School and casually told his mother that his Sunday school teacher was Jesus' granny. Astonished, his mother asked: "Whatever makes you think that?"

"Well, it's pretty obvious," said her son. "She never stopped talking about Him all morning. She told us Jesus is smarter and stronger and better-behaved than anyone else she knows. She even showed us a picture of Him."


Commandment

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five- and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour thy father and thy mother," she asked: "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

Correction

My mouth doesn't seem to have a back-space key.



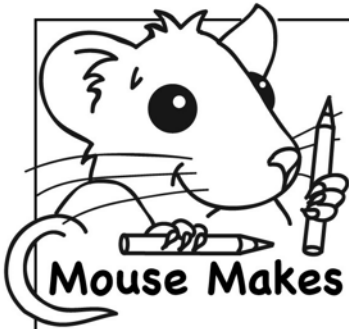
Mary Bartlam would like to find a new home for this angle poise type light, which incorporates a magnifying glass. It's ideal for close needlework such as counted cross stitch.

Please contact her on 01245 355179 if you are interested

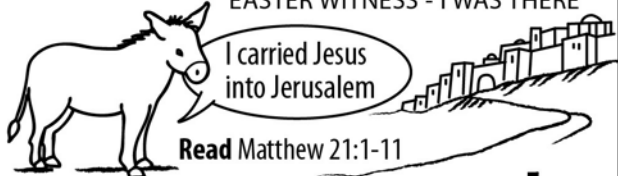
HAPPI PLUMBING

Quality Bathroom & Heating Installation Service

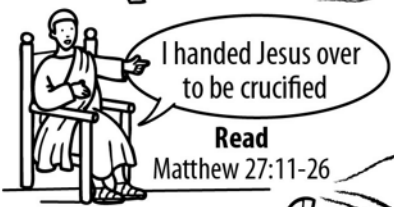
**FOR A GOOD AND RELIABLE PLUMBING SERVICE
AND QUALITY BATHROOM
AND HEATING INSTALLATIONS
PLEASE CALL PHIL SHADRACK ON 07973 564037**



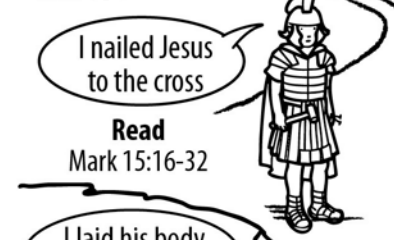
EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE



Read Matthew 21:1-11



Read Matthew 27:11-26



Read Mark 15:16-32



We watched Jesus die

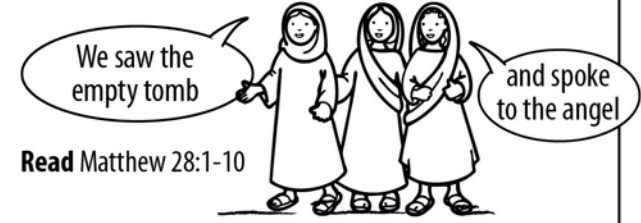
Read Mark 15:33-41



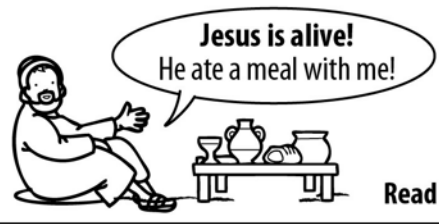
Read Mark 15:42-47



Read Matthew 27:62-66



Read Matthew 28:1-10



Read Luke 24:13-35

GOOD NEWS
 OHOSANNA
 DEATHQB
 VNCOEUI
 UAHNAAR
 O
 MIREVS
 YU
 ALIVETDR
 RISENEOK
 YOTHORNS
 PALMSQKA
 RPILATEN
 CRUCIFYG
 RHQUAKE
 OCJESUSL
 STOMBVDY
 SRYEMPTY

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



Funeral Directors

Independent & Local Co-operative
Award Winning Customer Service
FREE Aftercare & Support Groups
FREE Online Memorials & Tributes
FREE Online Quote Builder
Pre-paid Funeral Plans available
www.coopfuneraldirectors.coop

Part of Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society Limited

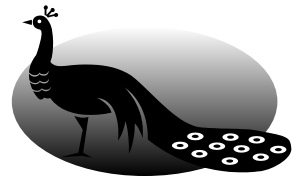
Branches at:
 Chelmsford • Braintree
 Gt. Baddow • Danbury
 Writtle • Ingatestone
 Gt. Dunmow • Basildon

Here for you,
day or night

24 hr assistance:
0800 028 4808



Peacock Electrical Services



*For all your electrical requirements
Domestic, Commercial & Industrial*

- Re-wires
- New installations
- Electric showers
- Garden lighting & socket outlets
- Lighting
- Testing, Inspection & Certification
- Additional socket outlets
- Electric vehicle charging points
- Security Lighting

All work guaranteed Prompt reliable response

Paul Peacock Elec Eng, MA

Tel: 07952 961693



**The Good Friday walk of witness
gathers on Springfield Green in 2025
*come and join us this year***