

St Mary the Virgin

North Shoebury



THURSDAY 4TH JULY INDEPENDANCE DAY USA
MONDAY 15TH JULY ST SWITHUN'S DAY

JULY 2019

Vicar's Letter*

John 20:21 "As the father has sent me, so I am sending you"

I have been Lead Minister now for about six months, and to me, they appear to have passed by very fast. They have been busy months. I started with Advent, and we prepared together for the birth of the Saviour. Then there was the Christmas season and Epiphany. We thought of the wise men carrying the good news of the birth back their native countries.

In Lent we prepared for the events of the death, passion and resurrection of our Lord. We considered as a parish the subject of "Serving with Accountability" and we thought about both ourselves and the parish and how we serve our community of North Shoebury.

Then there was Easter. Some of us greeted the dawn and brought the Light of Christ into the church and now we live as "resurrection people". Last Sunday we thought about Pentecost, and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

There has not been a great deal of "down time" in the last six months has there, but now we begin our journey through the period known as "Trinity" or "ordinary time". There are eighteen Sundays of Trinity. So, what next?

Two things. First, this is a time to reflect of the great events so far in this church year. What does it all mean? Were they just a series of festivals that we go through each year, or are they part of our growth as Christians? Are we able to deepen our faith and continue on a journey growing closer to our Lord?

To help us, I think it is worth looking at just what "mission" means, both to us as individuals, and as a church. As this month's opening verse reminds us, we are "sent out".

To this end, over the next few months, there will be a series of reflections on the Five Marks of Mission. If you do not know what these are, there is an article about them in this month's magazine on page 4. I encourage you to think about them, and let me know what you think about them.

During the period of Trinity this year, we will be looking at the Gospel of Luke. It is thought that Luke was writing to someone who was an outsider; Luke was engaged in mission. I think we should also be engaged in the same way.

God bless.

David

***Rev David Pierce is the Lead Minister at St. Mary's Church**

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Francine Johnson:01702 589244**

15th July

St Swithun (or Swithin) - saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

Five Marks of Mission

In June's edition of our magazine, there was an article entitled.

"What's so important about the Trinity?"

The article asked this question,.

"How are we called to share in God's mission ourselves?"

As we are entering the long period of the church year that we call Trinity, it might be worth looking in more detail at these questions.

As we consider God's mission, I was reminded of the Five Marks of Mission.

They are:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
3. To respond to human need by loving service.
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

As with many of the list, at first sight they may seem straightforward, and when all of these Marks of Mission are evident, mission is happening. But if even one of them is missing, mission is probably not happening.

These Marks of Mission apply to each of us as individuals, as well as to St.

Mary's and the Christian church in general. I wonder, how do we measure up?

I find them challenging as they apply to our lives not only on Sunday, but on every day of the week.

In the coming months, I will be looking at each of these in turn and seeing how they can apply to us, and how by accepting these challenges, we may be able to grow into a more Missional Church.

David Pierce

June 2019





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As you are undoubtedly aware work commenced on the church tower last month, let us hope that the completed refurbishment is suitably in keeping with the historic and beautiful appearance of our church.



According to the guide book, the tower was Perpendicular



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Walking on the moon in July 1969

American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin became the first people to walk on the surface of the Moon 50 years ago, on 21st July 1969.

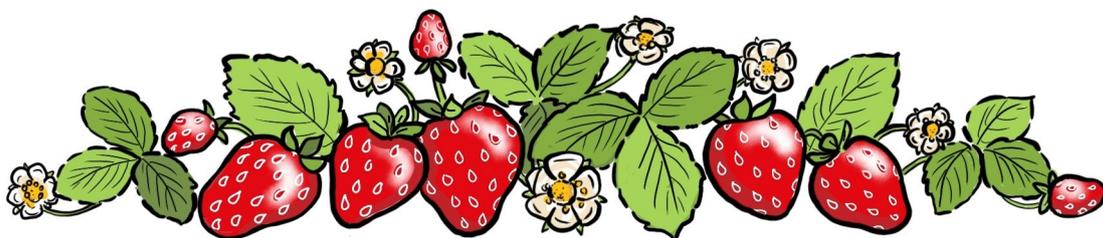
There had been some dispute over who would step first on to the Moon's surface, but Apollo 11 commander Armstrong was given the privilege partly for technical reasons. Lunar module pilot Aldrin followed him almost 20 minutes later.

Both men were Christians. Aldrin, who was an elder at Webster Presbyterian Church, Texas, had got special permission to take bread and wine with him to space and take Communion privately. He did this with Armstrong watching in silence.

Armstrong wrote later: "We had come to space in the name of all mankind – be they Christians, Jews, Muslims, animists, agnostics or atheists. But at the time I could think of no better way to acknowledge the Apollo 11 experience than by giving thanks to God."

The two men spent 21.5 hours on the lunar surface before rejoining the command module Columbia in lunar orbit.

Armstrong's first step onto the lunar surface was broadcast on live TV to a worldwide audience. He described it as "one small step for a man – one giant leap for mankind".



ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL REGULAR USERS

Monday	<p style="text-align: center;">Strollercise</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strolling/dancing to the sounds of the 50s 6-7,000 steps (3 miles) Fun, friendly, all ages, no gym kit required £4 per hour No need to book 10 -11 am 11.15am -12.15pm Contact: Karen/Tracy 07745 154065</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Barling & Lt. Wakering Women's Institute</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2pm 1st Monday of the month Contact Phyl Wickenden 01702 582185</p>	
Tuesday	<p style="text-align: center;">U3A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2nd Tuesday of month 10am to 12 noon Contact: Mick 01702 622356</p>		Private booking 5.30 – 7.30 pm
Wednesday			
Thursday	<p style="text-align: center;">Community Coffee Morning</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10.30 am to 12 noon All welcome</p>		Private booking 6-7pm
Friday	<p style="text-align: center;">Diddi Dance</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9.15 – 10.15 am Funky pre-school dance class for boys and girls. Contact Jennifer Ripton 0775 6407162</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Marriott's Tai Chi</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11am – 12.30 pm Contact Tracey Cain 01702 290461</p>	



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On the delights of the parish jumble sale

The Rectory
St. James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

The estimate for re-hanging the bells in our church tower came as a great shock. The church council discussed fund-raising at length. Someone suggested selling part of the Rectory garden for building, another for getting 200 parishioners to loan £1,000 each, interest-free. Then Mrs French suggested holding a jumble sale. The jumble sale won – mainly because it was achievable without a great fight, and also gave everyone an opportunity to see what their neighbours think of as junk.

Expensive articles were brought with an ostentatious show of modesty when everyone was sorting donations. Genuine jumble, such as odd plates, old blankets and mysterious kitchen gadgets, were left at the church door in the dead of night.

On the day of the jumble sale, our helpers were ready behind wobbly tables stacked high with stuff. Had the tables collapsed, half the congregation would have been smothered. Little Miss Faversham was having a wonderful time flitting from table to table like a woolly bumble bee, kitting herself out for another year.

When the doors opened and the customers poured in, I realised how the Italians must have felt when they saw Hannibal with his elephants pouring down the sides of the Alps. That is when the mettle of our ladies really showed. They were tremendous - haggling at great length over whether something worth £10 should go for 10p or 11p. I noticed that those who are used to riding with hounds seem best able to control the crowds – even if they occasionally tended to regard the customers as the fox.

As it happened, the youth club were going pot-holing that day, so most of the teenagers bought complete sets of clothing for 10p which could then be discarded afterwards. But I wondered what their caving instructor would think of teenagers arriving dressed in dinner jackets and tweed skirts.

Two days of preparation yielded a battle that was over in less than an hour. We emerged bloodied but unbowed, with only scraps of jumble left. Then it was home for a bath and a strong restorative, in the knowledge that the first step to saving the bells has been taken. Only another 2,500 jumble sales and we shall have reached our target. Indeed, the only jarring note of the day was to discover someone with a peculiar sense of humour had put a note on my car: "Sold - to be collected later".

Your loving uncle, Eustace.

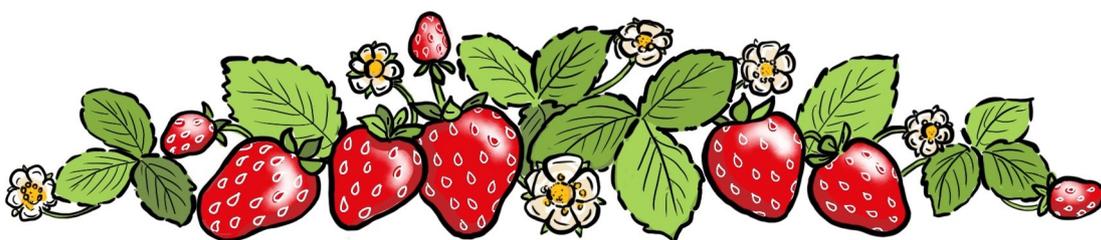
Here is a curious thing: even just one cup of coffee a day can reduce the risk of an elderly person falling – by up to a third.

A recent study of thousands of older patients from the UK and Spain has found that even small amounts of coffee are enough to make them steadier on their feet.

That is good news for many elderly folk, as about one in three people over 65 will have at least one fall a year, and half will fall frequently. This is because older people can suffer balance problems, weaker muscles, dementia or low blood pressure.

The study was done at a university in Madrid. All in all, it costs the NHS £2.3billion a year to treat and care for elderly patients who suffer a fall.

Many thanks to all who attended and supported Elizabeth's
garden party on Friday 7th June over £200 was raised for
Macmillan Cancer Support





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HAVE YOU ANYTHING FOR THIS MAGAZINE?

Thank you to Francine and David for their contributions this month. If you have anything which would be of interest, please contact the editor, Craig Hunter early in the month, so that your space can be reserved.
07932503644; chunter2009@hotmail.co.uk

‘Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”’

(John 4:27)

There are roughly 2.4 billion Christians in the world. These are divided into more than 9,000 official denominations. Yes – 9,000. The problem is we all think that we’re right, and that everyone else is wrong.

Of course, the reality is that we’re probably all wrong about something – maybe even most things. Yet we love to create divisions, us vs them, you’re either in or you’re out. We think that we have a monopoly on the truth.

What Jesus showed over and over again, however, was that he saw no divisions. He associated with the people he wasn’t meant to associate with. He knew the truth, which is that all of us, regardless of race, gender, social class, even beliefs, are children of God, loved and accepted. The flow of the Spirit is towards inclusion. There is no us and them, there is only us – all of us.

God doesn’t do favourites; God doesn’t do boundaries.

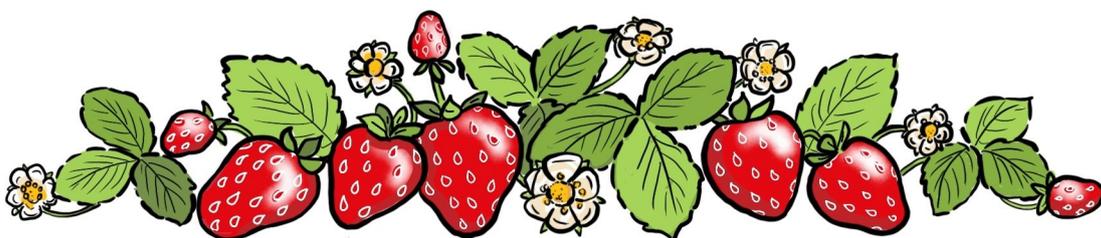
And neither should we.

Loving Father,

Thank you that you love each of us exactly as we are. Thank you that you do not see the labels that society places on us; you look beyond the surface to see our shining souls. Help us to see others the way you see them: as miracles worthy of love.

In Jesus’ name, amen.

Gideon Heugh, Tearfund





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AUGUST	Family Service	Parish Eucharist
7th July Third after Trinity	10am Family Eucharist Revd. David Pierce	11.00am Parish Eucharist Revd. David Pierce
14th July Fourth after Trinity	10am Family Service Revd. David Pierce	11.00am Parish Eucharist Revd. David Pierce
21st July Fifth after Trinity	10am Family Service Revd. David Pierce	11.00am Parish Eucharist Revd. David Pierce
28th July Sixth after Trinity	10am Family Service Revd. David Pierce	11.00am Parish Eucharist Revd. David Pierce
	12:15 Kim Hazzard	Healing service after Eucharist on 4th Sunday each month.

Mid-week services

Monday	9:00am	Morning prayer
	4:00pm	Evensong
Thursday	9:00am	Morning prayer
	10:00am	Communion
	10:30am	Coffee Morning
	4:00pm	Evensong

Evening Prayer
5 p.m.
Friday at 10, Herongate
(Kym's home)

RESERVED SACRAMENT

The Sacrament is reserved for the Communion of the sick and housebound. Please let the Pastoral Assistant know of any parishioners who would like to receive communion at home.

TRANSPORT TO CHURCH

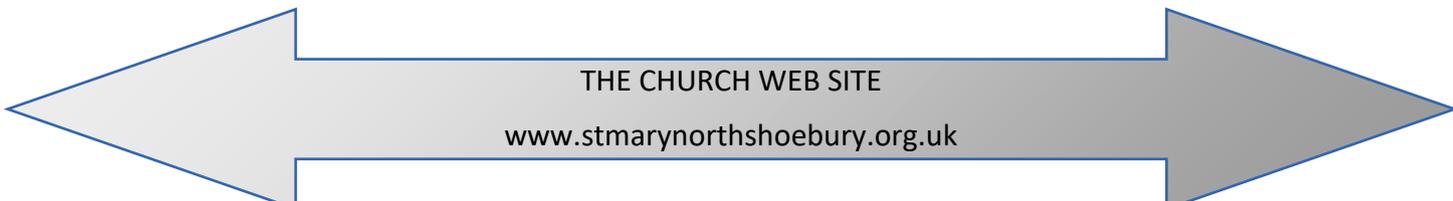
Please let the Churchwardens know if any parishioners would appreciate a lift to Church

CONTACT DETAILS

For all enquiries, including weddings, baptisms, blessings etc. please, in the first instance, contact the Churchwarden.

Phone numbers are all area code 01702 unless stated

Lead Minister	Revd. David Pierce	07305 710265 david@revdavidpierce.net
Churchwardens	Pat Fitch	585289 pat_fitch@btinternet.com
	Craig Hunter	07932503644 chunter2009@hotmail.co.uk
Pastoral Assistant	Kym Hazzard-Garne	07826241530
Organist & Choirmaster Hall Bookings	Michael Crabb, MBE	298314
	Phyl Wickenden	582185
	Francine Johnson	589244
PCC Secretary Church Finance & Gift Aid Secretary	Michelle Waters	589026
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	Craig Hunter chunter2009@hotmail.co.uk	0793203644
Churchyard Cleaning co-ordinator	(Vacancy) Pat Fitch	585289



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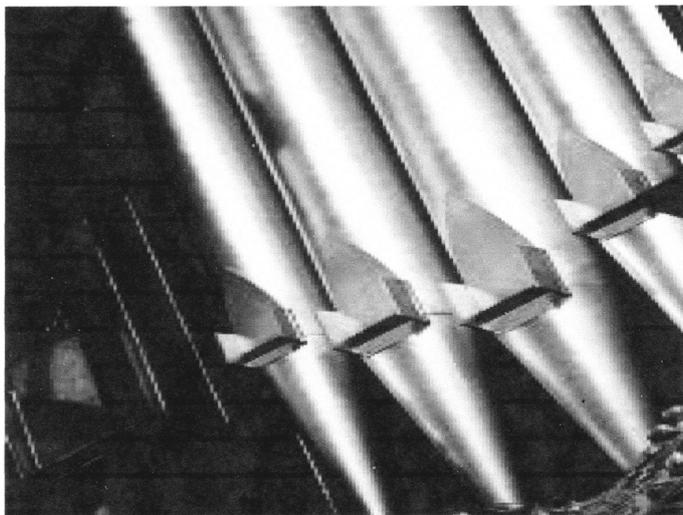
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