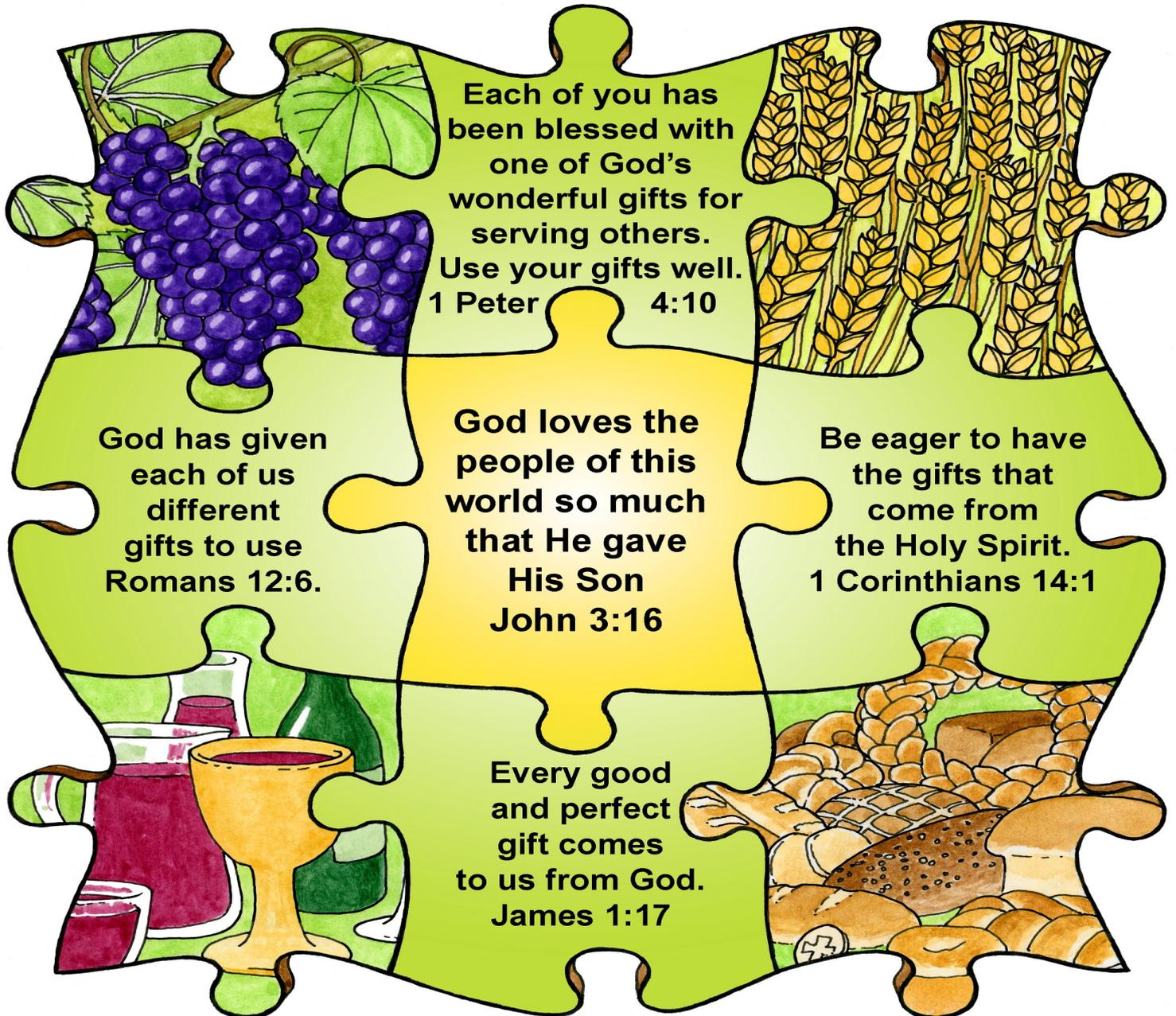


St Mary the Virgin

North Shoebury



SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER PATRONAL FESTIVAL
SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER HOLY CROSS DAY
MONDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER AUTUMN EQUINOX

SEPTEMBER 2019

Vicar's Letter*

Luke 1:38 *Then Mary said, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."*

Over the last few weeks I have been reflecting on just what it means to be a Christian, a follower of Jesus. Of course, it means different things to different people, but as we prepare to celebrate the festival of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in whose name our church is commemorated, I thought it might be worth thinking about these words of Mary.

Mary gave herself totally to the will of God. In effect, she laid down her life for the benefit of others.

My wife and I have just returned from a holiday in the Ardennes Forest in Luxembourg. This was where the "Battle of the Bulge" took place. From the roadside memorials, and the village church memorials, it was easy to see just how great a price the local people paid. Resisting the Nazis and fascists in the latter years of the war took courage. Some who resisted were simply taken out and shot, others were sent to concentration camps or various front lines, most often the Russian front.

They also laid down their lives for what was right. But "laying down your life" is also about what our priorities are. It means being prepared to engage in activities for "the common good" rather than our own entertainment. This may involve volunteering for some good cause, being involved with what goes on at St. Mary's, it may be a passion that you are involved with. It is encouraging to see so many members of our church involved in these activities. But as with all things, it seems to be a small group doing all the work. I am not sure this is always the case; we are a small, but growing church.

So it is now September, the schools are back, and once again it seems like a new year. As things begin to settle down, see if you have any spare time in your lives. If you feel that you are able to volunteer, please talk to me, or the Churchwardens.

As we think again of The Blessed Virgin Mary, let us dwell on the words "let it be with me according to your word".

God bless,

David

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

Five Marks of Mission – Part two of five

I am writing a series about the Five Marks of Mission. Here they are again.

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.

This month, we are looking at the second mark; to teach baptise and nurture new believers.

There are many ways in which we can engage in these tasks. We do not need specialised knowledge or skills. St. Francis of Assisi is reputed to have said something like this. “Preach the Gospel at all times, only use words if you have to”. He is clearly suggesting that we can teach by setting an example that others may follow.

The example we set allows the process of teaching and nurturing. We can bring people to church for baptism.

At Morning Prayer, we are reading through the Letter of James. James expresses strong views on the consequences of faith. St. Paul tells us that we are not saved by actions, but by faith alone. James argues that while this is true, faith should inspire us to action and good works. He writes:

¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

So what impact does Christian faith have on each of us? I have written elsewhere this month about how volunteering can make such a positive contribution to our church and society.

As you can see from the Third Mark of Mission, this is going to become a recurring theme, but this month, think about how the way we all live our lives can contribute to the process of teaching and nurturing, encouraging and supporting our fellow brothers and sisters in faith.

**God bless,
David**

Laurence Giustiniani - the saint who knew how to help a beggar

You are walking down the road when a beggar approaches you for money. What do you do? If, instead of giving money, you buy him/her coffee or a meal, then you are in good company: you are following in the steps of the first ever Bishop of Venice.

Laurence Giustiniani (1381 – 1455) was born of a noble Venetian family, but chose the austerity of the Augustinian monastery of San Giorgio on island of Alga. He became a priest in 1406, Prior in 1407, Bishop of Castello in 1433 and then in 1451 the first ever Bishop of Venice.

By then, Laurence had seen a lot of human nature, and was wise as well as good. Frugal in his private life, and happy to help the poor, he made sure that he gave *wisely* as well as generously. Hence the poor who came to him for help were given food and clothing – but only very occasionally small amounts of money. Bishop Laurence also devoted himself to peace-making and other pastoral work, for which his contemporaries held him in high esteem. As he lay dying on a bed of straw, very many clergy, laity, beggars and destitute folk came to grieve: he was greatly respected and loved. Wise giving and peace-making – Laurence's example still shine true today.

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Harvest Field

All around, confusion,
All around, helplessness,
People lost in the bad news of every day.
Longing for purpose,
Searching for security and significance
Here in the white field of our generation.

The harvest is still great,
The workers are still few,
But the Lord of the harvest
Is the same
Yesterday, today and forever,
And this is his field.
He planted, he will give growth
If we will be his workforce
And go out into the field - where he already is -
To gather the harvest
Of his kingdom compassion.

Lord of the harvest,
In your grace, we pray,
Send us.

By Daphne Kitching





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THANK YOU

23rd Sept

When the sun goes edgewise – and daytime equals night

23rd September is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere) The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight

Where now?

A teacher was finishing up a lesson on the joys of discovery and the importance of curiosity. "Where would we be today," she asked, "if no one had ever been curious?"

There was a pause, and then one child ventured: "In the garden of Eden?"

Money

One day a small boy started pulling handfuls of money out of his pockets – several notes as well as many coins. Bewildered, his mother asked, "Where on earth did you get all that money?"

"At church, of course," the boy replied, surprised. "They have bowls of it there."



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 peculiar stains and smells of old choir robes

The Rectory
St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

Your withering comments, saying that our choir robes, were ‘surplice’ to requirements did not go down well at last week’s practice. I will concede that Mr Baddeley’s robes smell somewhat kippered and are laced with burns - but you can expect little less from 40 years of enjoying a final cigarette behind a gravestone before the start of Matins.

Certainly, Mr Timmin’s surplice has a strange series of red and blue polka dots, but that is only because he uses his time in the choir stalls, when not singing, to catch up on marking his pupils’ essays. The red gash on Miss Thripp’s surplice may look as if the choirmaster has just stabbed her, but it was only a jam doughnut she ate, just before that wedding five years ago.

Our robes are steeped in history – they have seen their way through the death of Queen Victoria, the relief of Mafeking, and two World Wars.

When one morning Admiral Flagg developed an ostentatious cough, I gave him a cough sweet from the pocket of my own cassock. He later commented that it had a strange taste. Not surprising – it had been in the pocket when I was given the cassock 50 years ago from Canon Ball’s widow after he died.

In an attempt to improve the look of the surplices, Mrs Wigg offered to starch them all. Unfortunately, her enthusiasm is only surpassed by her ineptitude. She worked on the principle that if one packet of starch was good, ten would be better. When the choir arrived the following Sunday, they found twenty surplices standing round the vestry floor looking like a circle of tents at Scout camp.

Once the choir had struggled into them, they had to process up the aisle in single file, as they were all about 6 feet wide. The choir stood rigidly throughout the Service, knowing that any rapid movement risked severing a major artery.

But our style of choir dress has one advantage which yours can never equal. Within our choristers’ voluminous robes, there is ample space for peppermints, packs of cards, the Sunday newspapers and balls of wool and knitting needles. Your music group in their jeans and tee-shirts must feel utterly bereft during the sermon.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



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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**

Church leaders warn Johnson about Brexit

The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, has come under pressure from various church leaders concerning Brexit.

The Bishop in Europe, Dr Robert Innes, said that a priority for Mr Johnson should be the 'forgotten million' UK citizens living in the EU. "They worry about residency issues, health care, pensions and travelling."

The Joint Public Issues Team, which includes leaders from the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Church of Scotland, said that a no-deal Brexit would "put at risk the welfare and safety of the poorest communities in the UK."

But the Conservative MP Sir Gary Streeter, who chairs Christians in Parliament, said that Mr Johnson 'must focus on Brexit', and that he would imperil trust in democracy if he did not deliver an exit by 31st October.





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SEPTEMBER	Family Service	Parish Eucharist
1st September Trinity 11	10am Family Service Tony Pond	11.00am Parish Eucharist Revd. David Pierce
8th September Trinity 12 Patronal Festival	10am Family Eucharist Revd. David Pierce	11.00am Parish Eucharist Revd. David Pierce
15th September Trinity 13	10am Family Service Revd. David Pierce	11.00am Parish Eucharist Revd. John Russell
22nd September Trinity 14	10am Family Service Revd. David Pierce	11.00am Parish Eucharist Revd. David Pierce
29th September Trinity 15	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
	Francine Johnson	589244
Electoral Roll Church Diaries & Flowers co-ordinator	Anne Crabb	298314
	Wendy Shipperley	588319
Social, Hall & Fundraising	Francine Johnson	589244
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Readers, Chalice Assistants & Sides persons Rota Parish Magazine	Anne Crabb	298314
	Craig Hunter chunter2009@hotmail.co.uk	0793203644
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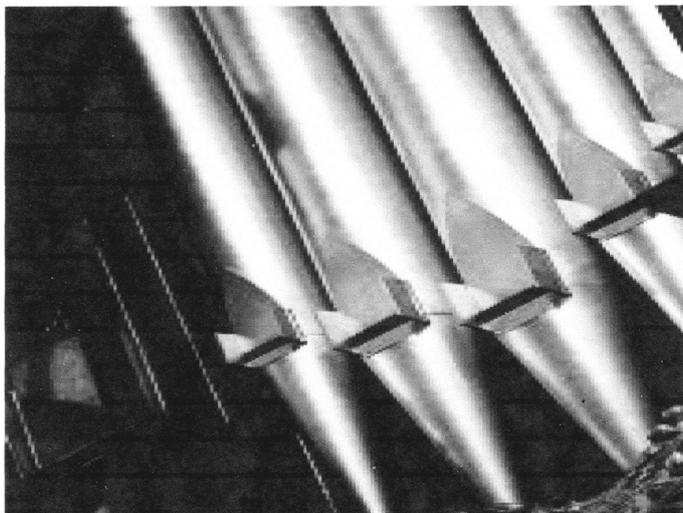
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