

NOVEMBER 2019

St Mary the Virgin

North Shoebury



FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER ALL SAINTS DAY
SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER ALL SOULS DAY
TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER BONFIRES NIGHT
SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER ARMISTICE DAY
SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER ST ANDREWS DAY



Vicar's Letter*

Isaiah 1:16-17 ¹⁶ Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. ¹⁷ Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

For the last few reflections, I have used a quotation from a Bible reading from that month. In November, the readings for All Saints are particularly challenging. In the weeks of November, we are building up to the feast of Christ the King. This is the last Sunday of the Christian Year when we see Christ in all His Glory.

Every Christian year builds to this high point, and then we begin the preparation for His Birth.

But also in November, we remember those who have died in war. Not only the First and Second World Wars, but conflicts throughout history, both before and after.

I am beginning to think that some people use the words "Lest we forget", and "We will remember them" too lightly. My reflection this year will focus on just what it is that we think we are remembering. Although I am too young to remember the Second World War, I do remember the look in people's eyes as they recalled brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts and parents who died in "the conflict".

It appears to me that conflicts are born when, in the early days of that process, "other" is created in the minds of people. If we can blame our problems on "them", we seem able to justify oppression of and division from "them".

As we approach the great Festival of Christ the King, and look forward to the birth of the Christ Child, we should keep in our minds the words of Isaiah.

Those who died that we might live fought against oppression and division. They may not have consciously remembered that "God is Love" in the heat of battle, but that is the underlying principle.

Jesus reminds us that we should "Love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbours as ourselves". Jesus was then asked, "Who is my neighbour?"

Maybe as we journey with Christ, we would do well to consider what our answer is to this most challenging question.

God bless,

David

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



BARN DANCE

Saturday 5th October



A good time had by all, thank
you Phyl and Steve

Five Marks of Mission – Part four of five

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

- Tell To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
- Teach To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
- Tend To respond to human need by loving service.
- **Transform To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.**
- Treasure To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Nearly there. These marks of mission are not unlike the Beatitudes in Matthew's Gospel that form part of the Sermon on the Mount. You can read them in Mathew chapter 5.

The Beatitudes are a series of statements where each one builds on the previous one, in the same way we go up the stairs in a staircase. These "Marks of Mission" are not a menu system where one might say "I can do one and three, but I am not sure about two, four or five." They all apply.

If we have so far considered what changes to our worldview the first three Marks of Mission will involve, we should be in a position now to consider number four.

Each week in the Eucharist we are reminded that we are commanded to love God, and love our neighbour. If we strive to do this, we should be in a position to examine what "transform unjust structures of society" might really mean in our own lives.

You may notice I have added key words to our list above. "**Transform**" relates to this month's Mark, but let us be realistic, as individuals we cannot "**transform**" the world. So I think this mark calls us to think about the task as both individuals and a team.

Let us consider the example of Jesus. He did some tasks on his own, and he also worked with a team, the disciples. Remember that Jesus sent just seventy two disciples out in front of him to let people know he was coming.

As we read the Gospels, we can see that Jesus made no effort to change the world, even though that was the eventual outcomes of His ministry. He worked in the villages of the Galilean countryside with a small team of followers, by setting an example. An example so simple, that anyone can follow. "Love God, Love your neighbour".

We love and are loved.

So think about this, if one person shares the Gospel with one other person, two people know the Gospel. If both of them tells just one other, then four people know. If each of the four then tells another each, that makes that makes eight. Obviously the first person is doing this every time, and each successive person repeats but by the time the first person has spoken to thirty new people, and assuming that each of the others has joined in, then 1,073,741,824 people will know about the transforming love of Jesus, and I think the world may be a different place.

If , big word “if”, but **if** we all love our neighbour, whoever that might be, will there be space for injustice in society? Will there be violence? Because if we all love each other, really love each other, then there will be no space for violence because we will all be in pursuit of peace.

This all needs to start in our hearts, we need to open our eyes to the damage that selfishness creates; at a personal, regional, national and international level. As individuals, it is hard to make a difference, but as a team, maybe as a church, a difference can be made. There will be personal cost, but I do think it is worth it. I believe God does as well.

God bless

David

Sunday 15th December

4pm

Shoebury High School

Carol Service

Sunday 8th December

4pm

Shoebury Garrison

Carol Service

HAVE YOU ANYTHING FOR THIS MAGAZINE?

Thank you to Francine, Michael 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



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The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. – *George Burns*

Don't worry about avoiding temptation...as you grow older, it will avoid you. – *Winston Churchill*

If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month.—*Theodore Roosevelt*

Common sense is the collection of prejudices acquired by age eighteen.
- *Albert Einstein*



Christmas at St Mary the Virgin, North Shoebury



There are so many wonderful Christmas Carols, and the season passes so quickly that if we are not careful we can miss them. So, this year at St. Mary's there will be an additional Christmas Service. It will be at 4.00 pm on Sunday 22nd December. At this service we will tell Christmas Stories, not only from the Bible, but other poetry and stories that have been told through the years about Christmas.

So to make sure we sing your favourite Christmas Carol, we need to know which one it is. There is a sheet at the back up church where you can add your favourite. But if you use the web you can put in your request at our contact page:

<https://www.stmarynorthshoebury.org.uk/contact-us/>

Or tweet to <https://twitter.com/stmarynorthsho1>

We will publish the list in the New Year. There may be a Local list, and an International list.

Sunday	Service of Lessons and Carols	4pm
15th December	St Mary's Chorale	
Sunday	Family Christmas Carol	4pm
22nd December	Celebration Carol Service	
Tuesday	Christmas Crib service	4pm
24th December		
Tuesday	Midnight Mass	11:30pm
24th December		
Wednesday	Combined Family Eucharist	10:30am
25th December		

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**On the perils of eating—
with members of your church**

My dear Nephew Darren

One of the rather dubious pleasures of being rector here is to dine twice a year with Lord and Lady Shuttlingsloe. I was summoned to go along yesterday evening. As usual, I was greeted by the footman and led into the entrance hall, where only a few weeks ago we held the parish Harvest supper for 200 people. I relinquished my coat, took a deep breath, and set off to follow him down endless corridors to the drawing room. The house is rumoured to be haunted, but I suspect any sounds of footsteps come from guests of previous years, still wandering the corridors trying to find their way out.

There were the usual guests - most of whom were merely continuing conversations they had had the previous evening at another stately, decaying pile in the county. They were standing, because all the chairs were occupied by the Lord's dogs, and everyone agreed that the dogs looked far too comfortable to move. Since one aged golden retriever recognised me, having developed an over-familiarity with my own dog, he amicably let me squeeze beside him on a sofa - even if it left me for the rest of the evening looking as if I was wearing an Afghan coat.

When the meal was ready, the butler arrived with our overcoats, because the dining room is a cavernous chamber which is largely unheated as birds are nesting in the chimney. Lord Shuttlingsloe considers this perfectly acceptable, since his family have been eating in this way for the past 500 years, which is how long most of the present staff have worked there. Conversation at my end of the table was less than easy, since Lady S dozed throughout the meal and my companion on the other side seemed to hold me personally responsible for the Spanish Inquisition. Had I been, she would most definitely have been on my list for questioning.

As Rector, one has one's social responsibilities, but I confess, there were moments when I rather envied your own evening, with a meal on a tray in front of the television – in a warm house.

Your loving uncle,



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Jackie and Jane who help clean and prepare the church every Saturday

Our caretaker Steve who's tasks are too many to list

Our booking secretary Phyl who has built up our hall usage

Keith who prepares our weekly newsletter

Rota organiser Ann who keeps everyone happy

Michelle who translates our garbled PCC minutes into an accurate record

Terry who organises our Intervention prayers

Our readers, sidesperson, chalice bearers, volunteers

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And YOU !

My job is to ask for more, not every week but when you can

Visit the coffee morning, bring a friend

Join the work party in November- we also need people who could make the tea and who could spare sympathy for grazes and aches

Drop in to help occasionally on "Clean up Saturday" 10-12

Tell one new person our church is alive and busy

Craig



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The Two Minute Silence

The total number of both civilian and military casualties is estimated at around 37 million people, ending only when the Armistice took effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918.

The idea of a 'Two Minute Silence' originated in South Africa. The first minute was to be a time of thanksgiving for those who had returned alive, and the second minute was to remember the fallen. It was taken up by King George V, writing, "it is my desire and hope that at the hour when the Armistice came into force, there may be for the brief space of two minutes a complete suspension of all our normal activities."

It had an immediate impact. An observer wrote, "The whole World Stands to Attention. From the Indian jungles to Alaska, on the trains, on the ships at sea, in every part of the globe where a few British were gathered together, the Two-Minute pause was observed."

The Great War was said to be 'the war to end all wars'. But it wasn't. About three per cent of the world population were to die in World War 2. Today's 11th November commemoration, repeated on the nearest Sunday, now incorporates all wars.

The Royal British Legion describes the Act of Remembrance as a deeply personal act available to everyone, acknowledging the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces and their families, across all conflicts.





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NOVEMBER	Family Service	Parish Eucharist
3rd November All Saints Sunday	10am Family Service Family Eucharist Revd. David Pierce 4pm All Saints Day Service Revd. David Pierce	11.00am Parish Eucharist Revd. David Pierce
10th November Remembrance Sunday	10am Family Eucharist Revd. David Pierce	10:45am Parish Eucharist Revd. David Pierce
11th November Armistice Day	10-10:20am Service of Remembrance Revd. David Pierce	
17th November Second before Advent	10am Family Service Tony Pond	11.00am Parish Eucharist Revd. John Russell
24th November Christ the King	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

TRANSPORT TO CHURCH

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

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.



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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
Hall Bookings	Phyl Wickenden	582185
	Francine Johnson	589244
PCC Secretary	Michelle Waters	589026
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