

St Mary the Virgin

North Shoebury

JUNE

2020



MONDAY 1ST JUNE, WHIT MONDAY

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE, ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE, QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE, SUMMER SOLSTICE

SUNDAY 21ST JUNE, FATHER'S DAY

THURSDAY 25TH JUNE, ARMED FORCES DAY

Vicar's Letter* June 2020 - Pentecost

John 20:21. *“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you; as the Father has sent me, so I send you’. When he had said this, he breathed on them.”*

Is this advice complicated? Could we follow this today? Not and maintain social distancing rules, even though they have been “relaxed”.

I am slowly getting back to work. I spent much of April in hospital and some of that time under sedation, and in critical care. In hospital, every day seems the same, it is so easy to lose track of reality. I am told I came out of critical care on Easter Sunday. Pure coincidence, and yet, I have never felt the presence of God so clearly in my life, and in the process of living. During that time, when reality and dream often merged into one, I found myself reflecting very deeply on “Christianity”, and on “church”. I wondered if they were part of the same process, for all the news I was eventually to read led me to think these two words had little or nothing in common.

This year on 26th April, we should have heard about the exploits of Mr & Mrs Cleopas. They had been followers of Jesus, but Jesus was dead; crucified just a couple of days ago. With the death of Jesus also died the hope of so many who thought he was the Messiah. The Passover Festival had been celebrated, and they were going home. It had been great while it lasted, but it was over.

But as they walked home that afternoon, they were joined by a stranger, and Mr & Mrs Cleopas explained to him what had gone on in the last few days; and as they told their own story, it began to dawn on them that something might be different. As they arrived at their house, in the small village of Emmaus, they extended normal hospitality, and invited the stranger to share a meal. As the stranger broke bread, the penny dropped, and without thinking they raced back to Jerusalem, to share their new understanding about Jesus with the other apostles.

While I was recovering, all I seemed to be reading about was that quite a large section of the Church of England was complaining about the churches being closed, and whether or not a “live streamed” version of the Eucharist was valid. I would much rather be a member of a church where its members ran, full of excitement, several miles to Jerusalem to share the good news, than a church endlessly debating the validity of reaching out to people who wish to continue to share in worship, albeit in far from perfect conditions.

When I was younger, we visited many churches in the Warwickshire countryside, and many had what were known as “lepers’ squints”. These permitted those who were excluded from church buildings for any reason to watch the Eucharist, and so share in the sacrament. Although not a perfect solution by any means, “live streaming” does not seem that far away from using a squint. We can see the Eucharist being celebrated and remind ourselves that a sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace.

I will start to stream Eucharist again after I have spoken with the other members of the PCC.

These are exceptional circumstances and not a new normal. I saw no grace in the very visible and damaging debate.

You might not realise it, but we have been having this conversation since December 2018, when I became part of St. Mary’s. “Why church?” is a question I have been asking on a regular basis. I see church as a place where gather, as a family, to worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to support each other on our Christian, and life journeys.

So, as a church, I think we need to make space for people to worship God and support each other. We have done well. In the last eighteen months we have created a space for a congregation who may have different expectations of worship to meet on a Sunday. We have created a regular, more contemplative space on Monday and Thursday mornings to say the Daily Office and worship and reflect on what being a Christian is. On Thursday we have an additional Eucharist, for those who cannot make Sunday or wish to attend more than once a week, and a superb coffee morning which is open to the community.

Additionally, we are growing people. We now have a team who share in leading worship. We need to continue to encourage and support each other and ensure we all have space to grow and develop.

So, how is all this relevant to the bible verse I chose for this month? Jesus said, ***“as the Father has sent me, so I send you’.*** ***When he had said this, he breathed on them.***

This is how John, in his Gospel, explains the coming of the Holy Spirit. It challenges us to look very closely at how Jesus exercised his ministry.

Jesus drew people to him by reaching out to them first. This is the model I think we should be following. Remember, when Jesus started his ministry there were no Christians. As Jesus cared and demonstrated love for others, people started to follow his example, and so those who shared his concern for all people, who continued his example after his death, became the church, became the first Christians. They stood out from everyone else because they cared for each other, and those in need. We are their successors.

In the middle of this present emergency, there are so many needs many beyond our means, but one thing we can all do is support the Foodbanks. Our neighbours at Shoeburyness and Thorpe Bay Baptist Church are holding contactless drop-off sessions in their church car park (90 Thorpedene Gardens SS3 9JD) between 7-8pm on Mondays and 10-11am on Fridays. Foodbanks are struggling with a huge drop in donations and really need help to feed the growing number of families coming to them during this crisis. In particular, they need meat meals (including tinned meat pies, meatballs, chilli or curry etc.), tinned vegetables (especially tinned tomatoes, carrots and potatoes), UHT milk, rice (500g or 1kg bags), noodles or cuppa soups, and long life puddings (e.g. tinned rice pudding, custard etc).

I know shopping is still not that easy, but if you can, please try to help support the Foodbanks at this time.

I hope to see you all soon.

God Bless

David

*** David Pearce is Lead Minister at St Mary the Virgin**





The Church garden work party this month will be on Saturday 6th June from 2-4pm



With many thanks to Tony Pond who has kept up the churchyard throughout the lockdown. Social distancing should be no problem.

21st June is Father's Day, and last year four in ten fathers failed to see their children on Father's Day.

Now there may be perfectly good reasons for this – Father's Day is not as 'big' as Mother's Day, and fathers may well be seeing their children just fine on other days.

But a survey commissioned by the campaign group Fathers 4 Justice (F4J) has also found that one in five fathers who do not live with their children fear losing, or have lost, contact with their children. Many of these 'separated' fathers experience mental health issues after being denied access to their children. At a time when depression and male suicide is on the increase, is there anything that we as a church can do to help local families who are struggling with these issues?





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Thank you for the Quiz—Suzanne

Answers on page 19

Q1. What is the antonym (opposite) of the word 'oriental'?

Q2. What do the following countries have in common?

The Netherlands

South Africa

Malaysia

Q3. Which of the following is not a type of mushroom?

King Oyster

Chicken of the Woods

Tiger's Tail

Lion's Mane

Q4. What are the six official languages of the United Nations?

Q5. In which year did Twitter launch?

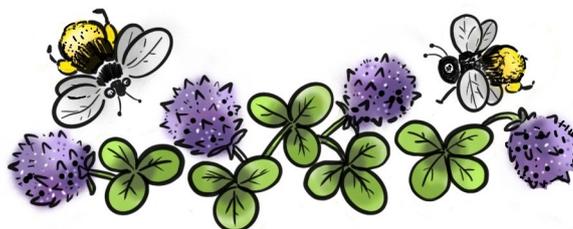
Q6. What is the best selling novel of all time?

Q7. If the word 'porcine' relates to pigs and the word 'bovine' relates to cattle, to what does the word 'hirsine' relate?

Q8. (Now excluding Prince Harry!) who is 6th in line to the British throne?

Q9. According to the UK Tea and Infusions Association, approximately how many cups of tea are consumed daily in the UK?

Q10. How many Church of England parishes are there?



St Mary's Church Hall – Regular Hirers/Activities

Monday	<p>Strollercise Strolling to 50's music 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>Barling & Lt. Waking Women's Institute 1st Monday of month, 2 pm Contact Phyl Wickenden 01702 582185</p>	
Tuesday	<p>Rachel's Story, Rhymes and Activity Time Toddler Group at 10am except 2nd Tuesday Contact: Rachel 07780 374991</p> <p>U3A – Local History 2nd Tuesday of month 10.15 am to 12.15 pm Contact: Mick 01702 622356</p>	<p>U3A – Crafting 2nd Tuesday of month 1.30pm to 3.30pm Contact Janet 07810 879673</p>	<p>Private booking 5.30 – 7.30 pm</p> <p>Southend Wado Kai Tengudojo Karate 7.30 – 9pm Contact: Tony 07874 854494</p>
Wednesday	<p>U3A Ukelele Improvers 2nd Wednesday of month 10 am to 12 noon Contact: Roni 07584 660096</p>	<p>U3A Knit & Natter 2nd Wednesday of month 2 – 4pm Contact Pat 07476 078570</p>	
Thursday	<p>St Mary's Community Coffee Morning 10.30 am to 12 noon All welcome</p>	<p>U3A Floristry 1st Thursday of month 1pm – 3.30pm Contact Jane 07743507511</p> <p>Sweaty Mama Female Bootcamp 7.30 – 8.30pm Contact: Kellie 07847 249618</p>	<p>Private booking 5.45 – 6.45 pm</p>
Friday	<p>Diddi Dance 9.15 – 10.15 am Funky pre-school dance class for boys and girls. Contact Jennifer Ripton 07756 407162</p>	<p>Marriott's Tai Chi 11am – 12.00 pm Contact Tracey Cain 01702 290461</p>	

CHURCH HALL CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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On why holding an Arts Festival in church is not a good idea

The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren



Your decision to hold a Summer weekend Arts Festival in church, bringing culture to your inner-city streets, was most commendable. Pity, how it all turned out. The Friday evening started well with the concert of Scott Joplin piano music. Obviously knowing that the pieces were originally played in seedy bars on pianos wildly out of tune with several notes missing, your committee must have gone to endless trouble to find precisely the right instrument. Your stage-hands, were, however, less careful and hadn't noticed that the platform had a noticeable list to port. After each piece, the pianist had to relocate the piano stool closer to his nomadic piano, with the last piece being performed with both entirely out of sight behind the pulpit.

It created much innocent entertainment for the audience, but the fault really should have been remedied before the Saturday evening choir concert. Discarded kneelers and rotting hymn books do not form a stable base for a stage supporting an 80-strong choir. So when it came to the enthusiastic rendering of hits from 'Oklahoma', with copious hand movements, it came as something of a relief that the stage took this as the moment to signal defeat, tipping the tenors behind the altar.

The audience's thunderous applause, assuming this was a carefully choreographed part of the performance, was quite touching. I am sure all the compensation claims will soon be sorted out.

Your one great mistake was to take on responsibility for organising the refreshments afterwards. Church entertainments committees have centuries of collective experience in judging the numbers of ham sandwiches and bottles of milk required. I am forever proud that our own ladies – through years of experience – can now get five cups of tea from every tea bag and can butter bread so thinly that one pack can last several months.

What you now do with 29 surplus loaves of bread is a problem you have brought upon yourself. You could possibly use them for supporting the stage next year.

Your loving uncle, Eustace.

Some more smiles

An efficiency expert was delivering a seminar on time management for a company's junior executives. He concluded the session with a disclaimer: "But whatever you do, do NOT attempt these task-organising tips at home," he said.

When he was asked why not, he explained: "Well, I did a study of my wife's routine of fixing breakfast. I noticed she made a lot of trips between the refrigerator and the stove, the table and the cabinets, each time carrying only one item. So, I told her: 'Darling you are making too many trips back and forth carrying one item at a time. If you would only try carrying several things at once you would be much more efficient.'" He paused.

"Did that save time?" one of the executives asked.

"Actually, yes," the expert answered, "It used to take her 15 minutes to fix my breakfast. Now I get my own in seven minutes."

It has been proposed that we have a National Clap for all the delivery workers who have helped to keep us supplied with a multitude of necessities during the period of lockdown—it is suggested for a Monday sometime between 9am and 1pm.

Customer: "I've been ringing you on 0700 2300 for two days.

Why didn't you answer?"

Travel agent: "Where did you get that number from, sir?"

Customer: "It's there on the door to your Travel Centre."

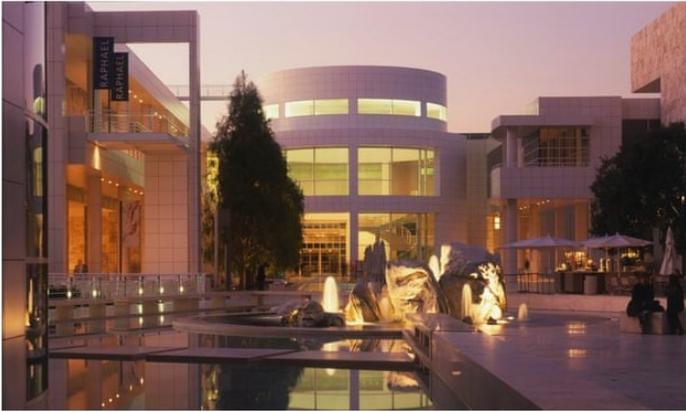
Operator: "Sir, they are our opening hours."

Then there was the caller who asked for a knitwear company in Woven.

Operator: "Woven? Are you sure?"

Caller: "Yes, of course. That's what it says on the label; Woven in Scotland."

J Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles



▲ Photograph: Alex Vertikoff/2003 J. Paul Getty Trust



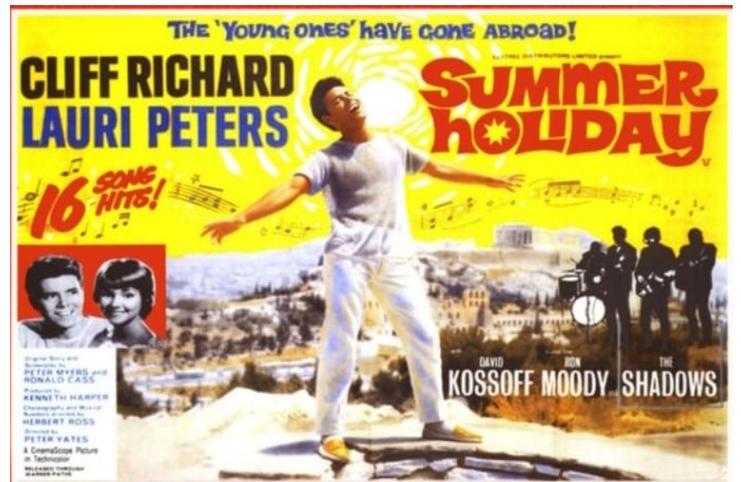
Vatican Museums, Rome



▲ Vatican Museums' virtual tour



Natural History Museum, London



Hover over the picture then “left click” to follow the link

God gives His gifts where He finds the vessel empty enough to receive them.

– C S Lewis, writer



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9th June Columba of Iona, missionary to the UK

In 563 AD St Columba sailed from Ireland to Iona – a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Highlands. He brought Christianity with him.

Columba (c. 521 -97) was born in Donegal of the royal Ui Neill clan, and he trained as a monk. He founded the monasteries of Derry (546), Durrow (c.556) and probably Kells. But in 565 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions for Iona, an island off southwest Scotland. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Why would a monk in his mid-40s go into such voluntary exile? Various explanations include: voluntary exile for Christ, an attempt to help overseas compatriots in their struggle for survival, or even as some sort of punishment for his part in a row over a psalter in Ireland. Whatever the reason, Columba went to Iona and spent the rest of his life in Scotland, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause. Able, ardent, and sometimes harsh, Columba seems to have mellowed with age.

As well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts. Columba had great skill as a scribe, and an example of this can be seen in the Cathach of Columba, a late 6th century psalter in the Irish Academy, which is the oldest surviving example of Irish majuscule writing. In his later years Columba spent much time transcribing books.

Columba's death was apparently foreseen by his community, and even, it seems, sensed by his favourite horse. He died in the church just before Matins, and it is a tribute to this man that his traditions were upheld by his followers for about a century, not least in the Synod of Whitby and in Irish monasteries on the continent of Europe.

Here is a prayer of St Columba:

Christ With Us
My dearest Lord,
Be Thou a bright flame before me,
Be Thou a guiding star above me,
Be Thou a smooth path beneath me,
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today and evermore.



Mid-week services

ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED

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



I thought we might reflect a little on our own local history, though I am no historian. (Does anyone know a local specialist who might be willing to advise or contribute?)

Shoeburyness in the 1200's

A few snippets of the background that our congregation may have gossiped about:-

1252 – May 15 – Pope Innocent IV issues the papal bull *Ad exstirpanda*, which authorizes the torture of heretics in the Medieval Inquisition.

1253 – King Henry III of England meets with English nobles and church leaders to reaffirm the validity of the Magna Carta.

Margaret was the second child of King Henry III of England and his wife, Eleanor of Provence, She was married on 25 December 1251, when she was 11 years old, at York Minster, to King Alexander III of Scotland, who was 10 years of age.

1275, King Edward I passed the Statute of Jewry, which compelled Jews to be identified by a yellow badge and outlawed usury.



HAVE YOU ANYTHING FOR THIS MAGAZINE?

Thank you to Suzanne 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

We used to call it Whitsun

We used to call it Whitsun – White Sunday because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. No processions nowadays, and we've even changed its name. It's now 'Pentecost', which is more accurate but needs explaining.

This year Whitsun/Pentecost is on Sunday June 9th. Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. On the year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3000 people believed and were baptized in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

I realise many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn't helped by the earlier title 'Holy Ghost'. The spirit is not spiritually a 'ghost' but a precious gift.

Canon David Winter

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
Hall Bookings	Phyl Wickenden	582185
	Francine Johnson	589244
PCC Secretary	Michelle Waters	589026
Church Finance & Gift Aid Secretary	Francine Johnson	589244
Electoral Roll	(Vacancy)	
Church Diaries & Flowers co-ordinator	Wendy Shipperley	588319
Social, Hall & Fundraising	Francine Johnson	589244
	Phyl Wickenden	582185
Readers, Chalice Assistants & Sides persons Rota	Church Wardens	
Parish Magazine	Craig Hunter	0793203644 chunter2009@hotmail.co.uk
Churchyard	(Vacancy)	
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We don't dress up or do our hair
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Our Vicar is a clever chap
A Zoom with his IT
And so we sit down ev'ry week
And meet up virtually!

Our Parish Church stands empty
With praise she does not ring;
But still her people gather round
To pray, and praise, and sing!

By Nigel and Carol Beeton

Answers to the quiz

A1 Occidental A:2 They all have more than one official capital city.

A:3 Tiger's Tail A:4 Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish

A:5 2006 A:6 Don Quixote A: 7 Goats

A::8 Prince Andrew-(Charles, William, George, Charlotte, Louis, Andrew...

Although the Succession to Crown Act 2013 ended the system of male primogeniture, the legislation cannot be applied retrospectively. Therefore Prince Andrew is still ahead in the queue of his older sister Princess Anne. However under the new legislation, Princess Charlotte, who was born in 2015 now jumps ahead of her younger brother Prince Louis).

A::9 100 million A:10 12500

Remember the quizmaster is always right !



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