



St Mary the Virgin

May

North Shoebury

2020



FRIDAY 1ST MAY DAY, BANK HOLIDAY

SATURDAY 2ND MAY, KING JAMES BIBLE PUBLISHED (1611)

FRIDAY 8TH MAY, VE DAY

WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY, COUNCIL OF NICAIA (325)

TUESDAY 26TH MAY, ANNIVERSARY DUNKIRK (1940)

SUNDAY 31ST MAY, WHITSUNDAY, PENTECOST

Revd. Louise Williams has given her permission to include her sermon in our magazine this month.

**John 20.19-end
Jesus appears to Thomas in the upper room.**

John tells us (John 20.26), that the disciples are together again, locked in to keep themselves safe one week later...a week after the resurrection. Since Jesus' arrest the disciples have been fearful of what may happen next. We hear that they are afraid of the Jewish leaders. Jealousy and fear had turned some of the senior Jewish leaders against Jesus. They had manipulated Pilate and he had taken the path of least resistance and had Jesus executed.

Since the previous Sunday morning, people had begun to catch glimpses of the risen Jesus. Indeed, some had walked with him and eaten a meal (Luke 24.13-35). And, last week, Jesus had appeared through a locked door to greet the disciples in a room in Jerusalem. Jesus was most certainly alive but it seemed that his resurrection body was unlike anything anyone had seen before. He could eat and drink (Luke 24.30); he could be hugged, tho he asked Mary Magdalene not to hold onto him (John20.17.) Yet in John 20, it seems he can enter a room that is bolted from the inside. The resurrection body is not constrained as ours is. He was not a ghost: this is a body which is physical. But it is beyond anything we have ever experienced: in 1 Corinthians 15, St Paul tries to work this puzzle out for his readers...it's worth a read!

There was only one problem with all these appearances. Not everyone was included. Thomas wasn't there in the upper room in Jerusalem when Jesus appeared. We don't know where he was when Jesus appeared on the first Easter Day. Perhaps he had popped out for essential supplies. Perhaps he just needed to be on his own. Trauma and bereavement affect us in different ways. The majority of the apostles chose to be together: they found strength and courage in gathering. Thomas may have needed to go away and think quietly about it.

Well, whatever the reason, Thomas wasn't there and he couldn't believe the story the others had told him. Again, we're all different. Some would have just taken what Peter and the others said on trust. Which is a mixed blessing, it seems to me. After all, some people believe 5G phone masts help spread Covid19...oh if only people would stop and ask questions before they swallow the latest internet nonsense! Thomas would not have been setting light to phone masts. He would, I'm sure, have been asking questions, wondering, checking things out. And a week after the resurrection he remained unconvinced. He longed and need to see the risen Jesus for himself. I have met people who are deliberately difficult about faith...they just seem to like the attention they get from being argumentative. I have also met people like Thomas. They're not going to rush at this matter of faith but they need to take their time and get there gradually. And that's fine with Jesus.

A week later Jesus appeared again and welcomed Thomas' questions. He showed Thomas what he needed to see. He didn't grumble at him. Jesus didn't make Thomas feel bad because he had questions. Jesus didn't nag him just to have a bit more faith and then everything would be fine. He treated him with love and courtesy. And the result of this was that Thomas recognised beyond any doubt that Jesus is alive. But Thomas grasped considerably more at the same time. He recognised the true nature of Jesus. 'My Lord and my God.' Thomas saw with the greatest clarity of any of the disciples just exactly who Jesus is.

Only God, the Creator of all matter, could pass through doors, could rise from the dead. Only God, who knows all things, could let Thomas see and experience all that he needed to. Only God could truly breathe on the disciples his Holy Spirit (John 20.22). In the end, it is only God who can give us peace (John 20.19,21). This peace is the peace of his Kingdom; the peace of Shalom. His peace is about love, joy, hope, forgiveness, healing and joy. It was this peace which Thomas received when he met Jesus.

Locked doors and Lockdown are no barrier for the presence of Jesus, for his peace and his love. The history of the Bible shows us that God is with those who are enclosed in fear, oppression or prison. When Joseph was in prison in Egypt (Genesis 40) and the people later became enslaved (Exodus 1) God knew and was with them. When Jeremiah was imprisoned because he had spoken the very challenging word of God (Jeremiah 37-40), God did not forget him. When Daniel and his friends were taken to Babylon when Judah had been invaded, God did not abandon them (Daniel 1). Peter, Paul and Silas ended up in prison because of their missionary activities and they were all miraculously released (Acts 12.1-19 and Acts 16.16-40). They weren't set free every time and it can't have been easy but they knew and they trusted that God was with them. Even in their prison cells they knew the presence of God.

Many of us are struggling with our locked doors; with the lack of personal interaction. For some it's hard to pray, it's hard to trust. If only God would hurry up and send a miracle cure...if only, if only! Jesus came to Thomas and he comes to us through locked doors, through difficult days, through times of fear and illness, bereavement and pain. And he comes with his peace, strength and hope. May it be that we have strength to reach out our hands to him, to stop doubting and believe.

Press "control" click to view the booklet below



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Supporting good mental health



A word or two from your editor.

Thank you for your patience in waiting for the late publication of our magazine. I have expanded the use of our “links” to places outside and have also put links in our contributing advertisers pages to their webpages. I dearly hope that none of us need their services during this period– unless you need some insurance!

Thank you so much Tony Pond for keeping us meeting for worship each Sunday, it is so important that we meet and share God’s love in these difficult times.

I have put all the “entertainment” on page 12 but also have a look at “Supporting mental health” on page 4 and “Time to pray– podcast” on Page 6.

Please keep David in your prayers, I look forward to greeting him with joy when he returns to us. Our “whatsapp” group thrives-keeping us in touch and amused in equal measure.

God bless and keep you all,

Craig

Psalm 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging. ^[c]

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.

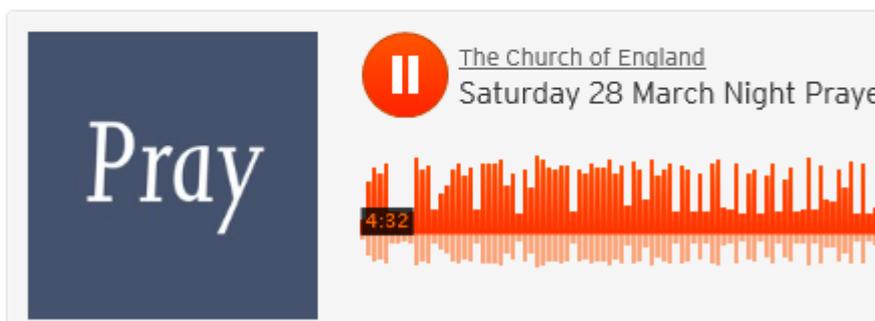
⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

God bless you and keep you and your
loved ones safe at this difficult time.

Time to Pray - now a podacast!

Daily audio for Common Worship Prayer During the Day
to Pray app. Watch out for more Daily Prayer audio in the





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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

ANNIVERSARIES BIRTHDAY PARTIES CHRISTENINGS
RETIREMENT PARTIES SPECIAL EVENTS VERY REASONABLE RATES
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK,
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Leave your dandelions alone

When mowing your lawn, avoid cutting your dandelions. That is the advice of the president of the British Ecological Society, Prof Jane Memmott. It will help to save the bees.

She explains: “Dandelions are a fantastic source of pollen and nectar for the early pollinators in particular. If they were rare, people would be fighting over them, but because they’re common, people pull them out and spray them with all sorts of horrible things when they should just let them flower. If you leave the lawn to three or four inches, then dandelions, clover and daisies can flower and then you end with something like a tapestry, and it’s much nicer to sit there and watch the insects buzzing about.”

Prof Memmott encourages everyone to get a bee hotel for their garden. “There’s nothing nicer than being sat in a chair with a glass of wine and watching the bees going in and out of your own personal little beehive. Even just a potted plant on a doorstep will provide lunch for a bee or a fly or a butterfly.”



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St James the Least of All

On the perils of a Scout camp

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren



It seems that the basics of parish ministry are no longer taught in theological colleges. Don't you know anything about consulting your diary in public? When you are asked if you are free on a certain date, accepted practice is to open it so that the enquirer cannot quite see. You then shake your head sadly, saying you are committed to blessing a new tea urn, or on some other vital ecclesiastical activity that day. Then you regretfully give your apologies. You do not open the thing in full view of your enquirer, so he can see the blank pages! Really, it serves you right that you are now committed to going on Scout camp.

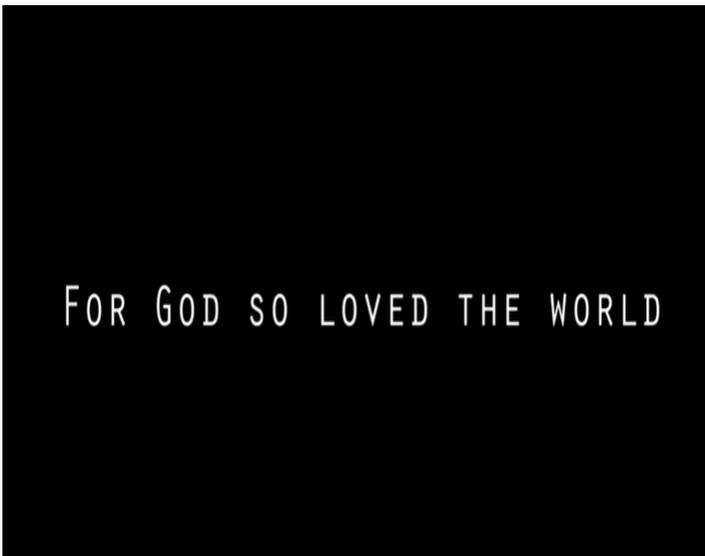
The last time I agreed to pay the Scouts a visit was when I found that there was a splendid restaurant only a mile away from their camp. I arrived and parked my car by the side of the river where they were all canoeing, wound down the car window and made encouraging noises for some minutes before explaining I had to find a garage for petrol.

Several hours later, after an excellent lunch, I drove to where they were now rock climbing, wound down the car window and made encouraging noises for some minutes before explaining that I had a standing committee to return to that evening. It was a splendid day.

You, however, will experience the charms of two days under canvas. Whatever site for your tent you choose, it will be the one that floods first. The early hours will undoubtedly find you wading about in water in the pitch dark, retrieving your sleeping bag and clothes – which you will then have to wear for the rest of the day. Watch out for the food, as well: all camp food contains grass and usually sheep droppings. This will make you ill, though for some reason Scouts thrive on it.

Whatever the weather and whatever activities you do each day, you will end up wet, chilled and bruised. At least your evenings will be warm, for you are bound to spend them at Casualty, with youngsters suffering from sprained ankles or dislocated shoulders. My only advice is to use those hours in Casualty to practise the art of opening your diary in a way that only YOU can see it.

Your loving uncle, Eustace.



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



Shoeburyness Residents Association

Public group · 2.3K members



Kate Mundy

Admin · 28 February 2017 ·



This group is open to all residents of Shoebury. To join the group please along with requesting to join send a message to 'admin' advising where you live so that only residents who live and or work are in the group.

This is a page for local residents to find out more of what is going on in the area and to become members of the association, an application form is in the files page.

Residents can use this page to air any concerns that they have within the community and a com... [See more](#)

Mid-week services

ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED

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



This series is written by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

A Scientist Reflects on God’s Heart for the Suffering

It’s difficult as a scientist to hear information that is fascinating, but which also involves so much suffering for other people. I worked for a time in a leukaemia research lab. We had to let other people’s pain drive our research without it crippling our ability to concentrate on our work. But, writing this under lockdown, I have found myself – as a biologically-educated bystander – avoiding looking into the science of COVID-19 because the reminders of its impact on people’s lives are everywhere that I look.

One of the ways I have been managing my own feelings during the pandemic is by digging deeper into what God has revealed to us about His character, letting that fuel my faith, my prayers, and my actions. For more academic types like myself, study – particularly of the Bible – can be one of the primary ways we connect with God and hear from Him. It’s not wrong to be comforted by books, so long as the contents turn our eyes upwards and outwards.

First of all, God hears: “The Lord is close to the broken hearted’ (Psalm 34:18a). In Jesus God took on human form, and He showed us His heart for the world. When His friend Lazarus died, He wept (John 11). God is “the Father of compassion and the God of



Human sin has affected the whole of creation, and I believe this is largely the direct impact of our mismanagement of creation and mistreatment of each other. COVID-19 may well be another animal's friendly virus, pushed by human activity into causing havoc in bodies where it doesn't belong.

But God's world remains good. It is still fruitful, praising Him, as Psalm 19 describes. Even pictures of a deadly virus can seem beautiful – especially to a biologist! These good things are hints of the promised “new heavens and new earth” mentioned in the New Testament. One day “creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay” (Romans 8: 21), and for everyone who follows God, “He will wipe every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 21: 4).

Behind the debates about suffering is sometimes the assumption that God doesn't care. My experience is that God does care deeply, and He invites His Church to care for those around them – especially the most vulnerable. He is with us, He hears us and grieves with us, He helps us and promises a better future.

HAVE YOU ANYTHING FOR THIS MAGAZINE?

Thank you to Suzanne , Sue and Wendy 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.

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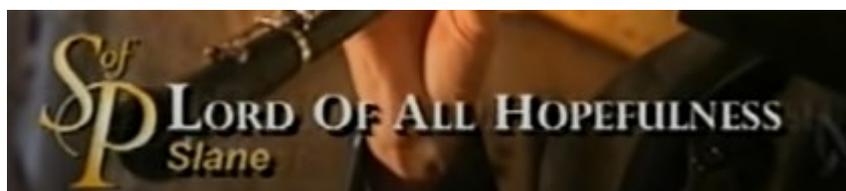


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Squeezed in at the last minute—for Naomi

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 Parish Magazine	Church Wardens Craig Hunter	0793203644 chunter2009@hotmail.co.uk
Churchyard Cleaning co-ordinator	(Vacancy) Pat Fitch	585289

THE CHURCH WEB SITE

www.stmarynorthshoebury.org.uk



Children's Society

The Children's Society has thanked "our fantastic supporters for your kindness and generosity" in recent months, but for the moment it has postponed all volunteering activity.

"Coordinators who are due to open their networks' boxes in May, June and July will receive a letter to let them know what to do. If you recently completed your collection, but haven't remitted the funds raised yet, please keep financial donations together with all confidential paperwork (eg box list, addresses, Gift Aid information and box holder registration forms) in a safe and secure place so that others cannot access this.

[More information at: www.childrenssociety.org.uk/coronavirus-information-and-support.](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/coronavirus-information-and-support)

Thank you to Pat, Francine, Tony and Stephen for their vigilance in helping to deal with an "unofficial memorial" which was placed in the churchyard. It has been recorded as an incident with Essex Police so that we can take further action should it be replaced in position. If you have cause to visit the grounds please contact me immediately if you notice any suspicious activity.

Craig Hunter
Churchwarden



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