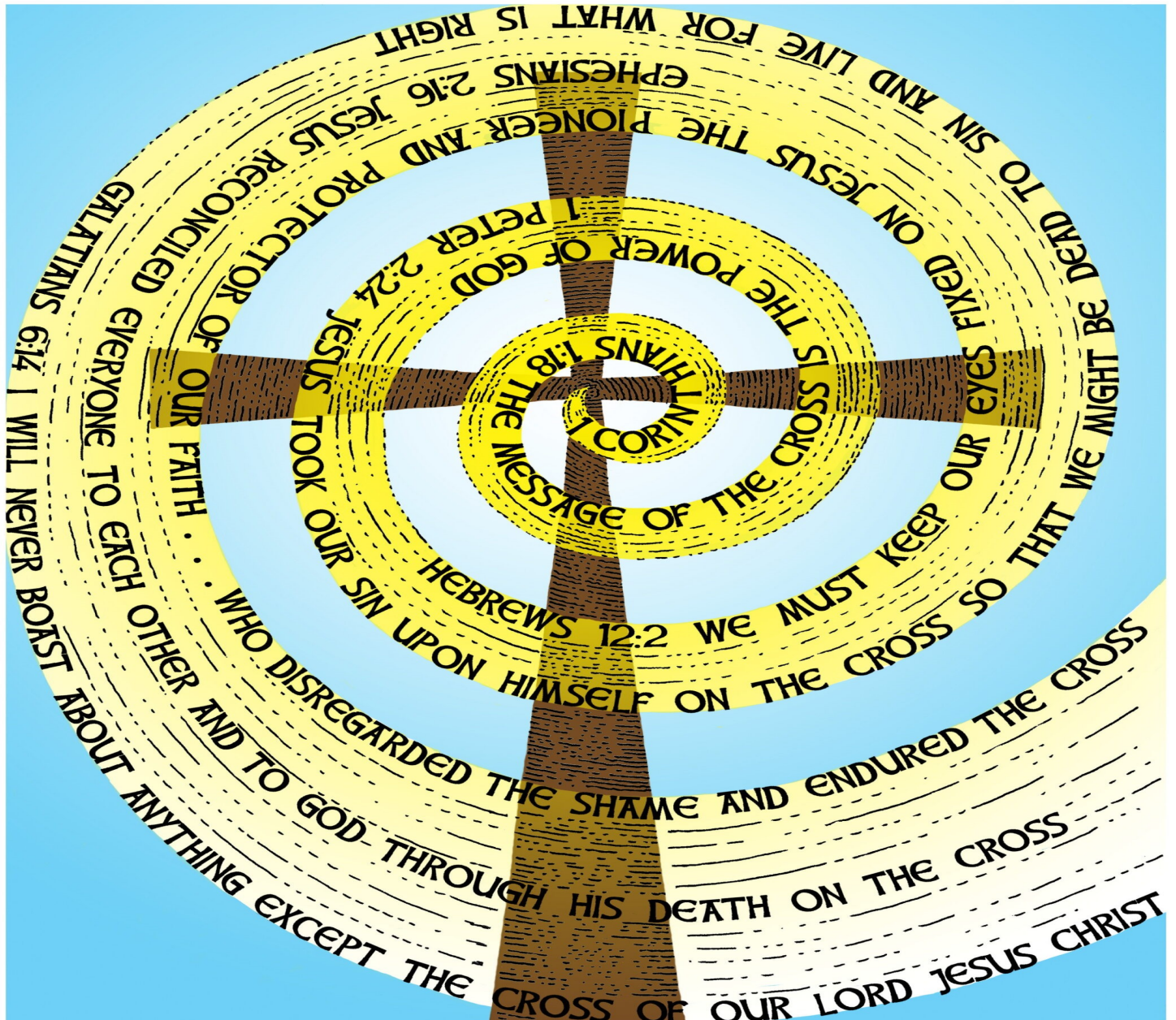


St Mary the Virgin—North Shoebury

APRIL 2022



SUNDAY 10TH APRIL— PALM SUNDAY

THURSDAY 14TH APRIL —MAUNDAY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 15TH APRIL — GOOD FRIDAY


SUNDAY 17TH APRIL— EASTER SUNDAY

TUESDAY 26 TH APRIL—ST GEORGE'S DAY

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t. 01702 206222

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t. 01268 683136

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t. 01268 904 904

Easter turns the world on its head.

This is being written in Lent, it will be published in early April, and Easter is still two weeks away. Such is the world we live in. I don't know about you, but I have several hobbies, and there are always associated magazines. I have already received April's editions. We live in an impatient world don't we.

But Lent is a time when in church terms, we can take a break, find time to reflect and we can think about what happened on Good Friday and Easter. I wonder if we still feel that Easter turned the world upside down.

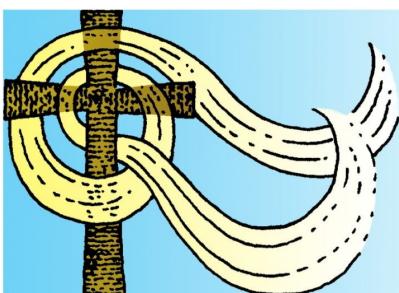
As we have been looking at "The Last Week" during the Lent Course, we are discovering much more about the activities of Jesus and his disciples in this time. There are many points of teaching that are often missed, and this learning is challenging our ideas about Jesus, the crucifixion, and the Resurrection. What happened in this week is as relevant to today's society as it was two thousand years ago.

Two thousand years ago, there was a corrupt administration in league with the hostile imperial power. The nation was being led away from the messages contained in what were then known as "the Law and the Prophets". It appears to me that selfishness, greed, injustice and inequality were clearly evident at the heart of the Temple Authorities.

Everyone was expecting the Messiah, the anointed one, to lead them away from this, to forcibly drive out the oppressors. Jesus was not what they were expecting. He turned their world on its head.

These events and issues lie at the very heart of our faith, but in today's society, sadly, Easter simply becomes "another Christian festival" with chocolate and fluffy bunny rabbits.

We look back on the events of Easter through two thousand years of thought and reflection, but does it make a difference? Yes, for many it does, to others it is



April
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At St. Mary's this Easter season we will meet with our fellow Christians on Maundy Thursday in church and at a fellowship meal. On Good Friday I will lead a reflection based on the "Stations of the Cross". This is the process of remembering of the moments from when Jesus was arrested until he was crucified. The last Station, the Resurrection, will wait until Easter Sunday.

Traditionally, on the Saturday before Easter Day, the church will be especially cleaned, the brass and silver will be polished, new candles will be put on the altar ready for Easter Day.

On Easter morning some of us will gather at 5.00am to greet the dawn, and remember that it was the ladies who first discovered the Resurrection. At the first signs of dawn, the new Paschal Candle will be lit from the flames of the brazier and "the light of Christ" will be brought into church.

We will gather at the Easter Garden, and the stone over the tomb will be rolled away.

As you may well have gathered, for me, Easter is the single most important festival of the Christian year, and the Sunrise Service, the most important service of Easter Day.

Each year we are renewed, encouraged, enlivened and challenged at this time.

After the Sunrise Service, there will be a buffet breakfast in the Church Hall.

So begins a new year in the life of our church.

On 3rd April we will be holding our APCM. Although it will reflect on the last year, 2021, it will also look forward into another year at St. Mary's Church. Officers will be elected, and you will read the reports of activities of 2021.

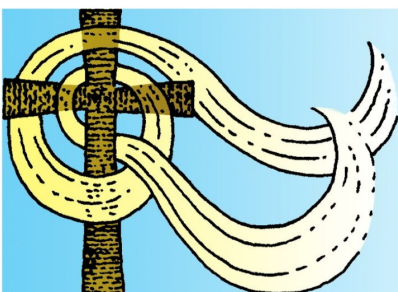
It is important that we try to take an active role in the church, remember, it is part of our task as Christians to "turn the world on its head"

God bless

Rev David Pierce

Lead Minister

St. Mary's Church North Shoebury.



April
2022



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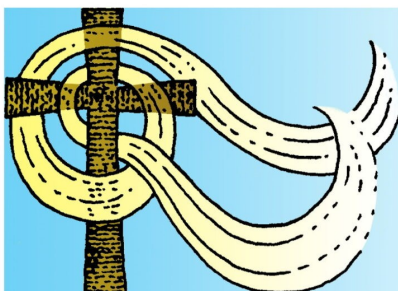


The Church garden work party this month will be on Saturday 9TH APRIL from 2-4pm



One thing you need to put at the top of your list this Spring is to simply **MOVE**.

Whether you like gardening, cycling, jogging, walking or any other activity, make certain that you do some of it every day. As Prof James Goodwin, of the Brain Health Network in London explains, “Only 25 per cent of our ageing – both physical and mental – is determined by our DNA. The other 75 per cent is lifestyle and our environment, over which we have a lot of choice.” He goes to explain that aerobic exercise indirectly stimulates the brain, and thus rejuvenates it. “Prolonged daily sitting down is the enemy of brain health.”



**April
2022**

St James the Least of All



On how maintaining the churchyard can lead to turf wars

The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Consider yourself fortunate that your churchyard consists of no more than a small, paved area, and that keeping it tidy requires ten minutes of picking up discarded takeaway boxes on Sunday morning. Our four acres of grass and randomly placed gravestones absorbs a large portion of the time and energy of half the parish.

By getting different people to adopt sections of the churchyard, the hope was that an element of competition would be introduced; Major Rutherford would never let Admiral Crompton's section look tidier than his and the local farmers would want to show the amateurs that they knew far more about land maintenance.

Sadly, human nature has got in the way – as it invariably does. Miss Timmins has declared her section a nature reserve, so that the cuddly field mice and darling hedgehogs have somewhere to live in. This now means that crossing from her patch to the next feels like crossing from Kew Gardens to the Amazon Rainforest. Two feet high grass and a profusion of dandelions give way to manicured lawn with any weed daring to pop its head above the parapet being beheaded in seconds. Miss T is toying with erecting a fence round her plot, to keep her dear furry friends safe and Sir Horace is threatening to have it electrified, to make sure they do not defile his grass billiard table.

Mr Tremble, a retired health and safety officer, whose well-meaning advice on avoiding accidents is such a burden, is applying to have all the gravestones on his patch levelled, so that no one could be killed by having a fall on them. The fact that this has never happened in 600 years, seems an irrelevance to him. On the other hand, his neighbour spends summer evenings painting his stones with sour milk, in order to encourage lichen. Mr Tremble's warning that some lichens can be quite poisonous have so far fallen on deaf ears.

A local farmer, who maintains the boundary walls, generously planted cherry trees all around the perimeter; not only for their looks in Spring, but so that the birds would have somewhere to roost. Sadly, Lady Lipton, while resting from maintaining her plot, tends to stupefy them when she smokes her briar pipe.

The only area which no one dares criticise surrounds the mausoleum of the Luscombes, maintained by the gardening staff of the present Lord. It contains such a collection of rogues and miscreants that parishioners fear their anger at being disturbed may even cross the divide of death.

I hesitate to admit it, but the thought of an area of concrete with a few pizza boxes scattered round does at times hold a certain attraction.

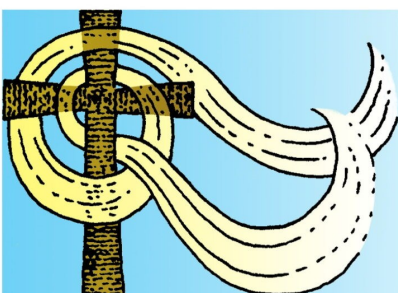
Your loving uncle,

Eustace

If you would like to sponsor a magazine, for a birthday, anniversary, in memory or for thanksgiving, please contact Francine.

£35 colour gift aided or not, would cover the professional printing of a monthly magazine.

francinejjohnson@gmail.com



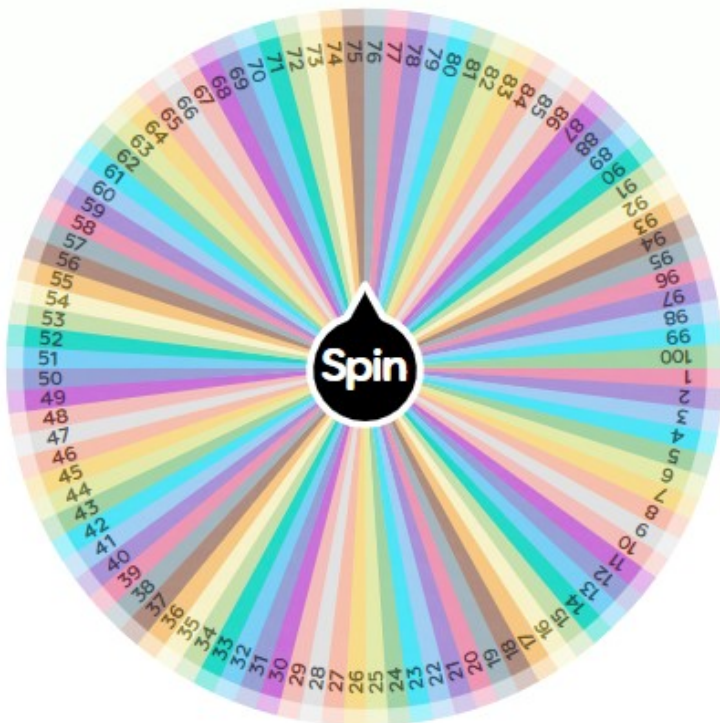
**April
2022**

HAVE YOU ANYTHING FOR THIS MAGAZINE?

Thank you to David and Francine for their contributions. 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.

Please send any material for the Magazine by the 17th of the month

numbers 1 - 100



Winning numbers

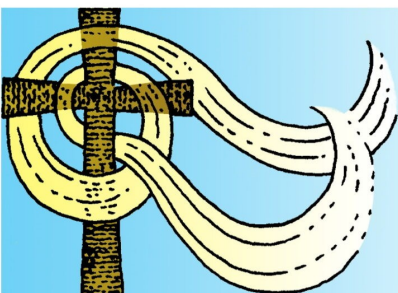
in MARCH are

1st Prize 60 GMc

2nd Prize 90 JT

Editor: With AGMs at church in mind...

A conference is a gathering of important people who singly can do nothing, but together can decide that nothing can be done.



**April
2022**

St Mary's Church Hall Week Day Regular Hirers/Activities

Monday	<p>Strollerclase Strolling to 50's music 6-7,000 steps (3 miles) Fun, friendly, all ages, no gym kit required. £5 per hour 10 -11 am & 11.15am -12.15pm Contact: Karen/Tracy 07745 154065</p>	<p>Barling & Lt. Wakering Women's Institute 1st Monday of month, 2 pm Contact Phyl Wickenden 01702 562185</p> <p>USA Singing Group 2nd & 4th Monday 1.45pm to 3.45pm Contact: Colin E: colin.edwards5@btopenworld.com</p> <p>USA Knit & Natter 3rd Monday of the month Contact: Jane E: jvpartridge@gmail.com</p>	<p>Kels Bod Squad Ladies bootcamp 7.30 – 8.30 pm Contact Kelle 07847 249618</p>
Tuesday	<p>USA – Local History 2nd Tuesday of month 10.15 am to 12.15 pm Contact: Mick 01702 622356</p>	<p>St Mary's Bloomers Floristry group 1st Tuesday of month 2pm to 4pm Contact: Jane E: jvpartridge@gmail.com</p> <p>USA – Crafting 2nd Tuesday of month 1.30pm to 3.30pm Contact Janet 07810 879673</p> <p>USA – Gardening Group 3rd Tuesday of month 1.30pm to 3.30pm Contact Liz: 07791 340859</p>	
Wednesday	<p>USA Ukulele Improvers 2nd Wednesday 09.45 – 11.45am Contact: Peter Bone 07637 562910</p>		
Thursday	<p>St Mary's Community Coffee Morning 10.30 am to 12 noon All welcome</p>	<p>USA Floristry 1st Thursday of month 1pm – 3.30pm Contact Jane E: jvpartridge@gmail.com</p>	<p>Kels Bod Squad Ladies bootcamp 7.30 – 8.30 pm Contact Kelle 07847 249618</p>
Friday	<p>Marriott's Tai Chi 11am – 12.00 pm Contact Tracey Cain 01702 290461</p>		

Casual hire fees £13 p/h, £13 admin fee + £50 refundable damage deposit. Contact hall@stmarynorthshoebury.org.uk for hire form and details.

March 2022



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Canon Paul Hardingham considers what the Resurrection achieved.

Christian Basics No 4: What about the Resurrection?

'Easter is not primarily a comfort, but a challenge. Its message is either the supreme fact in history or else a gigantic hoax.' (CS Lewis).

As we celebrate another Easter, what is the significance of Jesus' resurrection for us? As Paul writes, *'if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins'*. (1 Cor 15:17). What does the New Testament affirm about the resurrection?

It affirms that Jesus' death on the cross was not a defeat but a **victory** over sin, death and Satan, in which we share. *'But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him'* (Acts 2:24).

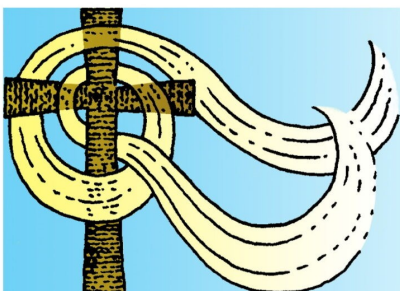
It points to our own **bodily resurrection** after death, *'The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable'* (1 Cor 15: 42).

It guarantees the **forgiveness** of our sins, *'if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins'* (1 Cor 15:17).

It ensures that we can know the reality of His **risen life** today, *'just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life'* (Rom 6:4).

The story is told of Russia under the Communist regime. A member of the Communist Party addressed a packed audience at length, seeking to discredit the resurrection of Christ. At the end an Orthodox priest rose and asked if he might reply. He was warned that he only had five minutes. *'Five seconds is all I need!'* He turned to the audience and gave the traditional Easter greeting: *'Christ is risen!'*

Back with a deafening roar came the traditional reply: *'He is risen indeed!'*



**April
2022**

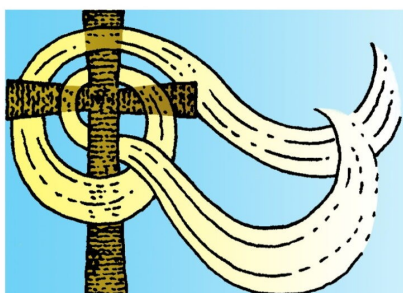
“Much of the Bible, in particular the historical books of the old testament, are as accurate historical documents as any that we have from antiquity and are in fact more accurate than many of the Egyptian, Mesopotamian, or [Greek](#) histories. These Biblical records can be and are used as are other ancient documents in archeological work. For the most part, historical events described took place and the peoples cited really existed. This is not to say that names of all peoples and places mentioned can be identified today, or that every event as reported in the historical books happened exactly as stated.”

(<http://www.csnradio.com/tema/links/SmithsonianLetter.pdf>.)

Jesus' appearances after His Resurrection

The following list of witnesses may help you put all those references in order....

Mary Magdalene	Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18
Other women at the tomb	Matthew 28:8-10
Peter in Jerusalem	Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5
The two travellers on the road	Mark 16:12,13
10 disciples behind closed doors	Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25
11 disciples WITH Thomas	John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5
7 disciples while fishing	John 21:1-14
11 disciples on the mountain	Matthew 28:16-20
A crowd of 500	1 Corinthians 15:6
Jesus' brother – James	1 Corinthians 15:7
Those who saw the Ascension	Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8



April
2022

Generous God—Generous Church—Nominated Charity

April– June 2022

Thank you all!

Thank you everyone! Since we launched our Nominated Charity in October last year we have **in addition to** our regular contributions to HARP and the Foodbank each month raised in addition:

£ 946 for Send a Cow (Oct—Dec 21)

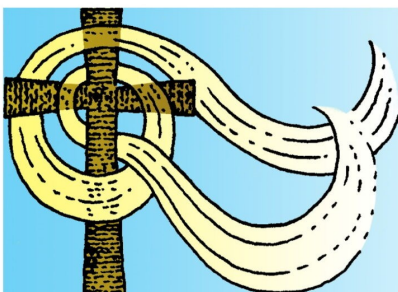
£ XXX for The Children’s Society (Jan-Mar 22)

Total to be confirmed once we count up the smarty tubes

The PCC has approved **One Love Soup Kitchen** as our target for April—June 22. This local charity provides a very wide level of support for the homeless and those in need in Southend and also runs a “Pop up Kitchen” at Friars Baptist Church every Tuesday 2-4pm. When a wholesome well prepared meal is available to any visitor for £1 (kids eat for FREE) as well as providing provisions and clothing from donations they have received for a small charge.

As well as our regular efforts to raise donations there is an initiative for congregation members and their supporters to visit each week in the months of April to June. We suggest that you overpay for your lunch (perhaps £5-£10 + per person). There will be a sign up sheet in church, please support this by organising a visit amongst yourselves with family or friends for one week in that period.

Thank you all!



April
2022

CONTACT DETAILS

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

01702 585289

Phone numbers are all area code 01702 unless stated

Lead Minister	Revd. David Pierce	07305 710265 david@revdavidpierce.net
Churchwardens	Craig Hunter	07932 503644 chunter2009@hotmail.co.uk
	Tony Pond	07960 678219 tonypond899@gmail.com
Hall Bookings	hall@stmarynorthshoebury.org.uk	
PCC Secretary Church Finance & Gift Aid Secretary	Michelle Waters	589026
	Francine Johnson	589244
Electoral Roll Church Diaries	Sue Arnold	586453
	Wendy Shipperley	588319
Flowers co-ordinator	Yvonne & Jane	
Social & Fundraising	Francine Johnson	589244
	Phyl Wickenden	582185
Readers, Chalice Assistants & Sides persons Rota Parish Magazine	Churchwardens Craig Hunter	07932 503644 chunter2009@hotmail.co.uk
Churchyard	Tony Pond	
Safeguarding Officer	Pat Fitch	585289

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Knit for Peace

Calling all knitters!



There is an online group called Knit for Peace which is a registered charity that I follow which has gives yarn, needles etc to people in prison, hospitals ,care homes as well as refugees and the displaced so they can make things for themselves, their families and to sell to provide for them.

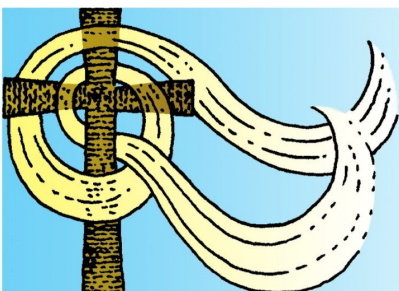
In this Jubilee year the organisers have suggested that a group get together to make a 'Friendship Blanket' made up of 5 inch squares and then send in to them for distribution.

I am happy to sew them together if anyone is interested in making a few squares. They can be in any colour, knitted or crochet but no thicker than a double knit wool please.

If you are interested let me know, my email is :

jvpartridge@gmail.com

Thank you, Jane



**April
2022**

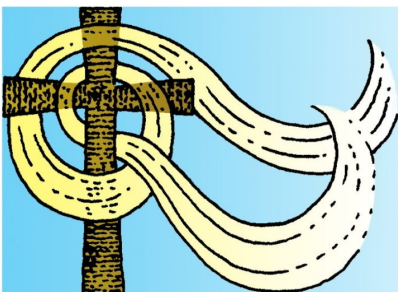
This is a worrying time for the whole world, and so this month I want to close with some verses from Psalm 46. It reminds us that in times of trouble, each one of us can still look to God for refuge. The earth may be in uproar, but He is in ultimate control.

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,...
- 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....
- 9 He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- 10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."
- 11 The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

May God bless you and guard you this month, and may this Easter bring you the love, the solace and the grace of Jesus Christ.

Easter greetings from
Anne Coomes and the Parish Pump Team



April
2022

THURSDAY, 14 APRIL 2022 AT 10:30am

St Marys Easter Bake Challenge

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

Easter Cake – £20 prize

Easter Sponge – £10 prize

Easter Cupcakes – £10
prize.



We'll post photos of the winning entries on here as well as the commended runners up.

Further enquiries to
Pat Fitch – 01702 585289



**March
2022**



Easter at St Mary's North Shoebury

Palm Sunday (April 10th)

Parish Eucharist at 10.30am

Maundy Thursday (April 14th)

***Easter Bake Challenge (church hall at 10.30am) - enquiries to Pat Finch
(01702 585289)***

Maundy Thursday Service and Supper at 6.30pm

**A joint service with the Salvation Army and Friars Baptist Church. If you would like to attend, please contact Rev. David Pierce
(david@revdavidpierce.net)**

Good Friday (April 15th)

Good Friday Service - "The Way of the Cross" 12pm until 3pm

A series of Bible readings and reflections, together with music and periods of silence. Worshippers may join and leave at any time.

Easter Sunday (April 17th)

Sunrise service at 5.00am

This will take place outside the church around a lit brazier and be followed by a buffet breakfast in the church hall. If you would like to attend, please contact Rev. David Pierce (david@revdavidpierce.net)

Parish Eucharist at 10.30am