

St Mary the Virgin—North Shoebury JULY 2022



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Lead Minister's letter

As I write my first report as your new minister, I think it is only right to begin by thanking David for everything he has done at St Mary's over the last three years. I know I have massive shoes to attempt to fill, and I pray I'm up to the task. I also would like to thank David for the time he has given to me and the graciousness he has displayed in the handover. You usually don't meet your successor – so it has been an unusual situation.

For those whom I've not been able to meet yet, my name is Hannah, and I am a final year curate. I will be joining you at North Shoebury until the end of my curacy. I am married to Peter, who will be remaining at South Shoebury, and we have a cat called Amelia, whom you will be meeting later in the magazine. Amelia is a rescue cat who is 15 years old, likes cat treats, sleeping and making her displeasure with her incompetent humans known.

Before I donned the dog collar, I worked for Chelmsford Diocese as one of the youth advisors. Before that, I worked for London Diocese, having spent 5 years working in a busy London parish. In my spare time I enjoy walking, reading, and sewing. One day I would love to learn to crochet and knit but, being left-handed, it has so far has evaded me – if anyone fancies a challenge, let me know.

On Tuesdays, I will continue my work with South Shoebury running their parent and toddler group and helping with the after-school club in the afternoon. My knowledge of games to tire children out is greatly appreciated. Over the years working with children especially, I have significantly come to appreciate their simple and unquestioning look at the bible. I was recently telling the annunciation story, and I came to the bit where the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, and one of my toddlers, who was engrossed in the story said, in a very loud voice, 'bang'. It made us laugh, and the poor parent tried to quieten a bemused toddler. But afterwards, it got me thinking; to a three-year-old looking at children's pictures of the annunciation, it looks like the angel has just appeared with a bang. And truthfully, we don't know how Gabriel made his grand entrance to Mary. There could well have been a 'bang'.

Children look at the bible with awe and wonder that we lose as adults; we tend to question everything and get bogged down trying to work out the precise details - was Hur the father or son of Caleb? Why is Romans 16:24 not where we'd expect to find it? It is good to go deeper and study the bible and smile at the quirks that bring authenticity and help strengthen our faith. But sometimes, it's also good to try and see the bible through the eyes of a child and marvel at the stories and the wonderment it brings.

As we begin a new season at St Mary's, I want to encourage us all to try to look at scripture and church with the awe and wonder of a child. From the stained-glass windows in the church and the stories they tell, to the church's architecture. Even the headstones in the graveyard give us a glimpse of the person buried there. These are often all things we miss because we're in a rush, or because we see that every time we come to church, we stop paying attention.

Reading the history section on our church website (<https://www.stmarynorthshoebury.org.uk/history/>) shows us we are each walking in the footprints created by people who walked before us for nearly a thousand years, and we're adding to the story of the church for the people who come after us. What type of story do we want to leave behind for them?

Hannah
Lead Minister



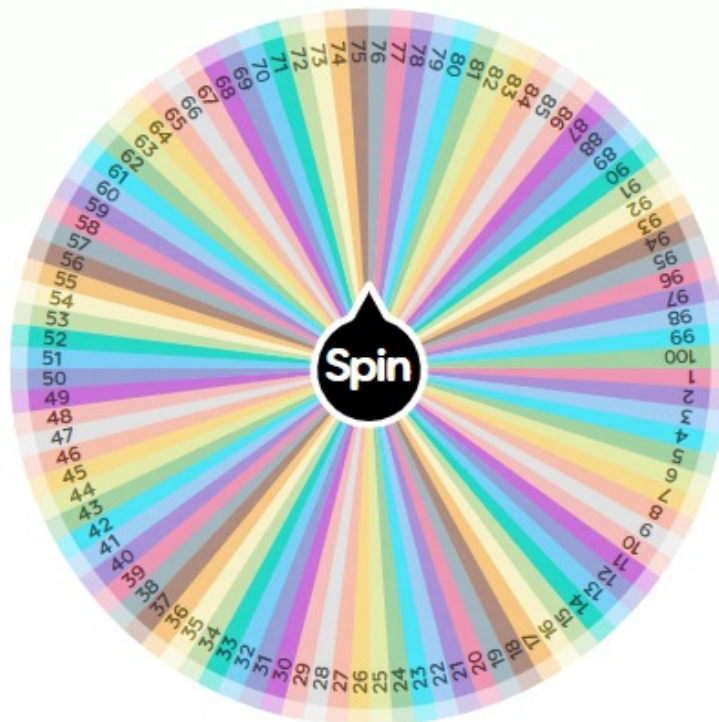
July
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HAVE YOU ANYTHING FOR THIS MAGAZINE?

Thank you to Hannah for her 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 JUNE are

1st Prize 07 DG

2nd Prize 75 DP



**July
2022**

It was:

200 years ago, on 20th July 1822 that Gregor Mendel was born. This Austrian/Czech friar, and botanist discovered the laws of heredity and created the science of genetics.

175 years ago, on 24th July 1847 that Salt Lake City in Utah was founded by Mormon pioneers, led by Brigham Young.

150 years ago, on 1st July 1872 that Louis Bleriot, French inventor, and aviation pioneer was born. He developed the first practical headlamp for cars and became the first person to fly across the English Channel.

125 years ago, on 21st July 1897 that the Tate Britain art museum opened in London.

100 years ago, on 28th July 1922 that Jacques Piccard, Belgian born Swiss oceanographer and engineer was born. Best known for developing deep-sea submarines, and for becoming one of the first two people to reach the Mariana Trench, the deepest point on earth. (Died 2008)

90 years ago, on 8th July 1932 that the USA's stock market (Dow Jones Industrial Average) fell to its lowest point (41.22) during the Great Depression.

Also 90 years ago, on 19th July 1932 that Lambeth Bridge in London was officially opened.

80 years ago, on 4th July 1942 that the Siege of Sevastopol ended. Axis forces captured the Crimean port city which they had first attacked in October 1941.

Also 10 years ago, from 27th July to 12th August 2012 that the Summer Olympics were held in London.



July 2022

Also 80 years ago, on 22nd July 1942 that the Nazis began the mass transportation of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland to the Treblinka extermination camp.

Also 80 years ago on 31st July 1942 that the British charity Oxfam was founded. (Oxford Committee for Famine Relief)

75 years ago, on 9th July 1947 that Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II) to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten.

65 years ago, on 6th July 1957 that John Lennon and Paul McCartney met for the first time at a church hall in Liverpool, where 16-year-old Lennon was performing with his skiffle group the Quarrymen. 15-year-old McCartney joined as a rhythm guitarist shortly afterwards, and the pair went on to form the Beatles.

60 years ago, on 10th July 1962 that Swedish engineer Nils Bohlin was granted a US patent for the three-point safety belt for vehicles. It is now used in practically all road vehicles.

50 years ago, on 21st July 1972 that Bloody Friday took place when the IRA exploded 22 bombs in Belfast, killing nine people and injuring 130.

40 years ago, on 9th July 1982 that Michael Fagan broke into Buckingham Palace and spent 10 minutes talking to the Queen in her bedroom.

30 years ago, on 31st July 1992 that Leonard Cheshire, British RAF pilot, humanitarian and philanthropist, died. Founder of Leonard Cheshire Disability.

25 years ago, on 1st July 1997 that the UK returned Hong Kong to China after more than 150 years.



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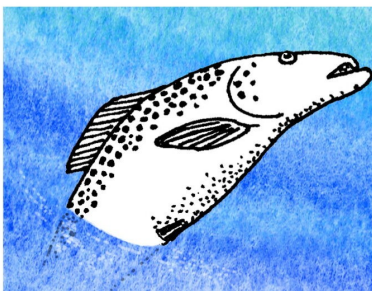
**The Church garden work
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on
Saturday
16TH JULY
from 2-4pm**



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**July
2022**

St James the Least of All

The Rectory

St James the Least



On why our church is safe from vandals

My dear Nephew Darren

I was sorry to hear that your church was broken into last week. Since your sound system rivals that of any concert hall and your projection equipment would put most cinemas to shame, it is not surprising that is what they had their sights on. Your bemusement that they never touched your library of recordings is less understandable. I would have thought that few thieves would have been much interested in renditions of 'Shine Jesus, Shine' and other such artistic gems.

It may have been an act of Christian charity to put a sign outside saying 'Thieves will be forgiven', although since they took this as an invitation to burgle your house the following evening, I hope your forgiveness still operates. Especially as they also stole your favourite guitar.

Last year, we had unwelcome visitors. The thieves must have spent several hours breaking down the church's 400-year-old oak door to get in. Shame about that. Had they bothered to try the handle, they would have discovered that we never lock the church anyway.

Since we have yet to leap forward into the 19th century, there was little to attract them. Had they removed the marble sarcophagi of the Earls of Lincombe, the money they may have made wouldn't even have paid for the subsequent hernia operations. Inevitably, there was general outrage that the poor box had been broken into – although as far as I can remember, for many years it had contained nothing more than an old three-penny piece and a button.

For many of our congregation, this represented the End of Civilisation as We Know It. Calls were made to have a permanent armed guard on the premises, and a few even speculated about the possibility of having strategically placed land mines about the place. Mrs Beaufort offered to lend us her fierce Pekingese, and Colonel Beauchamp generously offered us his collection of man traps.

Perhaps our thieves may be forgiven their crime, but until that three-penny piece and button are returned, it will not be forgotten.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Russian church leader defends war

Patriarch Krill of Moscow recently again defended the Russian war on Ukraine. He said it was wrong to call it an invasion.

“Russia has never attacked anyone,” he told the congregation of the Cathedral of the Archangel, in the Kremlin. “It’s amazing that such a great and powerful country has only ever defended its borders.

“May God grant that our country remains like this till the end of the century: strong, powerful, and loved by God... May the Lord protect our Russian land from internecine strife and invasion by foreigners, and strengthen the Orthodox faith, the only spiritual force that can truly hold our people together.”



**July
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15th July St Swithun (or Swithin) - saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral. That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun.

Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.



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St Mary's Church Hall Week Day 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 10 -11am and 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 582185</p> <p>USA Singing Group 2nd & 4th Monday 1.45pm to 3.45pm Contact Colln E: colln.edwards5@btopenworld.com</p>	
Tuesday		<p>St Mary's Bloomers Floristry Group 1st Tuesday of month (from Sept) 2pm to 5pm 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>HIIT Fitness Class 6-7pm Contact Michelle 07903 527799</p>
Wednesday	<p>USA Ukulele Improvers 2nd Wednesday 10 – 12 noon Contact: Peter Bone 07837 562910</p> <p>USA Guitar Group 1st & 3rd Wednesday 10 – 12 noon Contact: Alan Barrett 07796 270251</p>		
Thursday	<p>St Mary's Community Coffee Morning 10.30 am to 12 noon All welcome</p>		
Friday	<p>Marriott's Tai Chi 11am – 12.00 pm Contact Tracey Cain 07730 610599</p>		

Casual hire fees £13 p/h, £13 admin fee + £50 refundable damage deposit.

Contact ContactStMarysHall@gmail.com for hire form and details.

JULY 2022

Editor: by Tim Lenton. If you have a Muslim community in your area, this may be of interest to your readers.

The beginning of Islam

Some 1400 years ago, on 16th July 622, the Islamic calendar began, when Muhammad and his followers migrated from Mecca to Medina to escape religious persecution (an event known as the Hejira) and established the first Muslim community.

The new religion spread quickly: Mohammad's men attacked trading caravans and in 630 an army of 10,000 forced Mecca itself to surrender. Though Islam, like Christianity, also looks back to Abraham, its military method of expansion was in marked contrast to the initial spread of Christianity.

Years in the Islamic (Hijri) calendar are designated either H or AH, which stands for the Latin term Anno Hegirae. It is a lunar calendar tied to the phases of the moon and based on astronomical observation, usually by an authorised person: the new month can only begin after a waxing crescent moon is observed shortly after sunset. For this reason, a month can begin on different days in different countries.

This lunar calendar should not be confused with the solar Hijri calendar used in Iran and Afghanistan. Turkish Muslims use an Islamic calendar which is calculated several years in advance by the Turkish Presidency of Religious Affairs.

The current Islamic year, 1443 AH, ends this July. Islamic years are not in sync with the Gregorian calendar because they fall about 11 days short of the solar year. The Hijri calendar cannot therefore be used for seasonal activities like agriculture, and most Muslim countries use the Gregorian calendar for non-religious purposes.

The Hijri calendar was established in 638 by Caliph Umar in Basrah, who complained because documents he received contained no date, which made it hard for him to know which were most recent. He decided the Muslim calendar should start when Muhammad arrived in Medina.




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Hello, my pawsome human chums,

Well hello there, my name is Amelia Cat Robinson, I don't know why my humans insist on the Cat in the middle of my name. My only *fur-ort* is my humans are not that smart and constantly need reminding what species I am. I thought I would introduce myself to you by sharing what Caturday looks like.

I wake up as soon as the sun rises – which my female human tells me is 4 am and is not a suitable time for anyone - including a cat - to wake up. First, I make sure both of my humans are still breathing. I give them a cat scan by walking over them and if that does not work, give them a nudge or, if *that* does not work, slap them with my paw (claws in), until they show signs of life. Once I'm satisfied that they are alive, I go and have a drink and maybe some breakfast and check out the rest of the house, making sure everything is in its regular place – if it isn't, I go and alert my humans by meowing very loudly. Then because I have already worked very hard and am tired – I go back to bed using my tail or paw to cover my eyes because it is too light, and I've typically been unceremoniously banned from the bedroom due to waking my humans up. How clawful is that; they don't apawciate the care I show them.

Once my humans finally revive themselves from their slumbers, I need to check out the garden and ensure everything is where it should be. Sometimes reminding my humans to open the door takes a bit of time (you would think they know by now). After giving the garden a cat scan, my humans usually have changed my food and water, so I eat and drink, then set about the biggest chore of the day – washing. Once I have given myself a clean, I am due another cat nap, so I go back to sleep.

If it's a nice day – like the lovely weather we are having now, after a snooze, I will go and sit in the unkempt grass at the bottom of the garden (I am told it is a wild garden and is ideal for bees) and watch the birds, making sure they are behaving correctly. I also pawiodically check that the male human is working and not slacking off.

If it is not a nice day, I like to sleep the day away until my female human returns home and then make my displeasure with the weather known to her. She is very sympawthetic.

At the end of the day, I have my most important job - making sure my humans get to bed safely. Usually, at about 8pm, I try to get them to bed; it can take a couple of hours to finally get them safely tucked up in bed. Then I curl up against one of my humans, purring contentedly because my humans are in my favourite place, asleep with me watching over them and keeping them safe. I also know that God is keeping us all safe – which makes me pawsitively meow with merriment as it means that when something goes wrong, or I have a bad cat dream and my humans are not around I can turn to God. As psalms 46:1 says “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” This includes when my male human waters me thinking I am a plant – rude!!!

Amelia

Trends in Persecution

Release International’s 2022 *Persecution Trends* has highlighted the growing violence and discrimination against Christians in Nigeria, the Sahel, Afghanistan, India and North Korea.

In **India** religious nationalism is on the rise. Attacks against Christians are increasing, and more states are imposing anti-conversion laws – Karnataka is the latest.

In **Afghanistan** Christians are afraid of being reported by family members or neighbours, and fear violent treatment by the Taliban, who regained control in 2021. Homes are being searched and individuals are receiving threats.

In **Nigeria** Christians face attacks by Islamist extremists, bandits and Fulani militants. These include kidnappings for ransom. Churches, church leaders and Christian communities remain the primary targets. Just this Spring, college student Deborah Samuel was stoned to death and her body burned by local Muslims, after an unsubstantiated accusation of blasphemy.

Sadly, religious violence is only likely to increase in Nigeria and India in the coming months, as both countries prepare for elections.



**July
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The Summer Garden

Summer comes and waves her hand,
The garden blooms at her command,
Plants abounding everywhere
As fragrant perfumes fill the air.
Roses, geraniums, lilies too
Agapanthus with globes of blue,
Sumptuous colours in such array,
Their beauty takes our breath away.
To sit beneath the shady trees,
To listen to the humming bees,
As Summer wears her rainbow dress
We thank God for such loveliness.

By Megan Carter



July
2022

CONTACT DETAILS

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