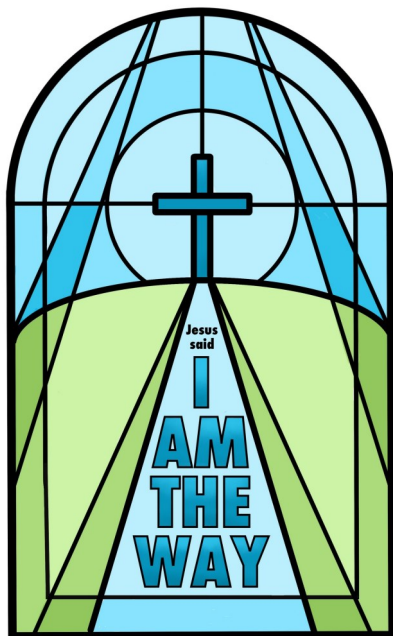




The Link

The Parish Magazine of

The United Benefice of Corringham & Fobbing



April 2024

40p

Clergy

PARISH PRIEST	Fr. DAVID ROLLINS	☎ 01375 673074
ASSOCIATE PRIEST	Revd. WENDY MOTT	☎ 01375 642017
READER (Lay Minister)	MR DAVID TWEDDLE	☎ 01375 676714
READER (Lay Minister)	MRS PAMELA DRAYCOTT	☎ 07806 796082

Corringham Parish Directory

CHURCHWARDENS	MR DAVID MOTT	☎ 01375 642017
	MRS MANDY WAITE	☎ 07545 770232
P.C.C. SECRETARY	PETER HANDSCOMBE	☎ 01375 677046
P.C.C. TREASURER	BEV HOWELLS	☎ 07712401592
ORGANIST	DARRYL EAST	☎ 01375 857958
ST. JOHN'S HALL	MRS ELAINE EAST	☎ 01375 857958
WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS	VESTRY HOUR 7-7.45	Wednesdays at St. John's

Fobbing Parish Directory

CHURCHWARDENS	CHRISTINE MATTHEWS	☎ 01375 670465
	MRS MO FROOD	☎ 01375 800113
P.C.C. SECRETARY	MRS CAROLE HOWES	☎ 01375 361926
P.C.C. TREASURER	MR DAVID MOTT	☎ 01375 642017
ORGANIST	MR DARRYL EAST	☎ 01375 857958
GARDNER HALL	MRS ELAINE EAST	☎ 01375 857958
TOWER CAPTAIN	STEVE NASH	☎ 01268 490061
BENEFICE PSR	MRS CAROLE HOWES	☎ 01375 361926
WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS	VESTRY HOUR 7-7.45	Wednesdays at St. John's

INFORMATION TO GO ON THE WEBSITE AND QUERIES ABOUT IT

webadmin@ubocaf.org.uk



The parish Website is www.ubocaf.org.uk

Articles for the Magazine can be sent to:

thelinkmagazine1@googlemail.com

Dear Friends

AS THE FIRST OF APRIL this year, is the day after Easter Day the whole of April will be spent focusing on the post resurrection experiences. How those close to Jesus experienced the days following his resurrection. I am sure you all have your special moment, your special focus which highlights for you, the significance these encounters have for our own faith journey.



For me, the Road to Emmaus resurrection experience, has many messages that can often be reflected on, in our own journey of walking with Christ, each and every day. The image of two very despondent disciples filled with grief who talk to someone they presume is a stranger, about their distress before realizing that it had been Jesus' walking there beside them, listening, supporting them, being there for them. A reminder for me of how at times of grief, times of feeling lost, times of feeling lonely you find someone is there to be of support making you realize Jesus is there, through the love and care of others, or just there listening, being of help.

The disciples were probably heading to Emmaus for security, maybe they lived there and wanted the safety of home, just like each of us who have a place we feel the safest. We know how they were taught by Jesus as he spoke to them which added deeper meaning to all they experienced. Something we also do as we learn from experience, especially at the times we encounter Jesus who sometimes surprises us, when he seemed to have disappeared from our awareness.



Jesus can be recognized in so many ways. In our worship, in the readings, the hymns, the prayers and in the eucharist where we know his presence. We also know how easy it might be to miss him, as our minds wander, but in always being there, Jesus can still take us by surprise. As he is always with us.

Always there to focus on, just as the disciples recognized Jesus their beloved friend and teacher in the breaking of bread so do we in our presence at the eucharist, in our daily moments of prayer and silence. And at the unexpected times.

The Road to Emmaus is a story from the time of resurrection, that helps us remember that we encounter Jesus consciously and with greater awareness when we break bread with others at Mass and carry that awareness with us into our daily lives.

For all of us on our journey, recognizing Jesus is the key, he helps us to grow in our faith and in our relationship with others. The disciple were filled with joy when they recognized Jesus, they felt their hearts burning within. They were so excited they rushed off to tell their friends they had seen the risen Jesus.

Jesus wants to be with each of us in our journey of life, in our everyday experiences and at times in the unexpected. He is there for us in our deepest self, in other people, in all the situations of life and in a very special way as we share the eucharist.

It's a powerful reflection that we will all share through the Gospel Reading on April 14th, the Third Sunday of Easter

I hope you all experience the joy of the resurrection, your walking with Jesus this Easter and forever knowing his promise, I am with you always.

Every blessing Rev Wendy.

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## **Notification of APCM's**

APCM for **The Parish of Fobbing** is on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April**  
after the 9.15 service in St Michaels Church.

APCM for **The Parish of Corringham** is on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May**  
after the 10.45 service in St Mary's Church.



## *Change in the pattern of Family worship for 2024*

*Dear All*

**P**LEASE note, we are changing the pattern of family worship for 2024.

On the following Sundays there is a change to the worship times at St Mary's and St Michael's, we would ask that you make a note in your diaries and calendars for 2024. There will be an advert in the Parish Magazine, The Link, and reminders on the Pew sheet.

*With best wishes Rev Wendy & Fr David*

19th May **Pentecost Sunday**

8am St John's

9.30 St Mary's

11 am Family Worship St Michael's



Sunday **29th September Patronal Festival St Michael's**

8am St John's

9.30 St Mary's

11.30 Family Worship followed by lunch Gardner Hall

Sunday **1st December Advent Sunday**

8am St John's

9.30 St St Mary's

11 am Family Worship St Michael's



**Feast of Ascension Thursday 9th May**  
**Mass 7pm St Mary's**  
**Celebrant The Venerable Mike Power**  
**Archdeacon of Southend**



**Sunday 12th May 7th Sunday after Easter**  
**No 8 am Service**  
**9.15 & 10.45 Celebrant and Preacher**  
**The Venerable Mike Power, Archdeacon of Southend**



## '1<sup>st</sup> April - All Fools' Day

**I**N YEARS GONE BY, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1st April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for *The Life of Eve's Mother*. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula: 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!'



## *Living in Love and Faith*

Dear All

THE discussions the Church of England has been having over the past few years concerning Living in Love and Faith has now led to the Church of England allowing the Blessing of same sex couples in church during a regular service such as a Eucharist or Evening Prayer Service. Our PCC's agreed at their meeting on 8th February for those prayers to be used as and when we receive a request for such a service. If you want to know when these prayers will be used please consult Fr David or Reverend Wendy.

*Fr David Rollins*

## *The Treasure of Easter!*

IT'S AMAZING what treasure can be unearthed with metal detectors! In this season of Easter, let's rediscover the greatest unburied treasure of the Resurrection.

The Apostle Peter reminds us that God *'has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.'* (1 Peter 1: 3,4). What does he say about this treasure?

On the one hand, it is the *reason for hope*. Peter was writing to Christians in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) who faced persecution under the Emperor Nero. In an uncertain world we know that Jesus suffered, but by His resurrection has secured eternal life for us. This inheritance not only guarantees life now, but also for eternity, as it *'is kept in heaven for you'* (4). Do we share this confidence? D.L. Moody, the 19th Century American evangelist, spoke of the time when people would read his obituary: *'Don't believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now'*.

On the other hand, this treasure is a *source of joy*. This unburied treasure fills us *'with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.'* (8,9). We face all kinds of trials in our lives, but God uses them to refine our faith and character, *'These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.'* (7).

We reflect this treasure by developing the Jesus' character and becoming more holy, obedient and loving.

*'Christmas is the promise, and Easter is the proof!'*



## *Mother's Union Dates*

Stanford le Hope, Corringham and Fobbing  
Meet in the Church Hall 2024

10th April                      Spelling Bee    2pm in St. Margaret's Church Hall

Saturday 20th April Coffee Morning 11am to 2pm in St. Margaret's  
Church Hall

Bacon rolls on offer plus cakes, crafts, books etc  
Also tea and coffee. Everybody Welcome!

24th April                      Something Special                      2pm St. Margaret's Hall

8th May                        Memories from childhood 2pm St. Margaret's Hall

22nd May                      Quiz, British Traditions                      2pm St. Margaret's Hall

Everyone very welcome to come and spend an afternoon with us  
**2pm 2nd and 4th Wednesday** of each month.

For further details on any events, please contact  
Sue Lester on 01375 676809

**Mothers' UNION**   
Christian care for families





The Church of England  
in Essex and East London  
Diocese of Chelmsford



## *Easter 2024*

A message from The Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani,  
Bishop of Chelmsford

ONCE again, the message of Easter hope and resurrection life breaks into a world that is full of sorrow, conflict and pain. How can we possibly make sense of this central event - the one that everything else in the Christian faith hangs on - when all the evidence seems to point away from it? When much of the time it feels like death and hatred and evil have the final say, rather than life and love and hope? Both on a global scale, but perhaps personally too, for there is so much suffering and loss.

Well, if you rely on your *emotions*, on how you *feel* at any particular moment and in response to any specific event that might make you happy or sad - if you rely on your *feelings*, then faith is indeed a fickle thing. For sometimes God can feel close and other times far away. But the truth at the heart of the Gospel is that God, through Christ, is ever present, whatever is going on and whether or not we experience that closeness or not. I have these words of Karl Jung hanging in the hallway of our home, and I look at them every time I come in or go out: "Bidden or not bidden, God is present." God was present on Good Friday, just as much as on Easter Day. The important thing is not to confuse *our* experiences and emotions - whether we feel the nearness of God or not - with the reality of Easter resurrection.

There's no denying that embracing this requires a leap of faith. No logic or experiment will prove the existence of God or convince you of the Easter story. But faith knows more. In the words of the French mathematician and philosopher Blaise Pascal, *The heart has reasons, of which reason knows nothing*. On Easter morning, Christ rose from the dead and broke the power of death and hatred through the strength of his love and sacrifice. As Christians we try to embody that in the way we live our lives, in the service of others, speaking out against injustice, seeking to respond in love wherever there is hate.

This is the Easter story, and it is ours to tell. It is challenging, mysterious and life changing. It offers light and hope in the midst of darkness, and I commend it to you wholeheartedly. For, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia.

I wish you a joyful and blessed Easter.

+ Guli

## *Forthcoming Extra Services*

### April

- Monday 8th Annunciation 7pm Mass at St. Mary's  
Tuesday 23rd St. George 7pm Mass at St. Mary's  
Sunday 28th Fobbing APCCM following the 9.15 Mass

### May

- Thursday 9th Ascension 7pm Mass at St. Mary's  
Archdeacon of Southend Presiding  
Sunday 12th Archdeacon covering 9.15 and 10.45  
Sunday 19th Pentecost 8am St. John's  
9.30 St. Mary's  
11am St. Michael's  
Sunday 26th Corringham APCM following 10.45 Mass  
Friday 31st Visitation BVM 12noon Mass at St. Mary's

### June

- Monday 24th Birth of John the Baptist  
12noon Mass at St. Mary's  
Saturday 29th Sts Peter & Paul 12noon Mass at St. Mary's

### July

- Saturday 20th Welcome BBQ for Lauren Rectory  
Monday 22nd St. Mary Magdalene 12noon Mass at St. Mary's.  
Thursday 25th St, James 10am Mass at St. Michael's

### August

- Tuesday 6th Transfiguration 7pm Mass at St. Mary's  
Thursday 15th Assumption 10am Mass at St. Michael's

### September

- Sunday 8th St. Mary's Patronal 9.15am Mass at St. Michael's  
10.45am Mass at St. Mary's  
Saturday 14th Holy Cross Day 12noon Mass at St. Mary's

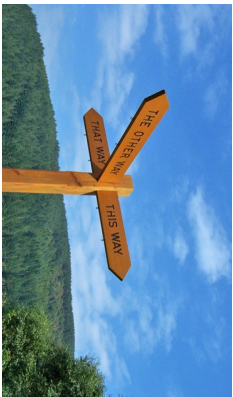
# Where will your journey take you in 2024?

*Just starting out? Tentative steps?*

*Not sure of the direction?*

*Striding out with confidence?*

*At a crossroads?*



## **Workshops include**

Ordained Ministry  
Licensed Lay Minister  
Pastoral Assistant  
Authorised Local Preacher  
Spiritual Support  
Course in Christian Studies  
Churchwardens

**This day of discovery is for you**

**Bradwell Area Vocations Day**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**9.30am to 3.30pm**

Meadgate Church, The Orchards, Mascalls Way, Great Baddow, Essex CM2 7NS

*To register your place, please call Sabrina Stoecklin PA to the Bishop on 01375 673806*

*or email [sstoecklin@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:sstoecklin@chelmsford.anglican.org)*

*Lunch is included. Please notify Sabrina of any dietary requirements. Please reserve your space **now!***

*Paul Hardingham considers foolishness and wisdom...*

## *Called to be Fools!*

**A**PRIL FOOL'S DAY is the traditional way to begin this month. In medieval times the fool (or jester) was not just there for amusement. He had an influential role in the court, because he could speak the truth in ways others couldn't. As Christians we are also called to be fools; Paul described himself as a *'fool for Christ'* (1 Corinthians 4:10). In what ways is this an appropriate description of a Christian? In his letter Paul expands on this theme.

*A foolish message:*

*'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.'* (1 Cor 1:18). The heart of the Gospel does not focus on clever ideas, but on the Cross of Jesus Christ. This message of foolishness and weakness is both God's wisdom and power for our lives.

***A foolish community:***

*'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.'* (1:27). The church in Corinth consisted of slaves, rather than the rich and successful. God calls the weak and vulnerable to follow Him, in order to shame those who think they don't need God.

***A foolish ministry:***

*'My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.'* (2:4,5). Paul's ministry didn't rest on human wisdom, but on the power of the Holy Spirit. For us, this power is often displayed when we are at our weakest.

*'A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.'* (William Shakespeare).

## The Easter Glow

FOR three years Jesus had held the tiny band together, through journeyings, storms and opposition. And now – following a public trial and execution – He was gone.

Take away the dominant figure, and an organisation can quickly crumble. Take Theudas, an earlier messianic claimant. Once killed, his 400 devotees melted away. Then there was Judas the Galilean. When he, too, was removed, the movement scattered.

Now, it was Easter Day. Here were two disciples walking to Emmaus. As far as they were concerned, their leader was dead. The ‘scattering’ process had already begun. It had started on that fateful Thursday evening of Christ’s arrest, when Jesus had quoted to His disciples from the prophet Zechariah: “It is written ‘I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered’” (Matthew 26:31).

The dream was over. “Let’s go home - back to Emmaus.” *Yet Luke 24 is the glowing account of the entire re-building of a worldview.* As the apparent Stranger joins the two, it was like the uncorking of a bottle; the story pours out. Surely *crucifixion and the future Redeemer of Israel had nothing to do with each other!*

Then began a fascinating Bible study on the road. Evidently in their studies, the two had skipped the passages that spoke of a suffering Messiah. The Stranger says, “Let me fill in those bits for you.” Now the figures of a Conquering King and a Suffering Servant begin to coalesce into a single photo fit. Then, at supper with the two, comes the familiar action of the breaking of bread, and – *Why.... it’s Jesus.*

The disciples rush the seven miles back to Jerusalem. They can’t keep the glowing news of the risen Christ to themselves!

If Jesus had not been bodily raised from the grave, the demoralised movement – like those of Theudas and Judas the Galilean - would have folded within days. And you and I would never have heard of Him!



## *Don't be afraid of clouds*

HAVE YOU EVER sat and watched the clouds drift by? Some of them are vast, towering up and up into the sky.

There can be clouds of discouragement and suffering in our lives as well, circumstances that temporarily blot out the sunlight of God's love for us. You may have such a cloud hanging over your life right now. You may be in a hospital bed, or suffering discouragement, fear, despair or bereavement.

Have you ever noticed that sometimes, when you board a plane, the sky is like a thick grey ceiling? It looks impenetrable. But the plane does not hesitate - it climbs steadily onward and upward straight into the cloud. And what happens? Nothing! The cloud cannot block your progress, it must give way before you.

The simple truth is, you may not be able to see through clouds, but you *can go through them*. The plane uses navigational aids for guidance, and we have the Holy Spirit to guide us through the darkest times. And finally, we emerge through the cloudbank, and there before us is a sun-drenched sky of blue and golden glory, far above the dismal and disappointing things far below.

Whatever cloud is hanging over you at present, whether suffering, discouragement, fear, there IS something you can do about it NOW. Pray – pour out your heart to the Lord about it. He has promised that His grace will be sufficient for anything that we encounter in this life.

And – look up. Look towards heaven, *think beyond* those clouds, and remember His promise that the sufferings we may be undergoing *here* are nothing compared to the glory that God has prepared for us *there*.

*The Bible assures us: 'The Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man that trusts in you.'*  
*Psalms 84: 11-12*



*David Pickup, a solicitor, considers driving....*

## *Speed cameras and Moses*

*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. (1 Timothy 2:2)*

IT IS NOT OFTEN you get Moses and the local police popping up in the same sermon. I was thinking about the Bible passage that has Moses' second attempt at the Ten Commandments, one of God's greatest gifts to the world.

God had given Moses the laws, but he broke them in disgust when he found the people were behaving so badly. God asked him up to the mountain again and then gave him a second set. "Keep taking the tablets"!

I was walking in my village and wondered why the traffic was driving so peacefully and slowly. When I got to the lay-by to catch a bus into town, I saw the explanation. There was a police van fitted with a speed camera. The cars were driving slowly, well within the 30mph limit. I nearly went up to the officer to thank them, and to ask if they could come every day.

It was a good illustration for the sermon I was preparing. We do not want to get caught ourselves! We expect everyone else to obey the law, but often find exceptions when we are late or have an important errand. We repeatedly make mistakes but have a loving and gracious God.

As Christians we should be good drivers, and in my case a good pedestrian and road user. We should take an interest in local affairs and find out how parish and town councils deal with these issues. We should pray for people in authority and the police-officer who spent a long Saturday morning looking at slow traffic!





**Save the date(s)**  
**Fundraising Fun during 2024**  
**in aid of Building Better Futures International (BBFI)**

**W**E HAVE A FEW EVENTS PLANNED to get together and contribute towards our United Benefice's commitment to the BBFI self-help tailoring project in Tamil Nadu. You'll notice that they all centre around food! Do please put these dates in your diary and come along to help support our commitment to this very worthy cause.

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April – Coffee morning** at 10.45a.m. – immediately after the Thursday morning service (which starts at 10.00a.m.) at St Michael's Church (to which you would also be very welcome)

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May** – back by popular demand – **Evening Meal** at Zaal's Indian restaurant on Lampits Hill – 6.45 for a 7p.m. start. £16.95 per person – papadom, starter, main, side rice or naan (lamb chops, duck, tandoori mixed grill or any seafood £3.00 extra) plus drinks. A donation towards BBFI would be very welcome. Bookings will be taken soon and please note a £10 deposit per person is required – rest payable on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August** – 5p.m. to 7.30p.m. **Curry evening** in Gardner Hall (a non-curry alternative will be available).

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September** – **Afternoon Tea** – 3.30p.m. to 5.30 in Gardner Hall.

Further details will be made available soon but please save the date(s) now so that you can come along and join us.

Thank you.

with best wishes,

*Pamela Draycott*



## *Don't hesitate to use hearing aids*

**H**ERE is something you didn't expect: using hearing aids if you are a bit deaf can be of great benefit to your overall health.



Crystal Rolfe, director of health at the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) said: "Hearing aids bring enormous benefits for people with hearing loss. Research shows that wearing hearing aids may reduce the risk of cognitive decline, and it is well known that they have positive effects on physical, social, emotional, and mental wellbeing.

According to hearing loss charity RNID, 12 million adults in the UK are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus and an estimated seven million people could benefit from hearing aids, but only about two million use them.

The researchers hope the findings, published in The Lancet Healthy Longevity journal, will encourage more people to wear hearing aids. As one doctor said: "If you have hearing loss, get hearing aids. The benefits could be limitless."

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## *Where are the Chibok schoolgirls now?*

**T**EN YEARS AGO, on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014, the Boko Haram Islamic terrorist group kidnapped 276 female students from the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, Nigeria. Some of the girls escaped, some were rescued, or have been reported dead. But over 100 are still missing, fate unknown.

The girls, who lived in surrounding areas, were seized at gunpoint at night from the boarding school, where they had gone to take important final exams. It was believed to be safe because Chibok had never been attacked before. Many of the girls were Christian.

Boko Haram is opposed to western-style education, because they say it corrupts the values of Muslims. The name Boko Haram in the local Hausa dialect means "Western education is forbidden".

Some of the girls escaped within hours – many of them by jumping off lorries – but a total of 219 girls were taken away. About 100 have been exchanged for Boko Haram militants, following negotiations arranged by the Red Cross. Two others escaped in 2016 and 2017, and one was found hiding in the forest with a child.

Meanwhile the Nigerian army launched a major offensive against Boko Haram, with help from the US, UK and France, and were said to have regained nearly all the occupied territory in north-east Nigeria. But no more of the Chibok girls were found, and in the years since then, many more reports of atrocities have continued to come in.

## 50 years of ABBA!

FIFTY YEARS AGO, on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1974, the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song *Waterloo*. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.



The victory, in Brighton, was just the first step on the road to conquering the world, as far as pop music was concerned. The songs, written mainly by Björn Ulvæus and Benny Andersson, were matched by the passion, exuberance and good looks of singers Agnetha Fältskog and Anni-Frid 'Frida' Lyngstad, who later married them – and even later, divorced them.

The name of the group came from the initials of the four Christian names. Some have suggested a link to the biblical Abba and looked for Jewish themes in their songs, but this is wishful thinking. While Anni-Frid (who was born Norwegian) may be Christian, Björn is definitely an outspoken atheist. In fact, ABBA is the name of a Swedish canned fish company that had to give permission for the singers to use it – a decision they are unlikely to have regretted.

Both *Waterloo* and ABBA achieved worldwide superstar status quickly – no small feat for a group performing in a language that is not their own. The film *ABBA – the Movie* and the musical *Mamma Mia* and its sequel, featuring their compelling songs, were huge successes. It is estimated that the musical has been seen by more than 60 million people worldwide.

ABBA hit the jackpot again when their revolutionary new project, *ABBA Voyage*, launched in 2022. In it, Agnetha, Björn, Benny and Anni-Frid perform their love-songs digitally with a live 10-piece band, in a purpose-built ABBA arena at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London. Not bad for four divorcees in their 70s.



## *The Bishop of Chelmsford's Lent Appeal*

PLEASE see the leaflet which publicises the Appeal

As we are encouraged to fast, pray and give as part of our Lenten observance, can i encourage us to support this Appeal.

If you have given up chocolate or something similar this Lent, maybe the money saved could be redistributed towards the Appeal. You can still support this appeal until 1st July.

*Fr David*



THE BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD'S

# LENT APPEAL 2024

Supporting the Diocese of Jerusalem's  
Healthcare Ministry



The Church of England  
in Essex and East London  
Diocese of Chelmsford

“The funds raised through the 2024 Bishop’s Lent Appeal will help the Diocese of Jerusalem continue to offer essential health care to those in need, regardless of race, religion, or ability to pay. I am pleased that we are able to contribute to this important ministry at a time when it is needed more than ever”.

The Rt Revd Dr Gull Francis-Dehqani,  
The Bishop of Chelmsford



The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem is home to about 7,000 Anglicans worshipping in 28 congregations across five different countries or territories: Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Israel.

Inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan, the ministry of healthcare is an important and growing ministry in the Diocese of Jerusalem, one offered to those in need regardless of race, religion, or ability to pay.

The diocese’s healthcare institutions range from homes for the elderly, to therapeutic residential facilities for special needs students, to clinics, rehabilitation centres and hospitals.

The need for support for the Diocese of Jerusalem’s healthcare ministry is particularly pressing at this time of war in the Holy Land.

To find out more about the Diocese of Jerusalem’s healthcare ministry, access resources or to donate scan the QR code or visit

[www.chelmsford.anglican.org/lent-appeal](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/lent-appeal)

## Support the appeal

### Help us spread the word

Resources to help you share details of the 2024 Bishop’s Appeal are available on the Diocese of Chelmsford website.

### Making a donation

We welcome donations from individuals and churches as well as other groups and organisations.

Donations can be made online or by bank transfer. If you would like to make a donation to The Bishop of Chelmsford’s Lent Appeal by bank transfer, please use the following details:

Chelmsford Diocese Board of Finance  
Barclays Bank - Account Number: 60269603  
Sort Code: 20-20-35  
Reference: Lent Appeal 24

Donations will be accepted until 1 July 2024.



The Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance is a registered charity, No 249505. A company limited by guarantee – Registered in England No 137029.

X f Instagram @chelmsdio

## Remembering Lord Byron, the 'gloomy egoist'

IT WAS 200 YEARS AGO, on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1824, that Lord Byron died. One of the greatest British poets and a leading figure in the Romantic movement, he died of sepsis/fever while fighting for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. He was 36.

Byron was born in London but brought up in Aberdeen and relished the Scottish connection. His childhood was impoverished, and to a certain degree abusive, but at the age of ten he inherited his great uncle's title and went on to Harrow and Cambridge.



After early rejections, his poetry was widely admired in England and in Europe, initially through *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, which was autobiographical and presented him as a "gloomy egoist". His character fluctuated between kind and gentle on the one hand and selfish and cynical on the other. Early exposure to Calvinism combined with the extremes of his later life – multiple affairs – made him antagonistic to Christianity but tormented by it. He once described man as "half dust, half deity, alike unfit to sink or soar."

Partly because of criticism of his scandalous lifestyle, he left England and eventually lived in Switzerland and then Italy with his fellow poet Shelley – having an affair with Shelley's wife's half-sister. Earlier he had married Anne Isabella Milbanke, by whom he had a daughter who achieved fame as Ada Lovelace, a mathematical prodigy regarded by some as the first computer programmer.

His wife eventually left him, possibly because of his incest with his own half-sister, Augusta Leigh.

Lord Byron moved to Greece to support the Greeks – whose attitude to life he found refreshing – in their struggle for independence from Turkey. He is widely admired in Greece as a result.

## Appreciating Johann Sebastian Bach

THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, on 7th April 1724, the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's *St John Passion* was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

It was put on as part of Good Friday Vespers at St Nicholas Church, having been transferred from St Thomas at the last moment by the music council. Bach, who had just turned 39, agreed to the move, while pointing out that the booklet had already been printed, there was no room immediately available for the musicians, and the harpsichord needed some repair. These problems were overcome.



Bach was already highly regarded, but primarily as a harpsichordist and organ expert. Later seen as one of the best composers of all time – renowned for such works as the *Brandenburg Concertos* and his *Mass in B Minor* – he was one of a large family of north German musicians. He is widely praised as a great synthesiser of styles and traditions.

The *St John Passion*, written during his first year as director of church music in Leipzig, was designed to be used as part of a church service. It follows John 18 and 19 in the Luther Bible, but the writer of the libretto is not known. A possible earlier Passion, written in Weimar, is lost.

Nowadays the *St John Passion* is heard mainly in the 1739–1749 version, which was never performed in Bach's lifetime, though he made many revisions to the original before his death.



## World Autism Acceptance Week, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**A**UTISM is on the rise. Or at least, the recognition of it is. According to the website psychcentral.com, there was a 787% exponential increase in the number of people who were diagnosed with autism between 1998 and 2018 in the UK.

The National Autistic Society says that in the UK, more than one in every 100 people are now on the autism spectrum. It reckons that around 700,000 adults and children in the UK suffer with the condition to some degree.

All of which means that you probably know of someone who has autism, to some degree. And you may know that, as it says on the NHS website:

*Autistic people may act in a different way to other people, ... and find it hard to understand how other people think or feel. They may find things like bright lights or loud noises overwhelming, stressful, or uncomfortable. They may get anxious or upset about unfamiliar situations and social events and take longer to understand information.*

To help people with autism, you may wish to support this 'acceptance week', by going to the National Autistic Society's website, <https://www.autism.org.uk> and taking part in some way in their fundraising campaign.

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Prayer for April 2024

based on John 20: 19-end

ALMIGHTY Father,

In these weeks after Easter, help us to receive afresh the new life Jesus' resurrection makes possible.

Lord, come to us. Walk through the locked doors of our fears.

Bring us your peace. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Send us onto our daily front lines to share your resurrection peace and hope and love with those who are lost and lonely.

Thank you for meeting us in Jesus, our Lord and our God.

We are your Easter people. Hallelujah. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Megan Carter writes: "There are times when the heavens seem as brass, and so I wrote this poem as an encouragement (myself included) for when life is difficult."

The God who answers prayer

There is a God who answers prayer
Who intercedes before the throne,
The Son of God who ever cares,
Do not believe you walk alone.

When life seems hard, no answers come
He knows the path that you now tread
Believe on Him though all seems lost
He knows about the tears you shed.

Hold on to Him who is your strength,
Although it seems there's no way through,
Though pain and heartache both are near,
Who holds the world holds also you.

There is a day when all is clear
A day when we all understand
That all our lives but marked a way
That led us to the Promised Land.



By Megan Carter

The Hand of Christ

The hand of Christ rests gently on my head,
Love's blessings flow from God's eternal heart into my veins.
The Spirit's breath pulsates within my soul
And in the life that Christ has won for all on Calvary's hill

I step out gladly into God's Creation,
There to praise the holy Name of God,
In triune-majesty forever reigning.

O God most high,
Most Holy Father, blessed Son,
and gracious Spirit, Three-in-One.

We bow before the eternal throne
and, in the strength of love received,
we give your love in blessing
to your world.



By Sam Doubtfire



What am I?

IM NOT OLD . I woke up, I lifted my arms, I moved my knees, I turned my neck. Everything made the same noise: Crrrrrraaaaaacccccckkkk! So I've come to the conclusion that I'm not old, I'm crispy!



JESUS can be contacted 24 hours a day: just go on-line via your knee -mail. - Anon



8th April - Lady Day or The Annunciation

THIS beautiful event (Luke 1:26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25th March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from His birth on 25th December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked - He was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar - it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly, Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice - humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in His will for her life.



Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Lutheran pastor and martyr*

STANDING up to tyrants, no matter what the cost. That kind of courage has been in the headlines since the war in Ukraine began, as many brave people have defied Putin's oppression.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer did not have Putin to contend with, but Hitler. Bonhoeffer did not back down either, when the time came.

Bonhoeffer grew up with no thought of ever defying the leader of Germany. Nothing could have been further from his mind or background. Born at Breslau in Silesia (now the Polish city of Wroclaw) in 1906, Bonhoeffer was the son of an academic. In 1912, his father was appointed to be Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at Berlin university, and so the family moved to Berlin.

Bonhoeffer never even considered going into politics. Instead, he studied theology in Tübingen, Berlin and New York, before returning to Berlin as a lecturer in theology in 1931.

But though Bonhoeffer did not chase political trouble, it soon came to him. For on 30th January 1933 Adolf Hitler, leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, had come to power. His totalitarian approach left no room for anyone in public life to disagree with him. Including anyone in the two major churches - Lutheran and Catholic.

But Bonhoeffer refused to be compliant, and joined the Confessing Church, which had formed in opposition to the takeover of the Lutheran Church. The Confessing Church also opposed Hitler's attempts to force antisemitism on the church and society.

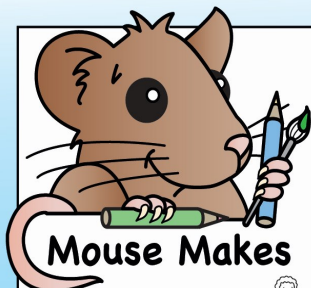
Bonhoeffer was in America when war broke out in 1939, but he returned to Germany. He said: "I shall have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war, if I do not share the trials of this time with my people."

Back in Germany, he joined the underground anti-Nazi opposition and worked hard to oppose Hitler. In 1943 he was arrested and imprisoned at Tegel prison in Berlin. The involvement of many of his contacts in the July 1944 plot to kill Hitler may well have sealed his fate. He was finally moved on to Flossenbürg concentration camp.

In April 1945, as American troops were approaching the camp, Bonhoeffer was hanged. The last words of this brilliant and courageous 39-year-old opponent of Nazism were: "This is the end - for me, the beginning of life."

Bonhoeffer left a great legacy behind him. His writings, and especially his *Letters and Papers from Prison*, have inspired many trying to make sense of persecution and needless suffering. His 1937 book *The Cost of Discipleship* is described as a modern classic.





Mouse Makes



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing.

They fished all night but caught nothing.

As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?"

"Not a thing" they answered.

He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some."

So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net.

Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



READ

the story in John 21

How many fish did they catch?

Read John 21: 11

A large illustration of a fishing net filled with fish. The net contains a grid of letters for a word search. The letters are arranged in 10 rows and 12 columns:

B	S	N	F	F	I	R	E	R	F		
W	A	T	E	R	I	F	D	A	Y	C	W
R	I	G	H	T	A	N	I	B	O	A	T
J	O	H	N	D	S	S	O	C	S	I	N
M	S	H	C	B	N	T	B	A			
T	S	E	A	H	I	R	O	J	E	T	
I	S	I	M	O	N	P	E	T	E	R	H
L	A	N	D	R	G	L	A	H	S	I	A
F	O	J	K	M	E	H	E	D	I	U	A
B	R	E	A	K	F	A	S	T	N	S	A
D	F	I	S	H	U	N	I	G	H	T	E
C	A	U	G	H	T	L	D	O	F	U	L

Below the net, there is a list of words to be found in the grid:

DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY
 FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET
 RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

Colour in all the fish

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Forthcoming Events

For all bookings and information for Corringham events please contact
Bev Howells on 07712 401592

For all Bookings and information for Fobbing events please contact
Elaine East on 01375 857958

Thursday 11th April	Coffee Morning	St. Michael's Church After 10am Service In aid of the India BBFI Project
Friday 19th April	Quiz Night, St. John's Church Hall	Doors open 6-30pm, 1st Question 7pm £5 per person, Teams of 8.
Saturday 27th April	Spring Fayre	Gardner Hall
Saturday 1st June	Cake Sale, St. John's from 10.00am	
Saturday 27th July	Summer Bazaar	Gardner Hall
Saturday 10th August	Curry Evening	Gardner Hall 5.30 for 6pm In aid of the India BBFI Project
Saturday 31 st August	Murder Mystery Evening,	St. John's Church Hall
Saturday 19 th October	Autumn Fayre, St. John's Church Hall	
Saturday 30th November	Christmas Bazaar	Gardner Hall



Zoomed Services



Wednesday 3rd April	10am	St. Mary's
Sunday 7th April	10.45am	St. Mary's
Thursday 11th April	10am	St, Michael's
Sunday 14th April	9.15am	St. Michael's
Wednesday 17th April	10am	St. Mary's
Sunday 21st April	10.45am	St. Mary's
Thursday 25th April	10am	St. Michael's
Sunday 28th April	9.15am	St, Michael's
Wednesday 1st May	10am	St. Mary's
Sunday 5th May	10,45am	St. Mary's
Thursday 9th May	10am	NO ZOOM
Sunday 12th May	9.15am	NO ZOOM
Wednesday 15th May	10am	St. Mary's
Sunday 19th May	9.30am	St. Michael's
Thursday 23rd May	10am	St. Michael's
Sunday 26th May	10.45am	St. Mary's
Wednesday 29th May	10am	St. Mary's
Sunday 2nd June	9.15am	St. Michael's
Thursday 6th June	10am	St. Michael's
Sunday 9th June	10.45am	St. Mary's
Wednesday 12th June	10am	St. Mary's

Prayer Intentions : April 2024

1 st Monday of Easter week	Christian Love
2 nd Tuesday of Easter week	Guidance
3 rd Wednesday of Holy Week	Family life
4 th Thursday of Holy Week	Unity in Diversity
5 th Friday of Holy Week	Discernment
6 th Saturday of Easter week	Our Benefice
7th Easter 2	Faith
8 th Feast of Annunciation	For all who are preparing to be mothers
9 th Dietrich Bonhoeffer	For all martyrs
10 th William Law	For all preparing for ordination
11 th George Augustin Selwyn	St Luke's Hospice
12 th Feria	For unity among Christians.
13 th Feria	The Shrine of our Lady at Walsingham
14th Easter 3	Witness
15 th Feria	For our local schools
16 th Isabella Gilmore	All who are homeless
17 th Feria	Archbishop Justin
18 th Feria	For all voluntary workers
19 th St. Ælphege	For our Deanery
20 th Feria	For Fr David and our Benefice
21st Easter 4	Thanksgiving for our blessings
22 nd Feria	Our Emergency services
23 rd St. Georges Day	The people of England
24 th St. Mellitus	Those discerning their vocation
25 th St. Mark	All who share their faith
26 th Feria	Those who work at the Port
27 th Christina Rosetti	Spiritual writers
28th Easter 5	Our families
29 th St. Catherine of Sienna	Those who live in fear
30 th Pandita Mary Ramabi	Our local community

