

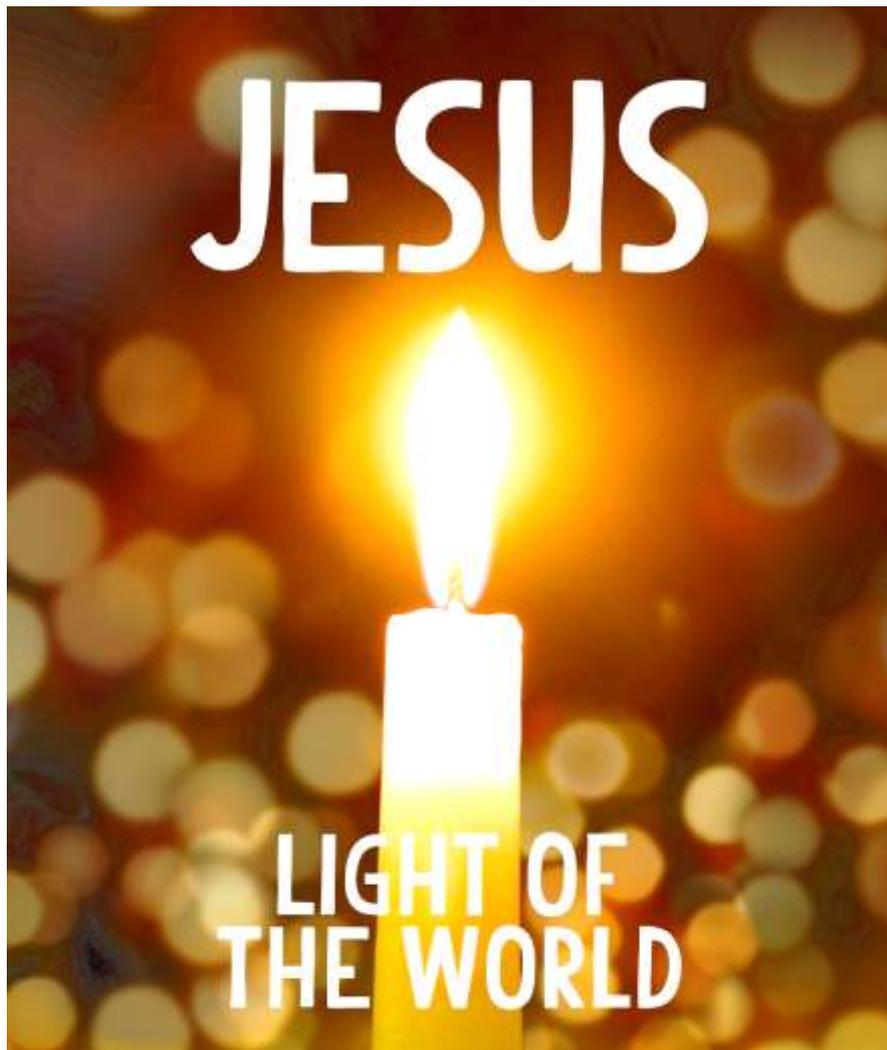
December 2019  
January 2020



# GRIDIRON

The Magazine of the Parish Church of  
Saint Laurence Upminster

£1



## Service times

Sundays	Weekdays
Holy Communion 08.00	Tuesday, Morning Prayer 08.45
Sung Parish Mass 09.30	Wednesday & Thursday
Sunday Schools 09.30	Wednesday Evening Prayer 16.30
Evensong 18.30 <i>(see Parish Diary for details)</i>	Wednesday Mass 11.00
Footsteps	Celtic Worship
<p>This Service for pre-school children and grown-ups normally takes place monthly on a Monday at 09.45 in the Lady Chapel. The next service is on 27<sup>th</sup> January.</p> 	<p>A group meets 19.30 to 20.15 on a Monday evening, once a month in the Lady Chapel, for Celtic worship (Celtic prayers, music, hymns and, from time to time, Communion). Services on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and 6<sup>th</sup> January.</p> 

*Additional services on Saints' Days are shown in the Diary in the back pages.*

- Baptisms**                      These are administered during public services.  
Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.
- Wedding Banns**            Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.
- Confessions**                By appointment with the clergy.

**Please inform the Parish Office, Revd Susannah or Fr Roy  
of anyone who is ill or in need of a pastoral visit.  
*See back pages for useful telephone contact numbers***

[www.upminsterparish.co.uk](http://www.upminsterparish.co.uk)

Parish Office ☎ 01708 220696

[parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk](mailto:parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk)



## From the Rector

People often describe December as my ‘busy time’ – and I suspect many of you reading this may feel the same. There can be so much activity connected with Christmas, whether this takes the form of preparation for the day itself, or sending cards and presents to family and friends, or joining in with all sorts of events to anticipate Christmas. However good our intentions, it can be easy to reach a point where preparation for Christmas becomes dominated by working through a to-do list: having all our Christmas cards written, managing to have ordered the turkey, and so on – or in my case, having the orders of service and sermons ready!

Yet whilst in Christian tradition Advent is certainly a time of preparation, in many ways this is a preparation which is about letting go, about simplifying, about waiting, rather than about frantic activity. Advent is a time to turn back to God, to let go of sin, to wait upon God, to re-orientate our lives towards God so that we can be attentive to his presence in the past, the present and the future. For many of us, there is a challenge involved in engaging with this vital form of prayerful preparation alongside the busyness of pre-Christmas activity – but being able to spend time waiting upon God can bring much-needed perspective and renewal, and encourages us to deepen our appreciation of the full meaning of Christmas – that God is with us, in all things, always.

At St Laurence there will be a variety of ways in which we can share together in a prayerful Advent: firstly, through our worship on the Sundays of Advent, including the richness of Holy Communion, the peace of Compline (a traditional monastic form of Night Prayer), the meditative beauty of Celtic Worship, the hope of Christingle in which we pray for the work of the Children’s Society, and the joy of our annual Nativity Play. We will also be having an Advent reflection group, meeting on Wednesdays after the 11am Mass – please see Porchtalk for further details of this – and we are resuming the custom of Posada, which has happened in the parish previously but not for some years. ‘Posada’ comes from the Spanish for ‘inn’ or ‘lodging’ – and involves figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey travelling around the parish during Advent, finding lodging in different people’s homes before coming to rest in the stable in church on Christmas Eve. If you would like to host them for a night, please sign the list in church on Sundays, or contact me. You may like to use their visit in a variety of ways – as a

time for quiet contemplation, as an opportunity to invite your neighbours round for a drink, as a chance to reflect on the Christmas story with children or grandchildren...there are many possibilities!

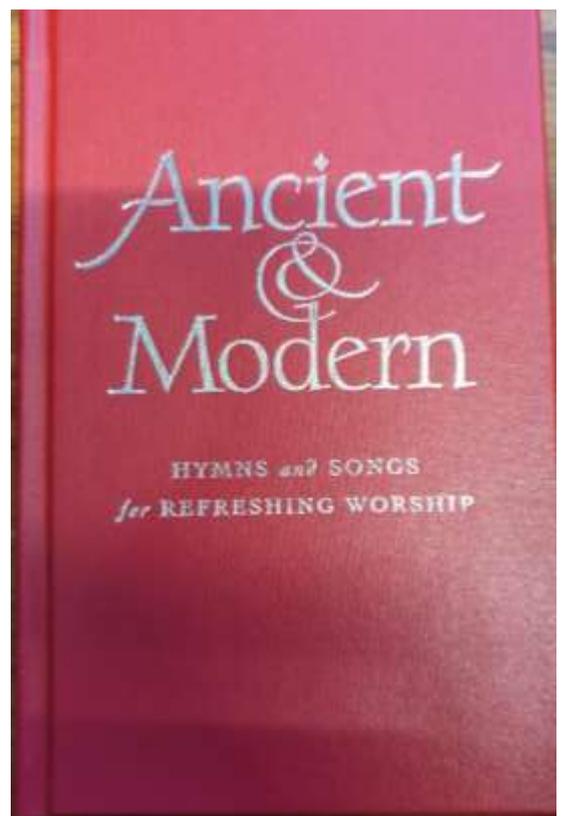
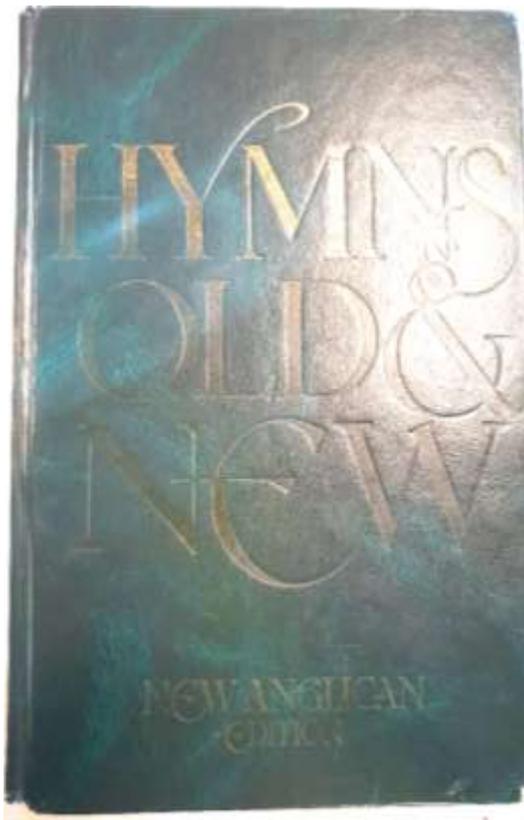
The unfortunate consequence of the busy December which many people now experience can also be that January feels rather flat. Yet the same spirit in Christian tradition which encourages us to take the internal preparation of Advent seriously also encourages us to celebrate Christmas well – marking the traditional twelve days of Christmas, and also continuing the celebration for the full season leading up to February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, or Candlemas. Our worship during January seeks to maintain this joy and celebration, and hopefully it is something we can also seek to embrace in the rest of our lives, reminding us that Christmas is not confined to one day, but is a festival which continues, and which echoes in the whole of our lives, every time that we are aware of God's presence with us.

May I wish you all a holy Advent and a joyful Christmas,

Susannah

## Hymns Old and New!

Our hymn books have been replaced with new shiny red ones!





## From the Editors

Dear Readers, the final edition of 2019 and it's packed with so much! A poster details all the services leading up to Christmas and there are articles about what has been going on in and around St Laurence in previous months and posters to advertise various events. Have a read and enjoy! May God's light shine bright. *Arlette Wiggins, Ed.*

## From the Parish Registers

### BAPTISM

*We welcome into the family of the church and pray for:*

15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Faye Alexandra Kellers
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Alex Jake Turner
13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Aurelia Beatrice Wilde-Sambrook
20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Emilia Rose Trinchese
3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Arthur Winter-Eade

### FUNERAL

*We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:*

30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Margaret Joyce Johnston
4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Daphne Harmer

### INTERMENT OF ASHES

*We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:*

4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Margaret Joyce Johnston
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## February & March Magazine Deadline

Items for inclusion in the February & March edition of *Gridiron* should reach the editorial team by 3<sup>rd</sup> January. We would prefer to receive items by e-mail at [gridiron@upminsterparish.co.uk](mailto:gridiron@upminsterparish.co.uk). Paper copy is acceptable but should be submitted to us as early as possible. The February & March Magazine will be on sale from 26<sup>th</sup> January.

## Thank you for your sponsorship...

Porchtalk has been sponsored for the year in memory of Gerald, Samuel and Barbara Giles, from their daughters and sisters Hazel Harman and Mary Breading.

# **Advent and Christmas Worship at St Laurence**

*Sunday and Wednesday Masses are as normal unless listed as otherwise below.*

## **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

**6.30pm** Advent Compline  
*A service of Night Prayer with music and readings for Advent*

## **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

**7.30pm** Celtic Worship

## **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**6.30pm** Organ Concert – the third in Richard Brasier’s series of the Complete Works of J.S. Bach  
*Free admission, retiring collection*

## **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

**4.00pm** Christingle Service (N.B. No further evening service today)  
*A family-friendly service supporting the work of The Children’s Society*

## **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

**9.30am** Parish Mass with Nativity Play

**6.30pm** Said Compline

## **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

**6.30pm** Service of Lessons and Carols  
*A traditional service telling the story of Christmas in words and music. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies.*

## **Christmas Eve**

**3.00pm** Crib Service and Candlelight Procession

**5.00pm** Crib Service and Candlelight Procession

*These services are particularly suitable for children and families.  
You might like to bring a gift (unwrapped please – no food) as a present for needy children.*

**11.15pm** Midnight Mass (First Mass of Christmas Day)

## **Christmas Day**

**8.00am** Holy Communion

**9.30am** Parish Mass

Please note that there will not be a Mass on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January.

## October Feast

*by Keith Stewart*

As part of our ongoing efforts to raise funds for our Church Buildings Improvement Project, Debbie and I decided that it would be a good idea to arrange another meal out for the congregation of St Laurence. As we had received very favourable feedback following last year's May Day Meal at Top Meadow Golf Club in North Ockendon we decided to hold it there again.

We wanted to give the evening a name and, being held in October, we chose to call it the "October Feast" in a nod to the famous *Oktoberfest* held every autumn in Munich, Germany. This is the world's largest "Volksfest" - a beer festival and travelling funfair, enjoyed by over six million people from around the world every year. Whilst we could not hope for (let alone cope with!) such a large number of people, we were delighted that so many people signed up for the evening. It was particularly pleasing that members from both our 8.00am and 9.30am congregations attended and were able to take this opportunity to meet and socialise together.

And so it was that a total of 58 members of the St Laurence family and their guests gathered once again in the recently refurbished restaurant at Top Meadow on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October to enjoy an evening of good food and good company. We sat down to a three-course meal in very pleasant surroundings - in fact the venue is so popular that the restaurant was full to its capacity that evening. Nevertheless the staff coped admirably and we all enjoyed an excellent and convivial evening which, with some extra donations from a few people who were unable to attend, raised a total of £417 for the St Laurence Church Building Improvement Project. And all without a Bavarian oompah band or lederhosen in sight!

Thanks to my wife Debbie for all her hard work in organising such a successful evening, which we hope to repeat sometime in the future. Sadly, no photographs of the evening are available as there was no space to take them with the restaurant being full, and we were all having too much of a good time to remember anyway!

## Carole's quizzes

So far the quizzes run by Carole Billings have raised to date almost her target of £1,000. Look out for her Christmas quiz which will, hopefully, take her over her target.

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# St Laurence Church Building Improvements Update

## December 2019

*Andrew Lillington*

The committee continues to investigate Grant funding – if you might be able to assist in any way or know someone who can help us please do get in touch.

Debbie and Keith Stewart organised a wonderful meal and social evening on 23<sup>rd</sup> October at Top Meadow. Thank you, Debbie and Keith, your continued support is always appreciated.

Thanks also go to Carole Billings, who has continued to test the knowledge of so many with her varied quizzes.

As a member of the St Laurence Church Congregation can you think of a way to raise money for the fund? If so, please contact a member of the committee.

The complete Organ works of JS Bach Concerts performed by Richard Brasier have started and have been very well received. This really is a unique opportunity to hear a world class performance in our own Church with all donations going to the church building improvement fund. Richard's next concerts are on **6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019 starting at 6.30pm.**

Dates to look out for next year include the Summer BBQ and Fete on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and, following yet another successful Big Band Concert in September 2019, we have managed to book David Pickthall and his band to return again on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Thank you for your continued support.

## Green foliage

We will be decorating the Church in preparation for Christmas on Saturday 21st December. It would be really helpful if we could have donations of foliage to give the church the extra lift and make it look more beautiful. Any donations by Friday 20th December would be really appreciated.



Also if anyone would like to sponsor flowers during the year for a special occasion or anniversary in memory of a loved one please just chat to me or call me on 07958 592 415. Cheryl Hale

## The Slowbies Cycle Group – (Upminster)

Meets most Fridays at St Laurence Church Hall (Corbets Tey Road Entrance) at 10:00.

Departs for a leisurely bike ride at 10:05.

Returns at about 12:00 -12:30.

Clothing to suit the weather! NO LYCRA or other cycle clothing needed!

If you have questions or doubt, please phone or text Nick on 07792 123 630.

Dates:

Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>,

Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

Destinations: agreed on the day, largely off road or on quiet roads; for starters: Hornchurch Country Park, Ingrebourne Hill, Rainham Hall, towards Noak Hill, Harrow Lodge or Romford...other suggestions accepted.

This will be a group that:

- does not have a leader!
- has one or two experienced riders to help
- is self-supporting and supportive of one another
- enjoys a short cycle ride in a group
- will support the shyest and slowest cyclist
- will have some tools and give help with a puncture and minor breakdowns
- Will try to take a 20-minute-coffee-stop and chat if you want.



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## A Local Walk around Upminster & Cranham

*Rob Brabner*

At St Laurence, early on a Saturday in September, we had a full set of stewards to welcome visitors for Heritage Open Day, and also visitors for “Ride & Stride”, the annual event organised by the Friends of Essex Churches Trust. This is a sponsored event, raising funds for churches of the various different Christian denominations, thus enabling the churches to carry out essential repairs and improvements for church buildings.



St Laurence have been regular supporters of “Ride & Stride” where the congregation provides support for our church walking team. This year we decided on a local walk, with another scheduled for the following week, the date of London Open House, when more City churches would be open than is normally the case on a Saturday.

However, as sadly few of the local churches in Havering support the Ride & Stride, we thought we’d keep the flag flying on behalf of the Friends by undertaking a local walk on the appointed day, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Ride & Stride’s date is easy to remember as it’s always the second Saturday in September which is also the same day as the Last Night of the Proms!

This year we were lucky with the weather, and a group of nine of us assembled at St Laurence, a Grade I church for a walk around the local churches. I had emailed most of the churches in advance. We are fortunate locally that there is an active “Churches Together” group so we were hoping that we would get access to most of the churches.

Many of the local churches in Upminster and Cranham are mainly of 20<sup>th</sup> century origin. With the coming of the railway the area developed rapidly. Prior to that the parish church of St Laurence - the Up-minster from which the then village derived its title - and All Saints’ Church, Cranham attached to Cranham Hall, were the religious buildings of note. The Old Chapel was built in 1801 by the

non-conformist. Although this is no longer used regularly as a place of worship, the building has been restored in recent years with the help of Heritage Lottery funding.

Our group consisted of mainly “seniors” with one over eighty, so we were not aiming for breakneck speeds, just a steady pace and time to enjoy the walk.

From St Laurence we continued along the main road, with the large Recreation Ground on our right. Turning left we were soon at Upminster Baptist Church which is a 1960s building, and we managed to obtain a signature. Onwards through the quiet 1930s Springfield estate we crossed the farm land by public footpath across the cut fields to All Saints’ Church, Cranham, standing by Cranham Hall. Although the church was rebuilt in 1874 in Victorian gothic style (Grade II) it has strong links



with the founder of the state of Georgia, USA, General James Oglethorpe. He and his wife are buried here and the church has commemorative items associated with him. Oglethorpe was also associated with John and Charles Wesley among others.

Our walkers were delighted to be welcomed to the church and to enjoy a bacon sandwich and coffee or tea in the church hall. Refreshed, the group made its way to St Luke’s Church, Front Lane, Cranham. The original 1950s church was rebuilt again at the turn of this century. This church is very active with its sister church at Moor Lane and also a young people’s church in Cranham.

Moving on, we walked through the smaller shopping area in Cranham until we turned in to Severn Drive, visiting the 1950s Cranham Baptist Church, which was open but being used for an event. We then had a longer walk through suburbia until coming out onto the main road, Hall Lane, passing the playing fields and the 13<sup>th</sup> century Tythe Barn which once served the monks from Waltham Abbey who owned land here. We passed Upminster Hall, now a golf club, and, though it is much altered, the oldest part dates back to Henry VI (15<sup>th</sup> century).

Entering the main central part of Upminster, just before the station, we managed to obtain access to the Methodist Church, and then walked past the station to Trinity URC Church (built 1911) which was just closing after an event. We obtained a signature then walked the short way to St Joseph's RC Church (built 1939), also open though no-one was about for a signature in the church.

Across the road, at the main crossroads is St Laurence Church, where the speed of sound was first accurately measured in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the Rector, Dr William Derham. I don't think our group were moving quite at that speed, but nevertheless it was good to get back to the church to enjoy some refreshments and a well-earned rest.

UPDATE – The walkers raised £1,160.00 – 50% of which will be assigned to the St Laurence Building Fabric Fund.



## A special birthday celebration

Alan Butcher celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with us by sharing cake (made by Jean Keen) and wine in the Main Hall after Mass on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October.



## Gill Roome's cards

Gill started making 3D decoupage cards about twenty years ago when she was looking for a



new hobby, having tried embossing, parchment craft and cake decorating with varying degrees of success. She first came across decoupage from a company called Craft Creations and taught herself how to do it. She then had a stock of cards and knew that she did not want to set up a business so instead decided to give everything to various charities. Over the years she has sold the cards in aid of these charities including The Children's Society, First Step, Friends of Upminster Windmill, Epilepsy Action and USPG. She sometimes sells the cards in the church hall after the 9.30am Mass, usually for the charity of the month and recently took £220 for The Polly Parrot appeal at Basildon Hospital.

## David Pickthall Big Band Concert



The David Pickthall Big Band Concert on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September raised an amazing £1942.31. Many thanks to all those involved in the concert. The band has a CD out and all proceeds go towards covering the costs of putting on these concerts.



## Harvest Lunch and Harvest Festival produce





£337.95 was donated to Water Aid, of which approximately £200.00 was raised from the luncheon and the hilarious antics of Nick Butler auctioning off the perishable produce shown above. Very entertaining – thank you, Nick!

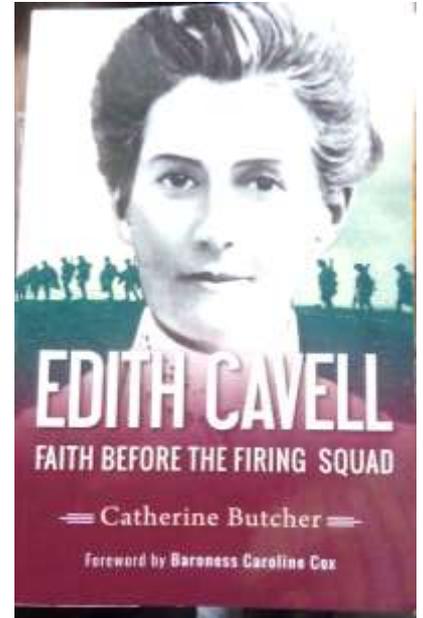


## Edith Cavell – Faith before the firing squad – Part 2

Rob Brabner

Sources include “Edith Cavell – Faith before the firing squad” by Catherine Butcher and BBC Radio 4 programme “Secrets and Spies”

As the First World War started, Belgium, which was neutral, was in the direct line of aggression as the Germans sought to attack France and its allies. The Germans were ruthless; 674 men, women and children were lined up and shot. Two days later the village of Louvain was burned and the citizens of all ages were executed. As the battle of Mons commenced, the wounded were beginning to arrive and the nurses in Brussels also made clothes for fleeing refugees. As the invading Germans became more and more interventional in Belgian civilian life it was inevitable that the resistance movement to help escaping soldiers would become more organised. Many of the soldiers needed medical treatment and Edith’s hospital treated all soldiers in need, whatever side they were from. However, this was extremely dangerous, as the hospital was being watched by the Germans. Between February and July 1915 Edith hid an estimated 170 soldiers as part of the Belgian underground movement, but took care not to involve her nurses if at all possible.



Eventually, together with 35 others, Edith was arrested in August 1915. She was sent to a communal woman’s cell. She was soon in solitary confinement where she had asked for a comb, notepaper, hankies and two books: her prayer book and her copy of *The Imitation of Christ*. She asked after the welfare of her small dog “Jack”. The American Consulate in Brussels, Brand Whitlock, had made enquiries to the German Govenor. It took at least ten days for a reply, but eventually it was confirmed that Edith had been arrested. She herself had admitted that she concealed in her house French and English soldiers, as well as Belgians of military age, all desirious of wishing to proceed to the front. Edith was denied visits from a defence lawyer. On 3<sup>rd</sup> October 17 of her nurses wrote to the Germans seeking clemency for their matron, but it made no difference.

When she went for “trial”, her appointed defence did not have the opportunity to speak to her before the trial started. None of the 35 on trial heard the charges against them until the court case was opened. The trial was held in German,

which was not the defence lawyer's first language. Edith was only asked to answer a dozen questions (in French). It was clear this had become a political "show trial". Despite the Belgian patriot Princess Marie de Croy bravely telling the court that she and her brother had organised the escapes and that Cavell was not head of the conspiracy, which the German prosecution had implied, this evidence was ignored. On 11<sup>th</sup> October five prisoners were condemned to death, including Edith Cavell. Alone in her cell Edith turned to prayer, to further reading of *The Imitation of Christ*, and to contemplating what had been achieved at the nurses' training hospital since she had first arrived in 1907. Then there were four trainees and now fifty to sixty, with plans for a new training hospital.

When Revd Stirling Gahan arrived to share Holy Communion with her on her last evening, she had prepared her heart to meet her Maker. She was grateful for the ten weeks of quiet, she told him: " I have no fear nor shrink; I have seen death so often that it is not strange or fearful to me... life has always been hurried and full of difficulty. This time of rest has been a great mercy. Everyone here has been most kind. This I would say , standing as I do in view of God and Eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

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## Church of England guidelines for social media

The BBC have reported that the Church of England have published new social media guidelines to help tackle online abuse and misleading content. Social media helps to “share the good news of Jesus Christ” but also has downsides, the guidelines say. The Archbishop of Canterbury launched the new rules for online accounts run by the Church on a visit to Facebook’s UK headquarters.



Justin Welby has urged Christians to sign up to a digital charter to help foster a “positive atmosphere” online. The charter centres on five principles of: truth, kindness, welcome, inspiration and togetherness, the Church said, while the social media guidelines include principles such as ensuring the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults, and being respectful, kind and honest.

People who post inappropriate, unsuitable or offensive comments on national social media accounts run by the Church of England, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York may be reported or blocked, the guidelines say.

Archbishop Justin Welby said, “Social media has transformed the way we live our lives. As Christians we are called to engage in a way which is shaped by the example of Jesus. As we respond to the call on each of us to be witnesses to Jesus Christ, I encourage all of us to consider how we live our lives as witnesses online. Each time we interact online we have the opportunity either to add to currents of cynicism and abuse or to choose instead to share light and grace. My prayer is that through these guidelines and charter we can encourage regular and not-so-regular churchgoers, sceptics and those who are surprised to find themselves interested, to be open to think and experience more of the Christian faith.”

### **Lunchtime Concerts**

**16<sup>th</sup> Jan, Matthew Blaiden, organ**

**30<sup>th</sup> Jan, Adam Parish, piano**

**Free admission with retiring collection  
for the continuance of music at St Laurence Church**

**The gifts under the tree** at the two Crib services will be split between Little Havens Children's Hospice, Basildon Women's Aid and Home Start Havering.

**The monetary collections** at the two Crib services will be split half-and-half between Havering Street Pastors and St Laurence Church.

**Monetary collections** taken at any other of the December services will be given to Crisis.



## Summary of PCC Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Halls:** Increases in hire charges for 2020 were approved.

**Christmas Collections:** The charity portion of the collections at the crib services would be donated to Havering Street Pastors. The tree presents would go to the same charities as in previous years: Little Haven Children's Hospice, Basildon Women's Aid and Home Start Havering. Any other collections would go to the December Charity of the Month, Crisis.

**Hymn Books:** The proposal to replace the hymn books was discussed further. A sample was produced and prices given. It was decided to go ahead with the purchase of new hymn books.

**Choir Association Questionnaire:** Details of the responses received were given and discussed. The scheme to form the Friends of St Laurence Music would move forward tentatively.

**Church Building Improvements Project:** The Big Band concert had been very successful. Details were given of future fundraising events. It was agreed to hold another summer fete/BBQ next year provided enough PCC members were willing to commit to running it. The date of 13<sup>th</sup> June was agreed.

**Electoral Roll:** This stands at 153.

**Other matters** discussed included Bishop's Stephen's letter on climate change, church and office security, PCC away day, website security, safeguarding, car park trees, Deanery Consultation Visits and Christmas lights.

## Free gifts for festive shoppers



Families shopping this festive season will receive two great giveaways telling the Christmas story. HOPE Together, Bible



Society and Speak Life are working with The Entertainer toy stores to help customers appreciate the reason for the season.

The Entertainer chain is the UK's largest independent toy retailer and each store has a nativity scene in its shop window at Christmas. This year, The Entertainer nativity scenes will feature the popular Happyland characters as Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the Wise Men and the Shepherds.

To tie in with these nativity scenes, Bible Society is producing a special Entertainer edition of its Christmas booklet. Each family shopping for Christmas in The Entertainer stores will receive a copy.

Shoppers will also be given a copy of the *Christmas HOPE* magazine, also featuring a centre-spread with the Happyland characters telling the Christmas story. This 32-page magazine is packed with topical features to inform, challenge and entertain readers. This year's *Christmas HOPE* cover features Tom Hanks, 'the man behind the honours'; the new *Cats* movie; Allison Becker: the world's best goalkeeper and Street Pastors 'keeping party-goers safe this Christmas'.

As well as featuring the nativity scene in shop windows and giving away *The Christmas Story* booklets and *Christmas HOPE* magazines, The Entertainer stores will screen a specially-made Happyland nativity animation which is being made by the Speak Life team. The animation will be available on social media and to download for use in schools and churches.

All the Christmas resources are also available for churches to order and will be available from the end of October on the HOPE Together website [hopetogether.org.uk/Christmas](http://hopetogether.org.uk/Christmas). The *Christmas HOPE* magazine is an ideal giveaway for churches visiting homes, carol singing or to invite local residents to Christmas events.

*(By PJ Holmertz, AIM's International Short Term Programme Director)*

# Celebrate Christingle with us

Join us and help give young  
people a brighter future



**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December - 4 pm**

**St Laurence Church, Upminster  
RM14 2BB**

For more information, call the Parish Office: 01708 220696

[christingle.org](http://christingle.org)

## When God was born

*He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him – John 1:11*

God appeared one night; the world slept on.  
Infant flesh disguised the Holy One,  
announced by angels singing in the sky,  
'Peace on earth and praise to God on high'  
but who turned up?

Shepherds came, star-gazers from the east,  
outcasts, prophets, sinners, lost and least.  
Kings and lawyers saw Him as a threat,  
Creator, Saviour, Prince of Peace and yet  
persecuted, made a refugee,  
condemned to death from birth and forced to flee.

Wonder at the welcome Christ extends:  
He heals, forgives, restores, makes us His friends.  
As we recall and celebrate His birth  
how are we to live His life on earth?

*By Helen Brocklehurst*

## And Finally....

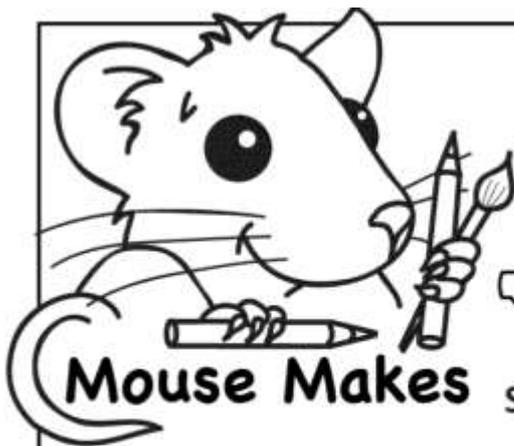
Did Noah include termites on the Ark?

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews!

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# Mouse Makes



## BIBLE JOURNEYS

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after it's journey?

-----  
Genesis 8:4

Where did God tell Samuel to travel to to find a new king?

-----  
1 Samuel 16:1-4

To which city did God send Jonah?

-----  
Jonah 1:1-2

Which town did Joseph take Mary to before Jesus was born?

-----  
Luke 2:4

Where did Mary and Joseph flee to to get away from Herod?

-----  
Matthew 2:13

Where was Saul (Paul) going to when Jesus spoke to him?

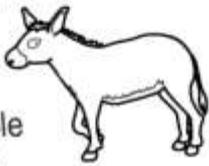
-----  
Acts 9:1-18



*"Lord,  
If I go east where the sun rises or go to live west beyond the sea, even there you will take my hand and lead me. Your strong right hand will protect me."*

Psalm 139:9:10

What kind of transport goes with each bible character?



NOAH

DONKEY

BAALAM

CHARIOT

MOSES

SHIP

JONAH

ARK

ELIJAH

BIG FISH

PHILIP

BASKET

PAUL

WHIRLWIND

Find the travel words in the word search



JOURNEY

FLEE • LEAVE • TRAVEL

• GOD WITH US •

DONKEY • CAMEL

HORSE • CHARIOT

BOAT • RIDE • WALK

PATH • ROAD

• DIRECTION •

GUIDE • MAP • SIGN

VILLAGE • TOWN • CITY



GOD'S WAY

*"God is our God for ever and ever, He will be our guide even to the end."*  
from Psalm 48:14

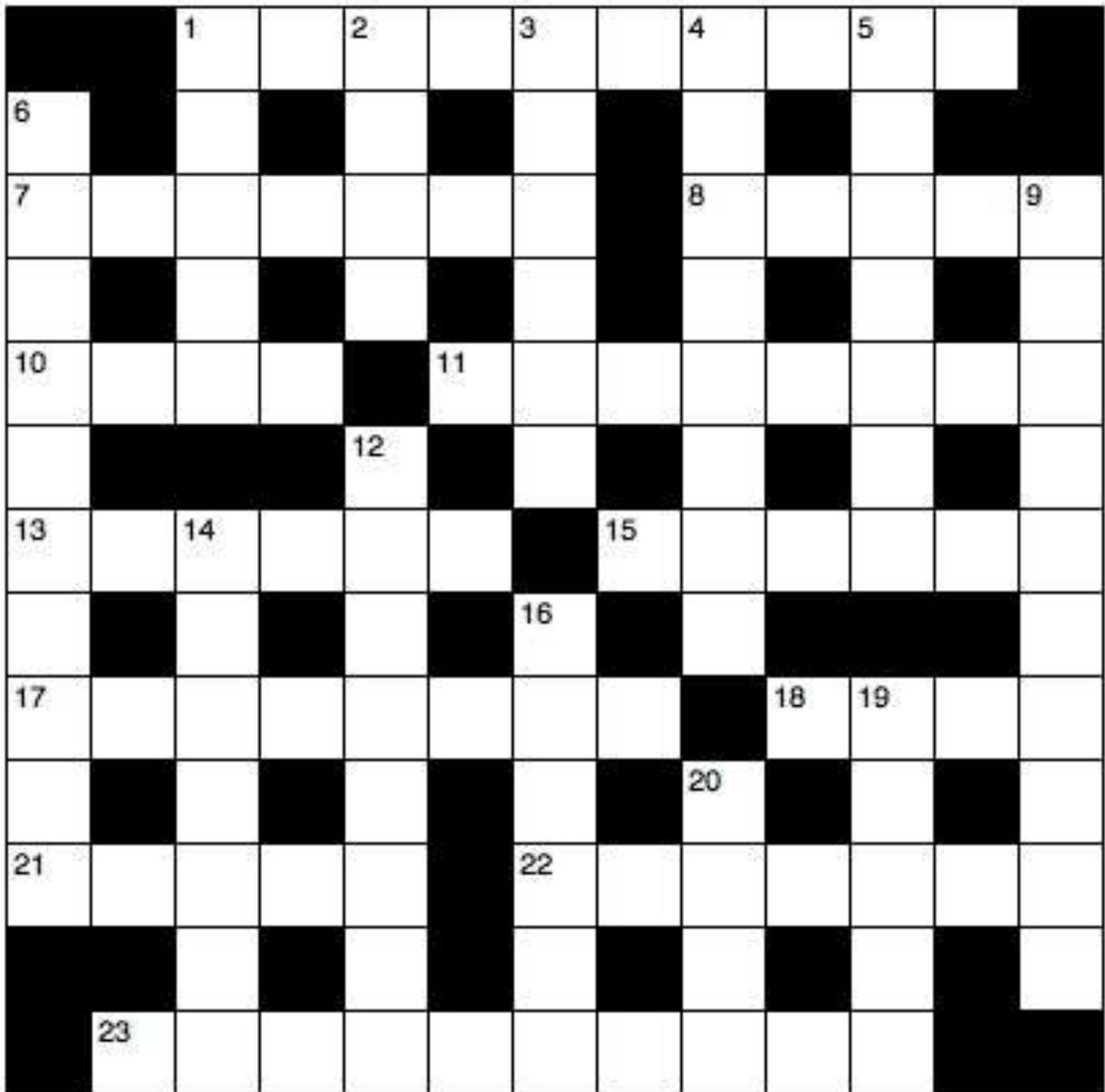
*"People can plan what they want to do, but it is the Lord who guides their steps."*

Proverbs 16:9



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

# Crossword



## Across

1. He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
7. 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
8. Relieved (5)
10. Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
11. Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
13. 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)

15. Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
17. One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
18. and 20. Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
21. 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)
22. 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
23. Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

## Down

1. He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
2. Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
3. 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
4. The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
5. Sun rail (anag.) (7)
6. Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
9. Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
12. This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
14. Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
16. Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
19. Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
20. See 18 Across

**Answers to the October and November crossword: Across:** 1, Bartholomew. 9, Evil one. 10, Adore. 11, Ran. 13, Oreb. 16, Zinc. 17, Entail. 18, Hung. 20, Lehi. 21, Joshua. 22, Pity. 23, Wide. 25, Age. 28, Alarm. 29, Partake. 30, Sennacherib. **Down** 2, Alive. 3, Took. 4, Over. 5, Onan. 6, Emotive. 7, Jehoshaphat. 8, Melchizedek. 12, A light. 14, Beg. 15, Strong. 19, Not have. 20, Law. 24, Iraqi. 25, Amen. 26, Epic. 27, Free.

## December's Charity of the Month is Crisis



In 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain, everybody should have a place to live. There are 160,000 homeless families in Britain. Rough sleeping is forecast to rise by 76% in the next decade.

Crisis work directly with thousands of homeless people every year. They provide vital help so that people can rebuild their lives and are supported out of homelessness for good. They offer one-to-one support, advice and courses for homeless people in 12 areas across England, Scotland and Wales. How they help someone depends on their individual needs and situation. It could be with finding a home and settling in, getting new skills and finding a job, or help with their health and wellbeing. They use research to find out how best to improve their services, but also to find wider solutions to homelessness. Together with homeless people and Crisis supporters, they campaign for the changes needed to end homelessness for good.

## January's Charity of the Month is Action on Pre-eclampsia



Action on Pre-eclampsia (also known as APEC) aims to raise public and professional awareness of pre-eclampsia, improve care, and ease or prevent physical and emotional suffering caused by the disease. They do this by providing information and support to members of the public who are affected by pre-eclampsia. They also run multi-disciplinary study days for midwives and health professionals who work with pregnant women, providing expert training on detection and management of pre-eclampsia.

Mild pre-eclampsia affects up to 10% of first-time pregnancies, with severe pre-eclampsia affecting about 1-2 in 100 severe pregnancies. Pre-eclampsia is the most common of the serious complications of pregnancy. It is caused by a defect in the placenta, which joins the mother and baby and supplies the baby with nutrients and oxygen from the mother's blood. Pre-eclampsia occurs after 20 weeks (but in very rare cases can occur earlier) and the majority of cases occur in the third trimester.

# Parish Diary for December

See inside front cover for regular Sunday service times

Sun	1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, 9.30am Sung Parish Mass &amp; Admission to Communion, 6.30pm Advent Compline</b>
Mon	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm Celtic Worship
Tues	3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Francis Xavier, missionary, 1552</i>
Wed	4 <sup>th</sup>	<i>John of Damascus, monk, teacher of the faith, c749, Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637. 11.45am Advent book/course, Parish Office. 7.30pm Coopers' Concert</i>
Thurs	5 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am Upminster Childminders visit. 7pm Adventurers' Meeting, Parish Office
Fri	6 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Nicholas, bishop, c326. 1.30pm Christingle Preparation, Parish Office. 6.30pm Bach Concert No 3</i>
Sat	7 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith, 397. 9am Christingle Preparation, Parish Office</i>
Sun	8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, 9.30am Sung Parish Mass, 4.00pm Christingle. 11am Nativity Rehearsal in Church</b>
Wed	11 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am Advent book/course, Parish Office
Fri	13 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Lucy, martyr, 304, Samuel Johnson, moralist, 1784</i>
Sat	14 <sup>th</sup>	<i>John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591</i>
Sun	15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, 9.30am Sung Parish Mass with Nativity Play, 6.30pm Said Compline</b>
Tues	17 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Eglantyne Jebb, social reformer, founder of 'Save the Children', 1928. 11.15am Service at The Oaks Home</i>
Wed	18 <sup>th</sup>	11.45am Advent book/course, Parish Office
Thurs	19 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am Service at Little Gaynes Home
Fri	20 <sup>th</sup>	9am Playschool Nativity, 6.30pm Bach Concert No 4
Sun	22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, 9.30am Sung Parish Mass, 6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols</b>
Tues	24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Christmas Eve, 3.00pm Crib Service, 5.00pm Crib Service, 11.15pm Midnight Mass. Parish Office Closed</b>
Wed	25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Christmas Day, 9.30am Procession and Sung Parish Mass</b> <i>Parish Office Closed</i>
Thurs	26 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Stephen, deacon, first martyr. Parish Office Closed</i>
Fri	27 <sup>th</sup>	<i>John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>
Sun	29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas, 9.30am Sung Parish Mass, 6.30pm Said Evensong</b>
Tues	31 <sup>st</sup>	<i>John Wycliff, reformer, 1384. Parish Office Closed</i>

**Details of dates, times and venues of all meetings and events need to be recorded in the Parish Diary (Parish Office 01708 220696)**

# Parish Diary for January

**See inside front cover for regular Sunday service times**

Wed	1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Parish Office Closed and No Mass today</i>
Thurs	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops, teachers of the faith, 379 and 389, Seraphim, monk, spiritual guide, 1833, Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, bishop, evangelist, 1945</i>
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Epiphany, 9.30am Procession &amp; Sung Parish Mass, 6.30pm Said Evensong</b>
Mon	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Celtic Worship
Fri	10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>William Laud, archbishop, 1645</i>
Sat	11 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Mary Slessor, missionary, 1915</i>
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Baptism of Christ, 9.30am Sung Parish Mass, 6.30pm Said Evensong</b>
Mon	13 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Hilary, bishop, teacher of the faith, 367, Kentigern (Mungo), missionary bishop, 603, George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers), 1691</i>
Wed	15 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm CM&FG Meeting, Parish Office
Thurs	16 <sup>th</sup>	1.05pm Lunchtime Concert
Fri	17 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Antony of Egypt, hermit, abbot, 356, Charles Gore, bishop, founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932</i>
Sat	18 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Amy Carmichael, founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship, spiritual writer, 1951</i>
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany, 9.30am Sung Parish Mass, 6.30pm Taizé Prayer</b>
Mon	20 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Richard Rolle, spiritual writer, 1349</i>
Tues	21 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Agnes, child martyr, 304</i>
Wed	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Vincent of Saragossa, deacon, martyr, 304
Thurs	23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00am Service at Little Gaynes Home
Fri	24 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Francis de Sales, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1622</i>
Sat	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am-4pm PCC Away Day
Sun	26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany, 9.30am Sung Parish Mass, 6.30pm Said Evensong</b>
Mon	27 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am Footsteps
Tues	28 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Thomas Aquinas, priest, philosopher, teacher of the faith, 1274</i> 11.15am Service at The Oaks Home
Wed	29 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm Rainbow's Visit
Thurs	30 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Charles, king and martyr, 1649, 1.05pm Lunchtime Concert</i>
Fri	31 <sup>st</sup>	<i>John Bacon, priest, founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888</i>

**Details of dates, times and venues of all meetings and events need to be recorded in the Parish Diary (Parish Office 01708 220696)**



## Get in touch with ....

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