

February & March 2019



GRIDIRON



The Magazine of the Parish Church of
Saint Laurence Upminster

£1



LENT

Service times

Sundays	Weekdays
Holy Communion 08.00	Monday to Thursday inclusive Morning Prayer 08.45
Sung Parish Mass 09.30	Evening Prayer 17.00
Sunday Schools 09.30	Tuesday Mass 10.30
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 09.30 in church in the Lady Chapel. The next service is on 25th February.</p> 	<p>A group meets 7.30-8.15 pm 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 4th February and 4th March.</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 or the Rector of anyone who is ill or in need of a pastoral visit.
See back pages for useful telephone contact numbers

www.upminsterparish.co.uk

Parish Office ☎ 01708 220696

Parish.office@upminsterparish.co.uk



From Fr Roy

The publication of this edition of 'The Gridiron' coincides with the final days of Christmas and Epiphany. This season ends properly forty days after Christmas on the 2nd of February with the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, a day often called Candlemas. The Jewish Law required that on the fortieth day a newborn boy must be presented in the Temple. At the same time his mother would undergo the ritual of purification. This year we will keep this festival a day later on Sunday the 3rd of February.

At Candlemas Christians are recalling the day that Jesus, the Light of the World, entered his temple for the first time. His light came into his temple and we remember this by lighting candles in our Church: his modern-day temple.

Sometimes Candlemas is followed almost immediately by Ash Wednesday, but this year the vagaries of the lunar cycle mean that we have a longer than normal break between the end of Christmas/Epiphany and the beginning of Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which this year falls on 6th March.

The observance of Lent was first undertaken by those preparing to be baptised at the Easter liturgy. Similarly, those who had been excommunicated were encouraged to prepare for readmission to the Church's Sacraments through a period of penance. In time the church began to realise that there was benefit for all Christians in observing Lent through prayer and fasting. It is possible that the duration of Lent is based on Jesus' experience of fasting in the wilderness, but we should not imagine that in Lent we are in some way re-enacting this time.

The major theme of Lent, therefore, is a proper and rigorous preparation for the observance of Jesus' death and the celebration of his resurrection at Easter. The popular idea of giving up something for Lent has its origins in the stark simplicity of the Lenten Worship. In part this gives an experiential expression to the idea of penitence. The simplicity of Lent provides a striking contrast with the joyful celebrations which will come at Easter. Our liturgical 'giving up' includes the omission of the *Gloria in Excelsis* at the Eucharist and the careful selection of hymns to avoid the use of a certain word which begins with 'A'. There are no flowers in Church, and no baptisms take place in Lent. All of these joyfully return as our fast ends at Easter.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and the service on that day seeks to set the scene for the season through quietness, reflection and penitence. Our penitence is marked physically through the imposition of ashes on the forehead: an action accompanied by words which remind us that we are all but dust and to dust we shall return.

So this year as February gives way to March and as Christmas fades from our thoughts, our minds must turn from the incarnation to the crucifixion and the resurrection. I pray that together we may keep a holy Lent as we prepare to walk the way of the cross.

From the Parish Registers

BAPTISM

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

25 November Ronan Kirkman
13 January Cordelia Grace Clayton

INTERMENT OF ASHES

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

19 November John Brian Boswell
01 December Roger Edward Hart

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From the Editors

Dear Readers,

Happily, this edition of *Gridiron* features many of the St Laurence congregation in personal celebration and also in preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The first live reproduction of the outdoor Christmas nativity was made by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223. It was a way of communicating the true meaning of Christmas and the idea proved so popular that it soon spread throughout the Christian world. Our own children at St Laurence performed the Nativity brilliantly, as the photographs portray. Thank you to everyone who contributed articles for this edition of *Gridiron* which are valued by us all. From the celebration of Christmas this edition takes us to the period of Lent, a period of reflection, which commences with Ash Wednesday on 6th March.

Jill Wallis, Editor



Thank you for your generosity. During Advent hundreds of gifts were donated at the Crib Services on Christmas Eve, which were delivered to Little Havens Children's Hospice, Basildon Women's Aid and Home Start Havering. The £941.09 raised was divided equally between Save the Children Syria Appeal and St Laurence Church. The total amount donated to Crisis, the St Laurence Charity of the Month was £1700.18. And last but not least, the 'Souper Thursdays' held during Advent raised the sum of £613 for The Church Building Improvements Fund.

Items for inclusion in the April and May edition of *Gridiron* should reach the editorial team by 8th March. We would prefer to receive items by e-mail at gridiron@upminsterparish.co.uk. Paper copy is acceptable but should be submitted to us as early as possible. The April and May Magazine will be on sale from 31st March .



Congratulations to Revd Susannah and Richard, St Laurence's Director of Music, who are the proud parents of a beautiful baby son, Edward Christopher Brasier, born on 30th November 2018. All at St Laurence look forward to sharing Susannah and Richard's joy and the blessings that baby Edward brings.

ST LAURENCE CHURCH MUSIC EVENTS IN 2019

Thursday Lunchtime Concerts, 1.05 to 1.50 pm



February

7 th	Alexander Hamilton	Organ
21 st	Tiffany Hore	Flute

March

7 th	Simon Williams	<i>Organ</i>
21 st	Tiago Gomes	Guitar

ALL WELCOME. FREE ADMISSION. RETIRING COLLECTION.



Photograph by Hannah Wiggins

It was a great pleasure to return to St Laurence on November 18th as part of my training as a curate. As the photograph shows, I wasn't alone: all the curates in Essex attended this event. We began by sharing the Eucharist and I know, from my colleagues' comments, that the 'High Church' service with attendant candles and incense was, to some, an unfamiliar, but to all a spiritually uplifting, experience.

Bishop Stephen preached the sermon and afterwards coffee was served. We then returned to church where Bishop Stephen shared how he had developed the sermon and his thoughts on what did, and perhaps did not, make for an effective sermon. We then had the opportunity to ask questions.

Bishop Stephen noted that the spoken word still has the power to hold people's attention, despite the claim that attention spans have got shorter. After all, comedians fill huge arenas and keep their audience's total attention with nothing more than words. If we engage with our congregations well, perhaps we could do the same. Please don't worry though, I don't think any of us thought we now had permission to preach for hours!

After lunch we formed small groups covering a variety of topics. We ended the day with a short period sharing thoughts and then some curates stayed to attend

Taizé Evening Worship. Everyone was very grateful for the warm welcome and hospitality they received at St Laurence Church. I was particularly grateful though, to be able to see so many friends again.

The St Laurence Table Top Sale



Melvyn Gallagher is photographed at the Table Top sale held at St Laurence Church Hall in November. Melvyn is pictured here selling model cars and vintage vehicles in aid of St Laurence Church. The church has a major project to enhance the church building to replace the 1930s Sacristy with a new church extension, to

include facilities which can be used by all people attending the church. Melvyn is a member of the St Laurence Church Parochial Council and is a long-term resident of Upminster.



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The Progressive Supper

by Tony and Linda Edge

The Progressive Supper is so called because parishioners attending this evening of fine dining progress from one home to another to sample one course of a three-course dinner. In theory, no participant should meet up with others they have met up with at earlier courses, but this depends on the numbers taking part and the skill of the organiser!



On one occasion, a pair of diners arrived at the home of parishioners who were not actually taking part in the event! You can imagine the scene! Complete confusion until the prospective diners explained why they had called!

All guests enjoy the evening. This is compulsory! In the past we have had over 30 diners and this is what we are aiming for again at the next progressive supper later in the year.

All profits from the event are sent to Crisis, so we are wined, dined and entertained whilst helping those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Please come along next year. Where else are you able to get an evening out for around £10? You will enjoy it!!

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from as little as £6.60 per issue.**

Please contact

Maureen Gourley 01708 640747

mlgourley@talktalk.net

A 70th Birthday Celebration



Chris Mowat celebrated his 70th birthday with members of St Laurence congregation. Jean once again made a very delicious cake which cleverly featured Chris's interests: there were tiny gardening gloves and embellishments of musical notation representing Chris's membership of the Royal School of Church Music Residentiary Choir and his singing in the St Laurence Church Choir. Chris's wife Nancy also celebrated her 70th birthday a few weeks earlier and the couple enjoyed a variety of celebrations including a surprise party for Nancy and a trip to Vienna.

Lent 2019

Ash Wednesday falls on 6th March. **There will be a said Mass at 11.00am** and a sung Mass at 8pm, both with the opportunity to receive imposition of Ashes (the sign of the Cross made in ash on one's forehead) for those who wish.

We will have **Stations of the Cross** (a devotion using the pictures around the church which depict Jesus' journey to the cross) at 7.30pm on Fridays during Lent, beginning on March 8th at St Joseph's Church, Upminster.

Lent Lunches will be held each Thursday from 7th March until 11th April from 12.15 to 1.30pm in the Minor Hall.

For the Lent Charities this year we will be supporting Little Havens Hospice and St Francis Hospice.

Admission to First Communion



On the 2nd December, David, Amelia, Thomas, Richard, Simon and Ellie were admitted to Holy Communion, where the children received a certificate and prayer book. Deborah led the sessions of preparation assisted by Fr Roy, Penny and Gill (pictured below). Deborah also made a celebratory cake which was shared and enjoyed by all! The children and their parents would like to thank all those mentioned above for supporting the children on their Christian journey.



Upminster Furnishes a Hospital – Essex Times August 14th 1914

ROMFORD TIMES



A meeting was held at St Laurence Church Hall, Upminster, on Monday evening to consider what steps can be taken by the inhabitants to provide for the sick and wounded soldiers and sailors from the war.

R J.S. Brookfield presided, supported by the Rev H.H. Holden, Dr James Dunlop and Messrs. Henry Joslin, D.L., J.P., Arthur E. Williams, C. Reilly and A.S. Gibbs.

The Chairman said that at a preliminary meeting it had been decided to form a curative hospital. The Rector had kindly offered the Church Hall for the purpose. A

committee was appointed as follows: Chairman and medical officer, Dr. Brookfield; Chaplain, the Rev. H.H. Holden; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. A.S. Gibbs; collector of subscriptions, Mrs A. Williams; organiser of committee, Miss Reilly; head commissariat and housekeeper, Mrs Brookfield.


Mr Joslin said it was a great pleasure to see such a splendid audience of Upminster men and women. He rejoiced to know that the men and women of Upminster intended to bear their share of the burden which the fearful war would assuredly bring upon them. Everyone seemed to be willing to see their object through not it had been started. (Applause.) He said unhesitatingly that the war had been forced upon them. It was England's duty to expose and bring judgement upon those who had forced us into this fearful struggle. It was a struggle now for very existence – they must cease to exist as a nation unless the enemy was thoroughly crushed. He was sorry to say it. However, he felt they were going into the fight with absolutely clean hands. (Hear, hear.) There was not a country in the world which had such a regard for the care of the sick and needy as England. (Hear, hear.) He had great pleasure in supporting Dr Brookfield in the movement he had so splendidly inaugurated. (Loud applause.)

The Rev. H.H. Holden said the cost of each bed per week would be £1. As a commencement they were asking for twelve beds. The cost would be covered by 96 persons subscribing 2s.6d. each. (Hear, hear.) One bed had already been given, leaving eleven to be arranged for. He thought that 88 half-crowns could be subscribed without much difficulty, especially when they thought of the lads who were going to fight for them. (Applause.)

Miss Reilly said Cranham had offered to do the washing every other week. (Applause.) The services of an experienced cook one day a week were available, and they offered to make 40 shirts, besides help in various other ways. (Applause.) Since the meeting 10 beds, completely furnished, have been provided. Two other contributors have given beds, and the bedding for these is also forthcoming.

The above article was submitted by Lance Jackson.

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St Laurence Flower Arrangers



Rita Pike (bottom left) and Cheryl and Eleanor Hale are pictured in St Laurence Church, preparing the flowers for the Christmas services. Rita has been an Upminster resident for over 40 years; her late husband, David, was also associated with St Laurence. Rita, a mother of three, is now retired, keeping very active and helping with church events and activities.

Eleanor (right), Cheryl's daughter, was brought up in the Upminster and Cranham area, and works for Transport for London, based in Paddington. Along with helping her mum with flower arranging, she enjoys keeping fit, hockey and dancing, and regularly visits her Royal Marine boyfriend stationed in Scotland. She is pictured in St Laurence Church where she is helping her mother and other flower arrangers setting up the Christmas flowers display.



Church Building Fund Raising

By Keith and Debbie Stewart



SO PER THURSDAYS



Whilst on a weekend away in Westleton, Suffolk, back in October, Keith and I took a stroll around the village on the Sunday morning and noticed that the church roof was in the process of being re-thatched. The Morning Service had just ended and we got chatting to one of the parishioners. Always on the lookout for fundraising ideas for our own Church Buildings Improvement Project, we asked him how they had raised the funds for this extremely costly work. "By various means," he replied, "including laying on soup and pudding lunches in the village hall, which proved to be very popular."

This got us thinking. Knowing that the simple Lent Lunches of soup, bread and fruit in aid of our Lent Charity had been well-supported in the past, adapting this format to include a hot pudding should be relatively straightforward. So we decided to hold "Souper Thursday" lunches on the three Thursdays during Advent, offering a choice of home-made soups and home-made puddings.

It was a daunting but rewarding challenge; Debbie got to work soup-making and before long our freezer was packed with a variety of home-made soups.

A very big 'thank you' to all who came along and supported the "Souper Thursdays" - it looked as though you were enjoying yourselves. Even more thanks must go to our small band of helpers: Carole Billings aka "The Cavalry" for helping on all three days and making a variety of puds; Margaret Goddard for the croutons; Joan Prudden for the leek & potato soup; Cheryl Piper for helping and providing various cakes; and Joyce and Hugh Winn for the delicious baked rice pudding and for tackling the inevitable mountain of washing-up on day three. You all really are "Souper-Troupers"!

As we write, these lunches have raised a total of **£613** for the Church Buildings Improvement Project. There's still a very long way to go so we challenge all of you to come up with your own fundraising idea(s), however big or small and to see it through. It is up to us all to do what we can to provide Upminster with a church building fit for the needs of today's world.

Adventurers' Window

This Christmas the Adventurers' window was beautifully decorated with the Nativity scene and a Christmas tree. Rosalind Hore painted the camel for the Children's Corner and is pictured below in her studio.



Christingle: The Light of Hope

The Children's Society Committee (St Laurence Branch)



This is a very special year for Christingle, as it marks 50 years since The Children's Society held the first Christingle service in this country at Lincoln Cathedral on 7 December 1968. However, Christingles themselves actually date back even earlier, and began in the Moravian Church in Germany in 1947.

At a children's service, Bishop Johannes de Watteville looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had come to people through Jesus. He decided to give the children a symbol to do this. This was a lighted candle wrapped in a red ribbon. At the end of the service, whilst the children held their candles, the bishop said the prayer, 'Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts that theirs like thine become.'

In 1968, John Pensom of The Children's Society, known as 'Mr Christingle', brought Christingle to this country and introduced it to the Church of England. Children decorated an orange with a red ribbon, dried fruits, sweets and a candle to create a new visual representation of Christ, the light of the world, celebrated by the lighting of the Christingle candles. The event is now celebrated in hundreds of churches, cathedrals, schools and communities up and down the country.



For 50 years now, Christingle has played a vital role in supporting vulnerable young people. And since Christingle first began, the money raised from donations at services has helped over one million children get the one-to-one care and support that they so urgently need. This year, our Christingle service at St Laurence Church was extremely well attended. The thought-provoking address given by Deborah Masterson, Pastoral Assistant, illustrated the needs and challenges faced by many young people in our society. The tremendous sum of £810.66 was raised; some donations were given using a contactless machine. This is being trialled by The Children's Society and the Upminster Committee is one of the first to demonstrate the effectiveness of this form of fundraising. This

money will enable the support to continue throughout the UK, including the local projects in Chelmsford and Stratford.

St Laurence has supported The Children's Society for over 100 years; thank you to everyone who continues to support the work which is addressing the ever changing needs of our children and young people. For more information please do look at the website www.childrenssociety.org.uk.

A Child for All Time

by Rosalind Hore



A new painting by Rosalind was hung at the front of St. Laurence Church for Christmas. At the top of the painting is the universe in dark void. The Holy Spirit in the shape of a dove enters the void to bring Jesus to the world. Jesus appears as a young child carrying a small cross and a crown of thorns from which a rosebud grows as a symbol of resurrection. Jesus stands upon the world as he is given for all mankind. Below, the flames of the Holy Spirit frame the bread and wine offered to all who believe in him. So the child is for all who have gone before, for us, and for all who are to come; for all time.



Lenten Lunches of soup, bread and fruit will be held each Thursday from 8th March to 11th April from 12.30pm to 1.30pm in the Minor Hall. There is no charge but we would appreciate a donation towards our chosen charity. If you are able to help, please sign your name on the list at the back of the church or contact the Parish Office. Thank you.

Performance of The Nativity



Summary of PCC Meeting held on 21st November 2018



Church Building Improvements Project:

Planning permission is due to expire in September 2019 and cannot be automatically extended. It was considered that a new application should be deferred until we have sufficient funds. We are still in need of someone to co-ordinate the Summer Fete. Help is also needed with applying to grant-making bodies.

Fees and Salaries: Increases in fees to be charged in 2019 were approved. Increases for salaried staff in line with the November CPI were agreed.

Lent Charity: Little Havens Hospice and St Francis Hospice were agreed as joint charities.

Electoral Roll: This stands at 184. Next year a complete new roll has to be prepared and everybody must reapply.

Other matters discussed included dates for future meetings, Christmas events, work needed at 6 Gaynes Park Road, problems with mats at church entrance, and an update on the new website.

2019 APCM: The date is 10th March.

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St Laurence Church Building Improvements Update

February 2019

In September 2018 we held a Tabletop sale and with support we were able to raise over £400. We anticipate holding another Table Top sale this Spring. Please do look out for more information about this event and think about purchasing a table at a very reasonable cost to raise money for yourself and the church at the same time!

Carole Billings organised another excellent quiz in December raising well over £100. Also in December, Keith and Debbie Stewart came up with the idea of 'Soup and a Pud' on the Thursdays in Advent. This proved to be very popular and through their hard work they raised over £600.

On behalf of the Fundraising committee I would like to publicly extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the hard work Keith, Debbie and Carole put into their fundraising activities.

On Saturday 9th February we are holding our next event in the Church Hall. This is an Evening of Magic, run by the Ilford Magic Society and it looks to be a very enjoyable social event. I hope that you will already have seen the posters and publicity about this evening and have purchased your ticket, but if not please do so very soon. Tickets are £12.50 per person and we are planning on having ten tables of ten guests. The first 40 minutes of the show will be 'close-up magic' performed by individual magicians at your table. We will then stop for a Ploughman's supper before the second half, which involves a stage show. Doors will open at 6.45pm, with the show starting at 7.30pm and we anticipate it will finish around 10.30pm. Please contact the Parish Office to purchase tickets.

Finally, may I remind you that the committee is joining with the Choir Association to hold a joint event on Saturday 15th June which will combine the BBQ with a range of stalls, rather than running a separate summer Fete. We are keen to hear from everyone who might be willing to get involved in this event so please put your names on the forms at the back of the church.

Thank you for your continued support.

Andrew Lillington

Should I Go Back To Church?

It's not unusual for people to fall out of the habit of going to church. Sometimes we may find ourselves asking "What's the point?" How we answer that depends on what it means to be "the Church." Some claim that you don't need to go to church to be a Christian, that what matters is living a good and upright life. The lives of the saints, however, show us that what makes a Christian is not our success in leading wholesome lives, but the humble realization that we can't live without regular doses of God's love made real in the sacraments - especially in Holy Communion, the meal Jesus commanded his Church to share in his presence. In other words, the Church exists not for the self-righteous, but for those who know their need of grace.

Jesus says that he came to call not the righteous, but sinners, to be his followers (Matthew 9:13), so perhaps the "unchristian" behaviour of our fellow churchgoers should not surprise us. People fail. On the other hand, all of us will be able to think of at least a few Christians who radiate goodness and humility. They encourage us and teach us what it means to be holy, and while they'd be the last to accept this, they show the rest of us how to be saints.

In any generation the Church never worships by itself, but with the whole company of holy people, living and departed. But our attitude to worship may be the problem. While we can feel uplifted and generous, sometimes worship leaves us feeling dejected and dispirited: "That didn't do anything for me, Vicar!" We need to remind ourselves that worship is not primarily God's gift to us, but our gift to God. This is why most acts of worship begin by asking for forgiveness. If an act of worship disappoints us, we may well have arrived expecting the wrong things.

The wisdom of centuries has taught us that our worship and prayers must be regular. It is unfashionable to say it, but this includes a sense of obligation and self-discipline. For most of us, this will mean praying every day and receiving Holy Communion at least once a week. The most important principle, however, is to set a simple and realistic target and to stick with it. The church on earth will never be perfect. But this sense of our weakness is also our sign of hope, for it reminds us to put our whole trust in God who perfected his strength in our weakness and who sent his Son to us while we were yet sinners.



Tea and Talks at the Old Chapel

February – April 2019

WEDS 13 FEBRUARY, 10.30am – TURNER AND CONSTABLE, CHRIS WHITE

Join Chris White as he explores artists John Constable and Joseph Turner and their paintings.

WEDS 13 MARCH, 10.30am – ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE MILL AND MORE, PAUL SAINSBURY

The site of Upminster Windmill once comprised 16 buildings including a Mill House, Workers Cottages, a steam mill etc. Find out more about the excavations of the buildings that were demolished in the 1960s.

WEDS 10 APRIL, 10.30am - MY JOURNEY THROUGH GENEALOGY (FAMILY HISTORY TO YOU & ME) CRANHAM, KEITH FINCH

Listen to Keith's personal journey through his family history, including some of the pitfalls but also some of the surprising finds along what has been a very long journey.

Tea and Talks take place at the Old Chapel on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Admission for Friends of the Old Chapel is free, otherwise £2 per person including refreshments.

No booking required is required.

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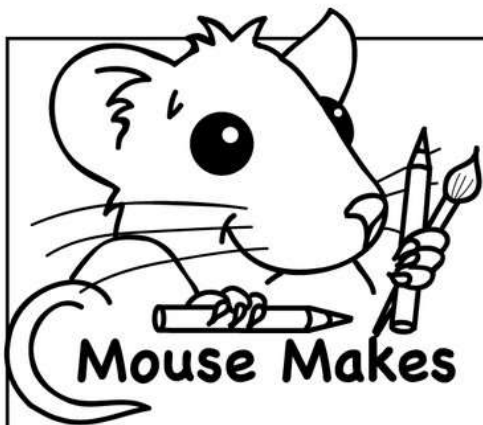
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WHAT IS LOVE?

Cross out every other letter to find the Bible verse, then look it up.

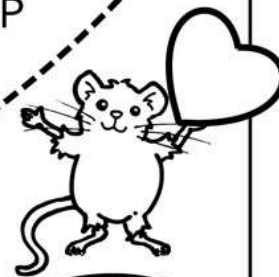
OHNKEWJLOSHCNP
CGHUADPBTFEKRA
FJOMUORD
VWEURDSKEV
TOEGNP

God's love is...

Change each letter to the letter before it in the alphabet.

"Hpe mpwfe uif xpsme tp nvdi
uibu if hbwf ijt pomz tpo tp
uibu fwfszpof xip cfmjfwft
jo ijn nbz opu ejf cvu
ibwf fufsobm mjgf."

Kpio 3:16



How does God show he loves us?

Look at this in a mirror!

su rot evol aiH bewole boG
God showed His love for us
yd sending his only son into
the world, so that we
ew tsht oz ,bhow elt
etil evst thgim
through Him
miH lgnort
e:4 noh 1



HOW LONG IS GOD'S LOVE?

Cross out all the xxx to find out!

xxGixvxextxhxaxnxkxsxxtxoxxtxhx
exxLxoxrxdx,xfxoxrxxHxexxiixxsxg
xoxxoxdx,xxHxixsxsxxtxeaxdx
fxaxsxtxxlxoxvxeexnxdx
rxxexsfxoxrxxevvxxexr.
xpxsaxxlmxx

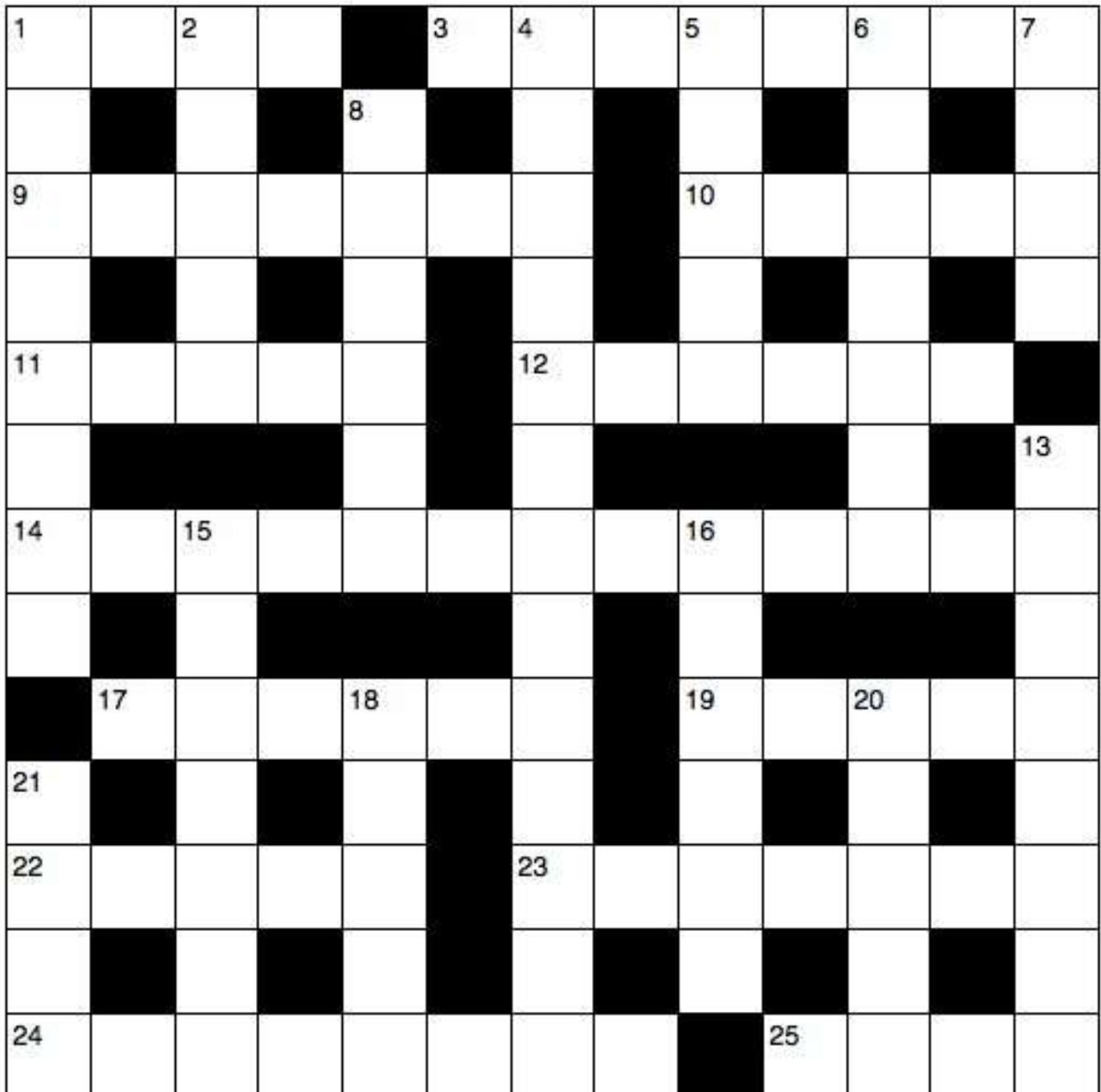
1x3x6:1

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases"

Lamentations 3:22



Crossword



Across

- 1 Salary (Isaiah 19:10) (4)
- 3 Question Jesus asked of those healed of leprosy, 'Were not all ten — ?' (Luke 17:17) (8)
- 9 Wide, elevated level area of land (Joshua 13:9) (7)
- 10 'So you also must be — , because the Son of Man will come... when you do not expect him' (Matthew 24:44) (5)

- 11 '[He] said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He — — , and his hand was completely restored' (Luke 6:10) (3,2)
- 12 'Who has gathered up the wind in the — of his hand?' (Proverbs 30:4) (6)
- 14 Not born again (13)
- 17 'Again and again he — the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins' (Hebrews 10:11) (6)
- 19 Mails (anag.) (5)
- 22 'He — — here; he has risen' (Matthew 28:6) (2,3)
- 23 Defeated (Judges 20:43) (7)
- 24 Soldiers' quarters (Acts 21:34) (8)
- 25 'Pillars of marble' were how the Beloved described those of her Lover (Song of Songs 5:15) (4)

Down

- 1 Totally destroyed (Genesis 7:23) (5,3)
- 2 What the Philippian jailer was told to do with his prisoners Paul and Silas (Acts 16:23) (5)
- 4 Object of ridicule (Job 12:4) (8-5)
- 5 In most years, the month in which Easter falls (5)
- 6 For example, Caesarea, Joppa, Tyre, Sidon (7)
- 7 '[Jesus] was in the desert for forty — , being tempted by Satan' (Mark 1:13) (4)
- 8 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power — to our God' (Revelation 19:1) (6)
- 13 Mend dots (anag.) (8)
- 15 Purifier (Malachi 3:3) (7)
- 16 Attacked (1 Samuel 27:8) (6)
- 18 The good Samaritan to the innkeeper: 'When I return, I will reimburse you for any — expense you may have' (Luke 10:35) (5)
- 20 How Matthew described the crowds who followed Jesus (Matthew 4:25) (5)
- 21 For example, one of 25 Across (Judges 19:29) (4)

Answers will be published in the next issue of Gridiron

Answers to the December / January crossword are:

ACROSS: 1, Hide. 3, Disgrace. 9, Sonship. 10, Oaths. 11, Tutti. 12, Ignore. 14, Foreknowledge. 17, Ashram. 19, Men or. 22, Aroma. 23, Nineveh. 24, Amethyst. 25, Trod. **DOWN:** 1, His staff. 2, Do not. 4, Imprisonments. 5, Groan. 6, Altered. 7, Easy. 8, Shrink. 13, Searched. 15, Restore. 16, Lament. 18, Reach. 20, Never. 21, Jada.

Charity of the Month

February: Mission Aviation Fellowship



Witnessing to the ends of the earth.

The village of Kuebunyane sits deep in a remote valley of Lesotho, a tiny African nation surrounded by tall, jagged mountains. To reach Kuebunyane, you have to travel several days on foot or by horseback. Because of the difficult terrain, the people are all but cut off from the outside world. A medical emergency might mean certain death. And the name of Jesus? Virtually unknown. But even in this most isolated place, God has made a way for the Basotho people—the people living in this region—to hear the Gospel.

Thanks to MAF airplanes, pastors known as the Lesotho Flying Pastors, are reaching Kuebunyane and other villages like it, sharing and preaching God's Word to the villagers.

March / April Lenten Charities: Little Havens Hospice and St Francis Hospice



Little Havens Hospice is set in beautiful meadowland in Thundersley, in Essex. Whether caring for a child or young person for years, months or even hours we can make a real difference to their life. We focus on the individual needs of the children we care for, 'Making every day count', for those with life-limiting or life-threatening illnesses and their families. If a family has a child or young person who has a life-limiting or life-threatening condition, Little Havens Hospice can help. We're here to make the journey as comfortable as possible, by offering planned respite stays, managing symptoms, for example controlling pain and adjusting medications and caring for children at the end of their lives. We care for children and young people up to the age of 19, and their families, from Essex and the surrounding London Boroughs.

St Francis Hospice: It's been 34 years since Saint Francis Hospice first opened its doors. Its existence is thanks to a local group of passionate people who supported the ideas and approach of the hospice movement. The theory of prioritising the things that really matter in life and placing humanity above institutional procedure still lie at the heart of the work they do today.



Parish Diary for February

See inside front cover for regular Sunday service times

January

Mon	28 th	<i>Thomas Aquinas, priest, philosopher, teacher of the faith, 1274</i> 9.30am Footsteps, 6.30pm Cubs visit to Church
Tues	29 th	11.15 Service at The Oaks Home, 8pm Choir Association Meeting, Parish Office
Wed	30 th	<i>Charles, king and martyr, 1649</i>
Thurs	31 st	<i>John Bosco, priest, founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888</i>

February

Fri	1 st	<i>Brigid, abbess, c525</i>
Sun	3 rd	The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, 9.30am Sung Parish Mass, 6.30pm Choral Evensong and Procession
Mon	4 th	<i>Gilbert, founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189,</i> 1.45pm School Visit to Church, 7.30pm Celtic Worship
Wed	6 th	<i>Martyrs of Japan, 1597, Accession of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952,</i> 1.45pm School Visit to Church
Thurs	7 th	1.05pm Lunchtime Concert, 7.30pm Choir Association AGM, Derham Hall
Sat	9 th	6.45pm Magic Night, Main Hall
Sun	10 th	4th Sunday before Lent, 9.30am Sung Parish Mass, 6.30pm Said Evensong
Mon	11 th	7.30pm PCC Meeting, Parish Office
Thurs	14 th	<i>Cyril and Methodius, missionaries, 869 and 885, Valentine, martyr at Rome, c269</i>
Fri	15 th	<i>Sigfrid, bishop, 1045, Thomas Bray, priest, founder of SPCK and SPG, 1730</i>
Sun	17 th	3rd Sunday before Lent, 9.30am Sung Parish Mass, 6.30pm Taizé Service
Thurs	21 st	11am Service at Little Gaynes Home, 1.05pm Lunchtime Concert
Sat	23 rd	<i>Polycarp, bishop, martyr, c155</i>
Sun	24 th	2nd Sunday before Lent, 9.30am Sung Parish Mass, 6.30pm Said Evensong
Mon	25 th	9.30am Footsteps
Tues	26 th	11.15am Service at the Oaks Home, 7.30pm Adventurers' Meeting, Parish Office
Wed	27 th	<i>George Herbert, priest, poet, 1633</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 March

See inside front cover for regular Sunday service times

Fri	1 st	<i>David, bishop, patron of Wales, c601</i>
Sat	2 nd	Chad, bishop, missionary, 672
Sun	3 rd	The Sunday next before Lent, 9.30 am Sung Parish Mass, 11.15am PCC Accounts Meeting, Parish Office, 12.30pm Quinquagesima Lunch, Main Hall, 6.30pm Solemn Evensong and Procession
Mon	4 th	7.30pm Celtic Worship, 8.15pm Church Building Improvements Committee Meeting, Parish Office
Wed	6 th	Ash Wednesday , 11am Mass with Imposition of Ashes, 8pm Sung Mass with Imposition of Ashes
Thurs	7 th	<i>Perpetua, Felicity and companions, martyrs, 203</i> 1.05pm Lunchtime Concert
Fri	8 th	<i>Edward King, bishop, 1910, Felix, bishop, 647, Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, priest, poet, 1929,</i> 7.30pm Stations of the Cross, St Joseph's Church
Sun	10 th	1st Sunday of Lent, 9.30am Sung Parish Mass, 10.50am Meeting of Parishioners, 11.15am APCM, Main Hall, 6.30pm Said Compline
Thurs	14 th	12.15pm Lent Lunch, Minor Hall
Fri	15 th	7.30pm, Stations of the Cross, St Laurence Church
Sun	17 th	2nd Sunday of Lent, 9.30am Sung Parish Mass, 6.30pm Said Compline
Mon	18 th	<i>Cyril, bishop, teacher of the faith, 386</i>
Tues	19 th	<i>Joseph of Nazareth</i>
Wed	20 th	<i>Cuthbert, bishop, missionary, 687,</i> Parish Office closed
Thurs	21 st	<i>Thomas Cranmer, archbishop, Reformation martyr, 1556,</i> 11am Service at Little Gaynes Home, 12.15pm Lent Lunch, Minor Hall, 1.05pm Lunchtime Concert
Fri	22 nd	7.30pm Stations of the Cross, St Joseph's Church
Sun	24 th	3rd Sunday of Lent, 9.30am Sung Parish Mass, 6.30pm Said Compline
Mon	25 th	<i>Annunciation of Our Lord, to the Blessed Virgin Mary,</i> 9.30am Footsteps, 7.45pm Mission & Ministry Meeting, Parish Office
Tues	26 th	<i>Harriett Mansell, founder of the Community of St John the Baptist, 1883,</i> 11.15am Service at The Oaks Home
Thurs	28 th	12.15pm Lent Lunch, Minor Hall
Fri	29 th	7.30pm Stations of the Cross, St Laurence Church
Sun	31 st	4th Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday), 9.30am Sung Parish Mass, 6.30pm Said Compline

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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Revd Susannah is currently on maternity leave. In emergencies and in the need of a priest please contact Fr Roy or the Churchwarden.

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