

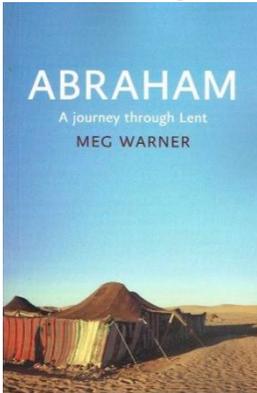


Inspire

March 2018

Dear sisters and brothers

A few months ago, I attended a study day with the rest of the Great Baddow team



clergy. The day was led by Meg Warner, an Australian theologian, whose research has focused on the Biblical figures of Abraham and Sarah. Meg has written a Lent book reflecting on the life of Abraham which I have been using during this season. Early in the book we are reminded that when God's call comes to Abraham and Sarah, or Abram and Sarai as they were known at that stage of the story, they were already on a journey. Abram's father Terah had taken his family on a journey from Ur (in modern day Iraq) to go to Canaan, however, they stopped and settled in Haran on the way (Gen 11:31).

It is while they are in Haran that God's call and promise comes to Abram (Gen 12:1-3).

God's call inviting Abram and Sarai to journey with him comes at a halfway place where the family have settled or been side-tracked. The story doesn't tell us why Terah, Abram, Sarai and the rest of the family settle in Haran, only that it becomes the place of Terah's death and the place of a fresh call to journey on with a new purpose found in the promises of God.

Lent is often described as an invitation or call to journey with Jesus towards Jerusalem and the place of his death and resurrection; the place where his ministry and mission are fulfilled and, as John's gospel puts it, the place where he is glorified. This season is an opportunity to take time to reflect on our relationship with God, his call on our lives and our journey with him. A question we might want to ask ourselves is, has our faith become settled and static, or have we even become side-tracked? Are we open to hear God's call to us afresh, leading us forward, or have we decided it's safer/easier/more comfortable to stay where we are? These are searching and challenging questions but it's good from time to time to reflect on them and take stock of our journey with God. And we do this encouraged to know that God meets us where we are, just as he met Abram and Sarai in Haran, and his invitation to journey on is with him not on our own.

May God bless you this Lent, as he blessed Abraham and Sarah, as you open yourself to his call and promises.

With love and prayers
Philip (Team Rector)

Pancake Party

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Pancake Party in February. It was a great evening with loads of pancakes and great games. Congratulations again to Clive Spratt who successfully defended his crown as pancake tossing champion. We raised £138 at the evening and the money will be going to the work of the Church Urban Fund for its work in deprived areas of our country.



Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll is to undergo its annual revision to ensure that it continues to reflect our church membership. The update to the Roll will start on **Sunday 11th March** and end on **Sunday 26th March 2018**.

All church members who are not on the Roll and wish to be included must complete an application form, which are available in the Welcome Corner. The application form entitles you to vote at the annual meeting and to stand for election, please return the completed application form to Neil McLean or Jacqui Pavey in the church office. All those who are currently on the Roll need do nothing.

The update Roll will then be exhibited in church by **Saturday 31st March** for fourteen days in order that inaccuracies can be notified and corrected. Please take the time to review and advise me of any changes.

If you have any questions, please have a word with me or one of our wardens or clergy. *Neil McLean, Electoral Roll Officer (01245 901028)*

Electoral Roll



Belong



Participate



Contribute

Church Annual Meeting

On **Monday 23rd April at 8pm**, our Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parish Church Meeting will be held in Church.

If you would like to stand for election as a Churchwarden, deputy warden or member of the PCC please fill in the appropriate nomination form in due course. If you would like to know more about what is involved in any of these roles then please speak to one of the clergy, wardens or a member of the PCC.

Lent & Easter Services - Great Baddow Team Ministry

Mothering Sunday 11th March

8.00am – Holy Communion

10.00am – All-age Service

6.30pm – Encounter...with Holy Communion

Palm Sunday 25th March

8.00am - Holy Communion

10.00am – Family Service

6.30pm – Encounter... with Communion

Maundy Thursday 29th March

8.00pm - Holy Communion at Meadgate Church, The Orchards

Good Friday 30th March

9.20am - March of Witness beginning at The Vineyards

2.00pm - An hour at the Cross at St Paul's Church, Loftin Way

Easter Day 1st April

8.00am - Holy Communion

10.00am – Easter Family Communion

Data Protection (GDPR)

At the end of May, the law changes regarding the collection and holding of personal data. Like all churches St. Mary's is required to comply with the new legislation. Over the next few weeks we will be sending out a letter explaining the changes and a form in order to collect church members' contact information in the appropriate manner.

If you have any questions about these changes please speak to the rector, Kay Pountney or Jacqui Pavey.

Admission of Children to Communion

We will be holding a service for admission of children to Communion during next term.

Children can be admitted to Communion from age 7 upwards.

The expectation is that they will normally have been baptised beforehand; if they have not been, we would look to arrange their baptism sometime in the next few months. There will be a short course for the children to take part in that will help to prepare them to receive Communion.

If you feel that this is a step that your child would like to take, and that they are ready to do so, please speak to either Philip or Sue.

Decorating the Church

On **Saturday 31st March** from 9.30am 'SMGB Flower Group will be decorating the Church in preparation for Easter Sunday. We will use lots of spring flowers - daffodils, iris, tulips, hellebores - and greenery, mainly arranged informally in containers.

It's a good opportunity to get involved if you are at all interested in flower arranging, as members of the Flower Group will be there to help. We would be delighted to receive donations of flowers and foliage from anyone for this great celebration.

Spring flowers - what a great sign of Renewal and Resurrection; *'Now the green blade rises from the buried grain.'*



Mission Focus on SYM

Illuminate Chelmsford was held from 6th to the 10th February in Baddow High, Sandon and Hylands Schools.



We overcame quite a lot of problems in the run up to the event but as soon as the first lesson began it was clear that God was with us. The young people and the staff responded so well to the messages they heard, it was really powerful. Over the week we spoke positively into the lives of approximately 3000 young people. As you may have heard, sadly Moulsham School was closed on the Thursday we were due to go in owing to a gas leak. This was particularly disappointing as we had already overcome some difficulties in the school with regards to space available to hold the event. This hit ticket sales as the young people didn't catch the buzz that seeing the assemblies had created in the other schools. This being said, we had nearly 500 at the Friday gig and nearly 300 on the Saturday. They were amazing evenings and a large number of young people responded to Lindz's call to live positively and pray with him. All were then given details of the AAA online resource that the band have devised, which is an introduction to the Christian faith together with details of the pancake party SYM were holding during half term.

Nearly 100 young people came along to the pancake party. Lindz facetedimed the evening to chat to those present and he encouraged them to continue their journey by joining the emerge group in their school. We also gave out flyers about the churches locally that had committed to welcome them.

Please continue to pray that the seed planted by Illuminate can be nurtured by God and bear fruit in the coming weeks and months. We also give thanks for the large number of volunteers who made the gigs possible, many of whom came from St Mary's. We are delighted to be coming back to St Mary's on March 18th to talk about the event in the morning service and look forward to seeing you there.

Tiny Church

Tiny Church happens on the second Thursday each month in St Mary's Centre between 1.45pm and 2.45pm and is aimed at preschool children and their families. We have mums, grandparents, nannies and friends all bringing the children along and it is wonderful to be able to help families worship God in a simple way which is accessible to them.

There are usually 10-12 children plus adults and our fantastic Tiny Church Team and the session has a great feel to it. We are told the children love it, talk about it and are keen to come – and we love seeing them and helping them on their faith journey. If you have preschool children and would like to come, you will be most welcome – just turn up – you will receive a very warm welcome. Our next session is **Thursday 8th March**.

SPRING / SUMMER TERM DATES 2018:

THURSDAYS: 8th March, 12th April, 10th May, 14th June, 12th July.

If you want to know more then please speak to: Sue Finch (473143) or Kirsty Houghton (475724). We look forward to seeing you there 😊

SHAPE

SHAPE is a course designed for Christians who want to grow and to serve God more fully in their everyday lives.

The course gives the opportunity to discover the unique shape that God has made us, the gifts he has given us and how he might want to use us.

We are running a SHAPE course, starting 7.45pm **Tuesday 6th March 2018** at Glenn & Sue Finch's house.

If you would like to take part, it's not too late to sign up on the notice board at the back of church.

For more information about what Shape involves then please speak to one of the clergy or ministry leadership team.



Vocations Day

Bradwell Area Day at St Nicholas Church, Canvey Island, **Saturday 10th March 2018**
9.00am to 3.30pm with an opportunity to attend two workshops from the following:

Course in Christian Studies, Faith in The Workplace

Licensed Lay Ministers, Pastoral Assistants

Locally Authorised Preacher, Evangelism Enablers

Lay Pioneer Ministry, Spiritual Support

Church Army, Chaplaincy

A Workshop for Young People, Ordained Ministry

Also, there will be an opportunity to hear vocation stories. Lunch will be provided so please either fill in the slip at the back of church, to assist with catering and return it to: Mrs Amanda Robinson, PA to the Bishop of Bradwell, Diocesan Office, 53 New Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1AT or e-mail arobinson@chelmsford.anglican.org or call 01245 294466.

2018 Bishop's Lent Appeal

From Bishop Stephen:

Join with us this year as we raise vital money to support our link Diocese of Marsabit.

They have asked us to join with them in raising money for a water bowser to be used during drought.



LATEST NEWS - OFFICIALS HAVE NOW ISSUED A DROUGHT WARNING IN MARSABIT

Full details about this appeal can be found in the Welcome Corner with information of how to donate etc.

Please give as generously as you can. Thank you.

'Showstoppers' Holiday Club 2018

Holiday Club 2018 will be **Sunday 29th July - Sunday 5th August** and we have an exciting theme planned. Putting this fun filled week into action takes a huge number of volunteers but many hands make light work and it is always full of laughter and lovely moments.

This year we will divide the work into small chunks again and we are looking for leaders to organise and run parts of the event:

Team leaders sub-group, Craft sub-group & Decoration sub-group.

We also need volunteers to help during the holiday club week, Tuesday 31st to Friday 3rd. If you are interested with one of these elements of Holiday club, please contact Elizabeth Podd at: elizabethpodd@aol.com.

Church Diary for March

Thursday 1 st	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10.00am	Café Club in Church
	11.30am	Church open until 2.00pm
Friday 2 nd	11.00am	24/7 Prayer Space in Church with Church Open
	7.30pm	Bellringing in Church
Sunday 4th March – The Third Sunday of Lent		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Holy Communion & Powerhouse
	6.30pm	Pathfinder Service
Monday 5 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9.00am	Bibles & Babies group in Bell St Hall
	7:00pm	Prayer meeting for the church and the world
	8.00pm	MLT meeting at Matt & Kirsty's
Tuesday 6 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
	7.45pm	SHAPE course starts at Glenn & Sue's

Wednesday 7 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
	11:00am	Little Spring Wonders pre-school in Church
	7.45pm	Crossfire meet at Ben & Nicki's
Thursday 8 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	11.30am	Church open until 1.00pm
	1.45pm	Tiny Church in Church Centre
	2.00pm	Funeral of Jane Johnston in Church
Friday 9 th	11:30am	Church open until 2.00pm
	7.30pm	Bellringing in Church
MOTHERING Sunday 11th March – The Fourth Sunday of Lent		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Mothering Sunday Family Service
	6:30pm	Encounter...with Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Pathfinders meet in Bell St Hall
Monday 12 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10.00am	MAC group in Bell St Hall
	7:00pm	Prayer meeting for the church and the world
	8.00pm	PCC meeting in Bell St Hall
Tuesday 13 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
	7.45pm	SHAPE Course at Glenn & Sue's
	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
Wednesday 14 th	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
	7.45pm	Crossfire meet at Ben & Nicki's
	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
Thursday 15 th	10:00am	Café Club in Church
	11:30am	Church Open until 2:00pm
	11:30am	Church open until 2.00pm
	7.45pm	Choir Practice in Church
Saturday 17 th	8.30am	Men's Prayer Breakfast in Church
	9.30am	Prayer Ministry Meeting in Bell St Hall
Sunday 18th March – The Fifth Sunday of Lent		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Holy Communion & Powerhouse
	6.30pm	Encounter...
	6.30pm	Pathfinders meet in Bell St Hall
Monday 19 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9.00am	Bibles & Babies group in Bell St Hall
	7:00pm	Prayer meeting for the church and the world
Tuesday 20 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel

Tues 20 th cont'd	7.30pm	Book Club in Church
	7.45pm	SHAPE Course at Glenn & Sue's
Wednesday 21 st	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
	7.45pm	Crossfire meet at Ben & Nicki's
Thursday 22 nd	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	11:30am	Church Open until 2:00pm
Friday 23 rd	11.30am	Church Open until 2:00pm
		Pathfinders overnight Prayer event in Church
Saturday 24 th		Cubs overnight sleepover in Church Centre
PALM Sunday 25th March – HOLY WEEK		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Family Service
	6.30pm	Encounter...with Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Pathfinders meet in Bell St Hall
Monday 26 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	7:00pm	Prayer meeting for the church and the world
Tuesday 27 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
	11.00am	Baddow Hall Infants Easter Service
	7.45pm	SHAPE Course at Glenn & Sue's
Wednesday 28 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
	11.00am	St Mary's Playschool Easter Service
	2.00pm	Memorial Service for Mick Ford in Church
	7.45pm	Crossfire meet at Ben & Nicki's
MAUNDY Thursday 29th		
	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	11.30am	Church open until 2.00pm
	8.00pm	Holy Communion at Meadgate Church, Orchards
GOOD Friday 30th		
	9.20am	March of Witness beginning at The Vineyards
	2.00pm	An hour at the Cross at St Paul's Church
Saturday 31 st	9.30am	Decorate the Church for Easter
	10.00am	Choir rehearsal in Church

The Church Office

Hours of Opening:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday:

9:30am to 12:30pm, 1:45pm to 3:00pm

Wednesday & Friday

9:30am to 12:30pm

Tuesday evenings

7:00pm to 8:00pm

(wedding enquiries by appointment only)

Email: stmaryschurchoffice@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarysgreatbaddow.org.uk



01245 477501