



Inspire

APRIL 2019

Dear sisters and brothers,

I love Springtime. The first signs of new life: first the snowdrops, then the daffodils and finally the tulips. Bulbs that seemingly have laid dead and dormant, suddenly spring to life with vibrant colours that lift the spirit and give hope for the summer to come. God, in creation, gives us pointers to Easter - the time when it looked like it was all over for Jesus before he sprang back to life – eternal life in all its fulness – death defeated and the way back to God open for all.

Over the past few months we have been seeing signs of new growth with our younger families and so we have been looking at our children's work, considering how we can best serve the needs of families coming to Church both in our Family Services and activities in the summer holidays and how we can follow Jesus command to his disciples to "*Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.*" (Luke 18:16)

What might the changes look like?

For Family Services:

- there is a change in layout so that the families can be at the heart of the service, in the place where they can see and be involved.
- Imaginative ways of telling the stories, to capture their imagination so they can engage with God's Word
- Interactive ways of praying so we can model to families how to pray together
- Child friendly songs, as well as more adult ones so that they can enjoy singing God's praise



For Summer Holiday:

- Introduction of Messy Mornings for the 5 Thursdays in August
- An opportunity for families to come and play and worship together
- An opportunity to build relationships with families
- To help build a habit of coming to a church activity weekly – hopefully to build on into Tiny Church, Family Services and Powerhouse

We hope that you too might be excited by these initiatives as we seek to share the Good News of Jesus with others. They might not be how you would necessarily choose

to worship, but sometimes we have to lay aside our preferences for the good of others and the sake of the Gospel.

Our prayer is that we will embrace these opportunities to welcome families, make them feel at home and look to journey with them as they learn to follow Jesus.

What can we do as the wider church?

- Firstly pray – that families come and meet Jesus and grow in faith
- Secondly – welcome and love them, even in the messiness
- Look for ways to serve these families – could you get involved in Messy Mornings? We need activity and craft leaders, people to welcome, people to provide refreshments, furniture movers
- Finally pray that we may continue to be a Church that welcomes the children and that we may see new life

With love and prayers

Reverend Sue Finch, Associate Minister

Lent & Easter Services - Great Baddow Team Ministry

Palm Sunday 14th April

8.00am - Holy Communion

10.00am – All-age Morning Praise

6.30pm – GB Team Holy Communion at Meadgate, The Orchards

Maundy Thursday 18th April

8.00pm - Holy Communion at St Paul's, Loftin Way

Good Friday 19th April

9.20am - March of Witness beginning at The Vineyards

2.00pm - An hour at the Cross at St Mary's Church

Easter Sunday 21st April

8.00am - Holy Communion

10.00am – Easter Family Communion

Church Annual Meetings

The Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place in church on **Sunday 28th April at 6.30pm**.

All members of St Mary's church are invited to come along and learn more about the business of the church and the exciting ministries that are being undertaken by so many committed people.

At the annual meetings we will be electing:

2 churchwardens

2 deputy wardens,

5 PCC members: 3 for 3years, 1 for 2years and 1 for 1year

If you would like to stand or would like to know more about any of these posts,

please speak to one of the current wardens or a member of the clergy.

Flowers for Easter

We would like to bring the wonder of 'new life' into Church for Easter.

Can you help by bringing spring flowers and budding twigs
on Saturday 20th April?

Could you stay & help put them into bowls on the window cills?

If you can, the Flower Group will be in Church from 9.30am onwards and look forward to having some extra help! Hope to see you then.



Messy Easter

Messy Easter

Come and explore the Easter Story

Thursday 11th April 2.00 – 3.30pm @ St Mary's Church, Great Baddow

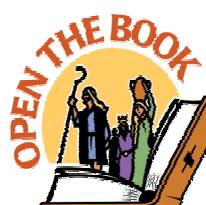
- Create your own Easter garden
- Hunt some eggs
- Make an Egg parachute and much more!
- A baby and toddler area will be available too!

For ages 0-11, don't forget to bring an adult!

Open The Book (OTB)

WE NEED YOU!!

Are you young at heart? Are you a team player? Are you a morning person? Do you long to spread the Word? Are you happy to make a fool of yourself for the Lord....
then we need you.



Every Tuesday morning in term time the Open the Book team visits either Baddow Hall Junior or Infant School to act out a story from the Lion Children's Bible. We have great fun together. We deliver God's Word to young people in the village. We support one another through prayer (and breakfasts!) together.

As we visit each school only once a fortnight the children are always delighted to see us; we are quite a change from their usual assemblies. We are now in our sixth year of Open the Book and this has led to an increase in our ministry with both schools including the very successful visits from them last November for Remembrance Day.

If you are free between 8.20 am and 9.15 am on Tuesday mornings would you like to join the Open the Book team? Usually members perform between three and six times per term. This is a wonderful ministry led by Sue Finch and we need YOU.

Mid Africa Support (MAC)

Fundraising Lunch

The MAC group would like to invite the church family to a fundraising lunch on **Sunday 7th April** at 12:30pm in St. Mary's Church. Support for this event would be appreciated and a sign-up list is available at the back of church.

Linda Lane will be giving an illustrated talk about very recent visit to East Africa. Everyone is very welcome.

For further information please contact Kari Speed-Andrews on 01245 225969.



Strawberry Tea

St Mary's will be hosting the annual MAC Strawberry Tea on **Saturday 15th June** commencing at 2:00pm.

Peter & Liz Lunn who are currently at Kagando Hospital and involved in the C100 project hope to be able to join us at this event.



Messy Mornings August 2019

For many years St Mary's has held a very successful Holiday Club for 100 primary school aged children, supported by a large team of adults.

For 2019, due to the lack of availability of key team members for the designated week, there has been an opportunity to re-imagine our children's outreach during the summer holidays.

It is therefore proposed to hold 5 'Messy Morning' sessions on Thursdays in August for families with children aged 0 to 11, with children being accompanied by an adult (over 18)

Sessions would run from 10am to 11.30am and each week follow the same format:

10.00am to 10.50am A range of activities and free play would be available for families to engage in, each manned by a craft/activity leader. The activities would vary each week, tailored to the bible story/theme:

10.50am to 11.05am Refreshments

11.05am to 11.30am Interactive Bible story, response activity & closing blessing song



Helpers would need to be available 9.15am to 12noon to set up, have briefing and time of prayer and pack up at end of session.

It is hoped that this would give opportunity to build relationships with families and encourage family time. Helpers are required to run the craft/activity on any given week and provide refreshments.

NEXT STEP

Please speak to Sue Finch or Kirsty Houghton if you would like more information.

Alpha

For all our searching – it's rare to find time to think, and talk, about the big questions of life; about faith and reason and God and meaning.

Join us here at St Mary's from **Sunday 12th May** 6.30-8pm for our Alpha Course.



What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome.

It runs in cafés, churches, universities, homes—you name it. No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.

Food

Whether it's a group of friends gathered around a kitchen table, or a quick catch up over coffee and cake, food has a way of bringing people together. It's no different at Alpha. Most sessions start with food because it's a great way to build community and get to know each other.

Talk

The talks are designed to engage and inspire conversation. Usually around thirty minutes long and delivered over a series of weeks, they can be given as a live talk or played as a video.

They explore the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity, addressing questions from *Who is Jesus?* and *How can we have faith?* to *Why and how do I pray?* and *How does God guide us?*

Discussion

Probably the most important part of any Alpha: the chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic, and simply discuss it in a small group. There's no obligation to say anything and there's nothing you can't say (seriously). It's an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly and open environment.

Alpha at St Mary's

Encounter will be pausing its evening services to run an Alpha course starting on 12th May 2019 and running for 8 weeks, including a Holy Spirit away day at The Orchards **on Sunday 23rd June** (lunchtime onwards) All are welcome, and we invite you to pray for:

- the team,

- what you can give (prayer, financial giving, practical help) and who you can invite?

We will be providing an afternoon tea, showing the new Alpha films and discussing them in small groups. An exciting and expectant time, if a little daunting, and we look forward to what Encounter may look like following on from the course. If you'd like to be involved in this outreach, then please do speak to Philip or Sue or one of the Encounter team.

We'd love to hear from you. More and updated information can be found on our 'Alpha at St Mary's Great Baddow' Facebook page.



'Let there be Light' Tour 2019

"Let there be Light Tour" 2019

As I write this, our young people have just completed three performances of "Let there be Light - the musical", at three different venues out and around Essex. And they have been just brilliant.

St Mary's can justifiably be very proud of them and the way they have adapted to each of the different surroundings and sung and acted out the gospel story with passion, commitment and a great deal of style.



Here's some of the feedback, but the reaction afterwards verbally has been overwhelmingly positive;

February 16th - St. Andrew's, Halstead:

"We had a PCC meeting here last night and people were once again enthusing about Let There Be Light - wanting to see it again, and for more people to see it, and asking for a cast recording of the songs!"

So thank you again for bringing it here"

Katie de Bourcier

"You re told the story with passion, commitment and a great deal of talent. Well done and keep up the good work and I hope that your efforts get greater exposure in the future."

David

"We have good news to report and that is that the future is in safe hands. Having watched the young people from St Mary's Church in Great Baddow perform at St Andrews recently we can confirm that there is indeed hope.

They are touring their musical called "Let There Be Light" and we were very lucky to be able to see it in Halstead. With around 20 children and young adults in the cast and a

band supported by some more senior musicians, they sang, acted and danced through the bible story and finished to huge applause from an enthusiastic audience.

The show, with multiple costume changes, an impressive and creative set of props, a full light and sound set up and a cast of gifted entertainers was a delight from start to finish.

Now performing under the name of "Wing and a Prayer youth theatre company", the young people of St. Mary's certainly spread the Word with joy and abundant energy. In a delightful setting of a dark and atmospheric St Andrews they covered everything from creation and temptation to Jesus and the resurrection. The Rev'd Katie de Bourcier said that she had goosebumps and tears watching it.

There were some outstanding vocal performances, an enjoyable musical carpentry interlude, a stunning boat in a storm scene, hilarious Keystone cops chase, menacing serpents, Michael Flatley Irish dancing and the dance of Salomé. All on a Saturday in Halstead, for free (or for a bucket collection which I hope was well supported).

There were 50-60 people there from across the district including HBC and the other churches in town. These sorts of shared events deserve to be well supported as they take a phenomenal amount of work for the host church as well as huge commitment from St Marys and their remarkable youth group and helpers."

Halstead Baptist church

March 9th - St. Stephen's, Colchester:

"Quite a number of members of the congregation came to speak to me after to say how incredible they think the evening was and how good the voices and performances of the young people were."

Mark Tiddy, diocesan youth worker

"Amazing and inspirational.....God bless you greatly and more." *Keith*

March 16th - St Peter's, Southend



A huge debt is owed to this happen; the superb and backstage crew - all

the many involved in making musicians, the sound, lighting who have given so much time

and effort to get this production to the standard it is.

I'd also like to say a big thank you to the supporters from St Mary's who came to visit one of these shows (or two, or even all of them!). We might have wished for bigger audiences in some cases, but sometimes these things take time to gain momentum. On that score, I'm sure the reputation of "Wing and a Prayer youth theatre company" is riding high on the back of these performances and we look forward to a visit to the Cramphorn theatre in Chelmsford in September and maybe more beyond.



One of the most heartening things for me personally is the number of Christians at these churches who have spoken to me afterwards, beaming with such delight that so many young people are taking out this story. There's something exciting happening when the younger generation can uplift, inspire and affirm the faith of an older one.

Mark Brown

'Keep the Banner Flying High'

*'Keep the Banner Flying High' –
An evening with Graham Kendrick*

Friday 26th April 2019
at St. Mary's Great Baddow.

Following his latest song releases and having penned some of the world's best-known worship songs, 'Keep The Banner Flying High' sees Graham encouraging us all to stay firm to our commitment.



Combining some of his classic songs of worship together with the newest, such as 'Holy overshadowing' and 'Give me this Mountain' the event will also include songs in the performance style that first brought appreciation for his music. If you have ever heard 'Thorns in the Straw', 'Crucified Man', or 'How much do you think you are Worth', you will know that Graham Kendrick has a whole other side to his music – songs that tell stories, paint scenes on the imagination and feed the spirit with hope.

Performed with passion by the man who authored them, in the style that suits them best, these songs make up a very special concert of worship and reflection.

Please contact the Church Office for information about tickets at £10 each. This worship evening is now almost sold out! Contact details on back page of this Inspire.



I'm just one of the many priests in the Church of England who started my Christian life at St Mary's, Great Baddow. When I was baptised, I had no idea that God's plan for me was a life of ordained ministry. It slowly dawned on me that this was indeed what I was called to do, and so it was that after a few years as a consultant working in the City of London, I went to train at St Stephen's House in Oxford.

It just so happened that my Bishop sent me to serve my curacy just on the western edge of the square mile, in Holborn.

It was wonderful to have a number of members of this congregation there to support me as I was ordained first to the diaconate in St Paul's Cathedral and then to the priesthood in the parish church of St Alban the Martyr. That parish is in very interesting place: a church school, and 5000 or so living in a housing estate that is largely hidden from the view of the many thousands of commuters who travel in to work.

I'm now fortunate to be serving a second curacy – not something that is at all common in today's Church of England. In this post, my time is split between two places, with two very different characters:

On Sundays and the equivalent of two further days in the week, I serve in the Parish of Old St Pancras. This is a Team Ministry with four churches, four priests, two readers, four Pastoral Assistants (1-year internships for young people considering a vocation to ordination), and a full-time youth and children's worker. As you can imagine, there is quite a lot going on, and with the glitzy redevelopment of the Kings Cross area on the one hand and some of the most deprived wards in the country on the other, the range of challenges is astonishing. All life is here! My role is to support the Team Rector in strategic projects, share in the pastoral and sacramental ministry of the team and to be chaplain to the pastoral assistants.

The rest of my time is spent as Priest Missioner at St Andrew Holborn. This is a Guild Church (a church in the City of London that doesn't have Sunday services, or a parish, which is most of them) with a focus on mission to the working population. It's a stone's throw from where I started, but a very different proposition. Located right on Holborn Circus, it is a very visible presence, and my task is to develop the evangelistic work there. The church is reopening in May after a year-long refurbishment, so at the moment I am doing a lot of listening and planning.

I would be very grateful indeed if you would be able to remember me in your prayers – especially the work I am beginning at St Andrew's, for the Life Explored course that I will be running later in the year, and for the right connections with local businesses to create opportunities for mission. Please pray also for all whom I work alongside in Camden and especially for the Pastoral Assistants who are discerning God's will for them in their lives.

The Reverend Guy Willis SSC

The St. Mary's food bank has been in operation for five years. It started after harvest festival in 2013 when we were packing up the food to take to the warehouse and someone said, "Surely help is needed all year round not just at harvest".

Katie, our curate at the time, made some inquiries and we soon opened as a collection point for food. Next, about a dozen of us went

for some training and we opened as a food distribution point on 18th March 2014 and we have opened every week of the year since then! We open on a Tuesday afternoon from 1.00 to 3.00pm operated by a dedicated team of fifteen people on a rota basis. We have representatives from St Mary's, Meadgate, St Andrew's Sandon and no Church.

The food we collect is taken to the warehouse which is next to the vicarage at the top of Beehive Lane. There another team of people sort and date the food and make up boxes to a given menu. These boxes are for a single person, a couple, an average family (2 adults and up to 3 children) and a large family (2 adults and over 3 children). These boxes are then requested by the distribution points and delivered to them by the warehouse van.

Our distribution point has provided 3 days emergency food to 1,631 people during these five years. The need is growing all the time with benefit changes and unemployment adding to the people who are sick or disabled. Clients can only get food on presentation of a voucher which has been obtained from an approved organisation such as a doctor's surgery, school, social services or citizens advice. All the food we give out is non-perishable and stored in two wardrobes in the Bell Street Hall. We hold a minimum quantity of food and top up from the main warehouse. We also hold a quantity of "treats", which most of us would not regard as treats, such as shower gel, tooth paste, washing up liquid, toilet rolls, washing liquid and powder and male and female toiletries.

We operate under the auspices of the Trussell Trust, a C of E organisation. In Chelmsford we have four distribution points and one in Woodham Ferrers. Together during the past year, we have provided food for 3,828 people.

We still have our food collection points in St. Mary's, the Church office and the Vineyards Co-op. St Paul's, Meadgate and St Andrew's Churches also have collection points. Our thanks to everyone who regularly and faithfully contributes food and treats to this needy cause. Please keep it coming but remember the food must be non-perishable and in date.

Like most voluntary groups we are in urgent need of volunteers to be "meeters and greeters", tea makers and bag packers, or to help at the warehouse. If you would like to help, please speak to myself or Wendy Clarke.

Finally, I would like to thank all the people who so faithfully take their place on the rota week by week and show God's love by their love and support for the less fortunate members of our community. *Pete Southee*



Tearfund – Match Giving Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who supports Tearfund through prayer or giving.

Our Mission Focus Sunday for Tearfund will be
Sunday 16th June.



*Following Jesus where
the need is greatest*

However, if you make a donation yourself to Tearfund,

you might wish to bear in mind that until 17th May 2019, the Government will match whatever you give up to £3,000,000.

If you gift aid your donation, it will go even further.

Tearfund is committed to following Jesus where the need is greatest. Match funding from the UK government will be used by Tearfund's partners in Pakistan and around the world to set up recycling hubs. These hubs will improve the lives of people in the poorest slum communities, whose health is at risk from the build-up of waste. The project will also create employment in these local communities.

Thank you for giving this your prayerful consideration.

St Mary's Playschool



Bingo Night

Friday 21st June 7.30pm for 8.00pm start

at Galleywood Heritage Centre

Tickets: £8.00 per person

Please join us and help fundraise for St Mary's Playschool.

Bring your own drinks and snacks.

Limited number of spaces available

**Please book via the Playschool Office tel: 01245 471683
or contact Emma on 07557 856489**

Forthcoming Event for your Diary



British Comedy Award-winning writer for *BBC's Miranda, Not Going Out, Top Gear, ITV's Royal Variety Show, C4's TFI Friday,*

Paul Kerensa

will be holding a comedy night at Meadgate Church, The Orchards

Saturday 15th June 7.30pm

for a hilarious and thoughtful evening of humour.

Tickets £10

available from St Mary's Church Office or Amanda Robinson 07837 913218

The in-demand comic who plays comedy clubs & churches is one of the few to appear on Radio 2's 'Pause for Thought'.

LEE MACK says: "*Top comic, top writer, top bloke!*"

MILTON JONES says: "*If I was a gag-thief, I'd be shinning up Paul Kerensa's drainpipe.*"

Bishop Stephen's Lent Appeal 2019



This year marks the 41st anniversary of the link between Chelmsford Diocese, and the five Dioceses of Mount Kenya East regions. St Andrew's College of Theology and Development in Kabare has been a key partner in our relationship.

We are seeking to raise funds for the college through this year's Lent Appeal.

The College is based on the site where the Gospel was first brought to the Kikuyu people in 1910. Since its foundation, it has trained many clergy and lay people for a range of ministries and occupations. It now wants to improve its provision for people seeking to develop their own businesses and thus improve their lives.

The college has four projects for which it is seeking our support:

- It desperately needs more tutorial rooms in order to be able to increase the number of people they are able teach.
- This will, in turn, require them to have space for more staff. So renovation of the existing rooms is needed to ensure they are able to attract the best lecturers.
- The college also needs to improve the computers in the library (known as the Chelmsford library), as well as purchase new books for the business department.
- There has been an unreliable water supply to the college which has had a negative effect upon the students. They are seeking to install a new gravity water system that will be much more dependable.

Through local fundraising efforts £18,000 has already been raised and work has started on the tutorial rooms and water project. However, there is still another £30,000 to find if the college is to fulfil its vision of giving more people instruction that will enable them to find life in all its fullness.

Any money you donate will make this Spirit given dream a reality, so please do consider supporting this year's Lent Appeal.

For further details please contact Liz Watson, email: lwatson@chelmsford.anglican.org

Church Diary for April 2019

Monday 1 st	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10.00am	MAC pack in Bell St Hall
	1.45pm	Baddow Hall Juniors Easter Service in Church
	7:00pm	Prayer meeting for the church and the world
Tuesday 2 nd	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
	3.00pm	Funeral of Marjorie Glasgow
Wednesday 3 rd	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
	7.30pm	Crossfire meet at Ben & Nicki's
Thursday 4 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10.00am	Baddow Hall Infants Easter Service in Church
	No Church Open	
	1.45pm	Baddow Hall Juniors Easter Service in Church
Friday 5 th	11:30am	Church open until 2.00pm
	7.00pm	Bellringing in Church
Saturday 6 th	6.30pm	'Movies and Musicals' Concert in Church
Sunday 7th April – The Fifth Sunday of Lent		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Holy Communion & Powerhouse
	6:30pm	GB Team Service at St Paul's, Loftin Way
Monday 8 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	1.00pm	Funeral of Pamela Malik in Church
	7:00pm	Prayer meeting for the church and the world
Tuesday 9 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
Wednesday 10 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
Thursday 11 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10.00am	Café Club in Church
	11:30am	Church Open until 2.00pm
	2.00pm	Messy Easter in Church
Friday 12 th	11:30am	Church open until 2.00pm
Saturday 13 th	9.00am	Spring Maintenance Fellowship

Church Diary for April 2019 cont'd

Sunday 14th April - Palm Sunday HOLY WEEK		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	All-age Morning Praise
	6.30pm	GB Team Holy Communion at Meadgate, The Orchards
Tuesday 16 th	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
Wednesday 17 th	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
Maundy Thursday 18th		
	11:30am	Church Open until 2:00pm
	8.00pm	Team GB Holy Communion Service at St Paul's, Loftin Way
Good Friday 19 th	9.20am	March of Witness beginning at The Vineyards
	2.00pm	'An hour at the Cross' in Church
Sunday 21st April – EASTER SUNDAY		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Family Service
Tuesday 23 rd	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
Wednesday 24 th	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
	7.30pm	Wedding Rehearsal in Church
Thursday 25 th	10.00am	Café Club in Church
	11:30am	Church Open until 2:00pm
Friday 26 th	11.30am	Church Open until 2:00pm
	7.30pm	Graham Kendrick Concert in Church
Saturday 27 th	12 noon	Wedding of Malcolm Kidd & Annie Goss
Sunday 28th April – The Second Sunday of Easter		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Family Service
	6.30pm	Meeting of Parishioners & Annual General Meeting
	6.30pm	Pathfinders meet in Bell St Hall
Monday 29 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	7:00pm	Prayer meeting for the church and the world
Tuesday 30 th	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel

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) 01245 477501

Email: stmaryschurchoffice@gmail.com Website: www.stmarysgreatbaddow.org.uk

