

From the Rector

The Rectory
November 2011



Dear Friends

In his book “Stepney Calling” the late Bishop of Stepney, Jim Thompson, writes, “Innocent suffering remains the most significant argument against the existence of a loving God.”

During the past summer we have witnessed much innocent suffering. This includes the murder of over seventy teenagers on a campsite in Norway, the starvation of countless children through famine in East Africa and a young man on an Arctic expedition being mauled to death by a polar bear. No wonder we ask, “Why?”

In the face of this and other innocent suffering I continue to believe in a loving God for the following reasons:

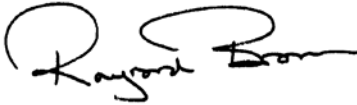
- I do not believe that God wills this suffering. The idea that, “God sends these things to try us,” appals me. Jesus reveals God as one who heals the sick and relieves suffering. To suggest that God sends suffering implies a contradiction at the heart of God himself. God is our help in suffering not the source of it.
- I believe that that God is almighty but not in the sense that he can do anything at any time. If we believe in human free will then we believe that God’s almightiness is restricted. What applies to human free will can apply to other parts of God’s creation. For this world to continue as it is, God’s almightiness in the sense of him being able to do anything at any time is curtailed.
- I believe that God is almighty in the sense that he has the last word on all. This is one of the truths of Christ’s resurrection and reinforced by the hope that Christ will come again in glory. The truth is that nothing is bigger than God. He will have the last word on suffering, evil, death and all that blights our human existence.
- I believe that God is with us in our sufferings. This is one of the insights of the cross. On the first Good Friday Jesus uttered the haunting words, “My God, my God why have you forsaken me.” The awesome insight is that at the time when God seemed supremely absent he was at the heart of it all. In a way which is hard to define, in Christ God was on the cross itself. So with us in our Good Friday experiences. When we cry out to God in his absence, he is in fact precisely with us. In the midst of all suffering God is somewhere there.
- Finally I do not see any other world view that faces innocent suffering as realistically as the Christian Faith. This struck me forcibly one night in the 1980s when I stood in a

Rector's letter continued

hospital room with the family of a child who had just died. With us were some of the hospital staff and all eyes turned upon me. On an occasion that might most clearly contest the existence of a loving God, only the truth of that God had anything to say to the tragic situation that was ours. I said my prayers over the child knowing that only God would do.

During my many years of parish work I have encountered much innocent suffering. This suffering retains its power to sadden me. Yet I continue in faith that God is somewhere there in all the tragedies of life and he will have the last word on all. Along with evil and death, suffering will never triumph in the end. In the words of St Paul, "Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Your Rector

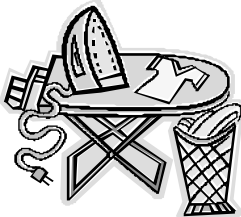


Congratulations to....

Rose (née Ingham) and Darron Knight on the birth of a son, Henry, on September 19th in Qatar, where they are teaching. Rose was formerly a member of our choir. Henry is a grandson for Margaret and Nick Ingham.



Jo (née Rackham) and Simon Brown on the birth of a son, Matthew, on 27th September in Brunei, where they are teaching. Matthew is a grandson for Moira and Raymond Brown and Margaret and Colin Rackham.



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Favourite Bible Verses

Mary Bartlam chooses 2 Timothy 1:12

For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

(King James version)



I first came across this verse when I was about 14. We sang it word for word as a chorus at Crusaders (a wonderful Bible Class for young people).

The words in this verse come from a personal letter from Paul (imprisoned in Rome for his faith) to Timothy to encourage and strengthen him in his witness and faith, and throughout my Christian life they have become a statement of my faith.

Firstly Paul says 'I know WHOM I have believed' not WHAT I have believed. Paul's certainty did not come from the intellectual knowledge of a creed or a theology – it came from a personal knowledge of God.

Then the verse goes on to say that Paul is persuaded (absolutely certain) that God is able to keep safe what we have entrusted to Him until the last day comes. To Paul it

was inconceivable that God should fail him or let him down. I have committed my life into His keeping knowing that I can trust Him with it.

We sometimes sing in church the hymn "Father I place into your hands the things I cannot do for I know I always can trust you". During last year, when my son was so desperately ill with pancreatitis, all I could do daily was to commit him into God's hands, trusting him completely.

I'm sure many of us daily commit to God our loved ones, our troubles and difficulties and ourselves in the certain hope that He will do what is best for each of us.

One last thought: God has put His trust in us. When He wants something done in this world He has to find one of us to do it. Let's not let him down!

Mary Bartlam

The All Saints' Kinsmen

Tuesday 22nd November at 8.00pm

Coffee or Tea & Biscuits - Evening Admission £4



The AVRO Vulcan and the Cold War

Richard Clarkson

Congratulations Bill and Margaret

On Tuesday October 4th, Bill and Margaret Massey celebrated their Platinum Wedding Anniversary. The Revd John Mann welcomed them to church and led them in prayers of blessing and thanksgiving for their seventy years of marriage. He congratulated them on their remarkable achievement, saying that they are a good example of the loyalty and affection that only couples can share.

John read from St John's Gospel, when Jesus told his disciples to love one another as He had loved them. John said that a better translation would be that the disciples should look out for, and care for each other; and this is what Bill and Margaret had done over the years.

The couple were married in the early stages of the Second World War, while Bill was stationed in Exeter, Margaret's home town. After the war, they settled in London where they lived and worked, and raised their two daughters. They moved to Springfield in 1994 and have been closely involved with All Saints' in many ways



since then. They have four grandchildren and their first great grandchild is expected in January.

They celebrated the rest of their anniversary with their family and were delighted to receive a special greetings card from The Queen. They would like to thank their friends at church for their good wishes.

Jenny Murphy

in touch – important

The copy dates for the next editions of this magazine are as follows:

- December edition – Sunday 30th October – **yes, that early!**
- January 2012 edition – Sunday 4th December

Please do not be caught out by these early dates!

Please send items to Robin Stevens by e-mail to rms@ukgateway.net or on disk to 3 Aldeburgh Way.

Harvest for the Hungry 2011

By the time you read this the boxes will have arrived at their destination in Bulgaria, so here is the update on this year's campaign at All Saints'. Donations amounted to a very generous £714 which includes £37 recoverable under the gift aid scheme. This amount also includes a donation of £392 from All Saints' Harvest Supper and our thanks must go to the social committee for all their hard work. A total of 29 boxes – 16 boxes less than last year – were collected, which were a part of the Chelmsford total of 2,600 boxes.

However, this year a new innovation was introduced, the collection of toiletries. Because to fill a box would have been expensive for individuals, we asked for items to be

placed in a box in the north corridor. This proved very successful and resulted in three valuable boxes being filled.

A few items which are not handled by the scheme were received and it was decided to donate these to CHES for their work among the homeless in Chelmsford.



*The Revd Roger Stark
who started Harvest
for the Hungry*

Our thanks must go to all of you who gave so generously to support this still worthwhile cause. Our thanks are also due to Alison Jacobs for once again loading and transporting all the boxes to the main collection depot in Robjohns Road and Colin and Elaine Sadler who stood by for

a second late delivery should it have been necessary.

Marion & Peter Hodges

It's a comfort to know we can help you in difficult times, so

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The plums are small but please don't grumble, They will make a tasty crumble

The plums did indeed make a very tasty crumble and the eating of it brought back happy memories of this delightful autumnal ramble. Now picture Karin and I walking along a succession of footpaths, bridleways, farm tracks and country lanes with a Sainsbury's carrier bag into which we would from time to time put plums, damsons, blackberries and towards the end of the ramble a few walnuts. Hear now Tony who led this ramble calling out, "Come along you two or you will get left behind!" Obviously we didn't allow this to happen and thus it was that including Tony there was eleven of us who completed a figure of eight route based on the *Three Elms* at Chignal St James. We have noticed that alcoholic ginger beer has recently become quite popular; together with a choice of three ciders and one perry it was on offer at the *Three Elms*. Thus there was plenty of choice when we all raised our glasses and said, "Thank you Tony for leading us on this enjoyable autumnal ramble."

Autumn had arrived but, apart from the horse chestnuts, the trees were still mainly green; however in the gardens we passed by we saw deep purple viburnum and rhus with its red candles and leaves. The hedgerows were full of ripe purple blackberries, sloes and bullace plums. No doubt we all saw the bright red hips and haws but I wonder if anyone else saw the spindleberries which are unusual because their berries are vivid pink.

Autumn is a prime time of year for fungi – we saw several different species and Tony and Marion photographed some of them. Autumn is also a busy time of year for farmers; as ramblers we are obviously accustomed to



seeing people at work in the surrounding countryside but, as Barbara Anderson pointed out to me, during our ramble we saw an unusually high level of farming activity. Thus in various fields we saw farm workers ploughing, harrowing, sowing and applying fertilizer. I am sure that they, like us, were taking advantage of warm sunny weather. Some of these tractors were followed by flocks of hungry seagulls or, should I say, land gulls as I sometimes wonder how long ago it was since the last time that some of them ate any fish.

Shortly before we emerged from a wood in which there was Himalayan balsam growing in great profusion, Tony asked us to be quiet. High above the meadow we were about to enter we saw two buzzards slowly circling round and on the sky line we saw the silhouettes of several deer. Immediately after this we saw five deer running away from us and into the wood. This was the second time we saw some deer; the incident I have described happened during the afternoon; during the morning we saw three deer that were looking at us looking at them on the far side of a ploughed field. Towards the end of our ramble five ducks flew over our heads on their way to a flooded gravel pit on which some coots were swimming.

Robert F Lloyd

Parish Notes

November Dates

Sunday 6th 10.30am

Family Service (celebration of All Saints)

Saturday 12th

Church Bazaar from 12noon to 3.00pm

Sunday 13th Remembrance Day.

A special service at 10.30am including the two minutes' silence.

Sunday 20th 10.30am

Morning Service with Sister Penny
Horseman of the Church Army.

Sunday 27th Advent Sunday

To Be Confirmed

In 2012 there will be two Confirmation services in the Chelmsford North Deanery. The first will be at 3.00pm on Sunday 19th February at Great Waltham Parish Church. The second will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19th September at St Andrew's Parish Church, Melbourne Avenue. If anyone might like to be confirmed in February please contact the Rector.

What Is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the service in which a person confirms his or her Christian faith.

The Bishop then prays that the person will be made firmer (i.e. confirmed) in that faith.

Peep Into December

Sunday 4th December. The 10.30am Family Service will be the annual Toy Service. During this service we collect new toys for children who have one or both parents in prison.

Can You Help?

Researchers at Cambridge University have contacted the Rector. They are looking for people to help with research into dementia. The people needed are: Women over the age of seventy along with a family member (e.g. child or spouse) or a friend or a carer. The women may or may not suffer from dementia.

Participation involves a 60-90 minute meeting with a researcher who will fill in a questionnaire and conduct a memory assessment. The meeting can take place at the university or at the participant's home.

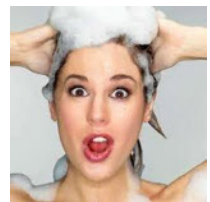
For further details please see the literature in the church porch or contact Molly Fox on 07989 234979.

Shampoo

I don't know why I didn't realise this sooner. It's the shampoo we use in the shower. When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning, "FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY". No wonder I have been gaining weight!

I am getting rid of the shampoo and am going to use dishwashing liquid instead. Its label reads, "DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE."

Problem solved!



Parish Holiday – Warner’s Holme

The Kings Coach had arrived outside All Saints’ Church just before 10 o’clock on Monday 26th September and a number of happy holiday makers were leaving Steve, the driver, to load their cases before they boarded the coach. This scene was repeated a number of times as the coach travelled through the parish to pre-arranged pick up points.

Once the 31 holiday makers were safely seated the journey to Holme Lacy began. All went well until we were leaving the M25 when a sudden cloud burst caused some consternation, having left good weather behind in Chelmsford. However by the time we arrived at The Chequers Hotel, Newbury, for a comfort stop and light refreshments the rain had gone, to be replaced by sunshine and a warm breeze. Little did we know it then but this beautiful weather was to prevail throughout our holiday.

We arrived to the usual Warner’s slick reception and a glass of Orange or Asti and shown the dining area. Later that evening we were all together dining and looking forward to the evening’s entertainment, a comedian as well as the host’s staff contribution. Some of our party slipped away for an early night but the more hardy stayed to the end of the show.

John had organised a trip to the city of Hereford with the coach leaving the hotel at 10.30am. The journey to the city centre took a little over 20 minutes so it was arranged that there would be a return trip to the hotel at 1.30pm and 3.30pm. Most of our group made their way to the

cathedral and were rewarded by a magnificent organ recital lasting 45 minutes.

Hereford Cathedral has stood on this site for over 1200 years and houses the Mappa Mundi and a display of rare manuscripts books and artefacts. When the coach arrived to take us back to the hotel there were a large number of bags and packages loaded on board – some bearing the name of Marks & Spencer. After evening dinner many of us made our way to the entertainment centre to witness an excellent floor show.

We left the Hotel at 10.00am on Wednesday to visit the “Black and White villages”. These cover some 40 miles around unique villages containing timber framed houses and churches dating back to the sixteenth century, most of which are (surprise, surprise) black and white.



The villages with names of Weobley, Pembridge, Eardisley, Dillwyn, Kinnersley, Sarnesfield, Lyonshall, Kingsland, Kington and Eardisland were all passed through with viewing and photographic stops along the way. We passed many orchards with trees loaded with ripening apples.

Lacy House Hotel, Herefordshire

Our destination for lunch was Weston's Cider Centre near to Much Marcle and close to the town of Ledbury.

More cider is produced in Herefordshire than Somerset and Devon combined and this was an opportunity to partake of some free tasting! Once again the coach was loaded with purchases and it was back to the Hotel.

John had arranged for a private room to be made available so that we could join together and reflect on our many blessings and to thank God for his goodness and mercy. Joan Goode had once again prepared and led our get together with the theme of *time*.

It wasn't long before we were dining and getting ready for the evening entertainments.

Thank you

On behalf of myself and all the folk who went on the recent holiday to Holme Lacy House Hotel, Hereford, I would like to say a big thank you to Pat and John Bower for organizing it all. It was greatly appreciated and a good time was had by one and all.

Sadly Pat and John now feel the time has come when they can no longer arrange these holidays, so we thank you for all you've done over the years ensuring folk have had so many happy holidays.

We send you our love and all good wishes for your health and happiness in your 'retirement'.

Janet Brand

continued overleaf



Parish Holiday continued

No excursions had been arranged for Thursday our last full day at the Hotel. The sky was a cloudless blue as far as the eye could see, with a warm and gentle breeze to belie the fact that this was the end of September.

For some the time was spent exploring the truly inspirational gardens surrounding the hotel, with breaks along the way for cups of tea, cold fizzy drinks and the odd glass of cider or beer and maybe a bite of lunch. Others sitting in the shade reading or just chatting looking out over the seemingly endless lawns.

For the more energetic there were participative activities arranged by the Hotel including archery and pitch & putt.

A truly relaxing day.

Friday was an early start with cases outside bedrooms ready for collection and transportation to our coach for the homeward journey. After a leisurely breakfast there was time for a stroll around the grounds before assembling for group photographs. With the sun still shining we left for home, stopping once again at Newbury.

Everybody appeared to have enjoyed a restful holiday on the borders of England and Wales. We were fortunate to have wonderful weather, excellent accommodation, food and entertainment but above all else good friendship and fellowship.

John Bower

Women's Fellowship

Robin Stevens was our very welcome speaker in October when he told us about his and Elizabeth's memorable year as Deputy Mayor and Mayoress. It was a full and fulfilling year with a wide variety of official engagements every week. Robin gave us, in his own inimitable and highly entertaining style, a real insight to the role of the Deputy Mayor and what was expected of him and Elizabeth as civic representatives.

They were called upon to attend a very wide variety of events during which they opened gardens, visited schools and watched fashion shows in support of Macmillan Nurses. They were also present at the Maldon Carnival. Both attended the twinning service in the Cathedral with representatives from Backnang and Annonay.

Robin and Elizabeth became involved in a number of fund raising activities in aid of the Mayor's chosen charity – Essex Air Ambulance. This included their presence at a concert given by Caprice in Chelmsford Cathedral and a performance by "The Fab Beatles" at the Civic Theatre. Over the Mayoral year a total of £30,500 was raised.

Among other things, Robin recounted how he slept rough on a snowy night near the Cathedral in aid of CHESS.

It is clear that Robin and Elizabeth had an enjoyable, if very busy, year in office and we were grateful for Robin's personal insight into the Deputy Mayoral role. Thank you.

Lesley Mann

Kinsmen

Our programme for the autumn season started off with a most interesting and informative talk on the 'History of signal boxes' by Ron Nash – a signaller of 50 years service, ably assisted by David Campbell – friend and railway enthusiast for the same time. They met when David, a lad of eight, asked Ron if he could see inside his signal box at Grays, where the attraction was to see what happened when the levers were pulled and the bells rang.

Ron went through all the changes and upgrades that the signalling system had an effect on the railways from his days as a 'box lad' in Colchester on the L.N.E.R. in 1947 right through to the 'Superbox' with automatic route setting that went operational at Liverpool Street in 1989. This was the world's first computerised system. Today one person controls all the 18 platforms there, unlike Ron's most challenging duty in 1971 at Gidea Park junction where he had to control 100 switches and 40 levers.

It was a most edifying portrayal of his life's work in an industry that we have used and been familiar with over many years.

Unlike some of the modern day presentations by PowerPoint, Ron's detailed history of the many changes in the system was illustrated by photographs in chronological order with an individual copy for each member to view. This provoked many questions in a most entertaining evening by all the 'anoraks' present.

Michael Yallop



Chelmsford Cathedral

The Keene Lectures 2011

Wednesday 9 November

Sir Stephen Bubb

'Faith in the Community'

Wednesday 16 November

Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach

'Faith in Money'

Wednesday 23 November

Ann Morisy

'Faith in the Individual'

The Keene Lectures will be held at 8pm in the Cathedral.

Admission is free, but there will be a retiring collection.

*www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk
office@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk*

01245 294489

Kate Harris

Emmelia, our organist and choirmaster, writes:

A lovely young female singer, Kate Harris, has recently joined me on a Friday evening to assist with choir rehearsals. We would like to welcome her and hope she gains valuable experience in working with the choir and individuals.

Kate began singing at the age of five and has been in choirs and performed ever since. She took part in her first talent show at the age of 16, and began formal training shortly afterwards. She attended the University of Chichester and gained a degree in music and a distinction in her grade 8 singing exam.

Since the completion of her degree and moving back to Chelmsford, Kate has been performing in various venues around Essex. She is a member of the Waltham Singers and Chelmsford Opera Group. Kate hopes to gain a masters degree and become an Opera singer in the not too distant future.



For the immediate future: we are pleased to have Kate here at All Saints gaining experience as a choir trainer and sharing her knowledge and experience with anyone who would like to sing. Kate is keen to acquire more singing pupils here at All Saints; she is also available for performances, no matter how small the occasion or gathering might be.

The Boys' Brigade

Fifteen representatives of our Company (8 Boys, 2 Officers and 5 Helpers – ex Boys) had a marvellous week's camp at Freshwater, Isle of Wight, being blessed with almost perfect weather. The 2nd Chelmsford Company, with whom we camp, provided 12 Boys and Girls and about a dozen leaders. As usual, the staff had planned a week of diverse activities including a 12 mile bike ride, a night walk and entertainment galore. The theme for the week being TV programmes found our young people taking part in activities like 'Bargain Hunt' and 'Dragon's Den' whilst the grand finale on the Friday evening was a hilarious version of 'I'm a celebrity, get me out of here'.

Ted Davis

All Saints' Church Christmas cards are now available



Postcard in size depicting (see picture) the church nativity window, captioned and with seasonal greetings.

The cards are priced at 50p each (packs of 10 at £5). All proceeds to the church.

The cards may be obtained from Ron Gregory (tel 01245 466370) and also at the Church Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, 12th November.

Beetle Drive

Christine Santry would like to thank everybody who supported the Beetle Drive, held in October for the Motor Neurone Association. From the entrance tickets, raffle, auction, cake stall, donations and massaging she undertook in her work place, a total of £700.10 was raised. Christine would like to pass on her sincere thanks for everybody's kindness and support with special regards to Liz Belsham, Robin Stevens and Michael Turner without whose particular effort this event would not have taken place.



A player on the edge of her seat!

Our October Amble

On a lovely sunny morning eleven of us set out from *The Viper* at Mill Green for a woodland amble. As we walked along Mapletree Lane a large number of blue tits were seen flitting to and fro and there was an unusual amount of birdsong for this time of year. We also heard the call of the green woodpecker a number of times throughout the walk.

The bracken is changing colour along with the leaves and the ground is covered with so many acorns this year. We've done this very popular walk a number of times now as it is quite different with each season. The tracks are easy to follow in this ancient woodland and there are still a number of ancient trees to be seen which at some time in the past have been coppiced. This is all part of Writtle Forest and belongs to Lord Petre's estate.

There were plenty of squirrels, presumably gathering their winter stores and a group of fallow deer were seen not far from the path, the stag sporting an extremely impressive set of antlers.

The path goes through Birch Spring and Parsons Spring then along Metsons Lane beside Barrow Wood. We returned through Deerside Wood and Stonemore Wood where we gathered fallen sweet chestnuts to take home. As we walked back to the pub, we were sorry to see the

litter which had been thrown from cars along this quiet country road. However our spirits were lifted again by the excellent home cooked lunches supplied by Mine Host at *The Viper*.

Rosemary Slater

P.S. Just in case you were wondering, there are no vipers on the menu!!

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It was a most delightful Amble, led by Robin and Rosemary Slater, through the woods at Mill Green – a walk that some of us have done several times before, but one that is always a pleasure to do. This

time we walked in brilliant sunshine (in mid October!!) which enabled us to clearly see the trees in the woods slowly emerging and showing their trunks and branches as they lose their foliage.



Towards the end of the morning we came across a bountiful supply of Sweet Chestnuts lying, ready to be collected, on the ground. Rosemary was prepared and had some bags, which were pressed into use, and there was much talk of fresh Chestnut stuffing at Christmas time!

The morning came to an end with lunch - which because it was so sunny and warm we took in the garden - at the *Viper* in Mill Green.

*Andrew Britter*

# All Saints' Prayer Corner

## Autumn Reflections

An opportunity to find God in all things and in all seasons

The Bible contains a wealth of inspirational verses and passages that reflect on the changing of seasons during the year and during a lifetime.



The arrival of autumn is marked by events such as the changing colour of leaves and a drop in temperature. Significant events and developments often mark life changes, which can be considered seasonal changes.

Here are just a few Bible passages for reflecting on the changing of seasons in the year and in life:

**Genesis 1:14** – God created the seasons of the year and the signs that would mark their passage.

**Psalm 1:3** – A righteous person is compared to a tree. They will both produce fruit in their “season” or at the right time.

**Psalm 104:19** – The fourth day of creation is reviewed. Also, God created the patterns of life.

**Proverbs 15:13** – Words have power when spoken at just the “right time” or in “due season.”

**Acts 1:7** – The word “seasons” refers to events. Jesus is telling the disciples that they cannot know God’s plan for when events will take place. They cannot know when Christ will set up his kingdom, or what will take place before this happens.

When I look at the colours produced by autumn I am stirred to wonder at the glory of God made visible in the beauty around me. This sort of beauty can seep into our lives each day, sometimes unnoticed. Maybe in the hustle and bustle of our lives we need to have the eyes of our soul open to catch, in the beauty around us, another glimpse of God and to be able to focus our prayers. I make no excuse for quoting again some lines from Gerard Manley Hopkins to illustrate my point:

“The world is charged with the grandeur of God.  
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;  
it gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil” .....

Lord, may I recognise in my life the power and light of God’s presence in my soul. May each day be blessed with moments where the “grandeur of God” is present to me.

May my eyes be open to see God in the small, precious moments of my life.

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May the love that I receive and give to  
others be a sign of God within me.  
May I be open to receive God into my life  
and my heart.  
Amen

*Another Autumn Prayer*

Lord

There is so much happening  
in our world right now.  
In the midst of it all,  
it's so good to know You're in control,  
Your love is never-ending,  
and You provide for us.  
As the trees turn colour,  
and the nights grow cooler,  
may we be reminded  
that every season of our lives  
is part of Your loving plan.

As I write the leaves are still falling and  
the colours of autumn are spectacular and  
I am reminded of a Meditation written by  
Frank Topping entitled 'Autumn Prayer' -  
here is an extract from it for you to use.  
Take a walk, scuffle your feet in the leaves  
look around you and read this as you go  
along enjoy!:

'In such a place I could not speak  
For leaf and lichen declared this holy  
ground,  
A sanctuary.  
Sweet chestnuts were falling,

Green, prickly spheres  
Bursting apart on leaf-layered earth.

.....

My eyes were assailed with colours that  
sang  
Chromatic scales of gold, and yellow and  
amber.



Leaves of brown and red and green  
Raised praise to their creator  
For the gift of deep and mellow autumn.  
And it was lavish,  
As the love of God always is.  
This nature is his nature,  
Extravagantly generous.  
Like Autumn leaves his blessings fall  
And all creation  
Acknowledges the love that never dies.'  
(Frank Topping 'Lord of My Days' publ.  
Lutterworth Press 1980)

**Finally I pray**

Lord of the crystal blue sky,  
Bless us with clarity of vision.  
Lord of the lengthening evening,  
Lighten our burdens.  
Lord of the biting breeze,  
Sharpen our response to your Spirit.  
Lord of the falling leaf,  
Lift our hearts heavenwards.  
In our autumn,  
May we seek your spring.

**Amen.**

*Marion Hodges*

# Friends of Essex Churches

## Sponsored Cycle Ride 10th Sept 2011

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The weather forecast was good and we anticipated another very pleasant day's cycling but I had reached only the end of the road when I had a flat tyre – on the back of course! Having a spare inner-tube at home, I returned to fit the replacement and was still working when Barry, having booked us in at All Saints at 10.06, came to find me. With his invaluable assistance we made the repair and started on our way.

First call was at St Augustine's at 10.50, North Springfield Baptist church at 11.00, to Springfield Baptist church by 11.14, Holy Trinity 1119 and Trinity Methodist at 11.31.

On to Central Baptist by 11.40 the Cathedral at 11.45. Crossing Parkway, to a new venue, the Ebednezer Chapel, at 12.00 and via Moulsham Street to Grove Road Evangelical Church at 12.05 and to Hall Street for the Methodist Church at 12.10. Aware that we were behind our schedule, we pressed on to Widford and booked in at St Mary's – with another group of cyclists (the first we had encountered) at 12.32 and made the long gentle climb to Writtle, arriving at All Saints' at 12.45 and the URC by 12.50.

By then I became aware of the excessive number of my birthdays and felt the need for refreshment. *The Wheatsheaf* was conveniently close and we stopped for our lunch break.

Suitably serviced, we continued west to Roxwell to sign at St. Michael's at 14.18

and started the climb to St Andrew's Good Easter which we reached at 14.50. The road from here to High Easter is a long steady climb and I became slower and slower and eventually ran out of steam completely and needed another rest. Barry heroically volunteered to carry on to High Easter where St Mary's and the URC were logged at 15.35 and 15.40 and we returned down to Pleshey for Holy Trinity and the Retreat House at 15.55.

On the home stretch now and to St Mary's at Great Waltham at 16.12 and by 16.29 to the URC Little Waltham and at 16.35 to St Martin's Little Waltham where the flower festival was ready to close but where the refreshment tent was still open and we enjoyed a generous slice of Dundee cake and a cup of tea. To Broomfield Road for our penultimate call at St Mary's at 17.11 and our final church, Broomfield Methodist at 17.22.

A successful day which had started so badly with the puncture (although it was the best time to have it!). We visited 25 churches and covered about 35 miles. Thanks to all our generous sponsors (we raised £640) and to all the volunteers who stayed at All Saints' to look after a disappointing number of visiting cyclists. The numbers seem fewer every year and perhaps we need to inspire younger cyclists to take over. Perhaps, by next year, it will be time for me to hang up my cycle clips and it will be my turn to sit at the church and sign in the visitors.

*Frank Kelley and Barry Hurst*

# Mothers' Union

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Rob and Sue Stacy came to our meeting in September and showed us a film of the delivery of Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes to children in Swaziland in 2009. Rob was one of the volunteers to take the boxes out. The children were clearly delighted to receive their gifts. Prior to opening their boxes the children tapped out an African rhythm on the lids. Only then did they unpack them and their faces as they did so were a picture.

At present 13 countries are involved in the scheme and in 2010 a total of 8,200,00 boxes were distributed to deserving children world wide. There is a continuing demand for these boxes and All Saints were thanked for their contribution to this important scheme to bring a little cheer to children in some of the most deprived areas of the world.



It was our delight early October to welcome Geraldine Smith to give a talk and demonstration entitled "Food for Thought". She began by telling us about her job as a school meals supervisor in Basildon and the challenges involved in putting together balanced and attractive meals for the local school children.

Geraldine (who is the daughter of David and Janet Harper) spoke about her and her husband's participation in the life of their local church. Among other things they befriend couples preparing to be married. This often involves inviting them to Sunday lunch in their home.

Whilst she was talking to us Geraldine created two delicious dishes. The first was a sausage jalousie baked in a lattice topped puff pastry tart with slices of apple and dabs of chutney. Having demonstrated how to make it Geraldine produced "one she had made earlier" for us to taste. She also made a sweet from South Africa that one of the couples she and her husband had befriended had shown her. It consisted of layers of plain biscuits, cream and caramel condensed milk whisked together topped with a sprinkling of mint crisps. Geraldine brought us one ready made to try. It was rich and naughty! Wonderful.

We loved having Geraldine and were grateful to her giving up her time to be with us.

*Lesley Mann*

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## From the summer newsletter of St Laurence Church in Lanzarote

At the end of a service with a long and boring sermon, the mayor said to the vicar as he left, "Your sermon reminded me of the peace and the Love of God."

The vicar was thrilled, "Why?", he asked.

The mayor replied, "It reminded me of the peace of God because it passed all understanding; and of the love of God because it endured forever."

# From the Registers

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## Holy Baptism

11th September: Alice Elizabeth Claire Booth

25th September: Harley William David Doo

*“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”*

## Confirmation

25th September: Elizabeth Anne Potter

*“Confirm, O Lord, your servants with your Holy Spirit”*

## Holy Matrimony

1st October: Ben Carmichael and Charlotte Corderoy

6th October: Matthew Griffiths and Julia Staples

*“Those whom God has joined together”*

## Holy Burial and Cremation

21st September: John Teale aged 86 years

23rd September: Vi Trayler aged 99 years

3rd October: Margaret Palmer aged 96 years

12th October: Michael Lawrence aged 78 years

19th October: Douglas Salmon aged 80 years

20th October: Holly Peters aged 22 years

Ian Roberts aged 90 years

*“I am the Resurrection and the Life”*

# Coffee Morning and Fair

**Saturday, November 5th 10–12 noon**

**Christ Church Hall 164 New London Road**

***books, cakes, gifts, garden produce, plants, white elephant, toiletries, toys, jewellery, Fair Trade***