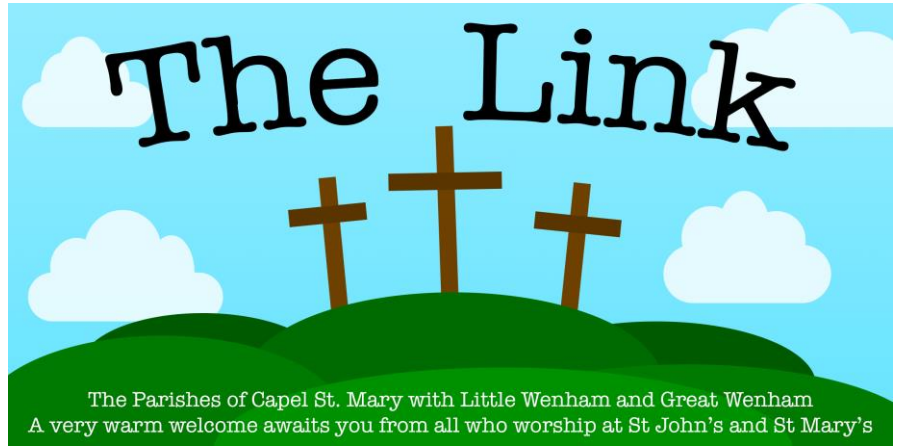
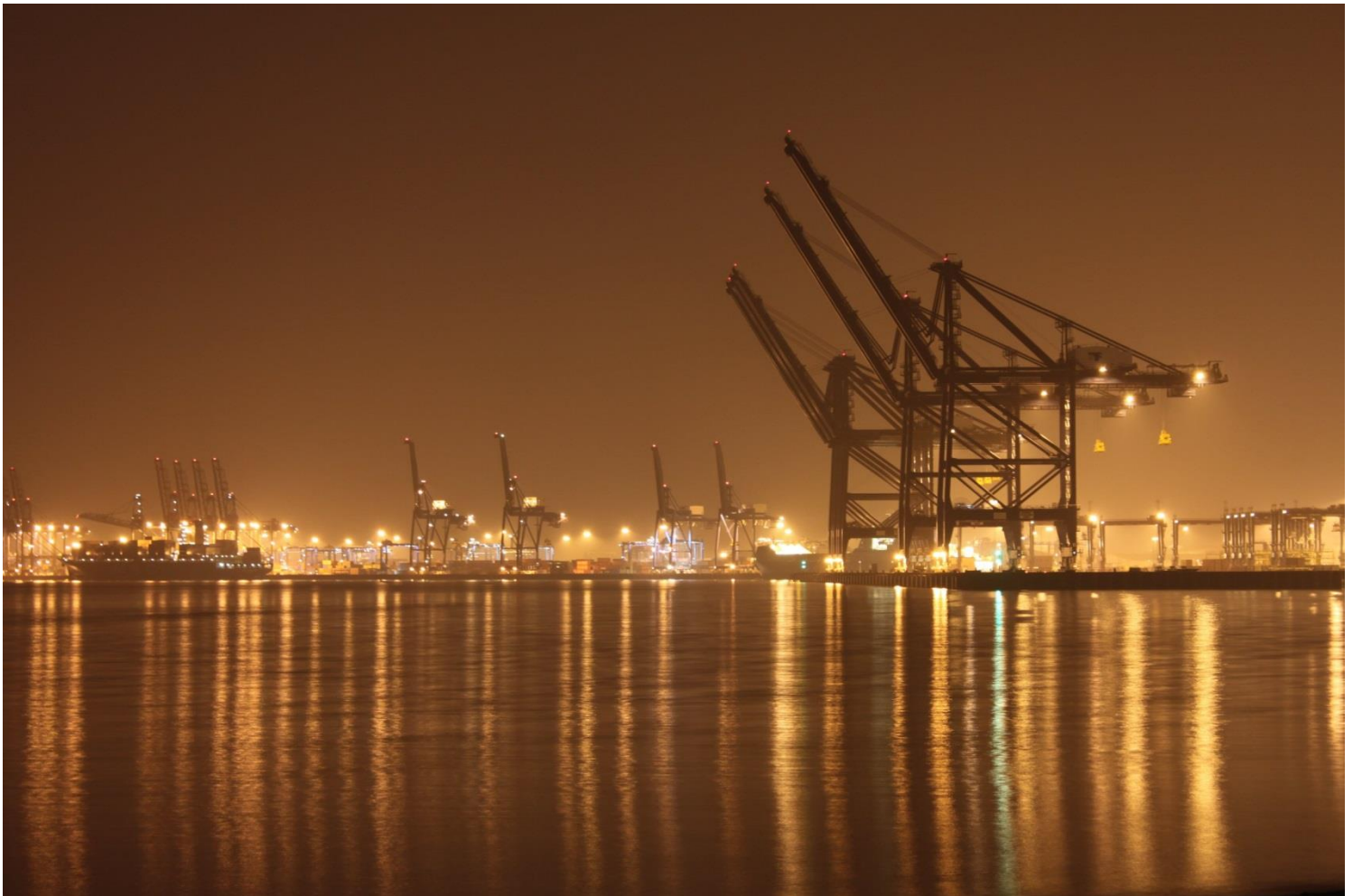


**17 MARCH
2024**



THE TRUE MEANING OF 24/7



Richard finds that Felixstowe is as busy at night-time as during the day





With prayer & faith in God we seek to engage with the community - inside we enrich & equip: outside we give & care.

**TODAY'S LINK NEWSLETTER FOR:
17 MARCH to 31 MARCH 2024**

This week in the LINK.....

Page 3: Worship Timeline - Details of services coming up;

Page 4: *New Rector at the new benefice - with pics.*

Page 8: Sally's Reflection for Fifth Sunday in Lent.

Page 11: *Success at the Brownies Table Top*

Page 13: *SALLY'S HOT NEWS*

Page 18: *This week's Mystery Reader*



INSPIRATION & IDEAS

PLEASE!!

**ST MARY'S APPEALS FOR
FUNDRAISING IDEAS**



Following the re-ordering of our deanery last year we were fortunate enough to retain the wonderful Rev Sally as our priest.

Consequently, however, her stipend (salary) and housing costs then immediately fell upon the parish (previously they had been covered by the Church Commissioners). So we now need to raise extra funding to continue with all the valuable work she is doing amongst the population of Capel and the Wenhams.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC), therefore, has agreed to seek inspirational ideas for fundraising events such as concerts etc to be held at St Mary's (we are ideally set-up to provide these) over the rest of the year.

We are not looking for your commitment to action these - but rather only your inspiration and ideas for innovative fundraising on a social occasion.

In the first instance please contact the editor on briancrogerson@btinternet.com or 01473 310008 or any member of St Mary's PCC.



Worship With Us

WORSHIP TIMELINE

St Mary's is open for private prayer every day.

2024

- 17 Mar 9.30am, St John's, *Holy Communion.*
10.45am, St Mary's, *Family Service.*
- 18 Mar *Easter Experience* & Capel primary School.
2.00pm, St Mary's Hall, *Compassionate Café.*
- 19 Mar 12.30pm, St Mary's Hall, *Luncheon Club*
- 20 Mar 10.00am, St Mary's, *Mid-week Benefice Holy Communion*
- 22 Mar 7.00pm (for 7.30pm start) St Mary's Church Hall,
Friends of St Mary's South American Wine Tasting
evening led by Jim and Sarah Kelland.
- 24 Mar *Palm Sunday*
9.30am, St John's, *Family Service.*
10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion.*
6.30pm, St Mary's Church, *Churches Together.*
- 25 Mar, 6.00pm, St Mary's, *Brownies Easter Garden.*
- 27 Mar 10.00am, St Mary's, *Mid-week Benefice Holy Communion*
- 28 Mar 6.00pm, St Mary's, *Maundy Thursday Agape Meal*
- 29 Mar 9.30am, Capel Community Church, *Walk of Witness commences,*
3.30pm, St Mary's, *Stations of the Cross service*
- 30 Mar 6.00pm, St Mary's, *Benefice Easter Eve Vigil Service, (one hour max)*
- 31 Mar *Easter Sunday*
9.30am, St John's, *Holy Communion.*
10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion.*





We joined a packed St Mary's, East Bergholt for Rev Chris Willis' Licensing & Installation to the newly-created Constable Country Benefice:



Previously serving as curate at St Albright's, Stanway, Colchester, Chris' service was led by Bishop Mike Harrison and Archdeacon Rich Henderson.

Bishop Mike: *"We have come together to give thanks for the life of the community in this place, and for all who have done God's work in it; to pray for Chris to begin his ministry here, that he may have joy, courage and hope."*

Matthew 28.16-20

Bishop Mike: *"Chris chose the reading for tonight and it's a great choice - Jesus basically telling his disciples after the resurrection what they're to do - what the Church is to do.*

"And then what does Jesus say, well it's simple make disciples, initiate people into the Kingdom of God.

"So how do we do that Chris? Well at one level you could say small groups, courses like Alpha, one-to-one mentoring and teams undertaking outreach and mission. All well and good but I think a major first step is get people to become more aware of God's presence and activity around them and the invitation to join in with that."





Bishop Mike: "So part of how we make disciples is in and through our Jesus-like hospitality to one another.

"Take Alan Jones, a young priest going through a hard time and in danger of losing his faith who was given a sabbatical, three months away,

and decided to spend it visiting some ancient monasteries in upper Egypt.

"At one point he took a bus and was dropped off at the monastery address, except when he got out at the bus stop there was nothing but desert all around. Just on the horizon he could see the monastery so in the heat of the day he started walking towards it.

"As he got nearer he saw a door open and someone come out and start heading towards him. As he got nearer he saw it was a monk carrying a tray, with iced water and figs. When the monk reached him, Alan said 'Fr, you don't know me or that I was coming, did you?' to which the monk, Fr Joseph replied 'oh no, brother, but we always treat strangers as angels here, just in case'.

"In fact their hospitality rekindled Alan's own faith and he went on to be Dean of San Francisco Cathedral. Heb 13.2, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for some have entertained angels thereby".



Rev Chris: "I do so affirm and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the Catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness; and in public prayer and administration of the sacraments I will use only the forms of service which are authorised or allowed by canon."

Bishop Mike: "People of this benefice, I present to you your new priest-in-charge now duly licensed

and I invite you to greet him in the name of Christ. I commend him to your love and to your prayers."

ALL: "We welcome you! May the Lord richly bless you and make you a blessing among us."

The followed a non-scheduled and humorously constructed series of welcoming limericks read by the wardens from all four churches in the new benefice:

Fiona: *With fervour for a
Rector we prayed
Faith deeper, grow younger on our
hearts laid
Encouragement came when we saw
Chris's name
We thank God for the plans he has
made*

Len: *A Rector from Essex was
expectant
To find a church post that was
vacant
A fun group of four flung wide open their door
Saying 'Essex?' Well, at least it's adjacent*



Sarah: *We were keen to appoint a painter
To be the next Constable, or greater
What we hadn't expected was a rectory
redecorated
Don't doubt the wisdom of the creator*

Lyn: *Now come to the village of Bentley
It's quiet and has parking a plenty
East Bergholt is grand, Brantham has a
band
Tattingstone's Lightwave leads gently*

Linda: *Bishop, Archdeacon, Rural Dean,
Work hard to keep us all keen
To have Chris we are glad we weren't doing bad
But we're thrilled to have him lead our team*

Upon which Bishop Mike offered an unrehearsed impromptu limerick of his own:

*There was a priest-in-charge called Chris
With whom the interview panel could find
nothing amiss
He came to Eds & Ips, listened to the
Bishop's tips
And thus enjoyed divine bliss*

*(right) a different form of divine bliss
commences in the vestry.....*





(left) Rev Philip Banks, Canon Precentor, St Eds Cathedral, Ven Rich Henderson, Archdeacon of Suffolk, Rev Chris Willis, Priest in Charge of E. Bergholt & Brantham and Assistant Curate of North Samford with responsibility of Tattingstone & Bentley. Rt Rev Dr Mike Harrison, Suffragan Bishop of Dunwich.

Bishop Mike summed up the service:

"Chris, your primary role here is to make disciples, people learning to be with Jesus becoming like Jesus and doing the things Jesus would do if He was them. That's it.

"You may say it's a tall order and yes, if you were doing it alone I would agree. But your part is to help people slow down, make space and surrender to God;

"God's part is to transform us; sure we need practices like praise, gratitude, confession, service, hospitality and so on, ...but Jesus tells us transformation is around the corner if we are willing to arrange our lives around the practices, rhythms and truths that Jesus teaches us. May God bless you to walk the walk and enable those in your care to do so too."



(left) Rev Chris with Rachel his wife.

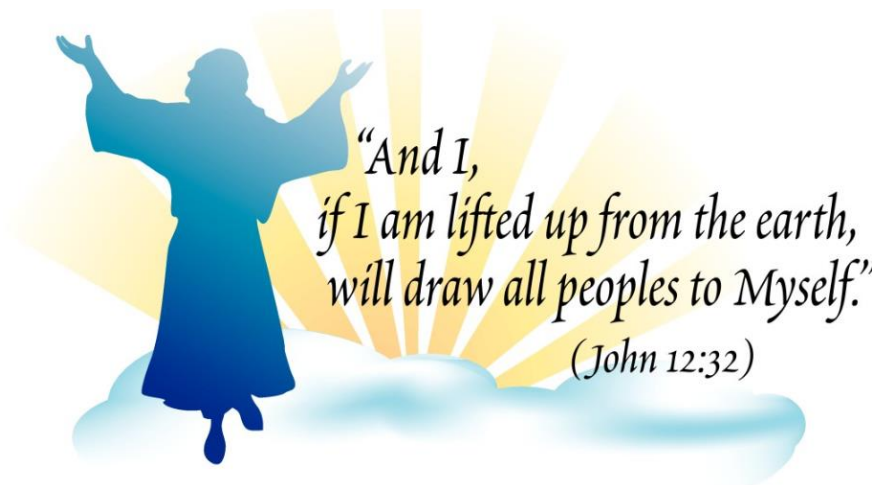


All photographs with grateful thanks to Len Smith, and to his wife Issy who composed the majority of limericks.

Well done all benefice wardens and helpers, both clergy and non-clergy, for a memorable and historic service of installation for our new Rector, Ed.,

Fifth Sunday of Lent - Readings

New Testament reading - John 12, 20-33.



Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival.

They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

“Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

“Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

Sally's Reflection

JOHN 12:20-33 AND HEBREWS 5:5-10

"Heavenly Father, through weak human words, give us grace to hear your true and living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord" Amen

I once met a chaplain who told me that his job to all the 13-year-olds was to sow the seeds and never to see them flourish and grow.

The image of the seed falling on rough ground and between the cracks is familiar to us. And yet, Jesus says that this seed, the Son of Man, both human and divine will die, but if he dies, his death will bear much fruit.

It doesn't seem to be like any gardening manual I have ever read. This is the sacrificial grain; the son of man will be glorified by the grain dying and then it will bear much fruit.



The triumph of God's self-giving love, the love that looks death itself in the face and defeats it by meeting it voluntarily for the whole world. This self-giving love is told by telling, as Philip went and told Andrew and then Andrew and Philip went to tell Jesus.

Who are we going to tell so the seed may flourish?

Previously Jesus had told his mother that His time has not yet come but now it has, now Jesus knows what is ordained for him. He will be 'lifted up and draw all people to himself.'

He knows how he will die, by crucifixion and be lifted up for us.

The preparation has now been completed and the greatest event, the final moment of love and liberation has to take place. Triumph often comes from tragedy and Jesus knows, and the human side of him in Christ, and his soul is troubled.

Imagine the fear and anticipation. He is afraid, and asks rhetorically, should I ask my father to save me from this hour?

The Son of Man, who has had man's flowing blood in him through God will die on the cross and the blood and the water will mingle to become the sacrificial cup of the Eucharist.

The word is spreading, the seeds are being sown. Others are asking to see him; the word is spreading and we know the seed will blossom because this is God's planned timetable. And Christ, as Romans tells us, must reverently submit. He must learn obedience through what he suffers. I wonder what we too learn from suffering,

I wonder what this Lent has taught you to reflect on and whether you too will see the cross in a different light.

There can be no holding back; Jesus will go forward to meet the moment by His Actions, His special teaching and His Prayers.

Jesus does what He must do and He will stand alone against the power of sin and death so we don't have to.



For our sake He died for us to set us free, free to worship Him.

He is guiding us, his 'servants' and his 'followers' and we need to go after him, to emulate him, to get to know and understand Him and we too must be a seed. We too must see and tell.

We too must sow seeds, even if we don't see them flourish.

That is what baptism and confirmation are all about; it tells us in Romans 6, 'We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the father, we too may live a new life.

Christ is a source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. And what a hope and joy there lays in that submission and obedience.

Amen



**THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S
CHURCH, CAPEL ST MARY**

**Urgent news update on the Friends
Wine Tasting Evening on Friday 22
March
See page 21 below**





**2ND CAPEL BROWNIES TABLE
TOP SALE heralded a huge
success...**



A major fund-raising event for our 2nd Capel Brownies was held at St Mary's Church last Saturday.. It consisted of all items that the Brownies and their families wished to dispose of - but have not yet advertised on eBay.

Imogen Marr, Brownies Leader (right) explained that the aim is to raise funds specifically for the Brownies to go on a **two-night Brownies Camp** in the summer.





The LINK got a few photos in before it got really busy...*Imogen* (on right of left pic) said: "We raised £349.45, which is fantastic and above what we'd hoped."

Meanwhile in the refreshments centre *Rev Sally* rolled up her sleeves and, fulfilled the customers' orders taken by the Brownies.

The young Brownies were thrilled to be "waiting on table".

Some had even baked biscuits and cupcakes for the event - and agreed they were delicious!





Hot News from Rev Sally as Lent and Easter approach.....

ST MARY'S CONFIRMATION SERVICE

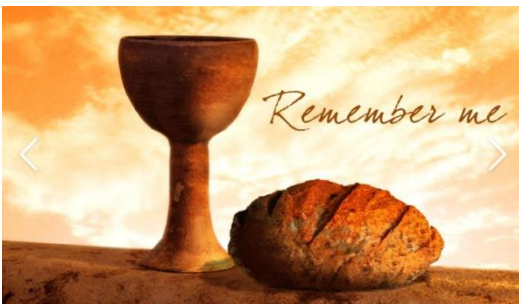
The Benefice Confirmation Service will be held at St John's Great Wenham, on 21 April and presided by Bishop Martin Seeley.



**BROWNIES EASTER GARDEN- 25
March 6.00pm**

Come and join the 2nd Chapel Brownies as they build the 2024 Easter Garden in St Mary's Churchyard

Maundy Thursday Agape Meal- 6.00pm 28 March



You are invited to our Maundy Thursday celebration at St Mary's on 28 March. On this night we remember and celebrate the final supper Jesus shared with his disciples in the context of the Passover, when the people of Israel observed their liberation from Egypt.

On the first of the Days of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and said: "Where do you want us to prepare your Passover meal?"

He said: "Enter the city. Go up to a certain man and say: 'The Teacher says' My time is near. I and my disciples plan to celebrate the Passover meal at your house."

The disciples followed Jesus' instructions to the letter, and prepared the Passover meal.

Our short service on 28 March will include readings, hymns, a simple Agape meal and is followed by the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.





Benefice Good Friday Walk of Witness starts at Capel Community Church at 9.30am.

Benefice Good Friday - Stations of the Cross

On Friday 29 March @3.30pm we shall be holding our Stations of the Cross service.



The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion at Passiontide for many centuries because they enable us to

engage actively with the path of suffering walked by Jesus.

They originated when early Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted to follow literally in the footsteps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate's house to Calvary.

They would pause for prayer and devotion at various points. Eventually, those pilgrims brought the practice back to their home countries and ever since then Christians of differing traditions have used this form of devotion.

Rev Sally explained: "At St Mary's we are particularly proud of our Stations which were purchased in 1983 and which replaced a set of faded German steel-engravings. They depict the events from the condemnation of Jesus to death to his burial in the tomb."

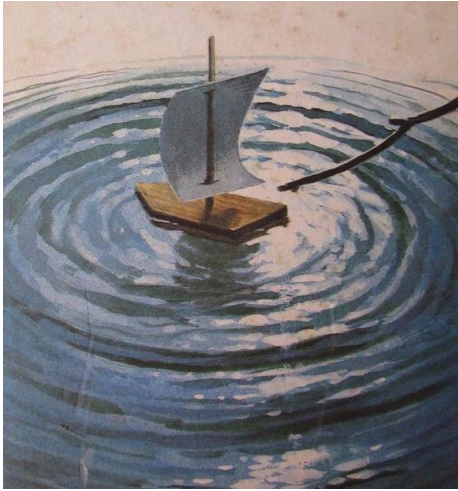
"In this short (one hour max) service we shall visit each station in turn pausing for a reflection."

ALL ARE INVITED & WELCOME.....

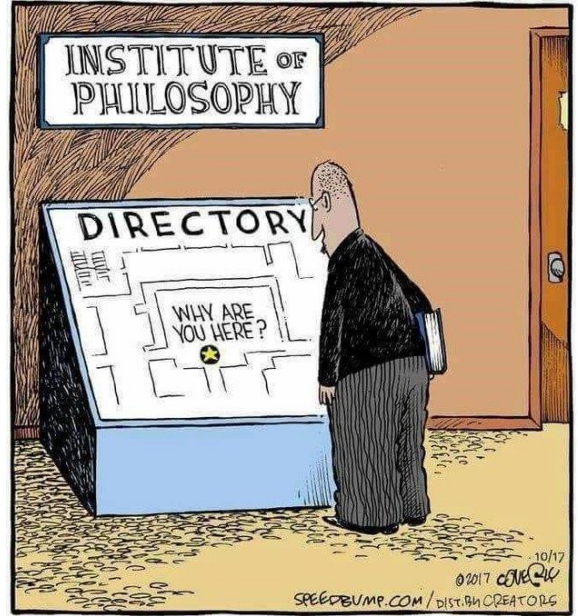




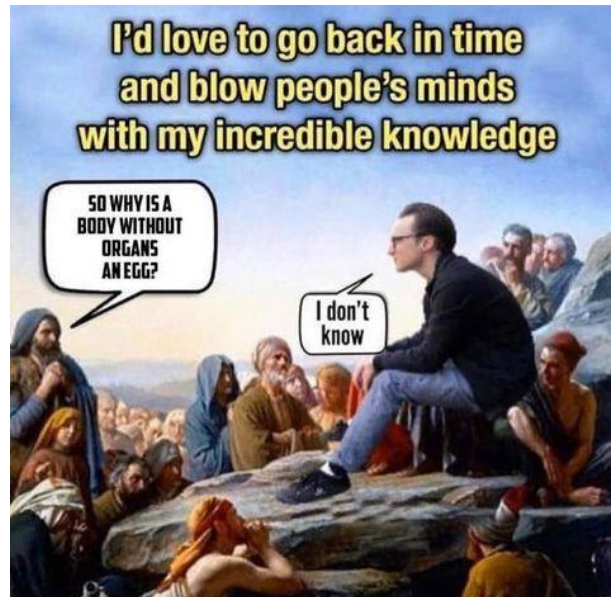
The LINK has pleasure in introducing these ponders - even if we don't know what on earth they are all about.....



(left) the boring things kids did before the internet..



English is a difficult language. It can be understood through tough thorough thought, though.





Two Hymns for Today

We have a gospel to proclaim...

Click below to hear and watch:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?&q=we+have+a+gospel+to+proclaim+youtube&&mid=81C9643BE3F9D15391A481C9643BE3F9D15391A4&&FORM=VRDGAR>

From St Albans Cathedral & as played by Geoffrey our organist two Sunday's ago

We have a gospel to proclaim. Author: Edward Joseph Burns (1938-). The hymn was written in 1968 for the Chorley Deanery of the Blackburn Diocese when Burns was vicar of St Peter's, Chorley. It was written for a 'Call to Mission', and is a dignified and central response to such an occasion.

During the 'Call' there were four meetings, each one expounding a theme: Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Pentecost. Stanzas 2-5 record these subjects. The hymn was published in 100 Hymns for Today (1969), and thus in A&MNS; it has since been included in almost every major British hymn book.



Hymns for Today

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation...

Click below to hear and watch:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?&q=Praise+to+the+Lord+the+Almighty+the+King+of+Creation&&mid=7C9AFA04A69C6C2946997C9AFA04A69C6C294699&&FORM=VRDGAR>

From St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney and as played by Geoffrey last Sunday..

German composer Joachim Neander gave us words to do just that when he wrote his most well-known hymn, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty."



CHURCH COMMISSIONERS DEEM "PARISHES TO COME BEFORE ANCESTRAL GUILT"



- The Independent Oversight Group (picture above) now claims that £100m initially earmarked by the Church Commissioners is not enough, and that the organisation, in partnership with others, should target an initiative of £1bn.
- The original commitment to reparations, supported by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, was made following findings that a "significant chunk" of the Church's £10.3 billion wealth could be traced back to profits made from slavery.
- The Oversight Group has also recommended that the programme should be ultimately owned and run by black communities. The aspiration is for the impact investment and spending programme to start operating later in 2024.
- The Church Commissioners, the body that manages the C of E's huge financial assets, accepted the report in full. However, the commissioners are not increasing the £100m investment but are aiming to attract co-investors to increase the fund's value.
- Gareth Mostyn, the chief executive of the Church Commissioners, said £100m was the "appropriate financial commitment ... at this stage" while ensuring that they could honour existing commitment to parishes and other church activities. Consequently the Church of England is appealing for other organisations to help it establish a £1 billion fund to address its former connections to slavery.



Pie-in-the Sky:

The reality of the Independent Oversight Group raising some £900million from private enterprises at any time, let alone in this recession, can only be deemed "fanciful". Ed.,



Guess the Mystery Reader

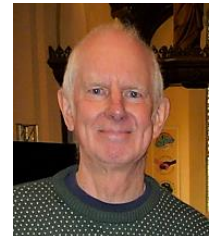
THE LINK'S THREE-BOOK CHALLENGE- WHO IS THIS WEEK'S MYSTERY READER FROM THREE SELF-DEFINING BOOKS???

Last week's mystery books were:

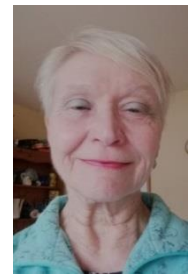
- 1 *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- 2 *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien: *The Fellowship of the Ring*
3. *The Adventures of Odysseus* by Hugh Lupton, Daniel Morden



Our mystery reader was correctly identified as Mo Hill by Trevor Bailey & Janet Fenton -



WELL DONE TREVOR and JANET!



However here we go again: this week's Mystery Reader - who may even be trickier to identify than Mo - has submitted these three books:

1, Country Woman on the Land by G.K. Nelson. Memories of Rural Life in the 1920's and 30's.

A vivid picture of county life of women during the first half of the twentieth century. Here was a time when the whole family of an agricultural labourer could expect to work on the farm.

2. The Complete Gardener by Monty Don.

Month by month account of a year in the garden coving everything from plants, soil, shrubs and wildlife.

3. Constable A Portrait by James Hamilton.

A 19th century painter of landscapes and skies. Constable's letters reveal unease and a lack of control, where his oils studies and drawings show a clarity of vision.

Can you guess the MYSTERY READER? The only clue is that the woman is a regular St Mary's congregant who, on occasions, takes the elderly to Capel Community Church. She very much likes helping others and is an ex-allotment holder.

If you identify her please let me know: briancrogerson@btinternet.com

GO ON - HAVE A GO!



OLD PARISH LIFE

(As it ain't any longer!)

In the 15th century the duties of Sexton, or Deacon, fulfilled the parish duties more normally ascribed to today's

Churchwardens. At Holy Trinity, Coventry in 1462 their daily duties were as follows: (it is worth recalling that Old English "ye" was actually pronounced "the")

The first deacon shall every day open ye church doors at 6 of ye clock, and deliver to ye priest that singeth ye Trinity masses a booke, and a chalice, and a vestment; and when masse is done, see ye said booke, chalice and vestment be laid up in ye vestry. He shall ring all in to matins, with his fellow....and bear forthe ye books for matins belonging to ye southe side of ye choir; and when matins is done, bear them in to ye vestry againe.

He shall ring, with his fellow, to high masses, and sing in ye choir at ye masse; and when masse is done, see that ye chalice and ye books be locked sure in ye vestry.

He shall be at ye churche again by 3 of the clock to help to ring all in to evensong....He shall sing evensong on ye southe side of ye choir. When evensong is done he shall make sure ye vestry, and see that all ye books be in. He shall locke ye churche doors at a convenient hour. He shall ring the day bell, with one bell, every day.

There were further instructions for his "fellow" He shall ring curfew



every night at 8 of ye clock, and when it is done he shall serche ye church all abowte lest there be any person lying in any seate or corner, and then lock ye church door sure.

Nothing to it - do you agree Mel and Valerie?

From Old Parish Life, A guide to the curious: edited by Justin Lovill



NEWS FROM THE PENS

With thanks to Sue Woolgar

CAPEL DaisyChain
where you can link up with friends!

**“CONSTABLE :
THE MAN & HIS LANDSCAPE”**
with Patricia Hodgkins
from the National Trust
Thursday March 21st
7.30pm Capel Library
Women of all ages + interests WELCOME!

Admission £4 Visitors,
Free to members paying subscriptions
Raffle + Refreshments

For more information visit our Facebook page





St Mary's Church
Capel St Mary

**THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S
CHURCH, CAPEL ST MARY**

Charity No: 286971



Present another wine-tasting evening.

**Wines from South America: A wander
through Argentinian and Chilean
vintners**

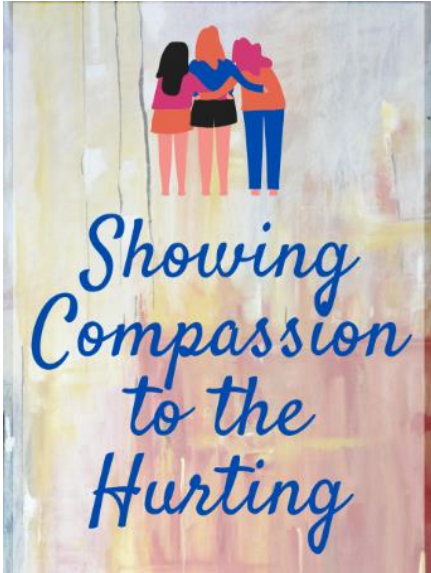
**To be held at 7.00pm (for a 7.30pm start) on Friday 22 March
2024. £15 per person.**



**Sarah and Jim Kelland say: "To
help the catering at the wine
tasting evening can you please pay for your tickets as
soon as possible?"**

**Payments, please, to Malcolm Fenn, 5 White Horse
Road, Capel, Malcolm Fenn malcolmfenn@outlook.com
01473 310901**





COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS
CAFÉ at St Mary's Church Hall has its
next meeting on Monday 18 March @
2.00pm

Rev Sally says:

Our compassionate café has become the in-place to share our stories with each other, with people who understand what it means to lose someone you love.



There is much chatting, laughter, reminiscing and cake enjoyed by all. The café enables us to help each other - and build a community together.



The next Café is on 18 March at 2.00pm. Do come and bring a friend.

You will leave feeling better! Rev Sally x



ST MARY'S CHURCH BENTLEY

EASTER BINGO

Saturday 23rd March

In the Village Hall

6:30pm for 7pm start

Win Easter Eggs, Bar & Raffle



£5 per person includes Bingo book - Limited room in hall

(Tickets available from Peter Day – peter.d47@hotmail.co.uk
Greenacres or 01473 310518)

Friday 26th April 2024

7:00pm for 7:30pm

The History of Bentley An illustrated talk



Come along to Bentley village hall for a St Mary's Church fundraiser with an illustrated talk by Mr Tom Hill on the History of Bentley. Find out some interesting facts about the village we love. Ticket price includes a glass of wine kindly supplied by Jasper Corbett of Compass Wines here in Bentley.

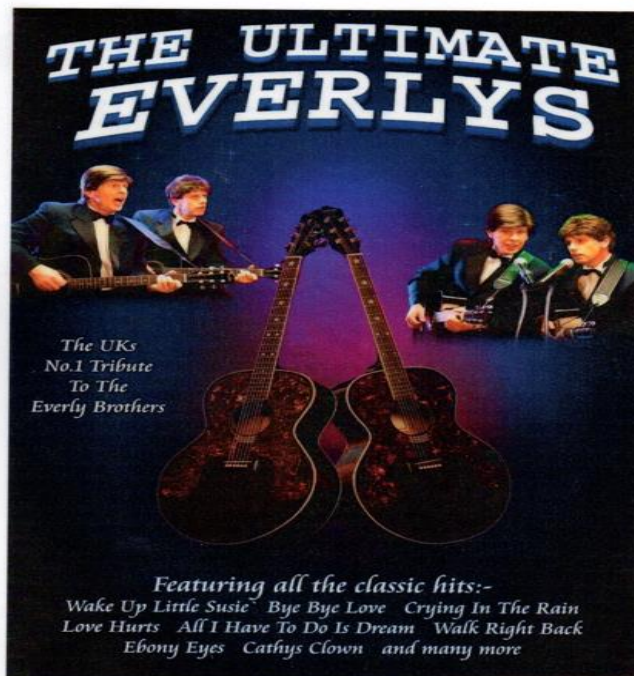
Tickets £10 from
peter.d47@hotmail.co.uk
01473 310518

Sunday 12th May 2024

2pm for a 2:30pm start

St Mary's Church, Bentley

**With
thanks to
Ken
Felgate**



Tickets from peter.d47@hotmail.co.uk
01473 310518 - £12 per person

ST MARY'S CHURCH CHOIR - ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

(Part two)



Jane Tewkesbury recalls her time with Ipswich Choral Society.

Singing in choirs has brought me great joy in life. I came to Suffolk, aged 30, to take up a new teaching post and after my interview someone suggested I join Ipswich Choral Society (since I said I loved to sing). So I did!!

After that I couldn't stop. As I gained my new-found confidence I realized that singing was all I wanted to do.

Fast forward... and over the years I've sung in several different large choirs, but eventually found I preferred smaller groups, and being involved with trios and duets.



(above) Ipswich Choral Society at Fountains Abbey - Jane is at the far right.

There were chances to visit cathedrals and to sing Evensong (eg, Ely, Bury, Chelmsford, Wakefield and Southwell) to fill in when the boy choristers were on holiday - that was amazing!

The atmosphere, the acoustics and the peacefulness; nothing else like it.

Within the last 20 years I joined a small group of women to sing in the Tower Church in Ipswich when the trebles had a rest, probably twice a month or so; my

first time being part of a proper church choir - a real privilege, and I really looked forward to it.

And of course singing in Capel church choir with friends to enhance services is something I will do for as long as I am able.

Belonging to a choir is a very sociable thing to do, with parties, meals, holidays and tours! It's great for well-being and for the soul.



Chris Fenn tells of a misogynist priest at St Mary Stoke

I have been able to identify myself on Gillian Williams' photo of St Mary Stoke Choir. There are three female choristers just behind the priest Rev Robert Godfrey. As you look at the photo I am the one on the right

of the three females. In front of me is Miss Phyllis Meadows, the organist, who also played at my wedding.

A critical eye

At one time, including the earlier years when my brother was in the choir, girls were not allowed to join the choir by Rev Ridler, who preceded Rev Godfrey.

But when Rev Godfrey arrived in the parish he took a very

different view. He made it known girls were now welcome, and held auditions one Tuesday evening.

About 40 of us turned up to audition and Choirmaster Henry Lewis cast his critical eye over us. We were required to sing two pieces of church music. I remember one of my selected pieces was *Away in a Manger* - still a favourite. Many candidates did not survive but about 16 of us made it. I was in the choir from 1958 - 1970.

Trouble with the boys

It was a bit of a crush in the junior choir pews, and I think the boys were none too pleased at our presence, but they got used to it after a while. We sang at three services every Sunday, and there were weddings every Saturday throughout spring, summer and autumn, often four or five a day. Most couples



requested a choir. Junior choir had two practices per week, the adults only one.

We were very lucky to sing in a number of cathedrals as cover for the cathedral choir members during their school holidays. I particularly remember singing in Bury St Edmunds, Norwich and Ely Cathedrals. I also remember the Bishop of Edmundsbury & Ipswich coming to open St Mary Stoke's new church hall around 1962 or 1963. I stood next to him during his speech and had my photo taken in my choir robes with him, which appeared in the Ipswich Star.

I have always enjoyed singing and still do. Traditional church music appeals to me but some of the modern pieces are really good too. There is something uplifting about raising one's voice in praise to rousing music. I have been in St Mary's Church Capel choir since the late 1970s.

Thank you Jane and Chris - great recollections! Ed.,



Milestone: 30 years since first female clergy ordinations in Suffolk

Friday 8 March was International Women's Day and this year it is also 30 years since the first female clergy were ordained into the priesthood in Suffolk. Our diocese has been at the forefront of progress and there are currently a total of 50 women clergy now serving their communities, making up over 40% of all priests across the diocese, while in Ipswich female clergy now make up half of all priests.



The first group of women to be ordained as priests in the UK were ordained on Saturday 12 March 1994 with the first in Suffolk just weeks later. The Revd Canon Sally Fogden (left), who was among the first to be ordained at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, said she fondly remembers the day she heard she could become a priest.

"I was actually doing a children's group in the village hall at the time and one of my parishioners rushed in and said the vote had gone through," she said. "At that time I was so sure it wouldn't go through, so I couldn't be more delighted when I heard the news."

Sally said her ordination was an 'overwhelming' experience. *"We had a large marquee outside St Edmundsbury Cathedral and there were huge crowds of people who wanted to be there," she said. "The ordination day itself was overwhelming, it was incredible. To then be able to celebrate communion on my own with my parishioners, who had stuck with me throughout, was wonderful."*

Bishop Mike added: *"I trained with female ordinands in the late*



1980s and it was incredibly frustrating to see such talented and obviously priestly women not being ordained with me as a priest in 1990. So I was over the moon when the Church of England agreed to ordain women – seeing some of my dearest friends and colleagues priested in 1994.

"Since then the fruits of their ministry have been apparent across the Church – and their contribution to the life of the Church has been incalculable".



Meanwhile Rev Sally Letman, previously assistant head teacher at Ipswich High School, was ordained a priest in 2021 and licensed and installed as the very first Priest-in-Charge at our benefice in July 2023.



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHURCHWARDEN - VALERIE FRANKLIN

After many years of first class service to St Mary's Trevor Peartree stood down from the post at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in January. Valerie has volunteered to join Mel Sutcliffe as second warden for St Mary's and the LINK (and indeed all the congregation at St Mary's) would like to warmly welcome her to her new role.

Valerie at the same time volunteered to fill the vacant post of parish lay representative for Samford Deanery and will join our Lay Chair, Brian Rogerson, in attending the annual synods.

Being new to both roles I am sure that Valerie will receive much support and assistance from all at St Mary's as she "learns the ropes"

WELCOME VALERIE!!



PRAYER LIST FOR

17 MARCH 2024



With thanks to Hille Peartree

David Jacobs, on his journeys to Ukraine.
Pray for the situation in Israel and Gaza.

LONG-TERM SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Samantha Streatfield, Chris Hall, Pat Gladwin,
Becky Carpendale, Rachel Martin,

SICK

Fiona Heaton, Kevin Austrin, Zoe and family,
Shirley Streatfield, Olive Norton, Penny & David Thompson, Rev Stephne.
Sandy Mansfield, Geoff Cox, Sean Cornish,
Caitlyn, Chris Fenn

FOR THOSE MAKING A RECOVERY

Yvonne Rogerson, Pauline Stark

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

**Please also pray that applicants will be forthcoming for the remaining
vacancy, in the benefice of North Samford.
We are pleased the vacancy in Constable Country, has now been filled.**

Please contact Hille at hillepearz@gmail.com
If people have made a recovery



CONTACT NUMBERS FOR BENEFICE MINISTERS

Priest in Charge *Rev Sally Letman* 311505

Church wardens

@ St Mary's *Mel Sutcliffe* 310967

Valerie Franklin 314179

@ St John's *John Cresswell* 311975

Diana Hunt 310441

Pastoral care

@ St Mary's *Hille Peartree* 310146

PCC Secretary

@ St Mary's *Jenny Hickley* 310991

Hall bookings

@ St Mary's *Malcolm Fenn* 310901



The editor discovers that catching your man with the maid was a lot more interesting in Victorian times.



Who cares about catfights when you've got sabres?



It really wasn't surprising when this entrant blew other competitors out of the water in the Year One talent show....





EDITOR'S NOTE

The Link Newsletter shall continue to be published electronically on a fortnightly basis - please let me know of any news or views you may have for inclusion in the magazine.

Please be sure to forward any items for news to the editor at:

briancrogerson@btinternet.com

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