

HOBNOB

On-line



**The parish magazine for
St. Peter and St. Paul. Horndon-on-the-Hill
St. Giles and All Saints. Orsett
St. Mary-the-Virgin. Bulphan**

February 2021



THE UNITED BENEFICE OF ORSETT, BULPHAN AND HORNDON - ON - THE - HILL

www.hobnob.org.uk Facebook: @HOBNOBchurches

RECTOR	Reverend Sue Mann	email: rectorsue@hobnob.org.uk	01375 891 254
ASSOCIATE PRIEST	Reverend Max Blake	e.mail max@hobnob.org.uk	01375 360 522

CHURCH OFFICERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

St Giles & All Saints Orsett

Churchwardens	Janet Wilkins	01375 372 067
	Jackie Wood	01375 891 744
Treasurer	Lynn Bennett	
Covenant Secretary	Mark Willett	01375 892 113
PCC Secretary	Vacancy	
Sacristans	Di Bubb	
Vergers	Ed Stoddart	
	George Wood	01375 891 744
Mothers' Union Branch Leader	Di Bubb	01375 891 404
Edward Bear Toddler Group	Di Bubb	01375 891 404
Tower Captain	Judith Church	01375 891 556

St Mary-the-Virgin Bulphan

Churchwardens	Ron Porter	01375 891 697
	Frank Woollard	01375 891 034
Deputy Churchwarden	Brian Flavell	01708 225 804
Treasurer	Lynda Robertson	01375 892 428
Covenant Secretary	Frank Woollard	01375 891 034
PCC Secretary	Ron Porter	01375 891 697
Parish Room Bookings	Traudi Porter	01375 891 697

St Peter & St Paul Horndon-on-the-Hill

Churchwardens	Sonia Ward	01375 674212
	Alastair Macrae	01375 673 327
Deputy Churchwarden	Felicity Tarbard	01375 677581
Treasurer	Robin Clark	
Covenant Secretary	Ann Bonson	
PCC Secretary	Beverley Macrae	01375 673 327
Sacristans	Jane Barry. Jane Lothian. Judy Rood.	
	Beverley Macrae	
Vergers	Bill Rayner. Peter Belsham.	

Benefice Baptism Co-ordinator

Christine Mortimer: c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk	01375 641 485
--	---------------

Musicians

Jane Barry	07552 199 697
Janet McCheyne	07752 836 902

To arrange Weddings, please contact Rev. Sue Mann on 01375 891 254 or email: rectorsue@hobnob.org.uk



COMMUNITY INFORMATION

ORSETT, BULPHAN AND HORNDON - ON - THE - HILL

POLICE

at Grays

email: thurrockcpt@essex.pnn.police.uk

101 or 999

DOCTORS

Horndon-on-the-Hill
Orsett & Bulphan
Bulphan

(Orsett Surgery)
(Ockendon Surgery)
(West Horndon Surgery):

01375 642 362
01375 892 082
01708 852 318
01277 811 770

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Mr Barry Johnson

07831 609714

Mrs Sue Little

07831 609664

LOCAL MP

Stephen Metcalfe

Orsett Office
Westminster

01268 200 430
020 7219 7009

Write to: House of Commons London SW1A 0AA or
2 Orsett Business Centre, Stanford Road, Orsett, Essex, RM16 3BX

SCHOOLS

Horndon C of E Foundation Primary – Headteacher: Mrs. D. Bradley.
Orsett Academy C of E Aided Primary – Headteacher: Mrs G Smith
Bulphan C of E Academy – Headteacher: Sally Finch

01375 673 260
01375 891 383
01375 891 220



WOODWARD
WINES

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.woodwardwines.co.uk



THE BENEFICE REGISTERS

Funerals

January 18th

Victor Pasquale (76)

(H)

January 19th

Susan Drain (69)

(B)

January 25th

Doris Ada Davis (98)

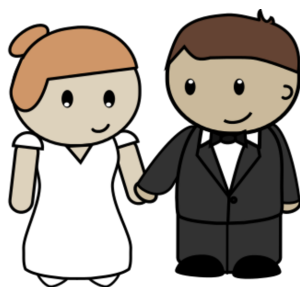
(O)

Interment of Ashes

January 23rd

Peter Flint (72)

(H)



Wedding Enquiries

If you would like to enquire about booking a wedding at:
Orsett, Bulphan or Horndon churches,
please contact: Revd Sue Mann: 01375 891254
rectorsue@hobnob.org.uk



Baptism Enquiries

If you would like to enquire about booking a baptism at:

Orsett church, please contact:

Christine Mortimer: 01375 641485

c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk

Bulphan church, please contact:

Christine Mortimer: 01375 641485

c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk

Horndon church, please contact:

Christine Mortimer: 01375 641485

c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk

W.HOWARD & SON

32 HIGH ROAD ORSETT

01375 891238

We Care

We have a genuine desire to look after you.

We promise that we will meet and endeavour to exceed your expectations with regard to the funeral service we provide and the care, professionalism and compassion shown to you.

We are meticulous in our attention to detail and look for ways to make the funeral a special and memorable occasion.

IT'S OUR PRIVILEGE TO HELP

SCI SCI FUNERALS LTD

F.O.S.

Member of the Funeral Ombudsman Scheme and the Funeral Standards Council

FSC



**Hilltop
Foot Health**

Professional foot care services

Do you need help with:

- Nail trimming
- Fungal nails
- Thickened nails
- Cracked Heels
- Athletes Foot
- Ingrowing nails
- Corns
- Callus
- Verrucas

To book your foot health appointment, call:

Hazel: 07885 504476 - Brenda: 07950 728920

Treatments in the comfort
of your own home
or in our clinic in
Horndon on the Hill



**Hazel Fay S.A.C Dip. FHP
Brenda Martin S.A.C Dip. FHP**



*Carrie and Wendy are two trustworthy 'familiar faces',
on hand to offer the following services:*

**Help around the home
Companionship
Transportation to appointments
Days out
Dog Walking**

Accompanying you to clubs and groups

*If you are interested in any of the above, please feel free to call
us for more information on our full range of services and prices*

**Carrie
07970 257214**

**Wendy
07796 712586**

Fully insured and DBS checked

Rector's Reflections

Well, it's the beginning of February and I wonder how many of us have kept our New Year's resolutions!

I must admit I did write rather a long a list, which is probably not such a good idea, but one thing I included, was to make sure I go for a walk every day; I love walking but sometimes it is so easy to get buried in tasks which need doing that it is the walk that gets shelved.

To hold myself accountable and in order to achieve something too, I decided to sign up for a virtual long-distance footpath. As a Third Order Franciscan, I chose St Francis Way which is 312 miles (503 km) long and travels through an ancient Roman road from Florence to the Vatican, following in the footsteps of Saint Francis across the Italian countryside. I will be doing actual walking but obviously not in the original places! I have completed 8.9 miles, so have a long way to go yet. 8 weeks is the target time!! As I walk, in addition to praying for everyone here in the Benefice, I am reflecting upon the work of St Francis and what God might be saying to us today, particularly as we consider how he might be calling us to be church in the future.

Francis was born in Assisi in 1182, to the son of a wealthy cloth merchant, Pietro Bernardone, and his wife, Pica. He was baptized Giovanni (John) but soon gained the nickname Francesco, because of his father's close trading links with France. Francis' early years were not especially religious. He was a leader among the young men of Assisi, enjoying a good social life, with singing and partying. Francis did not want to follow his father into the cloth trade; he wanted to be a knight. So, at the age of twenty he joined the forces of Assisi in a minor skirmish with the neighbouring city of Perugia. He was captured and spent a year in a Perugian jail, until his father ransomed him. This became the first of a series of experiences through which God called Francis to the life which he finally embraced. One of these experiences, at San Damiano, led to a rift with his father. Francis, in response to a voice from the crucifix in this tiny, ruined church, began to rebuild churches; when he ran out of money, he took cloth from his father's shop and sold it. His father disowned him before the bishop of Assisi, and Francis in his turn stripped off his clothes, returning to his father everything he had received from him, and promising that in future he would call only God his Father.

In the story of St Francis, we see him, with his followers, physically rebuilding a church but his 'rebuilding' of the church became so much more than this; it drew people into a life of commitment to God and it embraced those on the margins.

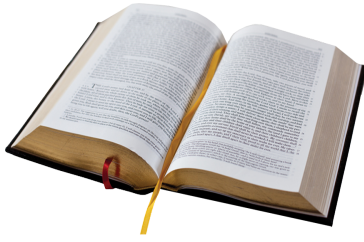
There are many on the margins today and some people, for various reasons, have felt hurt or excluded by the Church and this must sadden God deeply. At the end of January, I attended a Zoom training where we, as Christian leaders, considered the necessary rebuilding in terms of the hurt that has been caused by the Church in the area of sexuality. Within the Church there are variety of opinions, depending upon a person's interpretation of Scripture, but the way in which these views have been expressed has, at times, been insensitive. A working party has been meeting, praying, sharing and reflecting upon the best way forward, resulting in the publication of a book and short course called Living in Love and Faith. At our training day, we explored the resources and considered how these might best be used within the Church to help us all progress in a loving, compassionate way. The material has been sensitively produced and includes some very moving videos clips and I do encourage you, when this course is offered, to take part if you are able.

Peace is born of Love
Love is born of understanding
Understanding is born of Listening
Listening leads to Justice and Peace
www.christiansaware.co.uk

Take care and God bless,

Sue

PS. If anyone is interested, I have a DVD about the life of St Francis and would be very pleased to lend it to anyone who would like to watch it; it may be something to do during lockdown!



PRAYER DIARY

Some thoughts to include in your daily prayers

February 1st	For the United Benefice of Orsett, Bulphan & Horndon-on-the-Hill
February 2nd	For St Luke's Hospice & all carers
February 3rd	For humanitarian organisations here and abroad
February 4th	For those living in Baker Street in Orsett
February 5th	For those who mourn
February 6th	For those living in The Spinney in Orsett
February 7th	For those living in South Hill Crescent in Horndon
February 8th	For those living in Stanford Road in Orsett
February 9th	For those living in Church Lane in Bulphan
February 10th	For those living in Mill Lane in Horndon
February 11th	For our PCCs in each parish
February 12th	For members of our congregations who live in Grays
February 13th	For those living in Prince Charles Avenue in Orsett
February 14th	For our Orthodox brothers and sisters on the Feast of SS Cyril & Methodius
February 15th	For those living in Albert Road in Bulphan
February 16th	For physicians and all health care professionals
February 17th	For those living in Doesgate Lane in Bulphan
February 18th	For those living in Gordon Road in Horndon
February 19th	For those living in the High Road in Horndon
February 20th	For those living in Farm Road in Orsett Heath
February 21st	For those living in Penn Close in Orsett
February 22nd	For those living in Orsett Road in Horndon
February 23rd	For those living in Church Road in Bulphan
February 24th	For those living in The Green in Orsett
February 25th	For those living in Victoria Road in Horndon
February 26th	For our twin dioceses in Romania, Sweden, Kenya and Trinidad & Tobago
February 27th	For the work of Chelmsford Cathedral
February 28th	For Reverend Sue Mann and her family and Reverend Max Blake and his family

*"To see a world in a grain of sand
And a heaven in a wild flower
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
and Eternity in an hour"
William Blake*



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2021

This year's Benefice World Day of Prayer Service is going to be held in October, instead of March, because we do not know when lockdown will allow us to get together. It will be in Horndon Church.

The service for 2021 is written by the Christians of Vanuatu, which is an archipelago of 80 islands in the Pacific 2000 miles east of Australia. Their theme is "Build on a Strong Foundation." Please look at the World Day of Prayer website where there is a short film about Vanuatu, see:-

<https://wwdp.org.uk/2021/01/13/introducing-vanuatu/>

Maybe on Friday 5th March you could read through the service and eat something with coconut or root vegetables.

As you will notice, the organisation behind this event has decided to change the name (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer) to emphasise that everyone is included. The celebration of this service begins in Samoa in the Pacific Ocean, and moves around the whole world during this day. Funds collected are distributed to many Christian activities throughout the world.

Please contact me if you want to know more, would like a copy of the service and want to get involved.

Information Jane Barry 01375 642561
jane@peterjane.co.uk

Orsett

Churchwarden's Report

One Saturday morning, 22 years ago, I was busy cleaning my oven when the doorbell rang. At the door were ladies from the Jehovah's Witness, they tried to engage me in conversation and I remember thinking at the time they would be better engaged in cleaning their ovens. But I listened and took the magazine; I put it on the side, but did look at it until sometime later. A few weeks later, they called again, then the time after just the one lady. I was no longer on their round, but she liked to call and discuss the bible. The years went by and she became a friend. We would have cups of tea and friendly discussions about life; we found we had many things in common. She would invite me to church activities and I would do the same. We both knew we were never going to change each other's core beliefs and there were some major differences in our thoughts. As life changed though, we were able to share the different stages of life and enjoy each other's viewpoints. My children got to know her and would talk to her if I was not in and they enjoyed sharing their achievements with the lady at the door. During lockdown, there was a post-it note with the online magazine code, posted through the door. It was thoughtful that she felt the need to drop it by.

I do have admiration for Jehovah's Witnesses' dedication to mission, come rain or snow, however early you get up they are at the train station handing out their magazine. They walk the streets, even when no one answers the doors and I am sure people are very rude to them; yet they come out daily to spread the message.

Yesterday, I opened my post and received a 'Watch Tower' with a lovely letter which said my friend of many years was moving away to be near her son. I was sad to lose a friend in the lady that knocked on the door. Although I am sure we will keep in touch it won't be the same. My oven will still need cleaning, but the opportunity to make a difference to another's life will not always present itself so readily.

Church and worship is difficult during lock down but try and stick with it. It took me a few tries to make Microsoft Teams work and now we will be on Zoom at 10am on Sundays. Zoom has some advantages over other online platforms. Persist with it and keep our church family together, Sue and family are trying hard to do that and pray we will be back together again soon.

Many blessings,

Janet Wilkins



Well House Gallery

est. 2014

Horndon-on-the-Hill, Essex. SS17 8LF

www.wellhousegallery.co.uk

Lisa Anderson 07946 530 379

lisa@wellhousegallery.co.uk



Well House Gallery



@wellhousegallery



55 High Road Orsett RM16 3HB
Tel: 01375 892050

Dental treatment delivered
by conscientious, experienced
and very caring staff

website: www.ssdental.co.uk

email: sunnysidedentist@btconnect.com

Orsett Village Dental Surgery
is a long established family
practice offering all dental
treatments, including
intravenous sedation for the
nervous patient, laser surgery
for most dental procedures,
hygienist/therapist services and
dental implants all carried out
by highly trained practitioners.



HORNDON ON THE HILL **CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT**

Dear all,

I am sorry I forgot to write last month. I have so much to do it simply slipped my mind!!!

How are we all keeping ourselves busy? Walks, knitting, needlework, telephone conversations, family quizzes, Zoom calls etc. etc. but I know what we need is personal contact with family and friends.

We have been so lucky with Sue and Max joining us on line for daily prayers and now of course our Sunday service on Zoom. I know a lot of people have picked up their bible and found great solace in reading the daily lectionary.

How I miss my Tuesday and Saturday mornings at the church, meeting people and spreading the word.

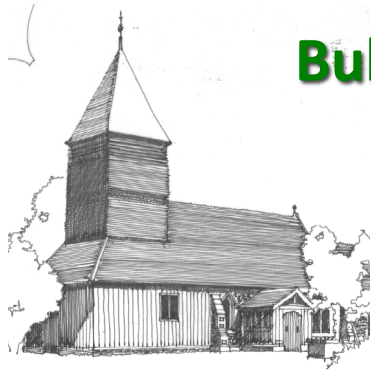
Thinking of resuming our normal day-to-day life, I am collecting gift bags to be used in the future for fund raising events. If you have any spare ones, please do keep them safe.

If anyone knows of people who are on their own and would like someone different to talk to on the phone, please let me know. I would only be too pleased to have a good natter. Phone number is 01375 674212.

Please keep in your prayers all those who are grieving for a lost one who has died with Covid. I have just heard on the radio the total has just surpassed 100,000.

God, Bless you all

Sonia Ward



Bulphan Churchwarden's Report

Since we have been unable to hold services in church, Reverend Sue, aided by her family, and together with Reverend Max, have served us extremely well with online Sunday services and midweek Facebook worship.

Until Reverend Sue mentioned it, I had no idea that Sunday services each took four to five hours to prepare and prerecord. Clearly this is unsustainable, especially as Sue's son Thomas provided the technological input while studying and revising for A-levels.

Sunday services are now live and interactive, initially using the 'Teams' platform which has proven to have connectivity problems these were then switched to 'Zoom', which seems to have greater stability. I am confident that once the teething problems have been resolved, we will find this type of service much more fulfilling and indeed enjoyable. The downside is that people who have neither the technology nor the skill to be able to access the Internet are missing-out and these are most likely to be elderly folk who could benefit most from the services.

Something that does concern me is that during this pandemic, clergy have not been recognised as front line workers, which their role clearly determines they are, and should in my view have the same priority for vaccination as health workers. The consequences would be unthinkable if clergy and funeral directors numbers became greatly reduced through sickness. Until such times as all have been vaccinated we must strive to exercise extreme caution to protect our clergy on whom we so heavily depend.

The recent heavy rainfall brought flooding problems to Bulphan, revealing once again just how vulnerable this village is, in the middle of fenland, a natural floodplain for surrounding higher areas. But thanks to community spirit and cooperation the worst disasters were avoided. The Village Forum was instrumental via its Facebook page in arranging the provision of sandbags and pumps where the need was greatest. It was quite scary looking out of my window watching a torrent of water where the road and footpaths had been. It remains to be seen what the Environment Agency offer in improved infrastructure to avoid future problems.

Let's continue to watch out for each other and pray for better times ahead.

Zion Hall Mission, Bulphan

Interdenominational

Church Road, Bulphan

www.zhm100.wix.com/zionhallmission

We rather feel as though we have been through this loop before! After the joy of being able to start our services again in December, we decided to suspend services again for the present time from early January in view of the increasing Covid infection rate and restrictions.

Nevertheless we were pleased to hold services throughout December, and on occasions had to think about how to accommodate the numbers, albeit we have a small building and Covid – 19 distancing measures means that capacity is limited to a congregation of 9-13!

Despite all the current difficulties we continue to pray for those in our villages and thank God for His continuing presence through these times. The text on our notice board is as follows and we pray that this may be of encouragement to all who pass by:

God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble

Psalm 46 verse 1

Meanwhile we enjoy fellowship through contact with our regular congregation and friends, and worship with the help of the many forms of communication open to us. Although at Zion Hall Mission we have not put out services on the internet we thank all those involved at the Hobnob churches for their outreach using the web.

We will open again for worship once the current peak in Covid cases has sufficiently passed and other indicators show a lessening of the risk. We will of course advertise these through Hobnob, but also please see our notice board for further specific details and our website for more general information.

For any information on our church or any of our services you can also contact the Secretary:

Ian Blackburn on 01375 891522 or 07786 110413



Candlemas Day – 2nd February

This is one of my favourite stories in the Bible - it's Luke 2:22-40. It's about when Mary and Joseph take the infant Jesus to the Temple and meet two elderly people, Simeon and Anna. They instantly know that this is a special baby - God's promised Messiah who will be the light of the world. We call it Candlemas - you can find out why here:

<http://projectbritain.com/year/candlemas.html>

Feel free to use the ideas in any way that suits your family, but you might like to:

1. Go on a lightbulb hunt. How many lights do you have in your home? Why are they important?
2. Share the story of Anna and Simeon - you could either watch the video or find it in a Bible story book.
3. Talk about how Jesus' light shows us the way to God and the way to live as you colour in the attached picture or complete one of the crafts.
4. If you have time, make a Christingle.
5. Finish by saying a prayer asking Jesus to help us be like lights who also show the way to God, and then say the Lord's Prayer together.

The Children's Society help to bring light to troubled children. You might consider making a donation to support them: <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>

God's Story: Anna and Simeon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leN-xNrkiBo>

Lots of Candlemas crafts and activities can be found here

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/search/label/Candlemas>

How to turn a jar into a light

<https://mcgrathblog.nd.edu/diy-stained-glass-luminaries-to-celebrate-candlemas>

How to make a Christingle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-37OVU7Ke4>

Enjoy being part of God's light in the world this week!!! If you make any crafts, please send photos to Lynda, at l.robertson@hobnob.org.uk, and we can share them with the church community.

Sue

ORSETT EDWARD BEAR TODDLER GROUP

“Reminiscing – ooh, that’s a big word!” exclaimed Edward Bear, but apparently that’s what he’s been doing, thinking about February and how different it will be this year, especially when looking at the photos on his Facebook page from last year – he’s included some here.

No fun meetings to talk and learn about Lent – with Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) followed by Ash Wednesday – plus the festival of Candlemas and the beginning of February and St Valentine’s Day in the middle.



But maybe Edward Bear and his friends will still celebrate and enjoy these special occasions at home with their families.....

- Light a candle and remember Simeon in the temple saying that Jesus would be a light for all peoples (Candlemas – 2 Feb)
- Make a card and give it to someone you love (Valentine’s Day – 14 Feb)
- Make sure you put lemon and eggs on the shopping list for pancakes (Shrove Tuesday - 16 Feb)
- Do something kind every day of Lent (starting on Ash Wednesday – 17 Feb)
- Perhaps find or make a little box and save some money to give to a charity in need at Easter (Easter Sunday – 4 April)

February looks like a busy month!

Edward Bear also hopes that his friends have been able to watch and listen to Revd Sue read some Beastly Bible Stories on Facebook on Sunday afternoons – he really enjoyed the stories! Edward Bear also enjoys joining in the church services each Sunday morning; these are now held on Zoom and he likes to wave at everyone who is joining in online.

Stay safe and God bless,

Edward Bear, Di, Gill, and Sandra

PS Keep an eye out for news from Edward Bear on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Orsett-Edward-Bear-Toddler-Group>

COLOURING FOR FEB



Pictures for young
and old



Update from Orsett C of E Primary School



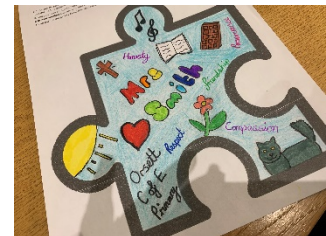
It is with great pleasure to introduce myself to you all. My name is Mrs G Smith - the new Headteacher at Orsett C of E Primary School. I had the pleasure of joining the team here at Orsett officially in January and what a first few weeks it has been!



Little did I know that my first few weeks as Head Teacher would see most of our children having to learn from home. It certainly wasn't the start I was expecting! Very quickly, the children and staff have adapted to a new way of teaching and learning and I couldn't be prouder of everyone. The children now have their lessons virtually which they have coped with remarkably and we are very grateful for the support we have received from our parents. Remote learning has many challenges for parents and staff alike and we look forward to a time when we can safely welcome back the children to school. We continue to wait eagerly for updates. Of course, we continue to be open for our critical workers' children.

This week in our virtual worship we discussed the question of how we can feel connected even though we are apart. I don't know about you but this National Lockdown feels very much more challenging than the last. Maybe it's the time of year, the dark mornings and nights. In the last lockdown clapping for the NHS bought a feeling of togetherness, a shared focus so we set the children a challenge this week. We challenged the children to show they were part of a bigger puzzle – the Orsett Primary School puzzle.

Children have been busy designing their own puzzle pieces with words and pictures that represent them. They have been sending a copy back to school so we can join them together to make a giant puzzle to show we are 'together even though apart'. We have also encouraged our families to place them in their windows to show they are part of the puzzle. Do look out for them if you are walking around the village! If you would like to join in with us a copy of the puzzle piece can be found on our website under our worship page and we'd be delighted to add any members of the community's puzzle piece to our giant jigsaw. Do email us a copy or pop it in as part of your daily walk if you are able to.

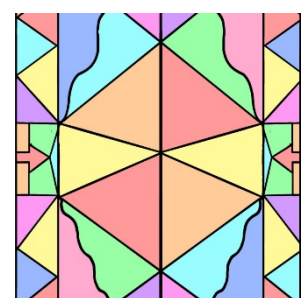


Please do stay safe and continue to remember us at Orsett C of E Primary in your thoughts and prayers. I will leave you with some examples of the fantastic learning the children have been doing at home. Until next time!

Mrs G Smith

Head Teacher

Year 3 make Lava lamps as part of their science work. A depiction of creation and an African inspired Ndebele pattern created online by one of our Year 6 pupils.



ORSETT STORES

YOUR LOCAL AND FRIENDLY VILLAGE STORE

41 High Road Orsett, Essex Telephone: 01375891242

Open from 6.30am until 9.30pm Monday-Saturday 7.00am until 9.30pm Sundays

Suppliers of Groceries, Fresh Bread, Milk, Fruit, Vegetables, Chilled and Frozen Foods, Fresh Meat, Off Licence, Tobacco, Cards and Stationery, Confectionery, Fresh Flowers and Plants, Daily Newspapers and magazines.



Services:

Dry Cleaning, Photocopying,
National Lottery Outlet,
Newspaper delivery.

Post Office Local In-Store

Open from 8.30am until 1.00pm
Monday-Saturday

**Free local home delivery on
Tuesdays & Fridays,
please call to place your order.**



Abbeyfield
Basildon

Providing
Homes for Seniors
Living in our
Family Houses

- ◆ Competent Highly Trained Staff ◆ Home Cooking
- ◆ Privacy ◆ Support ◆ Security
- ◆ 24 hour cover ◆ Carers by arrangement
- ◆ Doctor and Medical Centre close by
- ◆ Public Transport by your door
- ◆ Living where your choice matters

For a brochure or more information contact

Abbeyfield The Octagon
41 Bridge Street, Noak Bridge,
Basildon
SS15 4AY

Tel: 01268 530414

Email: karen@abbeyfieldbasildon.com

Abbeyfield Timberlog
200 Timberlog Lane,
Basildon,
SS14 1PG

Tel: 01268 550880

Email: teresa@abbeyfieldbasildon.com

Website: www.abbeyfield.com ◆ Visit Our Houses

Lent Course: For Such a Time as This

On Zoom on Thursday evenings, beginning on 18th February.

Please let Revd Sue know if you are interested in attending.

The world is in crisis; Creation is groaning. People and the Earth have been crying out for many years. But for too long, many people - particularly those in the global North - have chosen not to listen, instead remaining complicit in destruction and continuing to increase inequalities. In such a time as this, what have Christians got to offer?

Our doctrine of creation suggests that it was never meant to be like this, but that human nature is tarnished or fallen. The biblical narrative of salvation provides a remedy and challenges us to play our part in the process of redemption and re-creation. This is the journey that we will take together over the six sessions looking at the implications for our daily lives both as individuals and as communities of faith and hope.

We are here for such a time as this. Called to respond with words and actions. USPG partners with churches across the world in their mission of transforming lives through education, health care and justice for all. USPG's partner churches offer us insights, hope and encouragement in the ways that they are confronting the issues of ecological justice in their own context: and in doing so, challenge us to respond: are we ready to accept the challenge?

For more information, you can click on the link below.

<https://www.uspg.org.uk/engage/support5/forsuchatime/lent-course-2021/>



FAMOUS PERSON IN FEBRUARY

SAMUEL PEPYS

Samuel Pepys was born on 23 February 1633 near Fleet Street in London, the son of a tailor. He was educated at St Paul's School in London and Cambridge University. After graduating, Pepys was employed as secretary to Edward Montagu, a distant relative who was a councillor of state during the Cromwellian protectorate and later served Charles II. In 1655, Pepys married 15-year-old Elizabeth Marchant de Saint-Michel, daughter of a Huguenot exile. In 1658, he underwent a dangerous operation for the removal of a bladder stone. Every year on the anniversary of the operation, he celebrated his recovery.



Pepys began his diary on 1 January 1660. It is written in a form of shorthand, with names in longhand. It ranges from private remarks, including revelations of infidelity - to detailed observations of events in 17th century England - such as the plague of 1665, the Great Fire of London and Charles II's coronation - and some of the key figures of the era, including Sir Christopher Wren and Sir Isaac Newton. Fear of losing his eyesight prompted Pepys to stop writing the diary in 1669. He never actually went blind.

In June 1660, Pepys was appointed clerk of the acts to the navy board, a key post in one of the most important of all government departments, the royal dockyards. In 1673, he became secretary to the Admiralty and in the same year a member of parliament for a Norfolk constituency, later representing Harwich. He was responsible for some important naval reforms which helped lay the foundations for a professional naval service. He was also a member of the Royal Society, serving as its president from 1684-1686.

In 1679, Pepys was forced to resign from the Admiralty and was imprisoned on a charge of selling naval secrets to the French, but the charge was subsequently dropped. In 1685, Charles II died and was succeeded by his brother who became James II, who Pepys served as loyally as he had Charles. After the overthrow of James in 1688, Pepys's career effectively came to an end. He was again arrested in 1690, under suspicion of Jacobite sympathies, but was released.

Pepys died in Clapham on the outskirts of London on 26 May 1703.



RICHARD FLATT

**Professional Decorating and
Property Maintenance.**

**Quality workmanship Interior &
Exterior**

Insurance work undertaken

Free estimates and advice

**20 years experience and fully
insured**

Call Richard on mobile: 07748 857 733 or Landline: 01992 578 152



Let Ovenclean take care of one of the most hated household chores!

**"I'm simply delighted at how sparkly clean my oven and hob look now!
It really does look like the cooker is brand new again!"**

Martin Belcher

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------|
| ● Ovens | ● Filters | ● Hobs |
| ● Grills | ● BBQs | ● Ranges |
| ● Extractors | ● Microwaves | ● AGAs |

Call your local Ovenclean specialist Keith Spartley today on:

07984 585 653

www.ovenclean.com



MOTHERS' UNION

Introducing the Mothers' Union 5 C's Resources



Looking after our wellbeing is more important than ever. Fortunately, we are becoming increasingly aware of the value of taking care of our physical and mental health. However, with all the focus on different health and fitness practices it can be difficult to know what to prioritise. Similarly getting your head around all the different advice can be quite tricky.

Mothers' Union (MU) is building on the 5 Cs framework created and recommended by [Dr Radha Modgil](#). Using this as a basis the MU are bringing you a whole new selection of resources to look after your body and mind.

So, what are the 5 Cs?

The first of the 5 Cs is *control*. This means identifying and acknowledging what things are in your zone of control and learning how to stop thinking about those things that are not. This is easier said than done at first, but over time, with practice it is possible to limit distractions and fears.

The second of the 5 Cs is *care*. This relates to self-care such as exercise and taking daily action to look after our mental health. It is simple to start getting into good habits relating to exercise and it is ok to start slow. Even the most basic of stretching or movement routines done every day will produce benefits over time.

The third of the 5 Cs is *continuity*. This means creating a sense of routine and grounding yourself in certain activities. Just because the wider world is a lot different to how it was before the pandemic does not mean your daily life has to be. In fact, keeping to as near a normal life as possible is reassuring for your mind on a deeper level. As the saying goes, "keep calm and carry on".

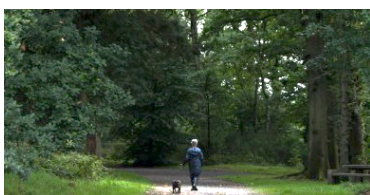
The fourth of the 5 Cs is *creativity*, which as you would expect relates to continuing with hobbies and interests, particularly those that you can get absorbed in. This could be anything really, but the idea is to carry out practices that take you away from your worries and concerns.

Finally, the last of the 5 Cs relates to *compassion*. It is a well-known Christian value to be kind to others and especially the most vulnerable. Research has shown that helping other people has benefits for your own psychological wellbeing.

How are Mothers' Union using this?

The MU are producing a range of resources under these different headings, launching with a selection of each and adding to this over time. The hope is that you will find a range of resources to support you in keeping up your spirits, staying healthy and feeling connected to wider society.

<https://www.mothersunion.org/resources-build-hope-and-confidence-2021>



Virtual Walks – In Member's Footsteps

The current restrictions on our daily life are difficult for us all. Repeated lockdowns provide challenges that we can be unsure how to deal with. Many of us have found these circumstances have led to feelings of separation from our friends, our communities and our churches.

At such a time it is important to do all we can to support the mental, physical and spiritual health of both ourselves and those around us. Mothers' Union aims to provide the means to help with looking after our own minds and bodies as well as supporting each other through the pandemic.

One thing that is not restricted is the ability to exercise. We are still free to take daily walks (if we are able to) and the benefits of doing so should not be underestimated. [According to the Arthritis Foundation](#), walking regularly can lighten your mood, strengthen your muscles, support your joints, and slow down mental decline.

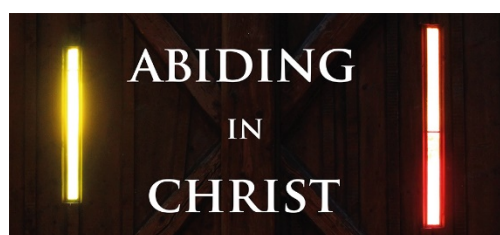
Yet not all of us can get out of the house to go on walks. People may be shielding, they may be self-isolating or they may be unable to get out regularly for another personal reason. This is why the MU are starting an initiative to bring you a series of virtual walks.

These will be a series of videos released over the next couple of months of footage from members on walks in different parts of the country. The idea is that you can watch videos of what other members see and feel on their own walks around their local areas.

As well as providing an insight into the different regions of the UK, it is hoped that watching each video will give you a five-minute break from your day. A space to relax and reflect but also a way to feel connected to the wider membership.

The aim is to put up new walks every two weeks. You can watch the first video [here](#).

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2021 took place 18 – 25 January and this year the resources were prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, “Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”, is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community’s vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

This prayer was in the Mothers’ Union Prayer Diary for 20 January 2021: *God, help us to pray for the fruits of closer Christian fellowship, loving one another as you have loved us, that we may celebrate abiding in your love by our unity with each other and a greater solidarity with the whole of creation. Amen.*

Mothers’ Union in Myanmar (previously known as Burma)

If you’ve been following the Hobnob for some time, then you’ll know that we have had a close link with Myanmar for many years. There’s an interesting article online about the history of the Mothers’ Union in Myanmar and particularly Toungoo (one of the diocese) and the challenges they face for the future – do take time to read the article: <https://www.mothersunion.org/news/mothers-union-myanmar>

Chelmsford Diocesan Mothers’ Union - Subscriptions

The 2021 subscriptions were due by 31 January; if you haven’t paid or haven’t received a reminder, please let me know and I’ll direct you to the right person.

Staying connected through Midday Prayers



Our UK members who don't have access to the internet at home will still be able to hear our midday prayers thanks to the Church of England's Daily Hope line. Just call 0800 804 8044 from a UK mobile or landline and press option 4, then option 8.

Midday Prayers continue from Monday - Saturday on the public Mothers’ Union [Facebook page](#). Thousands have viewed these already, but for those interested and not aware, feel free to watch and comment.

Di Bubb, Mothers’ Union contact

VALENTINES QUIZ

Vague links to everything Valentine

1. Who had a 1978 hit with 'Love Is In The Air'?
2. Who was the Greek goddess of love?
3. In which US city did the 1929 Saint Valentine's Day massacre take place?
4. 'My Funny Valentine' is a show tune from which Richard Rogers and Lorenz Hart musical?
5. Who, collectively, are Valentine and Proteus?
6. Which British band had a 1988 hit with a single entitled 'Valentine'?
7. Which famous explorer was killed in a fight with natives of Hawaii on 14th February 1779?
8. Which 1950s English pop singer had hits with 'Finger of Suspicion' and 'Christmas Alphabet'?
9. In the 1993 film 'Sleepless in Seattle' the main characters, Sam and Annie, finally get together on Valentine's Day – At which building do they meet?
10. Which 80s pop classic with 'love' in the title has this line "Sometimes I feel I've got to run away."
11. Complete the pair of lovers ... Elizabeth Bennett and...
12. Who abolished St Valentine's Day, among other things as being altogether too frivolous and irreligious?
13. Who was the first woman in space?
14. Like the Taj Mahal, which of the seven ancient wonders was a gift of love from a king to his queen?

This is some to try at home

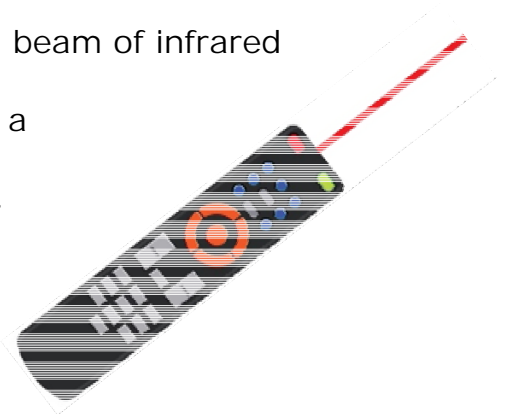
See invisible light

Many TV and other remote controls work by sending a beam of infrared light, which tells the device to do something.

Get your TV remote and look directly at the end and press a button, you should see nothing.

We cannot see infrared light, but a digital camera can.

Get a digital camera or mobile phone and turn the camera on. Repeat the exercise, but this time point the remote control at the camera lens. When you press the button on the remote and look at the camera screen, you should see a solid or blinking light on the end of the remote control.



It happened in 2020 - Answers

But no mention of viruses, leaving the EU or US elections

1. Bobby Ball
2. Luxembourg
3. Spencer Davis
4. Utah
5. Chariots of Fire
6. Flybe
7. Sir Everton Weekes
8. Charles Ingram
9. 1917
10. France
11. Fleetwood Mac
12. Marine
13. Napoli
14. Pret a Manger
15. SpaceX



COMMUNITY RECYCLING

This page is for everyone to redistribute unwanted items for no charge. Just email details of any items you wish to give away to the address below, together with your telephone number and these will be published in the next issue of the Hobnob. All items must be fit for purpose.

**To advertise here telephone 01375 674212
Or email sonia51anne@yahoo.co.uk**



The churches in this Benefice are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within the church community and especially children, young people and vulnerable adults.

*The Benefice Safeguarding Representative is Janet McCheyne who can be contacted on:
0775 283 6902 or
janetmcc101@gmail.com*

*The Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on:
01245 294444 or
safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org*



Bulphan WI

Members joined together for our monthly meeting to hear from the lovely Carole at Alphabake, who while cooking a raspberry cream tart told us how she had become involved in teaching young people, some with learning difficulties, how to cook. Carole also holds mum and toddler cookery classes and themed cookery events, many of which she has now adapted for virtual platforms.

Three brave members took up the challenge to cook along with Carole, only one minor mishap when breaking an egg resulted in one wearing some of it. Their finished bakes looked lovely, shame we didn't have smell-a-vision, we were told they tasted as good as they looked.

We're starting February's meeting a bit earlier than usual at 5pm on 10th. We will be discussing the National Federation of WIs (NFWI) Resolution selections for 2021 along with members suggestions for future meetings and if we can fit it in a bit of a social catch up with everyone.

Updates about future meetings, information, photographs, and much more can be found on Facebook at Bulphan Women's Institute and on Twitter @bulphanwi or contact us via Secretary Janet McCheyne on 07752836902 or email bulphanwi@gmail.com

Jan Curtis President

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

Happenings around the Benefice this month in the past

1771 The Ipswich Journal
Sat 23rd

New vicar

The Dean and Chapter of St Paul's London, have presented the Rev William Fitzherbert, M.A. to the rectory to the united parishes of St. Mary Magdalen, Old Fish Street, and St Gregory's and elected the Rev John Gibbons M.A. Senior Cardinal of St Paul's; both vacated by the death of the Rev Mr Pearce; and have presented the Rev William Clark, M.A to the vicarage of Horndon in Essex, vacant by the celion of the Rev. Mr Fitzherbert above mentioned.

1833 Chelmsford Chronicle
Fri 15th

New postmistress

The Postmaster General has appointed Miss Ann Jeffries postmistress of Horndon on the Hill, vacant by the death of her mother.

1843 Chelmsford Chronicle
Fri 10th

Road to North Ockendon

Among the improvements of Essex a correspondent remarks, that Bulphan and Orsett Fens, consisting of many acres of land, were, about four score years since, during the winter months, completely under water; they were the resort of wild ducks, &c. and the bane of sheep that were suffered to seek a sustenance on the most elevated parts, giving them the rot. Since, however, the opening of the Mardyke, under Stifford Bridge, to Purfleet, the whole has been very fertile pasture land; and the crowning act is about to be carried into execution in the formation of hard road across Bulphan Fen from North Ockendon, by subscription. The sum of £400 only is required to effect this object, by which the to Orsett, Horndon, Langdon Hill &c. will be shortened by nearly two miles. We trust that the necessary funds will be speedily provided by the liberality of the public.

1855 Essex Standard
Fri 28th

Fire Orsett Hall

A fire was discovered about 10 o'clock on the night of the 18th inst, in the stables at the Orsett Hall, the seat of W.W. Baker Esq, but prompt assistance being rendered, it was quickly extinguished. The overheating of a stove in the loft containing several loads of straw, is supposed to have been the cause of the occurrence.

1863 Essex Standard
Fri 25th

Marriage certificate Straight

£1 Reward to CHURCH CLERKS Required the MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE of WALTER STRAIGHT, supposed in the North of Essex between 1780-90.

Apply to: Mr John Straight, Bulphan, near Orsett

1866 Chelmsford Chronicle
Fri 23rd

Coal for the Poor

Through the kindness of R.P. Benyon Esq, M.P., Rev C.W. Parker and Mr Gotts of Wick Place, Bulphan, ten tons and a half of coal have been distributed to the poor of this parish at 4d per cwt. The coal was, by kindness of the farmers of this parish, brought free of expense.

This would have cost £3 6s 6d which equates to around £300 today

1879 Stratford Times & S Essex Gazette
Weds 26th

Agricultural Labourer Meeting HORNDON ON THE HILL

Labourers' Meeting - On Tuesday evening last, a labourers' meeting was held in The Swan Inn, when addresses were delivered by Mr D Sage (district secretary) and J.P. Killingbeck (district president), the meeting being in conjunction with the National Agricultural Labourers' Union, South Essex District. About 50 labourers were present, and the meeting kept up until the public house closed at 10 o'clock.

1907 Globe
Sat 9th

Strange dwelling

At Bulphan, in Essex, there is a strange hut, which is occupied by Mrs Richards, an old woman of 70. This hut is constructed of greenhouse frames, canvas and mud, and is 12ft square. Surrounding it, enclosing a small piece of ground is a rough fence composed of twigs and odds and ends of wire netting. Mrs Richards declares that her house is dry and healthy, but the sanitary authorities are not of her opinion, and she has therefore been called before the magistrate. She has already suffered 14 days. imprisonment for her obstinacy in ignoring the orders which she had received and now two summonses are out against her and the hut has been condemned.

1908 Grays & Tilbury Gazette
Sat 22nd

HORNDON ON THE HILL

The 13th annual pigeon shoot took place at The Swan, Horndon on the Hill, in the presence of a large gathering of spectators.

1915 Essex Newsman
Sat 27th

Letter from the front

ESSEX YEOMANRY IN THE FIGHTING

Major F.H.D.C. Whitmore of Orsett, who is with the Essex Yeomanry at the front, in a letter home describing his experience says :- The headquarters where I am now are very comfortable. I have found a bed out in the street which was blown out of the house by a shell. I have put it in my room and shall sleep on it tonight. The noise is fearful and a continual bombardment. All the windows are clean blown out and a shell has passed through the roof. I counted 50 shells fired at one wretched aeroplane today in the space of two minutes. Near us there are about 20 batteries in ac-

tion, and we have had an awful night of it. The nearest gun to us was 15 yards from our room. One cannot describe a battle like this. Guns are going off in every direction as I write, and thousands of tons of ammunition must be used every hour. The debris here is awful and indescribable. I have not had any clothes off since I came up, and shall not for another eight days.

Under date Feb 8 the Major writes :- I got here from the trenches at dark last night, having spent the days with our fellows from four o'clock the more morning before. The regiment has been extraordinary up to now. There are no casualties among the men, and we have only lost two horses. I watched a fatigue party yesterday leaving the trenches, and they were literally smothered by shell fire for about a thousand yards. One man was badly wounded and seven slightly, and our cook had his mackintosh torn from him by a shell. This morning they shelled a regiment out of their billets and set the place on fire. It only lasted about ten minutes but there was nothing left at the end. I hear there was only one man killed and ten wounded. Our evening report has come in, and I am sorry to say we have had about twelve casualties today; one killed in Southend troop, ten wounded by shrapnel, and another with a broken arm.

Records show that the Essex Yeomanry were posted to Zillebeke near Ypres in February 1915 and had their first fatality on 8th February

BIRTH, MARRIAGE & DEATH

Birth

1843 Chelmsford Chronicle
Fri 17th

At Orsett on the 8th inst the lady of Samuel Newcome Esq, of a son

1844 Essex Standard
Fri 16th

On the 11th inst, at Orsett House, the lady of George Maconachie Esq, of a son.

1851 Essex Standard
Fri 28th

Feb 15th at Bulphan Rectory, the wife of the Rev Thomas Mills, of a son

Marriages

1769 Ipswich Journal
Sat 13th

Lately married in London, Mr John Mott, of Horndon on the Hill, to Miss Sarah Pond, of Great Baddow

1849 Essex Standard
Fri 9th

Feb 3rd at Bulphan, Mr F.J. Vincent of Brighton, to Elizabeth Sarah, daughter of the late Mr Stevens, of Bulphan, in this county.

1851 Essex Standard
Fri 21st

Feb 11th at Orsett, by the Rev James Bloomfield, Rector, Mr John Belcham, grocer, of Rayleigh, to Jane, youngest daughter of Mr Thomas Ashford, of Orsett, in this county.

Deaths

1822 Bury & Norwich Post
Weds 20th

Lately, aged 101, Mrs Fetton, of Horndon, Essex.

1833 Chelmsford Chronicle
Fri 15th

6th inst aged 56, Mrs Ann Jeffries (postmistress), relict of Mr John Jeffries of Horndon on the Hill, Auctioneer.

1879 Chelmsford Chronicle
Fri 14th

2nd inst at Horndon on the Hill, Wm Dale 11 months

1880 Chelmsford Chronicle
Fri 20th

3rd Bulphan, Ruth Newland, 75
14th Orsett, Mary de la Rue, 97
16th Orsett, James Skingsley, labourer, 63

1907 Chelmsford Chronicle
Fri 22nd

Captain T.C.D. Whitmore, J.P. of Orsett Hall and 38 Wilton Place S.W.1, died on Saturday, after few days' illness from pneumonia, at his London residence, aged 68

1937 Chelmsford Chronicle
Fri 19th

Formerly a well-known farmer and licensee Mr Clement Wright (71) of Rectory Road, Little Thurrock, died suddenly on Saturday. Mr Wright who was born in Orsett, held the licence of The Swan Inn,

Horndon on the Hill, for over 40 years and for 20 years also farmed at Gore Ox Farm. The Rev F. Richardson conducted the funeral at Horndon on Wednesday, which was attended by many farmers. Mrs Wright died in 1923. Three daughters survive

SITUATIONS VACANT

1843 Chelmsford Chronicle
Fri 10th

In a Gentleman's Service

A Good and Experienced COOK, not under 35 years of age. Testimonials required. Wages Liberal Apply, Post office, Horndon; if by letter, address A.B. Post office, Horndon on the Hill

1887 Essex Newsman
Mon 14th

TO DRAPERS AND POSTAL CLERKS

Wanted in country village trade, a Young LADY, about 26, who understands drapery and ready makes, thorough business habits and good stock keeper, with knowledge of S.N. and Postal duties; member of dissenting church and abstainer; a comfortable permanent home - Ray Tyrell, Horndon on the Hill, Essex

1901 Barking, E Ham & Ilford Adv
Sat 9th

Cowman wanted, good milker, good character, early riser, 18s weekly, cottage near - Apply: A Watt, Wyfields, Horndon on the Hill

TO LET

1856 Essex Herald
Tues 12th

HORNDON ON THE HILL, ESSEX To LET by order of the Lessor, a very desirable BUTCHER'S SHOP, with excellent residence and other convenient outbuildings, gardens &c., situate in the centre of the High Street, well adapted for a butcher or other trade. Rent under £20 per annum. Immediate possession can be given if required. Application to Mr Jeffries, Auctioneer, Grays



The Different Types of Cups Available (Recycled, Disposable, Compostable)

think



When making teas and coffees at church, we need to ask the question, what kind of cup has the least impact not only on the environment – but also on taste and hospitality towards guests and visitors?

We could save the planet but scare the people. As a result, much creativity and compassion are needed as we make this most important of decisions – which cup should we use?

do



Kendra Juskus of online magazine Flourish analysed the great tradition of the post-service drink and asked what kind of cup should contain it.

Not for her the 'dubious environmental beginnings and endings' of polystyrene foam and paper cups. 'Cupping a reusable mug unburdens landfills and the ecosystems that suffer from their waste,' Kendra explained. She also believes that creating the habit of reusing what we have distances us from the 'narrow throw-away mentality' that pervades society and steers us toward what is 'more lasting and nourishing'. Why not try a conventional cup that can be washed up and rinsed each week, with low environmental impact? Certainly, china cups can be reused, but a further consideration might be to ask where and how the china is sourced. Is it from sustainable origins? Find out, then put the kettle on and enjoy!

REUSABLE MUGS IN CHURCH

www.flourishonline.org/2009/12/cultivatingcommunity-reusable-mugs-in-church



Carry out an audit of your coffee cups

What if your church doesn't have its own kitchen facilities? It may not be possible to wash china cups. In that case, a 100 per cent biodegradable cup may be an alternative. Such items are supplied by companies like Berkshire-based Kingdom Coffee. Managing Director Darren Rayner said their 'envirocup' is made of plant extracts, so it breaks down when placed in the ground. Other companies may well offer similar products. It is worth shopping around.

www.kingdomcoffee.co.uk/disposablescleaning/disposable-paper-cups

Beware of the indestructibles

Styrofoam cups are the worst culprits, as they never degrade, warns The Recycler's Handbook. Americans throw away 25,000,000,000 styrofoam cups every year. Even 500 years from now, the foam coffee cup you used this morning will be sitting in a landfill somewhere.

www.wisebread.com/the-coffee-cuprevolution-lets-take-a-stand *Review the reusables*

The desire to drink coffee has led to more than 2.5 billion cups being thrown away every year in the UK, says The Guardian. People assume these cups are recyclable, but the recyclable bit is trapped under a film of plastic that stops the paper getting soggy. It's also difficult to remove. Most go straight to landfill. The Guardian has gathered the facts and reviewed some of the different reusable cups available. Here are the top three:

1 JOCO cup – an unusual glass vessel with a silicone sleeve and lid. An Australian company has taken a vintage idea (remember those smoked glass coffee cups your mum and dad used to keep in the sideboard?) and brought it up-to-date with an environmental kick. www.jococups.com

2 KeepCup – a colourful plastic cup with a moveable clip instead of clamps over the sip hole. Yet another Australian company took an established idea – the traditional plastic beaker – and made it trendy for eco-coffee lovers. www.keepcup.com

3 Starbucks reusable cup – surprisingly for those who may not warm to the corporate coffee world, the article recommended this coffee giant's environmentally-friendly option. The Starbucks cup is light, cheap and is good for 30 uses. It actually looks and feels quite good.

www.starbucks.com/responsibility/globalreport/environmental-stewardship/reusablecups

FIVE OF THE BEST REUSABLE COFFEE CUPS

www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/jul/04/five-of-the-best-reusable-coffeecups

Where does your china come from?

It is worth remembering that the source for the permanent cup is just as important. If your church's china cup has travelled 4,000 miles in a container ship after being supplied from a mine on a former nature reserve, it may actually possess a considerable energy factor.

Remember your coffee sends out a signal!

Leading expert in carbon footprinting Mike Berners Lee is director of Small World Consulting, which focuses on climate change. They develop and communicate multi-disciplinary understanding of the essential issues and help organisations of every size and type understand what they can do. Mike offered some simple guidance to Eco Church on the subject of coffee cups:

- avoid disposable cups. Think about signalling your support in a world where we get maximum use out of products by using cups and mugs from secondhand shops. Of course, charity shops are ideal;
- if any church feels they have to buy new, then encourage high quality purchases that are made to last;
- in itself the choice of mugs looks trivial, but it gives an opportunity to send a big signal. Churches are doing some great thought and action on the environment and there are plenty of opportunities to send signals about what eco-living could be like.

OLD AGE AND LOCKDOWN

Reflections

Recently I picked up a magazine ('Magnet') that I had kept for some time. Flicking through, I found an interesting article together with this anonymous prayer:

*Our Father, as years advance and I cannot do the things I once did,
Help me to change the focus, as I would with a camera,
From sweeping panoramas to the beauty of things seen close.
Help me to enjoy the flowers on the windowsill, as I once loved a garden;
The birds at a feeder, as the birds I used to see on country roads;
The play on TV, when theatre was once a joy;
The cup of tea with a friend, instead of a party;
My small, cosy room instead of my old house.
Help me to realise that enjoyment lies not in things,
But in my attitude to them.
Grant me I pray the ability to find uncommon joy in common things. Amen*



The article was about Anna Chaplaincy – chaplaincy specifically to support people in their old age, developed over 10 years ago. Why Anna? It's a simple name to say and spell, and means "grace". It comes from the story of Simeon and Anna in chapter 2 of Luke's gospel. It's a potent story of faithful older people quietly and expectantly waiting for the fulfilment of God's promise – and of their own transformation during that waiting.

The article goes on to say that there will be double the number of people over the age of 85 in 20 years' time. Longevity needs to be accompanied by quality of life. Anna Chaplains become skilled navigators, guiding people through the choppy waters of growing older in the 21st century. As the Bishop of Exeter, Robert Atwell put it at a General Synod debate calling for the Church of England to extend Anna Chaplaincy more widely, when families are scattered, loneliness gnaws at the soul. Anna Chaplains help people to cultivate a different perspective in their later years, one that transcends difficulty, disability and loss, and the anonymous prayer expresses this idea deceptively simply.

Reflecting on this anonymous prayer, which was written some time ago, I was struck by the similarity between old age and the situation I find myself in during this Coronavirus pandemic with the lockdowns and how pertinent it is, not just to me, but many others around the world.

For further information about Anna Chaplains please visit: www.annachaplaincy.org.uk/

Di Bubb

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF BULPHAN



War memorial before the second world war



Flooded Fen Lane, photographed from "Fen View"



Arial view from 1990

Each month we will publish a few photographs from this extensive collection