



EASTER 2014

Holy Trinity Church, South Woodham Ferrers is looking for people who would like to take part in this incredible event. We need people of all ages to be involved in prayer and worship, administration and technical roles, as well as people who would like to act (no experience necessary). We will use your gifts and talents to share God's love with the community. A meeting is being held on **18th September, 8 pm at Holy Trinity Church.** (Further information 325234.)

PRAYER AND ITS USES

A series of Wednesday evening talks and led discussions given by **The Revd Geoff Griggs** in St Andrew's Sandon. To be held on 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd August from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm.

CHELMER CROUCH GROUP PRAYER DIARY

- Aug 12th** - For the Parish of Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre during their time of interregnum and for those who bear extra responsibilities.
- Aug 26th** - For the teachers and other staff in our schools as they prepare for the new school year.
- Sept 9th** - For all in our parishes involved in working with young people. May the Holy Spirit inspire and support them in their various activities.
- Sept 23rd** - For the representatives of the Chelmer Crouch Group of Parishes as they meet at South Woodham Ferrers to consider the Bishop's 'Transforming Presence'.
- Oct 7th** - For all in our parishes who visit the sick, the elderly and the housebound that they truly be agents of God's love.
- Oct 21st** - For the missionary work and links supported by the parishes in the Group. May we be generous in our giving and in our prayers.

FORTHCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- Sept 2nd** - Parish and Village BBQ at St Andrew's, Sandon, 12.30 pm.
- Sept 8th** - Friends of Essex Churches Trust Sponsored 'Ride & Stride', 10 am – 6 pm.
- Sept 16th** - Visit of Bishop Marsabit from Kenya to St Andrew's, Boreham, 6.30 pm..
- Sept 18th** - Meeting at South Woodham Ferrers re 'One Life, One Passion', 8 pm.
- Sept 23rd** - Confirmation at St Andrew's, Boreham, 3 pm.
- Sept 29th** - St Andrew's Sandon Harvest Supper.
- Sept 30th** - Harvest Service at St Andrew's, Sandon, 10 am.
- Nov 3rd** - Day of Creative Prayer in The Pelly Room, Boreham, between 8 am and 8 pm.

*Please send items for inclusion in CCGN to Brian Gilders
2 Green Meadows, Danbury, CM3 4LD. (01245 224524)*



Issue Forty-five, August 2012

Chelmer – Crouch Group News

For the Churches of St Andrew, Bicknacre; St Andrew, Boreham; St John the Baptist, Danbury; All Saints, East Hanningfield; St Mary the Virgin, Little Baddow; St Andrew, Sandon; Holy Trinity, South Woodham Ferrers and St Mary, Woodham Ferrers.

CHAIR OF CHELMER CROUCH GROUP

Following the retirement of Canon Graham Blyth, the CCG clergy have asked Revd Lee Batson to act as Chair of the Group for the next three years. Lee will have responsibility for bringing the clergy together, and chairing meetings of the Council which meets three times a year and includes representatives from all the member Churches.

TRANSFORMING PRESENCE

As many of you will know, the Bishop of Chelmsford has launched a new strategy for the Diocese entitled Transforming Presence. It encourages us to think about how we live distinctively as Christians, how we might evangelise effectively, how we might be accountable to each other and what kind of ministry is required to lead the Church forward in mission. Individual Churches are also being encouraged to work ever more closely with each other and become less parochial in our outlook. The Chelmer Crouch Group has, of course, a long history of working collaboratively. It seemed right, therefore, to come together to consider our response to Transforming Presence so that we can discern what might be better done together and how we can support each other more effectively in our witness to the people of our communities. As a result, eight delegates from each CCG Church will be gathering at South Woodham Ferrers on Saturday, 6th October under the guidance of Canon Dr Graham Hamborg. The next edition of the Newsletter will contain a report on the day. In the meantime, please keep the event in your prayers, asking that God will truly show us how we can bring about the Gospel transformation across the Chelmer Crouch Group.

VISIT FROM THE BISHOP OF MARSABIT

On Sunday, 16th September, Boreham will be welcoming Bishop Rob Martin from the Diocese of Marsabit in Kenya. Rob's area is the same size as England and includes mainly nomadic peoples living in extremely harsh conditions. Do please come along to Boreham Church at 6.30 pm to worship with Rob and hear more about his work.

BRADWELL PILGRIMAGE 2012

It was a good day for the pilgrimage and remained sunny most of the time with no rain, which was good as the previous day had been grim. We were led by Bishop John but missed Bishop Stephen this year as it coincided with the National Synod. Bishop Christopher was also there and we were well led in our singing at the church, by the Salvation Army.

The theme for this year was Peace and Reconciliation and Henry Olonga our guest, and well known cricketer, did not disappoint, with his talk to us about his life and how he came to faith. The talk also reminded us that many Christians still suffer persecution for their faith, how lucky we are.

We were given an unexpected treat when Henry burst into song and what a beautiful voice he had. He sung to us twice during the day, the song I most enjoyed was 'Swing low sweet chariot.'

There were some interesting speakers to listen to during the afternoon. Nigel Watt, Volunteer Action for Peace, Fr. Rob Wickham, Rector of Hackney on 'The Churches Response to the London Riots in 2011,' and the one I personally went to 'Peace and Reconciliation in Israel-Palestine by Revd. Mones Farah, Vicar of Meadgate, Great Baddow.

As always it was an enjoyable and stimulating experience being a part of a great gathering of Christians. Do not underestimate the Bradwell Pilgrimage experience, over the recent years that I have been going I have found it a great way to involve people on the fringe of the church looking in, and seeing how they have developed from the experience. It should have the recommendation to 'bring a friend.'

Christine Horton.

Friends of Essex Churches Trust 'RIDE AND STRIDE'

This is taking place on **Saturday, 8th September between 10.00 am and 6.00 pm**. It is an opportunity to visit many wonderful and interesting churches and chapels of all Christian denominations.

The Friends of Essex Churches Trust needs funds in order to give grants for renovation and restoration of our ancient and perhaps not so ancient church buildings. A number of us in the Chelmer Crouch Group of parishes have been very grateful for such grants towards expensive repairs.

You can take part in a number of ways:-

- Take a pleasant **ride** around a town or the countryside on your bicycle, visiting churches and chapels on your way.
- Have a walk (or **stride**) around town calling at various places of worship, which may not be very far apart.
- Get friends and neighbours to sponsor you for your efforts. (I expect sponsor forms will be available in your local church.)
- Be generous in your sponsorship of those riding and striding
- Set aside time on the day to be stewards welcoming visitors to your church and signing their forms.

If you are riding or striding Directories covering the churches and chapels in the whole Diocese should be available so that you can plan your route.

Such a day can be very enjoyable and rewarding. You have time to clean up your bicycle and oil it, or to polish up your walking shoes/boots. Let's all try to do something towards the success of the event.

CHELMER CROUCH GROUP PRAYERS

The clergy of the Chelmer Crouch Group meet every Thursday morning at 8.30 to pray together in one of the parish churches. It would be lovely to be joined by other people. We gather for 20(ish) minutes, and you can find details of the venue in your own pew sheet.

Revd Lee Batson.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Boreham Church will be hosting a Confirmation Service at 3 pm on Sunday, 23rd September. Please speak to your Parish Priest if you are interested in being Confirmed on that occasion.

DAY OF CREATIVE PRAYER - Saturday, 3rd November

St Andrew's Church, Boreham are organising this day in The Pelly Room (behind the church) from 8 am to 8 pm. It will be an opportunity to encounter God in a fresh way through a variety of creative and interactive activities. Come when you like; stay as long as you wish. (Info from Rachel Gardiner 461148.)

EVENTS AT SANDON

Sunday, 2nd September - Parish & Village BBQ at 12.30 pm. There is an invitation to all from CCG Parishes. Each Church will be contacted.

Saturday, 29th September - Annual Harvest Supper followed by our joint **Harvest Service** in St Andrew's on the 30th at 10.00 am.