

EASTER AT ST ANDREW'S, SANDON (31st March and 1st April)

After the Morning Service the church will be open for the day and on Easter Monday from 2 pm until 4 pm for visitors to see the Easter Flowers
Refreshments will be available.

A BELATED HAPPY NEW EAR!!

No it's not a typo! I really hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Ear - in that we should all listen to God, to what we are being called to do (simple but not easy).

One Life One Passion - is a Passion Play taking place in South Woodham Ferrers at Easter 2014, but the planning starts now! We need you to include us in your prayers and conversations and listen and reflect on how you can support this - through admin support, fundraising, stewarding and more. If you want to know what One Life One Passion is about or want to relive the moments from 2009, look at the link www.facebook.com/onelifeonepassion.co.uk or contact Paul Hardy on 01245 325234. If you have a diary with 2014 in it - mark the date now!

CHELMER CROUCH GROUP PRAYER DIARY

- Feb 10th** For Revd Clive Ashley as he begins his ministry in Danbury and for his wife Lesley. May the Holy Spirit strengthen and guide them in this new work.
- Feb 24th** For the parish of Sandon during their time of vacancy and for those who bear extra responsibilities during it.
- Mar 10th** For Revd Carol Ball and Revd Michelle Marshall in their care of the parishes of South Woodham Ferrers and Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre.
- Mar 24th** For all who will be arranging and taking part in the services and other activities over the Easter Season. May they be witnesses of your great love.
- Apr 7th** For all mothers, giving thanks for the love they have for their families. May your Holy Spirit guide and strengthen them in bringing up their children.
- Apr 21st** For all who work in the caring professions - doctors, nurses, therapists, health visitors, psychiatrists and carers. May they be agents of God's love.

FORTHCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- Feb 13th Ash Wednesday - beginning of Lent.
- Mar 24th Palm Sunday.
- Mar 25th Holy Week begins.
- Mar 28th Maundy Thursday
- Mar 29th Good Friday.
- Mar 31st Easter Day.
- May 9th Ascension Day - Group Service.
- May 11th Little Baddow Open Gardens - 11 am – 5 pm.
- June 8th Chelmer Crouch Group Quiet Day at Bradwell.

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



Issue Forty-seven, February 2013

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.

WELCOME

It is good to be able to welcome Revd Michelle Marshall as a member of the clergy team, as she takes on her role as Assistant Priest with particular responsibility for Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre. It is also good to celebrate with Danbury as they welcome Revd Clive Ashley as their new parish priest. Clive has, of course, been part of the group for three years where he has been working in Little Baddow and Sandon. Whilst Little Baddow will continue to enjoy his ministry, do please pray for Sandon as they enter a time of vacancy.

Revd Lee Batson (Chair of the Chelmer Crouch Group)

A VISIT WITH A DIFFERENCE

Many people go on trips to the Holy Land, but mine, last October, was a little different. I went with a party of Readers from the Diocese of London and Rochester and we went with a Leader from 'Embrace the Middle East,' formerly Biblelands. We visited a number of projects supported by this organisation and we heard speakers from all angles of the situation out there.

You might like to read the book 'The Land of Christ,' written by the Reverend Yohanna Katanacho, who was a Palestinian Christian converted from being an atheist. This book covers issues like "Who is Israel? How did God give Israel the Holy Land? What are the borders of Israel? Who is Jewish and who has the right to inherit?" He has a fascinating story to tell.

We met Emad the local Anglican priest in Nazareth, who has a challenging task as regards mission, living mostly among Jews and

Muslims. Then there was Claire Anastas who lived in the West Bank with a shop a few metres from the wall that has been erected by the Jews, and we were fortunate enough to meet the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem Diocese and the Lutheran Bishop of the same. What was clear is that Christians out there are doing a very important job of trying to bring about reconciliation between Jews and Arabs, to convert extremists into moderates and stem the mentality of hatred between Jews and Arabs. The worrying thing is that the number of Christians there is in decline, not surprising, given the troubles. It is now less than 1% of the population.

Alongside all of this was the opportunity to sight see and the tranquillity of sailing on the Sea of Galilee was a far cry from all the difficulties. In a short article it is not possible to mention all the interesting things that I witnessed but if anyone is interested I can come and talk about them. I would also recommend going to the day being run by Stephen Need on these issues, on 12th February, at the Pleshey House of Retreat. Meanwhile do pray for these people and keep hoping for better times.

Christine Horton

LITTLE BADDOW CHURCH ROOF

May's bright sunshine seems a long way off at the moment but this year's Little Baddow Open Gardens will be more important than ever to help pay for the replacement of the North face of the church roof. Over the past ten years this event has raised nearly £100,000 which has gone to a fund to pay for repairs to the fabric of St. Mary's church.

At the moment the church is covered in scaffolding with a corrugated iron roof to keep out the worst of the weather: we can see the stars through the rafters. New boarding and insulation will soon be fitted but there is a delay caused not by death watch beetle, rotting timber, bees or bats but by a split in the North wall. This split runs along the wall for some 10 metres and at worst is 150 mm (6") wide. As usual the builder said "I've never seen anything like that before". Work has just started to stabilise this damage and ensure the building stays sound for generations to come.

The original cost of the roof repairs was estimated at £120,000 and we await the additional costs of the wall repair. Without the funds raised from Open Gardens over the years our Fabric Fund would not be so healthy but we still need a top up. Please pray for good weather and a successful event on May 11th 2013 and if anyone wishes to make a donation to the Fabric Fund please contact one of the churchwardens.

Whilst the roof is off and the internal scaffolding is in place our services are being held in St. Andrew's, North Hill.

Thank goodness for Open Gardens!

Malcolm Breeze

HOLY WEEK IN BOREHAM

This year we will be welcoming Bro Reginald as our guest preacher throughout Holy Week. Bro Reginald is a member of the Society of St Francis, an Anglican Religious Order that attempts to follow Jesus after the example of St Francis of Assisi. There will be a whole programme of services, including Compline at 8pm on Monday – Wednesday, during which Bro Reginald will be reflecting on living distinctively as a Christian. If your commitments to your own church allow, it would be lovely to see other members of the Chelmer Crouch Group of parishes at any of these services.

L.B.

CHELMER CROUCH GROUP ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

We will be joining together as a group of parishes to celebrate the feast of the Ascension on Thursday, 9th May at 7.30 pm. It will take the form of a 'High Mass' to enable people to experience this particular tradition of worship. The venue will be announced in the next edition of the CCG News. We will also be holding an additional joint service on Thursday, 12th September which will be in a more informal, charismatic tradition.

L.B.

CHELMER CROUCH QUIET DAY

This will be held on Saturday, 8th June at Bradwell-on-Sea. The day will be led by the Bishop of Bradwell. Further details will be available after Easter.

LITTLE BADDOW OPEN GARDENS

This year Open Gardens will be held on Saturday, 11th May from 11 am to 5 pm. This time the funds raised will be shared between St Mary's Fabric Fund and Little Havens Hospice. This will be a wonderful day out and, as well as the gardens, will include various other entertainment (Classic Cars, Morris Men, live music and an Arts Display).

Malcolm Breeze