

LITTLE BADDOW OPEN GARDENS - SATURDAY, 10th MAY

We will be celebrating 25 years of Open Gardens and will welcome your support to help us to replenish our funds after spending around £130,000 on repairing the north side of St Mary's roof. Make a note of the date in your diaries.

HOW OUR COMPUTERS CAN CATCH US OUT!

I was reading an article in Parish Magazine and couldn't help spotting and laughing about a spelling error that had occurred. It probably happened in the same way as it has to me - when the computer thinks it knows your words better than you do and without telling you changes them. The sentence read 'We know that there are many reasons why we come to church; we come to worship God, to belong to the wider community, to explore faith, to find a scared space.'

CHELMER CROUCH GROUP PRAYER DIARY

- Feb 9th** - For the elderly, lonely and housebound of our parishes who find the weather and the long dark evening difficult. May we find time to offer companionship.
- Feb 23rd** - For those who will be involved in the planning and leading of Lent Courses in our parishes. May God's Holy Spirit give them inspiration.
- Mar 9th** - We give thanks for the promise of new life in the coming of Spring. May we all experience a renewal of our spiritual life as we journey through Lent.
- Mar 23rd** - 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 13th** - For all who will be arranging and taking part in the services and other activities over the Easter Season. May they be witnesses to God's great love.
- Apr 27th** - For all who work in the caring professions - doctors, nurses, therapists, health visitors, psychiatrists and carers. May they be agents of God's love.

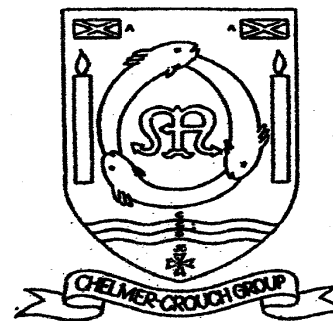
FORTHCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- Mar 2nd - 9th - Schools Art Exhibition at St Andrew's, Boreham.
- Mar 4th - Shrove Tuesday.
- Mar 5th - Ash Wednesday.
- Mar 8th - Lent Lunch at Sandon.
- Mar 8th - The Journey at St Andrew's, Hatfield Peverel at 7 pm.
- Mar 10th - Lent Courses begin this week.
- Mar 22nd - Lent Lunch at Sandon.
- Apr 5th - Lent Lunch at Sandon.
- Apr 13th - Palm Sunday.
- Apr 17th - Maundy Thursday.
- Apr 18th - Good Friday.
- Apr 18th & 19th - ONE LIFE ONE PASSION at South Woodham Ferrers, 11 am.
- Apr 20th - Easter Day.
- Apr 20th & 21st - Easter Teas at St Andrew's, Sandon, 2.00 - 4.30 pm.
- May 10th - Little Baddow Open Gardens
- June 7th - Quiet Day at Orthona.

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

Issue Fifty-one, February 2014

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.



ONE LIFE - ONE PASSION SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

On Good Friday 18th and Saturday 19th April the streets of South Woodham Ferrers will resemble the streets of Jerusalem 2000 years ago.

One Life One Passion was performed in 2009 to an audience of approximately 800 people. It told the Easter Story in a modern-day setting with a cast in both traditional and modern costumes. The performance was set in the middle of the town centre with the audience following the cast from stage to stage. In amongst the Good Friday shoppers Jesus told them the true meaning of Easter, as they watched the story unfold.

Following on from the success of 2009, One Life One Passion will take place on Good Friday 18th and Saturday 19th April, beginning in Trinity Square at 11 am. In addition, on Saturday 19th the performance will be signed by interpreters for the deaf community.

Come along and watch a 2000 year old story. This is a story to be lived and all of us have a part to play in this unique opportunity to share the good news of God's abundant love. Join us in making known the reality of God's generous love.

For more information go to www.onelifeonepassion.co.uk

LET US CELEBRATE THE CENTENARY OF THE DIOCESE OF CHELMSFORD

2014 has been declared by the wider Church as a **Year of Mission**. Bishop Stephen has asked that all parishes in the Chelmsford Diocese should celebrate the Centenary by holding one or more Mission / Outreach Events.

Co-ordinated planning is taking place among the parishes in the Chelmer Crouch Group. Outlines for each parish are listed below to enable you to make a note of the dates in your diaries:-

Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre are organising a Summer fete/event with local input for the weekend 20/21/22 June.

Little Baddow are planning an Arts and Youth festival for the weekend of 27/28/29 June.

East Hanningfield are carrying out a consultation exercise in the parish. This will be concluded in February. There will be a Bible study course during Lent.

Apart from the Passion Play at Easter, **South Woodham Ferrers** are supporting the local British Legion's commemoration of World War 1 with a Flower Festival in September and a civic service of remembrance on 18th October bringing together the Churches, older people and the schools.

Sandon have formed a committee organising monthly events – Lent lunches March/April, teas at Easter, Jumble sale in May, walk June, fete July, concert, barbecue 31st August, Quiz October and Autumn Fair in November. A fun day linking brownies, scouts etc is planned and thought is being given to helping the bereaved. The family service is growing and there have been a number of baptisms and weddings.

Boreham is working with the local schools and is holding an art exhibition in March from 2nd to 9th. Every child has been asked to paint a picture of heaven. The church will be open on the first weekend in July for a 'connecting with the community weekend' providing teas/coffees and targeting specific groups such as brownies/scouts etc, men, couples who married in the church and there will be a pet service on the Sunday.

Danbury is planning an Alpha Course to start in September.

A group of Kenyans are visiting the Diocese from 24th June to 13th July and they will be available to attend all the Chelmer Crouch events taking place during that time.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Friday, 7th March (International and Interdenominational)

Women's World Day enables us to hear the voices of women from all parts of the world; their hopes, concerns and prayers. The theme of this year's service is 'Streams in the Desert' and we are asked to reflect on our Christian role of being a 'stream in the desert' for those who experience spiritual 'drought'. The worship has been prepared by women in Egypt.

One of the oldest civilisations in the world, Egypt has long been the home to Coptic Christians. Since the uprising in 2011 there has been conflict between religious groupings. Political change affects individual lives and we pray with the women of Egypt for peace.

Local services that I know of are being held at:-
South Woodham Ferrers – Evangelical Church, Hullbridge Road at 2 pm.
Danbury - St John the Baptist at 10 am. (There may be others.)

All are welcome to attend, men and women and people of all ages.

THE JOURNEY - ST ANDREW'S, HATFIELD PEVEREL

This is a reflection on the life of Jesus with readings and songs performed by 'Meditation', a Christian music group from Essex. A good way to begin Lent! It takes place on Saturday, 8th March at 7 pm.

QUIET DAY AT BRADWELL ON SEA - SATURDAY, 7th JUNE

We shall have our Quiet Day for the Chelmer-Crouch Group of churches, which so many people have appreciated and benefitted from over the last two years, on the date shown above.

The day provides some time to jump off the roundabout of life and have a quiet time with God, food and friendship. It will be held at the Othona Centre as before, and offers the chance for walking along the beach and meditation in the serenity of the area around St. Peter's Chapel.

More details will follow but meanwhile please book this date in your diary. Cost will be in the region of £15 for the day including a cooked lunch, coffee, tea etc. Lifts can be arranged. For any further information contact Christine Horton (01245 466534).

COME AND EAT AT SANDON

We have three **Lent Lunches** on 8th and 22nd March and on 5th April from 12 noon to 2 pm. **Easter Teas** will be served on Sunday, 20th and Monday, 21st April from 2.00 pm until 4.30 pm. Visitors can see the Easter Flowers.