

Sunday 27th March
3rd Sunday of Lent

08.00 Holy Communion [S]
10.00 Family Service of Morning
Worship [S]
10.00 Parish Eucharist [LB]
18.30 Evensong [LB]

Monday 28th

09.0 Morning Prayer
[St Andrew's Chapel, Little Baddow]

Wednesday 30th

09.15 Holy Communion [S]

Thursday 31st

10.0 House Communion
[Joyce's Corner, Spring Elms Lane]

Sunday 3rd April

4th Sunday of Lent

Mothering Sunday

08.00 Holy Communion [LB]
10.00 Jubilate Eucharist [S]
10.00 Morning Prayer [LB]

**For news and details of all children
and youth groups, activities and
leaders in the Churches, please refer
to the latest Parish Magazines**

**Little Baddow Parishioners are
invited to
THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL
CHURCH MEETING
of St Mary's Church, Little
Baddow at 11.30am following the
10am Eucharist
Sunday 27th March**

**Little Baddow
Open Gardens Day
14th May**

We do need lots of volunteers for various tasks on the day both small and large. If you are splitting any of your garden plants this spring will you please put some aside for us to sell. Contact Malcolm Breeze on 225089 if you can help in any way



**OLD SPECTACLES
WANTED**

**There will be a Charity Collection
box in St Mary's, during Lent**

**2011 LENT STUDY
GROUPS**

'Growing the Church'

*Lessons from the Acts of the Apostles
and the contemporary Church*

Tuesday 7.30pm

URC Chapel Vestry, Little Baddow

Wednesday 7.30pm

St Andrew's Room, Sandon

Thursday 11.00am

*Held in the House Communion homes
in Little Baddow*

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

The Revd Clive A. Ashley

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VESTRY HOUR

Following Monday Morning Celtic Prayer at St Andrew's Chapel (to which anyone may come) **I will be in the Vestry at St Mary's on Monday's between 10am and 11am** for anyone in either of the parishes who wishes to enquire about Baptisms, Weddings etc or to make a future appointment to discuss other matters more privately, there may be the odd week when I am granted leave to be on holiday!



**The Parish Churches of
St Mary the Virgin,
Little Baddow**

and

St. Andrew, Sandon

*part of the Chelmer Crouch
Group Ministry*

3rd Sunday of Lent

27th March 2011

Welcome

Our aim at St Mary's and St Andrew's is to so sense Christ's rule in our hearts and minds that we make decisions and craft policies that may help us all to walk together in the Way that leads to the Kingdom of God

If you normally receive Holy Communion you are welcome to receive Communion (the Sacraments of bread and wine) here too.

If you do not normally receive Communion you are very welcome to come forward to receive a blessing (please carry a service book with you) you will never be alone.

If you are physically unable to come to the Altar rail the Priest will always bring the Sacrament to you.

Gluten Free Wafers If you need gluten free bread, please inform a

Church Warden at the door before the service begins.

Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

Psalms 95

- ¹ O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- ³ For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
- ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
- ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
- ⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD,
our Maker!
- ⁷ For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
O that today you would listen to his voice!
- ⁸ Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,

as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
9 when your ancestors tested me,
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

10 For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they do not regard my ways.'
11 Therefore in my anger I swore,
'They shall not enter my rest.'

Gospel

John 4.5-42

5 So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.
6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'.⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.'¹¹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?'¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?'¹³ Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'¹⁵ The woman

said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'
16 Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.'¹⁷ The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.'
Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband";¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!'¹⁹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet.'
20 'Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you^{*} say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.'²¹ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.'²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.'²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.'²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.'²⁵ The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.'²⁶ Jesus said to her, 'I am he,^{*} the one who is speaking to you.'
27 Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?'²⁸ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah,^{*} can he?'³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.'³² But he

said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.'³³ So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?'³⁴ Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.'³⁵ Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.'³⁶ The reaper is already receiving^{*} wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.'³⁷ For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps."³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'
39 Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.'⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word.⁴² They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

Post Communion prayer

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord

THE persecution of Christians worldwide has worsened dramatically in the past few years,

a new report (*Persecuted and Forgotten?*, from Aid to the Church in Need), by a Roman Catholic aid agency suggests that Christians are facing increased suffering in 22 countries around the world, and that Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon, Pakistan, and Nigeria are some of the worst countries in which to be a Christian today.

The rise of militant Islam poses a particular threat to Christians, the report suggests. It also highlights a rise in nationalism in India, Sri Lanka, and Burma, and the intimidation of Christian groups in communist states such as Venezuela.

A spokesman for Aid to the Church in Need, John Pontifex, said: "Extremists increasingly link local Christians in their countries to the West. As they are in most cases unable to attack Western countries direct, many extremists turn their fire on local Christians." Three years ago, the charity was concerned that Christianity in the Middle East was sliding into obscurity; now, it fears that it is in danger of being extinguished altogether. In Israel and Palestine, the report says, "survival of a Christian presence worth the name is under threat even in the short-to-medium term," and in Iran it is "ebbing away into obscurity".

Violent attacks on Christians at places of worship are increasing. In Alexandria, in Egypt, in January, 20 people were killed and 70 injured when a car bomb targeted a Coptic church ([News, 7 January](#)). Iraq has seen an exodus of Christians. At the time of the last census, in 1987, there were 1.4 million Christians in the country. By 2003, that figure had fallen to about 800,000. Now, leading Roman Catholics in the country believe, the figure could be as low as 150,000.

In 22 out of 34 countries that the charity has under review, persecution has worsened in the past two years.

Please pray.