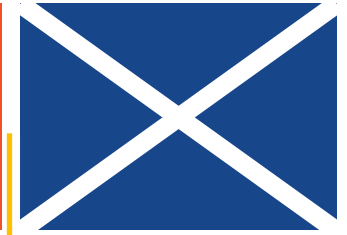
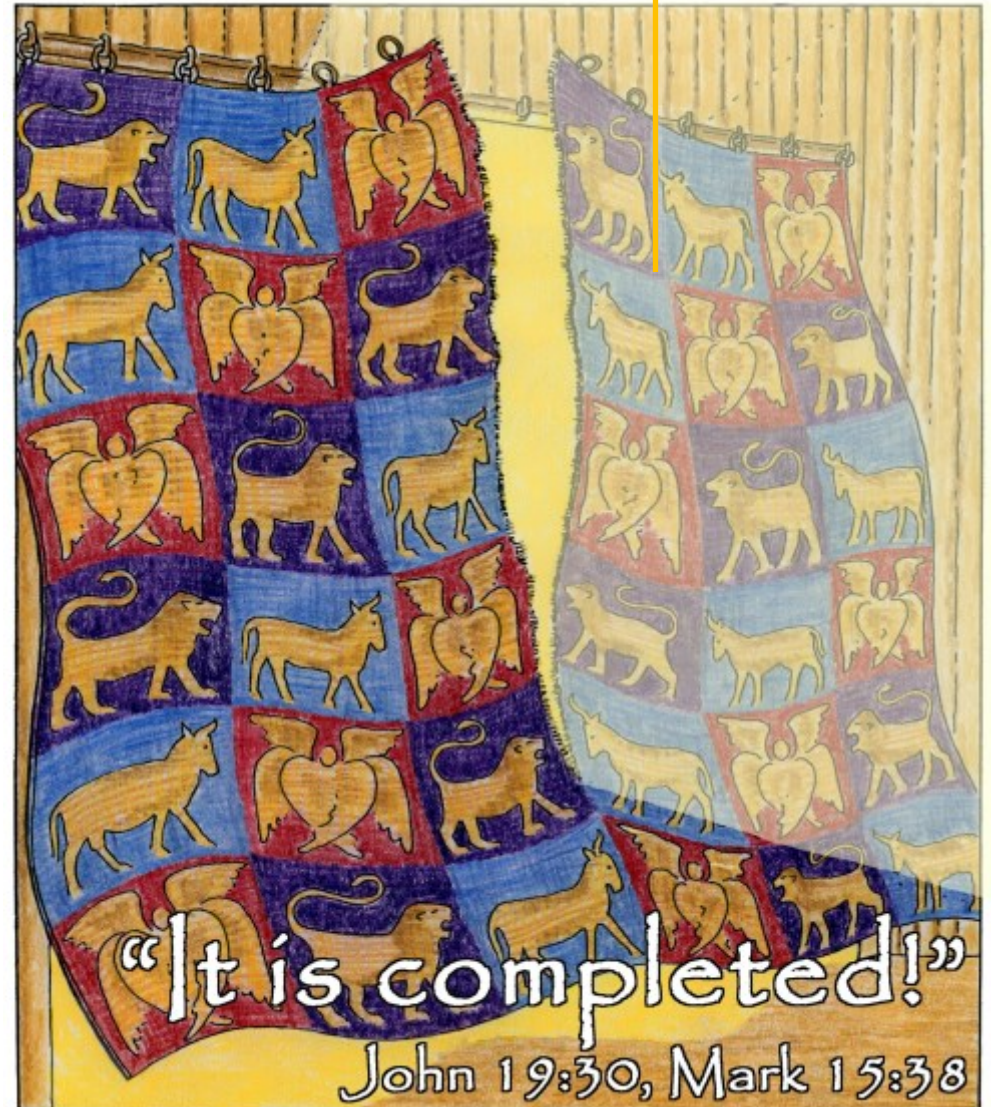


Sandon Voice



Quarterly from St Andrew's 50p for non residents

March 2022



Farming Today

At the time of writing the main interest on this farm is, of course, lambing. The flock of ewes have all been scanned during their pregnancy showing the numbers of either single, twins, triplets or quads to expect. The ideal is twins which the ewe can well carry and then feed. Triplets can be split and the odd one given to a ewe that has only produced a single lamb. If none of this can be arranged, the lambs are fed on milk produced from a milk powder and fed ad lib. The total result from the scanning shows that the ewes are going to produce 205% lambs. It is now the 6th February, and the first lamb has arrived.

All the ewes are housed in buildings for the benefit of the ewes and ease of management, but will be turned out to grass with their lambs just as soon as conditions allow. The grass has already received a dressing of fertiliser so that as the lambs grow and get a bigger appetite the grass will be there. At this time of year plans are laid so that the right quantity and quality of



grass can be conserved for next winter's feeding, either as hay or mainly haylage. As a rule of thumb, the younger the grass when cut the higher the quality. If left to grow, the quality drops dramatically and food supplements have to be fed to make up any deficiency. On the land fertiliser has already been applied to oilseed rape, so that it can grow away while there is still plenty of moisture in the ground. It has a short growing season and will be cropped in the early summer. Plans are also being made for the harvest of 2023, and orders for the seed have already been made. For this year's harvest two students have been taken on. They are both at the moment studying at Harper Adams agricultural college. One is from a bulb farm in Cornwall and the other from Kenya. Hare coursing is presenting a problem at the moment. Cars are being stolen, used in the fields, and when finished usually burnt out in the middle of the field and the wreck left for us to remove. Never a dull moment.

Gillian and Bernard

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Rector's Letter

I saw my first daffodils in bloom yesterday (9th Feb). They were on the grass verge and the sight was a lovely reminder that Spring is just around the corner. I am also aware that this means Lent is also getting closer. This year it starts on 2nd March (Ash Wednesday).

What are you 'giving up' for Lent? This is a frequently asked question at this time of year. My answer is usually "nothing". However the true reason for fasting is to come closer to God in prayer. In the Bible, fasting is usually linked with prayer and always as a spiritual discipline. Getting closer to God is not something I want to give up, at Lent or any other time of the year.

The word Lent in English originally meant spring, but came to mean the period of preparation before Easter. At one time that was for people preparing for baptism (the traditional time of year for it). It then spread to the rest of the church spending the time in penitence. Lent, as we know it, lasts from Ash Wednesday until the day before Easter Sunday. Sundays don't count and so the season is 40 days of fasting or other discipline, plus Sundays which are the day

on which we celebrate the Resurrection.

For us Lent is like a spiritual spring clean in order for us to be more able to spread the love of God, as Jesus has asked us to. If Jesus needed to pray and fast to prepare for ministry, then how much more will we who don't have the advantage of being God?

Churches often run Lent groups. This year we are running a course on Wednesday evenings on Zoom. The course is called Journey to the Empty Tomb and is based on the book by Paula Gooder. If you would like to join us then go to our church website and click on lent Course on Wednesdays 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March and 6th April at 7pm.

But Lent is so much more than a season in which to be gloomy and mournful, and the clue to this comes in the very word itself. Lent derives from the Old English word *Lencten* the meaning of which is 'Spring Season'. We think of spring as a season of hope and of new life. Already we are beginning to see spring flowers, we can hear the glorious sound of birdsong (not quite the full-blown spring chorus yet, but that will come soon). The overriding message of Lent is that given in

the words of Christ which we will hear on the first Sunday of Lent: 'The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God has come near, repent and believe in the Good News.' (Mark 1:15).

I remember in 2004 going to the cinema in Basildon with church friends to see Mel Gibson's film, *The Passion of Christ*. It was reported in the newspapers as one of the most touching, powerful, heartfelt, shocking, inspiring, and riveting films ever made. There is no doubt that crucifixion was most cruel and ghastly. The age was extremely cruel. Codes of conduct as we know them, when treating aliens and prisoners did not exist – as is still often the case today. For the Roman army of occupation, inflicting maximum degrading violence asserted racial superiority. Similar cruel behaviour would also be the usual way of the Jewish Temple police. Jesus' teaching on forgiveness was outside accepted thinking and behaviour. However, as more people watched the film, reviewers started pointing to the serious need of a different warning.

The film concentrates on the final hours of Jesus' life. It is about Good Friday, and really concludes with his death. With 126 minutes

concentrating on the events of the Passion, and only 2 minutes alluding to the Resurrection, viewers may have left the cinema in shock without having grasped the joyful and essential news of Easter. Without the powerful events of Easter morning, then Good Friday is just a tale of dreadful violence.

As we approach Holy Week and Easter I want to put the film in context. Truly, the violence of Good Friday was real, was unspeakable. But it is quite overshadowed by the Good News that Jesus overcame it all. He lives again and is invincible. More so than all the pain and cruelty that the world has ever known and will ever know.

I hope that you will join us at St. Andrews for our Holy week services and on Easter Day. You will find all our Holy Week and Easter services elsewhere in this magazine. Come and join us, whether the service is in Church or in the churchyard. You will be made very welcome. Wishing you all a very Happy Easter

Terry

Easter is a time for Hope. Whilst we still have to live with uncertainty, there is hope for a brighter time to come

Pigs and Pork Pie Ingredients

As a small boy, prior to World War 2, I used to enjoy visits to an Uncle's farm near Thaxted. Every morning I would rise good and early to follow the stockmen around the farm - never short of questions - as the animals were given their breakfast. The never-ending flow of questions must have tested the patience of the pigman who, replying to my question as he mixed the semi-liquid pig-swill, said in his broad bucolic brogue, that it was called 'yewjar-kerpivvi'; a word which I suspect he made up to shut me up, but I've never forgotten it. The pigman had great respect for his pigs and several times repeated to me that; "Dogs looks up to you and cats looks down on you – but pigs, pigs is equal". I'm told that pigs and humans are biologically very similar so there might be some truth in the pig man's observations.

I've also heard it said that the only part of the pig, for which there is no practical use, is the squeal; which brings me to the point of this rambling tale - vegetarians, vegans and anyone with a weak stomach may wish to stop reading any further.

In the mid nineteen –fifties, the Crouch Yacht Club in Burnham, of which I was a cadet member - attracted several "salty" WW2 veterans, with absorbing tales to

by Bernard White

tell. One such member was retired Commander Jack Binny RN who had been invalidated out of the Royal Navy after losing most of his eyesight, through beri-beri-disease, while a prisoner-of-war (POW) under the Japanese. As if having been torpedoed on two occasions was not enough, Jack had the misfortune to have been ashore in Singapore in readiness to take command of a flotilla of motor torpedo boats, which had been due to arrive a short time after Singapore fell to the Japanese. Of course the flotilla never arrived and Jack suffered the ignominy of becoming a POW of the Japanese, while on dry land.

It is well known that disease and starvation as well as unspeakable brutality by the guards were common in the Japanese POW camps. The British Red Cross sent consignments of food, many of which never reached the POW's because they were routinely hi-jacked by the undernourished Japanese guards. However, a whole pig carcass, preserved in brine, didn't appeal to the Japanese and was gratefully received by the prisoners. As the senior British officer (SBO), it was Jack's responsibility to decide how best the meat should be divided and served to ensure that his fellow

The Easter Journey Wednesday 13th April 2pm to 4pm

This year we are holding a special afternoon in the churchyard at St. Andrews church.

We will start at the church gate and prepare for our entry into Palm Sunday with crafts. We will have 6 places to visit during the afternoon where there will be a story teller followed by a craft activity.

We would love you to attend this event with your children during their School holiday.

We do need you to register in order to help us with practical things like how many hot cross

POWs all received an equitable share. His decision was that the meat should be cut up and made into a soup so that every allied POW would benefit from the Red Cross's gift. As SBO, and honourably British, Jack decreed that he would be the last to be served.

Jack's description of his serving of pork floating in the watery soup, gave credence to the popular belief that with the pig as a food source, nothing is wasted. His description? "A wrinkled piece of leather with a hole in the middle".

Food for thought.

buns we need, how much craft material we need.

It is easy to register; just go to the church website (sandon-church.info) and click on the email link to send us an email.

We do look forward to seeing you on the day so that you can join us on the journey of Holy week.

Please note that children should be accompanied by an adult. The activities are aimed at primary-aged children, but if you have smaller children/babies that you need to bring with you, they are very welcome!
Terry

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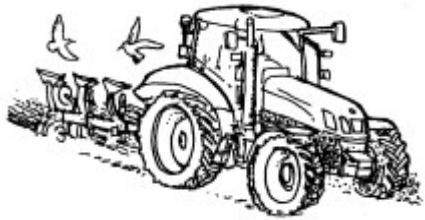
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Sunday 15th May 10 am Rogation Sunday

Church Parade at 'the Barn at Cherries Farm' courtesy of Richard Speakman.

Come and see the sheep in their pens. Ideal for children.

Directions: you will find the barn off the Main Road (A414) by Hulls Lane. BRING A FOLD UP CHAIR if you wish, hay bales will also be available.

There are refreshments after the service with homemade cake.



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday 2nd March 3pm
Ashing and Communion in Church



Sid Bolan Big Band

Saturday 2nd October.
Now

Saturday 30th April 5pm.

This time the band will be playing in the

Barn at Cherries Farm

courtesy of Richard and Sally Speakman.

Please remember to bring a fold up chair to sit on.

Directions: you will find the barn off the Main Road (A414) by Hulls Lane.

Tickets cost £10 which includes a glass of wine and nibbles
Previous unreturned tickets will be honoured

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Platinum Jubilee

The Nation will come together over a four-day Bank Holiday weekend to celebrate The Queen's 70 year reign. In Sandon we are in the early stages of putting together some events for the 2nd to 5th June. We are trying to bring the village together and suggestions have been made to what we can do. So

far we can say there will be a flower display in church showing the seven decades of the Queen's reign. It is hoped to put this with work from Sandon School depicting events since 1952. It is also hoped to have a service of thanksgiving on the Green together with other events. Do you have an idea? Would you help with one of the events perhaps something for children or a party. For the weekend to be a success we need the village to come together both to organise and celebrate. If you have an idea or would like to help please could you email tgabrown@hotmail.com by 12th March in order for us to keep you in the loop.

Terry Brown

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Bell Restoration Appeal

Following our final practice evening on Tuesday 4th January 2022, work got underway to take out the bells. Hatches in the tower ceilings were uncovered and opened, lifting beams pulled up through the tower and installed in the belfry roof, the vestry window frame was removed and scaffold ramps and platforms built to get the bells out of the tower and onto the back path. With preparation work complete, the bell fittings (wheels, pulley boxes, stays,



Temporary lifting beams are overhead with a bell wheel in front

sliders, runner boards and clappers) were dismantled and finally the bells lifted out of the



The 6 bell is lifted out of the way so part of the frame could be moved clear of the hatch

frame and carefully lowered down through the tower. The first bell out of the tower (coincidentally also the last one to be added in 1952) was the treble.



The treble bell, number one is eased out of the vestry window

The remainder of the bells followed in numerical order, with bells 1-5 being stored in the nave of the church. An open invitation for the community to visit and see the bells on Tuesday was a great success. There was lots of interest and we were delighted with the number of visitors who dropped in to see and talk about the bells.



The second follows down through the organ loft



On parade on the Church path

On Wednesday morning the bells were moved out of the church, with the third and fifth going to Soundweld in Newmarket for welding repairs and all the rest travelling to the bellhanger at Bridport in Dorset. This short piece doesn't do justice to the contribution and generosity of time and enthusiasm from so many involved in so many ways, with getting the bells out and helping get them on their way. Whether it be in wielding a spanner, making the tea, transporting the bells or whatever you did, thank you!

At the time of writing, the third and fifth have been 'ground out' (a term that very much understates the massive holes created!) in readiness for welding at Soundweld and all the bell parts are undergoing restoration or replacement at the Bridport works. Frame restoration will take place 21-24th March, tightening the frame bolts and cleaning and painting the ironwork. All being well, re-hanging will start on 4th

April and the bells will be ready to ring for Easter Sunday. We had some good news in January about our outstanding grant application from last year and I'm delighted to gratefully acknowledge the offer of a grant from the Barron Bell Trust. This takes our grant funding to a total of £12,400.

This restoration work will give us one of the best peal of bells in Essex, and I'm looking for young ringers who want to learn to ring them and be part of a new youth group. Ten years old and upwards is a good age to start but it's only a guide. If you know anyone who might be interested, or just want to know more about what's involved, please get in touch. If they are keen and start lessons after Easter, there's every possibility they could be ringing for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June!

Mike Worboys

01245 224612

mike.r.worboys@gmail.com



Ready to depart!

L to R: Guy, Keith, George, Stuart, Brian, Ian, Gordon, Keith and Mike.
Thank you all

Food Heroes in South Sudan

As we approach World Food Day we honour our Food Heroes in South Sudan, who have developed their farming skills through our UK Aid Match programme.

Abuk is new to farming. After just one year, she stands surrounded by the impressive array of vegetables she has grown in her garden, in Aweil North County, Northern Bahr El Ghazel State, South Sudan.

She now grows tomatoes, ground nut and sorghum, using the produce to help support her family.

Abuk explains that farming is hard, and she has challenges with pests and lack of irrigation. But her plot is already making a real difference. Previously she needed to buy her vegetables from the local market, but this meant she needed an income, and she did not always have the money.

“I no longer go to the market to buy groceries. If I need to cook, I can just go to the farm and pull up what I want from the farm, come back and cook. This is the first help.”

Abuk



Abuk Buoi Akek, 35, waters her vegetable garden

Abuk, who is supported by Christian Aid's partner SPEDP, is also teaching her how to save. She is now a member of the village savings and loan association.

The money she has raised from selling her vegetables she can invest in the village saving scheme. She has started a small groundnut paste selling business. She sells the paste in the market and then saves the proceeds with her association. She explains that whilst working on the farm, she is also saving at the same time. She is also able to borrow money from the savings group to invest in her farm.

The PCC received a very gracious letter from Christian Aid thanking us for a contribution of £648 to their Christmas Appeal.

Thank you all

Cover Picture

Perhaps this picture represents the curtain of the temple torn, by God himself on Good Friday, demonstrating the end of mankind's separation from God by virtue of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Since Jesus was without blemish, without sin, his death could and can be sufficient payment for the sins of humanity. Now it is possible for us to communicate directly with God, with the penalty of our sins paid as a result of Jesus' death and resurrection, and begin to know him as our Saviour when we see the light as the curtain is opened.

But what of the artwork on the curtain? It appears to show a lion, a calf and an eagle. These are 3 of the 4 mystical creatures who appear at the beginning of John's vision in the book of Revelation Chapter 4, verse 7, which records that, surrounding Christ's throne in heaven, were beings that resembled a man, a lion, a calf, and an eagle, worshipping God. John's 'living creatures' were in turn a reference to the four cherubim holding aloft the throne of God in the vision of the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel Chapter 1, verses 4-28. So, the symbolic curtain is decorated with creatures which have been seen

close to God in visions. The fourth creature is man himself, not represented on the curtain, but rather kept apart from God by the other creatures and the curtain, until the death, and resurrection of Jesus.

In the second century, Irenaeus associated the writers of the four gospels with these same creatures, and Jerome in the late fourth century, wrote more about that. Matthew is represented by the Man; Mark by the Lion; Luke by the Calf and John by the Eagle.

Much more to this picture than you might think!

Judy Cecil

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Welcome to Tomorrow! Follow up

Jack Whinney rang, having said that he had just read the December edition of the Sandon Voice. He commented on the article entitled 'Welcome to Tomorrow.' Several people had commented on that article, saying that they had enjoyed it, but Jack then described it as depressing.

I asked him why. He said it was setting out that so much of what he had come to live with and depend on was being swept away.

I referred him to a piece of scripture often read at weddings. The classic passage about love finishes like this, 'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.' (1 Corinthians 13:13). So, we discussed how maybe it is our approach to these things with faith in God, with hope and in love that is the enduring quality which will surpass the other qualities and will remain with us and enable us to live on in the ever-changing world. I went on to draw his attention to St Paul's saying in his letter to the Galatians: 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.' (Galatians 5:22-23)

Following that, Jack suggested that it would be worth making these points in a follow up article and has since come back to say, "I have shared the original article with my children and read it several times. I have come to realise that some of the forecasts do not need to be taken too literally and am encouraged by Richard's reminding me about the qualities of life of which St Paul reminds us. Also, that my children are relaxed about the forecast and suggest that they can be taken with a pinch of salt, and they will be able to live with them."

So here is our combined piece!

Jack and Richard

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Howe Green URC

We are well in to the 'new year' and I think learning to live with the coronavirus. We very much enjoyed joining in the various services and other community things at Christmas. We now look forward to some more usual events for the Spring.

On 26th February (probably before you get this magazine) we are having a Fairtrade Tea Afternoon at the Chapel. We will be thinking of those farmers and other workers who have been so badly affected by the pandemic and climate change. Hopefully, we can

remind ourselves that paying a few pence extra for some things can be a life-giving opportunity to many of those people. On 26th March from 10.30 am we plan to have a 'Spring Coffee Morning' and who knows what we will be talking about then? But it will be a chance to have conversations with friends and neighbours, as well as coffee and cake! So do join us if you can.

We also continue with our monthly services, and at 3.00 pm on 20th March and 15th May our minister Rev Paul Stein will lead our fellowship. The third Sunday in April is of course Easter Day, so we will then be joining with Christ Church, Chelmsford at 10.30 am to share the celebrations of that day.

Pam Knott

Sandon WI met on a cold and windy afternoon, 9th December for our Christmas party.

On each table (set out for four – well spaced out because of social distancing) were crackers. These were pulled with much enthusiasm, and many paper hats were donned.

We started the afternoon with a Beetle Drive, well organised by Sue and followed by the tea break with mince-pies and cream.

After tea the game of Pass the Parcel organised by Julie followed and then the raffle, which was won by Eileen.

Before each member left for home, they could take a 'Secret Santa' gift from among those they had brought to the meeting.

With many good wishes for Christmas, the Meeting ended.

Monica Richardson

Church Services

St. Andrew's, Sandon

Services currently planned online via Zoom are shown in italics.

Others which will not be in the Church are shown in bold.

March

Tuesday 1st	9:30 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 2nd	Ash Wednesday	
	3:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Thursday 3rd	8:30 am	<i>Compass Group Morning Prayer</i>
Sunday 6th	First Sunday of Lent	
	10:00 am	Sung Eucharist
Tuesday 8th	9:30 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 9th	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Thursday 10th	8:30 am	<i>Compass Group Morning Prayer</i>
Sunday 13th	Second Sunday of Lent	
	8:00 am	Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Family Service
Tuesday 15th	9:30 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 16th	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Thursday 17th	8:30 am	<i>Compass Group Morning Prayer</i>
Sunday 20th	Third Sunday of Lent	
	10:00 am	Sung Eucharist
	3:00 pm	Fellowship Service with Rev Paul Stein at Howe Green URC
Tuesday 22nd	9:30 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 23rd	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Thursday 24th	8:30 am	<i>Compass Group Morning Prayer</i>
Saturday 26th	10:30 am	Spring Coffee Morning at Howe Green
Sunday 27th	Fourth Sunday of Lent	
	10:00 am	Mothering Sunday service in Churchyard
Tuesday 29th	9:30 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 30th	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Thursday 31st	8:30 am	<i>Compass Group Morning Prayer</i>
April		
Sunday 3rd	Fifth Sunday of Lent	
	10:00 am	Sung Eucharist
Tuesday 5th	9:30 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 6th	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Thursday 7th	8:30 am	<i>Compass Group Morning Prayer</i>
Sunday 10th	Palm Sunday	
	8:00 am	Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Palm Sunday Service in Churchyard
Monday 11th	9:30 am	Stations of the Cross
Tuesday 12th	9:30 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 13th	9:30 am	Stations of the Cross
	2:00 pm	Journey to Easter in Churchyard
	8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
Thursday 14th	Maundy Thursday	

11:00 am	Chrism Service in Cathedral
7:30 pm	Agape Meal with Communion then watch until 23:00

Friday 15th

Good Friday

9:30 am	Stations of the Cross for Good Friday
11:00 am	United Service in Chelmsford City
2:00 pm	Last hour at the Cross

Sunday 17th

Easter Sunday

6:00 am	Easter Day Sunrise Service in Churchyard
10:00 am	Easter Day Sung Eucharist
10:30 am	Howe Green Chapel join with Christ Church Chelmsford

Tuesday 19th

9:30 am	Holy Communion
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Wednesday 20th

8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
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Thursday 21st

8:30 am	<i>Compass Group Morning Prayer</i>
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Sunday 24th

Second Sunday of Easter

10:00 am	<i>Morning Worship on Zoom</i>
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Tuesday 26th

9:30 am	Holy Communion
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Wednesday 27th

8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
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Thursday 28th

8:30 am	<i>CG Morning Prayer</i>
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May

Sunday 1st

Third Sunday of Easter

10:00 am	Sung Eucharist
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Tuesday 3rd

9:30 am	Holy Communion
---------	----------------

Wednesday 4th

8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
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Thursday 5th

8:30 am	<i>CG Morning Prayer</i>
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Sunday 8th

Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:00 am	Holy Communion
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Tuesday 10th

10:00 am	Rogation Service at Cherry Farm
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Wednesday 11th

9:30 am	Holy Communion
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Thursday 12th

8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
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Sunday 15th

8:30 am	<i>Compass Group Morning Prayer</i>
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Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00 am	Sung Eucharist
3:00 pm	Fellowship Service with Rev Paul Stein at Howe Green URC

Tuesday 17th

9:30 am	Holy Communion
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Wednesday 18th

8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
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Thursday 19th

8:30 am	<i>Compass Group Morning Prayer</i>
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Sunday 22nd

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:00 am	<i>Morning Worship on Zoom</i>
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Tuesday 24th

9:30 am	Holy Communion
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Wednesday 25th

8:30 pm	<i>Night Prayer</i>
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Thursday 26th

8:30 am	<i>Compass Group Morning Prayer</i>
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Sunday 29th

Seventh Sunday of Easter

10:00 am	Sung Eucharist
9:30 am	Holy Communion Wednesday

Tuesday 31st

Private Prayer

The Church is now open for private prayer in the day time

Saint Andrew's Parish Church Contacts

Rector	Revd. Terry Brown* tgabrown@hotmail.com 01245 698988	
Church Warden	Richard Cecil**	224747
PCC Secretary	Judy Cecil**	224747
PCC Treasurer	Nick Bobeldijk ⁺	471756
Safeguarding Officer	Alison Read*	474858
Electoral Roll	Liz Bobeldijk	471756
Bell Restoration/Ringing	Mike Worboys	224612
Tiny Tots	Alison Read*	474858
Flower Arranging	Lesley Worboys	224612
Magazine Editor	Richard Cecil**	224747
Parochial Church Council Members	as * above and Liz Bobeldijk, Colin Bryan ⁺ , David Farrar ⁺ , John Gruby, Andy Horne, Christine Mennie ⁺ , and Janet Terry ⁺	

Licensed to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion

As ⁺ above and Valerie Grimwood and Gill Hodge

Regular Events see pages 22-23 for full details of worship.

Sundays	8:00 am	Holy Communion in Church
	10:00 am	Morning Worship/Communion (Zoom on 4 th Sunday)
Tuesdays	9:30 am	Holy Communion
	7:30 pm	Ringing Practice
Wednesday (Zoom)	8:30 pm	Night Prayer
Thursday (Zoom)	8:30 am	Compass Group Morning Prayer

The login details for all the above Zoom services can be found on the website (sandon-church.info) just prior to the meeting.

St Andrew's, Sandon

www.sandon-church.info

Editor Richard Cecil
Advertising Manager Claire Jefferies
Editorial Team Valerie Grimwood
Distribution Manager Alison Read

Please provide copy for June's magazine to the editor by 10th May 2022
magazine@sandon-church.info



We commended into God's care at the funerals of:

Peter David Willsher
25th November 2021
Anthony James Phillips
7th December 2021

We welcomed into the Church of God at their Baptism:
Hallie Charlotte Jennifer Miller
13th November 2021
Leo Richard Leeman
30th January 2022

A Londoner Drinks

Sparked by various mutual, musical connections resulting in a long-term friendship, we have kept in touch with Brian Hunt who many years ago, you may remember, was Organist and Choirmaster at St. Andrew's during his tenure as Head of Music at Sandon School. Ever the ardent Yorkshireman, he retired long ago, to his native county.

As a tailpiece to his annual Christmas newsletter, he sent this snippet of Yorkshire humour. *A Yorkshire farmer saw a man drinking from his stream. He shouted, "Eh up mi lad, tha dun't want ter be drinkin' that, it's full o' slurry from me cattle shed". The man said, "I'm from London, can you speak slower?" To which the farmer responded, "If you use both hands you won't spill any".*

Anyway, it tickled my rather juvenile sense of humour.

Bernard White

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Dad is, because mum says so. She just helps by reminding him what to do each day.
2. Mum. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.



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What did your mum need to know about your dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She needed to check out his bank account, to make sure he could buy her clothes.

Why did your mum marry your dad?

1. She got too old to do anything else with him.
2. My grandma says that no one will ever know.



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When I Visit Sandon Church

You never quite know what to expect when you arrive at a new Church. The satellite navigation line draws to an abrupt end, and from the road it is not always obvious where the church actually is, but on this occasion, there was no doubt in my mind, the brick tower set against the blue winter skyline, and distinctive porch, complete with dark crosses set in old Tudor brick.

As I walked through the Cemetery, the frost gently crunched under foot, the Chancel & Nave flint work stretched out before me. This was Sandon's Church, with its medieval village green and the Crown pub out front.

In front of the porch sat two large bells resting on wooden boards; it caught me off guard I must admit. It is a fairly rare occurrence finding bell maintenance and renovations in progress.

My initial reason for being here: Yew Trees. As a volunteer, I register these placid old trees. I guess a lot of people overlook them, being part of the landscape really. I see them as silent witnesses to our long and varied history. I carry out a simple survey on each new Yew Tree I find and then I forward the results to 'Ancient-Yew.Org'. They only

register the Common English Yew and not the Irish Yew which, I believe, Sandon Church has out in front. I guess it stems from their relatively young age in England. It is a shame, as I have come across some fine specimens.

To my understanding it is the only organisation which holds such data. Once I have run the fabric tape measure around the tree's waistline, I have the measurement, a few pictures on my phone, and for orientation purposes, I simply locate the church tower. I then pace from the tree to the Church and my job is done.

It is not unusual for folk to approach you thinking you are there in a tree-cutting capacity. It is often received with a smile when I explain my purpose. Since visiting Sandon, my adventure has taken me to Churches in Danbury and Maldon and many more beside. Danbury was a most pleasant experience, as I entered through the west door, the organist played a Christmas piece, ending with 'My favourite things' from the Sound of Music. Then there was Maldon with its 14th century Sedilia stone carved arches and seats, such detail; further into the church, I entered the Chapel of Sir Robert D'Arcy, built in the year 1443, and right on cue the Sun shone

through the Washington Memorial Window. A gentleman outside told me all about Maldon and All Saints, his enthusiasm was infectious. "George Washington's Great Great Grandfather rests here", he said, pointing at the ground, but where was not exactly known. I guess for me it's more than researching the past, it's the people you meet: with passion they share their own experiences and knowledge,



Monthly Soup & Sandwich Lunch

at St Andrews Church, Sandon
We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month

Future dates are 1st March,
5th April and 3rd May

Join us for lunch once a month,
for companionship & fellowship
(and food of course!!)

We would love to see you.—No
charge, donations welcome
Time: 12:00pm - 1:30pm
Contact: Christine Mennie for
more details on 01245 281305

which brings me full circle back to Sandon. On returning home that evening, I was intrigued by the Tudor-built Porch and Tower, you can clearly see Cardinal Wolsey's input in the buildings very fabric. In my mind I could envisage the architect Giralamo de Trevisa, and his foremen, standing over plans on site, vats of lime mortar in the foreground. Possibly Wolsey himself arriving by carriage, surveying his own manor from the finished tower, I must say it's fun to speculate such things.

Thanks Paul Butterworth

The logo for Salon 19 features a large, stylized pair of gold scissors on the left. To the right, the number '19' is written in a large, bold, gold font, with a pair of scissors cutting through the '1'. Below this, the words 'SALON 19' are written in a smaller, gold, sans-serif font.

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19 Church Street, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex. CM2 7HX

A Reason to Walk the Saffron Trail

We have a friend, Joseph, who died last year of covid. He lived in Chittoor in India and left a widow, Metilda, and 2 sons, Chris and Bliss. Metilda is struggling to finance the 2 boys to the end of their education. So Judy and Richard have been walking the Saffron Trail and asking a few folk to contribute to this cause. Chris attends University of Karunya Institute of Technology & Science in Combiatore, Tamil Nadu. He is studying for a BTech (Electronics and Communications Engineering) and is in his 6th term of 8. Bliss also attends Karunya and has 2 terms to finish his college course.

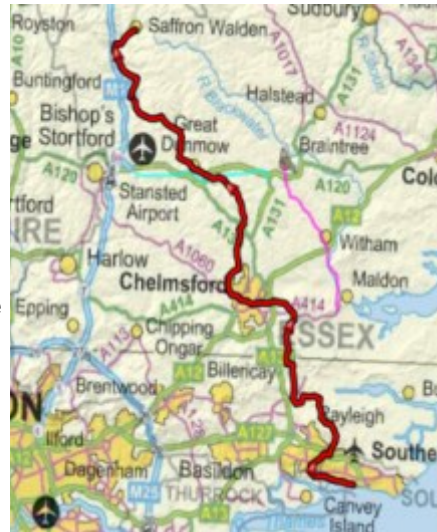
We have put together a poem as a record of our walk.

Richard and Judy have been walking the Saffron Trail.
Starting from Southend pier we begin to tell our tale.
The pier was so noisy we were pleased to get going
Up to Westcliff, and the Cliff Lift not knowing
it goes nowhere now – no more to-ing and fro-ing.

We saw a museum in a phone box, then pressed on to Leigh,
Then up through Hadleigh Park and a view of the Thames and Canvey.
The Olympic bike course was rugged and steep.
On we went into residential Southend, taking a peep
into gardens and windows as we walked,
eating the fish and chips we had bought
Realising the car was parked further away than we first thought!



Chris, Joseph and Bliss as we said goodbye in February 2019 at Katpadi Junction station



The Route of the Saffron Trail

We passed through Hockley woods, bird song, and very muddy feet
then by the River Crouch through Hullbridge and Battlesbridge,
good place to stop for tea and scones for a treat.
Danbury through the woods next, places we had not been before
And on beside the Chelmer and the Can, open fields and more,
Moving into Chelmsford, under and over bridges galore.

Arthur joined us through Central Park and Admiral's Park,
Rustled leaves, stepped in puddles, saw dogs and heard them bark.
Then on behind Broomfield hospital and the Linden Centre.
We slipped and we slithered, what an adventure.

Great Waltham, past the church and back to the fields and the mud
On to Howe Street, the Green Man for a drink and some food.
The Compasses at Little Green provided coffee and a chat.
Next came Leez Priory, place for weddings and parties, and things like that.

At Felsted, Richard remembered his time at school,
We had coffee at the old butcher's shop, sat on a stool
the drink warmed us up, the weather was cool.

To Little then Great Dunmow, and Little Easton for toast
Old Abbey at Tilty, church at Chickney but no ghost.

Henham, home of thatched roofs,
then Widdington and Waldegraves Farm
So many attractive villages
All with such charm.

So we pass through Newport nestling in the dip,
on to Norton End and Wendens Ambo, nearly the end of our trip
Then Audley End estate, we come down through the park
On to the High Street at Saffron Walden and look for the mark
That ends the trail. A photo to show we made it all the way
then some lunch to celebrate the end of a lovely day.

So Southend to Saffron Walden we walked the whole path,
Not in one go but far enough today to deserve a bath.



Deserving a bath!

Could YOU be a *Bloodrunner*?

The **Essex Voluntary Blood Service** – or *Essex Bloodrunners* for short, is a charity providing medical courier services to the NHS and our local Air Ambulances. We are one of 30 such organisations in the UK. From the NHS Blood Bank at Basildon, our unpaid volunteers deliver blood and blood products to A&E Hospitals in Essex and East London; deliver samples for analysis to a NHS Lab in North London, and via Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, supply blood to the Air Ambulances at Earls Colne and North Weald every night. Amongst many other tasks we also courier breast milk from donors to the Hearts Milk Bank and Addenbrooke's Hospital. We operate every weekday night, and day and night shifts at weekends and Bank Holidays. Our enhanced support to Hospitals during the Covid-19 pandemic has also introduced a weekday daytime shift. We now need more members. You choose in advance the days and shifts you work. We are looking for reliable and responsible men and women from all backgrounds, employed or retired, with a motorcycle, car or van, a mobile phone and internet access. You will receive training, documentation, full support and a



hi-viz uniform jacket. You will work alone on a delivery run with a typical round-trip distance from home of between 60 and possibly over 120 miles, and be the face of Essex Bloodrunners to the public and NHS staff. The work is not glamorous; can be tiring; you may work unsocial hours in all weathers and you will add thousands of miles to your vehicle. You are unpaid and cover all your own expenses... *so not much going for it really!* However, rather like being a First Aider or Blood Donor, this is one of the very few ways that an ordinary member of the public can help **save a life**. Most of you reading this piece will think "*sounds good, but not for me*", which we quite understand, but just one of you may wish to enquire further. If so, see our website at: **EssexVoluntaryBloodService.com** And thank you for your kind attention.

St Andrew's First Frosty Fayre



It seems so long ago now, but we still feel truly blessed to have been able to hold our annual fundraiser, the Christmas Fayre Dec 2021, after having missed the previous year's for the same reason that so many missed out on so much.

After months of meetings (and much last minute planning!) our first Frosty Fayre got underway in the churchyard, and for some the church too, providing the perfect haven from the elements! The incredible Santa's Grotto is certainly worthy of a mention at this point: very well attended and one of the warmest spots of the fayre so I'm told!

Despite huge concerns about the weather, whilst it was rather a damp and somewhat chilly day, it didn't dampen the spirits too much. It was wonderful to see so many people join us from near and far, for what was our most successful fundraiser for the year.

Raising the wonderful total of around £1900, which was much needed for church funds, plus the monies made by the individual stall holders who came to join us, made it all worth while. As a church we were enormously pleased to be able to support

local trade this way and hope that the stall holders also enjoyed joining 'all the fun of the fayre'.



We would like to thank each and every one who was involved in making the fayre a success; those who generously donated/ set up/ packed away/ braved the elements to run a stall/ stepped in when they hadn't planned to/ were creative with their thinking/ dealt with all the finances and health and safety/ supplied the much needed refreshments... we could go on...

You know who you all are and without you we couldn't have done it.

Thanks again.
St Andrew's Christmas Fayre
Team



On behalf of the RNOH Charity, thank you for your generous donation of £648.00. Your support is very much appreciated.

20 October 2021

Danbury And Villages Rotary

Something of a surprise, when we were told that the venue for our meetings at Le Benaix had closed permanently in mid-January. Fortunately, we were offered the same deal at their sister restaurant, Le Bouchon in Heybridge and had our first meeting there on 2nd February. Excellent meal in the company of three members of Maldon Rotary, who presented us with a cheque for our help with their fireworks display last year. That is now in our charity account, ready to be used for good causes. (When fund raising, we never charge for our efforts, only for costs incurred.)

We were pleased to welcome Graham Loader as our twenty-fifth member. We welcome people wanting to help others, both locally and internationally and believe that Rotary should be enjoyable. If you think this could be of interest, why not come along to a meeting and see a bit more of what we do, both for the community and socially. No commitment, just fact-finding. You will be welcome.

We meet on the first three Wednesdays of each month at Le Bouchon, Heybridge Basin, a hotel and restaurant. It is 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm, when we have a

meal and then discuss whatever is needed or we may arrange a speaker. The meal cost is £20. On the fourth Wednesday, we usually meet at The Bell in Danbury High Street, no meal but discussing whatever business there is. Email Keith Clark keithclarkao57@gmail.com or call him on 07785 355765 to book in.

The crocuses we planted are starting to show and we are looking forward to seeing them in bloom in Sandon (on the green near the Crown) and at Sandon School, Danbury (on the A414 diagonally opposite Tesco Garage), Bicknacre and Little Baddow (by the village signs) and Woodham Ferrers (close to the school). We planted them to recognize the Rotary international effort to eliminate polio from the world.

We are always looking for opportunities to help our local villages with events or needs when we can, and Sandon/Howe Green are included. We are already building relations with Sandon School and hope that will expand over time.

Eric Cater

Recipe

This is more of a meal in a bowl! Serves 4.

Ingredients

250 g dried rice noodles,
100 g green Thai curry paste,
2 × 400 g cans coconut milk,
60 ml peanut butter,
½ bunch fresh coriander, stalks chopped and leaves reserved for garnish,
4 cm piece root ginger cut into matchsticks,
4 kaffir lime leaves shredded,
500 ml good quality chicken stock,
60 ml soy sauce,
juice of 2 limes,
2 tablespoons fish sauce,
1 tablespoon brown sugar,
500 g green (ie raw) prawns, peeled and deveined,
1 bunch Pak Choy quartered lengthways,
Thai basil leaves and
finely chopped red chilli.

Cook the noodles according to the instructions on the packet. Drain, rinse under cold running tap and set aside

Heat a wok over medium heat, add curry paste and 2 tablespoons of the coconut milk.

Cook stirring for 1-2 minutes.

Stir in the peanut butter, then add the coriander stalks, ginger, kaffir leaves, stock and the remaining coconut milk.

Bring to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 5 minutes.

Stir through the soy sauce, lime juice, fish sauce and sugar.

Add the prawns and pak choy, cook for 2-3 minutes until the prawns are cooked and the pak choy is tender.

Divide the noodles between 4 bowls, pour over the soup, then top with chopped chilli, basil and coriander leaves.

Narelle Arnold

Desmond Tutu Dies

Dear Richard,
You asked me to write something on Desmond Tutu for the magazine, so here goes!

"I am puzzled about which Bible people are reading when they suggest religion and politics don't mix."

These are the words of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu and they illustrate something about him of enormous importance. All his work for peace, justice and reconciliation - all his political work - was based firmly on his depth of spirituality springing from Scripture.

It all got him into trouble many times, but the strength of his faith - and his humour - drew him through.

Had he lived another seven days he would have been enraged at the news that the man responsible for prosecuting an illegal war in Iraq was now to become a knight of the realm in the New Year honours - a man with whom Tutu refused to share a platform because of his feeling of disgust.

Desmond was labelled by a certain British prime minister in the 80's as a terrorist. Yet he never supported military

action even in those dark apartheid times. But because of his experience in that period he did not shy from his opinion that what was happening in Israel vis-a-vis the Palestinians was a form of apartheid. Did that make him an antisemite? Absolutely not, because he saw the difference between hating a political system and hatred of Judaism.

Could I have imagined in the early 1960s when I shared a class with him as we studied Theology together at King's College, London, that Desmond would rise to become an incredible leader of the church in South Africa and a prophet on the international stage?

Absolutely not. But I am proud to have shared that time with him, and subsequently being a friend of his? Completely.

When I was in hospital in the 80's with an eye problem, he called the ward sister and asked to speak with me. He told me to tell the doctors and nurses looking after me that he was praying for them. The sister approached me afterwards and said "I never expected a Nobel prize winner to telephone my ward."

Heike and I were fortunate enough to be able to share lunch



Desmond with Heike and Keith in Cape Town 2010

with him in 2010 in Cape Town.
"Didn't God do a fantastic day's

work with that?" he said when looking up at Table Mountain?

Let's hope that those "principalities and powers" who lauded Desmond after his death are prepared to be influenced by his selfless activism and his desire for peace and justice. "If you want peace" he once said "you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies." Truly a man of God. His light must never be extinguished.

*Keith Plaister
Priest-in-Charge
Sandon 1999-2008*

Lunchtime Concerts St John the Baptist, Danbury Fridays - 12.15pm to 1pm

Our Monthly Lunchtime Concerts have recommenced at St John's Church. The concert series includes an exciting mix of talent and entertainment.

11th March Deborah Aloba (opera singer) and John Bradbury (piano)

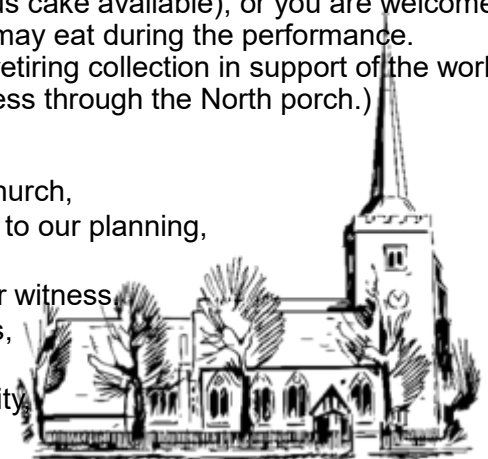
8th April The Bell Trio

13th May The choir of St John's present a light programme of motets. Come along a little earlier for a sandwich lunch, available from 11.45am (and there will also be some delicious cake available), or you are welcome to bring your own lunch, which you may eat during the performance.

Entry is free and open to all, with a retiring collection in support of the work of the church. (Accessible level access through the North porch.)

God of Mission,

Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship and power to our witness,
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen





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