

PARISH PEOPLE (CONT.)

St Peter's Church Hall

Betty Owen 81 High Street, Shoeburyness 2922511

Uniformed Groups

Scouts - 3rd Shoebury (St. Andrew's)

GSL Ernie Collins 24 Friar Street, Shoeburyness 295398

1st Shoebury (St. Peter's)

GSL Peter Brady, 60 Hogarth Drive, Shoeburyness 322747

Rainbows & Brownies (St Andrew's)

Helena Hawkyard 74, Tudor Gardens, Shoeburyness 292122

Rainbows (St Peter's)

Monica Vanderloo 66, Vermeer Crescent, Shoeburyness 294084

Shoebury Explorer Scout Unit (St Andrew's)

Reg Nicholls 01268 778508

Other Groups

Little Buffalo's Pre-school - St Peter's Hall

Becky Merton 291338
07980 167458
School Mobile 07904 343920

Shoebury Village Women's Institute - St Peter's Hall

Mrs T Preston 298928

Hall Diaries

St Andrew's

Explorer Scout Unit Monday 7:30pm
Rainbows Tuesday 5:00pm
Brownies Tuesday 6:15pm
Cubs & Beavers Wednesday 5.00 pm

St Peter's

Little Buffalo's Pre-school Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri AM
Line Dancing Monday 1:30 - 2.30 pm
Beavers Tuesday 5.15 - 6.30pm
Cubs Tuesday 6.45 - 8.15 pm
Women's Institute 3rd Wednesday 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Rainbows Wednesday 5.00 pm - 6.15 pm
Scouts Wednesday 7.30 - 9.00 pm
Craft Group 4th Saturday, 9.00 am - 5.00 pm.



Dear Friends

Writing this just before Messy Church starts and in the run up to all sorts of exciting events in the life of our parish, it feels as though we are planning just about every activity under heaven in the next few weeks! Strawberry Tea and the Prayer and Giving Day, the Memorial Service and the Pet Service, Bible Study groups, Youth Group and ploughman's lunches, baptisms and weddings, regular worship and fellowship, outings, churchyard maintenance, church cleaning: you name it, there is an activity going on for it. The Bible verse I started with continues with a whole range of times and seasons and then continues:

God has made everything beautiful in his time and has set eternity in the hearts of men and women.

What a wonderful thought: that God has put eternity into all our hearts. It is because of this that we are planning this season of busyness and activity! Because we recognise that many people neglect the eternity in their hearts and so we are trying to reach out to encourage many more in our parish to nurture their experience of God. We are not putting events on for the sake of it. It is because, as practising Christians, we need to grow in our faith. And as people called to love our neighbours, we have a responsibility to enable others who don't yet know God's love, to have opportunities to identify the eternity in their hearts and to come to faith in Jesus.

And faith grows in many ways. It comes as a source of comfort to us when we are unhappy or bereaved. It comes when church is flexible enough to enable us to bring our children to church so we can all learn together. Faith grows as we study the Bible and pray. Faith grows when we step out of our place of comfort and serve God in ways we hadn't previously thought possible. Faith grows as we work hard together, supporting and encouraging, bearing with one another and enabling one another. Faith grows as we seek together

to establish God's Kingdom. The eternity we find in our hearts is the offer of God of eternal friendship, for adoption into his family. Whoever we are, we surely need to cherish and deepen that eternity.

As the busyness of July gives way to August so we find a little breathing space. Instead of our normal evening services we will meet to worship with some of our Christian neighbours: details are noted elsewhere in the magazine. Many of you will go away for a well-earned break. A season of activity gives way to a season of peace and reflection. Do use that time to pray and to be still in God's presence. Time to reflect on what God has been doing among us in these past few months and time to pray for the months to come. Time to be refreshed and renewed. Time for God to quieten and bless us.

There is indeed a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven. Whether we are active or resting may it be that we continue to nurture the eternity in our hearts and do all we can to help others find God's presence in their lives.

With Love

Louise

STOP PRESS!

Messy Church happened on 19th June at St Peter's and a good time was had by all! 12 Children of all ages, toddlers through to 11 year olds took part in a number of crafts and activities along the theme of the Prodigal Son. We heard the same story in Church and did some lovely singing. And because the story ends with a party we let off party poppers and enjoyed huge amounts of cake in the church hall. Thank you so much to all who helped in any way. Please continue to pray for this new venture as we look forward to our Pet Service at 4 pm on 17th July and to restarting Messy Church on 18th September.

PARISH PEOPLE
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Rev. Louise Williams, The Rectory, Church Road 292778

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Laurie Gaymer 2 Grove Lodge, Gunners Road Shoeburyness 301642

PCC Secretary

Tracey Green 122, Ness Road, Shoeburyness 299065

PCC Treasurer

Jeremy Shallis 29, Clieveden Road, Thorpe Bay 585948

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St Andrew's

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Parish Hall

Keith Barham 53, Broadclyst Gardens, Thorpe Bay 584546

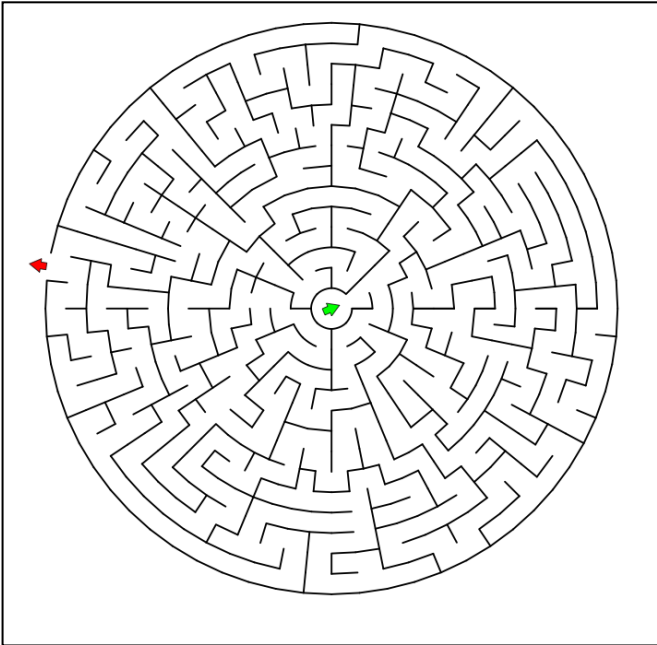
St Peter's

Bible Reading Notes

Jean Marsh 8, Wakering Avenue, Shoeburyness 292101

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Readers should please note that inclusion of any advertisement in this publication does not imply any recommendation by the PCC of South Shoebury or the magazine editor.

AUGUST EVENING SERVICES

Sunday evening services during August will be held at the following Churches

7th August 6.00 pm St Andrews

14th August 6.30 pm Shoebury Methodist Church

21st August 4.00 pm St Augustine's Thorpe Bay

28th August 6.00 pm Christchurch, Southchurch

Even if you don't normally go to Church on Sunday evening, how about going to see how other Christians worship and learn a little about your Christian neighbours?

ST PETER'S SPRING FAYRE

Congratulations to everyone who contributed to the success of this event, raising over £600.

CHRISTIAN AID (15th - 21st May)

With one road for house-to-house collections; donations by envelopes, in our two Churches and some extra donations, a cheque for £250 was sent to the Area Treasurer. Thanks to all who made contributions.

"SMARTIES"

(Lent Appeal - Children's Society)

Collections from the tubes of Smarties in aid of the Children's Society amounted to £52 many thanks. This is separate from the donations from the Children's Society boxes arranged by Enid - and for those who do not know, the collection from Smartie tubes was thought of as an incentive to all children (both young and old) to save small change and pocket money during Lent! So, many thanks).

School Play

A little boy was given a part in the school play and went home to tell his father. His father was really proud of him, and asked what the part was. The boy replied: "I got the part of a man who has been married for 25 years." His father congratulated him. "That's good son, and maybe next time round, you'll get a talking role!"

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

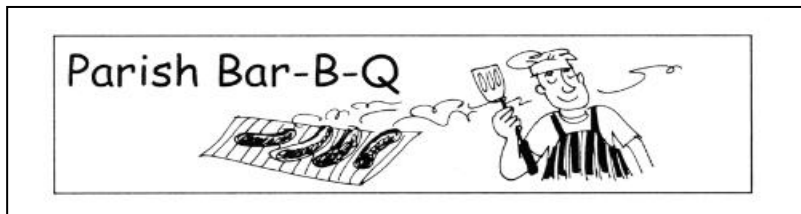
Healing Service: 6th July at 8pm St Andrew's Church. This is a quiet, reflective service with the opportunity for the laying on of hands and prayer for healing.

Memorial Service: July 10th at 3pm in St Andrew's Churchyard

A quiet, reflective service for anyone who has been bereaved. We will be issuing a special invitation to all those who come to tend graves and remember loved ones in our churchyard and those who have been bereaved in the past year. The service will last about 30 minutes and be followed by refreshments in the hall. All welcome.

Pet Service: July 17th at 4pm in St Peter's Church garden

An informal service for all pet and animal lovers. Well-behaved pets encouraged to attend with their owners. Hymns, songs, prayers and readings to give thanks and reflect on the blessing our animal friends are to us. Suitable for all the family, the service will last about half an hour. Afterwards we will be welcoming people to refreshments in the hall.



The Family Barbeque will take place on 28th August after the morning service – all welcome!

BAR N BUS

They now have a team in training for a bus to be situated in Wickford; the new bus recently purchased is to be sprayed and decorated in the coming weeks ready for its service to replace the bus recently withdrawn from service because of its condition. They have another Quiz Night in October which they are hoping will be as successful as their others in providing much needed funds for the maintenance and running of the buses. Otherwise, attendance on all the buses is good, with a few of the visitors becoming Christians which is a great encouragement and delight to the teams manning the buses and working hard at 'reaching out'. Please continue praying.

St James the Least of All On why the Clergy should avoid computers...

The Rectory
St. James the Least of all

My dear Nephew Darren

Thank you for the kind offer of your old computer, but I do not want it. I know you find it invaluable for keeping in touch with those doing missionary work in remote parts of Africa, but even if I knew legions of clergy on that continent, I would have few pearls of wisdom to e-mail them and would not be overly interested in what they may be yearning to tell me.

I know that our diocesan offices long for us all to have computers, so we can receive briefings, questionnaires, notifications of meetings and lists of irresistible training days, but I seem to have survived in ministry for the last 50 years without them and suspect I can do so for a little while longer.

When pressed why I have still not purchased one, I tell everyone that I am waiting for a few more weeks when I will be able to get an even better one. And as the wretched things continue to improve, there is every reason to defer a decision until they improve a little more. Surely, if I bought one today, I would regret it by tomorrow, as there would be a more advanced model out by then.

Besides, once you get a computer, you will need to buy a telephone connection, then a printer and spare ink cartridges and then equipment to protect you from viruses. The money can far more usefully be spent on claret.

Being without a computer also saves me much aggravation. From what I can gather, most computer owners spend significant parts of their lives trying to get their machine to do something it doggedly refuses to. Once they admit defeat, they then spend another significant chunk of time on what is called by naïve optimists a "helpline", where someone in a remote part of the world who speaks a jargon only distantly related to English tries to tell you that whatever you did, it would have been better if you hadn't.

No, no-one over the age of 25 should be allowed to possess a computer. On those rare occasions you really do need to use one, you should adopt my practice: visit your local primary school and get a 6 year-old to do the job – which they do with effortless efficiency, speed and accuracy.

Your loving Uncle

Eustace

**SOUTHEND NIGHT SHELTER AND HOMELESS CENTRE and
WOMEN'S REFUGE CENTRE**

There is still a need for the items mentioned recently - toilet rolls, deodorant, shower gel, tinned meats and fruit, breakfast cereals, long-life milk, cook-in-sauces, biscuits, granulated coffee, sugar, soft drinks (dilutable) and sleeping bags. Please remember that an extra can or bag in our shopping for the homeless can accumulate to a significant amount if purchased by all the congregation. Items can be placed in the boxes provided in our two Churches, or collected if necessary. Thanks.

As it is known, the WOMEN'S REFUGE CENTRE in Shoebury has now closed, but if anyone wishes to contribute children's clothing (new, please) or items which would be helpful to this centre, please bag them separately and ask me what arrangements can be made for this distribution. Thanks. Many thanks to all who contribute items and donations — the centres are very grateful.
Keith Barham 584546)

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

- 5th June Lily Prowse
12th June Jack Holland
12th June Connor Gosling

Thanksgiving for Marriage

- 25th June Angela and Steven Turner (10th Anniversary)

Funerals

- 8th June Basil Brewer (92)
14th June Hilda McLeod (90)
14th June Peter Grey (88)

Burial of Ashes

- 1st June Gladys Diss
Eric Page

STREET PASTORS

Many of us are aware of the helpful work of the street Pastors who reach out to those with any difficulties on the streets during the hours of 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. They are requesting more of us to back them with prayer as they go out in to the community. We could join others in the Baptist Church, Clarence Road, Southend, or pray for them at home (especially if you have difficulty sleeping during these hours!!).

There is also a plan, with Love Southend, for our Churches to adopt a street where members live or worship and pray for it and the people who live in it - that the street will be safe and free from crime and hate.

"God asks us to reach out to those in our community and that is what the Street Pastors and the prayer Supporters do ... " (Co-ordinator).

Please read the details in our two Churches, but if we feel that we cannot join them in their efforts they ask for our continuing prayers for their teams. Many thanks.

(Contact John Bastin, Co-ordinator) 01702 82171).

STROKE CLUB

If you have had a stroke, or know someone who has, the Southend Stroke Club meets for friendship and social activities on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month between 8 and 10 p.m. Social activities include quizzes, talks, entertainment, and several interesting and enjoyable outings in coaches specially adapted for wheelchairs. The meetings are held at St. Mary's Hall, Prittlewell and lifts can be arranged in the special vehicles they hire. So, if stroke sufferers or carers feel that these meetings and activities would be beneficial, please 'phone 01702 710714. They now have a website - WWW.Strokeclub,Org.Uk - which is also 'd'lined-on' with the Heart Association, and they have already received many 'calls' from around the world asking for help and advice including as far afield as Malaysia!!



ST PETER'S PAGE

A splendid result regarding our Summer Fair, the total raised was £604.00. Grateful thanks in particular to Sandra Baines for arranging for the Choir from Hinguar School to come and entertain us with their lovely singing. Thanks also to all our helpers, contributors and customers. A very good result and a pleasant day.

Ploughman's Lunch for July will be on Wednesday 27th at the usual time of 12.15.p.m. Please note that there will not be a Ploughman's Lunch in August as the Team are having a month's break. However we hold a Coffee morning each Wednesday morning in the Hall from 10am until 12 noon, so if you feel like a morning out and a chat, we shall be pleased to see you.

Advance Notice -Saturday 10th September we shall be holding a Bring and Buy Coffee morning to coincide with our Day of Prayer and Giving. Please make a note of the date and watch out for more details later.



What makes you feel happy?

Here are the top ten suggestions made to the Office for National Statistics when it asked people about the feel-good factor: living near a park or a swimming pool; having access to cultural services, such as a library; being healthy; having time to enjoy oneself and relax; living in a fair society; having enough money to do what one wants; freedom; being content with one's situation; people looking after each other; the smell of a freshly opened jar of coffee. So far, more than 7,500 people have taken part in the online debate at www.ons.gov.uk/well-being. The final results are expected this month. But as one contributor observed: 'Happiness is a misnomer. It's much better to be content than happy.'

Afternoon tea is back

Most of us are cutting back on eating out, and even on alcohol. Instead, we have turned to an old way of escape: afternoon tea. Sweet treats like pastries, doughnuts, scones and clotted cream are becoming popular to have at home with a cup of tea in the afternoon.

Sales of scones alone have gone up 42 per cent in the past year. Sales of cream doughnuts have soared in some places by up to 51%, and choux buns by 36 per cent.

Afternoon tea fell out fashion about 30 years ago, when fast food and then coffee shops first arrived from the United States. But in these tough times, it seems that the English are returning to their roots; no amount of coffee and fast food can quite replace afternoon tea.

As one person put it: "Sitting down with friends for a nice cup of tea and a cream cake is not only wonderfully therapeutic, but also affordable!" Perhaps affordable *at home*: the Savoy in London currently charges £41.50 for afternoon tea. Further north, Bettys & Taylors of Harrogate report that afternoon teas have become the fastest-growing part of their business.

Sounds good to me!

Editor



A Hidden Garden in Shoeburyness Open for the NGS Sunday 17th July between 1 and 5 p.m.

South Shoebury Hall, Church Road, Shoeburyness SS3 9DN Next to St
Andrew's Church

Caroline and Michael Dedman's garden is just 300 yards from the Thames Estuary. The Garden is protected by neighbouring buildings and mature trees. Part of the Garden is also walled, creating a sheltered spot with sandy, free-draining soil making it a perfect environment for many plants. These conditions have enabled them to introduce Southern Hemisphere plants which love hot, dry conditions. This one acre garden has a courtyard and private secluded areas for relaxation.

At this time of year we have a variety of Lilies, Hydrangeas, flowering shrubs and trees, colourful alpine and rock gardens. We will also be displaying over 100 Agapanthus plants. These can be seen in individual pots and some in a new bed that has been specially created to show the plants off to their full potential.

The greenhouse will also be a place to view a large number of Aeonium species which are mainly seen in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

The garden is open as part of the National Garden Scheme Gardens open for Charity, raising money for various charities such as Macmillan Nurses, Marie Curie and Hospices.

Entrance fee is £3.50, children free.

There is a large plant sale and home made cake with tea.

For more information contact Michael Dedman on 01702 299022



POETRY CORNER



Consumers or Disciples?

(Mt 11:16-19)

*To what can I compare this generation?
They are like children sitting in the market-places
and calling to others:
We played a flute for you, and you did not dance;
We sang a dirge for you and you did not mourn.*

We are a market-place generation.
Consumers devoted to pick and mix,
Café church, traditional church,
Fresh expressions, stale expressions,
Flute playing, dirge-singing
Dipping in and out,
Moving on,
Rejecting what doesn't please *me*,
right now.

We are consumers, yes.
But disciples?
Life-long learners,
Committed to the Way,
Devoted to the Truth,
Experiencing the fullness of Life
which is Jesus?
Prepared to endure to the end,
Being thankful in all circum-
stances,
Even when that involves a cross?
Are we really becoming
And making disciples?

God, who sent the flute-player
And the dirge-singer,
Give us wisdom.

By Daphne Kitching

The Jubilant Verger

The wedding was completed
With pomp and circumstance;
The Abbey, undefeated
By undue happenstance.

From the bottom of their heart
The Abbey Choir had sung;
The Clergy, too, had played their
part,
The tower bells had rung.

Two thousand people in and out,
The verger had to smile,
And then he gave a happy shout
—
And cartwheeled down the aisle.

By Nigel Beeton

The Temple Mount

Continuing a series on Biblical sites.



The temple in Jerusalem was planned by King David (who conquered Jerusalem and made it the capital of a unified Israelite Kingdom), but only built in the time of his son Solomon. It became the key focus for Israelite religion, the place where all Jews were expected to come and worship at least for the major festivals. This temple was destroyed by the Babylonians, but rebuilt when the Israelites returned from Exile. Centuries later, King Herod the Great (the one who tried to have Jesus killed as a baby) undertook a massive building project to improve this temple, which made it the largest and most splendid temple in the ancient world. Thus the temple that Jesus knew was relatively modern.

Being a focus for the gathering of Jews from all over Israel and beyond, the temple was also a focus for resistance, and its massive structure, built on an artificial platform, enabled it to serve as a highly effective fortress. It was used in this way by the Jewish rebels of 66-70 AD, with the result that when the Romans recaptured the city, they completely destroyed the temple. All that remains of Herod's mighty (but short-lived) temple is the western retaining wall of the platform on which the temple proper was sited. This is the famous "Western Wall" or "Wailing Wall" so important to Jews today. So much debris has piled up

against this wall over the centuries that what is visible now is only the upper half, but recent excavations have revealed the lower section, which can be seen by entering the excavation tunnels. The vast size of the blocks of stone used in the construction can be seen here... one is believed to be the largest block of masonry stone ever used anywhere.

Though the Wailing Wall is a site of pilgrimage to Jews, the top of the temple mount is a place they avoid. This is because somewhere there is the site of the ancient Holy of Holies... a place so sacred only the High Priest could enter it. Since nobody knows exactly where it was, Jews avoid the whole site for fear of accidentally treading on it

Muslims, however, believe that it was from a rock on the top of the temple mount that Muhammad ascended into heaven. The incident, described in the Koran, is surely a visionary experience, and Muhammad never physically entered Jerusalem. But Muslims take it literally, and so have built a mosque and a shrine on the temple mount. The latter is the famous "Dome of the Rock" whose magnificent golden dome is now the most distinctive feature of Jerusalem.

Though Herod's temple was short-lived, it was there in Jesus' day, and he frequently visited it. So, although there are no Christian churches or shrines on the temple mount, it is nevertheless an important place to Christians. Here Jesus attended festivals, such as the Passover at which he got lost whilst debating with the doctors of the Law. From here the devil proposed he might leap to see if angels would catch him. Here he preached on many occasions. Here he cast out the money-changers. The charge on which he was executed was that he had threatened to destroy this temple. In the corner of the temple a Roman fortress (called Antonia) was constructed, to allow the Romans to keep an eye on the potentially troublesome crowds massing in the temple courts. This is traditionally the "Praetorium" where Jesus was tried by Pilate... though there are other theories as to where this might have been.

So this site is at the heart of the conflicts that have dogged Israel/Palestine over the centuries... a place sacred to Jews, Muslims and Christians. Yet despite the conflicts, it is a very moving place to be, especially at the Wailing Wall, where our pilgrimage party had the opportunity to observe orthodox Jews praying at night, and Bar Mitzvah's during the day.

The picture I have used to illustrate this article is a recent one of my own, executed in pastel from a photograph taken on the pilgrimage. The Wailing Wall is the sunlit wall to the left of the picture.

Rick Williams

South Shoebury

Parish Magazine

St Andrew's with St Peter's



July/August 2011

Price 20p (£2 per annum)



WELCOME

ON SUNDAY

AT ST ANDREW'S

8.00am Holy Communion (1662)

9.30am Morning Worship (Family Service 1st Sunday)
(Holy Communion 4th Sunday)

6.00pm Evening Prayer 1st Sunday
Holy Communion 3rd Sunday

AT ST PETER'S

11.00am Morning Worship (Holy Communion 2nd & 4th Sunday)

ON WEDNESDAY

AT ST ANDREW'S

10am Holy Communion (followed by coffee in the Hall)

AT ST PETER'S

10.00am Coffee Morning

12.15pm Ploughman's Lunch (4th Wednesday)

4.00 – 5.00pm Messy Church Every Third Sunday (except August)

MESSAGE – Dial 0870 7415369 for a daily two-minute message of encouragement, challenge or inspiration.

This service is provided by Christians in Southend.

Rector: Rev. Louise Williams, The Rectory, Church Road (292778)

Readers: Mrs Betty Owen, 81 High Street (292511)

Mr Andy Clipsham, 17 High Street (294516)

Churchwardens:

Mr. Keith Barham, 53 Broadclyst Gardens, Thorpe Bay (584546)

Mr. Laurie Gaymer, 2 Grove Lodge, Gunners Road, Shoebury (301642)

Website: <http://www.southshoebury.org/>