

ST THOMAS' CHURCH, UPSHIRE EN9 3SS

NEWSLETTER

May 2023



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This Newsletter is free: donations to Lyn Wackett. Copy date for June Newsletter: 14th May

We are committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. The PCC has adopted the Church of England's policies and best practice on safeguarding which may be found on the Church of England website and also on the Diocese of Chelmsford website.

SERVICES AND DIARY FOR MAY

No Seedlings in May due to the Coronation

- Sunday 7th Fifth Sunday of Easter
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Acts 7:55 – end John 14:1-14
- Saturday 14th CRAFT FAIR in Upshire Village Hall, 10.30am to 2.30pm
- Sunday 14th Sixth Sunday of Easter
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Acts 17:22-31 John 14:15-21
2.30-4.30pm AFTERNOON TEAS and PLANT SALE
- Wednesday 19th 11.30am for 12noon-2pm SPRING LUNCH in the church –
07899 846711 to book – please let us know if you have to cancel. Thank you.
- Sunday 21st Seventh Sunday of Easter
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Acts 1:6-14 John 17:1-11
- Wednesday 24th Upshire Mothers' Union CREAM TEA AFTERNOON in Upshire Village Hall (Small Hall) 2-4pm.
- Sunday 28th Pentecost
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Acts 2:1-21 John 20:19-23
2.30-4.30pm AFTERNOON TEAS
- Sunday 4th June Trinity Sunday
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-end Matthew 28:16-end
3.30pm CONCERT BY ENFIELD BRASS BAND – 01992 711573 to book

The church will be open every Monday and Thursday from 11.30am to 12.30pm for private prayer only.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Our mailing list to receive the electronic version is now in excess of 70 participants so if you are not one of those and wish to be included please send your email address to : marionne.locke@btinternet.com. We are looking to reduce our 'paper footprint' for climate change by printing fewer copies – your contribution will help.

THE VICAR WRITES:

Excitement abounds this month as Sunday 30th April sees the opening of the new tea season at church.

We look forward to the start of the season with much anticipation. New cake recipes to debut, old friends to catch up with after the long winter break but most of all, the chance to provide hospitality to those in the local community that visit us on a Sunday afternoon.

This church has a particular gift for hospitality, as it should, for we serve an immensely hospitable God. Indeed Jesus' first recorded miracle is one of hospitality as he turned water into wine at a wedding in Cana in Galilee. (John 2:1-11)

Now on the surface this might seem like a trivial thing to do as a starting point to ministry; after all later on he heals the sick, feeds many thousands and even raises a few people from the dead, so what's so special about stopping a wedding feast running dry of alcohol?

Well I think that, as a starting point, this shows us a leader who values hospitality above all and knows that the way that people are welcomed and treated is one of the most important ministries there is. Given the very hot climate, the lack of clean water, the large number of guests, and the great length (5 days +) of wedding feasts in Jesus day, the lack of wine at this wedding was a serious problem. The fact that the hosts could not provide what the guests needed was a failure in hospitality that would bring shame on them.

Now it would be easy to blame them for that – after all should they not have got enough?

But actually it may not have been entirely their fault. Because of the size and scale of these weddings it was custom for guests to bring wedding gifts in the form of food and drink to share the burden of providing for such a large group.

Thus, the family's lack of wine may indicate a lack of community support in addition to their own lack of provision.

In that context Jesus' actions are that of a friend and faithful community member and the provision of wine a sign of shared hospitality.

But alongside that we have the additional provision that the wine he provides is of the highest quality. This was counter to what would have been expected – where the more mediocre vintages were served at the end when people may have not noticed the lack of quality so much.

Jesus brings a surprising abundance of fine wine. So, his hospitality is not only timely – it's incredibly lavish.

The beginning of Jesus' ministry marks the start of God's new work in the world that has been long-awaited. This miracle leads us to expect surprisingly good and abundant things to come as Jesus starts work.

So whilst starting the story of Jesus ministry with a provision of wine at a wedding feast, may seem, on the surface, rather trivial, when we examine it more closely we can see that in doing so Jesus is showing all who care to see that he is beginning the ministry of radical hospitality and generosity that would be the hallmark of God's new world order.

Now we may not be able to provide such a lavish abundance of wine on a Sunday afternoon but the tea and cake are plentiful and the welcome warm and friendly as we seek to imitate our hospitable God as we throw open the doors to all that wish to enter.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Blessings, Rev Jane Y

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Thank you to the people who have sent in articles to be included in the Newsletter. Please keep them coming! Anything: maybe a poem you have written, what you have been doing in the garden, childhood memories, something that happened to make you smile, it all makes for interesting reading.

PRAYER REQUESTS

You are invited to offer names to be added to our prayer diary to remember those who are unwell or unhappy. First names only are required as God will know who we are praying for.

Contact Lyn Wackett on 01992 711573 or email lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk

This month we pray for Glenis, Laura, Alan & Pam, Lesley, Charlie & John, Anne, Pam & John, Barbara, Vernon, Mal, Louise, Sue, Ann & Cyril, Rosalind, Doreen, Maureen, Carol & George, Beverly, Terry, Jackie, Jean, Andrea & her Mum & Dad, Nina, Carmel & the Price family, Tim, Dave, Pat, Kathrine & Paul, Nigel, Lola & Steve.

CHURCH FLOWERS

MAY has arrived with all the blossom glory as well as the tulips and bluebells which bring such joy. Those visiting the church during April will have seen the glorious display of lilies along with the dedication book. A big thankyou to the flower arrangers for their creativity which will be tested once again on Saturday 29 April when we will be preparing for the Coronation celebrations. Please feel free to come and join the Flower Arranging team from 10am, all are welcome.

Each month we can create memorial dedications, wedding, anniversary or special occasion flowers – all can be arranged for any week – email marionne.locke@btinternet.com to discuss.

STAMPS

Please continue to save your postage stamps and foreign or out of circulation coins as the charities we support can use them to raise funds. At present we collect the coins for Essex and Herts Air Ambulance and stamps for St Clare Hospice. Stamps and coins can be left with Lyn & Dave at 94 Upshire Road – please leave in the porch if no reply. Please leave about 1/2" of envelope around the stamps. Thank you.

St Thomas Church, Upshire Bank details

St Thomas Church Upshire PCC
HSBC Bank Sort Code 40 45 20 Account number 00724505

Any queries regarding setting up a Standing Order, giving a donation to the church, Gift Aid or about joining the Parish Giving Scheme please contact our Treasurer, Ruth Moore on 07852 668633

Ruth4366@gmail.com

If you are able to Gift Aid donations this increases your gift without any extra cost to yourself.



ST THOMAS' SEEDLINGS

1st Saturdays of each month (unless otherwise stated)

A free Stay and Play church group for children and those who care for them
Join us Saturdays 3-4pm for messy craft, play, songs and stories along with a welcome cuppa
St Thomas' Church, Horseshoe Hill, Upshire, EN9 3SS



COPPER JAR

Our thanks to everyone who donated their coppers and small change to Water Aid via our copper jar in the church. The jar contained £20 the last time it was emptied.

ST THOMAS' CHURCH COMMUNITY LUNCHES 2023

SPRING LUNCH – WEDNESDAY 17th MAY
SUMMER LUNCH – WEDNESDAY 21th JUNE
SUMMER LUNCH – WEDNESDAY 19th JULY
SUMMER LUNCH – WEDNESDAY 16th AUGUST
AUTUMN LUNCH – WEDNESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER
AUTUMN LUNCH – WEDNESDAY 18th OCTOBER
AUTUMN LUNCH – WEDNESDAY 15th NOVEMBER
CHRISTMAS LUNCH – WEDNESDAY 6th DECEMBER

PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE : 07899 8467 11

If, after booking you are unable to come, please phone to cancel,
we can then offer a place to people on the waiting list. Thank you.

CHURCHWARDEN'S CHATTER

This is the last of my articles for Churchwarden's Chatter after many years; following last months' APCM my term of office came to an end.

I would like to thank all those who have helped and advised me while in office enabling us to complete a number of much needed projects. May I wish those who take up the challenge for the post all the best as our church, parish and congregation need you for the future.

Do not forget to book your place for the Community Spring Lunch on 17th May by ringing Pauline (also ring if you have to cancel for whatever reason). Warmer weather should be on its way! Home cooked meats (vegetarian options available) with full salad accompaniment, dessert and tea/coffee, all for £8.

Stephen Brown

ANAGRAM

Unscramble this 11 letter anagram: RAINONCOOT. Answer elsewhere in the Newsletter.

GROWERS CORNER

Summer is on it's way but we still have to worry about late frosts. Plants out of the greenhouse/cold frame must be hardened off before planting out.

Keep an eye on your early potatoes so that the leaves do not get burnt by frost so cover them with soil by hoeing, balking up as and when needed.

Now is the time to plant up your summer baskets and movable containers if you have not done so already.

Broad bean plant tops steamed make a change on your plate at dinner time, also purple sprouting if you grow your own. Note: purple sprouting is frost hardy but very slow growing so plant out in late spring but net them against the cabbage white butterflies and pigeons.

What do you expect from your lawns? Are you going to spend 4 hours a day for a RHS finish or is it to be 2 hours max every 8-10 days for family use wear and tear? Do not mow too short; with our warmer summers of late your lawn will go brown and take months to come back to green.

We had a wonderful display of daffodils this year in the churchyard. To ensure we get something similar next season just nip off the dead flowers and seeds and do not cut back the leaves until July/August. This will allow for all the goodness to go back down to the bulbs for the next season's show.

GARDENERS NOTE Free bagged compost ready for collection: ring 07960 809799.

Any donation to the church fabric fund would be appreciated. Thank you.

CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 13th May, 10.30 am - 2.30 pm

in Upshire Village Hall.

Refreshments available. Free entry. Everyone welcome.

UPSHIRE MOTHERS' UNION

English for Women is another Mothers' Union project that the Upshire branch supported this year. The English for Women project was set up in 2015 by Heike Prentice, an Ordinand at Chelmsford Cathedral, after a chance meeting with a family from Afghanistan. The project was gifted to the community and taken under the wing of Mothers' Union.

The English for Women project makes a difference to those in communities who encounter language barriers in their everyday lives. English for Women sessions provide a friendly and welcoming environment for women with little or no English to improve their conversational skills, gain an understanding of British culture so they can integrate into their local community, feel more at ease and can develop a sense of belonging. All sessions are free and supported by volunteers. Learning is topic-based so learners can go to as many or as few sessions as they are able, without feeling that they have missed anything.

English for Women initially only held sessions in Chelmsford, which is home to a wide range of nationalities, where they meet four times a week.

Before the pandemic hit they had also setup weekly sessions in Harwich and Goodmayes, supporting over a hundred learners across the different venues by more than 60 volunteers.

The sessions, which new participants often hear about through word of mouth, transferred online at the start of the pandemic. During lockdown the online sessions became a lifeline, for volunteers as well as learners. Face-to-face sessions restarted in September 2021. Online sessions continue to take place on Wednesday mornings.

Both volunteers and learners praise the positive effect it has on their lives. "I go in to help the learners but I often find I learn a lot myself," said volunteer Alison. "It's a great community. We are different ages, different nationalities, different religions and different ethnicities, but we are also very much the same," she added.

"I came to England a year ago and I felt lonely and isolated before I came to English for Women," said one learner from Chelmsford.

"English for Women has helped me with speaking about many things...hospital appointments, shops, transport. English for Women makes me feel I am not alone," said another.

English for All is a new session which is being tried in Chelmsford. English for All welcomes men and women in our communities who encounter language barriers.

English for All sessions are run by both male and female volunteers.

English for Women and English for All sessions provide a safe and welcoming environment for all who speak little or no English, regardless of language, culture, religion or nationality.

In March we had an informal church service lead by Lyn and Eleanor. Followed by Tea and Cake in church.

On May 24th we will be hosting our first Cream Tea Afternoon at £4 per person. Price includes 2 homemade scones, homemade jam, fresh clotted cream, Tea or Coffee, and a free refill of your drink. It will be in Upshire Village Hall from 2.00pm - 4.00pm. Please do come along and support us, everyone is welcome.

Further information from Eleanor Huxter on 01992 892869.

ABBAYFIELD SOCIETY – WALTHAM ABBEY

WARBURTON LODGE, MEADOW CROSS EN9 3DJ

VACANCIES AND RESPITE ROOMS AVAILABLE NOW FOR THE OVER 60's

Rooms with en-suite facilities, rent includes meals, heating, lighting, laundry & cleaning
Communal dining room, lounges, and gardens. All rooms have fridge, kettle, and toaster.

Call or email to book a visit to see what we offer

Tel; 01992 719003 Email; manager@abbeyfieldwa.co.uk

Registered Charity 221563

WALTHAM ABBEY FLOWER CLUB

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at Waltham Abbey Community Centre, Saxon Way, EN9 1QD
Our door opens at 1.30pm for a 2pm start and we finish at 4pm.

We have a raffle and a sales table.

Our membership fee is £30 per year with a £3 entry fee to each meeting, or you are welcome as a visitor, entry fee is £7. This includes refreshments and homemade cake.

We have added a £1 entry to meetings when we have a paid demonstrator due to the extra cost.

Here is our programme for this year:

23rd May Talk and demonstration by Victoria Robertson "The future of Flower Arranging"

27th June Outing TBA

25th July Demonstration by Pam Cantelow "The Joy of Flowers"

No meeting in August

26th September Social Afternoon Tea

24th October AGM (approx. 20 mins) then workshop by Chris Beales

28th November Demonstration by Morag Bennett "It's nearly Christmas"

We look forward to seeing you, all are welcome!

Chris 07792 594443

50/50 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the 50/50 Club Draw in February, who were:

1 st : £35	No. 15	Bobby McMillan of Waltham Abbey
2 nd : £25	No. 23	Steve Huxter of Claverhambury
3 rd : £15	No. 76	Barbara Jones of Upshire

Thank you to all our members who have renewed their subscription. It's not too late to join the 50/50 Club - there are monthly draws and the entry fee is £12.00 every six months (or £2 for every month of membership). Contact Lyn Wackett on 01992 711573 or email lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk for further information.

EVENTS COMING UP

13th May CRAFT FAIR in Upshire Village Hall, 10.30am to 2.30pm.

14th May AFTERNOON TEAS and PLANT SALE

24th May Upshire Mothers' Union invite you to a CREAM TEA AFTERNOON in the Village Hall, 2-4pm

4th June Concert by ENFIELD BRASS BAND, 3.30pm

SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEAS

Sunday afternoon teas will be held in the church on 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month between 2.30 and 4.30pm and will continue until the end of September. On May 15th we will also have a Plant Sale. Come along to our lovely little church for home made cakes and a welcome cup of tea or coffee. You can either sit in the church and enjoy the occasional organ music or sit outside in the churchyard and admire the view from both the front and back of the church.

GUIDE DOGS

Due to Covid restrictions there is now a shortage of guide dogs as the necessary training wasn't able to take place. The breeding programme had to be suspended as puppies were unable to get all the experiences that people would expect them to get. Puppies need to learn to deal with a host of experiences, particularly crowds, which didn't exist during Covid lockdowns. They couldn't be taken into restaurants or other busy places. Guide Dogs aims to create 500 new partnerships this year and eventually 1000 a year.

It is appealing for more help to socialise puppies – to volunteer visit www.guidedogs.org.uk/how-you-can-help/volunteering-for-guidedogs

Afternoon Teas and Plant Sale 14 May 2:30-4:30 pm

with a selection of nursery and home grown plants.

Come and stock up with plants and enjoy some of our delicious cakes.

PLANT SALE

As usual we will have our 'Parishioners Plant Stall' at the Plant Sale on 14th May. If you have any seedlings or plants to help fill the stall they would be appreciated. Please bring plants on the day to the church, or prior to the day to Lyn at 94 Upshire Road. Thank you.

ANAGRAM

The answer to the anagram is CORONATION.

CONCERT BY ENFIELD BRASS BAND

On Sunday 4th June
at 3.30pm in the church

Book your seats with Lyn on 01992 711573
or email lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk

£10 adults, £5 children under 16
Light refreshments included

HIGH BEACH CHURCH

~High Beach Church is open every Sunday throughout May to September from 2.00 to 5.30pm for **Sunday Tea** with home made cake, tea and coffee. Everyone welcome.

~All are welcome to come to a **High Beach Church Quiz Night** at Upshire Village Hall on 13th May starting at 7.00pm. Teams of 8 – please bring your own nibbles and liquid refreshments. £10 per person. To book your place please call 07949 961184. If you cannot make up a team of 8, please still come as we can introduce you to new friends for the evening. All proceeds to church funds.

~20th May at 7.00pm. **Opera Octaves** will be giving a concert of popular sacred and secular music. Tickets are £10 each to include glass of wine/soft drink and light buffet. To order your tickets please telephone 07949 961184.

SHOEBOXES

With summer approaching, don't forget to save your shoeboxes if you're buying new shoes or sandals. Last year we were able to send 134 shoeboxes filled with items such as hat, scarf & gloves, soap & flannel, toothpaste & brush, underwear, sweets, small toys, etc to needy people in Ukraine and countries supporting Ukrainian refugees. Boxes and any items to go in them can be left with Lyn and Dave at 94 Upshire Road. Thank you.

NINEFIELDS YOUTH CLUB

Hazelwood Centre, Ninefields Estate, EN9 3EL. Tuesdays 18.00 – 20.00 and Thursdays 16.30 – 18.30 during term time. Secondary school year 7+. Football, music, cooking, art, themed nights, games, snacks. FREE – but please bring emergency contact details to your first session.

CORONATION WORDSEARCH

All the words in the list are made from the letters in 'THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III' and are hidden in the diagram below. Words are printed across, up, down or diagonally, but always in straight lines. Letters may be used more than once.

ACTOR	HEIR	NEST	F O G H O R N E A S S I E C R O F R I A
AGREE	HIKE	NONAGON	O I I E E E L C T C C H A G R E E L R I
AIRFORCE	HISTORIC	NOTICES	R K L G N G C R E O T N O G A L T A E L
ARCHAIC	HOOK	ORGANIC	E C I I N G E I N R C O A R T I I S I A
ATONE	HORSE	ORIFICE	C N R A G T L I F E T N R S T T R E A G
CANCEL	HOTEL	ORIGINAL	A O I E C R C I L I I A O E E E G R R E
CARRIAGE	ICICLE	OSTLER	S R N H A I E T S C R G I N G E N A A R
CERTAIN	ICONIC	REAL	T G E C A T T E T H A O O N N R C I O C
CHRIST	INCISE	REALISATION	S R A H E E O S F R A N R E O E A T N R
CLOCK	INSTINCT	REGAL	E T C L K R E R I I A F R I N T C L E G
CONCERT	INTENT	REGALIA	T R E K F R T S O S N A O O G A I A N R
CREATOR	INTEREST	REGINA	A T O N E E H T A T T K R O R I L C E E
CRICKETER	IRONING	SAILOR	L O A T C E S L H O I H C T L I N T E H
CRIS	KESTREL	SCENT	H A N N A I R R R G T A C O S E E A I S
EASTER	KETTLE	SCORE	S I N T G E L E O F I N R A L K S S L I
ENGLISH	KILO	SECT	I A H O T E L E A H I L T T C C T I N F
ENLARGE	KINGFISHER	SHORTENING	N E I F I C R I A T E I A I N O O C O G
FAITH	KNIFE	STENCIL	R E A L I T T I S R O I R G R E I L O N
FILIGREE	LASER	STOIC	A R O C O H A N N N N C R I E S C A I I
FLAGS	LATEST	STRETCHER	G N I N O R I N T E N T C L E R T S E K
FLEA	LEARNT	TACOS	
FOGHORN	LESION	TANGERINE	
FORECAST	LIEGE	TENON	
GARISH	LIFE	THRONE	
GARNISH	LIGHT	TIARA	
GENERATOR	LINT	TRACTOR	
GOAT	LOOFAH	TRAITOR	
GRACE	NASAL	TREK	
GRAFTER	NATIONAL	TRIANGLE	
HEATHER	NEON	TRITE	

Mark When the late Dean of York was asked why he called his stumpy-tailed fox terrier 'Mark', he explained: "The New Testament contains the life-stories of our Lord by Matthew,

Mark, Luke and John. Mark's is the shortest tale!"

Life abundant

Two students from a theological training college decided to spend part of their holiday in the countryside doing outreach. They stopped at an old farm house and proceeded up the path through a group of screaming children and a washing line heavy with wet clothes. When they got near the door, the woman of the house stopped scrubbing the steps, brushed her hair and perspiration from her brow, and asked them what they wanted. "We'd like to tell you how you can live forever," they answered.

The exhausted woman hesitated for a moment, and then replied, "Thank you, but I don't think I could stand it!"

Married How many women can one man marry? A little boy who attended his first wedding worked that one out pretty quick: the answer is 16. It is easy, if you think about it. Four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer. Comes to 16.

Blessing It was the five-year-old boy's first trip down to the Communion rail at church. Fascinated, he watched the vicar place a wafer in the palm of each person kneeling before him. When the vicar reached the little boy, he ignored the child's out-stretched palm, and laid his hand on the child's head in a gentle blessing instead. The boy, utterly bewildered, whispered to his father in a piercing voice; "He's put it on my head!"

Proof-reading needed! *The following true-life headlines found in local newspapers make you wonder: is proofreading a dying art?*

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures