

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTED BY THE CHURCH IN



ALDHAM



FEBRUARY 2021 (by email)

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

How are you coping, with Lockdown 3? When we hoped 2021 would bring relief and hope, it's hard to carry on, taking Covid precautions, keeping your distance from other people.

Many people tell me, "Vicar, you don't have to go to church to be a Christian". What they say is true, in theory: but not really in practice. It's really hard to keep Christian faith growing, without the encouragement of other Christians, and the stimulus of church life. Take a similar example:

Children sometimes used to say they hate school – "I don't want to go today!" Then came Lockdown: and we all suddenly discovered that being at home, learning on your own, is really hard! It's tough to keep going, reading the books, doing the exercises, without your mates. You don't want lessons on a small screen – suddenly, lessons in a big airy classroom don't seem quite so bad!

Whether it's school or church, it's often said that people come for one reason, perhaps to achieve something; and stay for another – because you've made friends there! We are made for relationships, even the quiet and shy souls, and nobody wants to be alone for ever. If you've recently moved into the area, or if you need some friends, why not be brave and connect with Aldham Church – we'd love to welcome you!

With best wishes,

FOR THE 100,000 WHO HAVE DIED

The church bell will be tolled 100 times at 6.00 pm on Sunday, 7 February, once for every 1,000 people who have died of Covid-19.

NEW BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD



Downing Street has announced that the Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani will be the next Bishop of Chelmsford, succeeding the Most Reverend Stephen Cottrell. Bishop Guli is currently Bishop of Loughborough, a post she has held since late 2017.

Speaking about her appointment, Bishop Guli said "It is a great privilege to be appointed as the next Bishop of Chelmsford. I know there are many challenges ahead both in the church and wider society, not least as a result of the pandemic. However, I am hopeful about the future."

We exist to honour God and to enable people in our community discover Jesus

CHURCH ROTAS

Cleaning:

February Linda Davis, Hazel Jarvis

Flowers:

February LENT - no flowers

DIARY DATES

10 Feb 7.30 pm (Zoom) Micah 5
O little town of Bethlehem
24 Feb 7.30 pm (Zoom) What does
the Lord require of you?

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP)

Colchester CAP have written to thank Aldham for the £220 raised in December as donations, some of which was given in lieu of cards and postage. Plus a hamper to the full specification given in the December newsletter!
Iain MacCallum

REAL EASTER EGGS

In spite of Covid, the Easter Egg with the Easter Message is back in its 11th year. The supermarkets will not be stocking them this year but we get them direct from the Meaningful Chocolate Company.

All eggs are FairTrade; the Original is £4.50; a new White egg is also £4.50; the Dark is £5.50; and there is a Special Edition at £10.00. The packaging is plastic-free and the chocolate is Palm Oil free. The box contains an Easter Story booklet and the proceeds support charitable causes - £300,000 has been sent so far.

Orders can be phoned to me on 01206 571 070 or emailed to maccallum.ir@gmail.com before 7 March 2021. Somehow or other, they will be delivered to you. Don't pay me till you get your egg.
Iain MacCallum

ALDHAM W.I.

We will continue to hold our meeting on zoom for the foreseeable future. Our next meeting will be on 18 February, 7.15pm. The speaker and log in details will be advised shortly.

Jean Jennings

CHILDREN UNDER LOCKDOWN

Although Jennifer and I have spent most of our working life as teachers, this has done little to enlighten us about how the pandemic is affecting individual children and their families. Government has the unenviable task of trying to balance the benefits to children being kept at school, against closing schools because of the increased risk of spreading the virus among teachers, parents, families and the children themselves. For example, in today's paper there was this headline: "Health secretary resists calls to reopen schools after February half-term".

CYO (Christian Youth Outreach) is a mission, supported by churches in Colchester, that has been working with schools and the colleges since 1991 to "Help young people to grow in life, hope and faith". Sensing that CYO was far better placed than our church at meeting the needs of school-age children, we have been one of those supporting churches since 1993. CYO began in schools by offering to take R.E. lessons and sessions that dealt with relationships. There was soon a waiting list of schools wishing to have CYO cover these subjects.

CYO has never stood still, and the concepts of a "prayer space" and a "sanctum" (a quiet space for reflection) became attractive to staff and pupils alike. The latest approach is to nominate a CYO person appointed as a Chaplain to the school, as in universities,

WHO'S WHO

Priest-in-Charge	Revd Ian Scott-Thompson, The Rectory, Church Lane, Marks Tey, Col. CO6 1LW	01206 215772
Churchwardens	Mrs Coral Wingate, 79 Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1LS	01206 210369
	Mr Ken Thompson, 20 Hines Close, Aldham, Colchester, CO6 3RL	01206 803418
Secretary	Mrs Anne Matthews, 18 Scott Drive, Lexden, CO3 4JD	01206 575603
Treasurer	Mr Richard Gough, 12 Oaktree Cottages, Brook Road, Aldham, CO6 3RJ	01206 215688
Newsletter Editor	Mr Iain MacCallum, 9 Handford Place, Queens Road, Colchester, CO3 3NY	01206 571070

some institutions and large companies. Schools welcome these Chaplains as a non-teaching (and non-financed) resource which offers support in the form of counselling, peace and reflection for students suffering from high levels of stress and anxiety at this time and who would prefer not to approach a teacher.

Jennifer and I were privileged to be present (courtesy of Zoom) at a recent meeting at which the effect of Covid on schools was reported from first-hand experience. Two of the Chaplains present at this meeting reported what some of you who read this will already be all too painfully aware of, that lockdown for Covid has caused extremely high levels of anxiety amongst both parents and school children. They focussed on two reasons for the stress.

Even parents who have been trained as teachers, find it difficult to home-educate one child when a younger one also claims their attention. For most parents, even mathematics is different from the mathematics they were taught. Stress quickly takes root, and the whole family finds itself treading on eggshells.

The other source of stress is what's become known as "the Digital Divide". This throws up two problems. First, some students who are used to the contact mode of learning find it more challenging to adapt to a digital mode of provision; and secondly, that although they may be digitally literate, they might not have sufficient access to digital platforms. Furthermore, having access to technology does not guarantee that the student actually learns. Effective learning depends on much preparation being put in by the teacher and the student.

Remote teaching has been in place in many higher educational establishments for some time, but in our schools, it may best be described as "emergency remote teaching" for which most school teachers have not been trained. Learning these

skills and recasting teaching material for digital delivery is time-consuming especially for the digitally less literate staff. It does not help when the staff have to switch at short notice between contact and remote teaching at the word of the government and union leaders. We understand the difficulty with remote teaching: our two grandsons, are both very digitally literate; one soaks up the digital material but the other finds it more difficult.

Access to digital platforms is more than promising to deal out tablets to all students in a class. Does anyone know if this has actually happened? We know of students, in Colchester, who have had to share a PC. Does everyone remember what the "P" stands for? It is "Personal". Although data can be segregated, the device can only be in one pair of hands at a time. Even where all the family has a device of their own, a dodgy hub may limit the places where the WiFi is effective: if the hub is in Dad's study, what is the WiFi like in Sarah's bedroom upstairs where she works? Finally, what is the broadband like between hub and exchange? Is it reliable? In parts of Aldham it's not very good. Many families cannot afford to pay for higher speeds. All this, we're told, adds another level of stress to home education.

If you have an un-needed laptop at home, less than 7 years old and it's still working, could it be donated as a recyclable school laptop? Essex County Council are busy distributing new and recycled computers to schools. To donate a laptop, see

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/laptops-to-help-children-to-study-at-home>

Iain and Jennifer MacCallum

Deadline for March Newsletter

22 February

To: Iain MacCallum or
Jane Smith, 7 Church Grove

WORSHIP AT ALDHAM

The diocese has told us that we should not meet in the church building until present restrictions are lifted. Until further notice, all our services will be held using Zoom. If you would like to join, please call the Rector on 01206 215772



7 Feb	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP
14 Feb	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP
21 Feb	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP
28 Feb	9.15 am	HOLY COMMUNION

Refreshments cannot be served during current restrictions



Worship at Marks Tey

1st Sunday	11.00 am	Morning Worship
2nd Sunday	11.00 am	Morning Worship
3rd Sunday	11.00 am	Morning Worship
4th Sunday	11.00 am	Morning Worship
5th Sunday	10.00 am	Morning Worship

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

Psalm 33 vv. 20, 21

Please support your local Traders

BOILER SERVICING	J Butcher 24 Gainsborough Rd. Sudbury CO10 2HT	07885 504036
BUTCHER	Willsher, 87 London Road, Marks Tey	01206 210365
CARPETS & FLOORING	Unit 1, Flyover Nurseries, 8 Coggeshall Road, MT	07973 407986
CARPETS & FLOORING	Tey Carpets at Home, 25 Keable Road, Marks Tey	01206 212826
COMPUTER ASSISTANCE	Roger Walker, 16 Hines Close, Aldham	01206 211143
DELOTO DOG GROOMING	Karen, Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey CO6 1LS	07970 990564
ELECTRICAL	Aaron Pearson, 1 Rowan Close, Stanway	07825 224420
FUNERALS	A.Birkin & Sons, 6 West St., Coggeshall	01376 561316
FUNERALS	Hunnaball, York House, 41 Mersea Rd.	01206 760049
FUNERALS	E. England Co-op, Stanway Retail Pk, Peartree Rd	01206 804911
FUNERALS	R. Gwinnell & Sons, 112 Ipswich Rd.	01206 868585
GARDEN & HOME MAINTENANCE	SJT, 59 Keable Rd. Marks Tey	07985 386758
GARDENING & ODD JOBS	Gary Todd, 3 London Road, Marks Tey	01206 212274
HOME CARE	Linmar Care, Godmans Lane, Marks Tey	01206 912311
MOBILE HAIRDRESSER	Sarah, 4 Norbury Close, Marks Tey	07884 005978
OPTICIAN	The Eye Centre 15 Market Hill Coggeshall CO6 1TS	01376 561156
PLASTERER	M.J.Reeve, 5 Ashbury Drive, MT, CO6 1XW	01206 920462
PLUMBER	Mark Nayler, 1c King George Rd, CO2 7PE	07763 468391
REMOVALS & STORAGE	K.Dobbs, Unit 1-2, Bellhouse Farm, Stanway	01206 212444
ROOFING SERVICES	Daniel Wicks, 4 Honywood Close, Marks Tey	01206 212032