

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTED BY THE CHURCH IN



# ALDHAM



MARCH 2021 (by email)

## FROM THE RECTOR

*Dear Friends,*

In the Covid pandemic, we've seen all kinds of conspiracy theories pop up, and allegations about misinformation! How do you know what's right, and what's wrong? Who can you trust? Some will trust the scientists, the experts, and the authorities; others reckon those are exactly the groups you shouldn't trust! Maybe I should go with my friends, or what I read on social media?

Some news stories are what's been called 'sticky' news. We seem more attracted to read bad news than good news, and stories about conspiracies and hidden agendas – why do we like them so much? Stories giving a balanced view from both sides of an argument are less exciting to read, whereas a jolly good one-sided rant is quite a spectacle! A sober scientific opinion is not much fun, and nor is most scholarly commentary about Jesus. Even if Dan Brown or Richard Dawkins is shooting a line, it's more entertaining than the Bishop or the Vicar! Some have said we live in a post-truth era. We are less concerned with seeking out the hard facts and the opinion of experts, and more inclined to look for a story that we like, perhaps on social media. Western society is offering us so many choices, we can even choose our own truth.

The danger comes when it's a matter of life and death. We have become so insulated from risk in day-to-day life, we don't always recognise danger in our lives. We take selfies on the cliff-edge, or drive while texting. We refuse the vaccine, and we dismiss the offer of Christian faith and eternal life.

All these choices are ours to make, but some of them are more serious than we realise. What are the big ones you face this week?

With best wishes,

## BACK TO CHURCH?

Worship at Church of England churches will soon re-open again carefully for worship on Sundays, but for now we are continuing Sunday worship and prayer meetings online, on Zoom. Please contact us for details. In March we are also holding a simple weekday service of **Morning Prayer** (half an hour from 9.00am on Zoom, Mon-Fri).

## ALDHAM W.I.

We continue to hold our monthly meetings on zoom, until the current restrictions change. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 18 March at 7.30pm, our speaker, Frances Sparrow, will give a talk entitled '*History and the weather*.' If you would like further details please contact me on 01206 211408.

*Jean Jennings*

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

## CHURCH ROTAS

### *Cleaning:*

March Wendy Doncaster  
Anne Hodgson

### *Flowers:*

March LENT - no flowers

*Churchyard:* Ken Thompson

## DIARY DATES

7 Mar Last orders for Real Easter Eggs to Iain MacCallum

9 Mar 9.15 am Prayer for Aldham on Zoom (and every second Tuesday)

10 Mar 7.30 pm (Zoom) *Who is a God like you?* (Micah 7:1-20)

## REAL EASTER EGGS

In spite of Covid, the Easter Egg with the Easter Message is back in its 11th year.

The latest regulations make it unlikely that we will be able to fully celebrate Easter this year, so it's important that we share the Easter story in 2021. The Real Easter Egg is a good way to do this.

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](mailto:maccallum.ir@gmail.com)

before 7 March. Somehow or other, they will be delivered to you. You don't need to pay me till you get your eggs.

*Iain MacCallum*

## LENT WORSHIP ON TV

I can strongly recommend the half-hour Lent Worship at 11.15am on BBC1 on Sundays. It's introduced by Revd Kate Bottley, well-known to *Songs of Praise* viewers and features a different church each week.

*Jennifer MacCallum*

## JOHN CRANE

John Crane, who was Treasurer in the 1980s until 1992 passed away at the end of January at the age of 97 after suffering a stroke.

With his wife May, he lived in Bentall's Cottage opposite the church before moving to Eight Ash Green. It was there that May died, and such were the donations in her memory, that a new communion table was commissioned to be made by Adrian Pettman of Alresford. Not long after May died, John moved to sheltered housing in Haywards Heath to be closer to daughter Sue. There, he continued singing in the church choir and took an active interest in running the housing unit in which he lived.

I remember John as a Methodist who was also very comfortable in the Church of England, as we do church in Aldham. He was an accountant at the University of Essex, and so was a natural for Treasurer at Aldham. He was "old-school" using a ledger about a mile wide with hundreds of columns for double-entry book-keeping from which he taught me the principles of accrual accounting which was found helpful, but was never required for small churches such as Aldham. I could not cope with the ledger, so I wrote a computer program that produced accounts in the same form as John's.

John's other passion was singing in the

## 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

church choir. Yes, we had a small choir in those days, led by Irene Bale. John and I held the bass line while Anne Matthews was the alto, and any other ladies who joined us sang the tune.

John was lovingly cared for by daughter Sue. When it became impossible for her to visit him from Shoreham, Sue and her partner gave him a home for 4 months last summer where he thoroughly enjoyed the care and company - and walks in his wheelchair along the promenade.

John's funeral takes place on Monday, 1 March. Our sympathy goes out to Susan.

*Iain MacCallum*

## THE PARISH SHARE

There has been a lot of talk recently about **The Parish Share** at meetings of the PCC and in recent newsletters. In the January Newsletter we reported on the GIFT DAY 15 November.

*Following an appeal to the church members and friends, about £4,645 was raised towards the Parish Share. At its meeting on 7 December, the PCC decided to pay the 2020 Parish Share in full.*

**What is the Parish Share?** Isn't the Church of England wealthy enough to pay its clergy and other costs? If it can't pay these cost now, has this always been the case? Didn't the Parish Share used to be called the Diocesan Quota?

Well, time was when most of the clergy were wealthy in their own right.

In 1745, historian Philip Morant was installed as Rector of Aldham. He is said to have spent little time in our church, having paid for a curate, a clergyman in training, out of his own pocket.

In 1855 when Aldham Church was "moved" from Church House Farm to the crossroads, the then rector, Charles Bannatyne, was the motivator behind the move. He also contributed over one third of the cost. He then paid for the 4

Almshouses opposite the church that bear his name. He came from a very well-heeled family. Church members at that time needed only to pay for incidental expenditure.

Some churches were in themselves very wealthy with endowments and having income from glebe land that could benefit the incumbent and the church.

The playing field needed to be levelled. Information on the internet is very thin regarding the introduction of what has now become the Parish Share. A diocesan "Quota" was required of churches in 1937, but this did not include the cost of the minister.

By 1967, when I came to live in Aldham, the rector, of Marks Tey and Aldham, was paid by the diocese from the fund consisting of all the parish quotas in the diocese. Today, our Parish Share (£24,472 plus about £36,000 from Marks Tey) has to cover the incumbent's stipend, pension, normal rectory running costs and an amount for the training of new clergy. The full parish share, which we are currently spared, would also include an amount towards the administration of the diocese. It does *not* include the stipends or housing costs of bishops!

Aldham has always paid the quota/parish share in full, as we believe this is a proper response to the Bible's teaching. *Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labour in preaching and teaching.* (1 Tim. 5:17) However, even with the result of Gift Day, we had to use reserves to pay our contribution to the 2020 share. We will probably need another Gift Day before the end of this year.

*Iain MacCallum*

Deadline for April Newsletter

**22 March**

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*



1 Mar	9.00 am	MORNING PRAYER <i>and every morning, Monday - Friday</i>
7 Mar	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP
14 Mar	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP <i>Mothering Sunday</i>
21 Mar	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP
28 Mar	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

**The LORD is good,  
a refuge in times  
of trouble.  
He cares for those  
who trust in him,**

*Nahum ch. 1 v. 7*

## 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