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| NEXT SUNDAY | 17th March 2019 |
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| Saffron Walden | 8.00am | HOLY COMMUNION 1662 |
| | 10.00am | HOLY COMMUNION + TEAM JC |
| | 4.00pm | HOLY COMMUNION <i>with prayers for wholeness & healing</i> |
| Hadstock | 3.00pm | SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING |
| Ashdon | 9.30am | HOLY COMMUNION |
| Debden | 9.15am | HOLY COMMUNION |
| Wimbish | 11.00am | MATTINS |

Ashdon Magazine Article Spring 2019

You may have seen advertisements for the Alpha course, an introduction to the Christian faith. Some of these adverts confront many people's impression of Christianity, that it is 'boring, untrue and irrelevant'. The Alpha course goes a long way to counter this, but if you don't have weeks to spare, I would like to give you my two-pennyworth.

Most of the religions of the world have a founder, someone that they believe spoke the truth about God and the human condition. Christians also believe that their founder is God in human form. This means that Jesus not only shows us what God is like, but he also shows us what human beings are capable of. As we read the four biographies of Jesus (the Gospels) that we find in the Bible, we see in a human being all of God that we can possibly understand and appreciate. More than that, we see what we can be like, if we are willing to accept his help. In the words of a song, Jesus 'laid aside his majesty' when he came to earth, but he was still himself, with all the love, compassion, wisdom, grace, etc. that we know must be at the heart of God.

The miracles that we read about in the Gospels did not happen by Jesus exercising some inherent power, but through the Holy Spirit, the expression of God at work in the world. This is where Christianity becomes exciting, genuine and relevant. The gift of the Holy Spirit is available to everyone who is willing to put their trust in Jesus. He comes to live inside us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and guides and enables us to live as he did when he was on earth. Even though we fail him again and again, he is always there to pick us up, to dust us down and to help us learn by our mistakes. I first put my trust in him in 1985 and have seen Jesus at work in my life, and in the lives of others, countless times, always with the 'flavour' of the Jesus we read about in the Bible.

At Christmas time, many joined us in the Ashdon churches to focus on the start of Jesus' life on earth. We are approaching the Easter season when we turn our attention to the last week of Jesus' time here. As every year, this will culminate on Easter Sunday (21st April) with a celebration of Jesus rising from the dead, showing us that he has the victory over death for all of us. And on 9th June (Pentecost) we remember the day when Christians first received the gift of the Holy Spirit, to make Jesus-like lives possible here on earth.

Richard Spencer

The Grapevine

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, ASHDON

www.allsaintsashdon.org.uk

First Sunday of Lent

10th March 2019

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: *Romans 10.8b-13*

What does scripture say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Gospel: *Luke 4.1-13*

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Post Communion

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Churches Together Prayer Cycle: In March please pray for Abbey Lane & Newport URC, incorporating the Methodist Church, Dame Bradbury's School

Those who are unwell: Stan Bradley, Dennis Sheldrick Christine Coughlan & Cherry Bryant, Lionel Bartran

Those whose wedding banns are being called: Mark Collins & Megan Sutherland (Ashdon), James Kirk & Joanna Kay (SW), Christopher Clout & Courtney Meichen (SW)

TEAM

TODAY: THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS - What can I do about it? Saffron Walden Climate Change Alliance invites you to two talks at 5pm at The Friends Meeting House: Rev Caroline Vodden on 'Living without Plastics' and architect Mike Hibbs on 'Energy Efficient Homes Made Easy.' Free Admission. *Edward Gildea*

JENNY TOMLINSON'S installation as Archdeacon of Birmingham will take place in Birmingham Cathedral on **Sunday 12th May** at 3.30pm. A coach will depart from Swan Meadow Car Park at 11.45am, returning back to Saffron Walden by approx. 8.40pm. Coach tickets, £15, and more information are available from Dawn in the Parish Office.

DAVID IS ON SABBATICAL from May to July, and his first Sunday back is 4th August. Do hold Jenny (and David) in your prayers.

DAVID'S BOOK LAUNCH is on **Tuesday 12th March** at 6.30pm at Harts in Saffron Walden. He'll also be happy to sign your book on **Sunday 17th March** after the 10am service and, over coffee on **Saturday 23rd** from 9.45 to 11.15am at 29 Saxon Way. All welcome on all three occasions. *David WWW* (Women Who Wonder) will meet on **Tuesday 12th March**, 59a Clay Pit Piece, SW at 8pm. Marisa Baltrock will be leading us in a Taizé service. All women of working age or thereabouts are welcome. More info from Gill Caswell - gill.cas@hotmail.com

ST MARY'S MOTHERS' UNION meet in the Parish Rooms at 2pm on **Thursday 14th March** when our speaker will be Judith Meaden, Mothers' Union Diocesan President. *Jan Siewertsen*
A PLAY – MR DARWIN'S TREE **Thursday 14th March**, 5.30pm, St John's College Old Divinity School, All Saints Passage, Cambridge. Tickets £10 + booking fee
www.sciencefestival.cam.ac.uk 01223 766766

SALTMINE THEATRE are going to help us think about 'becoming an inviting church' on **Thursday 14th March**, 8pm at St Mary's Church, Henham, focusing on inviting people to church. Admission is free but you need to book a ticket on 01279 814285 or e-mail office@heuchurch.co.uk All welcome to this fun but stimulating event. *David*

A QUIET DAY All are welcome to enjoy a day of rest and reflection led by Revd Janet Nicholls, Rural Adviser and Agricultural Chaplain, Diocese of Chelmsford (for more info. please phone 01371 851317). **Saturday 16th March** 10.30am-3.30pm, St Andrews Church, Shalford.

MEN'S SUPPER Our next supper will be at The Yuva, Debden on **Thursday 28th March**, 7.00 for 7.30pm. All welcome. Bring a friend. Please sign up on the notice board at the back of St Mary's church, SW, or contact Bill Rose - email: wjr2163@gmail.com – tel. 01799 516609 - before 26th March.

RURAL CHURCH BUILDINGS CONFERENCE on **Thursday 2nd May** from 10am to 5pm at Pleshey Diocesan Retreat House. See poster at the back of St Mary's, SW and for further information, contact gdowling@chelmsford.anglican.org

CLERGY TEAM

Rector: Revd Canon David Tomlinson 01799 500947

Email: rector.saffronwalden@ntlworld.com

Parish Administrator: Dawn Saxon 01799 506024

Email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

Revd Paula Griffiths 01799 599141

Revd Tim Hardingham 01799 542874

Revd Alex Jeewan 01799 531153

Revd Richard Spencer 01799 584171

Revd Canon Jenny Tomlinson 01799 500757

Revd. Angela Want 01799 540051

Revd Rachel Prior 01799 500047

Revd John Saxon 01799 541619

ASHDON

9:30am Communion

220 How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds

346 My song is love unknown

484 The King of love my Shepherd is

328 Make me a channel of your peace

106 Dear Lord and Father of mankind

4pm Evensong

242 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

399 On a hill far away

6 Abide with me; fast falls the eventide

We welcome **David Tomlinson**, our Team Rector to preach today.

We will hold All Saints' Church's **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on 26th March** at 7:30pm in the Parish Rooms. We will have a number of vacancies for members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) please consider prayerfully whether you could server our church and community in this role. Please speak to Robin, Barbara or Richard for more information.

Do join us at 9:30am on **31st March** at All Saints' for an Ashdon joint **Mothering Sunday** service with the members of Ashdon Baptist Church, when Gavin will be speaking – activities for children and gifts for all the ladies.

The PCC has been considering the possibility of setting up a 'Home Team' to lead worship on occasional Sundays. If you are interested in being part of this, please speak to Richard or Robin.

Sheila Plumridge is stepping down from the **Ashdon Magazine** Committee after many years of faithful service. It would be great if another member of the All Saints' church family could volunteer to help with the vital part of village life. Please speak to Sheila to find out more.

Our **Lent Course** this year, in partnership with Ashdon Baptist Church will take place on Thursday evenings, starting at 7pm:

- 28th March at the Manse
- 4th April at the Manse
- 11th April at the Vicarage
- 18th April in All Saints' Church (Maundy Thursday)

We will be supporting the charity **Water Aid** during Lent. Please see the poster in church. They are asking us to save up our loose change.