

THE

CRAYFISHER

February 2020

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The magazine for the Parish of Cray Valley

No.57

CONTACTS

Vicar: Rev. Jessie Daniels White
motherjessiedanielswhite@gmail.com

Parish Office 07484 193188

Email: crayparish@outlook.com

Associate Priest: Rev. Jane Winter 07734 962140

Pastoral Assistants: Jill Renwick 01689 825582

Muriel Unsworth 01689 835275

Churchwardens: Bridget Daly 07502 318629

Terry McCartney 01689 826620

Brenda Smith 01689 829556

Trevor Taylor 01689 828100

Safeguarding Officer: Sarah Rideout 07941 020724

Parish Administrator: Danielle Cooper 07484 193188

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday Mornings

Magazine Editor: Brenda Smith 01689 829556

Email: crayfishereditor@gmail.com

Social Committees Contacts

St Andrew's: Trevor Taylor 01689 828100

St Mary's: Bridget Daly 01689 830955

St Mary's, High Street St Mary Cray: BR5 4NJ

www.stmarysatcray.com

St Andrew's, Lower Road St Mary Cray: BR5 4AJ

www.standrewsatcray.com

The editorial team reserve the right to edit, and condense
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Front Cover Picture: St Mary Cray; Courtesy of St Mary Cray Action Group

PARISH LETTER

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter in early January, and inevitably I am drawn to thinking about the New Year. It may seem strange reading about a new year in a February magazine, but when a year begins depends on your perspective. The church calendar begins in Advent and therefore we are already a few months into the year. If we think in terms of the academic year, we are getting close to halfway through. If you more naturally think about a calendar year, there has probably already been time for you to break your new year's resolutions!

A new year gives us a natural opportunity to stop and look back and I don't think many people would argue that 2019 was an unusual year with many unpredictable events. Perhaps something more personally significant happened for you in 2019 – not something that would make the headlines, but something that you will never forget. As we look forward into 2020 and the chance for a fresh start, what are your hopes and dreams – both big and small?

As a church, we have lots to be hopeful for. We're hopeful for progress and continued growth within our Parish. As we look to the future, it is important to remember the progress that we have made so far in these areas and the hard work that has got us to this stage, but I sense that 2020 will be a significant year as we hopefully begin to see this hard work come to fruition.

With all the potential progress in 2020, it is important that we do not lose sight of the way God has been at work in and through us and acknowledge His involvement in all of this. Please pray with me that God will continue to guide us and be with us along the journey.

In my second year in Cray Valley Parish, Psalm 27.13-14 has been significant for me and I think it is appropriate to hold on to its promise as we hope and pray for God to lead us into the future:

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Jessie x

READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

- Sun 2nd Malachi 3. 1-5
Hebrews 2. 14-end
GOSPEL: Luke 2. 22-40
- Sun 9th Isaiah 58. 1-9a [9b-12]
1 Corinthians 2. 1-12 [13-end]
GOSPEL: Matthew 5. 13-20
- Sun 16th Genesis 1. 1-2.3
Romans 8. 18-25
GOSPEL: Matthew 6. 25 – end
- Sun 23rd Exodus 24. 12-end
2 Peter 1. 16-end
GOSPEL: Matthew 17. 1-9

REGULAR SERVICES ACROSS THE PARISH

Items in **red** refer to **St Mary's**, **blue** to **St Andrew's**.

All services are open to everyone.

St Andrew's	Sundays 09:15	
	1st Sunday	Praise and Worship with Eucharist
	2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sunday	Sung Eucharist
	Thursday 19:00	Said Eucharist
	Friday 12:00	Healing & Wholeness with Said Eucharist and lunch
St Mary's	Sundays: 11.00	
	1st Sunday	Praise and Worship with Eucharist
	2nd and 4th Sunday	Sung Eucharist
	3rd Sunday	Informal Praise and Worship
	5th Sunday	Family Holy Communion
	Wednesday 12:00	Said Eucharist
Saturdays	There are different regular Saturday events throughout the month. See the following pages to find out more details.	

ACROSS THE PARISH THIS MONTH

Items in **red** refer to **St Mary's**, **blue** to **St Andrew's**, **purple** to both churches.

Sun 2	09:15	CANDLEMAS Presentation of Christ in Temple
	11:00	CANDLEMAS Presentation of Christ in Temple
Mon 3	12:30	SINGLETON'S LUNCH Please see Jill Renwick for details
Tue 4	15:00	APSLEY COURT Come along and have a cup of tea or coffee and a chat with the residents. It is very much appreciated by them. See Jill, Brenda or Malcolm for details.
Wed 5	09:30	FUNSHINE CLUB
	12:00	EUCCHARIST at St Mary's followed by Mothers Union lunch at Mosaic Café
Sat 8	12:30	COMMUNITY LUNCH/GET TOGETHER 'Bring your own lunch'. Tea and coffee provided
Wed 12	09:30	FUNSHINE CLUB
	14:00	MOTHERS' UNION ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL Tea Afternoon
	19:45	HOME GROUP at Jean's house.
Tue 18	19:30	PRAYER GROUP at Muriel's house
Wed 19	09:30	FUNSHINE CLUB
Sat 22	19:30	PANCAKE PARTY at St Mary's
Wed 26	09:30	FUNSHINE CLUB
	12:00	ASH WEDNESDAY WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES at St Mary's
	19:00	ASH WEDNESDAY WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES at St Andrew's
Sat 29	10:00	COFFEE MORNING



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**THE DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE OF
THE CRAYFISHER IS MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY. PLEASE
HAVE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN BY THIS DATE –
ANYTHING RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE HELD
OVER UNTIL THE NEXT ISSUE**

*Regular meetings of Rainbows are in St Andrew's church hall on Mondays
17:00-18:30 during term time. Brownies meet in*

St Andrew's church hall on Fridays 18:30-20:00 also during term time

**THE CHURCH HALL AT ST ANDREW'S IS AVAILABLE
ON WEEKDAYS, WEEKENDS, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY
EVENINGS.**

**Please see page 20 for details of how to book either St Mary's or
St Andrew's hall**

CRAY VALLEY MOTHERS' UNION

The January Mothers' Union meeting was held on the 7th and was attended by eight people, including Rev. Jessie and our speaker, Judith Niechcial, the wife of the vicar of St Francis, Petts Wood.

She spoke about the 'Quakers' or Society of Friends to give them their correct title, explaining how they differed to the Church of England; both in their method of, and how, they worshipped. Founded in the 17th century during the English Civil War, they were unhappy with the pomp and ceremony of the Catholic and Church of England as they believe that everybody, rich or poor, man woman or child had the right to talk directly to God without the for need for clergy. They also thought that everyone should be truthful and peaceful. This is mirrored in their services today where they sit in a circle in silence seeking connection with the Holy Spirit and only speaking when and if they feel they have been asked to by the Spirit. They have a table in the centre with flowers on it to remind them of God's beautiful creations, together with a copy of the New Testament and their own book of reference. There are no hymns or prayers as in our services.

The talk ended with five minutes silence, after which we had tea, biscuits and a chat. Muriel was thanked for her hospitality.

The February meeting is on WEDNESDAY the 5th and is in two parts, firstly we are attending the Midweek Eucharist at 12:00 and then we are going to lunch at Christchurch's Mosaic Café approximately 13:15. Please see Muriel if attending. (01689-835275)

Your Mothers' Union subscriptions are due, unless you have already paid, if so thank you for being prompt. This year the required amount is £26:00 plus if you are able, a donation to our branch funds. You can pay cash, cheques or bank transfer. (Cheques payable to A.J. Lathey (Mothers' Union) or bank transfer to Sort Code: 09-01-33 and Account Number 12526504 add your name as reference, so we know who's subs are being paid.

Programme Cards for 2020 are available, please see Tony.

If you are interested in any of the above or in joining or finding out more about the M.U. please speak to Muriel, Grace or Tony.

PARISH PRAYER GROUP

Meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at Muriel's home.

ORPINGTON FOOD BANK

Another year and the need for Food Banks appears to be increasing not decreasing, which does not put our country's Christian heritage in a very good light.

As the need for more is unfortunately still there, please try to add to the parishes contributions and bring a small contribution each time you come to church, making sure there is a reasonable shelf life left, they are much appreciated by the people in need. Many thanks to those of you that do, last month's contribution was 14.6 kilos total for both churches.

If you require any information regarding the Food Bank, the basics can be found at www.trusselltrust.org or contact me Tony, for local information. Many thanks for your contributions.

Tony Lathey (tonylathey@gmail.com)

CHURCH ROTAS

The Church Rotas have been prepared by the Parish Administrator, Danielle. The congregations were asked towards the end of last year to advise her as to whether they wanted to be part of the church's services. If you missed this and would like to take part in any of the services, please contact Danielle (on 07484-193188 or at parishoffice@outlook.com) informing her of what part of the service you would like to do and when you are normally available, if you don't attend every week. Holidays and sickness can be sorted out as and when they happen unless they are extensive (i.e. over 4 weeks). *Tony Lathey*

ST. MARY'S CHURCH OPEN HOUSE

St Mary's Church will be opening its doors again this year, details from Peter or Terry.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

For further details contact Tony Lathey 01689 872742

WITH 14TH FEBRUARY AND ROMANTIC LOVE ON THE MIND – HERE IS SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU SMILE.

Adam and Eve

Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked.

What are angels like?

Try asking school children that question, and you'll get some imaginative replies! Like these....

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter. –

Sara, aged 6

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and His Son, who's a very good carpenter.

- Jared, aged 8

All angels are girls because they have to wear dresses and boys didn't go for it. - *Anthony, aged 9*

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth. - *Kate, aged 9*

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the kid get over it. - *Vicky, aged 8*

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them. - *Sarah, aged 7*

Courtesy of www.parishpump.co.uk

SOCIAL EVENTS

at **St Andrew's** and **St Mary's** in 2020. Please see notice boards and listen for notices to get the full details. Please look out for more events to come

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
22 February	Pancake Party	St Mary's
07 March	Quiz Night	St Andrew's
25 April	Quiz Night	St Mary's
3 May	Concert	St Mary's
9 May	Bingo	St Andrew's
20 June	Cream Tea	St Andrew's
27 June	Spanish Evening	St Mary's
July Tbc	BBQ	St Andrew's
18 July	Cream Tea	St Mary's
19 September	Quiz Night	St Andrew's
3 October	Harvest Bring & Share Supper	St Mary's
24 October	Annual Dinner	St Andrew's
28 November	Christmas Fair	St Mary's

OBITUARIES

Sadly, we have to announce the recent deaths of Mrs. Mary Paton and Mrs. Nancy Reynolds, both ladies lived in this area for most of their lives and will be known to many of you. Mary took our magazine for as long as I can recall. Nan served in the Land Army during World War 2. Both ladies were members of the local Women's Institute and the St. Mary Cray Action Group, and were both in their 90's.

Rosemary Lathey

STOP PRESS

We have just heard that Mary Paton's funeral will be at Kemnal Park Crematorium on Sidcup By-Pass on 7 February at 12:30 if you would like to go and pay your respects.

SPECIAL REQUEST FROM ST ANDREW'S CHURCHWARDENS

There are many tasks that need to be done after the service each week. We are asking if there is someone in the congregation who would be kind enough to take on the responsibility of putting the bins out each week after the service on Sundays, as this job often seems to be forgotten and one of us, or someone else has to come back to the church to do the job. This would be on-going but if you find you are unable to do this one week for whatever reason, please ask someone else if they could do it for you for that week.

Hoping you can help. If you can, please speak to one of us. Thank you.

Brenda and Trevor

HAIRDRESSING AFTER CHURCH



June Jenner has offered to cut men's and ladies hair for £5 or cut and blow dry for £10 after the Sunday Eucharist at St Andrew's and all monies will be donated to the church. So, if you feel the need for a haircut, please see June who will arrange a time and date for you. If you know of someone who is unable to get to church and would like a haircut, June is willing to go to their house. June is fully qualified.

Brownies

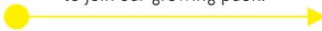


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THE CHURCHES OF NORFOLK

Many artists, poets and writers have found inspiration from the colourful history and geography of Norfolk. It is England's fourth-largest county. There is even a poetic ring to a prose description of Norfolk's characteristic landscape: the vast open sky; the wide, deserted sandy beaches; the salt marshes; the flocks of migratory birds. The poet laureate John Betjeman wrote: 'Maltings and saltings, stack and quay; And somewhere near, the grey North Sea.'

Betjeman edited and part-wrote *The Collins Guide to English Parish Churches* (1958): 'Many of the churches stand 'away in the fields' and are most important features of the Norfolk landscape. There are over a hundred round towers, not look-outs as people used to think, but built like that because flint, the only stone available locally, could not be used for corners. These are almost all Saxon or Norman. Then when it was

possible to import stone, came the great soaring towers, like Salle or Cawston or Blakeney, and the highest of all in the seaside town of Cromer. There are few spires, one being Norwich cathedral.'

The poet Kevin Crossley-Holland wrote: 'This world floats on a great stillness. I can only guess where marsh finishes and sky begins. In the creek, a slip of water gleams. Rowboats bob and swing above the mud.'

Jerry Dowlen



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**DECK THE HALLS WITH BOUGHS
OF HOLLY, FA LA LA LA LA LA LA
LA LA
TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY FA
LA LA LA, LA, ETC**

The family of St Andrew's and St Mary's certainly know how to be jolly.

We celebrated the start of the Christmas Season with a lunch at The Croft Tea Rooms in St Mary Cray, with Christmas Dinner, lots of lovely turkey, Christmas



pudding and crackers, not to mention a glass of wine (or two!)

After enjoying all the familiar Christmas services and the lovely extra gatherings, Christingle, a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols and the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, the Singletons Group finished

off with the first lunch of 2020 at Weatherspoon's in Petts Wood. More good food and craic.

I know that as well as these jollities, most of both groups also enjoyed their own personal gatherings, with family and friends. And we all gave thanks that we were so blest and remembered those who are not so lucky.

And now we look forward to the New Year - who knows what surprises, good and bad, lie ahead but we do know that Our Saviour, whose birth we also celebrated, will be with us and support us in all we have to face. Happy New Year to all and peace to the world.

Evelyn Magee

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FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel chapter 1

In the time before there were kings in Israel, there lived a rich man, Elkanah, and his two wives, Hannah and Peninnah.

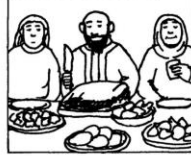
Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.



Each year they travelled to Shiloh to worship God.



After the worship, they feasted.



Elkanah always gave Hannah a special portion of food to show he loved her.



But Hannah was too sad to eat. She left the meal and went to pray.



She prayed silently.



Please give me a son. If you do, he will serve You all his life.

Eli the priest saw Hannah's silent weeping and praying and thought she was drunk.



I'm not drunk! I was just pouring out how I feel to God.



I'm sure God will answer your prayer.

Back home, Hannah had a son, and she named him Samuel.



She stayed at home with him when the rest of the family went to Shiloh.

When Samuel was old enough, Hannah and Elkanah took him to Shiloh to live there and serve God.



Psalm 23 Garden coming to RHS Chelsea

The Bible Society has announced that “We’re absolutely thrilled to be working with award-winning garden designer Sarah Eberle, to bring Psalm 23 to life at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May 2020!”

The Psalm 23 Garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2020, designed by Sarah Eberle, will offer visitors the chance “to stop, reflect, and feel refreshed”.

The Bible Society said: “This powerful psalm, with its visual imagery of green pastures, still waters and the valley of the shadow of death, just cries out to be turned into a garden.

“We hope you’ll love it. And after the Chelsea Flower Show, the garden will find a permanent home at the Winchester Hospice in Hampshire, where it will be a blessing to patients and families.”

The Bible Society says it is also hoping that people will “join us in creating community gardens across the country inspired by the Psalm 23 Garden. You can do this outside your office, in your school grounds, or in your churchyard. Let’s get gardening!”

You can follow the project on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and join us on the road to Chelsea.

Courtesy of www.parishpump.co.uk

CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARY’S

Christmas at St. Mary’s Church. Advent, for JaM began with the competition drawings of what Christmas meant to them. The adults joined in and prizes for most effort were Meaningful Christmas calendars. The Toy Service was next and many new toys and vouchers were collected for our needy families in the community. Our Nativity was for adults and children telling, acting and singing the story. Our Christingle Service for the Children’s Society was beautiful and well supported with children and adults sharing its meaning. Candlelit 9 lessons and carols with mince pies and mulled wine beforehand was a time of togetherness along with Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Jacky Cook



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