Enquiries about Marriages & Baptisms. If you have an enquiry about a Baptism or Wedding please come to the church on the first and third Tuesday evenings of the month between 7:00 and 8:00 pm (see website for dates) to meet with one of the clergy who will be pleased to discuss your plans with you and make arrangements. Or contact Christina our Parish Administrator any Wednesday or Thursday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. Revd Paul and Revd Jacky look forward to meeting you.

If you have an enquiry regarding a funeral or are concerned about a loved one please always telephone the vicarage in the first instance 01702 343470.

Photo credits: Richard Anderson (pp 1, 2, 4, 17, 20, 33) Paul Mackay (5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 31, 35) or as credited in article

St Mary’s Magazine page 2
Easter for me has long been a special time. Even before I came to know Christ there was something special about Easter, I seem to be that bit more creative and I think receptive to God’s nudging. I can remember when I was 15 just before the Easter Holidays as part of my “O” level art work I painted my first large picture on canvas. Quite out of character I decided to paint from my imagination. It was not a very good painting but I can still remember how I felt when I was painting it and the deep spiritual emotions I experienced in its creation has meant I have never quite been able to throw it out. Every now and then I come across the picture and remember those feelings. Some years ago I was struck by how much it reminds me of the passage in Luke 24 verses 1-6.

Now at the time of painting it I had not read or was at all familiar with this passage but looking back, I can see that this was one of a number of occasions that the Holy Spirit tried to steer me towards Jesus but at the time I was not sure there was a God and I was certainly not open to the possibility of Christ.

A friend of mine was once asked if she was a Good Friday person or an Easter Sunday person. Of course, one should not be one or the other as one without the other makes no sense at all. Never the less I did for quite a long time find it difficult to really know, in my heart, that Jesus had risen from the dead, whilst I did accept it on the intellectual level I did not “feel” the real wonder.

I remember when that changed; again it was coming up to Easter and one year in my last church we invited local schools to come and experience The Easter Journey: An Imaginative Presentation of Holy week where through role–play, storytelling and listening the children travelled through the palm–waving celebrations in Jerusalem of Palm Sunday and the clearing of market traders from the temple, the last
supper with the disciples, listened in on what happened in the Garden of Gethsemane and heard about Jesus’ cruel death on the cross on Good Friday. The story of course didn’t end there and they discovered what happened three days later on the very first Easter morning when the tomb was found to be empty! It was this last scene John 20;1-18 that lead to my own epiphany as it were.

I was chosen to play Mary Magdalene; now I am a bit of a method actor so I immersed myself in Mary trying to really understand who she was how she would feel. So when the angel asked me why I was weeping I really, really, felt the desolation of my reply:

“They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”

Later standing outside the empty tomb with real tears in my eyes I heard Jesus call my name “Mary!” and Oh my word! this is the risen Christ!

Even now whenever I read John 20;1-18 I feel that same almost overwhelming exhilarating joy. I know in my heart as well as my head that Christ is holding out his hand and calling me by name just as he does to every one of you.

This taught me a useful lesson; sometimes it is good to use your imagination when reading the Bible. It should not always be an academic exercise, putting the passage in to context and examining the sub text, sometimes one should simple dive in, be one of the characters and live the experience.

So I invite you to, dive in, this Easter.

God Bless you and keep you

Revd Jacky
New Full Time Assistant Curate for St Mary’s....

Revd. Bernard Noghiu

We are very pleased to announce that Bernard will be licensed at St Mary’s during our 9:30 am service on 14 July by the Bishop of Bradwell.

Bernard was born in Bacău, România. Bernard was ordained priest in 2000, in Bucharest, by the Roman Catholic Archbishop. He worked as associate priest between 2000 and 2008, and he was a lecturer at The University of Bucharest and The Institute of Theology. In 2008, he joined the Anglican Community and started to work as international journalist, until 2014. In 2014 he moved to the UK with his wife Cornelia (and a couple of suitcases!) and until 2017, he worked at Luton Airport. In 2017, he was licensed as an associate priest at Emmanuel Parish Church, Leyton, in East London. Bernard loves to write stories, go on country walks and design websites!

We look forward to welcoming him and Cornelia to our parish—please pray for them as they prepare for this next chapter in their lives.

Alpha at St Mary’s

12 February to 16 April

Your prayers are important!

Please pray each week on Tuesday afternoon or evening—even for a minute or two!

- Pray for the team helping organize Alpha including who are setting up, cooking, serving, washing up, the group leaders and speakers.
• Pray for the Lord to prepare the hearts and minds of those that will be attending as guests.

• Pray that the Lord would help all guests to attend each session.

• Pray against anything that may prevent their attendance, such as illness or diary conflicts.

• Pray that people would feel confident to share some of the questions they may have.

• Pray that over the duration of the course that each guest would have an encounter with God the Father, God the Son Jesus and God the Holy Spirit.

• Pray that each person involved in Alpha will grow in Faith and love of God.

God Bless Revd Paul

Women’s Fellowship

At our meeting on 4 March, Lin and Claire from Age Concern Southend on Sea, began their presentation by playing their electric ukuleles! Most of the tunes were well known, and we were encouraged to sing along. Afterwards Lin began her talk by reminding us that Age Concern S-o-S is a local “stand alone” charity based in Westcliff, providing vital services to people in later life. Their work depends on volunteers. For example, the charity can call upon 22 volunteer drivers who provide lifts to enable elderly people to attend medical appointments, church, social
clubs, and visit friends at home or in hospital. A magazine is produced twice a year.

Lin said that the charity is looking forward to exciting times. There are plans in the pipeline to lease Havens, the now closed store in Hamlet Court Road, and convert it into a “Hub” for the charity, so all the services can be located in one place. There will be a reception area, a cafe, chiropodist, hairdresser, a meeting room and a medical area addressing public health issues, including “flu jabs”. It is hoped this facility will be up and running during this year.

Southend Age Concern
134 Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff
Tel: 01702 345373 Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Jenny King

From the belfry

Remembrance Day 2018 marked a hundred years of the end of the First World War and a special time for ringers. We had taken part in “Ringing Remembers” (Ringing Remembers was a national campaign to commemorate all the ringers who died in the First World War and to recruit the same number of new ringers) with a total
of 23 people ringing, 9 of whom had been recruited for Ringing Remembers. For some of them it was their first time to ring for a service and they had all learned at the Prittlewell Ringing School. The bells were rung half muffled which gives a lovely, haunting sound. Later in the day we also rang for another initiative called “Battle’s Over”.

Christmas 2018 was a significant one for Ryan Faulkner-Hatt and Sue Sullivan as it was the first time they rang for Christmas services, taking part at both the Christmas Eve midnight service and the morning service on Christmas Day.

On 19 January 2019 Prittlewell Tower was the host tower of the annual district meeting for the Southern district of the Essex Association of Change Ringers. There was ringing from 3:00 pm till 4:30 pm with lots of visitors from across the district, ringing everything from rounds on 6 bells to much more complicated methods on all 10 bells. This was followed by a service of Evening Prayer led by Revd. Paul Mackay. Afterwards we all went to the church hall for a splendid tea provided by the Prittlewell ringers, then we had the meeting. Several Prittlewell trained ringers were elected as new members of the Association; Mike Allott, Lisa Appadurai, Gill Bundock and David Smith.

In January two of our regulars moved to the Isle of Wight—we miss you Billie and Gerry Thornton, but hope to see you from time to time when you visit Essex.

On 2 February one of our youngest ringers, Theo Johnson, rang his first quarter peal. This was of Plain Bob Doubles. Well done, Theo! The photo shows Theo with the rest of the band who were Peter Sloman, Penny Sloman, Steve Halliwell, David Sloman and Sarah Chin–a–Loy.
On 23 February 2019 a quarter peal of Stedman Triples was rung by Penny Sloman (Treble), Sarah Chin-a-Loy, Steve Halliwell, Peter Sloman, John Harpole, Andrew Beech, David Sloman and John Tipping (Tenor). This was the first for Sarah on this method.

This quarter peal was also in memory of Peter Eves who died recently. He had taken part in a record peal here at St Mary’s in 1950 which had taken 8 hours and 22 minutes to ring.

Ryan Faulkner-Hatt and Sue Sullivan who also supplied the photos
Holy Week and Easter Services 2019 at St Mary’s

Palm Sunday 14 April
8:00 am BCP Holy Communion
9:30 am All Age Service
6:30 pm Sung Evensong

Monday 15 April
8:30 am Morning prayer
1:00 pm Stations of the Cross
8:00 pm Compline (a short service of prayer to bring the day to a close)

Tuesday 16 April
8:30 am Morning prayer
9:30 pm Compline

Wednesday 17 April
8:30 am Morning prayer
10:30 am Holy Communion (said service)
8:00 pm Compline

Maundy Thursday 18 April
8:30 am Morning prayer
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Supper (St Mary’s Hall)
9:00 pm - Midnight Vigil in Church

Good Friday 19 April
10:00 am – 12:30 pm Children’s Activity Morning
9:30 am until 12:00 pm Devotional Service “At the Foot of the Cross”
(Followed by Hot Cross Buns and refreshments in St Mary’s Hall)

Easter Day 21 April
5:45 am Sunrise Service with Breakfast till 8:00 am
From 8:30 onwards join us for Bacon Rolls (inc. veg option) and Bucks Fizz!
8:00 am BCP Holy Communion
9:30 am CW Holy Communion N.B. there will be no evening service

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In January, I had the privilege of travelling to the Holy Land. I was part of a “Pilgrimage for Leaders” trip; this was in preparation for our own Pilgrimage taking place in September. Although I have been to Israel before I wanted to see it from a “Leaders” perspective and went with planning and facts and figures in mind to ensure that our visit in September runs as smoothly as possible.

The tour company that we are travelling with in September, McCabe Pilgrimages, organises these shorter trips about every 18 months—any visit to the Holy Land can of course often be seen as a whistle stop tour, but we crammed what was effectively a 9-day visit into five. But whilst as I mentioned above I travelled with a mind to engage with the practicalities of organising a Pilgrimage, on the very first morning whilst visiting the Church of All Nations (Garden of Gethsemane) I was struck once again by the reality of God’s powerful presence in this place. As I sat

Church of All Nations (Garden of Gethsemane)
prayerfully reflecting in the church I was moved to tears by the knowledge that this, or at least within a few yards of this place, was where our Lord shed his own tears and was arrested.

A couple of days later it was suggested that we could rise early on the Sunday and experience the Church of the Holy Sepulchre as it began services at 6:00 am. It was a real privilege to experience this amazing place before the hustle and bustle of other pilgrims arriving and seeing the different traditions and styles of worship taking place.

All in all my privileged short excursion reminded me that God never leaves us to our own devices, we just have to tune in to hear his call from time to time!

I look forward to returning in September with our group of about 22 folk, but it is still not too late to join us. Please contact me should you wish to have any details.

Revd Paul Mackay
We had a fantastic week hosting a prayer space at St Mary’s School for school years two to six. Over the five days, more than four hundred children visited the prayer space. A team from St Mary’s church were hosting the space during a week where the school was focusing on sacred places and pilgrimage as the theme for their assemblies. The space provided an opportunity for the children to spend some time praying or reflecting in a special place with some activities to guide them. This is the second prayer space to be hosted at the Boston Avenue site and many of the children had remembered the prayer space from last year. After a discussion with the pupils around prayer and how we
might receive answers. The classes were divided into two groups, with one group remaining in class while the other visited the prayer space.

Those who remained in class used a ‘Throw and Tell’ ball to explore how we are all different, with unique likes and dislikes and our own ideas. It was then shared with the children that the Bible says we are special and unique, in addition to this it says that we matter, we are loved and we belong. The activity shown in the picture below was completed and left behind in every class.

The children made their own choices about how they used their time in the prayer space. Some reflecting, some praying and some using the time to “just be”. We had a child ask if it was OK to pray to their god and when in the space they enjoyed sharing with the adults about their faith and how they would usually pray. The space provided children with opportunities to think about and reflect on situations in their lives; experiences they have had or are currently facing. In the corridor one year four child came over and said “When we were leaving the hall, I was like I wanna do it again”.

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When ending our time with each class, the children were encouraged to share their thoughts and “likes” about the prayer space with the other members of the class. Some of the pupils would talk about a particular activity they enjoyed, these varied from class to class, others shared their reflections or how they had used their time, one child said of the bubble tubes “To me the bubbles are my fears floating away”. It was a privilege to be present when a child felt safe enough to be vulnerable in front of their team and their class.

The staff were fantastic as they gave up learning time for their class to come and experience the prayer space, with some teachers taking photographs they would later display in their classrooms. Teachers and children showed an interest in seeing activities moved to the classroom, one class asked if they could make their own calm jars and another teacher asked to have her class’s prayer wall so it could be incorporated into the class prayer corner, another said “…my class loved the prayer space…”

As we reflected with the children on how it had felt in the prayer space afterwards one of the most common responses had been how they had felt peace and calm when in the space. We are now looking forward to our next Prayer Space on the East Street site in May.

Lois Blakey

Photo Lois Blakey
Good Friday
Children’s Activity Morning
Exploring the story of Easter through games and making

Friday 19th April  
drop off 10:00am-12:30pm  pick up
St Marys Hall, Victoria Ave  
Ages 5 to 11 years
To register please email cfwstmarys@gmail.com
HARP’S Spring Walk

Sunday 28 April 2019 2:00 pm

Join us for a gentle 3.5 mile stroll along the Prittle Brook Greenway, from Priory Park to Belfairs Park. Every step you take will show your solidarity with local homeless people and help HARP beat homelessness for good. Enjoy free tea and cake at the Belfairs Woodland Centre. The route is pushchair friendly, and dogs on leads are welcome.

www.harpsouthend.org.uk/spring-walk-2019

Pop in for Pancakes

Pop in for Pancakes was a fantastic afternoon; our resident pancake maker was kept busy with orders from start to finish making about 130 pancakes. While visitors waited for their pancakes there were table top activities and some competitive pancake (tortilla) flipping to entertain them. It was lovely to see familiar and new faces enjoying their pancakes.

We would like to say a huge thank–you to all those who so generously gave of their time and volunteered, making the event possible.

Lois Blakey
The Parish Outing

The Parish Outing this year is to Colchester Castle on the 6 July.

Further information will be available soon with a signing up sheet.

The Social Committee

Caption Competition

Answers to “Ed” on an (electronic) postcard to

stmarysprittlewellmagazine@gmail.com

by 1 May 2019.
In late January St Mary’s Junior Church turned one and it is hard to believe it has been over a year. Since January last year we have grown in number and have established a wonderful team of helpers who make the weekly the sessions possible. The children arrive with their parents and leave after the first hymn returning so the family can go for communion together.

Each session incorporates a game, worship, prayer, a story or moral lesson based on Jesus’ teachings and the opportunity for the children to create something to take home that links to the what has been discussed or explored during the session. We are currently completing a Junior Church Alpha Course in preparation for our Confirmation Classes in May.

If you would like to know more about our confirmation classes please speak to the Children and Families Worker or email cfwstmarys@gmail.com

Lois Blakey
From the registers

Baptisms

3 February Marissa Jayne Baldwin
3 March Evie Louise Underdown
   Ellis George Charlick
17 March Monica Carlota Rodrigues Faria

Marriages

1 December Kevin Pike and 
   Katie–Jane Knight

Funerals

14 December Brian Ellingford
31 December John Hindle
21 January Joan Adams
4 February Joy Wootten
6 February Benjamin Martin
18 February Shirley Locke
28 February Maureen Hulbert
ST MARY’S TEDDY BEAR PICNIC
(with Teddy Parachute Jump from the Tower weather permitting !)
8 June 2019 (12:00 – 4:00 pm)

This year our summer event will be a Teddy Bears’ Picnic, so bring along a Teddy, Blanket and a Picnic for your family. As mentioned above we are hoping to hold a Teddy Bear Jump (as long as the weather is kind) so start thinking about which of your teddies will be brave enough.

Come along and enjoy the day we have lots of nice things planned:

- It’s Time for Tea and Cake
- Summer Delights - Fruit Punch with Strawberries & Cream
  - Ice Cream Van
  - Bouncy Castles
  - Bear Hunt and Story
  - Name the Teddy
  - Busy Bee Coconut Shy
  - Sweet Stall
  - Plant Stall
  - Church Tours
  - Music
  - Giant Bubble (TBC)

LOOK OUT FOR OUR BANNERS AND FLYERS WHICH WILL BE ON DISPLAY SOON
Volunteer opportunities

WANTED—able volunteer staff for the Avenue Child Contact Centre in Westcliff which is held on the 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} Saturdays of every month (volunteers required 9:45 am to around 3:30 pm and includes some carrying of equipment/toys for setting up and packing away).

All volunteers are fully DBS checked and can state their availability for the rota. Parking is available on site and there is a good bus service close by.

WANTED—younger volunteer readers (16 +) for the Southend on Sea Talking Newspaper—recordings are approximately every six weeks on a rota basis and are made in the town centre at 4:30 pm on a Thursday for about two hours. Volunteers would need to be sufficiently fit as the fire escape includes climbing an outdoor ladder. Subject to successful voice recording audition.

Further information about the above, please contact Suzanne Mattingley.

Easter morning: the “Other” Mary

Sue and I recently watched the movie “Mary Magdalene” released in the UK last year 2018—unusually only on USA release this year on 12 April. It follows the story of the “Other Mary”. It is an interesting film and like all Bible inspired movies it involves some obvious deviation from scripture and I came across the following article by Canon David Winter.

As the traditional Easter story is rehearsed again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the
“other” Mary—not the mother of Jesus, but Mary of Magdalene, who stood by her at the cross and became the first human being actually to meet the risen Christ. That’s quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from “seven devils”—New Testament language for some dark and horrible affliction of body, mind or spirit. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming.

In church history Mary Magdalene became the “fallen woman” a harlot who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus but there is no evidence to prove she was a “fallen woman” but the contrast is sublime, Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity. Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. Surely, we all fall somewhere between those two extremes. The dark cloud from which she was delivered may have been sexual, we are not told. What we do know is that the two Marys stood together at the cross, the Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from who knows what darkness and despair.

The second great moment for her was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen—and the others drifted off. But Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener. She explained to Him that the body of “her Lord” had been taken away and she didn’t know where to find Him.

The man simply said her name “Mary” and she instantly realised it was Jesus. She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because his resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the
male disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did—but they couldn’t believe her.

Her words—“I have seen the Lord”—echo down the centuries, the very beating heart of the Christian gospel.

Don’t be put off engaging with the movies they will always nudge us to refer to scripture and there find truth!

God Bless Revd. Paul

Great British Drives: the last ever Ford Capri from Southend to central London

In its element: the final Capri to roll off Ford’s production line in Cologne in 1986 at the splendid Kursaal building on the Southend seafront
Southend-on-Sea, or Saafend as it’s more fondly known, is one of those places that we all think we know. Fish and chips, brightly-lit arcade games, brisk walks on the seafront, opportunistic seagulls, terrible one-way systems and overpriced parking. The picture of Britishness. And (apart from the last three, perhaps), what’s not to like about that?

Although, as I nosed the long, Brooklands Green nose of the Ford Capri 280 towards the seafront, I can’t help but think that town planners of 60 years ago have a lot to answer for.

Unimaginative, right-angled concrete makes up much of the town’s main shopping area; so much that if you don’t look up you can miss the shabby Georgian and Victorian splendour punctuating it. A dome here, some intricate red brick there and then, suddenly, the Thames Estuary comes into view at the same moment you stumble across something like the Kursaal building; a huge yet delicate concoction of stoic red brick and airy, glass-filled ironwork. Even with a Tesco Express sign now seemingly the primary focus, it packs a serious architectural punch.

This part of Essex will forever be a Ford stronghold
There could hardly be a more appropriate car for our Sunday drive from seaside to London city centre, either.

This was the last Ford Capri to roll off the line—albeit in Cologne rather than up the road in Dagenham. It brought an end to 17 years of the Capri in 1986, and it feels every inch the bolshie, confident character I imagined it would be. It exudes such swagger, from the fast and angry looks to the meaty-sounding mutter of the 2.8-litre V6.

Winding it down the broad, palm-tree lined seafront that feels almost Mediterranean on a warm autumn day (provided you don’t look the other way to the gaudily appealing amusement arcades) this is a car that you have to work hard to get the best from. Big steering inputs, heavy brake pressure, accurate throttle blips for downshifts... It reminds me of the current Ford Mustang, actually, and that’s no small compliment.

A mooch past the impressive pier—still the longest in Britain—with a stop for some photos, gives some locals time to pause and compliment the car. “Is that Jamie’s car?” was a question I got more than once. And yes, it is indeed the very car that Jamie Oliver drove with impressive gusto in one of his recent TV series, although it belongs to Ford UK’s heritage department rather than the chef.

Southend has a gaudy charm - and appears to be on the up. Its pier is the longest in Britain
Credit: Tony Watson /Alamy

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The next stint of the journey means heading into the centre of London, into an area where the car became a TV star itself in the Seventies show The Professionals. Leaving the seaside town on the A127, it occurs to me that Southend actually has everything. It’s an hour from London, there’s heritage to spare, real architectural delight… It’s even got its own airport.

Judging by the number of upmarket eateries and businesses that are opening, as well as the subtle poshing–up of some of the town’s buildings, I’m clearly not the only one to think that there’s great potential here. There’s a feel of Brighton before it became a bohemian, hipster–commuter hotspot. I’d give it until the beginning of next decade, if not earlier, before Southend stops becoming the butt of the real estate jokes and starts becoming an investment hot spot.

I stumbled on one final unexpected gem before leaving Southend, in the rather beautiful St Mary’s Church in Prittlewell. Prittlewell is the original settlement that Southend is, in fact, at the south end of. Hence the name. St Mary’s dates back to the 7th century and is a green, quietly beautiful place in stark contrast to the restless, sugar–rush of Southend proper. Worth a stop to take it in.

The Capri takes in the sprawling Ford facility at Dagenham. car production finished many years ago, but the site still makes engines for export
A quick sprint up the A13, enjoying the surprisingly brisk pace of the Capri, and the noise as it goes from lazy muscle car rumble to eager sports car yell as it builds revs. Before you know it, you’re on the flyover at Dagenham with Ford’s British stronghold beneath you. Miles of shipping containers, factories, chimneys and boardrooms, it’s a full and mighty industrial eco–system joining river to town. The Capri virtually seems to puff up with pride as we pass Ford’s historic factories.

But pass it we do, and on, over a crest in the A13 where suddenly you’re in the foothills of London and staring Canary Wharf right in its shiny, commercial eye. You seem to go from bland dual–carriageway and shipping containers to central London in the space of about 500 yards.

I have something of a love–hate relationship with London. As a student of literature and a lover of architecture, I’m infatuated with it; where else could you get a drink in a 17th century coaching inn while admiring a modernist skyscraper like The Shard?

Of course, cars are also an enduring obsession of mine and I mostly loathe driving in London. The Capri does me proud, however. The goodwill it draws out of other road users is remarkable—people let you out, give you a smile—and someone even asked if it was for sale.

So, remarkably, I actually enjoyed sitting in traffic—even by the time I got to Scotland Yard’s famous revolving sign at the Met Police’s HQ’s new location, across the river from the Millennium Eye on the South Bank. This is an appropriate spot to be lazing in a queue, given this car’s links to the Seventies and Eighties The Professionals telly spectacular. This is where the Capri—granted, a 3.0 S model, rather than the 2.8 litre I’m daydreaming in here—could be found squealing heroically around the capital’s streets in support of the crime–fighting exploits of CI5 (not a play on MI5, at all…) and its top agents, Bodie and Doyle.
Some would say it’s a cult show, some might not. I guess it depends on what TV vintage you favour, but London and the Capri certainly feel worthy of their cult status as I pass the ever-impressive Palace of Westminster and Big Ben, before crawling over Vauxhall Bridge and drawing a halt to my meanderings at Lambeth Palace. Samuel Pepys inevitably thithered and thenced past here, back in his day, and described the Archbishop of Canterbury’s rather immodest residence as “a new, old–fashion hall”, referencing the fact that it was totally rebuilt in 1663.

I wonder what he’d make of London now, never mind the brazen Ford Capri.

Certainly, I’ve ticked a few boxes off my bucket list. I have finally driven a Capri, and while few cars could be described as roguish, or could make torturous city roads fun, this did it. And it looked good and sounded good while it went about it.
Then there’s the dishevelled glamour of Southend, which I’ve long wanted to investigate, and—finally—a drive around London with time to soak it in rather than rushing to or from work.

And there’s the key. Viewed without the anxiety of impending deadlines and meetings, and from such a fun–filled car, our capital is truly a gracious and splendid new, old–fashioned town.

Vicky Parrott

THE FACTS * 1986 Ford Capri 280 ‘Brooklands’ * PRICE NEW £11,999 PRICE NOW £15,000 (good condition); £20,000 (top condition) ENGINE 2,792cc V6 * POWER 160bhp * TOP SPEED 127mph ACCELERATION 0–60mph in 7.9sec * FUEL ECONOMY 21mpg (est)

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Why Plan Ahead?

As I write my colleague Revd. Jacky and I have taken an increased number of funeral services both at our church and at the crematorium, compared to the last 3 years that I have been Priest in Charge. Funerals are obviously sad for all concerned and can be a very difficult time.

However, it can be made somewhat harder for the bereaved if they have no idea what their loved wanted to happen after they had gone. I was reminded of this in January and mentioned at our Sunday services how helpful it is to ensure your “next of kin” know—did you want a church service or even to have no service at all? Let me quote from the Church of England website https://churchofenglandfunerals.org/

If you’ve ever had to organise a funeral for someone you knew and loved, you may have realised how hard this can be. A funeral acknowledges the sadness of all those who will miss the person who has died, but it also gives thanks for a unique life. So you’ll have wanted to make choices that the person you knew would have liked,
celebrating who they were and all that they meant to others in their life. But you would have also wanted things that helped you to remember the person.

If you leave details of what you’d like included in your own funeral, it can make these choices so much easier for your family during an undoubtedly difficult time. As well as thinking about your family, you’re part of the lives of a wide range of people; colleagues, friends, neighbours. How do you think they will remember you? You might even try talking to some of them about it.

By planning ahead, you’ll have the comfort of knowing that your family and friends have a good idea of things that really matter to you.

So my/our advice is as well as writing a will, plan your own service—write it down—share that with your “Next of Kin” (don’t have a NOK? Then leave your instructions with whoever holds your will and let the church have a copy). I hold on file some details for folk already and all information given is kept confidentially of course. I cannot tell you how many times folk have said how thankful they are that their loved one had “sorted” everything! I know this is not always an easy topic of conversation, but let’s break down the barriers of social “norms” and our own reticence and prayerfully consider our future and those who we will leave behind!

Please do not hesitate to speak to myself or Revd. Jacky if you are concerned about any of this or want help in anyway.

God Bless Revd. Paul

p.s. Note to self…I need to do this as well !!!
OUR NEXT FILM NIGHT AT

St Mary’s Church – East Street.

Saturday 27 April at 6:30 pm
Please join us for a FREE showing of

The film will be shown in church followed by refreshments and a short discussion and time of reflection.

We look forward to sharing it with you...

www.stmaryspritittlewell.co.uk
Services at St Mary’s

Sundays

8:00 am Holy Communion
(Book of Common Prayer)
9:30 pm Holy Communion
(Second Sunday All Age/Parade Service)
6:30 pm Evening Service
(Second and fourth Sundays Sung Evensong)

Monday to Thursday

8:30 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday

10:30 am Holy Communion
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Magazine deadlines

Sunday 12 May 2019 for June/July 2019 edition
Sunday 14 July 2019 for August/September 2019 edition
Sunday 15 September 2019 for October/November 2019 edition
Sunday 12 January 2020 for February/March 2020 edition
Sunday 15 March 2020 for April/May 2020 edition

To get St Mary’s Magazine
and St Mary’s Weekly News Sheet by email

Please send your email address to
stmarysprittewellmagazine@gmail.com
Prayer Spaces at St Mary’s School
(see page 13 (Lois Blakey))

Pop in for Pancakes (see page 17)

At the Mount of Olives (see page 10)