Enquiries about Marriages & Baptisms. If you have an enquiry about a Baptism or Wedding one of the clergy will be pleased to discuss your plans with you and make your arrangements. In the first instance why not come to one of our Sunday services and make yourselves known to the clergy. Or call the church office between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm on Wednesday or Thursday to make an appointment for the first or third Tuesday evenings between 7:00 and 8:00 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.

Photos pages 3, 4, 6, 8, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 27 Paul Mackay. Pages 1, 2, 25 Richard Anderson
June is a great month...

Not least because it has “Fathers Day”, or that the light days are at their longest, Mrs Vicarage and I celebrate our wedding anniversary… and it’s a certain someone’s birthday… It’s a “bumper time” at the vicarage for “gifts”… well almost…

I wonder what is the most memorable birthday present/gift you have received?

Once on my birthday I did the London to Brighton cycle ride (there are normally in excess of 30,000 cyclists taking part)—and the best gift I received that day (other than making to the end) was a wonderful welcome by my family as they cheered us into Brighton. It was all a bit emotional…

This year Pentecost falls in June (because like Easter it’s a “moveable” feast), we used to call it Whitsun—White Sunday, because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. No processions nowadays, and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now “Pentecost”, which is more accurate but needs explaining.

This year Whitsun/Pentecost is on Sunday June 9. Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. On the year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, and led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus.
and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3000 people believed and were baptized in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

I realise many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn’t helped by the earlier title “Holy Ghost”. But I think its really important we think of the Spirit not spiritually a “ghost” but an amazing precious gift. Perhaps the best gift you can ever receive. If you have read/heard the incredible story of that first Pentecost lots of times or maybe never—why not read it right now (The book of Acts Chapter 2:1-13), and prepare to be astonished “afresh”!!! Or why not join us on 9 June for our service and picnic lunch…

God Bless Revd Paul

Keith our Churchwarden presenting Carolyn with a thank you bouquet. She stood down from being Churchwarden in March.
It’s always a great privilege to conduct a wedding—it’s always such a precious occasion. In August, I have been asked to preside at a wedding at the church where Sue and I were married (a long, long time ago)... At the time I wouldn’t have called myself a Christian let alone a person of faith... but there weren’t many alternatives back in those days. The world has changed... Civil weddings have increasingly outnumbered religious weddings every year since 1992. The most recent data (from 2016) has shown that for the first time, less than a quarter of all marriages were religious (not just Christian) ceremonies.

As one family law solicitor has explained: “If individuals don’t go to church for most of their lives, they wonder whether it’s necessary to have a church wedding. Nowadays, a wedding seems to be regarded as more of a social than a sacred event.”

All of this really saddens me—yes, I would say that way back then, although Sue and I were married in church, my thinking was “well if my future wife wants to get married there then OK—but it has nothing to do with God”. I was so wrong; of course it has and had everything to do with God...

Looking back He has had His hands on our lives in many ways, looking back I’m so pleased that we did get married in church and include Him in our lives (but, it was another 9 years before we realised He was in our lives and we gave our lives to Christ). Please pray if you will, that this generation wherever they marry include God in their marriage now and in the years to come!

Revd Paul Mackay
How do you (Why would you?) become a vicar?

This month, dioceses (apart from a few who like the Chelmsford Diocese have changed to September) across the Church of England will welcome new deacons and priests at special services in their cathedrals/churches. This is because, traditionally, most ordination services take place at the end of June, during Petertide.

Have you ever wondered how (or why?) someone becomes a vicar? Here is a brief description of the journey:

It begins with a call from God upon your life. Discerning this can take months or even years (in my case three to four years, 1994 to 1997) of reflection and prayer. The next step is to talk to your vicar, or to a member of the vocations team in your diocese. Your diocese will help you to identify what type of ministry could best suit your gifts and talents. Your bishop will then send you to a selection residential conference known as a Bishop’s Advisory Panel. Here they will assess your understanding of the Church, your faith, your sense of vocation, leadership, and collaboration.

The panel will decide whether or not to recommend to your bishop that you go forward for ordination training. If you are recommended, then the next step is to enter a training course at one of the theological education institutes (TEIs) based around the country. These can be either residential or non–residential. Training usually takes two to three years. After the course, an ordinand will normally receive either a bachelor’s degree or a diploma of higher education. Your tuition fees are covered by the Church, which also pays a contribution towards your living expenses.

Mothering Sunday flowers
After ordination, newly ordained clergy begin their ministerial life as deacons. The first jobs they do are called curacies (they are known as curates like Jacky). Some are paid what’s called a “stipend”, as “office holders”— a tax description (yes we pay tax like everyone!); a stipend is like an allowance so that you can do the job “full time”. Others, like Jacky, are described as “Self Supporting”; in other words they don’t get paid! Your curacy will be an opportunity to serve alongside an experienced vicar. Here you can put into practice the knowledge gained from your course and learn from them as you prepare for your own ministry. After a year, most deacons are ordained again, as a priest.

This year Jacky celebrates her third anniversary of ordination. Some curates move on to take up the role of vicar (or as in my case Priest in Charge—a technical difference only), and some (and here I’m pleased to say) like Jacky stay in the parish.

All sorts of people train for ordination. There really is no such thing as “typical” ordained person. I trained with ex vets/police officers/builders... What all candidates do share though (and this is the WHY!) is a genuine and heartfelt desire to serve God and to serve others. Perhaps it’s time to reflect and ask God “how are you called to serve Him”?

Revd Paul Mackay

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.

Think the circus has had its day? Think again!

During the Easter school holidays Sue and I went to the circus in Priory Park.. well friends I have never really given it much thought, but I have to say it was great—exciting, thrilling, clever, a bit scary and a few laughs... just like a church service really... I encourage you to give it a try next time it’s here, and maybe see how just like church it is... God rejoicing in all His people’s talents!

Revd Paul
Smock@school is delighted to present the work of five very talented young artists from Year 5 ... Verity, Lisa, Krystoff, Rene and Lillie–Rose!

Since September they have been drawing, painting, crafting and printmaking every Monday after school. They have learned from the work of other more famous artists, and used this knowledge to create some very sophisticated art works of their own. Here are the outcomes for their portrait project, created over the course of six weeks.
I am so proud of these young artists and their dedication. I am excited to see what they will create.

Victoria
Women’s Fellowship

On Wednesday 27 March eleven members of the Women’s Fellowship attended the school lunch in the Dining Hall at the Primary School in East Street. We were most warmly welcomed and it was a delicious roast dinner meal. Some of the children were brave enough to smile, wave and chat with us—lovely! Thank you to Mrs Natalie Cashell, Deputy Head Teacher, for inviting us, and to the staff and pupils for making it such a happy occasion.

Suzanne Mattingley

On 1 April Keith Turner (Worshipful Brother) and Irene Howe (Very Worshipful Brother) from the Order of Women’s Freemasonry both wearing their Masonic Regalia, gave a presentation on Freemasonry. The first slide Keith showed a picture of the set square and compasses with a large G in the centre, indicating that God is at the centre of the order.

Keith explained that Freemasonry is the largest and best known fraternity in the world. It is based on the medieval stonemason guilds who built the great castles and cathedrals of Europe. Mythologically it is founded upon the building of Solomon’s Temple in Jerusalem, as detailed in the Old Testament.

Modern Freemasons use the tools, traditions and terminology of those earlier stonemasons as allegories to become a better person in society. So like minded people are bound in a worldwide brotherhood.

There is evidence that the first Lodge was operating in the 900’s AD when “masonry” meant architecture, and encompassed most of the arts and sciences.

During the 1800’s and early 1900’s, Freemasonry grew dramatically. There was little social relief provided by the Government at that time, so
some of the provision of orphanages, homes for widows and the aged, and other relief, was provided by Freemasons. In 1917, four Lodges in London formed the first Grand Lodge of England. By adopting the principles of brotherly love, relief and truth, and by expressing compassion and concern, they find ways to serve God, family and country. Today the Masonic Charity Foundation works to give disadvantaged children and young people the best possible start in life. The Charity funds medical research and supports services in the Hospice sector, including our local Hospices. Keith showed slides of the regalia worn by the Freemasons, and explained how the wearing of regalia served to indicate special occasions and the ranks of individuals.

Irene then gave a short presentation and explanation about the order of Women’s Freemasonry. The Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Masonry was founded on 20 June 1908 and its first Grand Master ironically was a man—the Rev Dr William Frederick Cobb. However, since 1912, the Grand Masters have all been women. The new order at first included both men and women, but eventually the decision was taken in the early 1920s to restrict entrance to women only and no longer admit men as visitors. Although a handful of men remained in office, by 1935 it become an exclusively female organisation and they remain so today.

Thank you, Keith, for a very interesting and informative presentation, and for the spirited question and answer session!

On 6 May we celebrated our 57th Birthday with a lovely lunch, giving us the opportunity to chat and share each other’s news. We were pleased to welcome Christina and Keith Turner as our special guests.

Next month on 3 June, Joan Williams (Mistress Angharad) will give a presentation about her experiences as a cook at Kentwell Hall, a Tudor manor in Suffolk.

Jennie King who also supplied the cake photo
In preparation for a retreat I led recently I used and read this book. In the spirit of the popular poem “Desiderata”, world-renowned ethicist, theologian and preacher Samuel Wells offers eight exhortations in this extended meditation on being alive in the world and making our way through life.

Each exhortation is simple and direct—be humble, be grateful, be your own size, be gentle, be a person of praise, be faithful, be one body, be a blessing—and accompanied by thought-provoking comments that speak to our deepest needs for meaning and for belonging.

Grounded in perceptive observations of contemporary life and reflecting a deep knowledge of philosophical and religious wisdom, Walk Humbly will inspire you to stop, wonder, reflect, and understand more clearly your life in the world, I really encourage you to read it… It’s not “cheap” for a small book, but remember not everything should be cheap….

God Bless Revd Paul
Prayers for Healing

In the early part of last year, an opportunity was offered at a 9:30 am service for members of the congregation to come forward to the altar rail to receive the laying–on of hands and prayer for healing. This opportunity has since been repeated every two months.

The prayer is very simple, the touch of hands light and gentle and no other words are spoken. Yet, we have heard, that in those silent moments a number of people have quietly but powerfully received God’s healing.

Not everyone is in need of physical healing, except perhaps occasionally, but we are all in need of God’s grace in our lives. Most of us carry wounds from unhappy memories in the past or present, from difficult relationships, guilt, fears and anxiety—we are “broken” people. But God’s love for us is deep, tender and infinite; I believe God longs to put our “brokenness” together again, that he wants nothing more than for us to be whole people, healed of our hurts wherever they come from and to know his love for each one of us in an ever–deepening, personal way.

It is true that we may not see an answer to all of our prayers, but our Lord Jesus Christ encourages us, as his disciples, to ask and keep on
asking, not to give up but to trust in his wisdom, love and power, beyond our own limited understanding, that the Father’s will may be done in our lives.

So, if you feel that there are areas of your life where you would love to know God’s healing touch, come forward at the next Prayers for Healing service, come with an open mind and an open heart and allow God’s Holy Spirit to be at work in you.

Penny Sloman

The next Prayers for Healing are in the morning Communion Services of Sundays 21 July, 29 September and 17 November

From the belfry

Not quite so much to tell you all about in this edition. As usual we have been busy ringing for Sunday services (including Easter) and attending our Monday evening practice night. This is just as well as the annual District Method striking competition was held at St Margaret’s at Stanford–le–Hope on Saturday 18 May. The pressure was on as we had won the competition last year—the rather splendid shield trophy had pride of place in the display cabinet towards the rear of the church.

Having all arrived at Stanford–le–Hope, in good time, for the 5:00 pm draw we were scheduled to be the second team to ring. The first team to ring set a high standard and completed their piece without any noticeable errors. Our turn—it doesn’t matter how many competitions you have rung in it is still nerve racking! After us there were a further 3 teams to ring. Then it’s waiting for the judges to collate their scores and let us all know the results.

I’m pleased to report that by 0.2% we retained the trophy which will be returned to the display cabinet in the church.
The picture below is of the successful team:

From back left clockwise: Steve Halliwell, David Sloman, Michelle Shorter-Bowen, Anne Porter, Sarah Chin-a-Loy, Penny Sloman.

Mapping John’s Gospel at the Lent Course

The five–part Lent Course, held during March and April, was a great success.

The attendees were given a different “map” each week—an intriguing fold–out sheet that contained a wealth of material related to a particular passage from the Gospel of John.
Each map contained a lot of insightful analysis, which helped us to navigate our way around each episode and understand better the meaning and context of John’s writing.

A clever combination of music, poetry and art was also presented which drew us more deeply into the Gospel, helping to stir our imaginations and bring to the surface our individual viewpoints and opinions about the precious verses.

Importantly, connections were made with some issues that we face in today's world, ensuring that the Lent Course maintained a gentle “modern day” relevance throughout.

Paul and Jacky did some great work in hosting the sessions and, if you missed the Lent Course this time around, I’d highly recommend catching it next time.

God bless Lee Pankhurst

**Whose idea was it to have a service at 5:45 am?**

I have to say when the alarm clock went off at 4:15 am, I thought am I mad? (don’t answer that!). Well the weather was fabulous, and as you will see we had breakfast and the service outside celebrating that Christ is Risen! It was a special time—although thankfully Easter is earlier in the year next year so the daybreak service will be later!

Revd Paul
Our APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) took place following our 9:30 am Sunday morning service on Sunday 28 April 2019. As has happened for a couple of years the decision was taken to hold it at this time to enable and encourage as many people as possible to stay for the meeting. The numbers were very encouraging as there were congregation members who were able to be present who might normally find it difficult to come out during the evening. Refreshed with a cup of tea and coffee we were all ready to be seated at 10:30 for the start of the meeting. Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts were made available for everyone to view (if you haven’t taken a copy, please do so, there are some available) prior to the meeting and make for very interesting reading, catching up on what has been happening with the various groups within the life of the church.

Revd Paul (Chair/Priest–in–Charge) gave his opening address following which the Minutes of the previous year’s APCM were accepted and
various officers/laity of the church were officially elected/appointed and these are detailed below:

1 Churchwarden (elected on a yearly basis but can only serve for 6 consecutive years): Carolyn Evans had decided to stand down as Churchwarden a little earlier than the 6 years, and thanks were expressed and gifts given to Carolyn for her time spent in the role and for her support. Keith Turner had agreed to stand once again and was duly nominated and elected.

1 Deanery Synod Rep: As I had decided to stand down from my role as Deanery Synod Rep, this left a vacancy for a one year term. John Tipping was duly nominated and elected to take on this role and join Teresa Church and Jennie Goddard.

3 PCC Members: Christiane Korsten, Patricia Johnson and Robert Harvey were duly elected as PCC Members for a 3 year term. Thanks were given to Ray Mason and Margaret Harvey for their commitment to the PCC over the years.

Safeguarding Officer: Lois Blakey had agreed to take on this role and this was duly accepted.

Electoral Roll Officer: Sue Mackay had agreed to take on this role and this was duly accepted.

And finally but not least our Sides persons/Welcomers. This merry band of people, are the ones welcoming you with a smile as you come into church, give you any service sheets/books you might need and assist
during Holy Communion—Derek Barrington, Leanne Brunker, Michael Field, Vera Field, Jason Flavell, Beryl Ford, Bob Harvey, Patricia Johnson, Suzanne Mattingley, Glenys Nariel, Wendy Perry, Michelle Shorter-Bowen, Elizabeth Sloman, Christina Turner and Dorothy Webb. The accounts were also presented by Matt Pinnock who gave a brief outline. An Independent Examiner was appointed and there was an opportunity for any questions—all were happy with the accounts as presented and no questions were raised.

The meeting was closed in prayer led by Revd Jacky Lindoe. So not bad at all. All in all a good meeting and home in time for lunch!!.

A gentle reminder—Anyone can attend our APCM however voting is restricted to those who are on our Electoral Roll only ☺️

Sue Mackay
From the registers

Baptisms

7 April  Monroe Clementina Temiloluwa
5 May  Felicity Clare Appleyard
       Paloma Rae Barrett–Barnard
       Levi McKenzie White

Marriages

20 April Harley Lazell and Rhiannon Orrow

Funerals

18 March  Elizabeth Giles
9 April    Beryl Hindle

St Mary’s Magazine page 21
Sue and I travelled to Butlin’s Holiday Camp at Minehead in Somerset the week before Holy week and attended the Christian Conference that is Spring Harvest, which this year celebrated its 40th year (it featured on Songs of Praise). We have been before and whilst there are always different speakers/preachers and musicians—to be frank sometimes, like church, it’s not always “perfect”. This year the Bible teaching was led by Pete Greig who heads up the 24/7 prayer movement—it was an excellent and inspiring time. To me he has become “Brother Pete”—someone who despite having written books and seen God powerfully at work in his and other’s lives, recognises his place in the scheme of things. It’s not “all about him”, but about Christ and the work He is doing and about how prayer is such an important and should be integral part of our faith and relationship through him with the Father. But more on that another time!

Revd Paul Mackay
Easter children’s event
OUR NEXT FILM NIGHT AT

St Mary’s Church – East Street.

Saturday 22 June at 6:30 pm

Please join us for a FREE showing of

OK we know its June and perhaps we’re thinking of April showers, but why not come and sing-a-long with us!!

The film will be shown in church with refreshments or “bring a bottle”.... We look forward to sharing it with you...

www.stmaryspritblewell.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
St Mary’s Magazine is published by and is copyright © 2019 the PCC of St Mary the Virgin, Prittlewell. You are welcome to contribute towards the Magazine. Articles will normally inform about, and reflect upon, issues and activities relating to the Christian faith, the Church, St Mary’s Parish and its various groups and organisations. Articles should normally be no longer than 500 words and shorter articles are most welcome. Photographs, graphics and drawings with your articles will also be welcome (all original artwork will be returned). The Editor reserves the right to cut or edit any articles offered. The views expressed in any part of this magazine are those of the contributors and may not necessarily reflect the views of members of the PCC. Please note that material previously published elsewhere cannot be accepted unless copyright permission has been obtained. Privacy Notice: due to changes in Data Protection Regulation we have developed a Privacy Notice. This is available on our website. If you would like a paper copy please contact the church office.

Magazine deadlines

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
Sunday 17 May 2020 for June/July 2020 edition
Sunday 12 July 2020 for August/September 2020 edition

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

please send your email address to

stmarysprittlewellmagazine@gmail.com
John Kennett (Havens Hospice chaplain) and friends gave a great Gospel concert on Friday 24 May in St Mary’s and we raised around £350 for the Hospice.

Chelmsford Cathedral—“swearing in” the new Churchwardens