



*In Christ, loving and  
serving God's world*

29th April 2018 5th Sunday of Easter

**ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN  
INDEED! ALLELUIA!**

Welcome to our 10.00 am service today. If you have a hearing aid, please select the 'T' switch position and benefit from our deaf loop, which is directly linked to the microphones. Please join us for tea/coffee in the school hall after the service.

Readings: Acts 8: 26-end John 15: 1-8

Prayers Anne West

Hymns A&M 507, 212, 721, 494

*Intercessions may be written in the blue folder (on the pulpit before service starts). The folder will be placed on the altar during the service. If you have a prayer request to be read aloud during the Sunday 10.00 am service, write it clearly on a piece of paper and hand it to whoever is listed above as leading the prayers.*

**Birthdays this week - Happy birthday  
to:**

**Neville Sumner on 30<sup>th</sup> April**

**From All at Holy Trinity**

**This week at Holy Trinity**

**(See separate leaflet for ALL regular services)**

**Services this week**

Thurs 8.30am Morning Prayer Meeting at  
Wodham Ferrers

Thurs 10.00am Joint service followed by coffee  
in the meeting room.

Thurs 11.00am Prayer Meeting – Methodist led

Sun 10.00am All Age Service

## **VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE**

George and I are back from holiday and we had a wonderful time and wonderful weather! Very unusual for us in Norfolk – but that's another story. On our return our slightly overgrown garden had turned into a jungle. The grass is high, the weeds are higher and the spring growth on some of our bushes is way out of control! Then I read this Sunday's gospel. It's all about pruning, cutting and gathering withered branches. Well, if you want to see an illustration for this passage, it can be found in the vicarage garden. All the good stuff is there, somewhere, but it is blotted out by the rapid growth of the last week. Pruning, cutting and gathering is required. Jesus uses the example of the vine to illustrate his point as this would have been a very familiar concept to his listeners. They know that vines must be cut back to ensure they remain fruitful. So, what has that got to do with our faith? Well, we all know that sometimes we race ahead with things, but the pace is not sustainable – quality suffers. When I was younger, I tried to go to Mass every day, but I was not developing spiritually. It became a meaningless target, rather than an opportunity for growth. The key is not to rush, but to listen and pray about what God is calling us to do – then we will bear fruit. And often our good intentions are ruined by the many things that get in our way, distractions, other priorities, the familiar detritus of modern life. These obstacles need to be weeded out, so we have clear sight of the good stuff, the things that really matter. By the time you read this, hopefully, there will have been some pruning, cutting and gathering, and we'll be able to see the garden again. Let us also do some clearing out in our own lives, listen to God's call on us, and then God's joy will be in us, and our joy will be complete.

***Reverend Carol Ball***

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm** Spring Charity Choral Concert at Chelmsford Cathedral with MEN2SING and New City Voices. Funds raised in support of Farleigh Hospice and Broomfield Hospital. Tickets are £10 (16 and under £5) contact the organisers Rotary Club

of Chelmer Bridge on 01245 467335 or 01245 603305, Allegro Music, 95 High Street, Chelmsford, or David Watts 01245 321360

**Saturday 5th May 7.30pm** at Maldon United Reformed Church, Maldon. Joint Concert with Swift singers and The Sperrin Choir from Northern Ireland and guest soloists Caroline Penn - Violin and Catriona kadiramanathan - Cello. Entrance donation of £10. Contact Jean: 01245 321920 for tickets.

### Compass Churches

**Sunday 29th April** – Animal Blessing Service at 3pm at St Mary & St Edward's Church, West Hanningfield. If you love animals, come and join us, with or without a pet, for a short, informal blessing. Pet stories, animal-themed music and singing, compare your pets. Light refreshments.

**Sunday 6th May** – 'Open Church' at St Mary's Church, Woodham Ferrers between 2.00 – 5.00pm; with homemade refreshments available throughout the afternoon.

**Monday 7th May** – Sandon Choir meets every Monday. It covers many music genres, is open to all ages and requires no previous experience.

**Thursday 10th May** – 10.30am Holy Communion Service for Ascension Day is to be held at St Mary's Church, Ramsden Bellhouse: 7.30am at Sandon; 8.00pm at Stock.

**Saturday 12th May** – 10-00am to 12 Noon Coffee Morning at St Mary's Church, Ramsden Bellhouse.

**Wednesday 16th May** - Deanery Confirmation Service for Bradwell / Chelmsford South to be led by Bishop Stephen at 7.30pm in St Margaret's, Downham

**Saturday 26th May** - Open Gardens in Little Baddow.

### Donations to Windle Court

Windle Court are looking for donations of bedding plants, bulbs, seeds or rattan hanging baskets to kick start a gardening club. They are also hoping to paint the shed

and fence and would appreciate any outdoor paint. If you have an hour to spare, you would be received with open arms. For any info speak to Jain or Nicola, Activity Coordinators at Windle Court 01245 425980.

### Photography Competition

The Salvation Army in Wickford are organizing a Photography Competition on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Closing date for entries is **NOON on 29th April 2018**. See poster in the meeting room for further details.

**SWF Foodbank** open Wednesdays, 1000-1200 at New Life Church, Clements Green Lane. Donations welcome; please put in labelled box on round table in HT's meeting room. Many thanks to donors. Peter Blackman, HT Coordinator; [peter@blackmanservices.co.uk](mailto:peter@blackmanservices.co.uk) or 01245 322079.

**Urgently needed items:** Jam; Meat (tinned); Sponge Puddings; Potato Mash (pkts); Snacks – chocolate/other; Fruit Juice (long life); Milk (long life/UHT); Custard Powder (pkts); Tea bags – 40 packs; coffee – small/medium;

**Personal items needed:** Ladies deodorants; Washing up liquid; washing liquid (small); Washing Powder (small); Shampoo – ladies/gents; Nappies all sizes especially 1/3.

### CONTACTS

**Vicar:** Reverend Carol Ball: 01245 322134 or email: [revcarolball@gmail.com](mailto:revcarolball@gmail.com)

#### Churchwardens:

Margaret Partridge: 01245 320048  
or email: [m.partridge1@btinternet.com](mailto:m.partridge1@btinternet.com)  
Gill Wragg: 01245 321970 or email:  
[gill.wragg@btinternet.com](mailto:gill.wragg@btinternet.com)

Assistant Church Warden – Janice Pearson:  
01245 320071 or email: [AP6550@aol.com](mailto:AP6550@aol.com)

**Parish Administrator:** Sarah Presley 325049 or email: [htparishadm@outlook.com](mailto:htparishadm@outlook.com) to put items in this newsletter please send to: [swfangnews@googlemail.com](mailto:swfangnews@googlemail.com) or phone Sarah 325049. Deadline is Wednesday 5pm.

**For all Baptism / Christening enquiries –**  
Sheila Jenkins 01245 321739