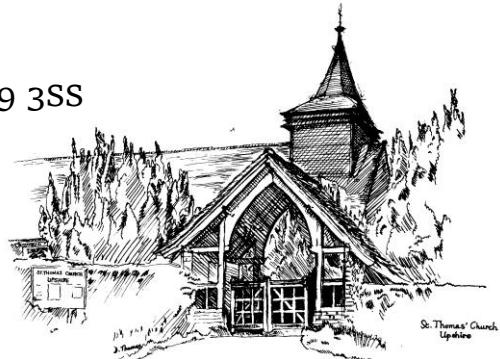


St Thomas' Church, Upshire EN9 3SS

Newsletter

February 2022



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This Newsletter is free: donations to Lyn Wackett. Copy date for March: 14th February

We are committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. The PCC has adopted the Church of England's policies and best practice on safeguarding which may be found on the Church of England website and also on the Diocese of Chelmsford website.

SERVICES AND DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

Saturday 5th 3-4pm MESSY CHURCH

Sunday 6th 4th Sunday before Lent
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Isaiah 6:1-end 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11

Sunday 13th 3rd Sunday before Lent
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Jeremiah 17:5-10 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26

Wednesday 16th 12noon-2pm WINTER WARMER LUNCH in the church – 07899 846711 to book

Sunday 20th 2nd Sunday before Lent
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-end Revelation 4 Luke 8:22-25

Sunday 27th Sunday next before Lent
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Exodus 34:29-end 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-43a

The church will be open every Monday and Thursday from 11.30am to 12.30pm for private prayer only. Covid-19 restrictions apply.

PRAYER REQUESTS

You are invited to offer names to be added to our prayer diary to remember those who are unwell or unhappy. First names only are required as God will know who we are praying for.

Contact Lyn Wackett on 01992 711573 or email lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk

This month we pray for Glenis, Laura, Alan & Pam, Lesley, Charlie & John, Anne, Pam & John, Barbara, Vernon, Mal, Louise, Sue, Ann & Cyril, Rosalind, Doreen, Barry, Maureen, Carol & George, Beverly, Dave P, Terry, June, Rose, Peggy, Shirley, Mick, Sarah, Sheila, Jackie, Jean, Barbara, Andrea and her Mum and Dad, Nina, Carmel & the Price family, James & Dave.

I will be glad and rejoice in your unfailing love, for you have seen my troubles,
and you care about the anguish of my soul

The Vicar writes:

One of the successes of modern television is the BBC programme “Repair Shop”.

Starting out as a small daytime show on BBC2 it rapidly acquired a cult following and now has a prime time slot on BBC1, numerous Christmas specials, and is must-see viewing for many.

Its success could seem to be surprising in our modern world, where, on the whole, if something is broken we throw it away and buy new. We are, very much, a throwaway society.

But of course what is so compelling about the show is not so much the objects but the story behind them. From a glamorous sequinned dress that belonged to a popular travelling circus performer to a pump organ that was brought from Jamaica by a member of the Windrush generation, each family item is brought vividly to life - and lovingly restored by the team of experts.

Now the experts on the repair shop do such a skilled job that in most cases you would never know that the item had been broken in the first place. Objects are made, quite literally, like new.

That is a wonderful thing for the owners, and part of what makes the show so compelling, but it is also one of the things that rather troubles me. How many objects are submitted to the show that never make it to screen because the evidence of their repair would still be visible and they could not be made perfect? Does it sublimely suggest that unless an item can be restored completely it does not have value?

In Japan there is an art form called Kintsugi which is the art of repairing an object by mending the areas of breakage with lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. Rather than seeking to hide the fact that a breakage has occurred Kintsugi aims to treat it as part of the history of the object; not as something to be disguised, but as something to be celebrated; not as a flaw but as something that adds to the object’s beauty.

This idea of embracing the flawed and imperfect is something that we, as Christians, are very familiar with. As we seek to worship our God, and in doing so learn more about ourselves, we are ever aware of our own brokenness, flaws, and imperfections. It would be very easy to feel less valuable because of these things; to try and mask them in a yearning for a perfection we will never reach; to feel that they are an ugly scar on the person that we should be before God.

But God has his own version of Kintsugi – and that is the doctrine of Grace. The free gift from God to all that enables us to be surrounded by his love, receive his forgiveness and share in his life and kingdom. Through Grace we become all that God would wish us to be. Grace makes beautiful that which we think we need to hide.

Among the canon of modern hymns one of my favourites is the Graham Kendrick 1993 classic “Beauty for Brokenness”. The opening lines “Beauty for brokenness, Hope for despair” talk into a world where it can seem like nothing less than perfection is good enough, where if something or someone is broken we throw it away.

Grace shows us we should never be afraid to show that we have been broken, for it also shows how God had healed us – we are all covered in cracks and flaws – but with God’s grace those things can be precious and healed and beautiful.

Every blessing,
Jane

THANKS

Thank you to everyone who made the Christmas Fayre on 8th December a great success. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we raised over £1400 for church funds.

The collection at the service of Nine Lessons and Carols was in aid of Save the Children. The total donated was £114.49. Thank you to everyone who gave to support the work of this charity.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Our mailing list to receive the electronic version is now in excess of 70 participants so if you are not one of those and wish to be included please send your email address to : marionne.locke@btinternet.com. We are looking to reduce our 'paper footprint' for climate change by printing fewer copies – your contribution will help.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY – to ensure continued delivery of our free paper newsletter if there is anyone with free time to deliver to local addresses please contact Lyn Wackett.

CHURCH FLOWERS

FEBRUARY and signs of SPRING abound as we progress to the start of Lent on 2 March through to 16 April. Easter Lilies will then be the focus for display with memorial in the dedication book. These are required to be ordered in advance (£2.00 per stem) so please confirm your order in good time. Each month we can create memorial dedications, wedding, anniversary or special occasion flowers – all can be arranged for any week – contact Marion 07789 643147 or email marionne.locke@btinternet.com to discuss.



ST THOMAS' SEEDLINGS

1st Saturdays of each month

A free Stay and Play church group for children and those who care for them

Join us Saturdays 3-4pm for messy craft, play, songs and stories along with a welcome cuppa
St Thomas' Church, Horseshoe Hill, Upshire, EN9 3SS



ST THOMAS' CHURCH COMMUNITY LUNCHES 2022

WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY : WINTER WARMER

WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH : SPRING LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL : EASTER LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY : SPRING LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE : SUMMER LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 13 JULY : SUMMER LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST : SUMMER LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER : AUTUMN LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER : AUTUMN LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER : AUTUMN LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER : XMAS LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER: XMAS LUNCH

PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE : 07899 846/11

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Thank you to the people who have sent in articles to be included in the Newsletter. Please keep them coming! Anything: maybe a poem you have written, what you have been doing in the garden or indoors to keep occupied during lockdown, etc, it all makes for interesting reading.

TEDDIES FOR TRAGEDIES

The latest update from Tricia Gibb of Teddies for Tragedies:

'Due to the ongoing pandemic, of course, there has been little or no movement of Teddies during the year, so my Teddy stocks have gradually increased. This has enabled me to answer two appeals in the past six months. 700 are now on their way in a container of aid to LEBANON where they will appear on the shelves of The Free Shop where refugees and local people can "shop" free of charge. Apparently there is a huge Syrian refugee population in Lebanon in need of aid.'

'In August I was able to answer an appeal from two local charities for items such as clothes, toiletries etc as well as a specific request for Teddies for the refugees arriving from Afghanistan. I was delighted to hand over 250 Teddies to them. The charities wanted each child to receive a Teddy they could cuddle and call their own as most of them arrived in the UK with nothing.'

'As ever, a big thank you for all the Teddies and bags which I have received since the last update. Welcome, too, to new knitters. Tricia.'

Knitting patterns for Teddies are available from Lyn and Dave at 94 Upshire Road or phone 01992 711573. Teddy bags should be made of cotton (or similar) material, size approx 13" x 10" with a drawstring top. Bags and Teddies can be left with us as above. Thank you.

50/50 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the 50/50 Club Bumper Draw in December, who were:

1 st : £45	No. 33	Fred Corsham of Upshire
2 nd : £35	No. 6	George Green of Upshire
3 rd : £25	No. 36	Jennifer Lewin of Chingford
4 th : £20	No. 11	Ruth Moore of Upshire
5 th £20	No. 15	Bobby McMillan of Ninefields

Our thanks to all our members for their support of St Thomas' Church.

It is now time to begin Draw 9 of St Thomas' 50/50 Club.

There will still be monthly draws and the entry fee is £12.00 every six months (or £2 for every month of membership). Each member is entitled to a maximum of two entries, couples can have four. Please complete the form below and return it to me, along with your cheque or cash to the address stated or alternatively you may pay by bank transfer to the church's account St Thomas Church Upshire PCC, Sort code 404520, Account number 00724505, HSBC Bank. Please let me know if you do this so I can include your number in the Draw (email lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01992 711573).

Good luck to everyone who enters.

St Thomas' Church 50/50 Club Draw 9

January to June 2022

I wish to become a member of St Thomas' new 50/50 Club and enclose cash/cheque for £12 per entry (maximum 2 per person). Please make cheques payable to **St Thomas' Church** and return your entries to Lyn Wackett, 94 Upshire Road, Waltham Abbey, EN9 3PA.

OR I have paid by Bank Transfer to HSBC Bank, A/c St Thomas Church Upshire PCC, Sort Code 404520, A/c No: 00724505.

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

CHURCHWARDEN'S CHATTER

It was with regret that we had to cancel our January Community Lunch due to the upsurge in Covid in our area, following our enjoyable lunch in December. We have planned for the February lunch to go ahead so please contact Pauline on 07899 846711 to book your meal.

Our local roads must be some of the most dangerous in the whole of Essex with two deaths and two horses having had to be put down following accidents in the local area. The road surfaces at this time of year are not always in the best condition for motoring at speed, plus the roaming of the deer, so please drive well below the local speed limits to ensure that you have safe journeys.

You will have noticed that we have reduced the front hedge to reveal the view of the north side of the church in all its splendour. The cutting back of the hedge will enable us to reach with ease when trimming it in the summer months. It will also reveal the plants in the hedge bank which the growth of the hedge has subdued to date.

TABLE TOP SALE at St Thomas' Church on Saturday 19th March. Stall holders from 10am, general public from 11am-3pm. To book a table contact 07960 809799. Admission will be free, children must be accompanied by an adult. Due to Covid restrictions all attending must register and leave a contact number.

Stephen Brown 07960 809799

ANAGRAM

Unscramble this 10 letter anagram: NUTTERSARA. The answer will be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

GROWERS CORNER

Your major hedge cutting should be completed by the end of the month as the birds start pairing up this month and depending on the weather nesting can start straight away.

Some wild ducks hatch off this month so keep an eye out for young ducklings bearing in mind they take 30 days to brood, some pair up in January.

To date we have had a mild winter and the grass has hardly stopped growing. The snowdrops are in most cases up and in flower, likewise the crocus in their various colours with narcissi to follow in their many forms.

Check on your cold frame, your over-wintering plants i.e. sweet peas, broad beans, etc.

Once your ordered seeds are to hand, make sure your greenhouse is heated (to keep the frost off), your heated propagator is working, seed sowing compost to hand (F1), seed trays/seed boxes clean and ready for this season's work. We can now fill our seed trays with F1 compost, soak and then start drilling our seeds. It is best to drill only a few of each variety at this time in case of failure. Label each batch with name and date, likewise the seed packet for future use. View daily, as some varieties germinate at different rates.

Keep an eye on your spring pots you planted at the latter end of last year as they may need watering and hardening off.

Just a reminder: have you taken your lawn mower, hedge cutter, chainsaw etc to the expert for sharpening yet?

Do not forget your local wild birds at this time of year with their daily supply of food and clean water so that they can build up their strength and look their best to attract a mate for the coming season.

Next month: Spring digging, drilling and further propagation.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

A Charity event is being held at Upshire School on the field on June 11th (11am-4pm) for the Lullaby Trust for SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). If you can help in any way please contact 01992 805151 during office hours Monday to Friday 9am-3pm.

PUZZLE – What is it?

What do you fix in early spring? To the north-side of a tree
Which is water tight but has a hole in it for all to see,
For an expanding family who would like to move in.
So keep an eye on it and observe as they grow and leave on the wing.

You will find the answer elsewhere in the Newsletter

KNITTERS WANTED!

Knitters wanted to make jumpers for babies and child refugees. Any size, any colour, any style, all will be appreciated.
Also to knit hat, scarves and mittens (or gloves if you're so inclined!) ready for shoe boxes for next year.
Thank you to everyone who donated wool, we now have lots if anyone needs any to knit the above items!

UPSHIRE MOTHERS' UNION

We have no meeting in February.
Further information from Ann Smith of 01992 767809.

FLY TIPPING

If you see anyone fly tipping in the forest, please take a note of the registration number of the vehicle, the make of the vehicle and any other information which might help track the perpetrators and then pass this information to the Corporation of London. If you find any fly tipped rubbish please report it to the Corporation on the number below. The sooner such instances are reported, the better chance there is of finding out who is responsible.

The number to ring is **0208 532 1010** which is a **24** hour number and messages will be passed onto the duty team.

St Thomas Church, Upshire Bank details

St Thomas Church Upshire PCC

HSBC Bank Sort Code 40 45 20 Account number 00724505

Any queries regarding setting up a Standing Order, giving a donation to the church, Gift Aid or about joining the Parish Giving Scheme please contact our Treasurer, Ruth Moore on 07852 668633

Ruth4366@gmail.com

If you are able to Gift Aid donations this increases your gift without any extra cost to yourself.

Thank you

STAMPS!

Please continue to save your postage stamps and foreign or out of circulation coins – many charities can use them to raise funds. At the moment we are supporting the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance. Stamps and coins can be left with Lyn and Dave at 94 Upshire Road and left in the porch. Note: please remember to leave about $\frac{1}{2}$ " of envelope around the stamp. Thank you.

ANAGRAM

The answer to the anagram is RESTAURANT.

OH DEER!

We were driving from the Village up through the forest and had just passed the 'Ippy dip road' when the cyclist we had been following suddenly waved his arm for us to slow down – there was a car ahead with its hazard lights flashing. We stopped, wondering what was happening, when from the right of the forest a large herd of deer, at least 30 of them, appeared and ambled unconcerned across the road in front of us. What a lovely sight and something to remember. Lyn

MEMORIES

I had a lovely surprise the other day. The postman delivered a parcel addressed to me (we take a lot of parcels in for our neighbours, but rarely get one for us) and when I opened it there was a note on top of the bubble wrap from one of my nieces. 'Dear Auntie Lyn, I've been having a clear out in the loft and came across this doll. I don't remember it so it has no special attachment for me, so wondered if you'd like it...'

When I removed the bubble wrap there was this very dirty, fully clothed little doll in a box. I took the doll out of the box and underneath was a ticket, hand-written with the words 'Class 7, Any other craft, Mrs D.C. Graham' and a red sticker – FIRST PRIZE! This obviously was a doll my Mum had dressed for one of the Allotment Shows and had won first prize with. I undressed the doll, gave her and all her clothes a gentle wash, dried them and now she looks like new. She is wearing knitted white knickers, pink dress, leggings, coat and hat, and there is a turquoise cardigan for her in the box. I will treasure her (the name on the box was Rosy) as my Mum died 47 years ago but I still miss her.

This got me thinking about my childhood. I was born in Larmans Road, Freezywater, and at the end of our road is the Aylands Allotment Site. I always say I was brought up on the allotment! Mum and Dad had six allotment plots of 10 rods each and grew all sorts of fruit, vegetables and flowers. Mum used to run the allotment shed for a couple of hours at the weekend, where they sold compost, fertilizer, seed potatoes, etc, and Dad was Show Secretary for the site. As you can imagine we all spend a lot of time at the allotment, but we also had a very long garden which was always full of flowers, with a few chickens in the old air-raid shelter at the end. We children were given a small plot each to grow whatever we chose (we used to spend a lot of time just digging tunnels and making castles – this was our 'beach' as we didn't get to the seaside very often!)

Every Friday Dad used to go to work with his bike loaded with bags of vegetables and bunches of flowers that his workmates had ordered from him. How he managed to cycle without falling off with bags on the handlebars and box on the back I don't know, but looking back I appreciate how much the extra money meant to Mum and Dad as Dad was the only breadwinner in the family. Apart from helping with the household bills, Mum used to buy wool and material and she made all our skirts and dresses and knitted our jumpers and cardigans. How did she ever find the time? Answer – no television!

Show time was always so busy. Apart from all the fruit, veg and flower arranging entries, Mum used to make cakes, jam, pickles (you can see where I get it from!) and also knitted and did exquisite embroidery. I was always encouraged to make things to enter too, and also did my own little flower arrangements and was so happy if I ever won a prize! Mum and Dad won lots of prizes and I used to get the job of cleaning some of the silver cups kept on the shelf.

Childhood seemed to be much happier back then. We went to school, did our homework but spent so much time outdoors. I remember being on the allotment laying on my back watching and listening to the skylarks singing, it was wonderful. No mobile phones, no 'on-line' or computer games to interfere with life – I'm sure it was so much better for all of us. How lucky I was – and still am – I give thanks for my life everyday.

Lyn

Do you have any memories you would like to share with us – I'm sure the readers would love to read about them.

PUZZLE

The answer to the puzzle is: a nest box.

Truth makes love possible, love makes truth bearable.

Rowan Williams

All the words in the list start with the letter 'L' and contain at least one more 'L' and are hidden in the diagram below. Words are printed across, up, down or diagonally, but always in straight lines. Letters may be used more than once.

LABEL	LILY	L A H T E L L Y L S L L A N C E L O T S
LABRADOODLE	LIMEKILN	U I L L A E D O S O L I L E L L T U L S
LACKADAISICAL	LIMELIGHT	L I T D I A L E Y A C I V I L E L I L E
LACKLUSTRE	LIMESCALE	L E L U L K N B B A K A T E L B F O L L
LADLE	LIMPLY	A E G D R I A R A E L T L F L E A B L T
LADYLIKE	LINTEL	B I N I L G A B M H L E A L B I A V E S
LAMENTABLE	LISLE	Y A L E S D I I L E G E V L I K H L O I
LANCELOT	LISTLESS	L L N E O L L C R E L U O E C F Y O L L
LANDFILL	LITTLE	L O I O B I A T A E E O A O L T D A O L
LANDLADY	LITURGICAL	L I D Z A O S T B L D L L S O C N A D
LANDLUBBER	LLAMA	L L V B A U L A I E A I A E U K V C A R
LANOLIN	LIVELIOOD	E O L E L L L L O N S F C A C I E E L
LAPEL	LIVERPUDLIAN	E E G K R O I B A T N I T D S R K B L L
LASTLY	LOBELIA	K L C I W P A M E M L I A L Y E B I A Y
LAUDABLE	LOCAL	I A O L S T U L E E A I I L L Y U M U L L
LAUGHABLE	LOCKABLE	L L A H N T A D G L S L I O L L D I I Y
LAUREL	LOGISTICAL	Y N I E P U I A L I I K A D N A P L L L
LAZILY	LOLL	D L M S R O L C C I E G N P B A A M U W
LAZULITE	LOLLY	A A I E L L O A A L A A H L E C L L I O
LEAFLET	LONELINESS	L O L L Y E L L Y L L N E T I L U Z A L
LEGALLY	LOOPHOLE	
LEGISLATION	LOVABLE	
LETHAL	LOVELY	
LEVEL	LOWLAND	
LIABLE	LOWLY	
LIFELOOD	LOYAL	
LIFESTYLE	LUCKILY	
LIKABLE	ULL	
LIKELY	ULLABY	
LILAC	LULU	
LILT	LYRICAL	

What children have to say about angels

It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to Heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you have to agree to wear those angel clothes. -Matthew, age 9

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to do something else. - Mitchell, age 7

My guardian angel helps me with maths, but he's not much good for science. - Henry, age 8

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from holy cows. - Jack, age 6

Winter travel

A government warning said that anyone travelling in icy conditions should take: shovel, blankets, sleeping bag, scarf, hat and gloves, 24 hours supply of food and drink, de-icer, rock salt, torch, spare batteries, road flares, reflective triangles, tow rope, a five gallon petrol jerrycan, first aid kit, and jump leads. So ... I looked completely stupid on the bus this morning!

Spotted on a church notice board:

When you were born, your mother brought you here.

When you were married, your partner brought you here.

When you die, your family will bring you here.

In the meantime, why not try coming on your own sometimes?

Those who want to get married

A minister was preparing to marry a local couple within a couple of weeks. At the close of the morning service, he saw them both in the congregation, and wanted to ask them to come forward, but he couldn't think of their names. So he said: "Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?"

Immediately, nine single ladies, six single men, three widows, and four widowers walked up the aisle.

Say it with flowers

A man stopped by his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine's Day. He asked the proprietor, "You know the expression, 'Say it with flowers'?"

"I do indeed!" the florist enthused. "How about three dozen of my finest roses?"

The man hesitated. "No, make it just a half dozen roses. I'm a man of few words."

More church bulletin bloopers

Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'

The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable, or a dessert, all in a covered dish.

Advert for a church jumble sale: 'We have a gents three-speed bicycle, and also two ladies for sale, in good running order.'