

ST THOMAS' CHURCH, UPSHIRE EN9 3SN

NEWSLETTER

August 2026



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This Newsletter is free: donations to Lyn Wackett. Copy date for September Newsletter: 14th August

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 AUGUST

NO SEEDLINGS THIS MONTH

Sunday 2 nd	Ninth Sunday after Trinity 9.15 am HOLY COMMUNION Readings: Isaiah 55:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21
Sunday 9 th	Tenth Sunday after Trinity 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION Readings: 1 Kings 19:9-18 Matthew 14:22-33 2.30-4.30pm AFTERNOON TEAS with Art Exhibition
Sunday 16 th	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION Readings: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Matthew 15: 10-20 (21-28)
Wednesday 19 th	11.30am for 12 noon COMMUNITY LUNCH in church. 07899 846711 to book, Please let us know if you have to cancel
Sunday 23 rd	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION Readings: Isaiah 51:1-6 Matthew 16:13-20 2.30-4.30pm AFTERNOON TEAS
Sunday 30 th	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION Readings: Jeremiah 15:15-21 Matthew 16:21-end
Saturday 5 th September	3-4pm SEEDLINGS meet in church
Sunday 6 th September	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION Readings: Ezekiel 33:7-11 Matthew 18:15-20

CHURCH FLOWERS

Each month we can create memorial dedications, wedding, anniversary or special occasion flowers -
Contact Kate Dale email: dalek16@btinternet.com. Tel: 02085083942

THE VICAR WRITES

At this time of year, many of us are setting off on journeys. Summer holidays are in full swing, suitcases are being packed, sat-navs programmed, passports checked (usually at least twice!), and we head off to places near and far in search of a change of scenery, a little sunshine, and perhaps a chance to rest.

It's easy to think of travel as a particularly modern phenomenon. We can fly across continents in hours or book a hotel with a few taps on our phones. For much of history, most people rarely travelled more than a few miles from the place where they were born. Life revolved around the local village or town, and journeys were often difficult, expensive and sometimes dangerous.

Yet there was one reason that inspired people to travel extraordinary distances: faith.

For centuries, Christians have undertaken pilgrimages to places associated with the life of Christ or the saints. Medieval pilgrims from England would set out on foot for the shrine of St Thomas Becket at Canterbury, while others travelled hundreds or even thousands of miles to Rome, Jerusalem, or Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain, where tradition says the remains of St James are buried. Such journeys could take months or even years, and there was no guarantee that the pilgrim would ever return home.

Pilgrims often wore simple clothing and carried a staff, a broad-brimmed hat and a satchel. If they had completed the pilgrimage to Santiago, they would frequently wear or carry the scallop shell—the enduring symbol of the Camino. The shell had practical uses too: it could be used to scoop water from a stream or even serve as a simple bowl for food. More importantly, it became a sign that the traveller had walked a sacred path. Today, the yellow shell continues to mark the routes of the Camino across Europe, guiding pilgrims on their way.

Pilgrimage is by no means unique to Christianity. Muslims are called, if they are able, to undertake the Hajj to Mecca at least once in their lifetime. Hindus travel to the River Ganges and other holy places, while Buddhists make journeys to sites associated with the life of the Buddha. Across many faiths, pilgrimage expresses a deep human longing to seek God, to grow spiritually, and to be changed by the journey. But what does pilgrimage mean for us today?

After all, not many of us are likely to spend months walking across Europe carrying all our possessions on our backs. Yet perhaps pilgrimage has never been more relevant.

A holiday is usually about escaping everyday life. A pilgrimage is about allowing everyday life to be transformed.

A holiday asks, "Where would I like to go?" A pilgrimage asks, "Who is God calling me to become?" On pilgrimage, the destination matters, but so does the journey itself. Walking day after day gives space to think, to pray, to notice creation, to meet new people and to discover things about ourselves that the busyness of everyday life often hides.

Perhaps that is why the Bible so often describes faith as a journey. Abraham leaves his homeland trusting God's promise. Moses leads God's people through the wilderness. The disciples spend three years literally walking alongside Jesus. The early Christians were known simply as "people of the Way."

Following Christ has always been less about standing still than about walking with him.

Of course, not everyone can undertake a pilgrimage to Santiago or the Holy Land. Age, health, work or family responsibilities may make that impossible. But pilgrimage is ultimately not about distance. It is about intention.

A quiet walk through the countryside, time spent in prayer, visiting a local cathedral or simply choosing to notice God's presence in the ordinary moments of life can all become acts of pilgrimage.

Perhaps this summer, whether you are travelling abroad, visiting family, exploring somewhere new, or simply enjoying your own garden, there is an invitation to travel a little differently. To slow down. To notice. To be thankful. To make space for God.

Because wherever our journey takes us, we never travel alone. Christ walks beside us, leading us not simply to a destination on a map, but ever closer to himself.

May your travels this summer be safe, restful and joyful—and may every journey, however short or long, bring you a little closer to the One who is "the Way, the Truth and the Life."

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Revd Jane Yeadon

Team Vicar St Thomas, Upshire and Holy Innocents, High Beech

Benefice Youth Missioner

Deanery Vocations Advisor - Epping Forest and Ongar

MB: 07960 604416

Monday is my rest day

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 Laura, Alan & Pam, Lesley, Charlie & John, Anne, Pam & John, Barbara, Vernon, Mal, Sue, Ann & Cyril, Rosalind, Maureen, Carol & George, Terry, Jackie, Andrea & her Mum & Dad, Nina, Carmel & the Price family, Nigel, Lola, Pearl, Susan & Alan, Jackie & Linda, Graham, Christine, Chris, Izzie, Pennie, Steve, Dan, Kevin, Gina, Sue & Rosemary.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEAS

Our season of Sunday Afternoon Teas continue on Sunday 9th August, 2.30-4.30pm, with an Art Exhibition, then on 23rd August.

Teas are available each 2nd and 4th Sunday (2.30-4.30pm) until the end of September.

Come and sit in our lovely little church or enjoy the views over London and the Lea Valley whilst sitting in the churchyard and spend a friendly afternoon at St Thomas'. Dogs on leads welcome.

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.



ST THOMAS' SEEDLINGS

1st Saturdays of each month (unless otherwise stated)

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



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Our mailing list to receive the electronic version of the Newsletter is now in excess of 100 participants so if you are not one of those and wish to be included please send your email address to Kate at

dalek16@btinternet.com or phone 02085083942. We are looking to reduce our 'paper footprint' for climate change by printing fewer copies – your contribution will help. Thank you.

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, childhood memories, something that happened to make you smile, it all makes for interesting reading.

ST THOMAS' CHURCH COMMUNITY LUNCHES 2026

3rd Wednesdays, 11.30 for 12noon start

19th August, 16th September, 21st October,

11th November (a week earlier than usual), 2nd December (Christmas Lunch)

If after booking you are unable to come, please phone to cancel,
we can then offer a place to people on the waiting list.

GROWERS CORNER

It really has been a long hot summer. Trying to keep up with the watering has been a challenge. As I write I am not on a hosepipe ban at home but many of you maybe. We hand water at the allotment as we not allowed to use hosepipes at all and it's been gruelling task. We have had help from family and friends but just feels it is not sustainable and we need to come up with new ideas. Water harvesting, crops and plants which need less water is must in our next year's planning.

The risk of wild fires is high and the Corporation of London have issued warnings. Any sort of fire (ie camp or a bbq) in Epping Forest is forbidden. Litter too can be a source of ignition to start a fire. Just a gentle reminder to stay vigilant to help us protect our green spaces, flora, fauna and wildlife.

I have also been making sure I keep water sources topped up in the home garden and allotment for the birds and insects

Update on the plots:

Watering... lots of watering!!!... but on the positive side there are some plants that are thriving. Namely the cucumbers, melons, chillies and aubergines. I've never successfully grown a melon before so this is exciting. We've also had a massive harvest of first and second early potatoes.

The outdoor tomatoes are performing better than the ones in the polytunnel.

The onions, garlic and shallots have been pulled and are drying. The haul should see us through the coming months. But there have been casualties: the runner beans are not setting fruit. Radishes, lettuces and chard have bolted and many of annual flowers went to seed early.

Jobs on the plot have grinded to a halt just as watering, weeding and harvesting have taken priority. But we do need to start on this and start filling the gaps where crops have been harvested. So this means only one thing: planning crops for autumn. And so the cycle begins again....

It's a fun time of year harvesting all the crops and thinking of new ways to preserve and share recipes with friends.

August to do:

- keep on top of harvesting
- Deadheading
- Collecting seeds for next year
- Focus watering on crops that need it most.
- Watch out for flea beetle on brassicas and related plants such as Swiss chard and rocket. Cover plants with fleece.
- Look out for blossom end rot on tomatoes, which is caused by irregular watering.

August Vegetable sowings

- Kohlrabi
- Kale
- Chard
- Asian greens
- Salad leaves

Fruit

- Some fruit trees can be pruned in summer, including plums, to avoid the development of silver-leaf disease.
- Trained apples and pears can be pruned in summer, as can spur-fruiting, established apple trees
- Keep picking the berries as they ripen

Flowers/shrubs

- keep deadheading
- Keep picking flowers like cosmos and dahlias to encourage more flowers
- Save sweet pea seeds

Tip: Remain vigilant for tomato and potato blight as damp, humid weather progresses.

Rejoice! ye fields, rejoice! and wave with gold, When August round her precious gifts is flinging...
John Ruskin (1819–1900), "The Months"

Happy Gardening. Love Louise.

ANAGRAM Unscramble this 9 letter anagram: SOAPSTONE. The answer can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

UPSHIRE MOTHERS' UNION

Mothers' Union marked 150 years of faith, service and transformation with a landmark anniversary service at St Paul's Cathedral on Wednesday 10th June, bringing together members, senior church leaders, partners from across the Anglican Communion and supporters from across the charity sector. The service was one of the largest Eucharists ever held at St Paul's Cathedral, with the Cathedral filled as over 1500 members gathered to give thanks for a movement that has grown from a small parish initiative in Hampshire into a global Christian organisation of four million members in more than 80 countries.

The service opened with a procession of Mothers' Union provincial banners from across the UK and Ireland, alongside the Mothers' Union Mary Sumner House banner, a powerful visual expression of our heritage and a Movement united in prayer and action.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and Patron of Mothers' Union, the Most Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, preached at the service, reflecting on both the legacy of Mary Sumner and the continued relevance of Mothers' Union today. Ahead of her address, Archbishop Sarah said:

"In 1876, Mary Sumner, the wife of an Anglican vicar in Hampshire, put her faith into action, believing that women from all backgrounds could support one another in strengthening their communities. 150 years on, and driven by the unwavering conviction that faith and compassion can transform lives, the Mothers' Union now has millions of members across the globe. From programmes designed to tackle modern slavery, to work in prisons connecting prisoners with their relatives, and schemes providing trips and holidays to families in need, the Mothers' Union is a real lifeline. I am thrilled to join members for this extraordinary milestone at St Paul's Cathedral, celebrating the journey so far and the road that lies ahead, as women from all over the world work towards ending poverty, violence and social injustice in their communities."

Archbishop Sarah also offered a personal reflection on the significance of the service, describing it as a moment of deep gratitude for "a movement rooted in prayer and sustained by the everyday faithfulness of its members," and highlighting the importance of accompaniment, community and hope in the life of the Church today.

Founded by Mary Sumner in Old Alresford, Hampshire, Mothers' Union began as a small group supporting mothers in Christian faith and family life. Today, it spans six continents, with members working in local communities and through national and international programmes to strengthen families, advocate for justice and bring hope to those facing hardship and disadvantage.

Kathleen Snow, Worldwide President of Mothers' Union, paid tribute to the global movement and its members past and present.

"Mothers' Union has always been about connection; the belief that it takes a village to support communities, and that we are that village, a global one. From Mary Sumner's vision of women coming together across backgrounds and experience, we have grown into a worldwide movement of faith, prayer and action. As we mark 150 years, we give thanks for that legacy, but also for the impact of Mothers' Union today, standing alongside families, and campaigning on serious issues including gender-based violence, poverty and injustice. Wherever we are in the world, we continue to bring hope, advocate for change, and build communities rooted in dignity, justice and love."

Over the past 150 years, MU has continually adapted to meet changing social needs while remaining rooted in its Christian faith. Today, our members support communities through local outreach, parenting initiatives, literacy programmes, campaigns to tackle gender-based violence, advocacy and prayer.

This includes international programmes such as literacy and women's empowerment work, and efforts to prevent gender-based violence in countries including the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. In the UK, Mothers' Union delivers initiatives such as Away From It All holidays for families needing respite and the Rise Up campaign to help prevent domestic abuse.

The anniversary service gave thanks for the vision of Mary Sumner and the countless members whose faith and service have sustained the movement over 150 years. It also marked the beginning of the next chapter in Mothers' Union's story as it continues to grow its impact across the Anglican Communion and beyond.

There is no meeting in August.

CRAFT MARKET

This next Craft Market and Table Top Sale in Waltham Abbey Town Hall will be on Tuesday 25th August, 10.00am – 2.00pm. Admission free – also free tea/coffee.

COMING UP AT ST THOMAS':

Monthly Community Lunches (see separate article)

Sunday Afternoon Teas 2nd & 4th Sundays 2.30-4.30pm

Saturday 19th September: Macmillan Coffee Morning 10.30am-2.00pm

Sunday 27th September: Harvest and last Sunday of Afternoon Teas 2.30-4.30pm Service at 4.00pm

Saturday 17th October: Quiz Night 6.30 for 7.00pm

Saturday 21st November: Christmas Fayre in Village Hall 10.30am-2.00pm

Sunday 13th December: Brass Band Christmas Concert 3.00 for 3.30 start

SHOEBOXES

Don't forget to keep saving your shoeboxes ready for them to be covered and filled with useful items for needy people in Ukraine and eastern Europe. Also keep watching out for bargains and special offers on items to go in the boxes. Boxes and goodies can be left with Lyn at 94 Upshire Road.

STAMPS

Please continue to save your postage stamps and foreign or out of circulation coins as the charities we support can use them to raise funds. At present we collect the coins for Essex and Herts Air Ambulance and The British Legion and stamps for British Heart Foundation. Stamps and coins can be left with Lyn & Dave at 94 Upshire Road – please leave in the porch if no reply. Please leave about ½“ of envelope around the stamps. Thank you.

HIGH BEACH CHURCH

Sunday Afternoon Teas every Sunday until 27th September, 2.00-5.00pm.

Everyone is welcome to come and sit in church or in our churchyard and enjoy home-made cake with tea/coffee and to ring the carillon. Please be careful where you park – you must NOT park on any single or double red line between 8.00am to 10.00pm otherwise you will receive a penalty notice.

Sunday 16th August, 3.00-4.00pm: Walk in Concert by David and Nicola Hooke and friends, with retiring collection.

ANAGRAM The answer to the anagram is TEASPOONS.

At **HOME INSTEAD** Epping Forest we recognise that as we get older, you may need help to be able to stay living in your own home. We Tailor our care packages to meet your needs making it possible for you to stay living in your own home where you are happiest.

Our services include Dementia Care, Personal Care, Home Help, Companionship and much more.

Our monthly Memory Lane and Singing for the Brain Sessions are held at Theydon Bois Village Hall providing lots of fun complimented with refreshments served by our lovely Team. Why not contact us to find out more and to get a copy of our What's on Where Guide (WOW Guide) and future newsletters.

Telephone 01992 666777 or email: Victoria.rigby@homeinstead.co.uk

Cooper's Cards

40a Sun Street, Waltham Abbey, EN9 1EJ
(Library end)

Greetings cards, balloons, toys, wrapping paper, stationery and seasonal items

Family run and friendly shop, pet friendly

Monday to Saturday 8am to 5pm

UPSHIRE SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Held in Upshire Village Hall, Mondays 2.00-4.30pm, Tuesdays 7.00-9.30pm No experience necessary. Tuition and bowls available. It's fun to play! Contact Fred on 01992 711720 or Jean on 07733 084815.

WOOL

Thank to you the people who have donated balls of wool to us, we are now up and running again, but please keep it coming, donations can be left with Lyn at 94 Upshire Road (leave in porch if no reply) or brought to church on any Sunday. Thank you.

POPPY PROJECT

Saturdays 15th August and 12th September, 2.00 - 4.00pm. Monthly meet up at Waltham Abbey Library. Come along and get involved.

AN INTRODUCTION INTO HISTORIC WALTHAM ABBEY

Contact Waltham Abbey Tourist Information Centre on 01993 660336 or tic@walthamabbey-tc.gov.uk for more information on day/evening guided tours.

WALTHAM ABBEY FLOWER CLUB

We meet on the 4th Tuesday in the month except January, June, August and December at Waltham Abbey Community Centre, Crooked Mile, EN9 1QD. Doors open 1.45 for 2pm start.

Next meeting: 28th July: Demonstration to celebrate our 60th Anniversary by Lisa Morgan

All are welcome, raffle, sales table, tea, coffee and homemade cake.

Further details from Chris on 07792 594443.

WALTHAM ABBEY MEN'S SHED

Every Monday at Epping Forest District Museum, 1.00-3.00pm.

A welcoming, inclusive place for local men to get together, socialise and turn their hand to practical tasks. New members welcome. Free to join, free refreshments, just turn up.

For more information contact 01992 910701 or communityhub@vaef.org.uk

50/50 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the 50/50 Club Bumper Draw in June:

1 st :	£40	No. 33	Fred Corsham of Upshire
2 nd :	£30	No. 6	George Green of Upshire
3 rd :	£25	No. 14	Sheila Gleeson of Waltham Abbey
4 th :	£20	No. 86	Joan Bingham of Waltham Abbey
5 th :	£15	No. 92	Sarah Dodds of Waltham Abbey

It is now time to begin Draw 18 of St Thomas' 50/50 Club.

There will 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; payment by Bank Transfer is preferred or alternatively you may pay by cheque or cash to the address stated. Please let me know if you pay by Bank Transfer so I can include your number in the Draw (email lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01992 711573).

Our thanks to all our members for their support of St Thomas' Church. Good luck to everyone who enters.

St Thomas' Church 50/50 Club Draw 18

July to December 2026

I wish to become a member of St Thomas' 50/50 Club and have paid by Bank Transfer to HSBC Bank, A/c St Thomas Church Upshire PCC, Sort Code 40-45-20, A/c No: 00724505.

OR I enclose cash/cheque of £12 per entry (maximum 2 per person).

Please make cheques payable to St Thomas' Church Upshire PCC and return your entries to Lyn Wackett, 94 Upshire Road, Waltham Abbey, EN9 3PA. Thank you.

Name:
Address:
Telephone:

Three's a crowd.

They say that things happen in threes but, unfortunately, it's not usually good things! One does not get a notification from Premium Bonds stating that you've won a substantial amount followed by a letter from a firm of Solicitors telling you that your long-lost Uncle Charles has left you his house in Sandbanks, only then to hear that your National Lottery numbers have won you the Weekly Jackpot; no, it's more likely it is three disasters of sorts. So it was with me but I suppose the first of my woes was my own fault when I tried to burn down our house. I had put some rashers of bacon on to grill only to forget them. The first I knew that something was wrong was the machine gun noise coming from the kitchen. Throwing the door open I was met with thick acrid smoke and two-foot-high flames shooting out of the grill.

First turn off the electric and never douse a fat fire with water, they say, so grabbing a tea towel I attempted to smother the inferno only for the towel to vaporize! Thankfully a hand towel liberally soaked in water did the trick, so all I had to do then was to open all the doors and windows to clear the smoke and then clean up. Some hours later with the kitchen and cooker looking reasonable I tried to turn it on again only to have the loud machine gun noise return. Dorothy had miraculously slept through the pandemonium and remarkably was surprisingly sangfroid about it all, so we consequently set about finding a new cooker with a gas hob. This was just before Christmas and the cooker company said that they couldn't deliver till early January. I can't remember what we had for Christmas dinner but it was certainly not roast turkey, probably a meal equally exotic like baked beans on toast or something similar which was easily cooked in the microwave and with the addition of stupid coloured paper hats it made for a festive occasion.

The new cooker duly arrived with two men, one of whom was a gas fitter. He came in and inspected the kitchen then started to make that sucking noise that tradesmen do when they have to tell the householder something unpleasant. 'Your kitchen does not comply with modern day gas regulations. I can't fit the cooker.' So off they went and we set about finding an electric cooker and hob. On making a choice we had a message to say that that particular model was out of stock and would not be available till the end of February. At least our gas hob still worked as did the microwave and we have a good selection of takeaways in the area, so we survived. Finally, we received the message that our new cooker was coming and then I had several sleepless nights because I remembered how difficult it was to get the old cooker into the house. Doors had to be removed, and it was a very tight squeeze. By now we'd had a stairlift fitted, the running track of which comes down into the hall – there was no way the cooker would get by. I had visions of it being left in the living room for me to cut up with a hacksaw in order to remove it!

On the appointed day two different men arrived, again one a gas fitter who immediately set about disconnecting the cooker and pulling it out of its setting. Now what was going to happen? They thread a six-inch strap along the length of the underside of the cooker, donned harnesses which had large buckles on the front, squatting down they fastened the strap to the buckles and stood up lifting the cooker well off the floor. They walked it to the hall where they realised that the cooker was still too low to go over the stairlift rail so squatting again they tightened the strap more and up went the cooker over the running track of the stairlift and out of the house. All of two minutes and I had been having sleepless nights obviously worrying needlessly. 'You've done this before, haven't you?' I said. 'You're the second we've done today and we have another eleven to do!' said one of them. Getting the new cooker in and fitted turned out to be a doddle and it looks wonderful, don't know why I worried so much after all. But (in large letters), whilst in the time we'd been waiting for the cooker to be delivered the car broke down.

I had arrived at Church for the Thursday service when all the warning lights illuminated. Additionally, the scrolling info thingy on the dash gave a running commentary. "Consult the owner's handbook. Do not drive. Go to the nearest dealer" I fully expected it to also say, "go straight to jail, do not pass go, do not collect £200." So I phoned the nearest dealer. Up to last year the dealer was in Woodford and we had been customers of the firm for about thirty years and had received excellent service, but the owner had decided to retire. The next nearest dealer is some fifty or so miles away and it appears that the firm had a policy of not answering the phone but relying on potential customers leaving a message of their answerphone. That system would work well if they also bothered to listen to their answerphone and responded to it. After several fruitless attempts to get an answer I phoned their accounts department, now they were bound to answer if there was a chance someone was offering to pay their bill. Sure enough they did but even they could not get through to the service department and eventually one of the Accounts staff walked over to service and obviously gave them a piece of their mind for shortly afterwards I received a call from an obviously peeved service manager. "Bring the car in on Tuesday (bear in mind it was Thursday when the car broke down) and we'll run a diagnostic check at £210. Then we'll know what to do and how much it will all cost"

So car limped to the garage on the Tuesday and subsequently I received a call to say that the fuel pump had died and including the diagnostic check the cost will be £800. Ouch! Well, obviously it had to be done so I gave the go-ahead but (too many 'buts' in this story) I then received a call to say that they had found a pipe under the fuel pump which had a hole in it and would have to be replaced. The cost would only be an additional £8 which would not be charged to me but (!) it was such an unusual thing to be faulty they did not have a spare nor did any of the other dealers that they had contacted which meant that it would have to go on 'back order'. I have a suspicion that the part had to be ordered from Japan and then sent by boat which must have been caught up in the problems of the Strait of Hormuz for it was to be another four weeks before the part eventually arrived at the workshop. But it did and miracle upon miracle I received a call to say that the car was ready for collection. During these four weeks when we had some of the coldest winds blowing, I was having to use buses and tubes to get up the yard to do the horse as the garage did not have a spare loan car available, evidently they'd all been booked out previously. Each way was two bus journeys, a tube journey and a walk of a quarter of a mile. I was not a happy bunny to say the least. I should mention here that in the last week of my journeying by foot a certain vicar who was supposed to be away on holiday spent the time ferrying me around for which I shall be eternally grateful.

The bill came to twenty-seven pence less than the eight hundred pounds they had quoted so that seemed like a bonus, of sorts. On the wall behind the reception area was a large sign which said that bills of more than £500 could be paid over four months without incurring fees or interest so I thought I might as well avail myself of that, rather my money stay in my pocket for longer than lining theirs. When I asked to do this the service guy said that his colleague would set it up and handed the invoice to him, however, he'd obviously got out of bed the wrong side that morning for he was the height of misery. He clattered around on his computer then said that I would receive a link on my phone to set up the monthly payments which with a ping it obviously appeared on phone. Our Thursday congregation are only too aware of the hi-tech phone I have – it can make calls and do texts, anything else is a no-no, thank you. So waving my phone at this guy I explained that doing a link would not happen. I thought he was going to burst into tears from the look on his face. "I don't know what to do" he cried. Exasperatedly I said, "Don't bother, I'll just pay it, then I can go home." Whilst sitting at some traffic lights on my way back home I realised that I hadn't seen an itemized bill for the work, just what was required paying. Looking at the invoice I found the itemized part on the reverse and I casually scanned down it. The last item was 'Part No # Hose Complete-Vacuum £8.39 plus VAT'. Would you believe it, they had charged me for it after all, the blighters! The third disaster to befall me which involves that lovely organization, British Gas, will have to wait until another time when I have my mojo back! Oh! Dare I say it? The cooker is working well and the car is running like a dream.

Adrian J Liddle

EXCITING EXHIBITION EVENTS PROGRAMME AT EPPING FOREST DISTRICT MUSEUM!

We've got lots of fabulous events over the summer at the museum – join us for more Roman inspired events!

For the whole community:

Tuesday 28th July, 10am – 6pm, Ancient Rome Community Day! We'll have a cider bar in the garden, fresco workshops for children and adults, drop in crafts AND the chance to learn how to be a Roman soldier, with Time Jump Histories! Check out our socials for more info.

For families and children:

Tuesdays and Saturdays during summer holidays – drop in crafts (see our socials for the schedule!)

Wednesdays during summer holidays – art workshops (see our socials for the schedule!)

Ancient Rome Fun and Crafts at Loughton (10th and 13th August), Epping (11th and 14th August) and Chipping Ongar (12th and 19th August) libraries! Under 5s 10am – 11am, Over 5s 11am – 12pm

For Adults:

Wednesday 29th July, 7pm to 8 pm - Talk: Life in Roman St Albans (Verulamium), £7.00 per person, light refreshments included

Saturday 22 August, 10am – 2:30pm, The Last Anglo-Saxon King: Illuminated manuscript workshop - join illuminator Alison Salmon who will take you through using traditional materials to create a beautiful manuscript of King Harold and William the Conqueror, £65 per person

New displays!

There are several exciting new displays at the Museum for visitors to enjoy, including two new displays curated by Museum volunteers in the Core Gallery. One display focuses on a pair of teddy bears from the Museum's collection! They are posed to appear as if they are having a picnic in the window looking into the Museum's workroom, where volunteers and staff complete collections tasks. Another volunteer display showcases a Haberdasher's Box full of lace samples. The box contains over 200 pieces of individual lace which were individually categorised and digitised by two of the Museum's collections volunteers over several weeks. Also in the Core Gallery, visitors can view a display curated by students from The Ongar Academy. The students worked with the Museum to form a Young Archaeology Club over 6 weeks. They looked at the practice of archaeology and learnt how to safely handle Museum objects before choosing objects relating to Ongar to put on display, enabling them to tell the history of Ongar from their perspective. Work experience students have also been busy at the Museum updating the Dick Turpin display in the Museum's People Gallery, providing new information on the legend of the notorious highwayman.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @efdmuseum, check our booking page: www.ticketsource.co.uk/efdmuseum and sign up to our mailing list: www.efdmuseum.org.uk

The Museum is open 10am-4pm; closed Thursday and Sunday.

Coming up in September!

Are you ready for a night of trivia and fun? Join us for the Museum's Fundraising Quiz Night! Gather your team and put your knowledge to the test and have fun in a friendly competition.

MUSEUM QUIZ NIGHT, Friday 18th September. Doors open at 6.45pm for a 7pm start. End by 9.30pm. Tables of up to 6 people; bring your own drinks and snacks, £7.50 per person. Book by visiting www.ticketsource.co.uk/efdmuseum or call the museum on 01992 716882 or email enquiries@efdmuseum.org.uk

WALTHAM ABBEY STITCHERS Knit, Crochet and Chat! Every Friday 1.30-3.30pm in 'The Space', Epping Forest District Museum, cost £4. Everyone welcome, bring your stitching project and pop along any Friday or contact Diana dian@thecrochetchain.co.uk for more details.

Don't miss WALTHAM ABBEY'S SUMMER MARKET on Saturday 29th August, 9am-3pm in Sun Street and the Market Square.

A DIFFERENT SORT OF MIRACLE

Last month, as England's first innings in the Test Match at the Oval drew towards its close, very far short of the New Zealand score, Matt Fisher and Sonny Baker were batting. One commentator said: "A Fisher and a Baker would be great for feeding the 5,000, but we are going to need a different sort of miracle here."