

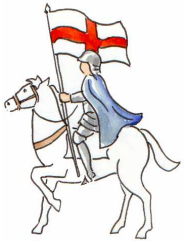
St Mary the Virgin,
The Street,
Ardleigh, Essex



St. George The Martyr
Badley Hall Road
Great Bromley, Essex



The Parishes of Ardleigh and The Bromleys JANUARY/FEBRUARY



Church Wardens

Miss C Mingay 230723
Mrs R Brown 230384

Sacristan

Mr R Hill 792046

Secretary

Mr M West 233333

Treasurer

Mr F Perera 231094

Organist

Mr M Simmonds 394143

Flowers

Mrs S Hulbert 230458

Bells

Mr S Cheek 230429

Church Wardens

Mrs A Fairley 250229
Mrs J Nicholls 230688

Sacristan & Verger

Mr P Wenden 230613

Secretary

Mrs Mary Fawcett 233473

Treasurer

Mrs M Bromfield 230089

Organist

Mr G Frostick 01473 424469

Flowers

Mrs J Nicholls 230688

Bells

Mr D Wenden 250260

Dear Friends

Oxford of course was a marvellous experience and I was tutored and lectured by some of the top theologians of the day. The study of Theology can sometimes undermine one's faith as many of those things, which were once certainties, are brought into question. My training as a student of history had shown me that even historical facts were liable to interpretation and as we were dealing in theology with things unseen, there is much that is mystery, myth and liable to interpretation. During my time at Oxford the great controversies began with the publication of "the myth of God incarnate". The authors of this book were much maligned because of a popular understanding of the word "myth". Many of the authors themselves did not deny the fundamental truth behind the symbols and stories in the Bible, which were regarded as "myth".

My reading of theology did more to deepen my faith than to destroy it. Admittedly it changed some of attitudes, but a faith built on fewer certainties was more of a faith and not less of a faith.

Oxford was a place where there was such a variety of worship to choose from. Where else, except perhaps Cambridge (referred to at Oxford as "the other place!") could one choose where to go for a Eucharist or Evensong and choose between so many excellent choirs?

My two usual places of worship among several others were Pusey House and Christ Church Cathedral. The high Mass at Pusey House on a Sunday morning was a wonderful experience. I even got to play the organ there when the organist happened to be away or was taken ill. The singing was good. Each Sunday the preachers were

Distinguished theologians and spiritual men.

I usually went to choral evensong at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

During the first term of my second year my parents came to visit. They spent a lovely weekend seeing the city of dreaming spires. They returned home on the Monday and my mother was taken ill, but she assured me after a couple of days that she felt better. The Michaelmas term ended on December 8th 1975 and I travelled home to Wales. A few days later, my mother was taken ill again. My father was at work. She stayed in bed, most unusual. I had never known her to do this before. Her face turned to thee wall and she told me she was not afraid to die. I naturally told her not to be morbid, she laughed but repeated very seriously, death was not to be feared.

Then as Christmas drew nearer I was aware mother was not herself. Her strength seemed to have been taken away. I did most of the Christmas shopping,, some cooking but she insisted on cooking the Christmas dinner. I was aware something was

wrong. My mother began to speak very candidly about many aspects of her life. We had always been so close now she seemed to express her innermost thoughts. She became weaker and weaker. The doctor kept diagnosing 'flue or virus. It was now New Year's Eve. Father was at sea, although we always waited the New Year in I begged her to go to bed because she was so unwell. However, she insisted on bringing in the New Year with me. The words she spoke that night were so prophetic I cannot share them because they related to people and circumstances, which are personal; Suffice to say I firmly believe it was her way of preparing me for her death.

I will continue with the story next time. Fr. Robert.

ROBIN HILL

We say a very big "Thank You" to Robin who has decided to step down from the position of Church Warden. He will, however, become the Sacristan, and with his abundance of knowledge be of great help to Christine (and Ruth) as she has become a Church Warden.

February 5th THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

8am Eucharist – St George's
10.30am The Parish Eucharist – St Mary's
6.30pm Evensong – St George's

**February 12th
SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**
8am Eucharist – St Mary's
10.30am The Parish Eucharist – St George's
6.30pm Evensong - St Mary's

**February 19th
SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT**
8am Eucharist – St George's
10.30am The Parish Eucharist – St Mary's

**February 21st
SHROVE TUESDAY
Launch of Christian Stewardship Campaign in both Churches
6.30pm Great Bromley
7.30pm Ardleigh**

February 22nd
ASH WEDNESDAY
The First day of Lent
7.30pm Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes—St George's
INCENSE WILL BE USED

**February 26th
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**
8am Eucharist – St Mary's
10.30am The Parish Eucharist – St George's
6.30pm Evensong—St Mary's

**March 4th
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**
8am Eucharist—St George's
10.30am The Parish Eucharist - St Mary's
6,30pm Evensong - St George's

ARDLEIGH and THE BROMLEYS
Church of England
2012

January 1st

NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

8am Eucharist – St George's
10.30am The Parish Eucharist – St Mary's

January 8th

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

8am Eucharist – St Mary's
10.30am The Parish Eucharist – St George's
6.30pm Evensong – St Mary's

January 15th

2nd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

8am Eucharist – St George's
10.30am The Parish Eucharist – St Mary's

January 22nd

3rd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

8am Eucharist – St Mary's
10.30am The Parish Eucharist – St George's
6.30pm Evensong - St Mary's

January 29th

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

Candlemas

8am Eucharist – St George's
10.30am The Parish Eucharist – St Mary's
with Laying-on-of-Hands and Anointing.
INCENSE WILL BE USED

January/February
EUCHARISTS

These are held on Tuesdays— 9.30am as follows:

January 10th at St George's
January 17th NO EUCHARIST
January 24th at St Mary's
January 31st at St Mary's

February 7th at St George's
February 14th NO EUCHARIST
February 21st at St George's
February 28th at St Mary's All welcome

**HOLY COMMUNION AT SEVEN RIVERS EVERY FRIDAY -
11AM**

MESSY CHURCH

On July 27th we embarked on our 3rd Messy Church Morning and it proved an enormous success. Thank you to all the helpers.

October, and 26 people attended, including mum, dads and grandparents. Our theme was "Angels and Lions. The story was read, masks, handprints and prayer cubes made whilst the grown ups prepared a suitable feast. Our teenage assistants were made most welcome as they gave up their time to help.

"Messy Christingle" Service at Ardleigh School with Rev. Gill Moore ended our year. We all sang carols with Fr. Robert at the piano, then we sat down to a lovely Christmas tea. Everyone made a Christingle, and despite the cold, late afternoon, we all went out into the school play ground to light our candles and sing the Christingle song.

Donations of £102.03 have been sent to the Children's Society from the Benefice.

In addition £119.65 was sent from St George's being the collection at the Crib Service.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Scout Leader, Richard Talbot, brought a group of Scouts to church take part in this service.

Elizabeth Young's report - Children in Church:

The school was present for the Remembrance Sunday service and 12 children came to the back of the church to make door hangers and poppies. We went over why we made poppies and why we should remember those who have died in two world wars.

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STEWARDSHIP

We will launch the Stewardship programme Feb 21st, which is Shrove Tuesday, 6.30pm for Great Bromley and 7.30pm for Ardleigh.

ST MARY'S
APCM
SUNDAY 11TH MARCH 7.30PM
AFTER EVENSONG.

ST GEORGE'S
APCM
25TH March

STUDY GROUPS FOR THE BENEFICE ARE HELD AT THE RECTORY, and will resume for Lent on Wednesdays details from Fr Robert and in the weekly pew sheets.

All are very welcome.

**FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETS AT
ST MARY'S THE LAST TUESDAY
IN THE MONTH
A WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE.**

News from the Ringing Chamber

Just before Christmas a new carpet was fitted together with extra mats beneath the ropes to avoid individual wear.

The New Year was duly "rung in" with ringers from Gt. Bromley joining us. Half muffled bells started at 11.45pm, at midnight they were removed for "open" ringing. This was tradition in many villages, but sadly largely died out. We hope to keep this tradition going again.

Our ringers were: Diane Arnold, James Tidman, Des Thorne, George Thoday, Phillip and Dominique Erith, David Wenden, Susan Orriss and myself. New recruits always welcome, no special skills, just willingness to learn. Wonderful exercise, and many new friends!

Stephen Cheek
Tower Captain.