

# St Nicholas Church, Laindon

Parish of Laindon with Dunton, Essex



St Nicholas Church, Church Hill, Laindon

## Parish Magazine

October 2010

... Autumn Days ...

30p

# Diary for October 2010

## **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

2.30pm Wedding

4.30pm Wedding (choir)

7.00pm Harvest Supper (in Community Centre)

## **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>      Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**

10.00am      Family Service

## **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>**

7.30pm Mother's Union (in Vicarage)

## **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>**

7.00pm Music Quiz (in Church)

## **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>      Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**

10.00 a.m.      Holy Communion

12.00, 3.00 & 4.00.      Holy Baptism

## **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>      Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**

10.00 am      Holy Baptism with Communion

3.00pm      Holy Baptisms

## **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

7.30 pm      Concert – Southern Soul Machine

## **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>      Bible Sunday**

10.00am      Holy Communion

## **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>**

8.00pm      PCC meet in Church

## **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>**

7.30pm      Choir Practice in Church

## **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>      Fourth Sunday before Advent**

10.00am      Holy Communion

Every Tuesday at 9.30 – 11.00am St Nicholas Nippers

A pram service for the very young with their parent or carer

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## **Bookings**

All enquiries for weddings, baptisms and funerals should be made to Revd.

Diane Ricketts 01268 411190

38, Claremont Road, Laindon, Essex SS15 5PZ

## From Diane's Desk



**A**s I am writing this I do not know exactly how much money our Festival in September raised but as soon as all the monies are in, the sum will be in the weekly newsheet and on the website.

But those of you who were involved in any way, I am sure will agree that it was a great success. So many talents past and present were celebrated over that weekend and I am sure there must have been something to interest and entertain everyone who came along.

So most of all, I want to thank everyone who helped in any way. Some people's contributions were very obvious and others were working quietly behind the scenes but it was a real team effort with so many of you giving above and beyond anything that could have been asked or expected – thank you so much.

One of the nicest things about that weekend was seeing so many people meeting old friends and reminiscing about the "good old days", and how many memories were sparked by all those photographs. Joe Goodman certainly met lots of folk he hadn't seen for some time and together they were able to call to mind all sorts of things about life in Laindon.

With all the modern technology now available to us, it is still all too easy to lose touch with our friends so maybe our festival weekend can remind us that friends are important and how many smiling faces there were, as people met someone they recognised and caught up with their news.

God bless,

*Diane*

*P.S. Dawn, John and I have just finished walking the boundary of the parish and apart from the half hour or so that we had to walk alongside the very noisy A127, it was most enjoyable and hopefully raised more money to enable the repairs to the Church to get underway, so thank you if you sponsor us.*



# October Birthdays

Happy Birthday to you,

Happy Birthday to you,

Happy Birthday,



Valerie Kingsley on Saturday, 3rd

Hetty Eldridge on Sunday, 4th

Jacqueline Morris on Friday, 16th

Reginald Fry on Saturday, 17th

Graham Fry on Monday, 19th

Ada Stevens on Wednesday, 21st

Liz Whitaker on Friday, 23rd

Betty Hartgrove on Sunday, 25th

John Dennis on Thursday, 29th

Happy Birthday to you!

## From the Parish Registers...

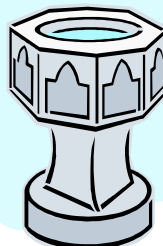
We welcome you into the fellowship of faith...

5<sup>th</sup> Macey Claire Page

19<sup>th</sup> Jason Alexander Petty  
Maisie Robyn Flack  
Grace Carole Ann Bramley  
Evie-Mai Lily Rowe

25<sup>th</sup> Kayden Aaron Geoffrey Thorp

26<sup>th</sup> Jodie Lillian Lucy Pettet



To have and to hold from this day forward ...

4<sup>th</sup> Andrew Edward Martin Fletcher and Lisa Michelle Danahay  
17<sup>th</sup> Michael Lindores and Sarah-Jane Marie Atkinson  
25<sup>th</sup> Alexander John Russell and Lucy Sandell



### **Blessing of Marriage**

25<sup>th</sup> Robert & Faye Moore

## As I See It

dawn.knox@gmail.com

www.stnicholaslondon.co.uk

**I**f you read 'As I See It' last month, you may be wondering how Alex got on with the test to see if the veins from his brain were healthy.

He had the test at the end of August in a clinic in Glasgow, which is currently the only place in the U.K. which offers this service. In fact, Alex was found to have constrictions in both veins. Although this may sound rather alarming, it opens up the possibility of having treatment to widen and straighten them in the hope that Alex will gain relief from his MS.

Everyone is very cautious as not much research has been done so far but we are all very hopeful that this will mean a cure for Alex.

The next step is to find a clinic where Alex can have the treatment he needs to widen his veins. Countries such as Romania, USA, Poland and Italy have such clinics and Alex is currently looking into the best place to go.

### **Festival Success**

As I type this, the very successful, 'Laindon's got Talent' Festival has taken place and the Beating the Bounds walk is finished.

The Festival ran like clockwork, thanks to the untiring efforts of so many people. You are all stars!

Just in case you took part in Ros and Peter's 'Guess the Number of Sweets' I can now reveal that there were 149 sweets and the competition was won by **Mark** of the Conservation Team. Below is **Ros** in her 'Chocolate Factory'!



The festival photos will be on the website as soon as I can get them there but in the meantime, you can see them on <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sunrisecalls/sets/72157624808755045/>

## Good News!

Thankfully, Yvonne Friend, who is a regular contributor to our magazine has been given the all clear by her oncologist as there is now no sign of cancer. Many thanks for your prayers.

## Essex Life Magazine

Although the editor of Essex Life magazine emailed me to say that my article on Laindon was going to be included in the October issue, I wanted to see it with my own eyes before I actually believed it! The October issue came out on 15th September and my article is definitely in there! I hope I did Laindon justice!

## Colour Magazines

Unfortunately, from this month, we will no longer be able to print the magazine in colour, so only black and white copies will be available. If you receive the magazine through the post, you may prefer to go on our emailing list, for a pdf copy of the magazine, in addition to, or instead of your normal paper copy. If so, please let me have your email address. Magazines sent out via email are in colour and free! In addition, the magazine is available each month on the church website

## Shine, Jesus, Shine

Many thanks to my friend **Carole Nickols**, who created the beautiful flower arrangement for the festival. She designed and made the Shine, Jesus, Shine arrangement to celebrate Christian songwriter, Graham Kendrick.



## Beating the Bounds

Many thanks to everyone who sponsored **Diane, John** or me on our walk around the parish boundary. Saturday 18 September was a beautiful day, with none of the strong winds and rain that we'd had during the week. The walk was roughly divided into three: firstly the part along the very noisy A127, then the lovely part through Dunton, alongside fields and country lanes. The final part was through the streets of Laindon, arriving back at the end of Ballards Walk, just opposite the



Diane and I approach Dunton Village.

church. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and it was lovely to have the time to see things that I normally miss when I whizz past them in the car. It was the first

time that I'd ever seen Dunton Park Country Club and Caravan Site, which was like a tiny village in its own right—even with its own mini duck pond! The money is still coming in but between us, we raised more than £500.



Finished! Phew!



John 'beating the bounds'!

### Thank You

Thanks this month to all the contributors as well as to Jill Hartgrove, Peter and Betty's daughter, who sends out the magazine each month to those who can't pick one up from church, themselves.

September has been such a busy month! But there is still a lot to look forward to! Don't forget to check out the website for all upcoming events—and check on the fund raising thermometer to see how we're progressing.

Every blessing until November...

Dawn

### Disclaimer:

Neither the Vicar, Church Wardens, Parochial Church Council, nor the Editor take responsibility for the information given or views expressed in the St. Nicholas Church Parish Magazine. Nor is any culpability accepted in work undertaken by advertisers

# Church Wardens' Report

October 2010

The Carpenter plinth has been repaired and the lettering restored. This was made possible by a kind donation from John Burton who now lives in Hockley. We are also looking into the possibility of a brass plaque commemorating those that made the repair possible. Unfortunately during the winter a bad crack appeared in the plinth, we are currently investigating how we can repair it.

We have carried out one of the suggestions made by the Rural Community of Essex (RCCE) and have erected a 40 gallon water tank at the back of church for parishioners who attend their graves.

We thank Steve and the Sunday preservation group for supplying and erecting another display board just outside the church, this time for our Eco Congregational award plaque.

During August we suffered a few broken tiles but our local tiler, Alan Masser, had them replaced within a matter of days. Peter arranged for a large wasp nest on the car park bank to be removed just in time for the festival.



The church mowers are getting to the end of their life; Peter and Stuart are continually repairing them so we have bought a new one paid for by the award money received from the Rural Community Council of Essex and a donation from the Choir fund. Peter and Ken.

# Out of the Mouths of Babes...

Teacher: Harriet, please go and stand by the map and point out America.

Harriet: (pointing to the correct continent), This is America, Miss.

Teacher: Very good, Harriet. Now, class, who discovered America?

Class: Harriet, Miss.

Teacher: How can we prevent the spread of nasty diseases caused by biting insects?

Mark, aged six: Don't bite any?

Teacher: Simon, your homework on 'My Dog' was very interesting. But your brother wrote exactly the same thing. Did you copy it off him?

Simon: No, Miss, it's just the same dog.

Teacher: What would you like to give up for Lent?

Jack, aged eleven: School.

George, aged six: I bet it's hard for God to love all the people in the world. There are only four people in my family and I can never do it.

Lynne, aged nine: Dates are for having fun and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.

Glenn, aged seven: If falling in love is anything like learning how to spell, I don't want to do it. It takes too long.

Bruce, aged seven: Dear God, Please send me a pony. I never asked for anything before, you can look it up.

Rosie, aged six: I think God made a mistake. I prayed for a puppy but I got a baby brother instead.

Teacher: Do you ever help your mother clean up the house?

Rachel, aged seven: No, but I help make the mess.



Freda Happé

# St. Nicholas Gallery

Saturday 4th September—Working party to clean the church in readiness for the Confirmation service.



Above: Peter showing Chris his new 'All singing, all dancing' lawn mower.  
Right: Peter and Helen hold the ladder steady while Chris risks life and limb!



Left: Diane test drives the church's new lawn mower!



Right: Molly inspects Ken the Cricket!



Left: Peter demonstrates the new water tank, which he installed so that people can water their grave plants.

Above: Graham and Peter fix my car!

Sunday 5th September—All Age Worship Service featured the 'Sweet Rappers', featuring Chris as M&M, Diane as Justin Timeforcake and Thomas, Samuel and Molly.



(See page 19 for Graham's You've been Frymed!)



Sunday 5th September—The Confirmation Service took place in the afternoon and our own Maureen Bailey was confirmed with three others.





## Southern Soul Machine

**I**n what is thought to be a first for St Nicholas, a six-piece soul band is to play a concert in the church to help raise funds for the re-plastering of the ceiling.

The Southern Soul Machine – described as fast becoming the South East's premier soul band – will be performing a selection of Motown and Staxx classics on Saturday 23rd October. Hits such as Midnight Hour, Twisting the Night Away, Knock on Wood and Stand By Me are likely to be included among the play list in what is expected to be a nostalgic and foot-tapping evening's entertainment.

Tickets for this eagerly anticipated event are just £5 and are available from Graham Fry (Tel: 01268 546252). The concert starts at 7.30pm.

You can find out more about the Southern Soul Machine at:  
[www.southernsoulmachine.com](http://www.southernsoulmachine.com)



# Church Signs



## Freda's Tips

With a soft, damp cloth, clean the taps and plughole with toothpaste. Rinse with cold water and polish with a soft cloth. Hey presto, gleaming taps!

For a cheap, refreshing snack, simply place different fruits on a kebab stick, freeze and enjoy as a healthy ice lolly.

Keep the bags of silica gel usually included with electronic purchases and put them in your tool box. It stops the contents from going rusty.

Place one end of a double-ended oven mitt under your sofa/ armchair cushion and drape the other over the arm. You have a handy pocket to hold your remote controls and other bits and bobs.

Freda Happé

# This Month in History

**2nd October 1900** - Keir Hardy becomes first Labour MP.

**4th October 1535** - First English translation of the Bible printed.

**10th October 1903** – Emmeline Pankhurst forms the Suffragette Movement.

**12th October 1967** – Ford’s Dunton plant opened by Harold Wilson.

**13th October 1884** - The World adopts Greenwich Meantime

**14th October 1066** - The Battle of Hastings

**15th October 1960** – The foundation stone is laid for St Martin’s Church, Basildon

**16th October 1834** - The Houses of Parliament burn down.

**18th October 1016** - The Battle of Ashingdon - but where was it?

**20th October 1714** - Coronation of King George I

**21st October 1805** - The Battle of Trafalgar. Admiral Lord Nelson defeats a combined French and Spanish fleet, stopping Napoleon from invading England.

**22nd October 1814** - First plastic surgery in Britain

**25th October 1415** - The Battle of Agincourt

**26th October 664** – Bishop Cedd dies, ten years after establishing Bradwell-on-Sea mission.

**29th October 1618** - Walter Raleigh is executed.

**30th October 1991** – The Queen opens the QE2 Bridge linking Essex to Kent across the Thames.



Ken Porter

# You've Been Frymed!

1



The photos are starting to roll in now, and the entries received this month have been great. Please keep them coming.

Val has captured Chris Graves with the new man in her life, whilst Dawn has been snapping away in the depths of the churchyard and in London town, too.

I hope you like the captions. Remember, for every caption I manage to place against your photo, you pay £1

for the privilege!

Please send your photos by email to the magazine editor at the email address below.

Photo 1:  
**Internet dating didn't quite go to plan for Chris when she advertised for a well-presented man who likes cooking and has plenty of dough!**

2





Photo 2:

**During a recent exhibition of tree surgery in the churchyard, a new variety of the Molly Bush was discovered. Environmentalists are hoping it will sweep the country.**

Photo 3:

**The Laindon yoof can't quite believe it as they hear the news that the St Nicholas Church rappers go straight into the charts at number 1. Innit!**

(Editor—See page 12 for photos of the 'Sweet Rappers', St. Nicholas' own rappers! Email address for photos for You've Been Frymed is dawn.knox1@btinternet.com)

Graham Fry

## **Motor Neurone Disease Charity Quiz Night**

Saturday 20th November

7.00pm for prompt start 7.30pm

Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall

Maximum teams of six

£6.00 per head, which includes excellent refreshments—  
sausage rolls, sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee

To book a table call Audrey Pegrum 01268 710757

# John Dennis and Friends Reunited

I can't tell you what it meant to me to play at the Church festival this year. Not only was it an honour to do my bit in raising much needed funds but it also had a special, personal meaning to me.

I was joined for the first time in over forty years by bass player **Mick Gaughan** who was with me in a band called *The Act* back in the sixties. We had three records released on Columbia label but fame was not to be. Also joining me was drummer **Tony Green** who was with me in my last band *Off the Rails* over twelve years ago. We have called ourselves *John Dennis & Friends Re-united*.

We had a seven piece backing choir, thanks to Di and some of her Bas. Op. ladies and spouses of the fore mentioned musicians. We played a bit of blues, Christian and gospel.

Foot note: if someone had asked me six months ago, what is the likelihood of me ever playing with these people again? I would have said zero. So I can only say The Lord does work in mysterious ways.



John Dennis



## Laindon's Got Talent

**T**he long-awaited, St. Nicholas Church Festival finally took place over the weekend of 11th and 12th September.

The weather forecast wasn't too promising but thankfully, the predicted deluge didn't happen and although Saturday was cloudy, it didn't rain. The whole weekend was thoroughly enjoyable!





Flower arranging on Friday 10th.



Opposite page, bottom left, Diane and 'King of the One Liners', Joe Goodman, who opened the festival. Bottom right, Jenny Owens





Above, Carole Nickols, who created the 'Shine, Jesus, Shine' arrangement.





Above left, Ken and Joe swap memories. Above right, Diane with butterfly face paint. Left, Molly drives the engine with an onlooker. Opposite page, top, passengers on the engine. Middle, Maddie Turner, Bottom left, Blowing Bubbles. Bottom right, Eileen and Hetty welcome our visitors.

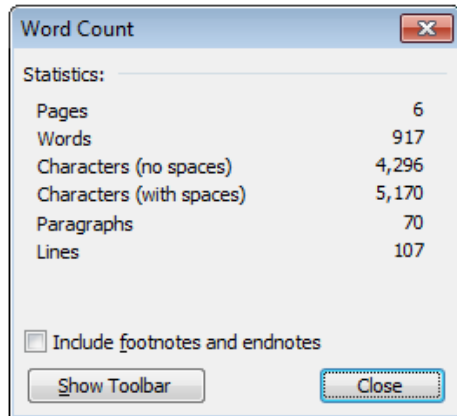
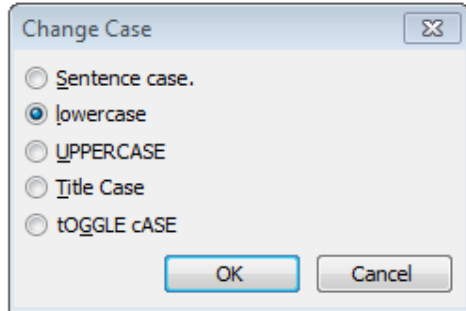


# Computer Bits

**H**ave you ever accidentally turned on the Caps Lock on and typed your work in capitals? If you want to convert to lower case, highlight the text and go to the Format menu, then select Change Case. The Change Case box will open and you can select the most appropriate choice.

However, make sure you proofread your work as this is not foolproof. You may find that 'I' is shown as 'i' when you select Sentence Case!

Once you've typed your work, you may want to know how many words it contains. Go to the Tools menu and then select Word Count. This handy box gives all the information shown to the right.



## Keyboard Shortcuts

Ctrl + A— Highlight and select all

Ctrl + C—Copy

Ctrl + V—Paste

Ctrl + X—Cut

Ctrl + B—Embolden text

Ctrl + U—Underline text

Ctrl + I—Italicise text

Ctrl + Home key—Takes you to the beginning of your document

Ctrl + End key—Takes you to the end of your document

Ctrl + Page Up or Down keys—go up or down one page at a time

Ctrl + N—Open a new page

Ctrl + P—Print menu

Ctrl + S— Save

And if it all goes horribly wrong. Ctrl + Z undoes your last action!

# What's On?

## **Friday 1st October and Saturday 2nd October**

Star Studios of Performing Arts showcase production "Turn The Beat Around" at the Towngate Theatre. For tickets contact 01268 511592

## **Sunday 3rd October**

The Mid-Essex Postcard Annual Fair at Mayflower School, Billericay – 10am to 4pm.

## **Sunday 9th October**

Barleylands Farmers Market – 8.30am to 12.30pm.

## **Wednesday 13th October**

Basildon Natural History Society monthly talk at the Community Centre. 8.00pm – 10.00pm. John Skinner on Marine Life.

## **Sunday 17th October**

Essex Wild Life Trust, Langdon Hills annual 5 mile run through the reserve. Donation £6 per entry in advance, £7 on the day. Phone visitors centre for more information 01268 419403.

## **Sunday 30th October**

Barleylands Farmers Market – 8.30am to 12.30pm.



# Thank You Prayer

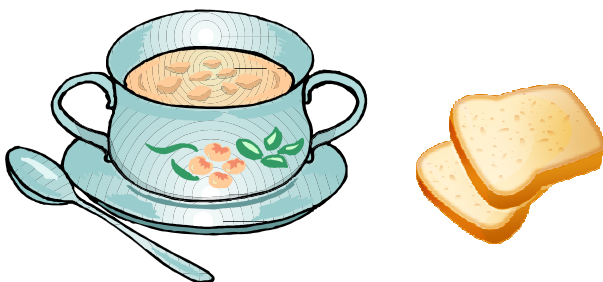
Every day we thank you, God,  
For our meeting with each other.  
We thank you for the joy  
That we can bring to one another.  
For our waking every morning,  
Another precious day,  
To do our very best for You  
As we go on our way.  
We pray for peace and freedom

For people everywhere  
We know that your love  
Is for everyone to share  
We thank you for our families,  
Our fellowship and friends,  
But most of all, we thank you, God,  
For your love that never ends.

Florrie Rogers

# Autumn Cooking

**T**he nights are drawing in and it's time for warming and filling meals. Here is the recipe for a thick butternut squash soup and delicious homemade bread to keep the cold weather at bay! Although the outer skin of the butternut squash looks indigestible, it does become tender and will puree giving a smooth texture. Not peeling the squash will save you time and increase the flavour of the finished soup.



## Butternut Squash Soup with Lemon and Thyme Serves 4

### Ingredients:

2 tbsp sunflower oil  
1 onion, chopped  
1½ lb butternut squash, deseeded  
(but not peeled) and chopped  
8oz carrots, chopped  
1 to 1½ pt vegetable stock

2tsp freshly chopped thyme  
1 bay leaf  
Juice and zest of 1 lemon  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

### Method:

Heat oil and gently cook onion.  
Add butternut squash and carrots and cook slowly, covered, for 10 minutes.  
Add stock, thyme and bay leaf, bring to the boil then simmer for 40 minutes or until the squash is really tender.  
Cool slightly, remove bay leaf then liquidize until smooth. Add the lemon juice and zest.  
Season to taste.



## Homemade Wholemeal Bread 2 x 2lb Loaves

### Ingredients:

3 lb Wholemeal Flour

1 tsp salt

2 tbsp brown sugar

2 tbsp oil (corn or olive)

700—800 ml warm water (test with finger. If you can't keep your finger in the water, it's too hot!)

2 sachets Dry Yeast

**Oven temp. 200°C, 400°F, Gas Mark 6 for 20 minutes  
Then 170°C, 325°C, Gas Mark 3 for 10 minutes**

### Method:

Grease two 2 lb loaf tins.

Place flour, salt, yeast and sugar a large mixing bowl.

Make a well in the ingredients.

Pour in the oil and add sufficient warm water to make a soft dough.

Mix and knead for 5 minutes, then place the dough in a large bowl and cover with oiled polythene or a damp cloth.

Prove in a warm place until double in size (40 minutes to 1½ hours)

Knock back the dough and turn on to a lightly floured surface.

Cut dough in half. If you want to be accurate, weigh each piece and adjust until they both weigh the same.

Lightly knead each piece and shape to fit the tin.

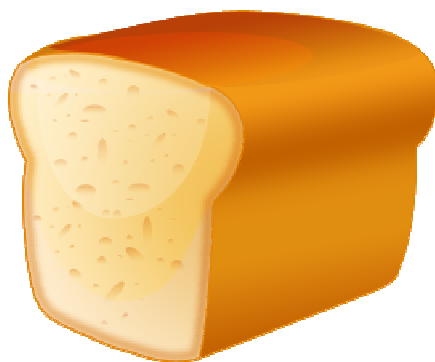
Place the dough in the prepared tins and cover with oiled polythene or a damp cloth.

Leave in a warm place to rise (approximately 30 to 60 mins).

Bake at 200°C, 400°F, Gas Mark 6 for 20 minutes then turn the oven down to 170°C, 325°C, Gas Mark 3 for 10 minutes.

Remove a loaf from its tin and tap the bottom with your knuckles. If it's cooked, it will sound hollow.

Take both loaves out of their tins and cool on a wire rack.



# Special Beatitudes

**S**pecial Beatitudes for those who work with special people...

**BLESSED ARE YOU** who take time to listen to difficult speech  
**FOR YOU** help us know that if we persevere, we can be understood.

**BLESSED ARE YOU** who walk with us in public places and ignore the stares of strangers,  
**FOR** in your companionship, we find havens of relaxation.

**BLESSED ARE YOU** who never bid us "hurry up" and more blessed, you who do not snatch our tasks from our hands to do them for us  
**FOR** often we need time rather than help.

**BLESSED ARE YOU** who stand beside us as we enter new and untried ventures,  
**FOR** our failures will be outweighed by times when we surprise ourselves and you.

**BLESSED ARE YOU** who ask for our help  
**FOR** our greatest need is to be needed.

**BLESSED ARE YOU** who help us with the graciousness of Christ.  
**FOR** oftentimes we need the help we cannot ask for.

**BLESSED ARE YOU** when, by all these things you assure us that the thing that makes us individuals is not in our peculiar muscles, not in our wounded nervous systems, nor in our difficulties in learning  
**BUT** in the God-given self which no infirmity can confine.

**REJOICE AND BE EXCEEDINGLY GLAD**, and know that you give us reassurances that could never be spoken in words,  
**FOR** you deal with us as Christ dealt with all His children.

*Yvonne Friend*



**W**e met on Wednesday 1st September at the vicarage and the guest speaker was Molly Hoyle from the Mothers' Union.

Molly gave an informative talk on the life and works of Mary Sumner, who was the founder of the Mothers' Union, showing us photos to illustrate her points.

It was enjoyed by all and the money we collected was added to the collection from the confirmation service of the 5th September, making over £90.00, which we gave to Molly for the Mothers' Union Literacy Programme.

Chris Graves

## Daphne, Where Have you Gone?



**I**n June, Daphne Eldridge announced that she was going on a sponsored slim to raise funds for our church Repair Fund. She intended to lose one stone by September 12th and joined Slimmer's World to help her get started.

Daphne has exceeded her target and managed to lose one stone and four pounds, which means that she has raised over £200. Barclays Bank has agreed to match any money she raises pound for pound, so Daphne will have raised over £400!

She would like to thank

everyone who sponsored her. Well done, Daphne!



## Histories, Memories... Part 58

**G**oing through my files and having a sort out, I came across the following story. Unfortunately, it was given to me several years ago in my early days of local research and I cannot remember who gave it to me or whose memories they are.

### 'Memories of Laindon 1916-1928'

My family moved to Laindon in 1916. I was thirteen years of age and the war was by now becoming truly frightening. I had two brothers in the Navy and my father was in the Army. Soldiers were being drafted into private homes in Laindon. Mother still had three children at home so we were not required to house any soldiers. However we soon became friendly with some of them. All the ones I knew had been wounded and were therefore convalescing. They were all gentlemen.

It was an exciting time for us young ones. Mrs Fothergill was our head mistress. (Langdon Hills School) She managed the school and taught the 'Top Class' herself. All the men teachers were in the forces. I remember the hole in the school roof where shrapnel had fallen through one night.

We were asked to dig up some of the playground to grow vegetables. That was jolly, because the boys were allowed to come into the girl's playground to help with the digging. We grew some really large cabbages. We were also allowed some days off from school to go blackberry picking. The teachers came with us – to our amusement one teacher, Mrs Hill, always picked the low down ones.

I never forget the night when the Zeppelin was brought down. It caught fire right over Laindon, drifting away with flames soaring into the sky; it came down to earth at Great Burstead. Early next morning we rode our bicycles over to the scene but the site was being guarded by a regiment of Irish Guards with fixed bayonets. We were therefore prevented from getting close to the wreckage. However we could see the bodies of the German crew covered with sheeting being taken into nearby farm buildings. There were 21 men and the captain (Peterson). They were buried in Great Burstead churchyard in one grave with the captain in a separate grave.

So many people tried hard to make life bearable in these difficult times. Our

Rector, Reverend Carpenter (St Nicholas Church, Laindon) had a good girls' choir (the first in the country), and was himself an excellent bass singer. His choir was augmented by Dorothy and Linette being two girls sent by the Land Army to work for John Markham

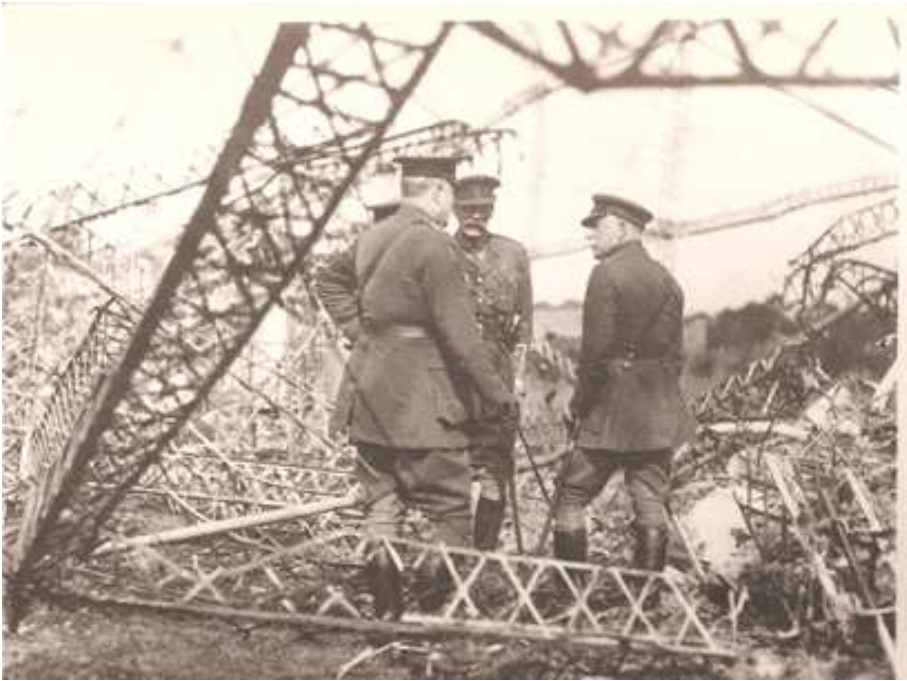


at Bluehouse Farm. Our organist was Sergeant Fletcher who was stationed at Basildon with a gun crew. Sometimes the girls from the Langdon Hills choir came to join the St Nicholas choir. Services on Sunday were a musical joy.

In Langdon Hills there was much musical talent – we had Professor Le Brun, a very familiar figure going to the station each morning in his Inverness cape and carrying his gold headed umbrella and brief case. There was Madame Edith Spencer and her husband who sang tenor solos with a good finish. Madame also formed the 'Laindon Ladies' Glee Party' to which many of us belonged. We sang our glees and madrigals remarkably well. Mr Green and his daughter Rosie were responsible for 'The Crescent Singers' later augmented by Harold Curtis and his Orchestra. Mr Lammin was responsible for the 'Kum and see us' concert party, a very spirited and go ahead group who never kept their audience waiting.

Important dances were held in the school hall, these dances were often augmented towards the end by folk from whist drive sessions taking place in an adjoining class-room. A little dance was held every week in the Institute (Women's institute Hall in Samuel Road, Langdon Hills) for which we had to pay 4d. The school hall affairs had a violin and piano but the institute dances only a piano.

Our doctor was an unusual Irishman who had a charming wife and a family of young children. He possessed a car, a Trogen, and later a Singer. Both were always in a dilapidated condition, with broken trailing hoods, often breaking down and needing assistance.



Our first district nurse was introduced, I believe, in the early 1920s to everybody's pleasure. The train service seemed very adequate, the return fare to Southend was less than 2d. Tickets were obtained from Percy Monk who was in the ticket office for many years. There was also a 'Finlays Tobacco Kiosk' on the platform.

The house, Hiawatha, was a land-mark at the corner of St. Nicholas Lane and the High Road. It had a good weather-cock until a storm dismantled it. The Hotel was the most imposing building in the High Road. After the war we acquired the Memorial Hall and the British Legion Hall as places of entertainment.

The field adjoining the Hotel was used by the pupils of Langdon Hills School for their football matches. There being no field for such activity nearer the school.

By 1928 the population had increased considerably and Langdon Hills School became very overcrowded. The new senior school in the High Road, Laindon had to take the over flow from the school until a new infants and junior

school was built in Markhams Chase.

The 'Mud' has to be mentioned. At the end of the War the main road was in a dreadful state, mud almost up to the kerb – the pathway was treated with sand. The side roads were just tracks of mud. Everyone had Wellingtons to get to the station. Galoshes were usually lost in the mud'.

This is where the story ends, a great insight to what Laindon was like ninety years ago.

Ken Porter  
01268 546179  
07968 313614  
[k.kfp@btinternet.com](mailto:k.kfp@btinternet.com)



## The View From My Pew



**T**he 'Friends' is awaiting new management & Lottery starts anew soon.

On Friday I ended up fuming with frustration. During the week I had spent quite a few hours planning the welcome of students to my class. I had prepared a talk for them on how to succeed and achieve their ultimate aim of becoming qualified electricians. I had planned to give them a progression chart, incorporated good reasoned arguments for following a suggested course of action. Suggested all sorts of ways of improving their employability by changing their attitudes to various usual student objections like for instance "Why pursue the new Functional Skills qualification, Safe Guarding and all

those things that seem unconnected with connecting brown, blue and yellow / green wires together.

AND THEN ...

Because of all the building work during the Summer Break nothing was completed and it all went completely wrong. All the hard work for nothing , the students must have thought 'What's going on here?'

I could elaborate ... but let's cut to the chase and just state that by 2pm I had lost the will to endure any more ... and the day didn't officially end for another two and a half hours.

Where is all this going?

On the following day (Saturday) I spent a very happy time at St Nicholas Church at the Summer Festival helping man a cake and sweets stall and covering an (imported from Bethlehem) wooden carvings stall.

During the day I served a lot of people, spoke to some very interesting people about God, listened to a lot of talented musicians, moaned about the weather, ate far too many cakes and Graham's burgers, and sure NOT EVERYTHING WENT TO PLAN but it was a much more successful, happier productive day than the previous one.

Friday was beset by extreme difficulties and Saturday was beset by opportunities to do alternative things that were neither judged better or worse. And there, seems to lie the truth, about why I loved one day and loathed the other.

Most times there are no right or wrong way to do things, provided the end result is the same. Does it really matter how it is achieved? It matters of course, to those who want to control. In the Church there is only one great Controller and I never want to cross Him and I have learned over many years that if things go differently to how I thought they would, then all is not lost. He has a way of ensuring the outcome is good, despite what I think. On the face of it you could think that the Festival was just about raising money (don't get me wrong fund raising is a very important church activity) BUT along the way ...

I saw a lot of very happy, smiling faces. I had the opportunity to successfully evangelise and I am confident that at least one lady is coming to a service. At least 500 people passing in cars wondered what all this was about. I observed that a lot of people that I didn't know, care enough about the church to spend time and money on it. So we are not few, we are many. Being engaged in God's team is 100 times more rewarding than being engaged in other good endeavours.

There is a happiness and unity and peace that exists no place else How lucky we all are that we are allowed to help in the plans of the great. If I thought it was just about raising money then I was a fool. If I thought it was just about having fun then that would be equally foolish. What it was about, was God putting the FUN into fundraising. He had help. I thought about a discussion I had about Angels with one of the visitors. Some of

them, we decided, are very human and look just like you and me. The other sort of Angel will have to feature in a future 'View From The Pew'.

The Festival day was about receiving a great deal more than I gave, if only I looked to see it.

So my talk went horribly wrong on Friday but it wasn't due to any one set of particular circumstances, and though it could be instantly judged to have failed to come up to some specific aims, who is to say that all those students that were there, will not become leaders of industry and great powerful influences for good in the wider sense?

Some of them surely will and not because of any policies or intents enforced by me but by those of a much higher and much greater power, praise God!

Paul – see you at my pew anytime for a chat

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| Basildon Council             | 01268 533333 |
| Special Refuse Collection    | 01268 294949 |
| Street Lighting Issues       | 01268 297500 |
| Pitsea Civic Amenity (tip)   | 01245 491222 |
| Age Concern                  | 01268 493205 |
| Child Protection, Child Line | 0800 1111    |
| Samaritans                   | 0845 790909  |
| St Luke's Hospice            | 01268 524973 |
| Citizen Advice               | 0870 1264042 |
| Emergency Doctors            | 01375 393388 |
| Laindon Library              | 01268 532212 |
| Bus Enquiries                | 0871 2003456 |
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# Rota for October 2010

| <b>Sunday</b>                                | <b>New Testament</b>              | <b>Reader</b> | <b>Gospel</b>            | <b>Reader</b> | <b>Intercessor</b> | <b>Chalice</b> | <b>Sides-person</b> |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 3rd October<br>18th Sunday<br>after Trinity  | Family Service                    |               |                          |               |                    |                |                     |
| 10th October<br>19th Sunday<br>after Trinity | 2 Timothy 2<br>Ver 8-15           | Dawn          | Luke 17<br>Ver 11-19     | Ken           | John K             | Graham         | John &<br>Diane D   |
| 17th October<br>20th Sunday<br>after Trinity | 2 Timothy<br>3 ver 14-<br>4 ver 5 | John F        | Luke 18<br>Ver 1-8       | Graham        | Charles            | John K         | Maureen &<br>John K |
| 24th October<br>Bible Sunday                 | Romans 15<br>Ver 1-6              | Edna          | Luke 4<br>Ver 16 -<br>24 | George        | Chris              | Graham         | Betty & Liz         |

# Fund Raising

## **£75,000!**

It's a daunting task to raise such an enormous sum but the necessary repair work to St. Nicholas Church has to be completed—and completed soon, before more damage is sustained.

There are many events organised this year to raise money—one notable event for your diary is the 'Laindon's Got Talent' Festival on the weekend of 11th and 12th September 2010—and many more are in the process of being organised.

If you would like to help us to preserve this beautiful building for future generations, there are several things that you can do.

If you would like to help support or organise an event or donate a sum—large or small, please contact Revd. Diane Ricketts at 38, Claremont Road, Laindon, Essex SS15 5PZ or telephone 01268 411190. You can also contact Revd. Diane via our website <http://www.stnicholaslaindon.co.uk/Contact/contact.htm>

If you would like to make a donation online, we have a page on the Just Giving site <http://www.justgiving.com/pcllaindon>. As more sponsored events are planned, individuals will have their own sponsorship pages as well.

If you ever buy goods online, please consider registering with Easy Fundraising and nominating St. Nicholas Church as your charity. If you log in to Easy Fundraising <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> and then go to whichever site you want to purchase items from, Easy Fundraising will credit our church with a percentage of whatever you spend. This won't cost you a penny and effectively raises money for doing very little!

If you spend a lot of time surfing the Internet, please consider using the Easy Fundraising search engine. If you have nominated St. Nicholas Church as your charity, every search that you make using the search engine raises money for us too.

[http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how\\_it\\_works:easysearch/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how_it_works:easysearch/)

Please keep in touch either via email or on the St. Nicholas Church Facebook page on <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=116809441680697>

