

## TWO CHURCH ROOFS

St Mary's Church in Little Baddow is having the south side of the church re-roofed. Work is progressing well and today I noticed that the chancel and half of the nave have been felted and battened. We hope to be back in occupation before Easter. (The north side was done three years ago.) Fortunately we are able to have our services in St Andrew's Room in the centre of the village.

St Andrew's Church in Sandon is also having the roof repaired. They are having their main services at Sandon School. They, too, hope to be back for Easter.

## CHELMER CROUCH GROUP PRAYER DIARY

- Feb 12<sup>th</sup> - For all those involved in the leading of Lent Courses in our parishes. May God's Holy Spirit give them inspiration.
- Feb 26<sup>th</sup> - For all working in the caring professions - doctors, nurses therapists, health visitors, psychiatrists and carers. May they be agents of God's love..
- Mar 12<sup>th</sup> - For the schools that serve our parishes; for teachers, assistants and pupils, that together they may enjoy their work and play.
- Mar 26<sup>th</sup> - For all mothers, giving thanks for the love they have for their families. May your Holy Spirit guide and strengthen them in bringing up their children.
- Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> - For all who will be arranging and taking part in the services and other activities over the Easter Season. May they be witnesses to God's great love.
- Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> - We give thanks for the promise of new life in the coming of spring. May we live our Christian witness with renewed zeal in the light of the Easter Message.

## FORTHCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- Feb 11<sup>th</sup> - Ladies' Breakfast at Butts Green Garden Centre, 8.30 – 10 am.
- Feb 11<sup>th</sup> - Breakfast Morning at Holy Trinity, South Woodham Ferrers.
- Feb 14<sup>th</sup> - Valentines Tea and Cake at Howe Green URC, at 3 pm.
- Feb 25<sup>th</sup> - Reflective Service at Holy Trinity SWF, 11.30am followed by Lunch, 12 noon.
- Mar 1<sup>st</sup> - Ash Wednesday.
- Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> - Women's World Day of Prayer.
- Mar 4<sup>th</sup> - Fairtrade Coffee Morning at Howe Green URC at 10 am.
- Mar 11<sup>th</sup> - Lent Lunch at St Andrew's Room, Sandon.
- Mar 11<sup>th</sup> - Coffee Morning at Holy Trinity, South Woodham Ferrers, 10.30 – 12.30.
- Mar 11<sup>th</sup> - Holy Trinity Quiz Evening.
- Mar 11<sup>th</sup> - Wine Tasting Evening at St Andrew's Room, Sandon at 7 pm.
- Mar 11<sup>th</sup> - Sound in Brass Concert at Little Baddow Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm.
- Mar 18<sup>th</sup> - Men's Breakfast at Butts Green Garden Centre, 8.30 – 10 am.
- Mar 19<sup>th</sup> - Cafe Church at Howe Green URC at 4 pm.
- Mar 25<sup>th</sup> - Reflective Service at Holy Trinity SWF, 11.30 am, followed by Lunch, 12 noon.
- Mar 26<sup>th</sup> - Mothering Sunday.
- Apr 8<sup>th</sup> - Coffee & Cake Morning at Holy Trinity, South Woodham Ferrers.
- Apr 8<sup>th</sup> - Stainer's Crucifixion at St Andrew's, Sandon at 6.30 pm.
- Apr 9<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday.
- Apr 13<sup>th</sup> - Maundy Thursday.
- Apr 14<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday.
- Apr 16<sup>th</sup> - Easter Day.
- Apr 29<sup>th</sup> - Ladies' Breakfast at Butts Green Garden Centre, 8.30 – 10 am.
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Quiet Day at Bradwell.



Issue Sixty-three, February 2017

# Chelmer – Crouch Group News

For the Churches of St Andrew, Bicknacre; St John the Baptist, Danbury; All Saints, East Hanningfield; St Mary the Virgin, Little Baddow; St Andrew, Sandon; Holy Trinity, South Woodham Ferrers and St Mary, Woodham Ferrers.

## A LETTER FROM THE CHELMER CROUCH GROUP CHAIRMAN

**Revd Clive A. Ashley, Priest in charge of St John the Baptist, Danbury and St Mary the Virgin, Little Baddow.**

‘On the 11<sup>th</sup> January 1989, a meeting convened by the Bishop of Bradwell was attended by the Bishop of Bradwell, the Archdeacon of Southend and the Rural Dean of Chelmsford with the incumbent and churchwardens (or PCC representatives) of: Bicknacre (Curate-in-charge), Danbury, East Hanningfield, Little Baddow, Sandon, South Woodham Ferrers and Woodham Ferrers’. This was the beginning of an experimental project in Group Ministry which was to last one year. Following a subsequent review, the ‘Chelmer Crouch Group Ministry’ was formally established. During the intervening years, the parish of Boreham joined the group informally and has recently left as part of the re-organisation of parishes into the newly emerging ‘Mission and Ministry Units’.

Twenty-eight years later and the remaining parishes of the CCG are on the cusp of becoming something new and challenging. The CCG will cease to exist when the new MMU is launched. We are in a rather unsettling period of transition, learning and growing together, and not knowing the answers to questions that we are asking about the future of the relationship between the parishes of the new MMU and the Deanery. It's a time when we really do need to support one another.

One means of support within the CCG has been the Newsletter edited by Brian Gilders for at least twelve to thirteen years. It's been an important means of sharing with each other and raising awareness of Church life outside our own Parish boundary. This letter will be the last of its kind and we must acknowledge our debt of gratitude to Brian for his commitment to the task of regularly and politely chasing up news from the CCG parishes. Thanks Brian, you have earned a well-deserved break.

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH

This year's service has been planned by women in The Philippines and is based on St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 20, verses 1 – 16. The *Republika ng Philipinas* is a sovereign island country in Southeast Asia, situated in the western Pacific Ocean,

with Manila as its capital city. The history of the Philippines is believed to have begun with the arrival of the first humans using rafts or primitive boats, at least 67,000 years ago. The theme this year zooms into Jesus' grace and mercy, emphasising that it is NEVER too late to accept Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Local Services are being held at 10.00 am in Danbury URC, led by Revd Christine Fowler, and at 2.00 pm in Holy Trinity, South Woodham Ferrers. Men and children will be welcome!

## LENT COURSES

Lent Courses in our various parishes will in general be starting in the week after Ash Wednesday (1<sup>st</sup> March) So far I am aware of the following:-

**Danbury and Little Baddow** – 'A Time to Heal'. Tuesday evenings at St John's Rectory and Friday mornings at St Andrew's Room. (5 sessions)

**East Hanningfield** – 'Leading an Authentic Life' (discipleship). 3 sessions on Thursdays, starting at The Limes on The Tye at 8 pm.

Please check with your own parish for other courses and further details.

## QUIET DAY - Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June

This will take place as usual at the Othona Community at Bradwell from 10 am to 4 pm. David Lowman is to lead us this year and was delighted to be asked. The cost will be in the region of £20 for the day including meals and refreshments and you will receive advertising literature about it in church shortly. Please contact Christine Horton on 01245 466534 to reserve a place.

## SOUND IN BRASS - HANDBELL CONCERT - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

This concert will take place at Little Baddow Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm and will be given by a Chelmsford based handbell group using nearly 200 handbells. Tickets are £10 and a Bar is available. Contact Wendy Godden (01245 223873) or Lynda Ferguson (0771 4719842). This is arranged by St Mary's Church, Little Baddow raising funds for the support of the Umpium Refugee Camp School.

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS AT SANDON

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> February - Ladies' Breakfast** at Butts Green Garden Centre at 8.30 am. The speaker will be Revd Tim Ball from Meadgate. Only £7.50. Book your place with Janet on 472997 or signing the booking sheet at the back of the church. All Churches are welcome to attend.

**Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February at 3 pm - Valentines Day** - Tea and Cake at Howe Green URC. Please come and join in the fellowship.

**1<sup>st</sup> March, Ash Wednesday – Sung Eucharist and Ashing** - This will take place at 7.30 pm in St Andrew's Room.

**Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> March – Fairtrade Coffee Morning** at Howe Green URC. At 10am. All welcomed to attend.

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> March - Lent Lunch** from 12 noon to 2 pm

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> March** - Fairtrade Wine Tasting in St Andrew's Room at 7pm.

**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> March - Men's Breakfast** at Butts Green Garden Centre from 8.30 to 10 am,. Only £7.50. Book your place by ringing Terry on 698988 or by signing the booking sheet at one of the services.

**Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> March - Cafe Church** at Howe Green URC at 4 pm. All welcome.

**Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday Service** at 10.00 am with Church Parade. Please support this service where we remember our mothers and children receive flowers for their mothers.

**Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> April - Churchyard Tidy Up**, 10 am to 12 noon. All welcome!

This will be followed by a **Lent Lunch** from 12 to 2 pm in St Andrew's Room.

**Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> April - Palm Sunday Service** at 10 am. We will meet on The Green and then process into church with or without the donkey!

At 6.30 pm **Stainer's Crucifixion** will be sung with St Andrew's Choir and the choir from All Saints', Maldon.

**Monday & Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> April – Stations of the Cross** at 7.30 pm.

**Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April - Come Dine with Me** Passover Meal at 7.30 pm.

**Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> April - Maundy Thursday** at 7.30 pm, Sung Eucharist followed by stripping of Altars and meditation in church. Watch until 11 pm.

**14<sup>th</sup> April – Good Friday.** 9.30 Morning Prayer and Stations of the Cross, 2 pm Final Hour at the Cross.

**16<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Day. Easter Breakfast** at 8.45 am. **Sung Eucharist** at 10 am followed by an **Easter Egg Hunt**.

**Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> April - Ladies' Breakfast** at Butts Green Garden Centre at 8.30 am. Only £7.50. Book your place by ringing Janet on 472997.

## EVENTS GOING ON AT HOLY TRINITY, SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> February - Breakfast Morning.** The fund raising team will be cooking bacon / sausage rolls for £1.50 and also serving tea / coffee at additional cost.

**Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> February – Reflective Service** at 11.30 am followed by **Lunch** in the Meeting Room at 12 noon at a cost of £3.00. Visitors are welcome to attend either part of the event.

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> March - Coffee Morning** at 10.30am to 12.30pm. Tea / coffee and cake for £1.00. Also **Holy Trinity Quiz Evening** in St Mary's School Hall.

£5.00 per person, teams of up to eight. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

**Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> March - Reflective Service** at 11.30 am followed by **Lunch** at 12 noon. Cost £3.00

**Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> April - Coffee and Cake Morning**, Cost £1.00.

**Maundy Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> April - Eucharist with Foot Washing** and Stripping of the Altar (Anglican/Methodist) at 8.00 pm.

## ALL SAINTS', EAST HANNINGFIELD

**26<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday Service** at 10 am. With posies of flowers for all mothers, grandmothers and similar carers.

**13<sup>th</sup> April – Maundy Thursday.** Supper with our friends from the Bethel Church followed by a service.

**16<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Day. Holy Communion** at 10 am, followed by an **Easter Egg Hunt** for children.