

## Bradwell Area Vocations Day

Where will your journey take you in 2020?



Workshops Include  
Ordained Ministry  
Licensed Lay Minister  
Pastoral Assistant  
Authorised Local Preacher  
Evangelism Enabler  
Lay Pioneer Ministry  
Spiritual Support  
Faith In The Workplace  
Church Army  
Chaplaincy  
Course in Christian Studies  
A Workshop for Young People

*Just starting out?*  
*Not sure of the direction?*  
*Tentative steps?*  
*Striding out with confidence?*  
*At a crossroads?*

**This day of discovery is for you**  
**Bradwell Area Vocations Day**  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020 9am to 3.30pm**

St Nicholas Church, Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 0JR

To register your place, please call Dawn Butcher on 01375 673806

or email [d.butcher@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:d.butcher@chelmsford.anglican.org)

Lunch is included. Please notify Dawn of any dietary requirements. Please reserve your space **now!**



# Inspire

January 2020

Dear sisters and brothers,

The New Year is always a good time to take stock – to look back at the year gone and to consider the highs and lows and our response to them, and to look forward to our hopes and dreams for what the new year will hold.

2020 is an important year in the life of St Mary's, a year of change and of new beginnings. In some ways it is daunting – there is so much to do and we want to get the process right to ensure we appoint the right person to lead us; but also exciting as there will be opportunities to grow as individuals and corporately as we explore what God has planned for us.

Our verse for the year 2020 comes from Proverbs 3:5-7 and if we live by it will ensure we have nothing to fear going forward, *'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.'*



Firstly, we are told to *Trust in the Lord with all your heart*'. God knows what the future holds, he knows who he is preparing to come, he has our best interests at heart.

There will be no surprises for God he knows best. So, don't be anxious or worry, do what needs to be done, but trust him for the outcome. God is a faithful God who is entirely trustworthy. Let's keep our eyes firmly fixed on him.

Secondly, we are told to *'not rely on your own insight'*. We all have our own thoughts on where we need to go, what type of person we need to lead us, what should happen next and of course we all think that we are right!! It is likely that we will be asking for views, but let's make sure that we ask God to shape our thinking. We need to set aside time, both individually and corporately, to listen and wait on God.

Let us also listen to one another and then prayerfully support those responsible for putting the Parish Profile together. Throughout the process, at key times, there will be opportunity to pray together- the first dates are **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January** 7pm to 7.45 and **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January** 9am to 9.45am both in Church; more details to follow but please commit to putting at least one of the dates in your diary now.

Thirdly, we are told *'In all your ways acknowledge him'*. This is a challenge in how we live our lives. Do we live as children of God, holding his kingdom values? Do our lives reflect our faith? Do we honour God in what we think, say and do? Our faith is not just head knowledge, but about relationship. God calls us to live holy lives as he is holy. How do we know how to live?

## The Church Office

### Hours of Opening:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 9:30am to 12:30pm, 1:45pm to 3:00pm

Wednesday & Friday 9:30am to 12:30pm

Tuesday evenings 7:00pm to 8:00pm

(wedding enquiries by appointment only) 01245 477501

Email: [stmaryschurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryschurchoffice@gmail.com) Website: [www.stmarysgreatbaddow.org.uk](http://www.stmarysgreatbaddow.org.uk)



We need to read God's word, the Bible, and then obey it. I would encourage us for this new year, to commit to reading the Bible every day and allowing it to shape and change our thinking.

It can be difficult to know where to start but there are good resources available, both online and booklet form (see separate article for suggestions).

Finally, we reach God's promise to us, that 'he will make straight your paths'. If we obey the instructions given, then we have nothing to fear – God's plan will come to be. Let us make sure that we are not the ones to thwart his plans for us as individuals or as a Church or as a Team. Be encouraged, it is God's work, but he generously allows us to play our part. Let us be sure we are open to his leading and prompting over the coming days, weeks, months and years that his will be done and his kingdom come here in Great Baddow.

#### Our Church Prayer for 2020

Heavenly Father, we thank you that we can trust you.

May we keep our eyes on you and look to you for wisdom, rather than thinking we know best. Help us, by your Spirit, to live for you each day. Amen.

*Sue Finch*

Associate Minister

### Bible Reading Resource



The Bible is God's word to us. It tells the story of God's love for his creation, his sorrow at our disobedience and wilful rejection and of his amazing grace and salvation plan in Jesus Christ. It tells us all we need to know for salvation and how to live as forgiven, restored children of God.

Why then do we find it so hard to read?

Some of the Bible is easy- the familiar stories we have heard since childhood- but it's not enough just to know the stories, we have to listen to what God might be saying to us today through them. Other parts of the Bible are a bit meatier and it takes more effort to understand them. In both these instances systematic Bible Reading Notes can really help, whether they be hard copy or an on-line resource. You are never too young (or too old) to learn! - we spent many a happy time when our kids were small sharing the Bible together.

Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	11:30am	Church open until 2.00pm
	7.45pm	Choir practice in Church
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Focused Prayer meeting for the vacancy in Church</b>
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January – The Second Sunday of Epiphany</b>		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Holy Communion with Powerhouse
	6.30pm	Encounter...
	6.30pm	Pathfinders meet in Bell St Hall
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	7:00pm	Prayer meeting for the church and the world
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
	11.00am	Little Spring Wonders Nursery visit in Church
	7.30pm	Crossfire meet at Ben & Nicki's
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	11:30am	Church Open until 2:00pm
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Church Open until 2:00pm
	7.00pm	Bellringing in Church
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January – The Third Sunday of Epiphany</b>		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Christingle Family Service
	6.30pm	Encounter...with Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Pathfinders meet in Bell St Hall
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9.00am	Breakfast & Bibles meet in Bell St Hall
	7:00pm	Prayer meeting for the church and the world
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
	3.30pm	MESSY TEA in Church
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
	7.30pm	Crossfire meet in Bell St Hall
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10.00am	Café Club in Church
	11:30am	Church Open until 2:00pm
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	11.30am	Church Open until 2:00pm
	7.00pm	Bellringing in Church

## Church Diary for January 2020

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	Café Club in Church
	11.30am	Church open until 2.00pm
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.30am	Church open until 2.00pm
	7.00pm	Bellringing in Church
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January – The Epiphany</b>		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Holy Communion with Powerhouse
	6.30pm	Reflective Service
	6.30pm	Pathfinders re-starts in Bell St Hall
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer re-starts in Prayer Chapel
	10.00am	MAC pack in Bell St Hall
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
	7.30pm	Crossfire re-starts at Ben & Nicki's
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	11.30am	Church open until 2.00pm
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	11:30am	Church open until 2.00pm
	7.00pm	Bellringing in Church
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January – The First Sunday of Epiphany</b>		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Morning Praise with Powerhouse
	6:30pm	Encounter...with Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Pathfinders meet in Bell St Hall
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9.00am	Breakfast & Bibles meet in Bell St Hall
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Focused Prayer meeting for the vacancy</b>
	8.00pm	PCC meeting in Bell St Hall
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9:30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
	3.30pm	MESSY TEA in Church
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
	7.30pm	Crossfire meet at Ben & Nicki's
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10.00am	Café Club in Church
	11:30am	Church Open until 2.00pm

So what resources are there? Some are listed below but visit the Diocesan Book Shop or google and look for yourselves! Find one that works for you and commit to reading God's amazing Word.

*For the **word of God** is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12)*

### HARD COPY - ADULTS

- **Scripture Union (SU): Daily Bread** - to help you hear from God as you read the Bible. It asks questions like 'What relevance does this have to me today?' and 'What difference does this make to my life.'
- **SU: Encounter with God** - to help you look deeper at Bible passages to help you understand what God is saying to you and to his world today. It also provides features on contemporary issues
- **CWR: Every Day with Jesus**
- **CWR: Inspiring Woman Every Day** – specifically for woman
- **CWR: The Manual** – specifically for Men
- **Good Book Company: Explore**

### HARD COPY – YOUNG PEOPLE

- **CWR: Mettle** -Designed for 14-18-year-olds, Mettle is published every four months and tackles Bible themes as well as the 'hot potato' issues that young people face today
- **Good Book Company: Engage** – aimed at teenagers

### HARD COPY - CHILDREN

- **Good Book Company: Beginning with God** – aimed at pre-school
- **CWP: Pens** -Ideal for children aged 3-6. Each title covers a 30-day period. Every day a short Bible reading is brought to life with the help of the Pens characters. A related question and prayer apply this to daily life.
- **SU: Snap Shots** - Aimed at 8-11-year olds. Each day contains a short Bible reading and a variety of other activities such as cracking codes, filling in missing letters, drawing, thinking and praying
- **CWR: Topz** - a popular bimonthly devotional for 7-11-year-olds. The Topz Gang teach children biblical truths through word games, puzzles, riddles, cartoons, competitions, simple prayers and daily Bible readings.
- **Good Book Company: Discover**-aimed at children

Online/App Resources – as used by members of our congregation

- Bible Society
- Bible Gateway
- Alive to God
- Solid Joys

If you need further help or advice, please do ask! *Sue Finch*, Associate Minister

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## Thank you from the Ritchie Family

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Thank you to all our sisters and brothers at St. Mary's for making our final Sunday so special, with wonderful worship and an excellent lunch.

Thank you also for your extremely generous gifts and kind comments which we shall treasure.

Please be assured of our prayers for you all at St Mary's in the coming months.

With our love and gratitude, Phil, Kate, Kristin and Dan.

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## Licensing of Philip Ritchie

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The Licensing of Philip Ritchie as Colchester Area Mission and Ministry Adviser by the Bishop of Colchester will take place at St Andrew's Church, Halstead on

**Monday 6th January at 7.30pm.**

Anyone who would like to attend will be very welcome.

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## Focus on Christingle & the Children's Society

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The annual family Christingle service will be on  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

As usual, we will be collecting for the Children's Society.

Children in Powerhouse will be given collecting pots 2 weeks before the service on 12<sup>th</sup> January and asked to bring them back on the day.

Please come and join the fun! You can find out more about the Children's Society work on their website:

<http://www.childrengssociety.org.uk/what-we-do>



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## Messy Tea

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**Tuesdays: 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday for families with children aged 0 to 11, with children being accompanied by an adult (over 18). The sessions are from **3.30 to 5.00pm** with a craft, Bible story and a tea consisting of toast with toppings.

Messy Tea is a fantastic opportunity to continue building relationships with families and encourage family time while sharing Gods love, do come and join us!

It's never too late to join the team, so please speak to Kirsty Houghton or Revd Sue Finch if you are interested. Many thanks.

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## Thank you from St Mary's

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Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard in ensuring that our services and events have gone so well over the Christmas period. It was again a great joy to see so many people visit us at St. Mary's, and we continue to pray that they will experience and respond to the message 'With love from God to you' in the coming year.

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## Breakfast & Bibles

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**Mondays: 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> January starting at 9am** for breakfast, in Bell St Hall.

Children are very welcome. No previous Bible knowledge necessary

Please ring Dot Cumming for further information on 07971 808170.

We look forward to seeing you there.



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## Lent Modules 2020

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A series of short courses running across the diocese between the last week in **February and Good Friday 2020.**

Courses cost between £15 & £40 and themes include:

**Render unto Caesar; Living Distinctively**

**Life, Death and the Christian Hope;**

**A concise study of the Book of Revelation;**

**Christians in a Scientific World;**

**Witnessing in the World of Work – equipping effective everyday evangelism;**

**Climate Change and the purposes of God;**

**A taster for the Bible Society Lyfe Course;**

**Holding on – A course to accompany the Chelmsford Holding Cross;**

**Spiritual Companionship and the Christian Tradition;**

**When God disappoints -Developing Resilient faith in an Uncertain World**

For further information, brochures, and booking forms  
please contact:

Diane Hardy at the Diocesan Office: Tel: 01245 294449

Email:

[dhardy@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:dhardy@chelmsford.anglican.org) or download from: [www.chelmsford.anglican.org](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org)

Alternatively, please speak to Jacqui in the Church Office, who will gladly download the forms for you.

