



Inspire

November 2019

Dear sisters and brothers,

Our sermon series for the morning services this term has been taken from the first letter of John which has a recurrent theme *'This is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.'* 1 John 3:11

Seems that love starts at home, in the Church – we are called to firstly love our brothers and sisters in Christ. That's all of them, some are easy, some are more of a challenge, but Jesus makes no distinction, we have to love them all! Loving is not an optional extra that we can pick and choose, but an essential part of being a child of God. Love is what makes us different, distinctive. And the motivation for this love - ¹⁶ *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.'* God doesn't ask anything of us that He doesn't do himself. We were unlovely, unworthy, an enemy and hostile to God and yet Jesus, out of love gave everything for us. He died for our sin and rebellion and opened the way for us to know and love and have a relationship with God. He gave everything and he calls us to love in the same way.



So, what does it mean to love our brothers and sisters?

It's a CHOICE – no one is suggesting it's easy, but we can choose to love. Each week we pray as part of the Lord's prayer 'Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.' We have to be prepared to let go of hurt and anger – only possible as we let God's Holy Spirit change us from the inside out.

We have to live a life that CONTRASTS with the world about us – we have to be known for our love. St Mary's needs to be a place of prayer, of worship, of reading and understanding God's word, but underpinning it all we must be a church that loves. What better definition of love than that given in 1 Corinthians 13, ⁴ *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.* ⁵ *It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.* ⁶ *Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.* ⁷ *It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.* ⁸ *Love never fails.'* What a challenge!

Love is COSTLY – There is both an internal and an external side to love. The internal side is our motivation, a response to God's unconditional love for us. But the external side of love, that is, putting love to work as Jesus did, must be in place as well. If there is no action to back up our words, it's just religious talk. It takes time and effort and prayer,

an openness to God to allow him to change us from the inside out by his Spirit but that is what he calls us to do – to reflect him and his love for us and then that is the motivation to take his love into the world - to show mercy, to fight for the weak and vulnerable, to care for the environment, to provide for the homeless and hungry, to offer his life-giving life changing love to all.

THE CHALLENGE – that we are known as a church that LOVES

CHOICE - Who do you need to choose to love and have a relationship with? Is there someone you avoid? Ask for God's help to change your attitude

CONTRAST – Is there enough evidence to convict us of love? Who don't we know - speak to one person after the service each week - find out what's going on in their life? Commit to pray for that one person that week - Next week find someone else to speak to.

COSTLY – It's not optional This is Jesus command to us – to love one another as he has loved us – totally & sacrificially. How can we show this love in action both within and outside the church?

Revd Sue Finch, Associate Minister

Mission Focus Spot: CHESS

Our Mission:

CHESS (Churches Homeless Emergency Support Scheme) seeks to relieve homelessness and related hardship and distress amongst single adults in Chelmsford and Essex, through the provision of support services and temporary accommodation that helps them move on in their lives.



We Shelter:

Knowing that you have a safe place to return to after a long day at work or visiting friends often goes for granted to someone who is housed. But to rough sleepers 'where will I sleep?' is a harsh reality that they have to face on a daily basis.

Knowing that your physiological needs are going to be met, without even thinking about it, has a massive impact on how you meet society on a day to day basis.

Being able to offer a homeless person the very basic needs, is the first part of 'CHESS Homeless' mission being achieved.

Being able to offer shelter can have a long-lasting effect on someone. CHESS has a number of properties that offer shelter to those who have been homeless. The first stop is the Night Shelter (this property is staffed with support workers), from there it's a move to the Annex, just down the road from the night shelter which is also monitored by CCTV. From the annex it's onto one of our properties.

We Support:

CHESS Homeless support services assess the individual's need that helps them to address any obstacles that inhibit them from moving forward. We have a working relationship with the local council that provides housing payments, thus securing an address and the foundation to begin to work from. We have our own counselling service and work with the local GP's. We also encourage our service users to access specialist providers for those specific needs, i.e. Open Road; GP and Health Services;

Citizens Advice; Job Centre Plus; Debt Advice Services; Volunteering; and others. Each of our service users in the Night Shelter are allocated a support worker when accessing CHES Homeless.

We Raise Awareness:

We raise awareness of the issues of homelessness amongst the public, local government, educational institutions, and businesses through putting on events and providing speakers and resources for your event or meeting.

Prayer Points:

In relation to prayer points we do have the following points that we would love your support on:

Please pray for the following:

1. CHES successful delivery of the Winter project to the rough sleepers in and around Chelmsford from December 2nd to the end of March 2020.
2. For greater partnership working with other charities, LA (Local authorities) and groups seeking to help the homeless.
3. For CHES to have the favour and provisions to deliver a badly needed resource to rough sleepers by offering a Winter project all year to rough sleepers.
4. For successful funding streams to come into resource the work of CHES.
5. We are incredibly grateful to God for the new facility along New London Road and for the opportunities that we have had and continue to have with our service users from it.

Thank you for your support. *Rob Saggs*, Chief Executive Officer, CHES

Messy Tea

Starting Tuesday 12th November

Following on from the popular 'Messy Mornings' in the summer, we are excited to be launching Messy Tea.

This will happen every **2nd and 4th Tuesday** and is for families with children aged 0 to 11, with children being accompanied by an adult (over 18).

The sessions will be from **3.30 to 5.00pm** and will have 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 God's love, do come and join us!

Please speak to Kirsty Houghton or Sue Finch for more information.



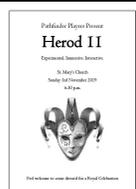
Pathfinder Players Present:

Herod II

Experimental. Immersive. Interactive.

at St. Mary's Church, Gt. Baddow

Sunday 3rd November from 6.30pm. All Welcome!



Breakfast & Bibles

Meet fortnightly in November on **Mondays 11th and 25th November starting at 9am** for breakfast, in Bell St Hall.

Children are very welcome and lots of toys are available to share. No previous Bible knowledge necessary.

Please ring Dot Cumming for further information venue on 07971 808170. We look forward to seeing you there



Family Gift Service

10.00am Service Sunday 24th November

This year we will again be collecting gifts for the elderly and night shelter guests in the parish of Ascension Church, Victoria Docks, London.

The following items of hamper fillers for their elders would be very gratefully received as the gifts we give are the 'extra treats' which make the hampers more special.

Gift vouchers allow our guests to choose something for themselves - (no alcohol please):

- Toiletries
- Individual Christmas puddings
- Scarves, gloves and slippers
- Boots gift vouchers (to the value of £5.00)
- Tins of biscuits & Chocolates



We are into our 6th year of our winter Nightshelter and really need:

- Razors, toothbrushes, flannels.
- Individual portions of chocolates / biscuits (suitable for one person)

CTiC – An AGM with a Difference!

Sonia and I attended the A.G.M. for Christians Together in Chelmsford (C.T.I.C. – used to be called Churches Together in Chelmsford) which took place on Sunday 13th October at Life Church.

After refreshments, everyone was welcomed by David Gilbey, Chair of C.T.I.C., and then the meeting began with worship. After extremely brief updates from the Secretary and Treasurer, the rest of the time was given to three people to introduce their vision for what's happening and will be happening in and around Chelmsford.



Dave Pye spoke heart warmingly about the work of Made for More (used to be S.Y.M.), which we're aware of at St. Mary's because several of our people are involved in it. They made the name change because their work is so often building up teenagers who have very low self-esteem and they want these teens to know that they are indeed made for more.

They hope to have more volunteer mentors assisting the team to bring the presence of God into the secondary schools in Chelmsford and want to see a full-time chaplain in every school within 3 years.

Diane Reagan spoke on the ministry of Kintsugi Hope, which was founded by her husband, Patrick. After a series of life-changing events including loss, illness and lots of surgery, he found life becoming increasingly overwhelming. When he started to share his brokenness, he discovered Kintsugi – the Japanese art of mending broken pots with golden glue. The gold makes a feature of the cracks instead of hiding them. He says, All of us have broken pieces, but instead of hiding them, we can learn from them. We can discover treasure in our scars. Kintsugi Hope Groups work in communities through local churches not to judge, fix, or rescue, but to come alongside people and offer safety and support where there is no shame and embarrassment in struggling and people grow in self-worth and wellbeing. (www.kintsugihope.com)

Dennis Pethers told us about the Rooftop Global Encounter on 10th October next year when all over the world Christians will gather on rooftops, hilltops or other high places, look across their community and seek a fresh vision of God's heart for the lost and then, be equipped to join Jesus in His Mission. He has a vision to make 1,000,000 disciples in 100 countries and feels that Chelmsford will play an important part in this. (www.therooftop.org)

If this whets your appetite, a City Vision Day Conference is being run at Life Church on Sat. 2nd Nov. There's a notice on the board in Welcome Corner about this and let's thank God that He is envisioning men and women in our city to move His Kingdom forward in different ways.

Sandy Southee.

Christmas Choir Rehearsals

Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December 6.30pm.

Please do come along and join our very welcoming and friendly choir to sing at our annual Carol Service.

There is no need to feel daunted as everybody is welcome, and you don't need to be able to read music either!

A Sign-up sheet is at the back of church.

Rehearsal Dates:

Monday 9th and Monday 16th December for 7.45pm start - 9.45pm in Church.
Saturday 21st December 10am – 11am

For further information please contact Anne Fitz
Telephone: 01245 471249
Email: anne@lamp7.com



Sanctus

SANCTUS in Broomfield Road provides:

- A lifeline for the vulnerable and homeless in our City
- An open door when no-one else will
- Shelter from the cold and loneliness
- Help to those in need to get back on their feet
- A safe warm space to eat and be around others
- Regeneration of social values
- Rebuilding the community from the bottom up



When I had some shoes to give to charity, I was referred to Sanctus as Chess have limited storage. But the need is greater than just shoes. Their list includes: - Trainers, walking boots, Denim jeans (most of our guys are 34 waist or less!) Gloves, woolly hats, socks, underpants, Sweatshirts, hoodies, waterproof jackets, Rucksacks.

Similar items are required for women, but perfumes and deodorants would be welcome as they rarely have any.

If you can help, please let me know and I will personally collect them and make sure they get to Sanctus. Thank you.

Graham Hart 07939225319

Little2BigVoices Christmas Concert

Saturday 7th December 3.00pm
at St Mary's Church



A Christmas concert organised by Jane Parker
with donations to: Mid Africa Concern (MAC) and Little2BigVoices.

Come and hear a medley of:

Christmas songs, Christmas Carols and even some pop songs!

Refreshments will be available. Website: www.little2bigvoices.com

Church Diary for November 2019

Friday 1 st	11.00am	Church open until 2.00pm
	7.30pm	Bellringing in church
Saturday 2 nd	9.00am	Autumn Maintenance Fellowship
	5.00pm	Glitter and Glo in Church. Doors open 4.45pm
Sunday 3rd November – The Fourth Sunday before Advent		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Holy Communion with Powerhouse
	6.30pm	Pathfinders Service – 'Herod II'
Monday 4 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10.00am	MAC group parcel pack in Bell St Hall
	7:00pm	Prayer meeting for the church and the world

Tuesday 5 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9.30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
	1.30pm	U3A Blackwater visit in Church
	8.30pm	Wedding Rehearsal in Church
Wednesday 6 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
	11.00am	Beehive School in Church
	1.00pm	Baddow Hall Juniors in Church
	2.00pm	Baddow Hall Juniors in Church
	7.30pm	Crossfire meet at Ben & Nicki's
Thursday 7 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	11.30am	Church open until 2.00pm
Friday 8 th		NO Church open
	12.30pm	Wedding of James Mepham & Katherine Goatly
	7.00pm	Bellringing in Church
	7.45pm	Choir Practice in Church
Sunday 10th November – The Third Sunday before Advent		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Remembrance Service with Powerhouse
	6.30pm	Encounter... with Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Pathfinders meet in Bell St Hall
Monday 11 th	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
	8.00pm	PCC meeting in Bell St Hall
Tuesday 12 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9.30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
	3.30pm	Messy Tea in Church
Wednesday 13 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
	1.30pm	Larkrise Year 4 School Visit
		NO Crossfire meeting this week
Thursday 14 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10.00am	Café Club in Church
	11:30am	Church Open until 12.30pm
	1.15pm	Funeral of Alan Want in Church
Friday 15 th	11.30am	Funeral of Alec McEntire in Church
	12.30pm	Church Open until 2.00pm
	7.00pm	Bellringing in Church
Sunday 17th November – The Second Sunday before Advent		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Holy Communion with Mission Focus on CHESS with Powerhouse

Sun 17 th cont'd	6.30pm	Encounter...
	6.30pm	Pathfinders meet in Bell St Hall
Monday 18 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	7:00pm	Prayer meeting for the church and the world
Tuesday 19 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9.30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
	7.30pm	Book Club in Church
Wednesday 20 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Coffee Pot in Bell Street Hall
	7.30pm	Crossfire at Ben & Nicki's
Thursday 21 st	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	11:30am	Church Open until 2:00pm
Friday 22 nd	11:30am	Church Open until 2.00pm
	5.00pm	Coffee Pot Film night in Bell St Hall
		Pathfinder Social in Church
	7.00pm	Bellringing in Church
Sunday 24th November – The Sunday Next before Advent		
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Family Gift Service for the parish of The Church of the Ascension, Victoria Docks elderly & night shelter guests
	6.30pm	Encounter... with Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Pathfinders meet in Bell St Hall
Monday 25 th	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 26 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	9.30am	Meditation Group in Prayer Chapel
	3.30pm	MESSY TEA in Church
	8.00pm	MLT meeting at Matt & Kirsty's
Wednesday 27 th	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 28 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer in Prayer Chapel
	10.00am	Café Club in Church
	11:30am	Church Open until 2:00pm
Friday 29 th	11:30am	Church Open until 2.00pm
	7.30pm	St Mary's Toddlers Christmas Social in Church

The Church Office

Hours of Opening:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday:

Wednesday & Friday

Tuesday evenings

Email: stmaryschurchoffice@gmail.com

01245 477501

9:30am to 12:30pm, 1:45pm to 3:00pm

9:30am to 12:30pm

7:00pm to 8:00pm (wedding applications only)

Website: www.stmarysgreatbaddow.org.uk

