

Church Matters



Priory Church of St Laurence, Blackmore
St Peter & St Paul Church, Stondon Massey

February 2020

Donation 50p



*Bishop Stephen Cottrell to become the
next Archbishop of York*

Services - February 2020

	St Peter & St Paul Church, Stondon Massey 9.00 am (unless indicated)	Priory Church of St Laurence, Blackmore 11.00 am (unless indicated)
Sun 2 nd Feb	Holy Communion Morning Prayer	Inspire Family Service
Sun 9 th Feb	Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	Holy Communion Common Worship
Sun 16 th Feb	1.00 for 1.30 pm Sunday Lunch Service Stondon Village Hall	Morning Prayer 'Alive' (lay led) Service
Sun 23 rd Feb	Holy Communion Morning Prayer	Sung Holy Communion
The Rainbow Corner in St Laurence Church has supervised activities for young people from 11:00 on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month. Books, toys and activities are available in the corner at all other times.		
Join us for a short service of Morning Prayer 9.30am Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at St. Laurence		

Church Matters Editorial Changes

Our magazine is now being edited by a small team of people who will take turns to produce the magazine each month. Our grateful thanks go to Andrew and Sue who have expertly performed this role for many years and who will still be involved as part of the team.

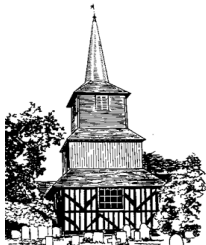
If you would like help in any way please contact John Hughes on 01277 821805 for more information.

Please submit all articles, information and pictures to the Church Matters email address: **blackmorechurchmatters@gmail.com**

Copy Deadline for **March** is **Friday 21st February**

To advertise contact email above or Vicarage Office (Churches/Reg. Charities: free)
Rates are: Black/white Full page £110 per year (10 issues), ½ page: £55 per year.
Black/white single page £15, half page £10. Colour page £20, half page £15.

The **Church Web Site** can be found at : <http://www.blackmorechurch.org.uk/>



**Priory Church of St Laurence
Blackmore
and
St Peter and St Paul
Stondon Massey**



Rev'd Sam Brazier-Gibbs ,

The Vicarage, Church Street, Blackmore, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 0RN

Telephone: 07894 948867 Email: revsbg@me.com

Dear Friends, December and January remind us that we worship the living God who is God of things that are unchanging as well as the God of all things new.

The stories of Advent and Christmas are comforting and hold memories of childhood, and then there is the New Year with its resolutions and fresh starts.

At Christmas we celebrate Jesus coming to his people in the familiar story and at the same time we experience a new beginning, where the slate feels wiped clean for each of us and we are offered the chance to become one with God.



The turn of the year also feels like a new beginning, a time to take stock and re-evaluate, set goals or make resolutions.

So many New Year resolutions don't survive even much into January and it can feel like a false start. The reality is that we, ourselves, travel through those two months of the year and we are the same person at the end as we were at the beginning.

But we still hope, I think, that magically, Christmas and the New Year will bring change! As if we expected God to change us without us even really noticing it, so that the regrets of last year will painlessly be transformed into the gifts of the New Year? Of course, it doesn't really work like that.

The only way that there will be change in ourselves is if we, with Jesus, bring about that change by being determined to be a different person. Only we can change our habits, our behaviour, our opinions and the way we interact with people around us and I think Jesus encourages us to do those things and accompanies us on the journey as we seek change and growth.

The life of prayer is a relationship with The Father and it continually calls us to refocus on Jesus so that in every moment of life we choose to follow him, always against our own internal voices and preferences. That is really hard and would be impossible without the grace that Jesus wins for us on the cross and through his resurrection. Jesus is born into the world to transform it. But human beings take part in the transformation.

The New Year has begun and we are almost a month into it. Has anything changed in your life? Change is slow and there are many setbacks, but if we really want to

be different and follow Jesus more nearly, then our faith in relationship with God is what can help us to be transformed. Just as Jesus changed the world around him, as we are transformed we will change the people and the world around each of us. That is how the Kingdom of God grows. Changing ourselves is the hardest thing, which is why New Year resolutions are so tough to keep. But, by being part of the church at worship, by reading the Scriptures and meditating on them, by building a prayer relationship with God, we will be able to change, if we truly want to. Change is driven by love, which is why God gives us a gift of love at Christmas in the baby Jesus. We naturally want to be nearer to the people we love and to be loved by those people. We want it so much that we are willing even to change ourselves.

If there are things in your life that you would like to change, grow or do differently there will be lots of opportunities to do so this year. Starting in the spring we have a new 'life support group' starting called **WELL!**

The group is designed to help bring wholeness in our lives health, in areas such as health, fitness, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. Watch out for more information over the coming weeks and make 2020 the year you grow in every area of life.

Let all of our New Year resolutions be to change ourselves, for the love of Jesus, so that we can be a light to everybody around us and we can transform the world from a place of hatred, jealousy and fear to one of love and mutual respect.

With blessings for the New Year, your friend and vicar,

Sam

SERENITEA
CAFÉ



"SERENITEA"

our Community Café.

It runs every Tuesday throughout the year in St Laurence Church, Blackmore from 10.30am to 12.00

All are welcome!

There is no charge just an optional donation box (or you can donate on our contactless card system).

We provide fresh bacon or sausage sandwiches, Danish pastries, cakes, chocolate bars, healthy snacks and fruit.

Herbal teas, breakfast tea, filter coffee or latte/cappuccino and soft drinks are also available.

Good company, good food and lively chat in beautiful surroundings.

WHY NOT POP IN?

Blackmore Youth Centre

If you have children or know families with children aged 5-12 years Friday Club or Friday Club Plus could be of interest to you.

Both Clubs run monthly on the first Friday of each month at the Blackmore Youth Centre.

We have a theme for each session so this month on Friday 7th February we have a Spring Theme and next month on Friday 6th March we will be preparing for Mother's Day and Easter

So, **make sure the dates are written on your calendars.**

Friday Club is for children aged 5 years to Year 4 from 6.00-7.30pm

Friday Club Plus is for children in School Years 4-7 and is from 8.00-9.30pm.

Children of Year 4 can choose when they move up to the older group.

The Clubs are staffed by a team from St Laurence who are all DBS checked.

For more information check out our Facebook page, email us on

blackmorefridayclub1@gmail.com

If you would rather talk to someone contact Sandra Wood on 01277 822358



**Art-Craft-Cooking-Challenges-Wii
Team Games- Board Games-Tuck Shop**

 **FRIDAY CLUB** 
'Spring Theme'
at Blackmore Youth Centre
Friday 7th February - 6.00-7.30pm



**FOR CHILDREN
Aged 5 -Year 4
Cost £3.00**

For more information look on our Facebook page
or contact us on blackmorefridayclub1@gmail.com

FRIDAY CLUB PLUS **at Blackmore Youth Centre**

Friday 7th February - 8.00-9.30pm

For Children – Year 4 to Year 7 Cost £3.00

**'Spring
Theme'**



**Art - Stone Painting Craft - Bird Feeders
Cooking - Make your own Pizza
Table Tennis - Wii - Team Games**

**not to mention the
Tuck Shop**



For more information look on our Facebook page
or contact us on blackmorefridayclub1@gmail.com

Keep up with news from the Diocese on the Diocesan Website:

<https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/>

Bishop Stephen Announcement

The Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, has been nominated by Her Majesty the Queen as the new Archbishop of York in succession to the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu.

Bishop Stephen said:

"I am humbled and excited at the prospect of becoming the 98th Archbishop of York. I will receive the baton from Archbishop Sentamu. These aren't just big shoes to fill, but a big heart and a big vision.

"However I am not daunted. Archbishop Sentamu and I have worked together in mission on many occasions and I hope to build on the work he has pioneered.

"Working alongside the Archbishop of Canterbury, I hope to help the church be more joyful and more effective in sharing the gospel and bringing hope and unity to our nation.

"Although I was born and grew up in Essex, I lived and served in Huddersfield for nine years. I know and love the north of England. Two of our children were born there. I now look forward to returning and being a voice for the North, sharing the liberating good news of the gospel and helping to address the discrepancies of wealth and opportunity that too often favour the South."

The **Most Reverend Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury** said:

"I am delighted that the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell has been nominated to become Archbishop of York. Archbishop Sentamu's ministry has been extraordinarily significant. In Bishop Stephen there is a worthy successor. He is someone who radiates the joy and love of Jesus, making his hearers want to meet and know Christ better.

"He has been a Bishop for 15 years, and wherever he has gone he has spread the love of God, leading churches to be more confident in what they believe and more passionate in what they do for their communities.

"His long experience in many areas, including nine years in the north of England, means that he brings wisdom as well as gifts in his ministry. He writes beautifully, engagingly and honestly, easily read and profoundly thoughtful.

"He is committed not only to speaking of Jesus, but to the renewal and reform of the Church of England in every aspect, as a church with a living, spiritual presence in every community. He is committed to the church as a place of safety, of growth and of hope. He leads on the work of tackling our past failures in our attention to diversity, to outer estates. He has deep experience of both urban and rural work.

"With a particular passion for Kenya, Bishop Stephen knows well the variety and vibrancy of the Anglican Communion and is utterly committed to the life and unity of the communion as a whole.

"Personally, I know that he will be both an encouraging and a challenging colleague, and am sure that working together we will be able to address spiritually and practically the great challenges facing our country, and facing the Church of England."

Archbishop Sentamu said:

"In 1997 I was a member of the Springboard Committee, the Decade of Evangelism Initiative set up by the then Archbishops of York and Canterbury. In that year I met

Bishop Stephen Cottrell and Bishop Alison White, who succeeded Bishop Michael Marshall and the Revd Canon Michael Green as Springboard Missioners. Bishop Stephen Cottrell has the Gospel in his belly and a tiger in the tank!

"I am glad he is returning to the Northern Province where he with others developed the Emmaus course for evangelism, nurture and discipleship. His greatest passion is to share the Gospel with everyone in a friendly and accessible way.

"His nomination as my successor has gladdened my heart and he can rely on my prayers. He and Rebecca will find a warm welcome here at Bishopthorpe and throughout the Northern Province. Bishop Stephen, God is blessing you."

The **Right Reverend Peter Hill, Bishop of Barking**, added:

"Over the past nine years Stephen Cottrell has been a transforming presence as Bishop of Chelmsford within and beyond the church. He has enhanced our Gospel vision, prioritised mission and given much pastoral heart to this gloriously diverse diocese where he was born, brought up and called to ministry.

"His gifts as a preacher, communicator and evangelist are well known and valued locally, nationally and internationally across all church traditions and in the public square.

"Stephen's trust in God and faith as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ are foremost in all he does and who he is. His people know they are loved and prayed for and he has, in turn, been a much loved and trusted diocesan bishop for us and with us.

We in East London and Essex know that he will be a wise, collaborative and visionary Archbishop and will build further on the great missional legacy that Archbishop Sentamu hands on. He is God's gift and ours to the Diocese of York and the Northern Province. When the time comes we will send him back north with reluctance but also with much love and prayer."

Open the Book assemblies returned in January. This first half of the Spring Term we are focusing on the New Testament and Jesus' Ministry following a Module entitled 'Surprising Stories'.

16/1 – Tea with Mary and Martha (Luke 10)

23/1 – The Greedy Farmer (Luke 12)

30/1 – The Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18)

6/2 – Everyone Gets the Same (Matthew 20)

13/2 – The Widow's Coins (Mark 12)

Please continue to remember the 165 children that we meet with each week, the staff and Open the Book Team in your prayers.

Sue Watley



Bringing the Bible to life for every child
in every primary school

Family News



Happy Birthday



Hugh Rayner, Peter Mason, Jill Mason
Gina Daldry, Maggie Allardyce, Sandra Wood
and anyone else celebrating a birthday in February

From the Registers



Burial of Ashes

Irene White 14th December 2019 (St Laurence)



Wedding

Nicola Ann Pearson to Derek Alfred Farmer
on 20th December 2019 (St Peter & St Paul)



Church Library

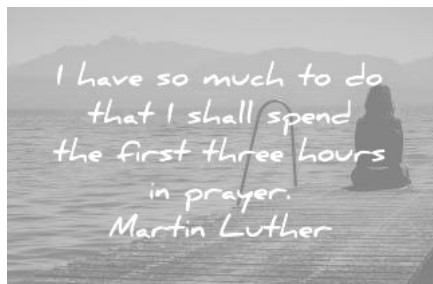
**Have you discovered our
Christian Book Library Corner?**

We have an adult and children's selection of great Christian books for everyone to browse through, read, borrow, or swap with one of your own inspiring books.

Reading the Bible is vital – but God has also as gifted writers who are able to brilliantly communicate God's word to our everyday life situations. So, grab a book today and spend some time immersed in the fruits of other people's wisdom and grow in your own walk of faith.



Reflections . . .



Remember the past. Learn from it but do not dwell on it

Look to the future. Prepare sensibly for it but do not worry about it

Be in the present. Live life confidently with Jesus at your side.

John 10:10

'I have come so that you will have life, and have it to the full.'

Ephesians 3 14-19

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

In your prayers this month please remember . . .

Rev Sam. Rev Stewart, Anthea, our Church Wardens Stuart, Sandra, Jan and both our PCCs.

We pray for both Liz as she continues the formation process towards Ordination, and Gail as she completes her last year of study to become a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) in the summer.

We pray for Archbishop John Sentamu as he prepares to retire in June and for Bishop Stephen who is preparing to take over this important role.

We pray for the Chelmsford Diocese as it plans for the future appointment to replace Bishop Stephen.

We pray for a de-escalation of tensions between the US and Iran and we pray for all World leaders that they may work for peace in their own countries and between nations.

We pray for those affected by the continuing wild fires and flooding in Australia and all other areas in the world suffering from natural disasters recently.

We continue to pray for our government and the new phase of the Brexit negotiations now underway

We hold in our prayers all those in our church family and others known to us who are unwell. May they receive God's healing love and strength.

We thank God for those who have recovered from illnesses and accidents and pray for continued support for them.

We pray for families and friends recently bereaved. May God's love support and comfort them.

Amen

St Peter & St Paul Church
SUNDAY LUNCH SERVICE

1.00pm for 1.30pm at Stondon Village Hall

3rd Sunday of the Month

Everyone welcome

(Prior booking. please ring Jan Mackintosh
on 821524 by the preceding Wednesday)

We look forward to seeing you



ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH
Stondon Massey

Tuesday 2 : 4
Stondon Village Hall

Tuesday 4th February
Tuesday 3rd March
Tuesday 7th April

This social event above is open to everyone;
at present it includes board games, jigsaw
puzzles, card games and book exchanges etc.,
followed with tea, scones and cakes.

St Peter & St Paul's Church



Winter Warmers

Raffle

Wednesday 19th February 2020

We look forward to tempting you with a mid-week treat of soup and French bread followed by homemade 'puds'. Also included tea or coffee in the company of friends old and new.

Stondon Massey Village Hall from 12 for 12.30pm.



Tickets from Jan 821524

Price £7



Blackmore Baptist Church

Blackmore Lunch Club

Lunches held on the last Friday of each month until July

Next lunch is **Friday 28th February**

Welcome from 12 noon. Lunch is served at 12.30 pm.

To book please telephone Jane Marr on 01277 823070 and leave a message

Coffee Cake and Craft morning

Thursday 20th February, 10.30am to Lunchtime

Special Flower arranging with Florist Yvonne Strutt

All welcome, no charge, just come and enjoy.

St Laurence Social Events

A happy and healthy New Year to you all.

We had a really great end to last year with our annual Fun Christmas Quiz. It seems to get more and more popular. There were over 100 people packed into the church enjoying the quiz and tucking into the sausage rolls and mince pies at the interval. Well done to the winners, 'The Saga Louts'

Our carol singing was very successful this year with more people than ever joining us on our trip around the village. It really is a unique experience as we sing for the pleasure bringing joy to the people of the village; we do not collect money.

We also had a very good evening in Wyatts Green and Hook End, but we were a little down on numbers so I think we need more publicity for next year.

We thought that we would start our programme a little earlier this year and to this end we are having a 'Strictly' Tea Dance' in St. Laurence Church on Sunday 8th March. This afternoon is one for those who enjoy dancing, those who don't do it very often and those who probably don't often get the chance. So, all grades of expertise are catered for.

We have a professional dance instructor who will be helping us to cope with a couple of dances and will run the afternoon for us. There will be tea and cakes served at 'Half Time' which will make it a very social afternoon. So, if all you want to do is to watch and have a cup of tea then that is OK too.

We do hope you will come and enjoy yourselves. The tickets cost just £7 and are available from Jill Griffiths; Tel. 822224, or from Jill Mason: Tel. 822379.

We have a very varied programme for the rest of the year which is laid out in the magazine so I would suggest you put the dates in your diaries **now** so you can plan your year and not get double booked.

We will of course update you further about future events as they get nearer.

Peter Mason

St. Laurence Social Programme for 2020 at a Glance

8 th March	Strictly come 'Tea Dancing' with Tuition	2.30 – 5.00pm
23 rd April	St. George's Day Celebrations In the Prince Albert	7.30pm
31 st May	Pentecost BBQ	12.30pm
27 th June	Concert in the Church Yard	5.30pm
3 rd Oct.	Harvest Supper	7.30pm
14 th Nov.	Christmas Market	10.00am – 4.00pm
5 th Dec.	Fun Christmas Quiz	7.30pm
21 st Dec.	Carols around the Village	6.30pm
23 rd Dec.	Carols around Wyatts Green and Hook End	6.30pm

What are your 'Gifts'?

In celebrating Epiphany in January we heard that the Wise Men brought gifts for the baby Jesus. We don't know how the gifts were used but we can be sure they were used to their full potential.

We all have 'Gifts'. Every activity we undertake, everything that we do that enables our churches to worship effectively, spread the good news of Jesus, support people in our church family and in the community is a gift from God.

These gifts encompass everything. Making tea and coffee after services, welcoming people, cleaning and maintaining our churches, providing social activities, outreach, group activities, pastoral care, lesson reading, intercessions, preaching, praying, listening, teaching, singing, administration, fund-raising, finance, photocopying.

All of these need to happen so that our churches can work effectively to demonstrate the Glory of God in our communities and spread the Gospel as Jesus instructed. No one function is more or less important than any other.

Our APCM's will be coming up in the next few months and there will be opportunities for people to join the PCC's. At St Laurence we are looking for a new Treasurer as Brenda will be stepping down after many years of faithful service.

Our churches are slowly growing and this means we need more people to help with many of the activities listed above. Again, at St Laurence we have an immediate need for more people on the rota for providing refreshments after the service.

If you think you would like to be more involved in any way in the work of our churches please speak to one of the Churchwardens.



Christopher Tinker
Conductor

Haydn and Mozart Concert

Saturday 21st March 2020

St Thomas of Canterbury, Brentwood

Including Haydn's *Nelson Mass* and *Insanae et vanae curae* and Mozart's *Solemn Vespers* with professional soloists and chamber ensemble.

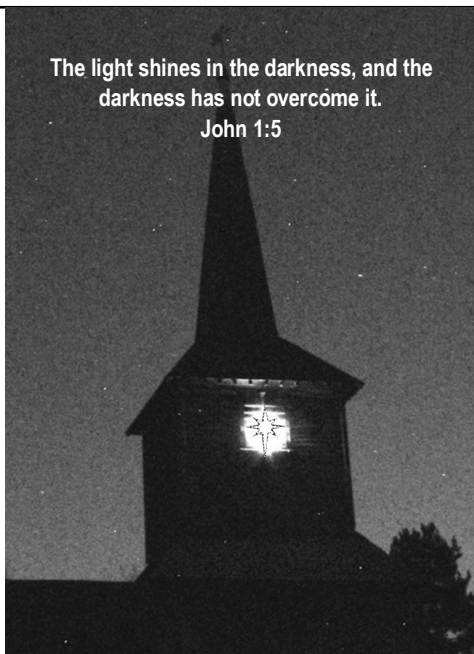
Tickets will be available from Allegro Music, Chelmsford; The Co-operative, Blackmore; from choir members; and at the door on the night of the concert priced £15 (adults), £6 (under 16s). We recommend purchasing tickets in advance.

Wine and soft drinks available for purchase in the interval.

www.stondonsingers.org.uk

The light shines in the darkness, and the
darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5





Celebrating Christmas

Many people came to the Christingle service and witnessed a rather unusual Christingle



Tuesday 2:4 Christmas tea and games

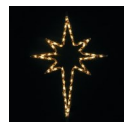


After last year's 'miraculous' 'baby machine' we had 'snow' falling inside St Laurence church for the school service.

Carol singing around Wyatts Green was a little down on numbers but still in good voice and well received by the residents. Thanks to Peter and Jill Mason for their hospitality afterwards.

A good number turned out in Blackmore and again the singing was well received by the residents. Thanks to Roger and Sandra Keeble for organising the mulled wine and the Leather Bottle for letting us serve it there.

in both our churches



A full church for Carols by Candlelight



Nativity at the Bricklayers



The Starlight service on Christmas eve contained a nativity story in Panto Style which was great fun for both congregation and cast.

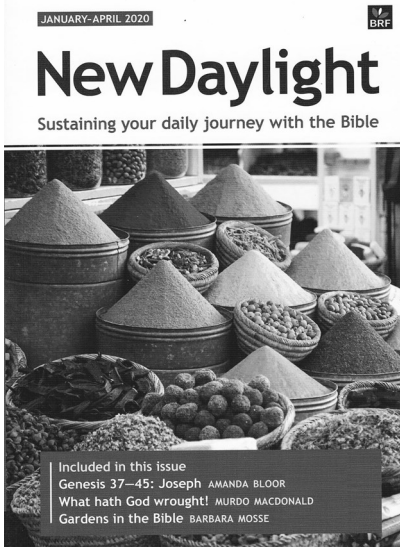
Many people attended the Midnight Mass at both churches and the Christmas Day service in Stondon.

The Christmas message was certainly shared across our communities and we pray that those who heard may come to know the true Love of Christ.

New Daylight is a great way to get into the Bible on a daily basis. Each issue provides four months of daily bible readings and comment from a team of contributors drawn from a range of church backgrounds. It is ideal for anybody wanting an accessible yet stimulating aid to spend time with God each day, deepening their faith and their knowledge of scripture

In the current issue the readings from 12-25 Jan are about Joseph. As we look closer we find a complex study of favouritism, rivalry and revenge. Jacob's family dynamics reflect the complications of inadequate parenting and multiple partners. The 13 children of his four partners find themselves desperate to gain his attention, conscious that he loves Joseph most of all. As we go through the readings we find that Joseph's story shows the working of God to bring something good out of bad and the need, in dire circumstances, to hold on to faith and trust. In the end all will be well.

New Daylight costs £4.60 per issue and we currently have 20 people across our two churches who are using it. If you would like to try it, please contact John Hughes.



St Laurence - A new way to take payments

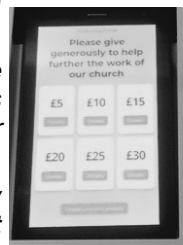
Our contactless machine has been up and running now for two months. It can be used to take any payments that go into the Church account. At the moment we have set it up to enable payments to be taken for Regular Giving, Special Service Giving, Social Event Ticket Payments, Donations to Serenitea Café and for taking general fundraising payments.



Each payment type is set up to take standard payment amounts (see picture) or you can enter your own amount. It will take contactless payments up to £30. Payments above this amount can still be taken but you will need to put your card in the reader and enter your PIN.

If you usually put money in the plate each Sunday you can use this method instead either before or after the service.

Alternately you can set up a monthly standing order which is the easiest way to do regular giving.



R. J. DAVIES

**GROUNDWORK and
LANDSCAPING**

Specialists in

BLOCK PAVING

RESIN/TARMAC

PATIOS

FENCING

TURFING

Tel: 01277 514214

Mobile: 07774 132023

Choose the UK's most trusted home insurance provider and we'll donate

£130

to your church

Take out a new home insurance policy with us before **31 December 2020**, and we'll donate £130* to a church of your choice through our Trust130 promotion. Find out more at www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130 or call our team on 0800 783 0130 and quote **Trust130**.

* Terms and conditions apply and can be viewed on the offer website page above.



Terms and conditions: 1. To celebrate our 130 year anniversary we are offering to make a charitable donation of £130 when a new Ecclesiastical Insurance plc Home Insurance policy (a "Policy") is purchased directly from us and your insurance cover commences on or before 31st December 2020, on the following terms and conditions. 2. One charitable donation will be made per Policy issued. 3. Quotation requests for a Policy must be made online or by telephone, quoting TRUST130. This charitable donation offer cannot be redeemed in any other way. 4. Underwriting terms and conditions apply and we reserve the right to not provide a quotation or offer to insure if the property that is the subject of the quotation does not meet our underwriting criteria. 5. The charitable donation is conditional on the named insured under the Policy notifying us of a church in the United Kingdom which is part of the Anglican Communion to receive the donation (the "Nominated Church"). Donations will be made by us directly to the Nominated Church, within 30 days of the Policy start date. 6. "We" and "us" in these terms and conditions refer to Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc.

Create



Craft Group Spring 2020

Relax with friends
Try new art/craft projects
Or if you prefer bring your
own current craft .
Enjoy a drink and some 'food
for thought'.

at St Laurence Church, Blackmore, CM4 0RN
meets on the second Thursday of each month.
From 7.30-9.30pm

Craft Project Programme

13th February-Printing

Canvas Bags

12th March- Decoupage Trays



There is a 50p charge for refreshments and a small
charge for materials used on the evening.

For more information contact

Catherine Jennings 821078 or Sandra Wood 822358

Please let us know if you'd like to attend.

Friends of St Laurence

Upcoming Events



Winter Quiz Night Saturday February 1st 2020

We are kick-starting our fundraising year with a quiz in the church at 7pm for a 7.30 start. Our thanks to Bill Parkinson who has kindly agreed to set the questions.

Tickets are £8.00 including a ploughman's supper (bring your own drinks). To book please contact Bill on 07736 481114 – call or text and please let him know if you have any particular dietary requirements. Tables are for eight but smaller groups or individuals are very welcome and can be put in touch, or combined with others to make up a table.

It should be a very enjoyable evening so we hope you can come.

The David Pickthall Big Band Saturday 28th March 2020 in the church

This is a relatively rare opportunity to see and hear a very accomplished group of musicians who are well known and deservedly popular in this area.

The Friends of St Laurence had to book this appearance in the middle of 2018! We are very much looking forward to a wonderful evening of swing music from the 1930s to the present day.

Tickets will be £10 for 'Friends' members and £12 for non-members.

Ticket enquiries, please contact Marion on 01277 821654.



Funeral Directors and Monumental Stone Masons



Brentwood Office :

Call 01277 210104 (24 hrs)

Billericay Office :

Call 01277 627492 (24 hrs)

www.bennettsfunerals.co.uk



Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

Our Services

Professional, qualified, and caring funeral staff.

Free advisory service

For both traditional and bespoke funerals.

Funeral transport

Classic, Modern, Land Rover and alternative vehicles.

Bereavement support

Various support options for those in need within the community.

Funeral planning

Tailor made pre-paid funerals from Golden Charter.

We also offer a wide range of coffins, caskets and head stones



Megarry's

at

Jericho Cottage

01277 821031

www.megarrysteashop.co.uk

www.megarrysantiques.co.uk

Open 10 am to 5 pm

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday,

Saturday and Sunday

*Stocking Antiques, Cards,
Stationery, Giftware, Collectables,
Local Art and much, much more . . .
with a Tea and Coffee Shop in
Blackmore . . .*

*With indoor, patio seating.
Find us by the Village Green—turn
down by the War Memorial and we
are facing you.*



Computer Repairs

Cut Me Out and keep me Safe



- Home Automation
- CCTV Installations
- Virus Removal
- Data & Telephone

Call Alpha-Networks on

01277 227683

A Green New Deal

Did you know that we can live in a society that is not dependent on gas, oil or coal and that we can move our economy away from our harmful dependence on carbon at the scale and the speed demanded by science?

Did you know we can live in a society where we do not destroy our biodiversity?

It is written in Genesis Chapter 1 verse 26, that God said "Let us make man in our own image, in our own likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the Earth and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Would God allow his actions to degrade and destroy the living and growing things of the Earth? Are we not obliged, since He made man in his own image, to cherish all that God originally made?

Did you know we can build a society that lives within its ecological limits while attempting to reverse the global, social and economic imbalance that exists now?

The Chinese have a saying "If you give hungry people fish, they will not be hungry for a day; if you teach them how to fish they will never be hungry again".

It is written in Matthew Chapter 25 verses 37-40 - Then the righteous will answer him "Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "I tell you this truth. Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

In Spain, for example, the closure of the coalmines is being accompanied with an offer to miners to retrain. This will include environmental restoration of mining areas for green industries.

Do we want to be a part of the sustainability revolution?

Let us pray that the discrepancy between those who have much and those who have little is greatly reduced.

Unless we act now, people living in the global south will continue to suffer hardships, such as extreme weather, food shortages, crime and conflict and these people will, probably, in desperation, emigrate to the global north. Who can blame them? A transformative programme will ensure everywhere on God's Earth is habitable.

No doubt you will have heard of Greta Thunberg who has initially inspired many children (and increasingly adults) to demand that action is taken to stop the climate emergency.

Let us pray that these ideals will materialize when the Green New Deal Bill is debated and passed in Parliament.

This will take us towards the goal of net-zero emissions. The chair of the Committee on Climate Change, Lord Deben, has said that the sooner we do this, the better it will be.

Jan Gearon-Simm



St. Laurence Little Ones

Toddler Group



ST. LAURENCE CHURCH
CHURCH STREET, BLACKMORE
10 am to 11.45 am
(0 - 5's with parents/carers)

Spring Dates
5th and 26th February
11th and 25th March

All little ones, parents and carers welcome

If anyone feels they would like to join this Group please call in
for a coffee and chat. 10 am - 11.45am.
or phone Sandra on 01277 822266.



'Strictly' Tea Dancing



St Laurence Church, Blackmore
Sunday 8th March 2.30 – 5.00 pm

Come along for a delightful afternoon and learn dance routines with
step-by-step instruction from a **Professional Dance teacher**

Break for tea or coffee, cake and conversation

No experience necessary, come as a couple or on your own, any age, any ability.

Tickets £7 available by calling **01277 822224** or **01277 822379**



Upcoming Events & Special Services

Sat 1st Feb	7.00 for 7.30pm	Fosl Winter Quiz (p.20)	Blackmore
Wed 19th Feb	12.00pm	Winter Warmers Lunch (p.11)	Stondon
Thu 20th Feb	10.30am	Coffee Cake and Craft morning (p.11)	Blackmore Baptist
Wed 26th Feb	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service	Stondon
Friday 28th Feb	12.00pm	Blackmore Lunch Club (p.11)	Blackmore Baptist
Wed 4th March	7.30pm	Lent Course (4th / 11th / 18th / 25th March and 1st April)	Location tbc
Sun 8th March	2.30-5.00pm	'Strictly' Tea Dance	Blackmore
Sat 28th March	10.00am	FoSL David Pickthall Big Band Concert (p.20)	Blackmore

Regular Activities

Sundays:

See page 2 for Service Times

Mondays:

10.00am Play & Pray at Blackmore Tennis Club

7.30pm Jubilate Choir Practice (1st Monday of Month)

Tuesdays:

10.30-12.00 pm Serenitea Cafe at St. Laurence (p.4)

2-4 Club 1st Tuesday of Month at Stondon Village Hall (p.10)

Wednesdays:

10.00-11.45am Little Ones for Toddlers and Carers at St. Laurence (dates p.24)

11:00 Social Tennis, Blackmore Tennis Club

Thursdays:

8.20-9.30am Open the Book Assemblies at Blackmore Primary School (p.7)

12.00-2.00pm Bible Study and Lunch at Corfu, Blackmore Road

7.30 to 9.30 am Create - 2nd Thursday in month - St Laurence Church (p.19)

WHO'S WHO AT ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, STONDON MASSEY

Rector:	Rev'd Sam Brazier-Gibbs	07894 948867
Reader:	Mrs Anthea Gray 6 Whitegates, Lindsell, Dunmow, Essex CM6 3QL	01371 852241
Churchwarden:	Miss Jan Mackintosh Ness Bank, Hook End Road	821524
Assistant Churchwardens:	George Goodwin June Wiggett	824311
Secretary to PCC	Mrs Chris Hall St Austell, Ongar Road	821447
Treasurer:	Mrs Anne Springate	364772
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator	Mrs Jenny Dodd	823452
Church Flowers:	Mrs Anne Springate	364772
Weddings, Funerals	Contact Vicarage Office	821464
Blessing of Marriages - Bookings	Rev'd Sam Brazier-Gibbs	07894 948867
PCC Members:	Mr George Goodwin, Mrs Anthea Gray, Mrs Chris Hall (co-opted), Mrs Cynthia Kelly, Miss Jan Mackintosh, Mrs Josie Mills, Miss Tamzin Mills, Mrs Valerie Ruffels, Mrs June Wiggett, Mrs Kathy Honeyman, Mrs Anne Springate (co-opted and D/Synod Rep)	

ST LAURENCE, BLACKMORE and ST PETER & ST PAUL, STONDON MASSEY

Please note that the Diocese has very strict rules about memorials and the maintenance of the Churchyards. Please contact the Church Office before any decision is made.

Burial of Ashes in Churchyard - Reminder of Diocesan Regulations

To comply with churchyard rules and regulations as laid down by the Diocese please also remember that Ashes must be interred and arrangements for this must be made with Rev'd Sam either directly or via the Vicarage Office.

Ashes must not be freely scattered in the churchyard.

WHO'S WHO AT

THE PRIORY CHURCH OF ST LAURENCE, BLACKMORE

Vicar:	Rev'd Sam Brazier-Gibbs	07894 948867
Reader:	Mrs Anthea Gray 6 Whitegates, Lindsell, Dunmow, Essex CM6 3QL	01371 852241
Churchwardens:	Dr. Stuart Jennings The Moathouse, Church Street	821078
	Mrs Sandra Keeble 6 Woollard Way	822266
Secretary to PCC:	Mrs Gill Hall Tormist, Nine Ashes Road	823280
Treasurer:	Mrs Brenda Leigh Holly Cottage, Church Street	823935
Planned Giving Co-ordinator:	Mr John Hughes	821805
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator:	Mrs Jenny Dodd	823452
Church Flowers:	Mrs Catherine Jennings The Moathouse, Church Street	821078
Weddings, Funerals, Blessings of Marriages - Bookings	Contact Vicarage Office Rev'd Sam Brazier-Gibbs	821464 07894 948867
PCC Members:	Mrs Jenny Dodd, Mr John Hughes, Mrs Margaret Laing, Mr Peter Mason, Mrs Brenda Flack, Mr Kevin Wood, Mrs Carol Riley, Mrs Celia Hatt	



Physiotherapy

Chartered & State Registered

Respiratory & Rehabilitation Physiotherapy Services

General physiotherapy
Mobility problems & falls
Stroke Rehabilitation
Weakness after surgery
Shortness of breath
Trouble clearing phlegm
Back & Joint assessments
Amputees
Chronic conditions (MS, Parkinson's disease)

Home Visits only

Treatments in the privacy of your own home

Contact: Suzanne Maddison 07958 408825

