

Church Council Members (as at Feb 08)

Chairperson

Mike Shrubsole 142 Tilkey Road,
Coggeshall Br. 564880

Secretary

Jacqui King 94 Chestnut Avenue
Great Notley Br. 560561

Treasurer

John Spouge 67 Derwent Way
CM77 7UX Br. 330925

Assistant Treasurer

Maggie Ouwehand 20 The Ley
CM7 3NS Br. 348682

Church Councillors

Tom Chacko 19 Cressages Close
Bannister Green 01371 327450

Mike Higby 39 Wainwright Ave
CM77 7LJ Br. 331180

Louise Shrubsole 142 Tilkey Road,
Coggeshall Br. 564880

Val Spouge 67 Derwent Way
CM77 7UX Br. 330925

We are always looking for good articles to put into this newsletter, so if you have come across anything which you think might be of interest to others, personal reflections, poems, etc, please let me have them before the next deadline, which is:

Monday 4 May 09, for distribution end May 09

Articles may be edited due to space restrictions.

Marian Summers 1 Pintail Crescent ph 01 376 324 186
Maggie Ouwehand 20 The Ley ph 01 376 348 682

The Church in Great Notley

All ages welcome
Come and join us as we praise God together



March – May 09

We are five denominations working together:
Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic
and United Reformed Church

Minister

Rev. Mike Shrubsole ph. 01376 564880
e-mail m.shrubsole@virgin.net
www.greatnotleychurch.org.uk

Mission statement

The aim of this church is:-
*To show the love of Jesus in word and action
so that others may come to know him as Lord and Saviour.*

Sunday Services for Mar – May 09

(In the Community Centre)

All are welcome to our Sunday morning services at **10.30am**.
Holy Communion (HC) is on the 2nd Sunday of each month,
 and we have **All Age Worship (AAW)** on the 4th Sunday.

March	1	10.30 am	Jennifer Bailey
March	1	6pm HC	Rev. Mike Shrubsole A Communion Service for the start of Lent
March	8		Rev. Mike Shrubsole HC
March	15		Methodist
March	22		Rev. Mike Shrubsole AAW
March	29		Rev. Mike Shrubsole
April	5	10.30 am	John Turton
April	5	6pm	Rev. Mike Shrubsole Passion Sunday Readings
April	9		Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service Venue: 67 Derwent Way at 7.30pm
April	10		Good Friday Walk of Witness starting from Roman Heads at 2.15 pm with service at church site at 3pm.
April	12		Easter Family Communion led by Rev. Mike Shrubsole
April	19		Methodist
April	26		Rev. Mike Shrubsole AAW
May	3		Anglican
May	10		Rev. Mike Shrubsole HC
May	17		Rev. Wilma Broadhurst
May	24		Rev. Mike Shrubsole AAW
May	31		Rev. Mike Shrubsole

CELEBRATE” & “SOULING & HEALING” 2009

‘**Celebrate Jesus**’ began in 1987 and has been running for 22 years this year. Many different denominations meet together in different venues with a variety of different preachers. Worship is along the lines of ‘Spring Harvest’ – and always includes a time of ministry of prayer, laying on of hands etc.

The first Celebrate this year is on Wednesday March 4 at Great Baddow United Reformed Church (next door to the library in Great Baddow). It commences at 7.30pm for fellowship and refreshments – worship begins at 8pm, ending around 10pm.

The following meetings are:-

April 22 at Halstead URC

June 24 at Burnham-on-Crouch Baptist Church

‘**Souling and Healing**’ began about 3 years ago and is always held at Hall Street Methodist Church, Chelmsford (off Moulsham Street), commencing at 7.30pm for fellowship and refreshments with worship beginning at 8pm. It is different in that there is on pre-planning, no preacher, and all are encouraged to share, pray, read scripture as we worship the Lord together. A time of ministry is usually included. Dates:

Wed March 18

Wed May 20

Wed July 15

Wed Sept 16

Wed Oct 21

Wed Dec 2

All enquiries: Mike Shelbourne 01245 601478 e-mail
 vmshelbourne25@blueyonder.co.uk

WANTED: A pianist for The Church in Gt Notley, to help lead worship - either full time or available at short notice. Please speak to a Church Councillor if you can help.

Church Building News

We have agreement that the Sharing Agreement is now correctly worded. Arrangements are now being made for the document to be circulated round the many people across the country who each have to sign it. This could take a while!

Please pray for a smooth signing process, we don't want to be held up by someone taking a holiday or putting the document at the bottom of their 'to-do' pile! Once it has been all round and signed by everyone representing the wider denominations and the local church then we should be authorised to enter final negotiations with the contractors and make the final plans about some of the details that will enable building work to begin.

Black Notley Parish News

The two churches of Black Notley and Great Notley should be interviewing for the post of Priest-in-Charge on Thursday 2nd April. Please remember, if you have a part to play in this process, that for the candidate's sake, any names which are mentioned should remain confidential until a public announcement is made. We still have the problem of not having a new Rectory for the new Rector to move into. The old Rectory remains unsold and the property market is very sluggish. The Diocese plans to use money from the sale of the old Rectory to build a new purpose-built Rectory. It could be that we will need to ask the person appointed to move into a rented property for a while. Please pray that this appointment process will enable us to discover the man or woman whom God wants us to have.

Letter from our Minister, Rev Mike Shrubsole

Dear Friends

February 12th, 2009 was the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin. Ever since then Darwin and his theory of evolution has been a cause of much division between atheistic scientists and fundamentalist Christians. But Darwin himself strove to make his theory something that religious people could accept. He was accused of being an atheist, and of spreading thoughts that which were directly opposed to Christian doctrine, but Darwin did not bother to challenge these statements publicly; he disliked public confrontation, and felt that his writings should speak for themselves.

Darwin was born in 19th century England as a member of a wealthy Anglican family, and his wife Emma was an extremely religious woman even for that time, when the average person was much more religious than most of us are today. Darwin was constantly nervous about offending her religious sensibilities with his scientific work.

Darwin was not regarded as being very serious in his religious faith. He attended church sporadically, but was very charitable in his giving. He had several close personal friends who were members of the clergy, His own personal religious odyssey is a story of someone who was a biblical literalist when he began, and had what we would call a serious crisis of faith following the childhood death of his favourite daughter, despite several valiant attempts to save her from illness. Darwin always wondered how a benevolent God could have allowed that death to occur. None of this, however, changes the fact that, in his written work, Darwin took great pains to be sure that his theory of evolution by means of natural selection could be acceptable to those who believe in a Supreme Being.

continued.....

Letter from our Minister ... *continued*

When Darwin was a young man, he was religious in an orthodox sense. In his autobiography, he writes "Whilst on board the Beagle ... I remember being laughed at by several of the officers ... for quoting the Bible as unanswerable authority in some point of morality." He gradually changed to a more open-minded position, but he never gave up a belief in some sort of Supreme Being. He writes in a letter from late in his life that, "In my most extreme fluctuations I have never been an Atheist in the sense of denying the existence of a God." He held a position that was somewhat unusual for his era, but it would not be regarded as such today.

Finally, here are the words that Darwin uses to close 'The Origin': "There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed by the Creator into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved."

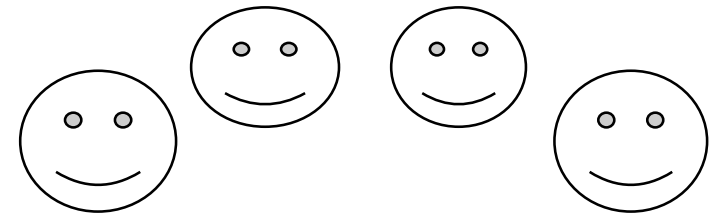
Having heard his own words, it seems hard to understand why extremists on both sides of the debate, both atheistic scientists and religious fundamentalists, are fighting so virulently, when the author of the theory himself did not see the need to clash – his theory makes room for all. I wonder - are you joining in the celebrations, or are you joining in the condemnation?

Mike

The Church in Great Notley

Junior Church

providing a caring and nurturing environment for you and your children at worship each Sunday. The provision follows a monthly pattern.



Second Sunday – (8th March, 12th April, 10th May) a **Junior Church session** led by our leaders in an adjacent room. This allows parents time and space to enjoy worship which concludes with Communion .

The fourth Sunday is **All Age Worship** (22nd Mar, 26th April, 24th May) when the children will be encouraged to be more involved throughout the service and a craft activity will be provided linked to the theme.

First, third and fifth Sunday – toys for toddlers are provided at the back of the hall and in addition we will have a pack of simple colouring and activity sheets accessible to children and supervised by the parents.

A special invite is extended to everyone to share in a family Communion on Easter Sunday – 12th April.

From the Junior Church team

Mothering Sunday on 22 March

There is an old Jewish saying:

**God could not be everywhere,
and therefore He made mothers.**

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, named after the sweet cakes of the same name traditionally eaten on that day.

Church notices that didn't quite get it right.....!

'Children are normally collected during the Offertory Hymn.'

'The talk for next Friday night will be 'What is hell?'
Come early and listen to our choir practice.'

'Parish supper Sunday at 5pm - prayer and medication to follow.'

Church Annual General Meeting Monday 30th March 09 at 7.30 pm

All church members are encouraged to make every effort to attend our AGM on Monday 30th March, at 7.30 pm at the Black Notley Parish Room. We will receive and celebrate reports from the Church Council and the Church Officers, including the annual accounts for the church for the financial year 2008. We will consider any posts of responsibility in the life of the church which need renewing. We will have an election for new Church Council members.

If you are responsible for an area of work in the life of the church then our Church Secretary, Jacqui King, or Louise Shrubsole, would be pleased to receive a written report from you summarising the previous twelve months for inclusion in our printed reports.

We will have vacancies on the Church Council for new Councillors. Val Spouge, John Spouge and Tom Chacko have all come to the end of a term of service and are not available for re-election. We will miss their service, and must now find replacements. In addition to this there were already two other vacancies. Nomination slips, to be seconded, and countersigned by the person nominated should be handed to the Church Secretary before the start of worship on Sunday 22nd March at the latest.

We are looking for church members who are spiritually mature, are gifted in their pastoral concern for others, are able to exercise leadership skills on behalf of others and have time to offer the church. There is no perfect candidate! Anyone appointed is likely to grow into the post as they discover how their gifts and talents can best be used in the service of the church.

Mike.

The Cross in My Pocket

I carry a cross in my pocket
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be.

r This little cross is not magic
Nor is it a good luck charm
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.

It's not for identification
For all the world to see
It's simply an understanding
Between my Saviour and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or a key
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me, too, to be thankful
For my blessings day to day
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to his care.

So, I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no-one but me
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life
If only I'll let him be.

LENT LUNCHES

will be held
every Wednesday

25 Feb - 8 April incl
11.45am-1.15pm

At the Baptist Church
Coggeshall Road
Braintree

All proceeds to
Braintree Street Pastors &
Essex Air Ambulance

How your old mobile phone can top up development work

The Salvation Army wants your old mobile phone. Its new scheme SALVageID is selling on or recycling old mobile phones in order to raise cash for international development work. Many people upgrade their mobile phones every 18 months, and dump their old handset in a drawer. Why not use it instead to help build a well, or campaign against human trafficking? Each donated handset is worth about £4.

To donate your old mobile phone, you can hand it in at a number of collection points across the country, or you can send it in free by post. (Request a freepost envelope to send your phone in by calling 020 7367 4777 or emailing d@salvationarmy.org.uk).

Or simply send it to: The Salvation Army, Freepost London
16281, London, WC1N 3BR.

Lent in Great Notley

Lent 2009 begins on **Ash Wednesday 25th February**. At Great Notley, we are organising a Lent Course for the five weeks of Lent. See below for further details. We are invited to join in the Lent lunches organised by Braintree Area Churches Together; every Wednesday in Lent starting on Ash Wednesday; as usual Braintree Baptist Church are hosting these popular, simple meals.

Easter & Holy Week in Great Notley

Holy Week begins with the church services on **Palm Sunday (5th April)**. This includes a 6pm 'Quiet Meditation' service that will be a telling of the Passion story in words, pictures and music.

Maundy Thursday (9th April) - Val Spouge will be leading and hosting (at 67 Derwent Way) a Tenebrae service of readings and reflections which uses the theme of 'light into darkness' to share the sorrow of the passion of Christ.

Good Friday (10th April) - Walk of Witness - we will gather at the Roman Heads courtyard opposite Notley Green at 2.15pm to begin our usual walk through the village with hymns, prayers and readings. At 3pm, we end the walk with an open-air service on our church field. Join us for the walk and service, or just for the service. In the morning, there will also be an event in George Yard organised by Braintree Area Churches Together, details not available yet.

Easter Sunday (12th April) - You are invited to start the day with an open air communion service at Notley Bowl in the Country Park. Organised by Nigel Warner from Christ Church, Braintree on behalf of all the churches of Braintree Area Churches Together, details not available yet. We meet at Great Notley at 10.30am as usual for a Family Communion Service to celebrate the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ.

Lent Course 2009 – Talking About ... Jesus

This five-session course is based on a Damaris DVD that provides a set of short films that are ideal as talk starters for churches and small groups. Each short film contains the wisdom and insight of leading Christian speakers and writers. However, they are designed to help the viewer to think (and talk!) about the issue for themselves. The course also includes a leader's guide with worship material and discussion starters for using these films as part of a Lent Home Group. Course members' work-books are also available for a small fee, with background reading and additional worship material.

Damaris is founded and run by Nick and Carol Pollard and focuses on the communication of the Christian message through engagement with, and use of, contemporary popular culture - film, TV, books, public issues etc. Their material is always up-to-date and stimulating.

All welcome. Sign-up lists will be available in church on Sundays, or contact either of the two Mikes.

Course Leader: Mike Shrubsole (Tel: 564880)
Host: Mike Higby (Tel: 331180)
Venue: 39 Wainwright Avenue
Times: Thursday evenings at 7.30pm,
Dates: from 5th March to 2nd April.

Wayside Pulpit sign

"No God - No Peace. Know God - Know Peace."