

# The Church in Great Notley

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



June - August 2010

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

## Ministers

Revd Mike Shrubsole  
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[www.greatnotleychurch.org.uk](http://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 March to May 2010

(In the Community Centre)

All are welcome to our Sunday morning services at **11am**, with coffee & time of fellowship from 10.15am.

We have All Age Worship on the 4th Sunday and Holy Communion (HC) as indicated.

June 6	11am Valerie Carter 6pm Revd Beth Bendrey
June 13	Revd Mike Shrubsole HC
June 20	Revd Beth Bendrey
June 27	Revd Mike Shrubsole AAW
July 4	11am Clive Pickett 6pm Revd Beth Bendrey
July 11	Revd Mike Shrubsole HC
July 18	Revd Beth Bendrey
July 25	Revd Mike Shrubsole AAW
Aug 1	11am Marion Rollins NO 6pm service
Aug 8	Revd David Dickens HC
Aug 15	Revd Beth Bendrey
Aug 22	Revd Mike Shrubsole AAW
Aug 29	Revd Beth Bendrey

# Letter from Revd Mike Shrubsole

Dear Friends

It continues to be good news to report how well the church building project is proceeding. A few weeks ago, a large group of us were able to meet to share in the traditional 'topping out' ceremony, to celebrate and pray as the roof of the building neared completion. The event was made all the better by being our first on-site event which took place in good weather! We invited Councillor Graham Butland, from Braintree District Council and Great Notley Parish Council, to share in this event with us as a way of symbolising our plans that this will not just be a building for church activities, but that it will also be of great value to the wider community.

One of the prayers read on the day said this:

**Gracious God**

**You have built your Church**

**On the foundation of the apostles & prophets**

**With Christ himself as the cornerstone.**

**Confirm & bless what we have now done in**

**your name**

**And prosper the work**

**To which we have set our hands.**

**Give us grace to complete it**

**And by your inspiration**

**Make it beautiful and good,**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Please make this prayer your own over the next few weeks.

## **Letter from Revd Mike Shrubsole** (continued)

Practical completion of our building is drawing steadily nearer. TJ Evers are still hopeful that they will complete on time and hand over the building to us on Friday 16 July. This is not a firm promise, but is likely. From Saturday 17 July onwards, we could be moving our furniture and resources into the building. In order to plan a handing-over ceremony that people can get in their diaries, and which does not press too tightly on the 16th, we are looking to arrange a brief church service on Saturday 7 August. The major public celebration that we have already set in place for the 17 October still goes ahead, as planned. But an event on the 7 August gives us a specific public time and space to prayerfully and thankfully accept the keys and responsibility for the new building from TJ Evers. More details will be announced soon.

The project continues to progress well financially, keeping closely to its tight budget. As we initially agreed, there are a number of items we kept out of the tender document in order to reduce costs. Over the past 6 months, we have been closely monitoring whether we have raised any new money to see if we can afford to put any of them back into the contract. Progress on including these items has been good. Currently, we are negotiating for a final design and affordable price for the stage and the stage furniture of altar-table, lectern and font. We also currently do not have quite enough money to afford the full audio-visual system we want, but we are regularly reviewing this situation. Even though the 16<sup>th</sup> July is very close, there is still time for the finances to come out right.

Yours in Christ

*Mike*

Revd Mike Shrubsole

## **15 July St Swithun (or Swithin) - Saint for a Rainy Day!**

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that, if it rains on his special day, 15 July, it will then rain for forty days after that.

He became Bishop of Winchester in 852, an important posting as Winchester was the capital of Wessex. During his 10-year tenure, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built and, when he was dying in 862, he asked to be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

Had he been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers we may have been spared over the last 1000 years! But, no, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral. That day, many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly, everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun.

Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester Cathedral which became a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages. It was destroyed in the Reformation, and restored in 1962.

## **BRAINTREE WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY**

We learn from Mark's Gospel (ch.6 v.3) that Jesus had been trained as a skilled craftsman. Each of the Gospels show how deep was his love and concern for people in every aspect of their lives as he offered them healing and wholeness of body, mind and spirit. We are surely called, as his disciples, to show that same love and concern in his name. And for most people an essential aspect of their lives is their work.

Workplace Chaplaincy is just one of many ways in which the Church reaches out to people where they are. It used to be more generally described as Industrial Mission. But fewer people are now employed in what we think of as "heavy industry", and many more in what we describe as "service industry" – in commerce, leisure, retail and much more. Work patterns may be different, but the needs of people are not.

Industrial Mission/Workplace Chaplaincy has been around in Braintree in various forms since the 1970's. Many of you will remember when it was re-launched in 2003 as "Braintree Chaplaincy for Industry and Commerce". Christ Church took the lead in this on behalf of other Braintree churches.

In 2009 it was renamed "Braintree Workplace Chaplaincy". We feel that is a better description of what we are about. We are a small group of Christians from different churches working on behalf of Braintree Area Churches Together. We visit workplaces (with the agreement of management and staff): we get to know people in their working environment and we are available to anyone there who wants to talk in confidence about personal problems or work-related concerns.

THE BRAINTREE TEAM IS NOT ALONE! Linked with 17 other groups around Essex & E London, & across that area there are nearly 60, together we are known as "Workplace Chaplains (Essex & East London)". Visit our website [www.workplacechaplains.org.uk](http://www.workplacechaplains.org.uk). There are other similar groups across the UK and internationally.

## **BRAINTREE WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY**

These are the aims of Workplace Chaplains (Essex & East London):

- 1. To develop a partnership with individuals and groups at all levels in their workplaces, standing alongside them in stress, routine and achievement, in the name of Christ.**
- 2. To inform fellow Christians of workplace issues, and to encourage the church to be involved in mission in places of work.**
- 3. To assess the effects of the workplace environment on the people who depend on it and the social order being shaped by it.**
- 4. To respond in the light of the Christian faith to the economic, social and political issues raised.**

The Braintree Team is 5 people strong, from 4 churches. At present the team provides a chaplaincy service to the employees of Braintree District Council, to retail units at Freeport, in Sainsbury's, and generally around the town centre. We have been asked to consider visiting other places of work but, as a small team of volunteers, we are limited in our scope.

Please remember Workplace Chaplaincy in your prayers, both the chaplains and those whom they support in workplaces. Liz Macnee or David Dickens will happily tell you more about it. You might even realise that God is prompting you to think seriously about finding out what it means to be a Workplace Chaplain for a few hours a week. A Management Diploma or a Theology Degree is **NOT** - repeat **NOT** - required!

*(David Dickens)*



**Julian meetings** were begun by a group of people who wanted to foster the practice of contemplative prayer in the Christian tradition. It is practised by ecumenical groups all around Britain who meet to share a time of silence together.

Contemplative prayer is a way of being silent before God, opening ourselves to God, responding to the invitation to meet God in silent awareness. To do this we need a time and place where we can relax our bodies and prepare ourselves mentally, emotionally and spiritually to give God time and space.

Mother Theresa was once asked what she said in her prayers. She said, 'I don't say anything, I just listen to God.' She was asked, 'What does God say to you?' She replied, 'He doesn't say anything, he just listens.'

We may not have reached her level of spiritual awareness, but until we try, we don't know what that kind of praying can do. Many people find it extremely helpful. It is proposed that we start a Julian Meeting when we have our own building. It will probably be in the evening and only last about half an hour with an introduction of ten minutes or so, fifteen minutes of silence and some closing prayers. But, these things are fluid and it will be shaped according to the wishes of those who come. To begin with, I have offered to lead it and more information will be given nearer the time.

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## AN INTRODUCTION TO ICON WRITING 26-31 JULY

Regan O'Callaghan is a priest and artist based in London, who has run many workshops at venues including St Paul's Cathedral and the Sloane Museum, and will shortly be leading a series at Westminster Abbey! Samples of his work can be found in St Paul's Cathedral, in Church House London, St Paul's in Covent Garden and in the Church of the Sermon on the Mount, Israel.

Regan's ministry explores the relationship between art and spirituality, inspired by the belief that, if we are given breath by a creative God, then we ourselves are creative.

Our workshop will run each morning in the Meeting Room at SS Peter & Paul, with a dedication within the morning service on Sunday 31 July. Cost is £90 (concessions are available) and you will need to book your place by calling Beth on 01376 567971 or emailing at [bethbendrey@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bethbendrey@hotmail.co.uk).

Visit [www.reganocallaghan.com](http://www.reganocallaghan.com) for more of his work.

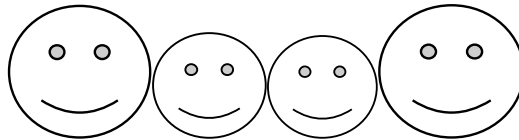
***What to plant.....?** The expert listened warily as Mrs Gray, the club's most struggling gardener, described the difficulties she was experiencing with her garden. "What do you recommend that I plant," she asked, "in an area half clay & half rock, with extremely high acidity, with far too much midday sun and receiving hardly any rainfall?"*

*The expert scratched his head & finally ventured "a flagpole!"*

# **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 - 13 June & 11 July**

A Junior church session led by our leaders in an adjacent room. This allows parents time and space to enjoy worship, concluding with communion.

### **Fourth Sunday – 27 June, 25 July & 22 August**

This is All Age worship 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 (and during the school summer holidays)**

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 the children, supervised by the parents.

**Please note that from Sunday 6 June,  
worship and children's activities will begin  
at 11am, with coffee from 10.15am.  
Please, do come and join in the chat.**

## **Dates for your diary.....**

**Sun 6 June** Morning service begins at 11am, starting today

**Sun 6 June** Our extra General Church Meeting & Lunch

**Wed 9 June** Circuit Missions supper 7.30pm at Trinity  
Methodist church, Chelmsford

**Sat 3 July** Great Notley fete

**Fri 9 July** 'Girls Night In' at Beth's 7.30pm

**Sat 10 July** Vision4Life Evangelism Day 9.30am-3.30pm at  
Christ Church, Braintree

**Sun 11 July** local Methodist preacher recognition service at  
Coggeshall

**Sat 17 July** Points of Light Retreat programme at Clare Priory

**Mon 26 July** Icon workshop week at SS Peter & Paul starts

**Sat 7 Aug** possible date for unveiling of Foundation Stone

**Sun 17 Oct** formal Church Opening Service

### **Mission Aviation Fellowship ministry at risk**

Mission Aviation Fellowship is in big trouble: changes in exchange rates and rising fuel prices mean that the ministry costs considerably more than it did 3 years ago.

In a recent call for help from its supporters, MAF said "Please do pray that we can continue flying, so that isolated communities across the developing world will have access to clean water, healthcare, education & the Gospel.

"An hour's flying now costs us £56 more than it did three years ago. And, with MAF aircraft in Africa alone completing over 1,000 hours of life-saving flying every single month, that's a huge increase in our ongoing ministry cost.

"Please pray that, despite these increasing costs, our ministry will continue to make a difference in each of the isolated communities we serve across the developing world.

If you would like to help, visit [www.maf-uk.org/form](http://www.maf-uk.org/form)

# Church Council Members

## Ministers

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Beth Bendrey 181 London Road Br. 567981  
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## Secretary

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## Church Councillors

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

i.e. Mon 2 Aug, **for distribution end Aug.**

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Articles may be edited due to space restrictions.