



THE BULLETIN

keeping you informed and up to date with activities and developments
at St Margaret's Church, Leigh on Sea.

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January 2018

Bishop Stephen's New Year Message 2018

We used to measure time by the rising and setting of the sun and by the cycle of the moon. All this was apparent to the naked eye and needed little additional calculation. We called these days and months.



Then we observed the movement of the sun, and added years; and then, at some point, hours and minutes; and then named the days and months and numbered the years; and then clocks and calendars and, eventually, the pulsating throb of the mobile phone in your pocket telling you your next appointment is due and mapping all that you will do today, tomorrow and until you are no more. No wonder a wise African bishop asked why it is that we in the west have all the clocks, but they in Africa have all the time. We have become imprisoned by precision. Every moment is accounted for.

So Happy New Year! Happy new turning of the chapter from last year to this year. In one sense it is just another rising of the sun; but it is also an invitation to reflect. How will I measure this New Year? How will I measure my life? Will it be by days and months? Or will it be by what I do in them and what I achieve? Or will it be by the love and generosity with which I do these things and inhabit these days?

So this is my prayer for the New Year: O Lord, teach me to measure my life in something other than years. Amen.

Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell
Bishop of Chelmsford



Monday 22nd January.

We shall be having our AGM today
There will be a **Corporate Communion at 12 noon** followed by a soup and roll lunch

AGM will start **promptly at 1.30pm.**

Father David will be chairing
It is important that everyone tries to attend, not least because Fr David is doing this for us on his day off, so let's make it worth it!

I would appreciate advice if you are coming so we can make sure there's enough for all at lunchtime.

Any non members who would like to join us are most welcome and anyone who would be interested in joining MU, please contact Sheila 554044 or Angela 477126

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### Letter Rack

When I was cleaning and tidying the entrance porch of the church last month, I came across some out of date rotas and notes to members of the congregation which had become 'lost' amongst the posters and leaflets on the table. May I suggest that in future any A4 communications be folded into thirds (as the Bulletin is) and the name of the recipient printed clearly on the top. This will then fit into the letter rack where it can be seen and collected. It is then up to each

member of the congregation to check their box for 'post' and it will keep the table and entrance porch tidy. BAS

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We have been supporters of HARP for many years and

will be continuing our donations of Food and Goods. In January donations of basics like **Tea, Coffee, Sugar, Long Life Milk and Dried Milk** would be particularly welcome. If you received new hats, gloves scarves or socks for Christmas and your old ones are still in good condition,(or you don't like the new ones) please think about donating those to HARP too. Men's thick socks in large sizes are particularly needed at this time of year, as are blankets, duvets and sleeping bags that maybe surplus to your requirements. All Donations should be clean and can be left in a box in the porch for delivery by Peter Maddox.

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*If someone is ill and it is not possible to deliver their copy of Bulletin please let me know. I do send a few by post to people who are unable to attend church.*



*Editor*

**Church Services in January**

**Sunday 7th - Celebration of Epiphany**

**14th** - Joint Deanery Service 3.15pm  
St Barnabus Church Hadleigh

**18th - 25th** - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

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Social Events in January

7th - Communita 4pm

9th - One Stop Coffee Shop re-opens

13th- Church Cleaning preceded by Mass - 9 am (Refreshments provided)

NB February 3rd - Beetle Drive

Beetle Drive tickets will go on sale mid January. £6 for adults and £3 for children - including supper. Bring your own drinks.

Doors open from 6,30pm.

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**Reading Rota.**

If you are unable to attend when you are due to read please arrange for someone else to read in your place or inform Carol Dowsett 07415 271 458 in good time to enable a replacement to be arranged. The lesson for each Sunday can be accessed at [www.universalis.com/mass](http://www.universalis.com/mass)

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Recognising the Good Life.

This January start the year with an empty jar. Each week add a note with a good thing (big or small) that happened. On New Year's Eve, empty the jar and read about the amazing year you have had.

WHAT WOULD JESUS HAVE DONE?

We were being driven by a kamikaze driver down Mount Tabor during our recent Pilgrimage to the Holy Land when I remarked to the priest sitting next to me, how our enjoyment of the site of The Transfiguration had been spoilt by the arrival of Japanese tourists complete with selfie sticks. They ruined the tranquillity and our religious experience by posing in many forms and in all combinations of themselves in front of the altar.

The priest thought for a moment and then said quietly: **You must realise that not all of Jesus' followers were devout Christians; many of them came to hopefully see a miracle, to possibly get something to eat or just for a day out with their friends. Jesus didn't turn them away as he recognised that maybe amongst the many such people, some would have seen something or experienced something that set them on the road to a Christian belief.**

He continued: and it's really the same today. Most people coming for the first time to church are not devout worshippers. They come along because the church has a great organist, they sing jolly hymns or the congregation has an active social life.

We welcome those people into our church because, as Jesus thought, some of them may see something or experience something that will set them on the road to a Christian belief. And it is the

same today upon Mount Tabor; Jesus wouldn't have turned away those pesky selfie-takers but would have welcomed them.

Then he finished by saying: **When we are confronted by any situation not to our liking, we should always just take a moment to think "what would Jesus have done".**

I felt suitably humbled and chastised.

Bob Southward

PS I confessed later that my own introduction to church was to impress my then new girlfriend to whom I have now been (**happily!** Editor) married for more than 45 years.

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### **St Margaret's Music Group**

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Bulletin is 1 year old



Thank you for your support and for the interesting articles and photographs supplied; please keep them coming.

