



THE BULLETIN

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

Vol 2 No 2

February 2018

**"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to
me and drink"**

Bishop's Lent Appeal 2018

By Revd Lee Batson



Amidst the current debate about the extensive use of plastic in our society, and the ethics of buying bottled water, it is easy to forget just how easy it is for us to access the water we need to survive. An eight hour flight from Heathrow, however, takes us to northern Kenya - a place where water is incredibly scarce. It is a place where people often have to walk long distances to find a reliable source of water, impacting upon sanitation and the ability of people to access education and more reliable work.

The Diocese of Chelmsford has been linked with this area for forty years, and has decided to partner with the Diocese of Marsabit to help alleviate

this situation. Our partner Bishop, Rt Revd Qamicha Wario (who spent time in our Diocese in 2017) has asked us to help raise funds for a Water Bowser. This vehicle will be used to take water to communities across an area the size of England when drought means that other sources have run out, and will fill local water containers so that supplies are replenished and normal life can continue.

As well as meeting the primary need for water, the Bowser will also convey a powerful message that Christ wants to come alongside people when they are in need, and that He is interested in the well-being of their bodies as well as their souls. It will, in other words, be a means to proclaim a holistic Gospel.

Please do consider supporting this project this year - perhaps by donating the money you would have spent on bottled water as you quench your thirst from the taps that we so often take for granted.

For more information about this project and to donate, please visit www.chelmsford.anglican.org/lentappeal or contact Revd Lee Batson, lbatson@chelmsford.anglican.org

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*Amusing Quotations from Parish Magazines*

*The Fasting & Prayer Conference  
includes meals.*



Mothers' Union will meet informally on Monday February 19th from 2pm - 3.30pm at 28 St David's Drive. You are welcomed to drop in whenever you can make it. It will be a casual opportunity to talk to one another, not always easy at conventional meetings.

MU will be reading the Stations of the Cross Monday March 26th at 7.30pm It is of course a devotion for all the congregation and those of you who would like to read with us will be welcome - please let Sheila know.

If you are interested in joining MU, please contact Sheila 554044 or Angela 477126



We have been supporters of HARP for many years and will be continuing our donations of Food and Goods. In February we are collecting tinned meat especially Fray Bentos pies (but NOT with Ale) and tinned fish and more long life milk is always 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.

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Church Services in February

Friday 2nd - **Candlemas**
Mass - 7.30 pm
Wednesday 14th - **Ash Wednesday**
Mass - 7.30 pm
All other services as advertised

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**Social Events in February**

3rd - Beetle Drive  
10th - Church cleaning 9.30 - 11.30 after 9 am Mass  
Refreshments provided.

Beetle Drive tickets are now on sale £6 for adults and £3 for children - including supper. Bring your own drinks.  
Doors open from 6,30pm.

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CELL OF OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM

Our February meeting will be on Wednesday, February 7th at St Margaret's Church 7.30pm for Mass. It is informal and very friendly. Everyone is invited, whether or not a member. If you require any further information, please contact me by telephone (01702 216401) or by email (K2phf@blueyonder.co.uk). Peter Fisher

Our Pilgrimage to The Holy Land

Day 1 On Sunday 22nd October, last year, Bob and I joined other Pilgrims assembling at the church of St Nicholas Canvey for Mass, after which we all travelled by coach to Heathrow airport. Here we were subjected to rigorous security checks and a two hour delay which meant that we did not reach our hotel in Tiberius on the Sea of Galilee, until 3.30am the following morning (local time)

Day 2 Despite last night's late arrival we were all just about awake and on the coach again by 8am the following morning and drove the short distance to the Sea of Galilee. There we boarded a boat built to the same dimensions as those of 2000 years ago, except this one had an engine. We sailed out into the middle of the sea, singing hymns as we went and admiring the view. The Sea of Galilee is completely unspoilt and surprisingly undeveloped. Then the engines were cut and we floated in complete silence and Fr David Tudor, who was our leader for this Pilgrimage then said very quietly; 'The water is about the same depth as 2000 years ago; the hills haven't moved and the sun came up in the same place this morning. We don't know the exact places where Jesus stood, sat, worked and preached but it was around here somewhere.' In other words, do not get fixated about an exact place. This set the scene for the whole week. After a further period of silence we sang 'Dear Lord and

Father of Mankind', the words of which now have a more real meaning to us, and we gently sailed across to the far shore. We saw Magdela (where Mary Magdalene lived) and past the place where Jesus fed the 5000. Then we left the boat and were taken to the Church of the Beatitudes. After Mass in the tranquil garden near Mensa Christi, where Jesus cooked breakfast on the beach, we paddled in the Sea of Galilee and there followed a delicious lunch of Peter's Fish, fresh figs and Turkish coffee.

We boarded the coach again and drove to Bethsaida where we sat in the cool shade of a tree and listened the story of the call of Philip and Nathaniel; at Kursi we heard of the healing of legion and the spirits entering into the herd of swine, then back on the coach and onto Capernaum.



A moment of quiet reflection at Capernaum looking out over the Sea of Galilee

Capernaum, now, is an archaeological site with the ruins of fishermen's dwellings, a synagogue and mosaics. There is a church built above some of the ruins.

The walls of the town curve round and down to the lake like protective arms and I could fully understand why Jesus would have felt safe here. Looking down into one of the unearthed dwellings, in my mind I could see him sitting in the corner, talking to his friends and disciples. It was a very moving experience and Jesus really came alive to me there. It was incredible to be able to walk around the ruins of the Synagogue knowing that Jesus had worshipped in that building.

We returned to our hotel and we all ate together in the evening and relived the day through shared experiences of the same places. So ended the first day of our Pilgrimage. We had not known quite what to expect when we decided to come but if this first day was anything to go by we were in for a wonderful week. To be continued

Barbara Southward

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## Significant Days in February

**2nd** The Presentation of Christ in the Temple 'Candlemas'

**14th** St Valentine

**23rd** St Polycarp - martyr  
Bishop of Smyrna

*(included because I like his name Ed)*

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The Cold Shoulder

I wonder whether you have ever been given the cold shoulder ? Or, even worse, whether you have ever given the cold shoulder to somebody else ? We've all heard that

expression and we all know what it means. To give somebody the cold shoulder means to act towards them in an unfriendly manner, to make it plain that we have little time for them.

But where did such a strange expression come from and how did it find its way into our common speech ? Well, like so many of the sayings that we often take for granted, the answer lies in the mists of history.

In the Middle Ages, with its code of chivalry, it was expected that a knight would always give a welcome to a fellow knight who came to visit him. Not only was he expected to give him board and lodging but also to serve him with the finest food and drink that he could provide. Furthermore, he was expected to do that for as long as the visiting knight chose to stay.

Of course, sometimes, a visiting knight played upon this hospitality and took advantage of the custom by outstaying his welcome until the host knight longed for him to go away !

When that happened the host would instruct the kitchen to serve no longer the best of food and drink but to offer in its place cold shoulder of mutton. This was regarded as a meal only fit for servants. A visiting knight served with cold shoulder of mutton knew that the time had come for him to leave.

That is why the phrase is still used today. When one person shows himself unfriendly to another the cold shoulder is given.

One person who never gave anyone the cold shoulder was Jesus. The Gospels tell how people visited him day and night – people who were sick, anxious, or worried - and Jesus always had time for them. Better still Jesus always has time for you and me, "Anyone who comes to me I will never drive away" (John 6 v.37). Likewise, we too, should always have time for our fellow human beings.

Fr Ron

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## St Valentine

On February 14 around the year 278A.D., Valentine, a holy priest in Rome in the days of Emperor Claudius II, was executed.

Under the rule of Claudius the Cruel, Rome was involved in many unpopular and bloody campaigns. The emperor had to maintain a strong army, but was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. Claudius believed that Roman men were unwilling to join the army because of their strong attachment to their wives and families.

To get rid of the problem, Claudius banned all marriages and engagements in Rome. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret.

When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Valentine was arrested and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. The sentence was carried out on February 14, on or about the year 270.

Legend also has it that while in jail, St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine."

For his great service, Valentine was named a saint after his death.

In truth, the exact origins and identity of St. Valentine are unclear. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, "At least three different Saint Valentines, all of them martyrs, are mentioned in the early martyrologies under the date of 14 February." One was a priest in Rome, the second one was a bishop of Interamna (now Terni, Italy) and the third St. Valentine was a martyr in the Roman province of Africa.

Legends vary on how the martyr's name became connected with romance. The date of his death may have become mingled with the Feast of Lupercalia, a pagan festival of love. On these occasions, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed. In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius decided to put an end to the Feast of Lupercalia, and he declared that February 14 be celebrated as St Valentine's Day.



Gradually, February 14 became a date for exchanging love messages, poems and simple gifts such as flowers.

The final date for items to be included in the March Bulletin is  
**Wednesday 21st February**  
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