

SUNDAY 11 JULY: TRINITY 6

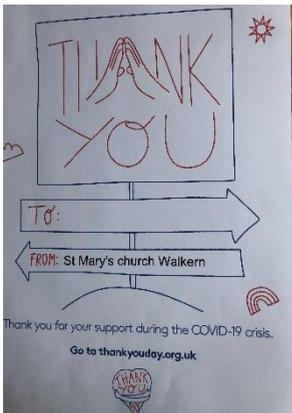
Thank You

Last Sunday was a special day for the nation, when it was decided to spend some time saying “Thank you” to the people who had helped us during the Covid pandemic. When the day was planned, we thought it would be after the restrictions had ended, but nothing is certain in this pandemic, it seems!



At St Mary’s we planned the day to be a time of celebration at church, with an opportunity for us to sing Songs of Praise together at an all-age Elevenses Service. Our July all-age service is traditionally followed by a barbecue, so that was added to the plan!

Of course, as the restrictions hadn’t been lifted, we couldn’t sing indoors, so our Songs of Praise was outdoors with the smell of smoke wafting towards us as we sang some of our favourite hymns. (see photo)



An added activity was to colour in Thank You certificates to give to people in Walkern to whom we were especially grateful for their service to the community. We have already taken the certificate to thank Seema and Paresh and their family at Budgen’s shop; other certificates will find their way as soon as we can take them.

It is in difficult times that we realise how much we rely on others. We thought with thankfulness of all the regular services of electricity, phones and internet, refuse collection, emergency services and a lot more.

High on our list were all the services to help children: Walkern School, Pre-school and Playgroup provided much needed support for children and their families during lockdown.

We were thankful, too, for the people who helped us keep in touch with each other. There is an old hymn/spiritual: "When I needed a neighbour, were you there?" which describes the situation that many of us found ourselves in. One of the positive points about the problems of the past 18 months is that we have learned to appreciate our neighbours much more than before. A BBC reporter put it quite well when he said, 'The effect of social distancing has been to bring us closer together.'

That is what God wants us to learn from every difficult situation: to know that we can rely on Him and to realise the help and comfort He offers us through other people. As St Paul says: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

With best wishes,
Beverley and Maggie



COLLECT

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Please join us in saying the Collect at
12 noon every day.**

COFFEE MORNING

AT 10 a.m. on THURSDAYS

Every Thursday morning, we meet at the United Reformed Chapel to share in friendship as part of our midweek worship.

Everyone is welcome.

2nd Thursday of the month: Ecumenical Communion service

Please follow social distancing guidelines and wear a face mask.



Do you fancy a trip out to our village of Ardeley (SG2 7AH) to enjoy a cream tea with homemade scones and cakes ?

We are once again planning to be open for teas from 2.30 pm on Sunday 1st August and Sunday 5th September (subject to any Covid restrictions) Proceeds in aid of St Lawrence Church funds. We look forward to welcoming you to our pretty village with its beautiful 13th century church and thatched cottages round the Green. For further information please contact Wendy Waygood 01438 861260.

Do come and join us for a traditional afternoon tea.



Thank you very much to everyone who continues to donate food items and/or money to the Food Bank. There are still a number of households who still rely on your support, so please keep donating when you can.

In particular we are in need of the following items at the moment:

Cleaning products

Washing up liquid

Laundry products

Baby wipes

Newborn nappies

Toiletries

Children's snacks & drinks

Longlife milk

Coffee

Tea

Sugar

Biscuits

Tinned vegetables

Tinned fish

Tinned fruit

Custard

Rice pudding

Tinned meals

Baked beans

Cereals

Quick cook rice

Ketchup/mayonnaise

Jam

Thank you.

WALKERN FOOD BANK

We have three collection points: St Mary's church on Wednesday mornings 10.30-11.30am, outside the shop and at No 100 High Street.

If you know of anyone who could benefit from receiving some help please contact Beverley Harlow on 07881588662 or bevharlow16@gmail.com



If people feel unable to come to church to either donate or pick up items we will arrange collection/distribution.

Thank you – Beverley and Maggie

PRAYER REQUESTS

Named requests for prayer will be included on the notice sheet for at least one month. If you would like a name to be included for our intercessions, please contact the Parish Office ubbw@hotmail.co.uk or 07407 630159 or Maggie Hawkins (359500) for Walkern or Rita Plumb (869731) for Benington. (Names from the prayer board in St Mary's Church will also be included in the intercessions in that church.) Prayer is regularly offered for all the sick and needy in our community.

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Those who live in our villages: This week we pray for all who live Brockwell Shott, Walkern and Braceys, Benington.

We pray for those in our parishes or friends and family members who are housebound, unwell, receiving treatment or recovering from operations: Jane Pitts, Chris Phillips, Chris Milbank, Marie Lewi, Tom Shields, Louise Beckham and Ron Archer.

We also remember those who have died and their families and friends: Janet Naylor.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BENINGTON & WALKERN: CONTACT NUMBERS

MEMBERS OF ECUMENICAL MINISTRY TEAM

Methodist: Revd Malcolm Peacock (01462 646562), Mr Brian Burgess (237748), Mrs Brenda Davies (227293);

URC: Revd John Walker (01462-895481), Mrs Mary Miller (861289), Mrs Olga Ginn (861754);

Roman Catholic: Mrs Rita Healy (861098);

St Peter and St Mary: Revd Norman Plumb (869731), Mr Paul Cobb, *Reader* (869348), Mr Laurie Hawkins, *Reader* (359500), Mr Steve Mason, *Reader* (360847), Mrs Jenny Cobb (869348), Mrs Rita Plumb (869731).

TO ARRANGE BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS OR FUNERALS, CONTACT:

Church clergy: United Reformed Church: Revd John Walker (01462 895481)
Benington Methodist Church: Revd Malcolm Peacock (01462 646562)
St Mary's and St Peter's: Benefice Administrator ubbw@hotmail.co.uk

FOR OTHER PASTORAL HELP, CONTACT:

Benington Pastoral visiting team c/o Mrs Rita Plumb (869731)
Walkern Pastoral visiting team c/o Mrs Maggie Hawkins (359500)
St Peter's, Benington Churchwardens:
Mrs Christine Brown (869468)
St Mary's, Walkern Churchwardens:
Mrs Beverley Harlow (225365) & Mrs Maggie Hawkins (359500)

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ENQUIRIES, CONTACT:

Benington Methodist Steward: Mr Brian Burgess (237748)
Walkern URC Secretary: Mrs Olga Ginn (861754)

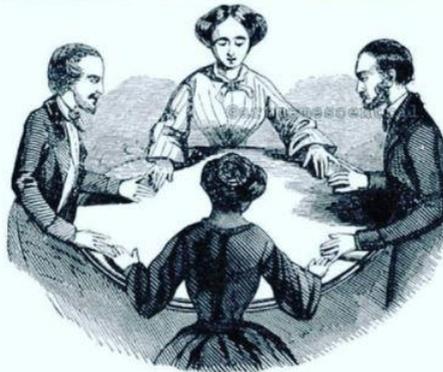
Anglican Benefice Administrator: Heather Ferguson (07407 630159):

Tuesdays 2.00pm–5.00pm & Thursdays 2.00pm–5.00pm or ubbw@hotmail.co.uk

Funnies



Zoom meetings are just modern seances



"There's someone who wants to join us."
"Elizabeth, are you there?"
"We can't hear you."
"Can you hear us?"