

# *The Creeksea* Chronicle

## *All is safely gathered in*

**T**he plum trees, groaning under the weight of fruit, branches drooping, smothered the lawn with windfalls as the remains of Hurricane 'Bertha' grumbled past. But still there was a handsome harvest of the smooth purple plums – all safely gathered in to be processed and stored. Backwards and forwards, combing the land, the Combines have been bestriding the rows of wheat, filling trucks with the golden harvest and showers of rain that bring down the ubiquitous dust. In the farm shop vibrant runner beans, be-feathered carrots, early apples and big baking potatoes are all vying for attention.

Just what is it about Harvest that makes one wax lyrical about the countryside?

There is something about all that bounty, all those wonderful things to eat, the sight of the mountains of the food, the colours, the scents, that satisfies all the senses and the soul.

No wonder then that the Harvest Festival is one of the most popular of all our Church Festivals. It really does feel right to thank God for the wonders of creations, the most amazing gift of food of so many different textures, colours, scents and tastes. There is something awesome in the sheer plenty of a good harvest – even in to-days world of overladen supermarkets.

With all that wonder, that gratitude, it also seems only natural to think of others. It is a time for giving – the surplus courgettes that are almost the size of marrows, left like abandoned babies on the doorsteps of chutney making friends; the bags of pears, runner beans, tomatoes, apples – when one has just too much to process or to store – all find their ways to friends and

neighbours whose limited gardens do not produce such largesse.

No Wonder then that we begin Autumn with a rousing service of thanksgiving to God for all the wonders of creation and the amazing bounty of harvest. This year's Harvest Festival is Sunday 28th September and will be featuring the Charity The Wildemess Project which aims to put children in touch with the origins of their food. Check the website for more details [www.allsaintschurch.co.uk](http://www.allsaintschurch.co.uk)

## *Cushioning the Choir*

**W**hile the congregation luxuriate on well-padded pews our Choir has sat out services, protected from the hard seating by a double layer of the old cushions. But from Harvest Sunday they will find their seating transformed as the special Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Celebration Seats will be installed. A labour of love by Janet Francis and Thelma Duce, these cushions are based on the Silver Jubilee kneelers on the Altar Steps, but are graced with a Golden Crown and images reflective of our local countryside. They will be dedicated to the glory of God and the use of his people in the Harvest Festival Songs of Praise on 28<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm

CEEKSEA CHURCH, 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, AT 10.15AM



## ***Creeksea Open Church and Gardens Event***

It happened in June – but people are still talking about the amazing Open Church and Gardens event in Creeksea.

“We walked along the river to Creeksea then had a wonderful time looking round. The two gardens were so different. It was lovely enjoying tea and delicious cakes looking over the river at Keeway before making our way to the Church. And then what a totally unexpected and amazing display of Kimonos. It was wonderful to have Tony there, so enthusiastic and knowledgeable, to explain them all.”

An unsolicited comment from a traveller on the train in late August reminded us of that glorious weekend when blessed with glorious weather the Church opened its doors to reveal the most wonderful display of Kimonos – all belonging to Tony McHugh and carefully arranged for display on simple models so that we could all enjoy the sight of his magnificent collection. Add to that the superb displays in the Japanese Ikebana style, produced by the members of the Burnham-on-Crouch Flower Club, the Dengie Flower Club and the Blackwater Flower Club and the church looked outstanding. For visitors there was the added interest of hearing Tony speak about Japanese culture and the symbolism of the exquisitely embroidered and painted robes.

For Tony there was not only the joy of seeing his collection on show but also the added interest of meeting a family who had just returned from a family wedding in Japan – where the English Mum of the groom had been formally dressed in a Kimono for the ceremony. Happily showing Tony the wedding photos she was delighted to see in his collection that same style of Kimono – the customary dress for such an occasion and to discuss its symbolism. And one of the funniest parts of the whole day – it was when Tony began to move the models prior to clearing the church – sitting them decorously in the pews as if waiting for Evensong to begin - and irresistible photo opportunity. Grateful thanks to all the people who made this event happen – it was a wonderful day, full of interest, humour and joy.



## ***Keeping Creeksea Church Clean***



Thanks to a select band of volunteers All Saints Church always presents a beautiful picture at Services, for Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals and every Sunday of the year. Family Service and Play & Praise crumbs are efficiently dealt with, the dust and dirt from the car park is banished, and everywhere looks spick and span. This is such a valuable ministry to the congregation and visitors to All Saints, making God's house warm and welcoming. The Cleaners take on a month at a time – but as the Rota is not yet full there are some who do more than one month. If you feel that you would like to be involved in preparing the Church for worship in this way please contact Revd Vera on 01621 783963 or Kay Hill on 783631. Your work would be very much appreciated by all enjoy the peace and beauty of our little church.

**....do you remember?** This is a new feature that we would like to include in future editions of the Chronicle. We ask you to send in your memories of events, or stories of Burnham/Creeksea and surrounding villages of yesteryear. Maybe Carnival time/funfair in the High Street; Burnham Week of the past; growing up in this unique part of Essex; the foundry, the boat building, the list is endless. So please put pen to paper, or in these days' fingers to keyboard (in some cases one finger) and create a small memoir of the past. Does not matter how small, contact Revd Vera on 01621 783963 for further details



Creeksea Open Church and Gardens

## ***The Secret Life of the Church***

**I**t's amazing what happens at Creeksea Church. As we shut and lock the door after the service all seems quiet peace and as we enter for the next Sunday's service we imagine that all has remained the same throughout the week.

But through the weeks we have many visitors – some quietly visiting just to see the church, to look at the view, even to begin a painting, or perhaps simply to tend graves – very much what you might expect. But this year two U3A groups from Rayleigh and Tillingham WI have also called in – to see the church and hear a little of its history. We are very blessed that Suzanne Thacker undertakes the task of speaking to visiting individuals and groups whether visiting members of the Herries family wanting to see their ancestor's tomb; descendants of local families are searching out their family history or organisations like the U3A. Suzanne has not only maintained records of church events over the past years she has also made a study of the church, and now has folders of information about the village throughout its history. From the infamous painting of the fox taken by hounds on the roof of the church to photos of a church parade of soldiers from HMS St Mathew based at Creeksea Place during WW2 Suzanne has illustrations which bring this quiet church and village to life. Some of that history will be on display in November as we remember the events of 100 years ago, the actions of the Great War and their effect on the people of this nation and this village in particular. Do put Remembrance Weekend, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> November, in your diary, for another Open Church event.

## ***No Barriers***

**M**édecin Sans Frontières doesn't recognise barriers when it comes to helping victims of war and natural disaster; not in the countries in which it operates nor in the nationalities of its medical staff. Melanie Child is a British member of staff and she was booked to speak about MSF for our October Choral Evensong. But recently she sent the following e-mail:

*It seems such a while since I last emailed you. I hope you are well. Unfortunately, I will be unable to come and give my talk in October, as I have been asked to go to the Lebanon at the end of September for 6 weeks to do some voluntary work for the Maronite Missionary Fathers in their orphanage. It seems there are still children arriving from the war in Syria and elsewhere. I want very much to answer this call for help. I am very disappointed not to be able to come and give you my talk about my work with MSF, but I would still like to come.*

Melanie gave some alternative dates and is now coming on the 16<sup>th</sup> November – to the 10.15 Communion Service to speak about the work of the charity in the front line of the world's trouble spots. On reflection can there be a better time to think of serving those caught up in the world's violence and pain than a service of Holy Communion. Here as we remember the death of Jesus in his war-torn world under the yoke of a brutal empire and celebrate his resurrection – the triumph of good over evil – we remember his teaching – anything you do for one of the least of these my brethren, you do it as for me.

Please do come and hear Melanie speak about her involvement in MSF and its work in areas like Syria on the 16<sup>th</sup> November at the 10.15am service.

## **Christmas Tree Service**

**14<sup>TH</sup> December 10.15am**

The decorations are all in the box - waiting for us to dress the tree with all our old familiar Christmas Story friends.

Followed by a shortened Holy Communion

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, CREEKSEA**

## ***Sketches of life –***

**Commemoration 2014, 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

**N**OVEMBER is the season of remembrance, a time of mists and darkening days, when the ending of the year brings our thoughts back to the lightness and brightness of the summer days now gone. The Church uses this time to consider, on All Saints day, on the heroes of the Church, those men and women who gave so much of their time and energy and even their lives to spread the message of God's love through the world. They reflected in their lives the brightness of God's love, a love which holds all creation in its care, for eternity.

At All Souls we remember those other saints, the people who with love, and joy and laughter have left sketches of light and life in our memories. Each year as October turns into November there is a Service of Commemoration – a time to remember, reflect and rejoice in the memories of their love. At All Saints we celebrate our memories with music and readings, with sketches and images, drawing strength from the remembrance that all are held in the hollow of God's hand.

At the heart of this service is an opportunity to light candles in memory of our loved ones as the names of those remembered are read aloud into the quiet of the darkened church.

Over the years the Commemoration service has become to some a time of pilgrimage - back to the source of memories - to others it can be a time of reunion - and for still more it is simply a time and space to remember other times and places. Whatever the reasons that may bring you back into the warmth and peace of All Saints Church you will be joining many others - all held together in the common bonds of fond remembering, encompassed by the love of God.

*As the Celtic Prayer says:*

*As the rain hides the stars  
As the autumn mist hides the hills  
As the clouds veil the blue of the sky  
So the dark happenings of my lot*

*Hide the shining of Thy face from me.  
Yet if I may hold Thy hand in the darkness  
It is enough  
Since I know that,  
Though I may stumble in my going  
Thou dost not fall.*

## ***One hundred years ago – a New Diocese and a Great War***

**T**he new Diocese of Chelmsford was born as the nations of Europe began the downward descent into the madness of the Great War.

As might be expected the process of creating the new diocese had been protracted. At the beginning of the new century population changes, especially in the area of Essex which is now East London, was creating pressures on the existing Diocese of St Albans, of which Essex was part. So by 1905 the Church of England had devised a radical plan. The three large Diocese of St Albans, Ely and Norwich were to be reformed into five revised Sees, creating new Diocese in Essex and in Suffolk. The Diocese of Essex was to follow the county borders existing at that time. A bill was put before Parliament which in the normal course of events could have been expected to have a smooth passage through both Houses.

But the constitutional wrangling of the times saw interminable delays in Parliamentary business – so it was not until, at the extreme end of the Parliamentary session in 1913, that a General Enabling Bill, 'having received the consent of the House of Lords and His Most Gracious Majesty King George V, passed into Law on August 15<sup>th</sup>.'

The Diocese of Chelmsford came into being the following January. During the intervening years the Church had not been idle – several towns put forward submissions for Cathedral City status including Thaxted, Colchester and Saffron Waldon as well as Chelmsford – but when put to the people of the diocese, the over-whelming choice was Chelmsford.

The First Bishop of Chelmsford, Dr Watts-

Cathedral in February 1914 and was enthroned 'in the Church at Chelmsford, now to be known as the Cathedral, on Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>.' Within a few short months the country was at war.

From all round the Essex countryside young men enlisted, responding to the call of the recruiting sergeants. The sons of the Essex towns and villages marched away to fight the war to end all wars, leaving their villages sadly empty and their loved ones bereft. It was in this upheaval the new Bishop in his new Diocese had to minister.

## Remembrance Weekend

**1** 00 years later at All Saints' Creeksea, we are remembering the beginning of the Great War and the dawn of the new Diocese of Chelmsford, in a special Remembrance Weekend on the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> November. The Church will be open during the weekend for visitors to examine the exhibits and displays.

Already Suzanne Thacker is collecting and collating family histories about the World War I, provided by members of the congregation. These will be on display and may provide part of the Remembrance Service on the Sunday evening at 6.00pm.

With the help of Elmwood Stables Pony Club there will be a special Altar Frontal created with artistic and craft representations of the war on show at the weekend.

A collection of rare WWI postcards belonging to the Watson Family will be on view – on the big screen at All Saints and in protective displays.

Film Club will be showing the film War Horse in the early evening of Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>.

And around the church there will be a variety of displays of local war-time history.

The weekend will conclude with the annual service of Remembrance with an opportunity for the whole congregation to voice their grateful thanks and light candles in memory of those who sacrificed their lives in the Great War.

More details will be available on the Pew Sheets and the website in the coming weeks. For updates on this project please check on [www.allsaintscreeksea.org.uk](http://www.allsaintscreeksea.org.uk)

This feature is for recollections of the local past

*...do you remember...?*

## The Burnham & Dengie Hundred Advertiser

**A**s a lad of 14, way back in 1960, I was in the position of leaving school or staying on until Christmas, this came about because my 15<sup>th</sup> birthday was in early September, which created the choice to leave or stay. I had been given the opportunity to begin as an apprentice at the local printers, in Station Road, Burnham, Dilliway and Co., whom printed a weekly Newspaper "The Burnham and Dengie Hundred Advertiser".

So in the July of that year I became a Printers Devil (*an apprentice*), thus beginning a long and hard six years of training to be a qualified journeyman. My jobs at the start varied from sweeping and cleaning the workplace, but foremost to learning the "Case" - a Case was in the shape of a large wooden draw with 42 different compartments some small, some large to take the individual font/type characters. The a<sup>s</sup>, e<sup>s</sup>, o<sup>s</sup>, u<sup>s</sup>, t<sup>s</sup>, h<sup>s</sup> and s<sup>s</sup> would go in the biggest compartments as these were most frequently used and the lesser used characters in smaller, least used would be in the smallest, along with full points, comers', accents, etc., etc., this was a universal layout from the early 1800's and recognised throughout the world. Mastering this was a priority as until you knew your case blindfolded you could not begin to set type (*create words in lines*) or your journey to becoming a compositor.

The Advertiser or the Local Rag as it was more commonly known, had George Clarke as the paper's editor/reporter and a staff of five; Bert Blunden, Roger Thacker, Brian Wainwright and Miss Heathcote (*a short petite lady in her late fifties, and a very strict Baptist, we all had to mind our P's and Q's in her presence*), plus me. I can never remember her Christian name as we always called her Miss Heathcote and George as Mr. Clarke! Being joined 18 months later by John Bray, on his return from National Service.

As time passed by, I progressed from setting articles for the paper to reporting small events; fetes, sailing club reports, dinner and dances and also the Burnham scouting column - I was "Bare Knees III" - all the heavy reporting was the domain of George, AGM's, the council reports, funerals and a like. Gradually I moved on, as all the apprentices had to, by setting letter headings, invitation cards, raffle tickets, flower show programmes, in fact you name it I set it up in type ready for printing. Shortly after starting my third year, I was given the opportunity to operate the jobbing press, a hand fed paper printing machine, this was a big step for any apprentice. Not everybody took on this operation, as the machinery was old and temperamental, which needed patience and a small degree of magic. I was a little apprehensive, but stuck with the challenge and after a time mastered the monster. Now being known as jobbing printer.

Before long I was sharing the printing operation of the 'Rag' on the big 1887 Wharfedale newspaper press with Bert Blunden - I thought that the small press was a challenge, but this was something else!! We printed the inside pages always on a Thursday evening, on Friday morning the front and back pages went to press (*this to allow the ink to dry, also there was an opportunity for late news to be included on Friday*). Then it was all hands to get the papers folded, this is where I came into my own, out with the trade bike - two parcels for the station to catch to 10.50am train, papers for Southminster and the Dengie Hundred, puffing my way up the Station Road hill, "*Oh Happy Days*", then back to the Post office, it was in those days opposite the clock tower - papers for the mail, all for 2 tuppence a copy. As the years past and my apprenticeship was almost complete I became acquainted with Sidney (Bay) Read who was the proprietor of the other printing office in Burnham, The Crouch Press, who himself had served his apprenticeship at Dilliways. He left to work at The Anchor Press, in Tiptree, then the second largest book printers in the country, before returning to Burnham to start his own printers. On receiving my indentures at the end

of my term, Sid with his connections secured me a placement at the Anchor. Because of my experience as an all-round printer after six months at Tiptree, the Anchor Press offered me a scholarship, to take my degree in print technology, sponsored by them and the NGA Union for a two year course, for which I was very thankful.

*But this is another story for another day.*

There is a reason for me rambling on about print - William Caxton and the immensity that the discovery and development of the printing press has made to spread the Word of God to every corner of this Earth. From having the scriptures written by scribes in pen and ink on parchment, with much ornate beauty and skill, to being able re-create the 'Word' by means of print on paper albeit a slow process in the beginning, that in time enable the bible to be published in ever increasing volume. I am sure that God put his hand on William to help him realise his world changing creation. Peter Cook

## ***Churches Together – Carols and Crib***

**I**magine a life-sized Christmas Crib. Mary and Joseph, the baby Jesus and Shepherds sheep – all in the High Street in Burnham – and where should this Crib be sighted – why under the sign of the Star [Inn] of course.

Churches Together in Burnham are uniting in this terrific new venture at the annual Festive Fayre. Already life-sized models have been discovered – three Kings have volunteered their services – wandering round the fayre, looking for their special gifts and asking directions to the New Born King and there is talk of half a shed being acquired [keep an eye on your back gardens by the sound of it!] there is even a rumour of live sheep – watch this space!

But there is method in the CTB madness – during the Fayre we'll be handing out paper carrier bags containing a Christmas story book, a nativity craft, and information about the churches and their service, especially the Christmas services. It's a big venture and will incur costs – but CTB believe that it is vitally important to reach out to people

with the real story of Christmas and help them share in the wonder of the Christmas Story. Christmas events – lighting the town's Christmas Lights and singing Carols round the Tree have been a feature of the Burnham Churches working together for many years. For the last three years this has taken during the Festive Fayre, among the busyness of the stalls and the bustle of the shoppers. This year the lights are to be switched on earlier – on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December – the night before the Fayre

begins. Churches together will organise music and words as usual and hope that everyone will support them on this happy occasion. It will help put the festivities of the next day into context and free us all to help with the Crib on Saturday. If you can help for an hour – handing out the bags at the stall – please do put your name on the list that will be in church from the beginning of November. If you are a 'whizz' with costumes – then do come forward to help dress up our models for the occasion.

### Services and Events in October

| Date   | Time    | Service  |
|--|---------|--|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> October/Trinity 16                 | 8.30am  | Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>  |
|  | 10.15am | Sunday Worship Holy Communion  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> October—Monday                     | 7.30pm  | Film Club—Ladies in Lavender   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> October/Trinity 17                | 8.30am  | Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>  |
|  | 10.15am | Sunday Worship Family Service followed by a shortened Holy Communion |
|  | 8.30am  | Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>  |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> October/Trinity 18                | 10.15am | Sunday Worship Holy Communion  |
|  | 8.30am  | Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> October/Last Sunday after Trinity | 10.15am | Play and Praise  |
|  | 6.00pm  | Choral Evensong for Bible Sunday                                     |

### Services and Events in November

| Date   | Time    | Service  |
|--|---------|--|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> November                                   | 8.30am  | Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>  |
| All Saints Day   | 10.15am | Sunday Worship Family Service followed by shortened Holy Communion         |
|  | 6.00pm  | Commemoration Service  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Weekend               | 10.00am | Open Church with The Great War Displays                                    |
|  | -5.00pm |  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Sunday                | 5.30pm  | Film Club—Warhorse   |
|  | 8.30am  | Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>  |
|  | 10.00am | Churches Together in Burnham Baptist Church Service for Remembrance Sunday |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> November/Second Sunday before Advent      | 6.00pm  | All Saints Remembrance Service   |
|  | 8.30am  | Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> November Christ the King                  | 10.15am | Sunday Worship Holy Communion  |
|  | 8.30am  | Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> November Advent 1/ <i>St Andrew's Day</i> | 10.15am | Play & Praise  |
|  | 6.00pm  | Choral Evensong  |
|  | 8.30am  | Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>  |
|  | 10.15am | Sunday Worship Holy Communion  |

### Services and Events in December

| Date                               | Time    | Service   |
|------------------------------------|---------|---|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> December/Advent 2  | 8.30am  | Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>   |
|                                    | 10.15am | Sunday Worship  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> December/Friday   | 7.00pm  | Inner Wheel Carol Service   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> December/Advent 3 | 8.30am  | Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>   |
|                                    | 10.15am | Christmas Tree Service followed by shortened Holy Communion         |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> December/Advent 4 | 8.30am  | Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>   |
|                                    | 10.15am | Play & Praise Crib Service  |
|                                    | 6.00pm  | Service of Nine Lessons and Carols                                  |
| Christmas Eve                      | 11.15pm | Midnight Service – First Communion of Christmas                     |
| Christmas Day                      | 8.30am  | Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>   |
|                                    | 10.15am | Sunday Worship Christmas Story Time followed by shortened Communion |
| First Sunday of Christmas          | 8.30am  | Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>   |