



Baddow Life

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The Life of Great Baddow

www.baddowlife.org.uk

Spring 2005

Issue 7

'THE SURGERY' TO RELOCATE

New Beginnings

by Irene Duke

Spring!!!

Doesn't the word alone make you feel better? After all the gloom of dark winter days, we can look forward to brighter, sunnier times – hopefully!

Lambs will soon be gambolling in the fields; bulbs pushing upwards in our gardens; trees bursting into leaf

– who wouldn't feel uplifted?

Of course, there's always a downside: paintwork begins to look a bit dowdy; curtains will need to be washed; lawns to be mowed, but who cares – the sun will soon be shining and the days grow longer – winter will soon be but a memory.

New clothes will be tempting us in the shops; new places beckon us on holiday. That's what it's all about, isn't it – renewal? Oh yes, let's not forget Easter – it falls on 27th March this year. Now that's a real time of uplift for you. Three days of utter darkness when the Saviour of our world lay in his tomb, then – bingo! Light, hope, a sudden surge of joy in the hearts of his followers. After the darkness comes light, after despair, hope. What a promise!

Enjoy your Easter break.

After several years of planning, "The Surgery" in Great Baddow High Street is to move.

Dr Russell & Partners have been at their present location for many years, but as far back as the year 2000, there has been a desperate need for expansion. With the realisation of the need for bigger premises, work started early this year for relocation to Longmead Avenue; cranes and pile drivers have been a common sight from the main roads.

"This is the culmination of many years work and frustration as we identified that we needed extra space and facilities to offer extended and expanded services to our 10,000 plus patients," states Sue Finch the Practice Manager. "As the existing site had very limited room for expansion, we decided to approach a development company, Ashley House, who have experi-



The "Surgery" in Great Baddow—photo by James Millham

ence in building new surgery facilities, to identify and pursue any sites available within the locality." Longmead Avenue was recognised as the most appropriate location,

and it has taken four years to arrive at the point when they could start to build.

(Continued on page 8)

New Youth Minister for Meadgate by Peter Kirk

Meadgate Church appointed Mark Pettitt as Youth Minister, starting in September 2004. Mark, 23, was born and brought up in Zimbabwe.

He spent two years in South Africa in practical training for Christian youth work with Baptist Youth of South Africa. Meanwhile his fam-

ily fled the chaos in Zimbabwe and came to Essex. Mark followed them in 2002 and settled at first in Witham and now in Great Baddow.

Mark is in charge of Meadgate Church's work with young people aged 6 to 18. He leads the Junior Church on Sunday mornings and is one of the leaders of the church youth group FUSE. But his main focus is on the children and youth of the Meadgate area. He is joint leader of the "Six Pack" and "Victory Warriors" clubs, and is starting to take school assemblies. One of his main aims is to build bridges with the young people who hang around the Meadgate shops and other such areas and to help them to be not a problem but useful members of the community.

Read about Mark's adventure to South America with sixty young people on page 4



Mark Pettitt, Meadgate Church's new Youth Minister—photo by Mike Fisher

Looking for a Nursery School?

Woodcroft Nursery School



Invite you to an
Open Evening on
Wednesday 23rd March

- Call in any time between 7:00 and 9:00 PM
- An opportunity to have fun as you experience and talk about some of the activities the children take part in at nursery
- Enjoy an informal talk about the learning behind play

Dorset Avenue,
Great Baddow,
Chelmsford,
Essex. CM2 9UB

Headteacher: Mrs J. Sullivan
Tel: Chelmsford (01245) 473222



Essex County Council

Affordable Housing

What is Affordable Housing? by Peter Kirk

Affordable housing is defined as "housing within the financial reach of people unable to enter the private housing market". There is a serious problem in the Chelmsford area, as elsewhere in the South East, that property prices and rents are so high that many ordinary people simply cannot afford to buy a home or even to rent one on the open market. In recent years the problem has become serious enough that key professionals such as teachers and nurses have moved away from the region, leaving significant shortages.

The basic problem is not a new one. In the 1950's and 1960's it was solved by building large council estates and subsidising rents. Large

parts of these estates were sold to tenants in the 1980's. The task of providing affordable social housing was then gradually taken over by housing associations. For example, in the early 1990's the Guinness Trust built about 80 houses and flats off Park View Crescent in Great Baddow. These housing associations are funded each year in England with about £1 billion of government money and £2 billion of private sector loans. This money enables them to build new homes to let at affordable rents. Housing associations have also taken over remaining council housing: in 2002 the remaining 7000 council homes in the Chelmsford Borough, including four estates in Great Baddow,

were transferred to the Chelmer Housing Partnership.

In recent years planners have moved away from building separate estates of social housing, which tend to concentrate and aggravate social problems. Instead they prefer to integrate communities by scattering affordable housing within private sector developments. The planning system can be used to oblige private sector developers to partner with housing associations so that a certain proportion of a development is affordable housing. For example, Barratt Homes partnered with the Shaftesbury Housing Association to provide 22 affordable homes for rent on the former Isolation Hospital site in

Baddow Road, now Goodwin Close and Bawden Way.

This affordable housing is in no way inferior in quality or size to regular housing of the same type – indeed this has been true ever since the 1960's council estates. The difference is only in where the funding comes from and who is allowed to live there.

Chelmsford Borough Council, in its 2004-2007 Housing Strategy report, acknowledges a need for over 1000 new affordable homes per year, but recognises that it cannot meet this need. Its strategy is to provide only 150 of those homes. This will be done by requiring 35% of all new developments of 15 dwellings or more to be affordable housing. Most of these homes will be for rent to those in need from the Council's Housing Register.

But 10% of all homes will be "intermediate" housing for key workers such as teachers and nurses. For example, government money has helped six key public sector workers to obtain homes in the new development in West Hanningfield Road, Great Baddow through shared ownership schemes.

The government has recently announced a major initiative "Sustainable Communities: Homes for All". This includes extending shared ownership and right to buy schemes. But such schemes cannot solve the problem unless sufficient new homes are built. Yet our council's strategy is to build only a small proportion of what is needed, and even these developments lead to public outcries.

Provision of affordable housing is not just charity,

but a necessity for a sustainable community. If we want adequate schools, police, health services, council services, we need homes for workers in these sectors. We already have a hospital ward closed because staff cannot be found. If shop workers cannot afford to live in the area, our shops will be forced to close, or charge exorbitant prices. We need to make sure that these homes are provided in suitable places, and that there is adequate infrastructure to support them. It would be sad to see development of areas like Manor Farm, off Maldon Road, but what is the alternative – apart from shifting this into someone else's back yard? Failing to meet these housing needs is something none of us can afford.

The Rise of Great Baddow Today

From the mid-1970's until the late 1990's there was rather little new housing development in Great Baddow. There were some small developments off Vicarage Lane and Craiston Way, and the old prefabs in Maltings Road were replaced by flats. There were also some welcome old people's properties. But in the last few years there has been a massive increase in the pace of development, and this looks set to continue or even accelerate. Currently more than 300 homes are under construction, and nearly 200 more have received at least outline planning permission. And developers are now paying £1.8 million per acre for new sites.

Here is a summary of what has been built and what is being proposed – not including developments of 1-2 houses. These are numbered as on the map.

◆ Developments completed since about 2000:

1. Apple Way, off Beehive Lane: 16 houses on former Hampton House grounds.
2. Bawden Way, off Waterson Vale: 29 homes on former Isolation Hospital site.
3. Bramley Place, off Dorset Avenue: 9 houses on former Beehive Lane gardens.
4. Goodwin Close, off Waterson Vale: 56 homes on former Isolation Hospital site.
5. Hanlee Brook, off Pertwee Drive: 8 houses on former Vicarage Lane gardens.
6. Isaac Square, off Newport Close: 46 houses on former Sandon School playing field.
7. St. Mary's Close: 5 luxury houses replacing 1 house between Galleywood Rd and St. Mary's Close.
8. Vicarage Mews, off The Spires, Vicarage Lane: 5 houses on former vicarage garden.
9. Woodstock Place, off Craiston Way: 3 houses on former Galleywood Road gardens.

◆ Developments in progress

10. Beehive Lane: 4 homes behind 1-13 Beehive Lane.
11. Beehive Lane: 6 flats at 103-105 Beehive Lane.
12. Church Street: 4 houses at 18 Church Street.
13. Craiston Way: 5 houses on former Galleywood Road gardens.
14. Harberd Tye, off Beehive Lane: 135 homes on Eastern Electricity site.
15. West Hanningfield Road: 78 houses and flats on former Marconi/BAE Systems car park.

16. Cundell's Field, off Maldon Rd: 86 houses and flats on former playing field and waste tip.

◆ Approved developments

17. Harberd Tye, off Beehive Lane: 24 flats on Essex County Council Highways Depot site.
18. Baddow Road: 3 homes on site of 180 Baddow Road.
19. ESTRIC field, off Galleywood Rd: 113 homes, incl. 90 for old people, on former playing field.

20. Beehive Lane: residential development on Essex Trading Standards site.

21. Willowmead Centre, Molrams Lane: residential redevelopment.

◆ Proposed developments

22. Baddow Road: 11 homes on site of 180 Baddow Road.
23. Chelwater, Baddow Road: about 30 homes

on Chelmsford Borough Council depot and former Meadgate Avenue garage site.

24. Longmead Avenue: 9 houses on former Roman Catholic church site, and a medical centre already under construction.

25. Marrable House, near the Vineyards: office block to be replaced by housing.

26. MASC field, off Beehive Lane: large housing development on current playing field.

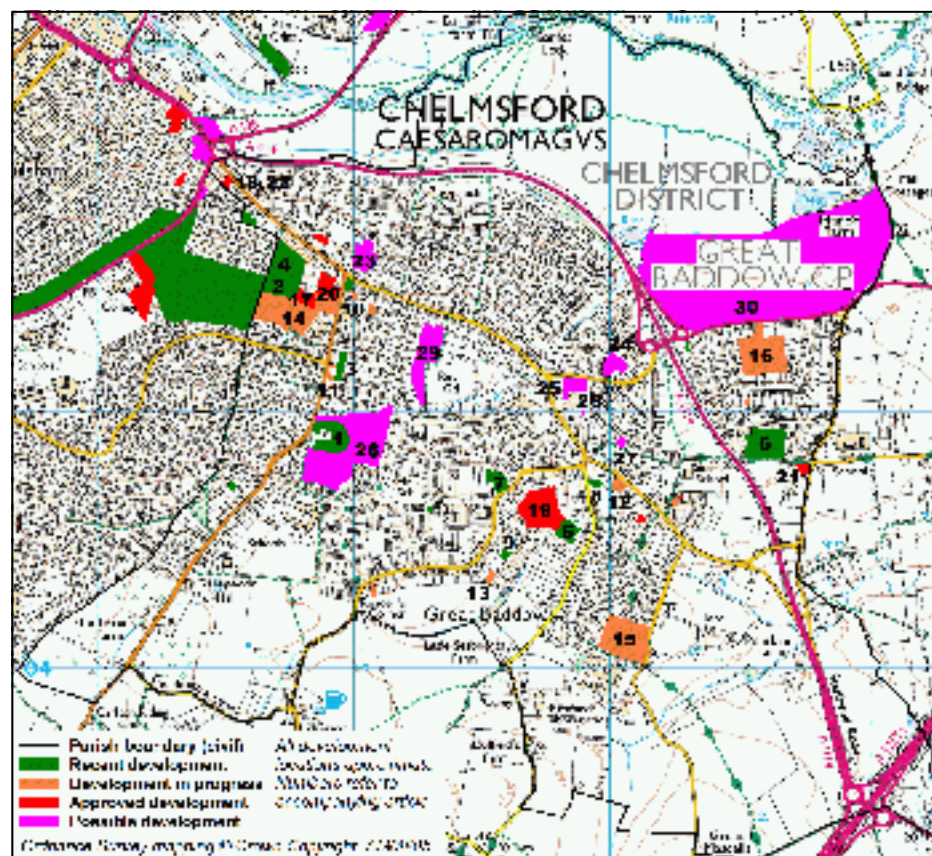
27. New Road: development of former Jackson's nursery.

28. The Causeway: high density housing on edge of Vineyards car parks.

◆ Threatened developments

29. Chelmerton Avenue: homes on Chelmerton Avenue gardens.

30. Manor Farm, off Maldon Rd: gravel extraction may be followed by housing development.



Open Spaces by June Davidson

In the 50's, following the Second World War, accommodation for the many who had lost their homes had to be built both quickly and with as many homes as possible, and so the high-rise flats were built in London. These certainly housed people, but the toll on family life was great. Families on the upper floors were tied to their flats, lifts were often out of order, children had nowhere to play and mothers were totally stressed out.

You would have thought that in the 50 years that followed we would have learned a few lessons, but no – in the 21st Century we are still building dwellings that in my view will cause the post modern idea of stressful living.

Have you noticed the new style of housing? I'm sure you have. "Lets pack as many houses, flats etc., into the smallest amount of ground" seems to be the planning for our times. No gardens; everywhere concreted over either for convenience or limited space; communal gardens good for the washing lines; or "shall we sell off part of our garden for yet another house to be built".

What sort of investment are we leaving for the families of the future? If you have had a family and have been fortunate enough to have a garden, what a joy it is for the children to just get out into the fresh air, kick a ball around, have a game of badminton, hoping not to get the shuttlecock over into the next doors garden, just having fun. How can children do this when they do not have space, or have a flat with a balcony several floors up?

Not only are we cutting down on space for gardens, there is also building on sports fields, school playing fields, in fact, anywhere where our children can "let off steam", even when you see a little green patch or a space for playing there is a notice "No ball games".

I can remember the days when you could "play in the street", having fun – yes, maybe being a bit of a nuisance, but were people more tolerant years ago? Certainly there wasn't so much traffic to make life hazardous. We do seem to want it every way now – expensive homes with little free space, small or no gardens, houses packed in on every spare piece of ground, children's playgrounds vandalised or most of the elements taken away as they are not considered safe. Just where do our children socialise with friends, have fun in a safe environment, move away from computers and other electronic games?

In 50 years time will the older generation be saying – whatever were they thinking about in 2005 building houses so unsuitable for families?

Development

The Effects of Unaffordable Housing by Mones Farah

Affordable housing for those on the Council's Housing Register and for key workers is the only need that is discussed when any talk about affordable housing takes place. Yet the problem is so much greater than this, as it affects most of our young people. School and college leavers in normal ordinary humdrum professions make up the bulk of the young in society, and it is these who find it difficult getting a foothold on the property ladder.

House prices are way beyond their reach; they need a huge deposit to put down before the mortgage lenders begin to consider whether or not they will give them a mortgage. In addition, a couple or an individual still need a total income of £18,000 before they will be given a large enough mortgage to purchase a property. (This is assuming the starting price is £102,000 for a one bedroom flat – the cheapest for sale in Baddow as of the beginning of February 2005 – and the prices are still rising).

The effect of this is so detrimental on the whole of society, as it brings greater and greater pressure on young couples and individuals. There is an increasing need to work more and more hours; this in turn leads to stress and pressure, which has dire consequences on families and health. In addition, it also leads to a neglect of social responsibility and integration into the wider society, thereby fragment-

ing neighbourhoods and communities.

Of course, they can join the council register for accommodation, but with current planning stipulation on the percentage of affordable housing, it will be extremely difficult for any council here in the Southeast to be able to manage their register and the waiting list. This will only be a smoke screen.

The government's main policies for housing are to blame; the planning authorities themselves are to blame, as they seem to be on the side of the large developers. The new policies see the developers as part of the answer to provide for the community's needs. I do not think we should confuse developers with providers of community services; this is the arena of the local and national government structures and committees.

I am always so amazed by the number of people who make derogatory comments when any planning application is passed. They often seem to suggest that it is more about whom the applicant knows, rather than what they know or what the merits are of their application. If this suggestion is correct (and I very much doubt that it is) then we need to make sure that those whom we elect are elected for their desire to serve the community, for their integrity, and for a proven track record of consistency of putting the welfare of the community before

their party's or their own.

The combination of the developer's efforts and the politicians response and support of some application have had the disastrous effect of pushing up the price of land to almost obscene amounts. This will prevent small, more conscious, community based investors from entering the market, leaving the arena for the major developers, whose main interest is for a quick and high return for their investment.

This is unsustainable, as it has the effect of raising the cost of living higher and higher. And are we (home owners) all involved with this, because of the mistaken notion of thinking that it will benefit us personally?

One possible solution is that when the council is selling any public owned land, that land should be partitioned into smaller building plots. This will make it possible for private individuals/couples who are first time buyers to place an offer that is realistic and affordable.

Other solutions might also be possible, but for these solutions to be found, a new look at the underlying capitalist free market principles of society is needed. A re-channelling of values is needed, from notions of individualistic prosperity to accepting that any lasting prosperity is dependent on the prosperity of the community as a whole.

The Rise of Great Baddow

The Peculiar People by Eddie Curties

In the latter half of the nineteenth century, one might have been intrigued by the dress of the group of people using the buildings either side of Russell's Yard. This yard still leads to an old barn, built in the late 1400s and now converted into Russell's Restaurant. These people wore severe clothes with the women in Quaker-like dress and black bonnets. They would be going to their chapel, now Bell Street Hall, and were a religious sect unique to Essex and the North London region.

The religious denomination was originally called the "Peculiar People" (peculiar meaning "Chosen Ones"). James Banyard (1800-1863) started the group in Essex in the 1850s. He was a disreputable character being convicted of stealing; he was almost certainly a smuggler; and was a habitual drunkard. After a particularly bad period, he repented, joined the church and became an extreme Wesleyan and a respected and dynamic speaker in his church.

After hearing a stirring sermon in London in 1853, he caused a split in his congregation and he, and his followers, left and moved to a separate chapel. Later he was to become their 'Bishop'.

In London this sect was called Plumstead Peculiar and like their Essex brothers had no paid ministry and services not dissimilar to those of many Pentecostal churches of today. They believed that no doctors should be used even during serious illnesses and became famous, some may say infamous, for their practice of faith healing. The women in the sect were called sisters after conversion.

Certainly Banyard preached that praying over one who was ill should be all that was necessary. However, one of Banyard's children became ill and when it became obvious that he was dying, Banyard called a doctor who cured him. Banyard then modified his original belief of curing all ills by prayer alone, to using medicine to supplement prayer. This caused a schism and his rejection as the Bishop of the Peculiar People. Banyard died in 1863 of a poisoned foot. Later the death of children, when faith healing failed, caused a split in the sect and the majority of the sect to follow Banyard's modified way.

By 1885, the congregations had dropped until there was barely 100 Peculiar People. However, a new Bishop, a Bishop Harrod – a most revered preacher – caused the numbers to rise. They held a special meeting to celebrate his 50th year of his conversion and nearly two thousand turned up.

The belief in divine healing was always a problem with the Peculiar People. Early in 1848 the first peculiar child died at Prittlewell causing trouble in the district. As late as 1907, a Mr Whale was convicted and gaoled for two months for letting his son die when medical help could probably have saved him. The villagers and authorities viewed this with some alarm, but a number of successful cases of apparent divine healing muted arguments, although the Essex Chronicle continued to report several cases of failures. During the wars many became conscientious objectors and were gaoled, others served with distinction in medical corps. Most of their appeal was to the rural working man and the lower class in the towns. With Great Baddow being relatively affluent, this made the creation of such a chapel in the village unusual.



Bell Street Hall as it is today—photo by James Millham

The Real Pests

by Matthew Curties

While, coincidentally, discussing housing development at a local meeting, I got a call from my wife to say that a fox had killed our pet duck. By the time I got home, she was beside herself with grief.

Two weeks earlier, we had had two ducks. Then one evening we found one injured in the front garden, the other was no-where to be found, and the fox was on the prowl.

My wife nursed the survivor back to health, and when it was strong enough, she put him outside in our shed. However, two days after that, the fox found its way in and killed him.

Although I never considered myself excessively fond of him, to my wife our duck was a treasured pet. She felt angry and incredibly upset about what had happened; I felt incredibly angry at seeing her grief. How dare this fox come and take away something that my loved one cared about, and cause her so much pain. My anger towards this 'pest' cut deep.

When my wife saw how angry I was and where it was directed, her own anger melted. In the heat of her own anguish, she was able to show to me something I could not see for myself, and it led me on a trip of realisation.

First of all - as she so rightly explained - the fox was not to blame. It was only doing what came naturally, whether we liked it or not. It hunts for food in the areas where it knows

there is the most plentiful supply.

So why is there this plentiful supply in the towns and villages? The answer is because people are messy!

As a society, we do not take adequate care with our rubbish. We leave bags of enticing morsels littered about the place so that any animal - whether it is a domestic cat or a wild fox - can have a reasonable diet on our leftovers. If we were more careful and considerate, there would be no food lying around for the unwanted wild animals; they would be forced back into the countryside to find food there.

And it's getting worse! We, as a society, are becoming less careful - therefore encouraging more animals in, because of the plentiful supply of 'waste' food lying about.

Also, we are building more houses in the areas that the true wild animals inhabit. This has the effect of either killing them off or driving them into the only areas left: the towns and villages.

Although the argument may be a little more complicated than this, the conclusion seems obvious: we need to look carefully at the way we leave rubbish about, and also at our building developments and allow the open areas—the countryside—to thrive as they should. If we don't, we will inevitably be overrun with those wild animals, that have not died out, but who have been forced out of their natural environment into ours.

We may consider foxes to be pests, but if we look at it through their eyes, I wonder who we would consider to be the real pests.

Maths Week 2005 At Meadgate Primary School



Children at Meadgate took part recently in a highly successful Maths Week. Many activities took place, all designed to increase the children's understanding of mathematics. There were challenges to solve and a Maths Trail to complete. All classes used their mathematical skills in a

variety of subjects with many having the opportunity to do some cooking. There were competitions and a 'Mathematical' assembly each day. Mrs Pope the Mathematics Co-ordinator said, "It was wonderful to see the children so enthusiastic about maths."

Larkrise Playground Gets 'Ground Force' Makeover



A group of committed parents have got an ambitious redevelopment programme off to a great start by building the ubiquitous deck around the playground's imposing Norway maple tree. Soil erosion had left lots of roots dangerously exposed and these created a significant trip hazard for young children. Sadly, this left the tree cordoned off for much of last year. Now the area is open again and the decking gives the children a place to relax and socialise at playtimes as well as covering the

offended roots. It is sometimes used as a stage for drama and role-play and will become a cool shaded place to work in high summer. Six-year-old Jack Bailey says, "It's made of nice wood and it's much better now because you can go on it and do stuff like play games. And, if you've got work, your teacher says you can do it on the decking." The decking is the first step in a long-term redevelopment of the infant playground but stands as a testament to the goodwill and commitment of the Larkrise community.

Don't be Switched Off be ... 'Switched On!'

by
Kate
Gowen

I left St Michael's C of E Junior School at the end of a busy year, with the heavenly thought of putting my feet up for the few remaining weeks before the birth of my first baby. As I grew larger and more immobile every day, I found I had more time to contemplate the future and what life might be like in a few months time.

One of my thoughts was how we might get to church on Sunday mornings with a baby in tow. I tried to imagine what it would be like in the morning service with a screaming baby complete with essential clutter including off road buggy and rucksack overflowing with nappies, bottles and wet wipes - this was the stuff of nightmares!

I wondered how many other mums in my situation felt like this? Did they see a future full of missing half the service due to feeding, changing the baby or trying to keep it quiet, resulting in headaches and a decidedly non-spiritual experience?

What might be a solution, I pondered from my sofa? An idea began to form.

A few conversations, friends and glasses of wine later, came 'Switched On!' The rector was on board and we had the go ahead. A half hour fortnightly service aimed at 0-5 year olds and their parents was born, to include action songs, percussion instruments, bible stories, short prayers, orange juice and biscuits.

On the first 'Switched On!' Tuesday, we waited in trepidation for our first sign of the under 5's, and to our joy and encouragement they came. There was much excitement and noise for the next half an hour and much exhaustion when they had gone! Maybe they'd made their first tentative steps towards discovering God's love? Certainly the prayers and support of the congregation made a big difference and were very much appreciated.

Why don't you come along to St Mary's, Gt Baddow, (the next one is Tuesday 29th March at 3.30-4.00pm). We'd love to see you and maybe you too could be Switched On!



Kate (left), with helper Joanne

West Runton Holidays

by
Stephen
Finch

WEST RUNTON HOLIDAYS offer a range of activity-based holidays for young people. The first one was started in 1919 and was based at the West Runton Campsite in Norfolk (hence the name!), from where they still operate today. The purpose of these is to provide excellent breaks and to share the gospel.

The holiday for the youngest age group (9 to 13 year olds) is *Dolphin Camp*, which is based at West Runton, and activities offered include cycling, karting, horse riding and much more. I have been four years and thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere, the variety of activities, and making new friends.

There is more choice of holidays for the next age group (13 to 15 year olds) including *Kart Camps* in Norfolk and *Wye* in the Forest of Dean, which offer gorge walking, caving, climbing, pony trekking, mountain biking and hill walking. For those who like it cold, there is also *Ski Runton*, which is the only holiday to operate in the Easter break. It is based in Switzerland and suitable for all levels of skiers, from complete novice to advanced standard.

For the 14 to 17 year olds, there is *Sail and Surf* and *Lakeland Challenge* in the Lake District, which offers challenging options for gorge walking, canoeing, rock climbing and mountain biking.

For the 16 to 20 year olds, there is opportunity to learn leadership skills and work with the National Trust at *Basecamp*, also in the Lake District. A new holiday recently introduced, *Surf Romania*, is to run a holiday for Romanian children aged 10 to 14.

Graham Woodward, the leader of one of the *Kart Camps* and a ski instructor with *Ski Runton*, who has also been a

camper at *Dolphin*, said that, "These camps are great fun to be at. It gives opportunity to make new friends and meet old friends and to explore the Christian faith in a relevant way."

If you would like to find out more about any of these holidays or receive a brochure, please contact Glenn or Sue Finch on 01245 473143.

The Real Adventure

as told by
Mark Petitt

South Africa. Away from home. Away from family. Away from friends. On an adventure!

Little did I know that I would find many 'homes away from home'. I would meet people I would call family. I would make many new friends. And the adventure would be harder, more demanding, more exhilarating, more painful, more rewarding and would impact my life more than I had ever imagined!

The idea was this:

Sixty young people aged between eighteen and twenty-seven on one campsite for three months training in music, drama, the arts, sports, clowning and theological studies.

After three months of training we left the campsite in teams of eight to eighteen and travelled the length and breadth of South Africa, being hosted by different churches. We stayed for periods of one or two weeks in the area and in that time we went into primary schools, high schools, old age homes, orphanages, aids

homes and prisons. We went in with the idea of sharing the good news of Christ and bringing hope to the hopeless and showing love to the unloved.

There were three main teams; one did the arts (dance, drama and singing), one concentrated on sports and one did both. In my first year I was on the team that did both sports and arts based ministry, although I was in the half that specialised in the arts and music.

At the end of the year I was asked to return the following year and assist in

leading a team of seven people, with the task of incorporating and overseeing music, dance and drama into a once primarily sports focused team. I accepted the calling and returned the following year for more adventures.

My second year was even more stressful, heartbreaking, difficult, rewarding and satisfying than the first. A major reason being that the team was half the size of all the other teams and yet being required to do almost everything the other teams did. But my team members were fantastic, God

was strong enough and it turned out to be a truly fantastic and life-changing year.

One other major thing happened during that year. My family left Zimbabwe and moved to England!

So at the end of my second year in South Africa, I went back to Zimbabwe and stayed with some friends for a couple of months until I was able to follow my family over to the UK... and the start of a new adventure!

Mark continues his story in the next issue.



Help for 11 Plus on the Net

Charlie had a dream to go to Grammar school when he finished his final year at Baddow Hall so mum Jo, and step dad Tim, were pressed into service. They soon became increasingly frustrated by the lack of information available.

They realised that competition was fierce for the coveted selective school places but not much help was available. The Local

Education Authority and Consortium of Selective Schools were able to provide lists of schools and information on 11+ test formats but most parents were generally left to their own devices as far as preparation was concerned.

Following Tim's research, his company VBPro Ltd, in collaboration with experienced 11+ tutors, set up a support website to

give advice, downloads and are the first website to offer "11+ online interactive testing".

Charlie, an avid computer user, was drafted in to ensure that the site had kid appeal and spent many hours searching and researching for information on the web. When the site was completed Charlie set about taking the tests on line (all 20 of them!) to ensure they were correct and to give the thumbs up.

Instead of being glued to their

computers playing games, children can now test their knowledge in readiness for the 11+ exam, in 4 subjects: English, Mathematics, Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning, at any time of the day that suits them. The timed tests are marked interactively, so parents don't need to spend hours marking and the computer tracks their progress, issuing a report on results over a given period of time. The papers can also be downloaded and printed as required. As they

say, practice makes perfect and confidence levels get a great boost when you can see the progress you are making as the exam draws ever nearer.

Incidentally, Charlie passed his 11+ exam and won a place at Westcliff High School for Boys, where he started in Septem-

ber. He says good luck to everyone sitting the exam this year.



POWERHOUSE



Powerhouse is a worship-based children's group that aims to introduce children to God through worship and fun activities. Hannah's artwork (left) and Ashlie's information (below) explain quite well what they get up to. Everything that is done is directly linked to the church Bible readings for that Sunday. The groups also have their own morning service four times a year called "Powerhouse Praise", aimed specifically at children and their families.

The groups are:

Mini Amps

for 0—3 year olds

Bright Sparks

for 3—5 year olds

Live Wires

for 5—7 year olds

Cool Connections

for 7—11 year olds

If you would like to find out more information about Powerhouse, St Mary's Church Office would be happy to provide you with more details on 01245 477501

In Power house we do interesting games and sing songs and read story. We listen.

Theatre At Baddow

Few things are more satisfying for a theatre group than to have a full house, which is what we had for our Saturday night performance of 'Strangers On A Train' by **Graig Warner**. This, together with good attendances on the other nights, has enabled us to raise **£650** for the **Asian Tsunami Appeal Fund**. Our thanks to everyone who supported this successful production, of which the critics have used phrases such as "Simply superb" and "Another TAB triumph".

It is equally satisfying when we receive recognition for our efforts and we are very pleased to be able to report that our production of 'The Village Fete' by **Peter Tinniswood**, was adjudged by **The National Operatic & Dramatic Association** as being the best production in Region 8 for the year 2004.

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION WILL BE

The **ODD** Couple

(Female Version)

A comedy by **Neil Simon**

27th – 30th April

Many people will remember the acclaimed film with Walter Matthau and Jack Lemon as the slob and the house-proud flat mates, but in re-writing the play for a female cast, Neil Simon has added another dimension, which if anything, makes it even funnier than the original.

For more information about the group, why not visit our website www.theatreatbaddow.co.uk or for ticket reservations phone 01245 472380

Come and Light the FUSE

Do you like playing table tennis, hanging out with your mates and eating fish and chips? If so, then come along to Meadgate Church Centre on a Sunday evening at 6.30 p.m. FUSE is a group of 14 – 18 year olds who get together for a laugh and some serious stuff too. If you are interested please ring Heather on 07775 833185 or Mark on 01245 492741.

Use Your Vote! by Peter Kirk

Essex County Council elections take place on 5th May this year. Maureen Miller (Liberal Democrat) won the Great Baddow seat (including Galleywood) in 2001 with 2,735 votes, a majority of 649, and is expected to defend her seat. Other candidates' names are not yet known.

A General Election is also expected on the same day. Great Baddow is part of the Maldon and Chelmsford East constituency. John Whittingdale (Conservative) won this seat in 2001 with 21,719 votes, a majority of 8,462, and is expected to stand again. Other candidates' names are not yet known.

If you want to make a difference to what happens locally, nationally and internationally, **USE YOUR VOTE!**

Take a Break

Have you ever felt the need to be quiet and take a break even if it is only for a few minutes, from the ceaseless activity, which forms a large part of most of our lives? Sitting down with a cup of tea or coffee can be enough sometimes to make all the difference, by restoring our energy and sanity. But what if you need something more, perhaps a bit longer to sit and reflect on your life, the direction you are going in or the problems you face? Or it may be that you just need to catch your breath and have time to 'be' rather than do.

Finding a quiet place where you won't be interrupted can be difficult but have you ever thought of visiting St. Mary's Parish Church? The building may be ancient but it has a fine interior with modern facilities. As well as being open for worship on Sundays it is also open for part of the day on most Thursdays and Fridays to provide a place of stillness and quiet. Anyone may drop in and stay for a short or longer time during this period. There is always someone on duty to provide information and answer questions or to be available to listen to you in confidence if you wish to talk.

You may prefer to be completely silent, to look around the church which has stood for centuries at the centre of the village as a place of worship and sanctuary, or to sit quietly by yourself. The Prayer Chapel, which is more private, is available for prayer and reflection. You may wish to light a candle or write a prayer request with or without your name.

If you are curious about your local church, do come and see what it has to offer.

It may be, however, that if you live alone you may have too much peace and quiet and what you need at the moment is a place where you can meet and chat to other people over a cup of tea or coffee. Coffee Pot may be the answer. This takes place in Bell Street just off the High Street and is also run by the church. It is open on Wednesday and Saturday mornings staffed by a team of volunteers under the leadership of Roy and Joan Parker who started it in 1990 and still enjoy being involved.

Coffee Pot has received a civic award for its service to the community. Over the years many people have found help and friendship, the value of a sympathetic ear and the opportunity for cheerful company and laughter.

Whatever your need you are always welcome at both St. Mary's Church and Coffee Pot.

Church opening times:

Thursday and Friday 11.30 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

For the regular services, see 'Local Information' on page 6

Coffee Pot:

Wednesday 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

at the Bell Street Hall (next to Russell's Restaurant)

Saturday 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

at The Bell Centre (opposite Russell's Restaurant)

It's a Wonderful Life!

"Ooh, I haven't done anything with my life," was the response from a 93 years old, when asked if she would be interviewed for *Bad-dow Life*. Whilst she may not have played a direct part in all the inventions, wars and moon shots of the past century, her life actually contradicts this perception.

by
**Selina
Knight**

Kathleen Millington has lived in Great Baddow for 75 years, the last fifteen of which have been in her present house. Her mother died when Kathleen was aged seven and her father arranged for various housekeepers—"a strange lot some of them"—to care for her and her three older brothers. At the time they were living in London, and moved several times because of World War I air raids. By the age of fifteen Kathleen had left school, which she had enjoyed, to keep house for them all. She would have liked to have been a nurse, but her father believed that it was a waste of time educating girls. Indeed, he held very rigid views, and she never had the opportunity to undertake a career, or have a boyfriend. She reflected that she did not believe she had missed out on these ventures because she had enjoyed her life caring for others.

Looking after other people included not only Kathleen's immediate family, but also her eldest brother's wife until they found their own place; a 16 year old homeless friend of one of her brothers with whom she has remained in touch; and a young writer named Maisie who came from a broken home and who spent the next 60 years living with them until she died at the age of 90. Kathleen has stayed in contact with Maisie's half-sisters. And, during World War II, German prisoners of war Rolfe and Gustav were frequent Sunday dinner visitors, along with several others.

Kathleen developed her interest in nursing by joining the Red Cross, and she would often visit lonely parishioners. Over the years she believes that her faith came as a gradual development, reinforced when one of her twin brothers became ordained, and the other twin, a scientist, was confirmed, despite the agnostic beliefs of their father. However, her grandfather was a church warden in the City of London and, according to Kathleen, after being driven to drink during his second marriage, he just walked out one morning and booked a passage to Australia! Unfortunately, he died on the journey! The family has always been the centre of Kathleen's life, and although her brothers are now dead, she remains in constant touch with her nieces and nephews. She thrives on hearing of each event in their lives.

George, the scientist twin, worked for Marconi in Chelmsford, which led to the family moving from London. He was given two prestigious awards in 1974 and 1978 for his work as the Chief of the Propagation and Mathematical Group, which involved investigating high frequency radio waves. Kathleen was thrilled for him and was full of praise for his brilliance as a mathematician. It saddened her when his mind became confused and his dementia presented many difficulties, which at times made her feel afraid.

However, Kathleen's faith was her strength through these difficulties. She cycled to church until she was 80, and sometimes played the organ for the 8 a.m. services at St. Mary's in Great Baddow. Now that she can no longer play the piano, and her hearing is suspect, Kathleen spends her time reading, watching television, writing copious letters, crocheting, water-colour painting and praying. Although last on the list, praying is very important to her because she believes that her active mind can still perform this service for those friends who surround her, and assist her daily.

Kathleen casually mentioned that she had been corresponding with a prisoner on death row in Texas for the past four years. Having been sentenced 20 years ago at the age of 18, he had always denied the crime. She described wonderful letters from him of how his faith had sustained him, despite four stays of sentence during the past year. It was learnt later that the sentence had been carried out. Kathleen believed that he was spiritually ready.

Kathleen may not have had a career, nor married like most of her contemporaries, but without her being who she is, many of us would have been the losers if they had not touched base with her at some time. There is a poem that ends with "They also serve who only stand and wait". The love and care Kathleen is receiving now reflects all that she had given to others in the past, and still does now.

Local Information

Local Churches		Doctors' Surgeries	
St Mary's Church	Rector: Revd Alistair McGregor Tel: 01245 471740 E-mail: amcgregor@care4free.net Address: Church Street, Great Baddow	"The Surgery"	Dr Russell and Partners
		Address	16 High St, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex. CM2 7HQ
Services each Sunday	8:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Morning Worship 6:30pm Evening Worship	Telephone Numbers	Surgery: 01245 473251 / 0870 2851990 Dispensary: 01245 472449 Out of Hours: 01245 444478
Special services for the coming weeks	Palm Sunday: Sunday 20th March at 10.00am Easter Day Service: Easter Sunday 27th March at 10.00am Children's Special Service: Sunday 29th May at 10.00am	Opening Hours	Surgery open Monday to Friday: 8:00am-6:30pm Practice closed: 12:30pm-1:30pm Test Results: After 3:00pm
St Mary's Church Office	Tel: 01245 477501 E-mail: stmaryschurchoffice@care4free.net Opening Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 9:30am-12:30pm & 1:30pm-3:00pm Wednesday: 9:30am-12:30pm only Also for Weddings and Baptism enquiries: Tuesdays 7:00pm-8:00pm	"Sutherland Lodge Surgery"	
		Address	115 Baddow Road, Great Baddow, Chelmsford.
St Paul's Church	Vicar: Revd Tudor Roberts Tel: 01245 269026 E-mail: tudorandtricia@ezekiel124.fsnet.co.uk Address: Beehive Lane/Loftin Way, Great Baddow	Telephone Numbers	Surgery: 01245 351351 Dispensary: 01245 353530 Out of Hours: 01245 295000 (Primary Care Trust, St John's Hospital)
		Opening Hours	Surgery open Monday to Friday: 8.30am-6.30pm all day
Other Local Information			
Great Baddow Library			
Services each Sunday	9:30am Family Praise 10:30am Morning Worship	Address	27 High Street, Great Baddow, Chelmsford.
Special services for the coming weeks	Palm Sunday: Sunday 20th March at 9.30am; 10.30am; 6.30pm An hour at the Cross: Good Friday 25th March at 2.00pm All Age Easter Service with Holy Communion: Easter Sunday 27th March at 10.30 am at Larkrise School, Dorset Avenue, Great Baddow.	Telephone No.	01245 478032
Meadgate Church	Vicar: Revd Mones Farah Tel: 01245 471516 E-mail: monesf@yahoo.com Address: Meadgate Shopping Centre	Opening Hours	Monday: 2.00pm-6.00pm Friday: CLOSED Tuesday: 9.00am-5.00pm Saturday: 9.00am-5.00pm Wednesday: 2.00pm-7.00pm Sunday: CLOSED Thursday: 9.00am-6.00pm
	Services each Sunday	10:30am Morning Worship 5:30pm Evening Worship	R.S.P.C.A. Mid Essex Clinic
Special services for the coming weeks	Holy Week: "He Stands For Me" "Who Would Have Thought": Mon. 21st March at 6.30pm "A Second Look": Tue. 22nd March at 6.30pm "We Looked Down On Him": Wed. 23rd March at 6.30pm "It Was For Our Sins": Thu. 24th March at 6.30pm "The Passion Of The Christ" certificate 18 Maundy Thursday 24th March at 8.00pm "Everything Was Laid On Him": Good Friday 25th March 12.00pm-3.00pm "Celebration Of Life": Easter Sunday 27th March at 6.30pm	Address	32 Maldon Road, Great Baddow, Chelmsford.
		Telephone Number	01245 478886
United Reformed Church	Minister: David Pennicott Tel: 01245 472356/473057 Address: High Street, Great Baddow	Opening Hours	Office open Monday to Friday: 9.00am-3.00pm
Services each Sunday	10:45am Morning Worship 6:30pm Holy Communion (1st Sunday of each month only)	Please Note	All Consultations by appointment only. Means tested benefit only.
Special services for the coming weeks		Coffee Pot	
Church of the Holy Name	Minister: Fr Adrian Bell Tel: 01245 352898 Address: Lucas Avenue, Moulsham Lodge	Opening Hours	Wednesday 10.00am-1.00pm Bell Street Hall Saturday 10.00am-1.00pm Bell Centre (old library)
		Telephone Number	01245 472673
LunchBox			
		Address	St Paul's Church, Great Baddow
		Opening Hours	1st Monday of each month, 12.30pm-2.00pm For soup, a roll and a chat
CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHELMSFORD			
Good Friday March of Witness 25th March 2005			
	Meeting Place	Gathering	Departing
	St Mary's Church	9.05am	9.15am
	St Luke's, Gloucester Avenue	9.00am	9.05am
	St Paul's Church, Loftin Way	9.20am	9.25am
	The Beehive Pub car park	9.35am	9.45am
	Meadgate Avenue	9.55am	10.05am
	Salvation Army Citadel	10.15am	10.25am
	Outside Habitat	10.35am	10.45am
From Habitat, all four groups will assemble at the Town sign and be led to the top of the High Street by the Salvation Army Band. The service at the top of the High Street will start at 11.00am and run for approximately 45 minutes.			
MEADGATE CHURCH			
Drop in to OASIS and enjoy an all day Breakfast/cup of tea, with refreshments, and a chat. Easter Saturday, 26th March, 2005 from 10.00a.m. - 1.00p.m.			



Ask Alistair

Dear Alistair,

How can you believe in a loving and all-powerful God when things like the tsunami disaster happen?

(Name and address supplied)

Whenever I hear questions like this the words of Jesus from the cross come back to me: "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?" There are times when it feels that God is absent, does not care, or does not even exist. Even Jesus felt like that for a terrifying moment on the first Good Friday as he experienced separation from God in death.

I believe that in the beginning God made a perfect world. I believe that God gave us the freedom to choose how to respond to his love in creation. I also believe that the world was messed up by the way human beings treated God and his creation. This means we live in a world where things simply go wrong and suffering exists. It would be almost impossible to have both freedom and an absence of suffering.

God's response was to send Jesus, not simply to share our suffering, but through his death and resurrection to offer the hope of new life and new creation. This hope is not limited to what happens after we die, but can be grasped in this life also. We see that in the way people responded to the disaster in caring for those who were injured; in providing from scant resources food and shelter; and in the generous response to the international appeal for funds.

But God takes us beyond that. The Jesus who cried out, "My God why have you deserted me" is the same Jesus who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives and believes in this will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11 vs.25-26)

Revd Alistair McGregor
(Great Baddow Team Rector)

Questions to Alistair,
please direct to the address
on the back page,
or e-mail:
askalastair@baddowlife.org.uk

No One In Need

by Mones Farah

"There was no one in need among them." This sentence was written two millenniums ago; it described a community that has learned to consider the needs of every member. In a global village, we need to take this point very seriously, because unless the weakest member of the society has a stake in that society, they will not see the benefits of working towards the harmony and the strengthening of that society.

The more that we retreat into our little islands and individualistic lives – lives that are mainly concerned with our welfare and comfort, without aiming to contribute regularly towards providing the needs of others through taxation and generous giving – the more that poor members of national and international society will feel excluded, marginalised and without a stake in the development of the world.

One recent headline that ought to be remembered, is Gordon Brown's declaration in describing the February meeting of the G8 Summit: "the 100% debt relief summit". He has been and is committed to tackling world poverty. His actions and response to world poverty is something to be commended and encouraged, for it is this poverty that claims the lives of thousands daily across the world. It is this poverty, which is the cause of many ills in our world: Terrorism; economic migration; national, regional and international instability; and even the lack of capacity to respond to natural disasters.

What we saw of the G7 intention is a move in the right direction. For as these debts are written off, 37 of the world's poorest countries will benefit. The money saved on the debt repayment needs, however, to be monitored and re-channelled for the improvement of the infrastructures of these nations, not simply pocketed in the pockets of the ruling elite, their friends and entourage, or in the accounts of the Trans National corporations.

We do not need to be extremely clever to notice that at the heart of the majority of ills in our society and the world at large is poverty. So let us fight it; let us make our politicians accountable as to their stance on tackling poverty, both at home and abroad.

"There was no one in need among them" is a slogan that needs to be placed above the policies, which are formed and forged to direct our world today.

A Growing Faith For Gemma

I first came to know Jesus as my personal saviour when I was about five years old. I remember listening to the Sunday school teacher telling us how Jesus had died on the cross to take away our sins. Being little I got very upset and wondered how people could be so nasty to someone so nice! I was lucky enough to be brought up in a Christian family who took me to Church, taught me about Jesus and let me make a choice about whether I recognised Jesus' sacrifice for myself.

After I became a Christian, when I prayed and went to Sunday school, it all meant something. But when I was a teenager, like most I decided I wanted to do my own thing, so I went through a time of not

wanting to move from Sunday school into Church. I didn't see it as relevant and, to be honest, I thought it would be boring; Sunday school just seemed a lot more fun!

I became a helper in Sunday school, and while I was teaching, I really recognised what Jesus had done for me. It was there, as I was explaining it to others, that once again its meaning became important. The other leaders were encouraging me to try going into the church, and one Sunday I did. It was great, not boring, not irrelevant. My faith was further encouraged with youth groups that we had: first Mannaclan and then Fuse when Meadgate youth group joined with St Mary's.

My faith continued to grow and I re-committed my life to Jesus. It was all cemented when I went to Soul Survivor in Somerset, meeting with thousands of young people all coming together to praise God. I saw what he was doing on a huge scale, and with amazing encounters with the Holy Spirit, it continued to encourage me even more.

When I went to university, I found it hard at first, but God really brought me through it and my faith grew even more. I found a good church and felt much happier.

One weekend I was home and praying, and I felt God saying to me that I should be baptised and that I was ready to stand up and declare my faith. Now I'm here, not long



Gemma being Baptised at Meadgate Church by Revd Mones Farah—photo by James Millham

baptised and my journey with God is beginning another phase – it feels amazing! I realise that all the experiences He has brought me through have shaped me as a person. I feel more confident in my faith in Jesus, and when I

look at my life, I see so many of God's blessings. It has made me realise how much I need to rely on God's grace; and it doesn't matter what life throws at me, He has gone before me and is with me every step of the way. As long as I trust in His consistent love and guidance, God is faithful.

Gemma Hobbs

Alpha Courses

Exploring the meaning of life
—a ten session introductory
course about the Christian faith.

Is Christianity boring, untrue and irrelevant?

Who is Jesus?

Why did he die?

And how can I be sure of my faith?

Come and find out
more!

Thursday, starting
21st April at 7.30pm.
For further details
please contact
Mones Farah
on 01245 471516



Alpha

Alphacourse.org

The Marriage Course

A seven session course, designed to strengthen, enrich and enliven your marriage.

It is designed for couples of all ages, and hundreds have already completed it.

Some of the subjects covered in the course are: building strong foundations, the art of communication, resolving conflict, the power of forgiveness, parents and in-laws, good sex, and love in action.

The course costs £70 per couple, which covers a two course meal and all the course material, and starts on Monday, 9th May 2005 at 7.00pm, at Meadgate Church.

For more details call 01245 471516
or see www.meadgatechurch.org.uk

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01376 551951

Bereavement &
Aftercare
Support Group:
0800 0284808



Doctor's Surgery To Relocate

(Continued from page 1)

As many who have lived in Great Baddow for a long time will know, the site was owned by the Catholic Church, who until recent years, held services in the wooden hut. The right hand site of the plot (viewed from Longmead Avenue) was left as grassland as it had originally been a landfill site. The surgery is being built on this plot, albeit that it is the car park that will be on the landfill area. Extensive work, including compliance with European directives, has been undertaken to ensure that the site is fit and, in fact, the first two weeks was spent pile driving the area to ensure a safe base to build. The left hand side of the

plot has been sold separately, for possible housing development.

The site has been chosen with careful consideration to ensure that it is still within the centre of the village, with good access by road and bus, and with easy access to local chemists. "We are also pleased," confirms Sue, "that we are on the main bus route that serves many of the residential areas covered by our practice boundary." As part of the development, a Pelican crossing is also to be provided on Maldon Road. This will be of benefit, not just to patients but also to the wider community, especially children attempting to cross the road on the way to and from school.



The building site in the process of being converted into houses and the new Doctor's Surgery—photo by James Millham

So what will the new surgery provide?

- ◆ An up to date facility, which will enable existing services to be better provided and opportunity for expansion of services for the future
- ◆ Additional clinical areas providing both additional GP and nurse facilities, all on the ground floor to ease access
- ◆ Increased waiting area, with provision of a separate area to provide privacy when required
- ◆ A proper provision for group based sessions e.g. smoking cessation clinics
- ◆ Full compliance with all the latest legislation e.g. Health & Safety, Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)
- ◆ Opportunity to expand and enhance the services offered
- ◆ A work base for 'attached staff', that is District Nurse Team and Health Visitors to foster closer working relationships
- ◆ Space for Other Primary Care Services (yet to be determined)
- ◆ Increased administrative space
- ◆ More car parking than is currently available

So when will the move be taking place? "At this early stage in the development it is impossible to give an accurate date, but we anticipate before Christmas," Sue suggests, "and possibly as early as September, when the existing surgery will be sold."

At present, the new surgery is not called anything. Sue asks, "If anyone has any ideas for a name for the new surgery – we are open to suggestions!"

THE MAN ALIVE REPORT

Here are come *possible* headlines taken from different editions of

THE JERUSALEM EVENING STANDARD

During 'PASSOVER WEEK' in the year A.D. 30 –

'REVOLUTIONARY PRAYS FORGIVENESS ON EXECUTIONERS'

'GLOOM AT NOON IN CITY AS CRIMINALS DIE'

'TEMPLE CURTAIN SPLITS ITSELF'

'LOCKED DOORS DEFIED IN AFTER-DEATH CONFERENCE'

'POLICE ACCEPT BRIBE TO CONCEAL TRUTH AT TOMB'

Sensational? Maybe, but these are truthful quotations from the Bible, of events which *actually happened* in our world. Christianity is concerned with NEWS not VIEWS. The Bible is the record of something that has happened – something that God has done in history.

Most religions contain some good teaching and fine advice, but Christianity is totally different. It isn't concerned with ideas, but facts concerning the *Good News* of what God has done in our world to put us right with Himself. This wonderful news is centred on JESUS CHRIST.

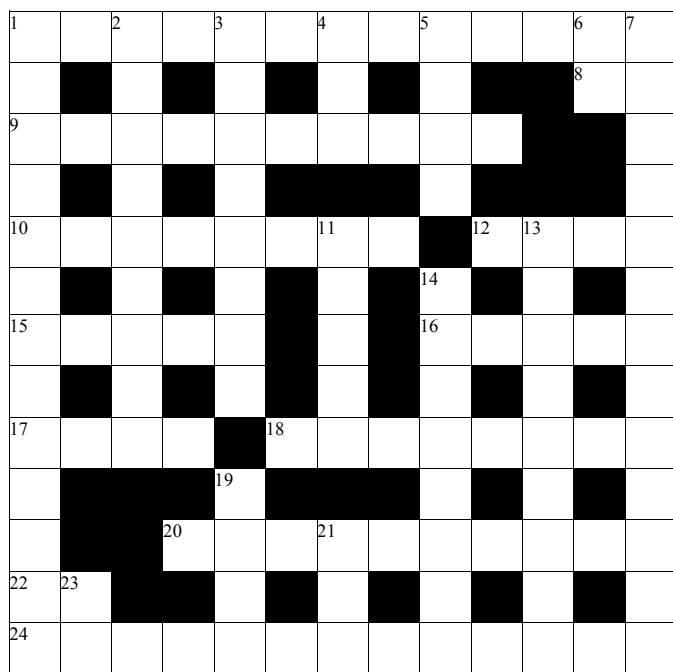
During March, Christians all over the world will be thinking of the death and coming to life again of Jesus. This happened. It is true. It is part of real history. You can read about it for yourself in the four gospels in the 'Holy Bible'. Whether you believe it or not, makes no difference to it being fact.

But if you do believe it, it can radically and marvellously change your whole life. It will give you 'Peace with God' in your heart; it will change your life from one of futility to creative purpose. It will fill you with joyous satisfaction. It will enable you to overcome temptation. It will bring understanding and guidance to help you through your problems. It will take away the fear of death because Jesus has overcome death by His glorious resurrection. It will take you into Heaven to be with Jesus forever when you die.

Good news alright! True in A.D. 30 and in A.D. 2005. Believe this news if you want to enjoy 'A HAPPY EASTER' and 'Live happily ever after'!

The Revd. Canon Philip Price.

CROSSWORD



Thank You To The Team For The 'Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner'

On the 1st January the annual Christmas Dinner for Senior Citizens living alone was held at St Mary's Parish Hall. I am sure all who attended would like to say a big "Thank you" to Clive Spratt and everyone who worked so hard to make it a success. The lunch was excellent and the entertainment, which followed, made for a very enjoyable afternoon. So, thank you very much to all involved.

Across:

1. Lodgings (13)
8. Greek letter (2)
9. Mobile temple (10)
10. South American tongue (8)
12. Fasten (4)
15. Call off (5)
16. 1 across for short time (5)
17. Tints (4)
18. Twelve months old (8)
20. In an order (10)
22. Place (2)
24. Rising to the power (13)

Answers next issue

Down:

1. Pertaining to one's own writing (13)
2. Small enclosed place (9)
3. Seasoned soaking (8)
4. Egg-cells (3)
5. Pivot (4)
6. Positioned above (2)
7. Pertaining to the study of figures (13)
11. Marten (5)
13. Belonging to one's country (9)
14. Divine spirits (8)
19. Slight (4)
21. Small 1 across (3)
23. In the direction of (2)

If you wish to make any comments regarding any items printed in this publication, or you wish to advertise with us, please contact the editor at the address printed at the bottom of this page, or e-mail editor@baddowlife.org.uk and we will be happy to respond.

If you wish to have a letter printed in the paper, address it as below, or e-mail letters@baddowlife.org.uk. Alternatively, please visit us at www.baddowlife.org.uk

Please send comments and suggestions to:
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