



The Theydon Parishes

7th February 2021

Second Sunday before Lent



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

BENEFICE VISION

Core values: Faith, love and community.

We seek to live these value by welcoming all, caring and teaching so that we may change lives through sharing the love of God in Christ.

**THEYDON BOIS ST MARY'S
THEYDON GARNON ALL SAINTS
STAPLEFORD TAWNEY ST MARY'S
THEYDON MOUNT ST MICHAEL'S**

A short online service available on Sunday - it can be found on the Benefice website (www.theydonparishes.org/recorded-services/).

Although the church buildings are closed, the church is not. Resources for prayer and worship can be found on the Benefice website; to request paper copies please contact the Vicar.

Today's readings: Proverbs 8.1,22-31; Colossians 1.15-20; John 1.1-14

THEYDON PARISHES ONLINE

Sunday Family Service at 10.30am on Zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79389455002?pwd=TVJRdkRiMHFFMm1PNjhwNTY4cVUwQT09>

Meeting ID: 793 8945 5002 Passcode: B4HdrH

Sunday Evening Worship at 6.00pm on Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71364855881?pwd=NmJMT1lMa0dmSk9QY055aURjem5lQT09>

Meeting ID: 713 6485 5881 Passcode: Q6uH6S

Wednesday morning service at 10.00am on Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74592812873?pwd=Uk5YM2tmTm1FbWRnL01DVENmNksxdz09>

Meeting ID: 745 9281 2873 Passcode: 64de5M

Collect for Second Sunday before Lent

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

GENERAL NOTICES

PUBLIC WORSHIP IN THE THEYDON PARISHES

At present, worshipping together online continues to be the pattern in the Benefice. Following the PCC meeting this week, St Mary's TB will remain closed for public worship until Sunday 28th March. More details will follow for the other parishes.

FUNERAL SERVICES

During the period of suspension of public worship, funeral services may continue to take place in any of the buildings in the Benefice, subject to government capacity restrictions.

FAMILY SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

In addition to our regular recorded Sunday services a "live" service will take place weekly for families on Zoom at 10.30am and can be found:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79389455002?pwd=TVJRdkRiMHFFMm1PNjhwNTY4cVUwQT09>
Meeting ID: 793 8945 5002 Passcode: B4HdrH

This week, it would be helpful if children could have a favourite Mr Men or Little Miss book to hand, and for adults, to be prepared to share a favourite "wonder of the world" - it could be a place which is special to you, a plant, an animal or something else...

PRAYER LINES BY ROBYN MARSH

As we are all concerned about the effects of the pandemic on those who fall ill and those who care for them, we can support them by prayer. A prayer suggested by the Mothers' Union: "God of health and healing, we pray for those who work in the NHS and in health services across the world. We ask for protection from the effects of the virus, and a lifting of exhaustion as they continue to deal with the ongoing challenges. May their efforts and sacrifices be valued by all, whether a patient or the community. Amen."

It would be a lovely idea to involve the children in saying the prayer and encouraging them to add their own requests.

ST MICHAEL'S TM HATCHMENTS PROJECT

As you know, St Michael and All Angels Theydon Mount, its sister church St Mary Stapleford Tawney, All Saints Theydon Garnon & St Mary Theydon Bois make up the Theydon Parishes. For those of you who have never visited St Michael's, I would like to introduce you to its fascinating history and hopefully stimulate your interest in its future.

St Michael's Church Theydon Mount has for centuries, been closely associated, with the Smythe family of nearby Hill Hall. Grade I listed, the church was rebuilt in red brick, by Sir William Smythe in 1614 after a fire in 1611 and contains many original fittings. It

is notable for its fine sculptural effigies, original black letter wall painting, the only Maiden's Garland in Essex and a striking stained glass window.

There is also a collection of nine hatchments relating to the Smythe family, Hill Hall during 18th & early 19th centuries, the Royal Coat of Arms of George III, and two other historic painted boards. A hatchment is a funereal memorial to someone, bearing their coat of arms, crest or motto. It was painted on canvas or wood in a diamond shaped frame. The Georgian Society stated that this is a significant collection of Georgian memorabilia (1719 – 1833) One of the largest collections in Essex, well worth saving for their artistic and historical value. Certainly, 'saving' was the operative word. The paintings were dirty, damaged & sorely in need of repair. They were part of the rich history of the church and we did not want to be the generation who lost them through neglect. Thus, in 2018 the 'St Michael Hatchment Project' was born. Its aim was to raise £25,000 to restore the collection of paintings (hatchments) within St Michael Theydon Mount.

We also took the opportunity to include the George III Coat of Arms, so ten hatchments altogether and the historic charity bequest painted boards. Since the start of this project, the fund has almost reached its target and several hatchments have been beautifully restored. No 8 and No 9 are with the conservator at the time of writing. This has been possible thanks to generous grant gifting bodies, notably: the All Churches Trust, the Leche Trust, the William Morris Foundation, the Georgian Society – Cleary Fund, together with amazingly supportive church members and several local inhabitants of Theydon Mount who have kindly sponsored their chosen hatchment.

So, to the present situation. Our project is nearly complete – preserving the rich history of St Michael's church for posterity and future generations! One last hatchment remains to be completed. Typically, one of the largest & most costly to restore (£3,500), includes cleaning, mending holes & tears, new frame & back protection.

If you can help, we would be grateful for any contribution large or small. Please contact Jo Shephard, Warden of St Michael's Theydon Mount and a donation form will be sent to you or speak to Rev John Fry who will be pleased to assist.

jo.shephard30@gmail.com or 01992 814103. Thank you.

Before restoration



After first stage cleaning




NEXT SUNDAY'S MORNING READINGS

2 Kings 2.1-12; 2 Corinthians 4.3-6; Mark 9.2-9

ITEMS FOR NEXT WEEK'S NOTICE SHEET

Send by 9.00am Tuesday to Sarah Bowen at notices@theydonparishes.org

CONTACTS	
Vicar	Rev John Fry The Vicarage, 2 Piercing Hill, Theydon Bois CM16 7JN 01992 812744, vicar@theydonparishes.org  @revjefry
Associate Priest	Rev Carol Newnham (Benefice days: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday) Theydon Garnon Vicarage, Fiddlers Hamlet, Epping CM16 7PQ, 01992 676818, associate@theydonparishes.org
Benefice Administrator	Sarah Bowen (Tuesday 9.00am-2.00pm, Wednesday 9.00am-12.30pm, Thursday 11.00am-2.00pm) 01992 814725 office@theydonparishes.org
Churchwardens	
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Booking Enquiries	
St Mary's Church Hall	Ross Penman: 07939 095545, rtpenman@me.com Eleanor Isaac: Eleanor.b.isaac@gmail.com (for regular bookings)
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www.theydonparishes.org