

“The Newsletter”

For MARTLESHAM & BRIGHTWELL

Sunday 31 May 2026



Called by God

On Tuesday this week, the church remembered Augustine of Canterbury. He was a monk who was sent by Pope Gregory to re-evangelise the English church. It seems that after the Romans had left England, the Saxon invaders had taken their place and brought paganism back to England. Gregory is credited with evangelising the king of Kent, Ethelbert and his missions meant that large numbers of people turned to following Jesus.

Reading the histories and details about Augustine shows there was a lot of political intrigue, lots of made-up details and a major over exaggeration of his numbers of converts (google him and read it for yourself). However, it is recognised as true that he became the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

What I also found interesting is that he wasn't a confident person and tried to turn back from his calling. But his faith in God (combined with a fear of the pope!) meant he stepped out in faith and made a difference.

Maybe in our lifetime we will not see huge results as we join in with God's mission to the world. Maybe we will never be remembered in the church 1500 years after our death. But if a timid monk can work with God and make a difference, maybe we could too? What might God be calling you to do today? And if you are worried about what you might be asked to do, there are many examples in the bible (Moses, Jonah, Gideon etc.) and outside the bible (Augustine) of people who have been used by God, even when they didn't feel capable themselves.

God doesn't call equipped people; he equips the one he calls.

Where is God calling you today?

Toby

Sunday 31 May

10:30 am - Benefice service - St Michael's

Monday 1 June

8:30 am - Morning Prayer - St Mary's

Sunday 7 June

9:30 am - Breakfast Church - St Michael's

11:00 am - Holy Communion - St Mary's

6:30 pm - **United Service - St Mary's**

Monday 8 June

8:30 am - Morning Prayer - St Mary's

Wednesday 10 June

10:00 am - Holy Communion - St Michael's

Sunday 14 June

10:00 am - Holy Communion - St Michael's

6:30 pm - Evensong - St John's

Monday 15 June

8:30 am - Morning Prayer - St Mary's

Sunday 21 June

10:00 am - Morning Worship - St Michael's

11:00 am - Holy Communion - St Mary's

Monday 22 June

8:30 am - Morning Prayer - St Mary's

Wednesday 24 June

10:00 am - Holy Communion - St Michael's

Sunday 28 June

10:00 am - Holy Communion - St Michael's

6:30 pm - Evensong - St John's

Monday 29 June

8:30 am - Morning Prayer - St Mary's

United service in June

St Mary's is the host for the next United Service on **7th June at 6:30 pm**. Please do come along and support this if you are able. Speak with others who might be going and could offer a lift for you if that is an issue.

Rowan

Lunch Club

St. Michael's Lunch Club has been running very successfully for nearly 22 years but we now find we are short of helpers in the kitchen. **We would be delighted to welcome anyone (preferably with some cooking experience) to join the team. As this role involves working with vulnerable adults, volunteers are required to do some safeguarding training. For more information about this, please speak to Toby.**

The lunches are held on the second Wednesday of every month. We arrive at 10.30am to start preparations, serving lunch at 12:30pm and eating our lunch at about 1:30pm when the guests have finished.

For more information contact Mary Stalley Tel. 01473 623752

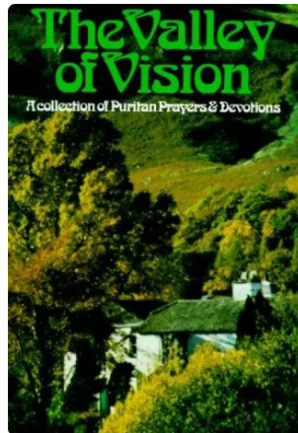
Mary

Pop-up Shop

The next pop-up shop will be on **Sunday 14th June, St Michael's** at the usual time of **11:30-12:00**

The Valley of Vision - A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions

I was first introduced to this book a few years ago. Whilst the Puritans are not always looked on in the best of light nowadays (I'm happy to talk about it this if anyone wants to), I think they certainly knew how to pray. I find these prayers and passages really powerful, and they often help in my day-to-day prayer life, even with the 'traditional' language. I'll be sharing one each week, please do have a read and reflect on the words, and perhaps offer it as your own prayer.



Rob

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The Trinity

Three in one, one in three, God of my salvation,
Heavenly Father, blessed Son, eternal Spirit,

I adore thee as one Being, one Essence,
one God in three distinct Persons,
for bringing sinners to thy knowledge and to thy kingdom.

O Father, thou hast loved me and sent Jesus to redeem me;

O Jesus, thou hast loved me and assumed my nature,
shed thine own blood to wash away my sins,
wrought righteousness to cover my unworthiness;

O Holy Spirit, thou hast loved me and entered my heart,
implanted there eternal life,
revealed to me the glories of Jesus.

Three Persons and one God, I bless and praise thee,
for love so unmerited, so unspeakable, so wondrous,
so mighty to save the lost and raise them to glory.

O Father, I thank thee that in fullness of grace
thou hast given me to Jesus,
to be his sheep, jewel, portion;

O Jesus, I thank thee that in fullness of grace
thou hast accepted, espoused, bound me;

O Holy Spirit, I thank thee that in fullness of grace
thou hast exhibited Jesus as my salvation,
implanted faith within me,
subdued my stubborn heart,
made me one with him for ever.

O Father, thou art enthroned to hear my prayers,

O Jesus, thy hand is outstretched to take my petitions,

O Holy Spirit, thou art willing to help my infirmities,
to show me my need, to supply words, to pray within me,
to strengthen me that I faint not in supplication.

O Triune God, who commandeth the universe,
thou hast commanded me to ask for those things
that concern thy kingdom and my soul.

Let me live and pray as one baptized into the threefold Name.

Excerpted from The Valley of Vision, edited by Arthur Bennett. Published by The Banner of Truth Trust.