

# DANBURY



# CHAPEL

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



St Michael the Archangel, Woodham Walter

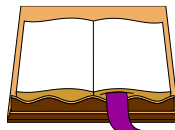
**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into Hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven;.**

## Danbury Chapel Newsletter April and May 2026

### Easter

**We wish you a happy and peaceful Easter, with our prayers for the end of wars and peace throughout our world.**

<sup>24</sup> Martha answered, 'I resurrection at the last



know he will rise again in the day.'

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, 'I am the one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

the resurrection and the life. The

<sup>27</sup> 'Yes, Lord,' she replied, 'I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.'

John 11 v24-27.



I led the service on February 1<sup>st</sup> with the theme of "Feed my sheep". Based on the reading from John 21, I used the video where Jesus asks Peter if he loved him three times. I found quite a lot of hymns and songs based on this sheep theme.

Our minister Revd Anne Sardeson led on 8<sup>th</sup> February and brought us the message "When the power of love is greater than the love of power, the world will know peace". Anne used a reading of the Beatitudes from Matthew.

John Amos led on 15<sup>th</sup> February and used the passage about salt and light from Matthew.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February was the forty days of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness which was the first Sunday in Lent and led for us by Steve King. His theme used the hymn "Forty days and forty nights" to start the service, with the reading from Luke about the temptations of Jesus. March saw our continuation of Lent Sunday services. Our minister, Revd Anne Sardeson, led our service for the second Sunday of Lent on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March with the bible message from Matthew that we need not worry about anything, that we should seek first the kingdom of heaven, and we sang the hymn "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God", and also a Taizé chant "Ubi caritas et amor".

Marina Botalli Price from the Healing Bus team led our service on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Marina and husband Nick lead street ministry in towns all over Essex and she brings us stories of the people that have been helped by prayer and comfort. She leads worship in many of our URC, Congregational and Baptist churches, and holds monthly praise services in Witham URC and North Springfield Baptist Church. Her message to us was from Exodus, which is that to Moses when God tells him that he will help him what to say.

Ian Miller led on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March with a reading from 1 Samuel where Samuel chose David, and another from John about the man who had been healed from being blind.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March we welcomed Karen Parker and Maria Smith as our worship leaders. Karen chose Psalm 34, a psalm of David, as her text, and used two Taizé chants, "We adore You Lord Jesus Christ" and "Stay with me".

## Christian Aid Events.



The quiz evening in our hall raised £525, which added to the total for last year made £5,700.

Events to come:

Women's Fellowship afternoon tea for Christian Aid – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm.

The Christian Aid thanksgiving service takes place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm in our chapel, with material provided by Christian Aid and with our minister Anne.

The Christian Aid concert is on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm in the Catholic Church. Tickets £15.

This follows a superb concert last year which was very well supported.

## Church Humour.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered.

Diana and Don request your presents at their wedding.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

## **Route 31 Mission Partnership News**

This year, among other things, our partnership with the congregations in Burnham, Danbury and Southminster will focus on building up our relationship together.



We have the following events planned and we hope that a good mix from all the congregations will come along.

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May @ 2.30pm - A visit to Danbury**

*tea and cakes will be served at the URC between 2.30 and 4.30, with the option of a couple of walks for those who feel able. There is also a concert in aid of Christian Aid later that afternoon at 5pm, at the Catholic Church in Danbury.*

### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May @ 10.30 – joint worship at Southminster**



*A chance for all 4 congregations to worship together and also see what we've been doing at Southminster.*

### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Mission Partnership visit from the Synod Moderator and Synod Mission Team hosted by the congregation at Burnham**



**10am (for a 10.30 start) – 3.30pm**

*Worship and workshops and conversation. Bring and share lunch - more details to follow. you don't have to come all day*

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 1pm – Mission Partnership meeting, open to all**

Hosted by Maldon

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October @ 10.30 – Joint worship at Maldon**

*A chance for all 4 congregations to worship together*

## MINISTER'S LETTER.



As I write this, I am looking towards Holy Week and Easter. I am also continuing to look back at my sabbatical, and I wonder what comes from that time into Holy Week and Easter this year. A question that has emerged is one I found helpful at the start of my sabbatical retreat in Devon: “what takes your attention?”. It is a helpful question to ask from time to time, and I am struck now by what it asks of Holy Week and Easter.

Perhaps our attention is taken by the thought of bank holidays – some time off from the regular routines, perhaps time with family, or in the garden, or maybe even a few days away. Perhaps our attention is taken by the extra services we have and times of reflection. Perhaps our attention is taken by the fact that the particular Easter egg a family member has requested cannot be found in a shop and has to be ordered direct from Cadburys! Or perhaps that is just me! But what about the detail of Holy Week? What draws our attention there? It is a most extraordinary week, when Jesus confronts those who would rather, he wasn't there, with some of his most challenging parables and teaching. Matthew's telling of the week speaks of an act of frustration and anger in the temple, the cursing of a fig tree, parables of wicked tenants and a wedding banquet that none of those invited can be bothered to turn up to. Jesus challenges the religious and political powers of his day with his teaching about paying taxes and his denouncing of the religious leaders, calling them “hypocrites!” He also teaches his disciples to be awake and watchful so that they will pay attention to what God is doing. In the background is a plot, hatched by those who have had enough of him and long for him to be silenced, and of course disciples who are starting to realise that this is no simple trip to Jerusalem for Passover, but actually a fulfilment of everything Jesus said it would be. He is going to suffer. He is going to die. That is where this is leading. What in that takes our attention? As I reminded myself of Matthew's telling of the events of

Holy Week, I was drawn to Jesus teaching his disciples to be awake and notice what God is doing, and then I remembered that later that week, in the garden after the last supper, they do just the opposite. It seems however much they try to pay attention to following Jesus, they drift off. What takes our attention? It is not always easy to pay attention to our faith and to our following of Jesus, and in the harshness of Holy Week it is perhaps more tempting to drift off than at other times. It is perhaps desirable to go straight from the “Hosannas” of Palm Sunday to the “Hallelujahs” of Easter Day and miss out the bits in between, but it is important that we don’t. The harsh realities of Holy Week are as much about where God is found as the joyful Easter Day proclamation that God makes new things when we fear everything is lost. What takes our attention? It is not easy to pay attention to our world as it continues to spiral into deeper conflict and destruction. Perhaps like the disciples we would rather fall asleep because paying attention is painful. When we feel like this, let us pay attention to some Holy Week and Easter truths. That in the midst of great fear and struggle, prayer gives the strength to see what needs to be seen and attend to what needs attending to. And then, at the end of the week, when we have dared to pay attention, God is still there, making something new out of everything that seemed to be lost. Pay attention, see where God is. Pay attention, even to the things that feel too difficult to attend to or too challenging to face: God is there. Pay attention and give thanks, for the steadfast love of God never ceases, and God’s blessing are new every morning, even when we fear there is no hope.

Every blessing the Holy Week and Easter 2026

Rev Anne

### New computer

New computer, new software, new learning curve, equals a delay this month in this newsletter.

After 15 years all has changed, things I used to do I cannot do any longer. Hopefully videos and screen panels for notices and words will still be possible.

## Prayer Corner.

And now more wars since our last newsletter, in Iran, and Lebanon, with Israel, Yeman and the gulf states being effected. O Lord, hear our prayers for the end of wars and for your love and peace to reign.



We have lit the candle every Sunday for over three years as we pray for Ukraine, for peace, for an end to this war, and

for the people so badly affected.

We pray in our church most Sundays for the millions of refugees in our world, here is a prayer from World Vision.

*Good Shepherd, no refugee is a stranger to You, and no one is ever far from Your loving care. We pray for You to watch over refugee children and families as they travel to refugee camps or relocate within their country. Shelter their souls and their bodies. Heal the hearts of refugees who have endured unimaginable tragedy and trauma.*

*“The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”—Psalm 34:18 (NIV)*

*Part of an Easter prayer from the United Reformed Church*

**Roll them away, O God.**

Roll the stone away, O Most High,  
as You did in the garden so long ago.

**Amen.**



**O Lord hear our prayers for peace and love  
and the environment in the world**

## Church Diary - April 2026

Sunday	5th	9.45am	Easter Sunday Service – John Amos
Sunday	12th	3pm	Sunday Service and communion– Revd Anne Sardeson
Sunday	19th	9.45am	Sunday Service – TEAR FUND Service
Sunday	26th	9.45am	Sunday Service – Karen Parker & Maria Smith

## Church Diary - May 2026

Sunday	3rd	9.45am	Sunday Service– Trevor Andrews.
Tuesday	5th	2pm	Women’s Fellowship Christian Aid tea
Sunday	10th	3pm	Christian Aid Service – Revd Anne Sardeson
Sunday	17th	2.30pm	31 Group Pastorate afternoon event.
		5pm	Danbury Christian Aid Concert
Sunday	24th	9.45am	Sunday Service – Pentecost – Ian Miller
Sunday	31st	10.30am	Pastorate Service at Southminster URC.

*Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.*

*Ecclesiastes 3 v1*

### Revd Anne Sardeson

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United Reformed Churches

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Facebook group for Danbury Chapel URC, and Facebook pages for Maldon URC  
and United Reformed Church, Burnham on Crouch

URC churches in Chelmsford are at [www.URCChelmsford.info](http://www.URCChelmsford.info)

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