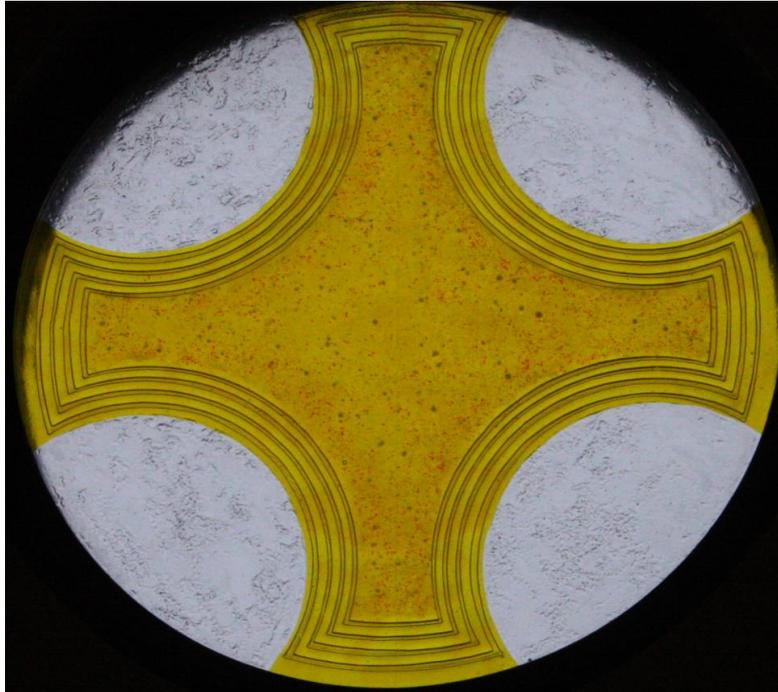


# THE AUGUSTINIAN

The Parish Magazine for the R.C. Parish of Springfield



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# Welcome

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Lent calls for a spiritual renewal every year. It is a forty day retreat every Catholic enter annually. The Church want us to encounter Jesus in an intimate way during this season of Lent. The Scripture readings given throughout this season ending with Easter allows us to listen to the Son speaking and thus experience God's unconditional love for us. In order for this to happen we must open ourselves to the transforming love of Jesus in our lives. We find this transforming and liberating love upon the cross, as Jesus cries out saying, "**Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.**" The cross, therefore, is the journey God undertakes to enter into a relationship of love with each one of us. He gave up everything as Paul says "**but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.**"

Lent allows us to focus on the Cross but Resurrection is the decisive story. Our Divine master's love cannot be contained by the cross or the tomb. His love for us over flows the cross and the tomb, giving us victory over sin and death. Thus, the fact of the Cross or tomb cannot be understood in itself but can only be grasped in conjunction with His final victory and that's what fills our heart and mind with hope and joy. "Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

In many parts of the world spring season coincides with Easter. Spring brings newness and freshness in the Nature. The tulips begin to emerge from their slumber and leaves begin to bud on the trees, thus spring's kiss turn the nature into green again. And the Sun with an increasing vigour makes a clear blue sky. In a way it all replicates the glory and splendour of the Christ event, the death and Resurrection.

The death brought about by winter reflects Christ's death. Everything seems to be struck by His death. The Foliage and everything in nature seems to take part in Jesus' death by going into slumber and stasis. However, at the chosen time, as the heat of the sun rises anew, nature itself is called forth from the death of winter into the new life of spring. Let us rise from the slumber of our sins and together with the renewed nature and with Christians all around exclaim,

**Alleluia! Christ our Lord is Risen Indeed!**

In other words, it means take joy in everything. This is the meaning of Easter! Easter means that nothing can keep us from the joy that God wants to give us. Know that God wants you to experience the joy of Easter in your life. Let Him fill you with hope and with the joy that only the Resurrection can bring. God wants Easter to begin now in our lives!

**Happy Easter!**

Let us not forget our brethren who are in need of our help in the war torn areas of the world as we celebrate the Easter festivities.

Best wishes

**Fr. Jijo George**

# Parish News

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## Coen family

We like to celebrate the contribution of our young parishioners to our parish life. Many young people will join our group of altar servers but it is quite unusual for four members of one family to be servers at the same time. It has happened before but quite a while ago, but the spread of ages of four children means that it is usually quite a brief period, so worth noticing while it happens. Grace, Tilda, Heidi and Pippa Coen are all part of our current group of altar servers and we took the opportunity to capture the occasion when they all served together recently.



## The Little Pantry

The Catholic and Anglican communities at St. Augustine's have been working together to help those who find themselves in difficulties. The recent surge in inflation is making it difficult to make ends meet for many families. The project, which is called The Little Pantry, has a storage cabinet on the drive up to the Vicarage, built by one parishioner from each community. This has a range of foodstuffs and other household items or people to take as they feel the need. Items which are particularly in demand are nappies and other toiletries, milk and baby milk, tea, coffee and juices and pasta and rice. Items can be deposited in the box in the church porch.

The Pantry opened in February, but there was a formal opening by the Mayor of Chelmsford, Councillor Jude Deakin, on Sunday, March 27, accompanied by the Mayoress, her daughter Helen. After the ribbon was cut, the Little Pantry was blessed by Rev, Caroline and Fr. Jijo, and there was a reception following the Anglican/Free Church service.



## Other news

We are hoping to run a Sycamore course after some time after Easter. We are looking at ways of working for those who still prefer to reduce personal contact, but news will be in the parish Newsletter in due course.

Also, keep an eye on the Newsletter for the Lent and Holy Week programmes. Stations of the Cross will be at 19.30 on Friday during Lent but other services will be in the Newsletter.

There will be coffee after Mass on Easter Sunday at which we will welcome some of our Anglican/Free Church friends and at this time they will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for all our young people.

# Knights of St. Columba Council 302

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## Knights of St. Columba

The Knights of St. Columba have been getting back to normal with the organisation of our activities. We returned to holding our Council meetings in person in September, though attendances have been a little lower than previously. Part of this is that there is still some nervousness about coming to the meetings on the part of some Brothers, but it is also true that we are all two years older than at the beginning of the pandemic and that is significant for some. The Action Committee continues to meet on line, but the other Committees are meeting in person.

We normally have a Morning of Reflection during Lent, but with some caution about gathering still in evidence we made a change this year. We invited Brothers and widows to say a decade of the Rosary at home at some time on the 19th of March. We hope that we will be able to return to a physical reflection next year. We have also changed the arrangements for the Provincial Mass for deceased Brothers. It was very difficult to arrange for the Bishop to say Mass for us in November and the time of year was inconvenient to some, so this year's Annual Mass will be at the Cathedral on Saturday, May 21. It will be at 09.00, which is slightly earlier than would be desirable, but unfortunately, there is a First Communion Mass later in the morning. If you wish to join us in remembering deceased Brothers or family members, contact a Knight to make arrangements.

Our Action Committee has continued its work over the last two years, as far as possible. Although not formally a Knights' project, we have continued to support the work of Chelmsford Community Sponsorship. Last summer, Brentwood Province supported

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society in their "Relay 100" project to link all the parishes in the Diocese. The Chelmsford parishes were already linked with each other and other parishes, so a Chelmsford Brother walked between the parishes of Harlow, where the Council is no longer functional. We had also started working with Tools with a Mission, a voluntary group that organises the transport of used tools in good condition to support small businesses in developing countries. We had collected some but when the pandemic started, that work had to be suspended. We are also collecting old spectacles for a separate scheme in the developing world.

Also part of our Action work, we present the Canon Manning Trophy every year. This is an award to young people (under 18) who have made a significant to their school, parish or local communities. This year's was awarded to a group of the sixth form at St. John Payne School who supported one of their fellow students who was suffering from a terminal cancer. They gave leadership to the whole of the year group in giving support to their fellow student and her family. Although the presentation to six students who had been prominent in their support, Headteacher Tom Coen emphasised that the award was to the whole year group, who united in their support to their classmate. Council 302 felt that this was an expression of Christian Charity under circumstances, which we all hope that we will never experience. The Trophy was presented by Council 302 Grand Knight, Chris Thompson, at a sixth form assembly.

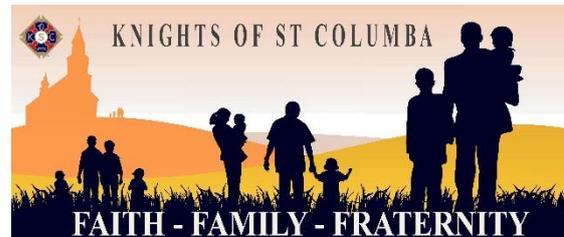


And, of course, we have continued with our Knights at Leisure group. A group of Knights,

wives, widows and friends meets monthly, in a local pub or restaurant, for lunch. We have some favourites but we are always looking for new venues, though with 20 – 30 each month many places cannot accommodate us. We have a flexible membership, and any of our Brothers or their families are welcome. We have had three lunches this year and we will continue, though with Easter, Bank Holidays and summer holidays coming up, we may not manage every month.

As people return to Mass in person, parish activities will be starting up again and the Knights will be ready to support them. We do useful work with parishes and diocesan

organisations but also have an active and enjoyable social life. However, to be effective we need to have a steady flow of new recruits. We will be doing recruitment campaigns but if you are interested in finding out more about the Knights and what we do, contact us at thompsoncjt01@blueyonder.co.uk or speak to any of the Knights in your parish.



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## Norbertine Canons are leaving

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### Extract from Diocesan website

From September, the white habits of the Norbertine community will no longer be seen in the streets and churches of Chelmsford: after 14 years' ministry in the city, the Canons are leaving the Diocese for Southwark – and will be much missed.

Abbot Hugh Allan has written to parishioners to explain the decision, which came about due to insights gained during the lockdown. "The pandemic was the first time the priests and brothers had been able to celebrate a Christmas and an Easter together since we had come to Chelmsford. The demands of two parishes and three places of worship have meant this had never been possible," he said. Although the order had been truly blessed in other ways, he said, "this showed us what we have missed since our arrival in Chelmsford". The heart of the Norbertine monastic tradition is life in common and praying together and the Canons are keen to continue this as life returns to normal. "Sadly, we have seen that it is not possible to do that in our present home; the physical geography of having a separate Priory and two parish churches does not allow us to live our Norbertine vocation to the fullest."



He concluded: "The Archdiocese of Southwark has asked us if we would be willing to take over a former Capuchin monastery in the Archdiocese. It provides everything we have been looking for. It is one church, one parish, and an attached house with space enough for us to grow. After much careful thought, prayer, and consideration we have accepted this offer, and will be leaving the Diocese of Brentwood."

The decision is bittersweet, he says. "In my head it makes sense because it is so suitable, providing a lot more space which is essential given that we have two novices arriving in the autumn. In my heart I feel sad because we will be leaving parishioners who have become like family and friends."

Bishop Alan commented: "I have assured the Norbertines of our gratitude, best wishes and prayers as they leave the diocese after 14 years. We will miss them but I have assured them of our continued prayerful support in their new venture and mission."

*The Norbertine community has provided our parish with lots of support over the years, hosting mass on several occasions. Several of our parishioners have become friends with them and we will miss them dearly but we thank God for all of their help and wish them all the best for their future in Southwark.*

# St John Payne

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In preparation for the summer's public examinations, students in Years 11 & 13 sat practice assessments throughout January & February. We have been pleased to hear our invigilators praise their attitude and approach, which is sure to support their continued efforts in the coming months.

In January, Year 11 students attended an Alter Ego Creative Solutions performance of Unacceptable, commissioned by Essex Youth Service to highlight sexism, sexual harassment & sexual violence.

Year 7 students recently attended a presentation on engagement and respect when gaming online, this year's theme for safer internet day. On Tuesday, many also enjoyed online quizzes organised by Miss James during social time to help highlight safe practices, a complement to a presentation shared during PSHE. Later in the year, students will attend a presentation by The 2 Johns of eSafetyTraining, with parents & carers invited to an evening presentation to gain insight into how they can support their children to remain safe and successfully access the benefits of life online.

Students will have opportunity to reflect further on these and a range of other important issues through our RSE & PSHE programmes. Having in January reflected upon the Holocaust and the brutality of all genocide, intolerance, exclusion and discrimination, during February's LGBTQ+ history month we have highlighted the contribution of a historically marginalised section of society.

Amid the many examples of struggle and discrimination, and of innumerable achievements in literature, engineering, academia, public service and the armed forces, politics, law, philosophy, science and the arts, I

am struck by a reflection from Emile Griffith, a bisexual boxer who won a 1962 bout by knockout, his opponent dying ten days later having never regained consciousness, 'I kill a man and most people forgive me. However, I love a man and many say this makes me an evil person.'

Aware the conflict in Ukraine is causing a number of students concern that it may pose a wider danger to Britain and the world, I wish to share advice from The 2 Johns that their recent visits to Essex schools have highlighted the amount of disturbing footage being shared on TikTok and other social media platforms.

A number of news agencies report that some content is of previous conflicts or military training exercises unrelated to current events. Whilst we appreciate that these also merit concern and will have potential to cause upset, it is important to protect children from becoming overwhelmed by unrelated content that serves to exacerbate fear and alarm. Please be aware of what your children may be viewing, and discuss the situation with them. Talking will help to ease any anxiety they may feel.

We are keen to encourage students' awareness and interest in world affairs, and to develop their sense of place and value in the world as members of our local, national and worldwide communities, and are proud of the concern and sensitivity they have displayed. Care for others is central to the values upon which the school is founded.

We pray for the people of Ukraine, and for the world leaders seeking to protect them against the atrocity. May peace be quickly restored so that all affected can begin to rebuild their lives. If your children hear or view content that leaves them unsettled or disturbed, please encourage them to speak with their Form tutor, Head of Year or member of our pastoral team. They will be assured of our full support.

As spring approaches, we can hope the restrictions of the past two years become a

footnote in history, part of the fabric of our lives in years to come - not least for our students, for whom time and distance is sure to offer clear perspective on the challenges of such a formative period in their lives.

We know that for some members of our community the world is forever changed, and that life following the return to familiar, customary routines will always hold a sense of sorrow and loss. As we continue to assure our whole community of our support, they especially will remain in our prayers.

**Thomas Coen**  
**Headteacher**

**AVITA PRO FIDE**



## HCPT Group 26 update

It was in March 2020 that I found out that I would not be going to Lourdes at Eastertime with HCPT Group 26 for the first time in 8 years. Little did I know that I would miss 3 years of pilgrimages at that time caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

HCPT as a wider charity is conducting a children's pilgrimage to Lourdes in Easter 2022 and an adult's pilgrimage in Summer 2022, but our group made the decision not to travel to Lourdes in the autumn of last year. In fact, of the 20 or so groups in our region that take disabled and disadvantaged children to Lourdes, I believe that only one group has decided to travel this year so it will likely be a smaller, restricted and a more reduced pilgrimage than usual.

The charity is very sensitive to the effects of the pandemic, not least because it involves the care of vulnerable children and it is exposed to international travel. With the easing of restrictions, we have met socially as a group of helpers and enjoyed each other's company. Over the years, we have become a very close group of friends and have to come know each other very well, which makes us a great team out in Lourdes.

The anticipation for the pilgrimage in Easter 2023 is building for what is likely to be the biggest pilgrimage in HCPT's history as everyone (including me) is desperate to return and get their Lourdes fix and experience that incredible atmosphere again!

**Ben Hitchen**



***For the first time in nearly 2 years, on 11 February, pilgrims were able to enter the grotto***

When Jim McEvoy invited me along to an SVP meeting over ten years ago in his kitchen, little did either of us think how far my SVP journey might go. Within two weeks, he had asked me to become Secretary to the Conference (hmm, always wondered why I was invited!!!), within three years I had become President of the Conference, then a couple of years after that, I was invited to become Central Council President for the Diocese of Brentwood – and I have just finished my five year term (running concurrently with a Trustee role on the Board). One of my goals was to start a number of new projects in Brentwood, and with the aid of the amazing Di Mascio legacy, we have been able to do a lot across the diocese.

I wanted to highlight some of the changes we have seen in Brentwood over the last five years and congratulate everyone who has been involved in those changes.

Our Canvey Island Conference was visited by Princess Anne in October, and it made the front page!!! Along with the Yellow Door Canvey Island Youth Project, and the local Rotary Club, the conference arranged for over 400,000 meals to be delivered to people in need – an extraordinary effort. During the same week, the conference also received the Canvey Island Town Council’s Community Group of the Year Award. The photo on the front page is Tony’s granddaughter Amelie presenting Princess Anne with flowers at the end of the visit. Very well done everyone on Canvey Island!!!



## 1. St Vincent’s support centre, Southend

One of our most notable successes has been the new support centre at Southend. It started as a homeless shelter run at St Helens in Billericay, with Daniel Cauchi and his team of helpers. Now, thanks to a £3m Di Mascio donation last year, we have a fully functioning support centre, which provides the most extraordinary level of support to people in Southend – not just the homeless, but a food bank, the Kindness Kitchens, and 350 Christmas Hampers for families this year alone!! In August of this year Kenny Carmichael raised over £30k walking from Southend to Land’s End (almost 450 miles!) and did an amazing job of raising awareness of all things mental health, alongside the Support Centre as well. And on top of all the support they’re giving the local community, they have also taken part in the Government’s Kickstart scheme, with employing two young people in the team – Sam and Lily-Rose. The team are doing a fantastic job in Southend, and if you fancy a visit, I know Daniel will welcome you with open arms!!



## 2. St Vincent’s shop, Upminster

On the 16th December this year, we opened a St Vincent’s Shop in Upminster. The address is 19a Station Road, and I know Jane and the gang there would love to have visitors, and as many donations as possible!!



### 3. St Vincent's camp, Brentwood

The Camp in Brentwood (used to be known as St John Bosco Camp), has always had massive support from our community. We have sent over 10 children there every year since I started with the SVP, and they truly loved it. Although the camp couldn't run last year because of the pandemic, we took the opportunity to build a new mixed gender toilet block to allow us run mixed camps in the future. We really can't wait to get the kids back to the camp and start running great holidays for them again.

#### People

I seem to remember most of my old newsletters had many pleas for people to take up various nominated roles in the Central Council. We brought in several new members of the team, including Michele, our new treasurer, Anthonia, our new Twinnage officer, and Daniel, our Support Centre Manager. Several other people kept the CC functioning as well – my CC Secretary, Tony Roche, who I simply couldn't have managed without – Tracy, our Training Officer, Jenny our Data Protection Officer, and Elizabeth, who looks after our Mini-Vinnie Programme. All of the team have done a fantastic job, and I'm very grateful for everything they've done to support me.

At the same time, we have lost of a number of members over my five years, who will be forever cherished in our memories. Most especially, Victor Mould, whose death last year shocked us all. Victor was such an amazing support to me during my term – he knew everybody and wrote to me very regularly to

share information that he wanted me to know. We had long telephone calls every month, making sure I was up to date with what was going on across the Diocese. Victor had been a member of the SVP for over 50 years and was passionately devoted to it. While his funeral was lovely, again it was affected by the pandemic, so only 30 people were allowed attend in person. The Chingford team made the very best of it, but I know we would have filled the church several times over if we had been allowed. I will never forget his kindness, and I miss him every day.

#### Membership Development

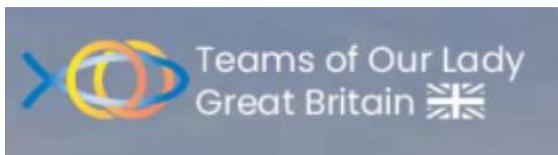
For two years Jenny Clayton from our parish was our Membership Development Officer, and she was amazing. We have new Conferences now in Brentwood and at OLI on London Road because of her work. Unfortunately, COVID put paid to lectern addresses, so she stepped down and took another role. We now have a new membership development officer, Martyn, and he will start to help our Conference, whether recruiting for new members or assisting in other ways.

In the meantime, Jenny is the President of the North Springfield Conference, and that team have been doing some amazing work for our local community. The 'simple' furniture delivery programme has taken off so much, we have now signed a lease on a building to help store it all.

I have to say that the people and events I've put into this newsletter are only a small fraction of the work that has been carried out in Brentwood during my time as CC President. It wouldn't be possible to talk about everyone and everything individually, but I must include our local parish in this article – please be assured that you are all in my thoughts and prayers. The support you have given me, and our SVP Conferences has been extraordinary – thank you.

It has been an honour and privilege to serve. My time on the Board comes to an end this summer, but I'm sure someone in National Office has me lined up for another role – watch this space!! :) **Elaine Heyworth**

# Teams of Our Lady



Teams of Our Lady is an international movement whose aim is to help married couples to grow together in their spirituality (or holiness). To achieve this, couples join a Team and become educated into the many tools proposed by the founder of Teams. By praying together once a month, eating together and sharing their lives, including their efforts and failures, joys and sorrows in a confidential setting, they are supported in their growth as a Christian couple.



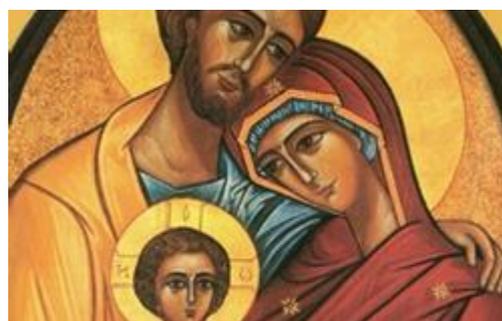
A Team consists of about four couples and a spiritual adviser (priest or religious) who meet monthly, usually in each other's homes in rotation. In the first half of the meeting, we share a meal. The meal is not meant to dominate the meeting: the guidance says that it should be a simple meal, but how simple each Team decides for itself. Over the meal, we share news of our families and ourselves so that, in time, we get to know each other and our interests and concerns.

The second half of the meeting is taken up with reporting on our efforts, prayer and reflection. Again, this will vary a little from Team to Team, but usually starts with a Bible reading, from which couples share their thoughts. Following this there would normally be time for sharing prayer intentions, which may arise from the earlier news but may also be about anything that concerns Team members. This usually

closes with a psalm and then there is time for discussion. A course of topics is suggested with a text and some thoughts to start discussion, but many Teams choose their own topics some or all of the time.

This makes Team meetings sound very heavy, but this is usually not the case. News and discussion are treated appropriately seriously but meeting with a meal helps to lighten the atmosphere. As time goes on and we share news about our lives, we get to know and relax with each other. The confidentiality referred to above is essential to allowing us to be comfortable with each other.

Each Team is part of the UK movement and are kept in touch by a quarterly Newsletter (actually a small booklet). This includes the suggested readings and discussion topics for the meetings (we have recently been provided with material from the Encyclical "Laudato Si"), but also has news about the movement and events. Events can be local, regional or national. The UK part of the movement is divided into three regions, northern, central and southern and each tries to hold an annual "gathering" which is a day of talks, discussion and sharing. Formerly this was at a central venue but has recently been done on line. Gatherings normally finish with Mass, but when we can meet physically, there is often an optional evening meeting. This gives an opportunity for couples from different Teams to meet over supper in a similar way to meeting of their own Team.



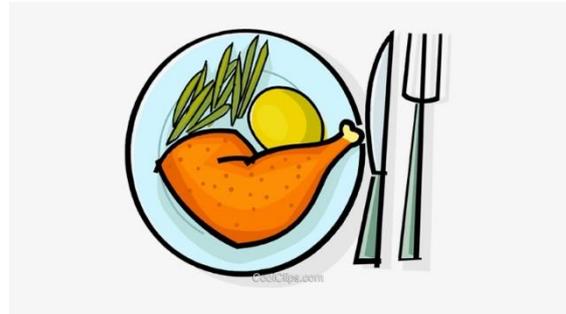
The covid pandemic has changed the way that we have worked for the moment. While we could not meet in person, many Teams have

been meeting on line and gatherings have been on line for two years. We have also introduced a monthly meeting, also on line, for couples all over the country to continue their Teams life while they could not meet. As restrictions have eased, Teams are now starting, with precautions, to get together in person and we are working on a physical national gathering next year.



The UK movement is part of an international movement. It was founded in Paris (the official name of the movement is Equipes Notre-Dame, which is the name that we use with HMRC, the Charities Commission etc.) in 1949. The Church approved our Charter and the movement has expanded beyond France. It was introduced to England in 1959 and we celebrated our 60th anniversary at Westminster Cathedral in 2019. The daughter of one of the founding couples told us about the early days at the reception. There are now Teams in dozens of countries on six continents.

The sharing of meals, experiences and ideas makes for firm friendships, both within and between Teams. Through the national movement, couples make friends throughout the country and those involved in the international movement have friends all over the world.



Is it an easy path to becoming a better couple? No, we are endeavouring throughout our lives to achieve better understanding of each other, and of God's purpose in our lives. Equipes Notre-Dame helps us by encouraging us to use dialogue and prayer in order to discern our path.

If you are interested, the GB website [www.teamsgb.org.uk](http://www.teamsgb.org.uk) provides extra information or contact Chris and Dom Thompson 01245 469161 and email [thompsoncjt01@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:thompsoncjt01@blueyonder.co.uk)

 <p><b>DISCOVERY</b></p> <p>Discover married spirituality with Jesus Christ</p>	 <p><b>GUIDANCE</b></p> <p>Find guidance from other likeminded couples and a priest</p>	 <p><b>STRENGTH</b></p> <p>Build strength in your relationship through study &amp; prayer</p>
 <p><b>GROWTH</b></p> <p>Develop personal &amp; couple spiritual growth</p>	 <p><b>COMMUNION</b></p> <p>Be in communion with fellow Team members &amp; the church</p>	 <p><b>HOPE</b></p> <p>Bring joy and hope to married life</p>

# Living in Singapore during Covid-19

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Some of you may be aware already, but I've been living in Singapore for 6 and a half years now. Like for everyone else in the world, the last two years have been a very different experience!



*Singapore skyline at night*

There was very much a no nonsense approach taken to fighting Covid-19 here, with the experience of the 2003 SARS epidemic relatively fresh in the Government's mind, having hit Asia particularly hard. So as Covid cases globally started emerging, very quickly in Singapore travel bans were imposed, social gatherings were banned, masks inside and outside were made compulsory and working from home was mandatory unless there was a specific reason this couldn't be done. And there had to be a good reason for that! Bars, restaurants and places of worship were closed. Food services had to resort to take-away only. This period ended up lasting from April through to June 2020 and was of course the strictest of the pandemic.

A phased re-opening approach was taken from June 2020 onwards. These phases have been referred to as Phase 1 – "Safe Reopening"; Phase 2 – "Safe Transition"; and Phase 3 – "Safe Nation". The initial reopening period meant that social gatherings in groups of up to 5 were now allowed. Bars and restaurants could open, but only until 10.30pm, and no live sport could be shown, and no music could be played. Stringent rules were imposed to ensure people obeyed by the rules. Heavy fines for breaking rules were imposed of up to S\$10,000 (c.£5,600) or up to 6 months in jail. A number of expats on Employment Passes had these revoked and were forced to leave the country for breaching social distancing measures. So in general, rules were very much obeyed by!

And it was largely successful. Community Covid case transmissions were very low. And it wasn't too long before "Phase 2" commenced, but this

was still a controlled approach. Social gatherings could just go up to 8 people, but 10.30pm curfews for bars and restaurants remained, and limits on events were imposed. In this period, I attended a wedding that was restricted to 20 people, including the Priest and Pianist!

Singapore is a very small (by area) city-state, and one of the biggest pull factors to Singapore is the ability to travel Asia at ease. Singapore's Changi airport is consistently rated as one of the best in world. A taxi from the city to the airport should take 20 minutes and an airport check-in is a far quicker process and more pleasant experience than being in Heathrow. The travel bans hit hard and are still restrictive for regional countries where Covid cases have not been handled so well. When travel first opened up, hotel quarantine requirements on arrival back into Singapore were very strict. Two weeks in a hotel room at your own expense was mandatory and this of course made it exceptionally hard to travel still. At the back end of 2021, 'Vaccinated Travel Lanes' were introduced, where getting on dedicated flights from specific countries would enable you to re-enter Singapore without being subject to the strict hotel quarantine requirements. There was incredibly high demand at this point, particularly for all the expats who had not seen their families for so long – myself included!



*Indoor Waterfall at Jewel, Changi Airport*

Singapore has now eased some of its measures, despite Omicron community cases now being much higher. The country has a very high rate of double vaccinations at 95% of the eligible population, and most have had the booster as well. Travel restrictions are easing, social gatherings are up to 10 people, and curfews are being removed. Things are looking more positive and we are moving in the right direction!

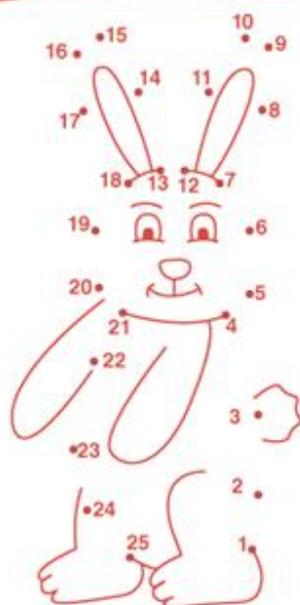
**David Hitchen**

# Easter Eggsercises

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## Dots to dots Easter puzzle



## Easter Mazes



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2. A community where everyone is growing in their understanding of the Catholic Faith
3. A community where everyone is growing in the life of prayer and their relationship with God
4. A community where pastoral, spiritual and practical care is given to those in need
5. A community where more people are actively involved in the Mission of the Church.

## OUR PARISH PRAYER

Loving Father,

You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son, that we might believe in Him and have eternal life.

May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day and live the Good News with joy.

Through the power of your Holy Spirit, Help us to "go out to the whole world and proclaim" our faith with confidence.

Give us the courage to witness to the joy of the Gospel by our words and actions.

Help our parish to become more welcoming and missionary, so that you may be known and loved by all people.

We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever,

Amen

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you to everyone who has helped to put this edition together. We want to reflect what is going on in the Parish, and are always looking for articles about what you are involved in. As well as those who wrote or sent material, thank you to those who have commented, added material or contributed information. A particular thank you to Ben Hitchen, who has formatted and laid out the magazine, and has contributed several items. Thank you also to New Hall for printing the magazine.

It takes a long time to assemble the material for each edition and it is helpful to have articles early on. When we have all the articles, it takes time to format and order it and get it printed, and the sooner we can make a start the easier it is. If you have anything that might be of interest, particularly with pictures, please let us have them as soon as possible.

We wish our readers a Happy and Holy Easter and a good summer. Come back with pictures of your holidays, please!

**Chris Thompson**