



# Church of England - Diocese of Chelmsford

## Ministry among Deaf & Deafblind People

### Newsletter



#### *Ash Wednesday*



Members of the ministry team went to the Chelmsford Deaf Club lunch on Ash Wednesday and offered members the opportunity to be “ashed” with the sign of the cross. The ash was made by burning palm crosses left over from last year’s Palm Sunday service. The sign of the cross is made on the forehead. Although only a few members took part it was an important way to visibly show repentance of our sins at the start of Lent.

#### *Diamond Wedding Celebration*

Many congratulations to Eric and Chrissie Bateman, from Southend Deaf Church, who celebrated 60 years of marriage on February 28. On February 10 we were pleased to welcome members of their family to the Deaf Church service, during which Eric and Chrissie were given a special blessing. After the service we presented them with flowers and a card.



They also had a lovely celebration on March 2 with family and friends (including chaplains Denis, Jean, Peter and their spouses who were also kindly invited) at the Oysterfleet hotel on Canvey Island.

Pride of place was given to the card they received from the Queen congratulating them on reaching such a milestone in their life together. Each guest also had the opportunity to sign a personal message to Eric and Chrissie as well as leaving a photo of themselves which was included in the guest book.

We wish Eric and Chrissie many more happy years together.

## **Southend Deaf Church**

Southend Deaf church will be meeting in St. Margaret's Church, Castledon Road, Downham CM11 1LG, on April 14 instead of at the St. Mellitus centre which will be shut for 4 - 6 weeks from April 1 while a new roof is put on the building and the flooring is repaired. Hopefully the work will be completed on time for us to hold our service there on May 12th when Archdeacon Elizabeth Snowden will be joining us.

## **Maundy Thursday and Good Friday**

Maundy Thursday (when we remember Jesus sharing the last supper with his disciples and commanding them to love and serve one another) is on April 18. There is a service at Chelmsford Cathedral at 11.00am which will be signed. The service of Holy Communion will also be an opportunity to renew our commitment to following Jesus. The ministry team will be providing signing at the service. Although you do not have to book a seat, if you would like to go it would be helpful to let one of the team know so we can ensure that enough seats are reserved for Deaf people.

The following day (April 19) is Good Friday when we remember Jesus being crucified on the cross. There is an outdoor service in Chelmsford High Street at 11.00am. The ministry team will be providing signing at this service. In Colchester there will also be a walk of witness leaving Essex Street (off Headgate) at 12 noon and finishing at Lion Walk where there will be a short service. This will also be signed by members of the ministry team.


## **Diana**

We send many congratulations to ministry team member Diana who recently celebrated a "significant" birthday. Diana did not want presents. Instead she is trying to raise money to fund a toilet for people in Africa who do not have access to clean sanitation. If you would like to wish Diana happy birthday and raise some money for her project please visit her Virgin money page at:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DianaBengeAbbott>



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