



Church of England - Diocese of Chelmsford



Ministry among Deaf & Deafblind People Newsletter Easter 2017

Happy Birthday (1)

In March 2017 East London Sign Church celebrated its first birthday. This congregation meets at 4. pm on the second Saturday of each month in St. John's Church Stratford (who make us very welcome and who also have an historic link with Deaf Church in our diocese).



Catherine and Denis blowing out the candle on the church birthday cake

The Deaf Church is a joint partnership between our Diocese of Chelmsford and the Diocese of London. Both dioceses were looking to establish a Deaf congregation in East London and so we decided to join together.

Members of the congregation come from both dioceses (and sometimes Deaf people attend who live even further away). Revd. Catherine Carlyon, the chaplain for London Diocese, and Revd. Denis Huntley, chaplain for the Diocese of Chelmsford, share the services and are beginning to plan for the second year of witness by Deaf people in East London.

Happy Birthday (2)



This year The Royal Association for Deaf People (RAD) celebrates its 175th birthday.

As part of the celebrations, RAD mascot RADley bear made a special appearance with Dr Jan Sheldon, Chief Executive of RAD, at the annual carol service for Deaf people in the cathedral last December to introduce this birthday year. (see photo on left)

Later this year, in June, the work of RAD will be celebrated during a service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, the city in which RAD was founded.

Deaf people and music in worship

Deaf Lay Minister Viv recently wrote an article for *The Reader* magazine. The topic for the magazine was 'music and worship', so Viv wrote to remind readers that d/Deaf people cannot use music to worship in the way that hearing people can. She shared her own experience, along with some discussion about how essential (or not!) music is for worship.

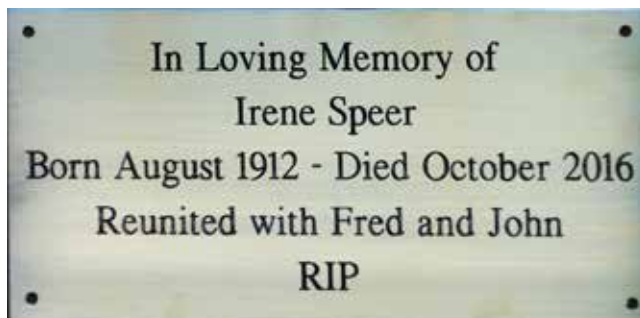
After the magazine came out, the editor emailed Viv to say that someone in Lichfield Diocese wanted to use the article in a course he was teaching to people training to be vicars. That was good news, because it means a new generation of clergy in that diocese will be a little more deaf-aware than they would otherwise have been.

In Memory

At the March service of Southend Deaf Church, Deaf and hearing friends of the late Irene Speers (including her long standing friends and good neighbours Derek and Shirley Greenwood) came together for the blessing of a plaque in her memory.

Irene was a faithful member of Southend Deaf Church until her death last October aged 104. Thanks to Eric and Chrissie Bateman bringing her to church every month Irene was able to come to church until just a few months before her death.

Irene was born before the first world war and had outlived not only her husband Fred, but also her only child John, who are both mentioned on the plaque. We pray that Irene may rest in the peace and love of God.



We wish you all a Blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter

Members of the ministry team will be signing services during Holy Week at the following times



Palm Sunday 9 April

11.00am Signed Service Holy Communion & Distribution of Palm crosses at Southend Deaf Church, St Mellitus RAD Centre, Oakhurst Road, Southend SS2 5DT

Good Friday 14 April

11.00am Sign Supported Marches from all parts of Chelmsford, meeting at the High Street, outside the Shire Hall for a service at 11.00am
Please would Deaf people move to the front of the very big crowd, where there will be space to stand to see the signers

11.45am Sign Supported Procession and Service in Colchester, starting in Essex Street, with the service in Lion Walk

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or



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Chelmsford Diocese Deaf Church
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