

Modern Day Slaves!

Friends from Chichester will be visiting us soon - for their haircuts! (Long story). Whilst madam is having her hair titivated, her husband visits a local hand car wash. During this visit I'll be telling him about the following problem.

In recent years the issue of modern day slavery within our own nation has obtained a high profile. We have been appalled at some situations that have been taking place under our very noses, in plain sight, but not actually SEEN. Slavery takes many forms not just that which existed in the 19th century U.S.A. Our diocese of Rochester, in conjunction with many others, has become involved in a national Church of England initiative, which has received the backing of the Archbishop of Canterbury, about potential slavery in the hand car washes. In recent publicity material his grace writes, "*Enticed with promises of work, housing and opportunities, thousands of workers in hand car washes ...are believed to be victims of modern slavery. Over the last few years we have learnt more about the evil of this crime and began to understand how it is perpetrated in our communities in plain sight. Through the Safe Car Wash App we now have a chance to tackle this scourge which is damaging so many lives. This App enables us to join in the important work of gathering intelligence on an industry where modern slavery is suspected to be rife. I hope you will join me in backing the.... campaign, as we work together with the police to help bring an end to this assault on human dignity.*"

The Church of England is backing this App being developed by The Clewer Initiative in collaboration with the National Crime Agency (NCA), the Gang Masters and Labour Abuse authority along with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. It will involve a short survey about conditions you observe while having your car washed. If it scores highly on indicators of modern slavery you will be asked to report it, confidentially of course, to a helpline and they will then share it with the NCA. The Clewer Initiative states '*Modern slavery is hidden in plain sight on our high streets. The National Crime Agency thinks there are tens of thousands of people being exploited in the UK, forced to work long hours, for little or no pay, and under threat of violence.*' The Safe Car Wash app, to be launched in June or July, has been developed to allow the general public to engage with the problem. For full details visit www.theclewerinitiative.org/safecarwash. If you haven't got a smart-phone there are other ways of reporting available too.

Fr James

The Bridge

Monthly Magazine of the Parish of Higham (Ss. John & Mary) with Merston

WORSHIP AT S.JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH

EVERY SUNDAY	Morning Prayer (said)	8.45 am
	PARISH MASS (sung)	9.30 am
	<i>with Junior Church & Very Junior Church</i>	
	Evening Prayer (said)	6.00 pm

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION: Said Mass 9.30 am & Solemn Mass 7.30 pm
Solemn Evening Prayer & Benediction on Sundays - *as announced.*

THE DAILY MASS Thursday TIMES	Monday 6.30 pm Tuesday 7.30 pm Wednesday 9.30 am Thursday 7.30 pm Friday 9.30 am Saturday 9.30 am	DAILY MORNING PRAYER Each day at 9 am ***** DAILY EVENING PRAYER Each day at 6 pm (<i>except Tue. & Thur. at 7 pm</i>)
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<u>PARISH</u>	The Rev'd. Canon James F. Southward	The Vicarage, Hermitage Rd.
<u>PRIEST</u>	Telephone 01634-717360	Higham, Kent, ME3 7NE.
	E.mail saintjohn.higham@yahoo.co.uk	*****

PLEASE NOTE: FATHER JAMES IS NOT NORMALLY AVAILABLE ON THURSDAY

Marriages, Banns of Marriage, Baptism, Confirmation and other general enquiries:
Father James is usually available, in Church, for initial enquiries about these on

TUESDAYS 8.15 pm and SATURDAYS 10.30 am

It is always advisable to telephone and make an appointment in each case.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession and absolution)
is available on Fridays at 6.30 pm or by appointment with Fr. James

Information / requests relating to funerals, ministry to the sick and dying,
Holy Communion at home or in hospital should be given to Father James.



In an emergency please contact him at any time or, if he is not available, the Parish
Reader or a Churchwarden (details below).

PARISH READER	Mr Simon Walker	11 S.John's Road, Higham	* Tel: 07794-523179
THE	Mrs Teresa Joblin	10 Telegraph Hill, Higham	Tel: 01474-823186
CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs Helen Walker	11 S.John's Road, Higham	* Tel: 01474-396569
	CHURCH HALL MANAGER - Mrs Julie Healey		* Tel: 01474-822008

* Evening calls only on these numbers please

July 2018 at S. John's, Higham

Calendar and Mass Intentions

MASS) SUNDAYS: WEEKDAYS: Mon. 6.30pm; Tu. & Th., 7.30pm;
TIMES) Sung Mass 9.30am Wed, Fri. & Sat. 9.30am

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>CELEBRATION</i>		<i>INTENTION</i>
SUN	1st	13th ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+)	THE PARISH
Mon	2nd	Feria <i>Ord. Week 13</i>		Homeless and dispossessed
Tue	3rd	S.Thomas <i>Apostle</i>	(f)	Churches of India
Wed	4th	Feria <i>consecrated 3.7.18</i>		Simon, Bp. of Tonbridge
Th	5th	S.Anthony Zaccaria <i>Priest</i>	(m)	Single clergy
Fri.	6th	Feria <i>OF SACRED HEART</i>	(v)	N.G.O. Charities
Sat	7th	Feria <i>OF OUR LADY</i>	(v)	Walsingham
SUN	8th	14th ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+)	THE PARISH
Mon	9th	The Martyrs of China	(m)	The Chinese Churches
Tue	10th	Feria <i>Ord. Week 14</i>		The sick and disabled
Wed	11th	S.Benedict of Monte Cassino, <i>Abbott</i>	(f)	Church in Western Europe
Th	12th	Feria		Christian Missionaries
Fri	13th	Feria		Society of the Holy Cross
Sat	14th	Feria <i>mass of requiem</i>	(v)	+RIPs & anniversaries
SUN	15th	15th ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+)	THE PARISH
Mon	16th	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	(m)	Aylesford Friary
Tue	17th	Feria <i>Ord. Week 15</i>		P.C.C.
Wed	18th	Feria		Church Children's work
Th.	19th	Feria		Higham Congregationalists
Fri	20th	Feria		The hungry & needy
Sat	21st	Feria		The persecuted churches
SUN	22ND	16th ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+)	THE PARISH
Mon	23rd	S.Bridget of Sweden, <i>Abbess</i>	(f)	Church in Northern Europe
Tue	24th	S.Sharbel Makhlu ^f <i>priest</i>	(m)	Middle-Eastern Churches
Wed	25th	S.James the Gt., <i>Apostle</i>	(f)	PCC Meeting
Th.	26th	Ss. Joachim & Anne	(m)	Christian Grandparents
Fri	27th	Feria <i>Ord. Week 16</i> <i>elected 26.7.10</i>		The diocesan bishop
Sat	28th	Feria		The lapsed or indifferent
SUN	30th	17th ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+)	THE PARISH
Mon	30th	Feria <i>Ord. Week 17</i>		SSM Sisters at Walsingham
Tue	31st	S.Ignatius of Loyola, <i>Priest</i>	(m)	Soc. of Retreat Conductors

KEY: (+) *Holy Day of Obligation;* (S) *Solemnity;* (f) *Feast;* (m) *Memoria* (v) *Votive*

THE JULY REQUIEM

is on Saturday 14th July 2018 at 9.30am

*The recently departed (and those named below) will be prayed for at this Mass.
Those named below are remembered on the Sunday before and the actual date itself.*

1 st	Ivy <u>Joan</u> Miles		Derek Albert Clark
	Sheena Wilkie Dallas	19 th	Malcolm David Ivory
	Alan William Michael Taylor	20 th	Peter Anthony Hilton Kelly
3 rd	Annie Morpew	21 st	Yopé Clarke
4 th	David Ian Gillingham		<i>Sr</i> Catherine O.H.P.
7 th	Olive Beard		Nellie Mathilda Dodd
9 th	Susan Linda O'Grady	23 rd	Frederick George Holt
11 th	Nicholas Austen <i>child</i>	24 th	Eileen Renwick
	Ronald Alfred Cole		Shirley Margaret Blake
	Robert Runcie <i>BISHOP</i>		Denis John Charles Gilchrist
12 th	Dennis Roy Clarke	25 th	Frederick John Still
13 th	Benjamin Thomas Rogers	26 th	Kathleen Mary Stevens
15 th	Peggy Eileen Peters		Freda Stanley
16 th	Geoffrey Earl Raven <i>PRIEST</i> *	28 th	David Sherwen
	William Henry Wenham	30 th	GladysShipman
17 th	Edward William Mahy		Frank Oliver Randall
	Beatrice Margaret Baker		John Leslie Austen
	Mavis Winifred Reason		

PLEASE NOTE: Except for previous Incumbents* of this Parish
(and where it is known that people attend this mass to pray for someone)
the names of those deceased more than 20 years have been removed from the list.
However should someone attend this requiem mass AND request the inclusion

*Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.*

. ~ DAILY BIBLE READINGS ~

ONLY A FEW MINUTES EACH DAY and following the readings used at the Daily Mass in Church - even if you can't be there. Choose one or both readings.
There are three readings assigned for Sundays and special holy days.

SUNDAY - WEEK 13

JULY 1ST

Wisdom 1.13-15; 2.23-24
2 Corinthians 8.7,9,13-15
Mark 5.21-43

M	Amos 2.6-10,13-16	Matthew 8.18-22
T	S. THOMAS THE APOSTLE	JULY 3RD
	Ephesians 2.19-22	John 20.24-29
W	Amos 5.14-15.21-24	Matthew 8.28-34
Th	Amos 7.10-17	Matthew 9.1-8
F	Amos 8.4-6.9-12	Matthew 9.9-13
S	Amos 9.11-15	Matthew 9.14-17

SUNDAY - WEEK 14

JULY 8TH

Ezekiel 2.2-5
2 Corinthians 12.7-10
Mark 6.1-6

M	Hosea 2.16-18.21-22	Matthew 9.18-26
T	Hosea 8.4-7,11-13	Matthew 9.32-38
W	S. BENEDICT of Monte Cassino	JULY 11TH
	Proverbs 2.1-9	Matthew 19.27-29
Th	Hosea 11.1-4.8-9	Matthew 10.7-15
F	Hosea 14.2-10	Matthew 10.16-23
S	Isaiah 6.1-8	Matthew 10.24-33

SUNDAY - WEEK 15

JULY 15TH

Amos 7.12-15
Ephesians 1.3-14
Mark. 6.7-13

M	Isaiah 1.10-17	Matthew 10.34-11.1
T	Isaiah 7.1-9	Matthew 11.20-24
W	Isaiah 10.5-7.13-16	Matthew 11.25-27
Th	Isaiah 26.7-9.16-19	Matthew 11.28-30
F	Isaiah 38.1-8.21-22	Matthew 12.1-8
S	Micah 2.1-5	Matthew 12.14-21

SUNDAY - WEEK 16

JULY 22ND

Jeremiah 23.1-6
Ephesians 6.30-34
Mark 6.30-34

M	S. BRIDGET of Sweden	JULY 23RD
	Galatians 2.19-20	John 15.1-8
T	Micah 7.14-15,18-20	Matt. 12.46-50
W	S. JAMES THE APOSTLE	JULY 25TH
	2 Corinthians 4.7-15	Matt. 20.20-28
Th	<i>Ss Joachim and Anne</i>	<i>July 26th</i>
	Ecclesiasticus 44.1.10-15	Matt. 13.16-17
F	Jeremiah 3.14-17	Matthew 13.18-23
S	Jeremiah 7.1-11	Matthew 13.24-30

SUNDAY - WEEK 17

JULY 29TH

2 Kings 4.42-44
Ephesians 4.1-6
John 6.1-15

M	Jeremiah 13.1-11	Matt. 13.31-35
T	Jeremiah 14.17-22	Matt. 13.36-43

Note: Ecclesiasticus is found in Bibles with the Apocrypha

End by using the Sunday Bulletin 'Opening Prayer' or this 'Prayer after Reading Scripture'

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your holy word.

May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths, and a strength in our lives. Take us and use us to love and serve everyone; in the power of the Holy Spirit, and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Vintage Sale at St Johns Church

Saturday 7th July 2018

10.30 am to 2.30 pm



**Stalls, refreshments,
tea, coffee,
cake with conversation
in the Church Hall**

**Start sorting out those things you no
longer need!**

**£10 per table to sell your own items
or why not just come along and buy?**

**If you are interested in hiring a
table**

Contact Helen on 07528472686

HiARA MAY REPORT

The May meeting was the last for John and Diana Wheatley, who are retiring from the Chairmanship after over 10 years. They have both worked so hard to promote and improve HiARA throughout the village and beyond. Speakers on many topics and the wellbeing of the activities have been John's concern. John and Diana have also organised some very successful social events with the help and support of a loyal committee over the years. John has been the editor of the Club's newsletter which was much appreciated. A retiring presentation of a Waterford Crystal vase was presented by Barbara Burns, one of the longest serving members. This was followed by an enthusiastic round of applause. John and Diana retired with all our good wishes.

Following this, guest speaker military historian Martin Stoneham, gave a very timely lecture on "The Commonwealth War Graves Commission". Martin is Chairman of the Friends of the Royal Engineers and Trustee of the Royal Engineers' museum in Gillingham and he has 25 years' service with the regiment. The War Grave Commission was created in 1917 by Major Fabien Ware and Rudyard Kipling to commemorate our own war dead and those of many other countries. He showed wonderful pictures of memorials round England and the Continent including Ypres and Vimy Ridge, Loos and other battlefields. He showed some pictures of the memorials in Gravesend plus the memorial dedicated to the Merchant Navy on Tower Hill, London and the Royal Navy in Chatham. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission employs 540 gardeners to keep all the sites well cared for.

Did you know that 9 men from Higham are remembered in St Mary's Church, Lower Higham and of course, very many more are

remembered on the plaque at Higham Memorial Hall? Remarkably bodies are still being discovered and given military burials.

Tickets were available for the next main meeting - the June Social where members will be enjoying sandwiches, cakes and entertainment by Jasmine singing Songs from Broadway musicals. The Guided Tour of Cobham Hall with refreshments is popular; don't forget to book your place. Other outings are planned - look for the details at the meetings.

Activity afternoons are well attended and members enjoy the opportunity to join in with crafts, cards or indoor bowling or just to chat.

Want to see what we have on offer? Call in to the Memorial Hall any Friday afternoon at 2 pm and meet one of the committee who will show you around and give a warm welcome. Membership is £10.00 per year, 1st 4 visits are free!

Pat Oakeshott
Publicity Officer

LOCAL EVENTS

Monday 2nd July 2018: Evening circular historical guided along Ebbsfleet valley.

Meet: 7pm at entrance to Sainsbury's store, Springhead Road, Northfleet. DA11 8JH

Leader: Peter Willis 01474 534889. (Gravesend Historical Society walk)

Chalk Village Fete – a family day out in a glorious landscape

On: Saturday 14th July 2018

At: Chalk Church field, Church Lane, Chalk.

Begins: 11.30am

Details: Heather Bull 01474 320156.

In collaboration with the Friends of St. Mary's Church
and with kind permission of the Churches Conservation Trust

Higham Choral Group

**presents a varied programme of music for a
summer evening including**

CARMINA BURANA

Cantiones Profanae

By Carl Orff

highlights from **The Sound of Music**

plus special guests

The Children's Choir of Rochester Cathedral

St. Mary's Church, Lower Higham

Saturday 7th July at 7.30 pm

£10.00 includes light buffet
tickets at the door

for further information contact

01634 718818/01634 718285 - email: kateiw@tiscali.co.uk

Musical Director - Richard Shackleton

www.highamchoral.org.uk

HIGHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Higham WI met in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 3rd May.

Our Chairman, Stephanie Griffiths, welcomed us all to the Annual General Meeting. The first item for the evening was representatives' reports:

Drama: Joan Campbell – A meeting is planned for Wednesday, 6th June to plan for the Christmas drama.

PA&I: Christine Cavendar is making arrangements for several "away days" – more information would be available soon.

Hall Committee: Veronica Mitchell – At the most recent meeting it was reported that the re-decoration of the hall would begin soon, repairs to windows was in hand, Boot Fair to be held on Sunday, 6th May. The hall committee was not agreeable to allowing the WI to have their own key to the hall.

Our Treasurer circulated the annual accounts which were explained in detail and received by members present.

As there were no nominations for committee members, it was agreed: President - Stephanie Griffiths, Vice President – Christine Downes, Secretary – Kay Lakin, Assistant Secretary – Pat Merrison, Treasurer – Samantha Clark.

Home Economics representatives – Susan McCarthy (who had moved to Canterbury) and Sylvia Shelton stood down and because Hoo District has been disbanded, Veronica Mitchell also stood down. The remaining representatives were happy to continue – Janice Tofts, a fairly new member, volunteered to join the committee and she was welcomed by the President.

Following refreshments, there was a picture quiz and ladies recited humorous verses which were much enjoyed.

Josephine Smith

Bags 2 Church New Year, Fresh Start? Need to declutter?

Have you been meaning to clear some space in your wardrobe and drawers?

Well now is the chance to do it:-

However due to lack of storage, St John's will gladly receive your unwanted clothes, shoes, bags or soft toys from **Sunday 8th July 2018.**

Please note we can no longer take DUVETS, PILLOWS, MATTRESS COVERS, TOWELS, BEDDING (Sheets, blankets or duvet covers/pillowcases) or CURTAINS.

Place in a clear bag available from the Church Porch and return at the **latest** by **Tuesday 10th July 2018.** These will be collected and in return the church will receive up to £400 a tonne.

For more information contact Julie Healey on 01474 822008

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

At the centre of the Christian life is prayer. Celebrating the mass and other services is prayer together. We pray on our own in varied ways. Sometimes we use set prayers or methods with which we grow very familiar, and certain prayers become part of our personal prayer life. The late Cardinal Hume said that his favourite prayer was the old 'Collect for Purity' from the Prayer Book. The prayer we offer together and our individual prayers are like one united prayer rising to heaven, like the different strands of 'smoke' in church combining into one column of sweet smelling incense.

Everybody has the ability to pray. One of the best definitions of prayer is turning to God and being at one with him. Sometimes it's like talking to him, sometimes it's a bit like talking to ourselves but in front of God. Priests are obliged, by virtue of their vocation, to pray the 'Divine Office' at various times in the day and evening (no days off or holidays!). This sanctifies the day, and is prayer offered on behalf of the whole church while ordinary people are engaged in their daily work or tasks. Anyone can join in (Morning and Evening Prayer at St John's) or adopt the practice themselves. It's like a song that the Church sings constantly to God for his mercy.

One of the great ancient maxims about prayer, whichever form it takes, is "to pray as you can and not as you can't". What works for one person doesn't necessarily work for another. We also grow in our practice of prayer as time goes by. There are some times when it's harder than at others. If you are very busy, maybe going to work early in the morning and being very tired at night, or looking after small children or people in need, it may be difficult to fit it in at all. We all need to work out how we can find a time for prayer however difficult it may be, and even if it has to be a very short time. Someone once told me that the best time for them to pray was on the crowded train going to work. The train was crowded but nobody was talking and it was possible to feel alone before God. For most of us a quiet place is the best setting in which to pray. It's great disadvantage when churches are shut during the day. They are meant to be sanctuaries of quiet where it is easy to pray. (It's also better to pray or sit quietly in church while waiting for mass to start - "Talk to God before mass, talk to each other after mass"). But we can still find somewhere to be alone and quiet, at home or nearby. Each person needs to establish a working discipline for themselves.

If you are helping during a Sunday service, or looking after children, it's not easy to have a sense of prayerfulness, but God sees the desires and intentions in our hearts so our 'duties' are a prayer in themselves.

I was very shocked when I heard a nun say on the radio that she had prayed for many years but had given it up because she was spiritually exhausted. However, when I thought about it I recognized that we do get 'arid' sometimes on our prayer and it becomes very routine without seeming to be very spiritual. If this happens, and it does, we shouldn't give up but wait for the Spirit to renew our prayer. One way in which this can happen is the 'prayer of silence'. The Cure D'Ars (St John Vianney), patron saint of the parish clergy, said that he saw an old man just sitting in the church, every day. He eventually asked him what he was doing. He replied that he sat looking at the tabernacle on the altar and he and Jesus just looked at each other in silent communion.

When we pray quietly like this it's important to be bodily still and to be somewhere fairly quiet. Outside noises, like cars and voices distract you at first but they gradually fade away. St Benedict said when he was a student in 5th Century Rome said "the world is too noisy" and sought refuge in the empty hills south of the city. We can't escape like that but we can work on solitude in the midst of a noisy world. Sometimes people are afraid of silence or of being on their own. We should think of this as time dedicated to God. All sort of thoughts come into our head and swirl around but you have to let them pass, by which they do. "Be still and know that I am God" -psalm 46 v10. God knows the secrets of our hearts and minds and doesn't require us to say the right and proper things in his presence, just as when people know each other well they don't need to speak sometimes. The basic bond is stronger than words. At first you try to embrace the silence and fight distractions but as time goes on the silence embraces you and you come to feel it within yourself. Time seems to stand still whether we prayer for a few minutes or a long time. Once again we discover that prayer is natural to us, and integral to our Christian life.

Fr Andrew

HIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL.

Councillors met on Monday May 21, at 7.30 pm in Higham Memorial Hall. This meeting began with the Annual Parish Council meeting when the current chairman and vice-chairman steps down.

Chairman, Councillor Jennifer Papadopulos welcomed all those present and thanked everyone for their support whilst she was chairman, a post she had held for over 15 years.

Election papers were distributed and the Councillors voted on the position of Chairman. Following the count, Councillor Peter Allison was duly elected. Secondly, voting papers were counted for the position of Vice Chairman and Councillor John Grey was duly elected. Both accepted and thanked Councillors for their support and each were welcomed into their new roles. Following this discussions took place on the continued formulation of the various committees: CDC. Infrastructure committee and Executive committee, each has a chairman and vice chair and all councillors are encouraged to attend any meetings called by committee chairmen.

This concluded the Annual Parish Council meeting and the Parish Council began, in advance of the agenda, with a welcome to KCC.Councillor, Bryan Sweet land. Once again the KCC budget allocation has been reduced by £70m for the upcoming year and further major savings will have to be made. However, £8m has been awarded from central Government specifically for pothole repairs. Fly tipping is on the increase locally and ideas were put forward to combat this. All recent incidents in the village and surrounding areas have been reported to GBC. Residents are encouraged to report any fly tipping direct to GBC via their website. The refuse depot in Northfleet will be closed for some months following the recent fire. Councillor Sweet land distributed a full report to all of the Parish Council.

Routine matters began and items from the minutes of the last meeting were updated. Some time was given over to the GDPR legislation affecting all at this time. This will involve the council in considerable amount of administration.

Mrs Vikki Brooke was introduced as she had approached the Councillors with a proposal to become a Parish Council Advisor, Mrs Brooke, a resident in Lower Higham, currently helps with the litter picks and the dog mess campaign and is enthusiastic to do more for the village which she says she is "passionate about". Mrs Brooke was thanked by the Councillors who look forward to the help she will provide. KCC Community Warden, Paul Hassell was, not at the meeting but the next community warden drop in session is on May 31 and again on June 28, at 2.30 pm at the Library. Pop in and see him there with any issues concerning the village.

The Gardens for Pleasure event will be due soon and roads were selected to view by Councillors and judging will take place in early summer. Councillors agreed to increase the prize value this year.

Chairman Cllr Peter Allison speaking on the CDC report confirmed arrangements are being put in place for a concert to be held on the recreation ground on Friday July 20. More details will be announced soon.

Planning applications were discussed with no objections subject to neighbours concerns.

The next meeting is on Monday, July 2 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall. Members of the public are welcomed to attend.

Liz Jeffery

HIGHCLIFFE MEDICAL PRACTICE

The following information was collated from the GP's surgeries at Higham and Cliffe over a ten month period 2017 – 2018

Month	Doctor's appointments missed	Nurses appointments missed
June 2017	70	78
July	52	43
August	35	39
September	39	64
October	39	63
November	57	62
December	42	71
January 2018	54	61
February	46	46
March	38	42
	472appointments	569 appointments
	78.6 hours	94.8 hours

It is important that if anyone cannot attend for their appointment with either a doctor or a nurse that they contact the surgery as soon as possible so that it can then be offered to another patient.

Cliffe Surgery telephone number **01634 220203**

Higham Surgery telephone number **01474 823841**

If you update the surgeries with your correct mobile telephone number they can send out automated reminders of appointments.

Yvonne Kingman

For the Patient Participation Group

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HOSPITAL
BY TAKING PART IN THIS YEAR'S
STRIDE4LIFE
SPONSORED WALKS
ON SUNDAY 8TH JULY 2018
IN THE GROUNDS OF THE HOSPITAL

all proceeds go to the Hospital's Cancer Fighting Fund.

If you would like to take part you can go on line to
register,

pick up an application form at the Hospital or
ring the fundraising office on 01322 428392.

To find out more about Stride4Life

go to www.dvh.nhs.uk/stride4life.

Or find us on Facebook 'Stride4Life'

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

The "This is my Theatre" (www.thisismytheatre.com) performing arts company made a very welcome return to St Mary's Church, Lower Higham on Friday May 25 at 7.30pm.

The audience were enthralled with the adaptation of William Shakespeare's classic fantasy of mistaken identities and mischievous fairies. The ancient church was a perfect backdrop and had been decorated to resemble a romantic woodland scene. All the parts were played by just six talented actors, who combined their singing, playing of musical instruments and even fighting skills to execute a really enjoyable performance.

The travelling theatre troupe are touring the South East over the summer months; do try and get along to see one of their plays, you will not be disappointed.

The event was arranged by The Friends of St Mary's in partnership with the Churches Conservation Trust and was one of several events planned for the summer and autumn.

Liz Jeffery.



S.SHARBEL MAKHULF OF LEBANON

Monk, priest, and hermit of the ancient Lebanese Maronite Church.

S.Sharbel was born on the 8th May 1828 in Bekaa Kafra village and died on 24th December 1898, age 70 at the Monastery of S.Maron, Annaya, Lebanon. Although he never travelled very far at all from the village where he was born nevertheless this saint's influence has spread widely.

Raised by an uncle, because his father, a mule driver, died when he was only three years old, Joseph Zaroun Makhuluf was always a pious

child. Against his uncle's wishes he entered the Monastery of S.Maron aged 23, and took the name Sharbel in honour of a second-century martyr. He professed final vows two years later and was ordained in 1859 aged over 30. Later Sharbel, following the example of S.Maron (5th century), lived as a hermit from 1875 until his death. A reputation for holiness meant many sought him out to receive a blessing and be remembered in his prayers. He followed a strict fast as he was very devoted to the Blessed Sacrament. Though a hermit, when asked on occasion by his Superior to administer the sacraments to nearby villages, Sharbel did so gladly. After dying late in the day on Christmas Eve his tomb soon became a place of pilgrimage and of cures for Christians and non-Christians alike!

Emphasising the wide variety of church rites and traditions within the universal Church Pope Paul VI beatified Sharbel in 1965, and canonized him 1977. The Maronites, in their distinctive clerical attire, have been seen in recent decades at papal funerals and the inaugurations of new papacies. S.Sharbel's major shrine is in the Monastery of S.Maron, Annaya, Jbeil District, Lebanon. In the Maronite Calendar his feast is the 3rd Sunday in July. In the West he is observed on the 24th July.

ellenor.^x

SAVE THE DATE

SUMMER FAIR


SATURDAY 11 AUGUST 11AM TO 3PM

ellenor, Coldharbour Road,
Gravesend DA11 7HQ

£2 ADULTS – CHILDREN GO FREE!

SEE YOU THERE!

Join us for a fun-filled summer's day and enjoy face painting, traditional family games, tombola, craft and plant stalls, live entertainment, delicious food and drink and much more...

 @ellenorcharity

 /ellenorcharity

www.ellenor.org

 Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

HIGHAM CRIME FIGURES – MARCH 2018

Type of Crime	Total
Anti-social behaviour	8
Burglary	4
Vehicle	2
Criminal damage and Arson	2
Other theft	0
Public order	0
Violence and sexual offences	10

In March 2017 there were 54 reported crimes in Higham.

HIGHAM CRIME FIGURES – APRIL 2018

Type of Crime	Total
Anti-social behaviour	6
Burglary	4
Vehicle	2
Criminal damage and Arson	4
Other theft	2
Public order	4
Violence and sexual offences	10

In April 2017 there were 46 reported crimes in Higham.

Figures obtained from the Police website, crime-statistics.co.uk

JULY 2018



Donation Guide

PLEASE NOTE ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE IN DATE, LONG LIFE, TINNED, DRIED, JAR, OR PACKET.

- *ALL TYPES OF TINNED VEGETABLES incl. TINNED POTATOES
 - * INSTANT SMASH POTATO *INSTANT NOODLES, *COUS COUS * INSTANT PASTA, Instant rice.
 - *Vegetarian Foods
 - *TINNED MEAT PRODUCTS & TINNED PIES (there has been a request for tin openers as well this month)
 - *COFFEE, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Sugar.
 - *TINNED MACARONI CHEESE, tins of spaghetti, jars of Pasta Sauce
 - Cereals, Cereal bars, Sweet & Chocolate Biscuits.
 - *CUSTARD, Rice pudding, *TINNED FRUIT, Sponge puddings,
 - *JAM, *PEANUT BUTTER, Nuttella Spread, Marmite
 - *NO FRIDGE/UHT FRUIT JUICE., *NO FRIDGE/UHT MILK,
 - *SQUASH TO DILUTE
 - Deodorants, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shower gels, bars of soap,
 - *SHAMPOO and CONDITIONER
 - Ladies personal toiletries, Toilet Rolls, Nappies size 4 & 5
 - *WASHING POWDER OR LIQUID - especially the pods or tablets, *WASHING UP LIQUID, *HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCTS
- *Above items are currently low in stock at the Foodbank.
We have plenty BAKED BEANS, TINNED SOUP & TEA this month.

THE COLLECTION BOX WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH
DURING THE LAST WEEKEND OF THE MONTH
FROM FRIDAY TO MONDAY

Thank You very much for you support

Gravesham Foodbank hosted by RCCG Life Start
Connections & supported by Gravesham Churches Together
Registered charity number 1135341 Registered in England & Wales
graveshamfoodbank@gmail.com www.gravesham.foodbank.org.uk



NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS' GUILD

For those of us that love a wedding, it seems like the Royal Wedding was only yesterday. Out of all the pomp and ceremony, the first thing I noticed about that beautiful ensemble was the veil. Hand embroidered to perfection with all the flowers of the Commonwealth, it truly was magnificent.

The same afternoon, we were privileged to welcome Michele Carragher as our guest speaker -

www.michelecarraghembridery.com. She may not be a name you recognise, but you will recognise some of the films she has worked on and what a talented artist of textiles she is. Michele explained

how she became involved in TV and Film.



She says embroidery captures the essence of the gown. Her most famous work



is for Game of Thrones. Using stills, she explained how some of her work was developed to accommodate the characters and scenes in which they were set, also how much work and intricate detail was involved, even when the embroidery was at times never used, or seen on screen. Even if you have never seen an episode of Game of Thrones it would be hard not to be in awe of the hand made sculptures, stump work and embroidery that she creates, it was a pleasure to meet and learn from her.

And if that wasn't enough, we had home-made scones with jam and cream and celebration cake to mark the end of the day and to wish the Royal Couple a happy and joyous marriage. Some of us even

wore, red, white and blue just to help it all along and the weather was just perfect.

If you would like to come along and meet us, please have a look at our web site at www.northkentembroiderers.co.uk where you will find all the information you need. You can also come along to the Gravesend Library on the 3rd Saturday of any month except August.

We are happy to welcome new members, where you will have a warm reception, help and advice about all things stitchery and home-made cake.

Happy Stitching!

All photographs and links used with permission.

Toni Houbart

SMILE LINES

Applied Law

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour thy father and thy mother," she asked 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?'

Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'

The same yesterday...

Why did Moses wander in the desert for 40 years?

Because even back then men wouldn't ask for directions.

Telly trouble

A woman summoned a TV repairman to fix her set. After spreading his tools out, the serviceman inquired: 'What seems to be the trouble?' Replied the woman: 'Well, for starters, the programmes are appalling.'

Divine recipe

A recipe for Cheese Sables donated by one of our generous visiting Priests. The editors of the Bridge cannot be held liable for the taste or quality of the produce made using this recipe. Good luck!

Ingredients

150 grams of Strong Cheese

150 grams of Butter

150 Grams of Plain Flour

1 egg – separated

Method

1. Grease baking trays
2. Blend cheese (presumably grated, but heaven only knows), butter, flour and egg yolk.
3. Chill mixture for 30 Minutes
4. Roll out mixture and cut with pastry cutter
5. Place on baking trays, glaze cut-outs with egg white with pastry brush
6. Sprinkle cut-outs with sesame seeds
7. Bake in top of oven at gas mark 6 (or equivalent) for c. 12 minutes or until golden
8. Cool on cooling tray
9. Eat

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord – 10 May 2018

S Johns Church was honoured to play host to our Bishop Pastor, Bishop Norman as he celebrated Mass on 10 May 2018 marking the Ascension of the Lord. It was a pleasure to see so many people come to mark the wonderful occasion.

One of the great celebrations of the Church and a Holy Day of Obligation, Ascension began to be observed as its own feast from the end of the 4th Century. Prior to that it was marked as part of Pentecost.

Bishop Norman preached in his usual hope-filled style a profound homily to bring the set readings alive. The Ascension reflects the start of Christ's ministry of Christ's mission and ministry in the Incarnation, he said. Whilst humanity was changed in the Incarnation, all heaven was changed as Christ, still in human form, ascended from this World back to Heaven.

With Ascension we are given the promise and therefore the hope that the Lord will return in the same glorious fashion as his Ascension.

Christian Aid

Making use of a new system of distributing envelopes and collecting funds Higham raised £834 (at most recent count) during Christian Aid week this year.

It is a great contribution to a very deserving charity. Well done to all volunteers who made this happen, and a huge thank you to the generosity to those who donated.

Let's see if we can beat it next year. If you have any fundraising ideas for Christian Aid, please let us know.

TALK

HIGHAM VILLAGE
HISTORY GROUP

KENT URBAN LEGENDS

JULY 19TH 2018

8.00PM

SPEAKER: NEIL ARNOLD

Memorial Hall, School Lane, Higham ME3 7JL

In his usual inimitable fashion,
Neil brings us his quirky view
of our county's curiosities and
strange happenings.

Free for Members

Visitors £4 (includes tea, coffee and biscuits)

www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk

email: info@highamvillagehistory.org.uk

telephone: 01634 718285

VILLAGE DIARY JULY 2018

Mon	2nd	Higham Parish Council - Memorial Hall - 7.30pm
Wed	4th	Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Thurs	5th	W.I. Memorial Hall
Fri	6th	HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Sat	7th	Coffee & Conversation in the Vestry Hall 10.30 - 12.30pm Vintage Sale at St. John's Church -10.30am to 2.30pm Higham Choral Group -Music for a summer evening <i>Carmina Burana Cantiones Profanae</i> by Carl Orff at St. Mary's Church, Lower Higham at 7.30pm
Sun	8th	Stride4Life - Sponsored Walk in the grounds of Darent Hospital (details on page 17) Bags 2 Church (please return by Tues 10th July latest)
Wed	11th	Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	13th	HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Wed	18th	Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Thurs	19th	Higham History Group - Memorial Hall - 8pm Talk: Kent Urban Legends . Speaker: Neil Arnold
Fri	20th	HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Fri	27th	HiARA Monthly Meeting - Memorial Hall - 2-4pm

AUGUST

Sat	11th	Ellenor Summer Fair - 11am to 3pm Coldharbour Road, Gravesend DA11 7HQ
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CHURCH DRAW RESULTS

MAY 2018

£50	058	Mrs Theobald
£10	372	Mrs Rough

NEXT DRAW 25th JUNE 2018