

Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible

Do you recall that message appearing on TV screens when they had a glitch in transmission? It still appears when the winds affect masts nearby. I was thinking about the phrase recently contemplating the same thing about our service patterns and times; some of which have had to be changed at short notice lately.

In the past, as a parish, we've been blessed with the assistance of one or more active honorary assistant priests in retirement or working at Rochester Kings School. This meant daily mass as well as Sunday services, and also weddings and funerals, were celebrated without hiccup or hinder. Such cover is now no longer readily available; nor likely to be in the foreseeable future.

'Normal service' in S.John's has, of late, and might (over the holiday period and beyond) have to vary - despite advertised times. I do apologise about this: especially when people might turn up for a mass and find its either happened earlier or will be later, or has moved from morning to evening times (and vice versa).

Meetings in the Diocese, Deanery, School etc., are usually fixed well in advance and I can give

ample notice about changes while we're short staffed. However sometimes notice may only be given on the previous Sunday's bulletin sheet. We also try to put it on the website and social media.

During holiday periods as there is no one on hand to offer daily mass we are having to find people from as far away as Canterbury. It is very hard to get cover these days so daily mass – which is primarily offered for God's glory not just our good – may need time changes. When I need to be elsewhere and can't preside (which I try to do) its sometimes just 15 minutes difference. Sadly 'spare priests' are a rarity in the C of E all the time not just for normal summer leave of other clergy.

Do, please, support our half-hour services and to the faithful band who help us keep 'normal service' running smoothly, I thank you for your patience. Moreover, I ask regulars to let us know if they can't be present. We can then 'rally the troops' and maintain our proud tradition of offering mass daily. Offered, as we say at the heart of each mass, *'for the praise and glory of His name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church'*.

Fr James



The Bridge

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

WORSHIP AT S.JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH

EVERY	Morning Prayer	(said)	8.45 am
SUNDAY	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 TIMES	Monday	6.30 pm	DAILY MORNING PRAYER
	Tuesday	7.30 pm	Each day at 9 am
	Wednesday	9.30 am	*****
	Thursday	7.30 pm	DAILY EVENING PRAYER
	Friday	9.30 am	Each day at 6 pm
	Saturday	9.30 am	(<i>except Tue. & Thur. at 7 pm</i>)

<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 either of the priests.

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 Valerie Laurens	12 Villa Road, Higham	Tel: 01474-823423
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

August 2017 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

EXCEPT: SAT 12th Aug * 11.30am in S.Mary's Church; Bank Holiday Monday 10am

DAY	DATE	CELEBRATION		INTENTION
Tue	1st	S.Alphonsus Liguori Bishop-teacher	(m)	Preaching/Teaching Orders
Wed	2nd	Feria	Ord. Week 17	New converts/believers
Th.	3rd	Feria		The lapsed and indifferent
Fri	4th	S.John Vianney Priest	(m)	Parish Priests
Sat	5th	Dedication of S.Mary Major	(m)	Marian societies
SUN	6th	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD	(+)	THE PARISH
Mon	7th	Feria	Ord. Week 18	The poor and needy
Tue	8th	S.Dominic Priest	(m)	ARCIC Discussions
Wed	9th	S.Theresa Benedicta of the Cross	(f)	Judeo-Christian Dialogue
Th.	10th	S.Lawrence Deacon-martyr	(f)	The suffering Church
Fri	11th	S.Clare of Assisi Religious	(m)	The Enclosed Orders
Sat	12th	Feria - mass of Our Lady	(v)	Walsingham
SUN	13TH	19TH ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+)	THE PARISH
Mon	14th	S.Maximilian Kolbe Priest-martyr	(m)	Prisoners of war
Tue	15th	THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY	(+)	THE PARISH
Wed	16th	Feria	Ord. Week 20	The unemployed
Th	17th	Feria	Monthly requiem	+RIPs / Anniversaries
Fri	18th	Feria	mass of the Cross	The Soc. of the Holy Cross
Sat	19 th	Feria		Churches children's work
SUN	20TH	20TH ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+)	THE PARISH
Mon	21st	S.Pius X Pope		Lay liturgical ministries
Tue	22nd	The Queenship of Our Lady	(m)	HM the Queen
Wed	23rd	S.Rose of Lima Religious	(m)	The underprivileged
Th.	24th	S.Bartholomew Apostle	(f)	Old Cicestrians
Fri	25th	S.Joseph of Calasanz, Priest-educator	(m)	Children's catechists
Sat	26th	Feria		Christian Leaders
SUN	27TH	21ST ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+)	THE PARISH
Mon	28th	S.Augustine of Hippo Bp-teacher	(m)	Christians in Islamic States
Tue	29th	Beheading of S.John Baptist	(m)	Victims of injustice
Wed	30th	Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward, martyrs	(m)	Victims of discrimination and persecution
Th	31st	S.Aiden Bishop, and the Lindisfarne Saints missionaries	(m)	Christian Missionaries

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

THE AUGUST REQUIEM

is on Thursday 17th August 2017 at 7.30pm

*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.*

3 rd	Susan Snell		Mary Esther Fallon
5 th	Ian Matthews	22 nd	Percy William Lunn
7 th	Cecilia Veronica Hunt	23 rd	Allen Charles Wardle
	John Shulver	24 th	Christopher Hopson Hill
	<u>Frederick George Figg</u>	26 th	Agnes Green
9 th	William Blomeley Nuttall		Douglas John Martin
10 th	'Bill' (Charles Wm) Coulson	27 th	Barbara Mary Gilchrist
11 th	Olive Ruth Baker		Andrew Claridge
	Robert Walton		David Johnathan Northeast
	Eileen Earl		'Peta' (Peggy Diana) Whitebread
15 th	'Bill' (George Wm) Cole	29 th	Cheryl Faith Hoad
16 th	Leonard Arthur Grain	30 th	Clare Austen <i>Child</i>
19 th	Eileen Dorothy Farrant		Brian Ralph Sutton <i>PRIEST</i>
20 th	Frances Beatrice Plummer		Barbara Jessica May Moore
	Augustus Horace Bassam		Bethan Jane Wale <i>Child</i>
21 st	Greta Joyce Irene Booth	31 st	Audrey Elizabeth Mills

PLEASE NOTE: Except for previous Incumbents * of this Parish
(or where it is known that someone will attend this mass to pray for particular persons)
the names of those deceased for more than 20 years are removed from the annual list.

However, should someone attend this requiem mass AND request the inclusion
of additional names these will be included in the list of those for whom we pray.

*Dying you destroyed our death.
Rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.*

~ AUGUST 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.

Ordinary Time - Week 17

T Exodus 33.7-11; 34.5-9,28	Aug 1 st Matt 13.36-43
W Exodus 34.29-35	Matt. 13.44-46
Th Exodus 40.16-21,34-38	Matt 13.47-53
F Levit 23.1,4-16,27, 34-37	Matt. 13.54-58
S Levit 25.1,8-17	Matt. 14.1-12

S- TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD AUG 6TH

Daniel 7.9-10.13-14
2 Peter 1.16-19
Matthew 17.1-9

Ordinary Time - Week 18

M Numbers 11.4-15	Matt. 14.13-21
T Numbers 12.1-13	Matt. 14.22-36
W S. TERESA BENEDICTA Galatians 6.14-16	AUG 9TH Matthew 10.34-39
Th S. LAWRENCE 2 Corinth 9.6-10	AUG 10TH John 12.24-26
F Deut 4.32-40	Matt.16.24-28
S Deut 6.4-13	Matt. 17.14-20

19TH ORDINARY SUNDAY AUG 13TH

1 Kings 19.9, 11-13
Romans 9.1-5
Matthew 14.22-33

M Deut 10.12-22 Matt. 17.22-27

T- ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY AUG 15TH

Revelation 11.19, & 12.1-6,10
1 Corinth 15.20-26
Luke 1.39-56

W Deut. 34.1-12	Matt. 18.15-20
Th Joshua 3.7-11,13-17	Matt. 18.21-19.1
F Joshua 24.1-13	Matt. 19.3-12
S Joshua 24.14-29	Matt. 19.13-15

20TH ORDINARY SUNDAY AUG 20TH

Isaiah 56.1, 6-7
Romans 11.13-15, 29-32
Matthew 15.21-28

M Judges 2.11-19	Matt. 19.16-22
T Judges 6.11-24	Matt. 19.23-30
W Judges 9.6-15	Matt. 20.1-16

Th S. BARTHOLOMEW AUG. 24TH

Revelation 21.9-14	John 1.45-51
F Ruth 1.1-6,14-16,22	Matt. 22.34-40
S Ruth 2.1-3,8-11; 4.13-17	Matt. 23.1-12

21ST ORDINARY SUNDAY AUG 27TH

Isaiah 22.19-23
Romans 11.33-36
Matthew 16.13-20

M 1 Thess 1.1-5,8-10	Matt. 23.13-22
T <i>Beheading of S. John Baptist</i> Aug 29 th Jeremiah 1.17-19	Mark 6.17-29
W 1 Thess 2.9-13	Matt. 23.27-32
Th. 1 Thess 3.7-13	Matt. 24.42-51

Levit = Leviticus Deut = Deuteronomy
Corinth = Corinthians Thess = Thessalonians

*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.*

September 2017 at S. John's, Higham Calendar and Mass Intentions

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

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>CELEBRATION</i>		<i>INTENTION</i>
FRI	1st	S.GILES <i>Patron Saint of Merston</i>	(+)	THE PARISH
Sat	2nd		Ord. Week 21	Christians in Education
SUN	3RD	22ND ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+)	THE PARISH
Mon	4th	S.Cuthbert, <i>Bishop-missionary</i>		The Province of York
Tue	5th	Feria	Ord. Week 22	The 'disturbed' in life
Wed	6th	Feria		sick and housebound
Th.	7th	Feria		Bishops of 'The Society'
Fri	8th	Nativity of Our Lady	(f)	The Marian Societies
Sat	9th	Feria <i>mass of Our Lady</i>	(v)	Walsingham
SUN	10th	23RD ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+)	THE PARISH
Mon	11th	Feria	Ord. Week 23	Higham Parish Council
Tue	12th	Feria		Bishops of 'The Society'
Wed	13th	S.John Chrysostom <i>Bishop-teacher</i>	(m)	The Ecumenical Patriarch
Th.	14th	Holy Cross Day	(f)	Society of the Holy Cross
Fri	15th	Our Lady of Sorrows	(m)	The bereaved
Sat	16th	Ss.Cornelius <i>pope</i> & Cyprian <i>bishop Martyrs</i>	(m)	The suffering church
SUN	17TH	24TH ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+)	THE PARISH
		<i>Harvest Thanksgiving Day</i>		
Mon	18th	Feria <i>mass of requiem</i>	Ord. Week 24	(v) +RIP's & Anniversaries
Tue	19th	S.Theodore of Tarsus <i>Archbishop</i>	(m)	The PCC
Wed	20th	The Korean Martyrs	*	(m) Christians in the Far East
Th.	21st	S.Matthew <i>Apostle, Evangelist</i>	(f)	The Church Army
Fri	22nd	Feria	*	Age Concern (Higham)
Sat	23rd	S.Padre Pio <i>Priest-mystic</i>	*	(m) Parish priests
SUN	24TH	25TH ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+)	THE PARISH
Mon	25th	Feria	Ord. Week 25	Church work with children
Tue	26th	Ss Cosmas & Damian <i>Martyrs</i>	(m)	Christians in Syria
Wed	27th	S.Vincent de Paul <i>priest, evangelist</i>	(m)	Rural Parish Mission
Th.	28th	Feria		Our Deanery
Fri	29th	Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael <i>Archangels</i>	(f)	Our Church Wardens and Church Officers
Sat	30th	S.Jerome <i>priest, teacher</i>	(m)	Bible Teachers

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

THE SEPTEMBER REQUIEM

is on MONDAY 18th September 2017 at 6.30pm

*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	Jack Dockrell	16 th	Keith Charles Pearce
	Albert Chinery	17 th	Florence Dora Petrie
3 rd	Margaret Kathleen Humphrey		Terence Frederick Charles Foster
5 th	Anne Louise Miles	18 th	Mary Elizabeth (Molly) Hills
6 th	Joan Patricia Walton	19 th	Minnie Annie Reader
7 th	Horace Glazier	20 th	Stanley Arthur Leeson
9 th	Ernest James Haselden	22 nd	Lilian Hill
	George Edward Hance	23 rd	Brian John Masters <i>BISHOP</i>
11 th	Ernest Graffin	24 th	Douglas William Dicks
	Margaret Benfield		Olive McAllister
13 th	John Ivor Jeffrey Hollis	26 th	George Henry Smith
	Frederick Albert Humphrey		Maurice George Walden Rogers <i>PRIEST</i>
12 th	Frederick William Wright	27 th	Herbert Richard Argent
14 th	Charles Thomas Gaskell <i>BISHOP</i>	28 th	Charles Edward Benfield
	Richard <u>David</u> Say <i>BISHOP</i>		Patricia Martha Stickells

PLEASE NOTE: Except for previous Incumbents * of this Parish
(or where it is known that someone will attend this mass to pray for particular persons)
the names of those deceased for more than 20 years are removed from the annual list.

However, should someone attend this requiem mass AND request the inclusion
of additional names these will be included in the list of those for whom we pray.

*Lord by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world!*

~ SEPTEMBER DAILY BIBLE READINGS ~

ONLY A FEW MINUTES EACH DAY and following the readings used at Daily Mass in Church - even if you can't be there. Choose one or both readings.

There are three readings for Sundays and special holy days.

<p>F SOLEMNITY OF S. GILES <i>SEPT 1ST</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Patron of Marston</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Genesis 12.1-4 1 Corinthians 1.26-31 Mark 10.17-30</p>	<p>S 1 Timothy 1.15-17 Luke 6.43-49</p>	
<p>22ND ORDINARY SUNDAY <i>SEP. 3RD</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jeremiah 20.7-9 Romans 12.1-2 Matthew 16.21-27</p>	<p>24TH ORDINARY SUNDAY <i>SEP. 17TH</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ecclesiasticus 27.30-28.7 Romans 14.7-9 Matthew 18. 21-35</p>	<p>M 1 Timothy 2.1-8 Luke 7.1-10 T 1 Timothy 3.1-13 Luke 7.11-17 W 1 Timothy 3.14-16 Luke 7.31-35 Th <i>S. Matthew, Evangelist</i> <i>Sep 21st</i> Ephesians 4.1-13 Matthew 9.9-13 F 1 Timothy 6.2-12 Luke 8.1-3 S 1 Timothy 6.13-16 Luke 8.4-15</p>
<p>M 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18 Lk 4.16-30 T 1 Thess 5.1-6,9-13 Luke 4.31-37 W Colossians 1.1-8 Luke 4.38-44 Th Colossians 1.9-14 Luke 5.1-11 F <i>Nativity of our Lady</i> <i>Sep. 8th</i> Micah 5.1-4 Matthew 1.1-23 S Colossians 1.21-23 Luke 6.1-5</p>	<p>25TH ORDINARY SUNDAY <i>SEP. 25TH</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Isaiah 55. 6-9 Philippians 1.20-27 Matthew 20.1-65</p>	<p>M Ezra 1.1-6 Luke 8.16-18 T Ezra 6.7-8,12,14-20 Luke 8.19-21 W Ezra 9.5-9 Luke 9.1-6 Th Haggai 1.1-8 Luke 9.7-9 F <i>Ss. Michael, Gabriel</i> <i>Sep. 29th</i> <i>and Raphael, Archangels</i> Daniel 7. 9-14 John 1.47-51 S Zechariah 2.5-15 Luke 9.43-45</p>
<p>23RD ORDINARY SUNDAY <i>SEP. 10TH</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ezekiel 33. 7-9 Romans 13.8-10 Matthew 18. 15-20</p>	<p>NOTE on Wisdom Not all Bibles contain the Deutero-canonical or apocryphal texts. If your Bible says 'with Apocrypha' it will contain these eg. Baruch, Ecclesiasticus and some parts of the prophet Daniel.</p>	
<p>M Colossians 1.24-2.3 Luke 6.6-11 T Colossians 2.6-15 Luke 6.12-19 W Colossians 3.1-11 Luke 6. 20-26 Th <i>HOLY CROSS DAY</i> <i>SEP. 14TH</i> Numbers 21.4-9 or Philippians 2.6-11 <i>with John 3.13-17</i></p>	<p>F <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i> <i>SEP. 15th</i> Hebrews 5.7-9 with John 19.25-27 or Luke 2. 33-35</p>	

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.*

HIARA SOCIAL EVENT

Over 70 members of HiARA were entertained on Friday June 25 at Higham Memorial Hall by “Swinging the Lead”, a Kent musical group, who sang a variety of sea shanties some of which were written by the group, which were much appreciated by members who joined in the fun.

“Swinging the Lead” have appeared on television and sung on The Cutty Sark. The afternoon concluded with sandwiches and ice cream and following the naval theme, Jenny distributed Pieces of Eight – what a nice touch.

Our clever craft group is very active and once again had delightful cards for sale and our intrepid ramblers are gearing up for their summer walks. Do join them for lunch at the various refuelling stops.

Short mat bowls and curling continue to be popular. Our next topic on July 28 will be “The lighter side of the Crown Jewels”.

Do join us and see if any of our outings and holidays appeal to you or just join in with our other activities.

Pat Oakeshott
HiARA Publicity.

LOWER THAMES CROSSING

Highways England Community Team are keen to get to know our village and its residents. A first Drop in Session was held in the Memorial Hall on Monday 3 July - residents were able to ask questions and view the latest maps.

There will be more opportunities to meet up with the Team and ask questions. The Parish Council will keep you updated through posters, via the website (www.higham-kent-pc.gov.uk) and the Parish Council Facebook page.

If you would like to receive direct email updates mail your name and address to sue3906@gmail.com

The Lower Thames Crossing website is a useful source of information:

<http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/lower-thames-crossing>

LOWER THAMES CROSSING

2017

Update 3

The Highways England Community Team for the Lower Thames Crossing 3 July:

Eva, Caroline and 3 colleagues from the Lower Thames Crossing community team met with 40 + plus parishioners informally in the **Small Hall at the Memorial Hall in School Lane**. Residents had the opportunity to make their views known – especially on the potential junction on the A226.

Further meetings will be planned – if you would like to receive information about the Crossing and any future meetings – join the mailing list – email your name and email address to sue3906@gmail.com or phone 07480 518493

The Lower Thames Crossing government website is a useful source of information:

<http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/lower-thames-crossing>

A LOWER THAMES CROSSING MEETING WITH KCC took place on Wednesday 5 July - it was good to hear about **KCC's strong opposition to any junction on the A226, and their demand for additional tunnelling of the link road.**

Representatives from Higham, Shorne, and Chalk met with senior members and officers of Kent County Council at County Hall to discuss mitigation measures for the proposed Crossing east of Gravesend.

The meeting, arranged by Gravesham Rural County Councillor Bryan Sweetland, was attended by Matthew Balfour, KCC Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste, and his deputy Michael Payne, together with Transport Strategy Manager Joe Ratcliffe and Katie Pettitt, Principal Transport Planner.

At the meeting, KCC listened to our concerns, and shared their views on mitigation requirements not just for the immediate area, but also with regards to the impact on traffic on the A226, A227, A228, and surrounding roads and villages.

KCC also shared their proposed design drawings for the link road which they have recommended to Highways England and which, if adopted, would go a long way towards mitigating many of the worst impacts of the crossing and link road.

Clearly there is a still a lot of detail to address as the design is developed, and it was agreed that the parties would continue to liaise so that KCC can keep us updated on developments, and we can ensure that local concerns are taken into account.

Higham Parish Council was represented by Peter Allinson, with Susan Lindley and Bob Lane from Shorne, and Rev. Nigel Bourne from Chalk.

www.higham-kent-pc.gov.uk

Thursday 6 July 2017

HIGHAM VILLAGE PLAN



Many thanks to everyone who came along to our Discussion Groups - we are now busy working through all your thoughts and ideas. A survey will be designed to help us decide what are the most important topics look out for more details on where to find the on-line survey or locations in the village where you can pick up a paper copy. The survey will run through to mid-September.

For more information about the Village Plan go to

www.lovehigham.co.uk or phone [07480 518493](tel:07480518493).

Aside from all the work being done to produce a plan, some actions and activities are taking place to help improve the village.

- **Litter Picking** - regular sessions take place to help keep our village clean and tidy - look out for posters around the village for details of dates/times and meeting points or check out the Parish Council website www.higham-kent-pc.gov.uk



- **Gardening** - the garden area in School Lane (at the end of Mountbatten Avenue) has been tidied and work is now starting on other areas - if you would like to volunteer to help with this work **email** information@lovehigham.co.uk or **phone** [07480 518493](tel:07480518493)
- **Dog Mess** - Higham Primary School pupil Dieta Sharma has designed a poster which will be displayed in the Village. If you would like to put one in your window let us know (contact details below)

Volunteers will be out and about in the village mapping the location of Dog Mess on pavements and roads to help work out if we need to install additional Bins.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help with this they can contact Sue Sparks on [07480 18493](tel:0748018493) or email sue3906@gmail.com.

All dog owners can help by::

- a) Picking up the poo Supplies of Poo Bags are available from the Library and Lower Higham Garage
- b) Placing bags of poo in poo bins or ordinary litter bins - or taking them home

LOCAL EVENTS

Our Thames: from Dartford to isle of Grain (illustrated talk about aspects of the river and its history)

On: Monday 4th September 2017

At: Reliance Fish Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend

Begins 6 pm for meal, talk to follow.

Price: £15 (includes fish and chip supper with hot drink and talk)

Booking essential: Reliance Restaurant on 01474 533593

Historical guided walk of Gravesend's riverside with evening meal

On: Monday 18th September 2017

Meet: 7 pm at General Gordon Statue, Gordon Memorial Gardens near Promenade, Gravesend

Guide: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

Price: £15 includes guided tour and supper at Three Daws public house, Town Pier Square, Milton next Gravesend DA11 0BJ

Booking essential via Three Daws public house on 01474 566869.

Christoph Bull

Chalk Parish Historian and Historical Advisor to Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council

A WEEKEND IN WALSINGHAM

When you go to The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk for the first time, as I did in June, you go with certain expectations. But I was soon reminded that our God is a God of surprises, and I expect that even Les Baker – who was on his 50th pilgrimage this year! – finds that there are always new things to learn and new messages to hear. And of course each time you go, you are in a different place and God meets you where you are.

The grounds of The Shrine are beautiful and the early summer flowers were in glorious bloom. (We were lucky with the weather, with not a drop of rain until we left.) The Shrine Church is beautiful inside, too, with colourfully decorated chapels and twinkling prayer candles.

But after the First Visit to the Holy House, the centre-piece of the Shrine, and Stations of the Cross I began to see that God had a different weekend in mind for me than the one I might have imagined or planned. And so I left behind those preconceptions, determined to be open to what *God* brought to the two days. The beautiful surroundings and the wonderful people who are on pilgrimage with you, the priests who minister to you and the services of prayer and sacrament: all are a help to what is really happening – God at work in your soul.

On Sunday morning, Fr James led Mass for the group of 16 from St John's Church – plus Brother Fabian down from Mirfield – in the Holy House when we offered the many petitions for prayer that had been given to us. This is always a special time when we can lift up the needs of others and of the whole world, and can offer our thanksgivings.

You can do a lot of walking on pilgrimage and will want comfortable shoes. Some of us walked the Holy Mile from the Shrine to the Slipper Chapel barefoot, which sounds a very spiritual exercise, but it was fun, as well as time for some more serious conversations with fellow pilgrims. You also do a lot of standing and kneeling (but of course you can always sit if you need to) and one of our party even brought her own kneepad.

Having not grown up in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, I wondered what a pilgrimage to a Marian shrine might be like. Mary, as expected, is given honour and praise, and we heartily sang "Ave Maria" during the

candlelit procession. But it is not called “England’s Nazareth” for nothing – it really is all about Jesus.

The village of Little Walsingham is charming. There was time to visit the shops and to wander through the lovely Abbey ruins and grounds opposite the Shrine. This site of the original Holy House was destroyed during the Reformation and is now a haven of peace.

Have I inspired you to join us for a pilgrimage to Walsingham? Members from St John’s go every year. Try it. You might be surprised!

Nancy Hughes

HIGHAM CRIME FIGURES FOR APRIL 2017

Type of Crime	Total
Burglary	2
Vehicle Crime	3
Violence & Sexual Offences	4
Anti-Social Behaviour	6
Criminal Damage & Arson	7

Figures obtained from the Police website, www.police.uk, by KCC Community Warden, Steve Gray

Mobile: 07811 271256

E Mail: steve.gray@kent.gov.uk.

In April, 2016 there were 12 reported crimes in Higham



*The Kettle's on,
the tea brewed,
all we need is
YOU.*



**First Saturday
of the Month
10.30-12.30
In the Vestry Hall**

Not churchy, just chatty!

Open to all

Lonely? Isolated? Know someone who is?
This community event provides a friendly
welcoming space to meet new people.



HIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Following a warm welcome from Chairman, Jennifer Papadopulos opened a meeting of Higham Parish Council, held on Monday June 26 in Higham Memorial Hall.

The evening's agenda began with routine matters and Councillors were informed of the decision by Joanne Raff, to resign for personal reasons from the positions of Leader of Higham Youth Club and Higham Pavilion Project. Joanne was heavily involved in the works and development of the Higham Pavilion Project and had worked tirelessly on the renovations and fund raising. She will continue with the Higham Youth Club until later in the summer. The Parish Councillors send all good wishes to Joanne for the future and thank her for her service to the community.

The new standing committee structure mentioned at the last meeting was agreed following further clarification from Vice-Chairman, Peter Allison. It is hoped this will streamline information brought to the council meetings. Each of the 3 separate committees, broken down as CDC: Community Development Committee, IFC Infrastructure Committee and EMC Executive Management Committee, will have a chairman and vice chairman. All the councillors are invited to sit on each of the committees when they are called, any decisions or actions required will then be brought to full council for discussion. This new system will be "trialled" for a period of 12 months, and then come under review.

Parishioners' matters were discussed and several questions raised by the parishioner present, each were responded to and queries clarified. Several Higham Village Plan discussion group meetings had been held during June. Information and ideas raised will be analysed ready for the next stage of the plan.

Gravesham Borough Councillor, Les Pearton, gave a short report which informed the council of the decision from Film Studios Paramount Pictures that they will be pulling out of the project on the Swanscombe peninsula, leaving the developer (London Resort Cony Holdings) to continue to submit the planning application on its own in November. Further information on what happens next is awaited.

All of the Councillors will soon be looking forward to the Gardens for Pleasure competition. Viewing will be taking place over the next month and awards will be presented later in the year to the winners.

There was a short break for refreshments. Planning applications were tabled and there were no objections raised.

The next meeting is on Monday September 11, at 7.30 pm Higham Memorial Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Liz Jeffery

HIGHAM VILLAGE HISTORY GROUP

3rd September at 2.30 pm

Guided Walk around Higham



Andrew Rootes will lead our walk to look at and learn about the Important Houses of Higham

The Knowle School Lane

For further details email kateiw@tiscali.co.uk or phone [01634 718285](tel:01634718285) or [07435 567134](tel:07435567134) www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk



75 Years Ago *this August, on the 9th of the month, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, (also known as St. Edith Stein) died.*

St. Teresa was a convert from Judaism to Catholic Christianity. She later entered the Carmelite Order of Sisters but was to die in the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz.

Her birth on 12th October 1891 coincided with Yom Kippur,

the Jewish “day of atonement.”

Edith Stein was just two years old when her father died. She gave up the practice of her Jewish faith as an adolescent.

A profoundly intellectually gifted young woman, Edith gravitated toward the study of philosophy, becoming a pupil of the renowned professor Edmund Husserl in 1913. Through her studies, the non-religious Edith met several Christians whose intellectual and spiritual lives she admired.

Earning a degree with the highest honours from Gottingen University in 1915, she then served as a nurse in an Austrian field hospital during World War I. Returning to academic work in 1916, she obtained a doctorate after writing a highly-regarded thesis on the phenomenon of empathy. She remained interested in the idea of religious commitment, but had not yet made such a commitment herself.

In 1921 while visiting friends Edith spent an entire night reading the autobiography of the 16th century Carmelite nun St. Teresa of Avila.

“When I had finished the book,” she later recalled, “I said to myself: This is the truth.” She was baptized on the first day of January, 1922

Edith intended to join the Carmelites immediately after her conversion, but ultimately had to wait another 11 years. Meanwhile she taught at a Dominican school, and gave numerous public lectures on women's issues. She spent 1931 writing a study of St. Thomas Aquinas, and took a university teaching position in 1932.

In 1933, the rise of Nazism, combined with Edith's Jewish ethnicity, put an end to her teaching career. After a painful parting with her mother, who did not understand her Christian conversion, she entered a Carmelite convent in 1934, taking the name “Teresa Benedicta of the Cross” as a symbol of her acceptance of suffering.

“I felt,” she wrote, “that those who understood the Cross of Christ should take upon themselves on everybody's behalf.” She saw it as her vocation “to intercede with God for everyone,” but she prayed especially for the Jews of Germany whose tragic fate was becoming clear. “I ask the Lord to accept my life and my death,” she wrote in 1939, “so that the Lord will be accepted by his people and that his kingdom may come in glory, for the salvation of Germany and the peace of the world.”

After completing her final work, a study of St. John of the Cross entitled “The Science of the Cross,” Teresa Benedicta was arrested along with her sister Rosa (who had also become a Catholic Christian), and the members of her religious community, on 7th August 1942. The arrests were a retaliation for the protest letter of the Dutch Bishops, decrying the Nazi treatment of Jews.

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross died two days later in the concentration camp at Auschwitz on 9th August 1942.

Canonised by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1998, S.Tresa Benedicta of the Cross was proclaimed a co-patroness of Europe in 1999. She is one of six co-patrons alongside S.Bridget of Sweden, S. Catherine of Siena, S.Benedict of Nursia and Ss. Cyril and Methodius, apostles to the Slavs.

A Holy Day of Obligation

THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

Tuesday 15th August 2017

This Solemnity celebrates the
the most important feast of
Mary, the Mother of God,
principal patron saint of
Higham since the 8th Century

SOLEMN MASS - 7.30PM

Preacher: Canon Michael Anderson

Followed by drinks with "Bring & Share" food

*Holy Communion can be brought
to the sick/housebound upon request*



**A SAID MASS / HOLY COMMUNION is
AVAILABLE ON REQUEST AT 9.30AM**



The Solemnity of S. Giles Day

**Patron Saint of Merston
and Co-Patron of the whole Parish**

Friday 1st September 2017

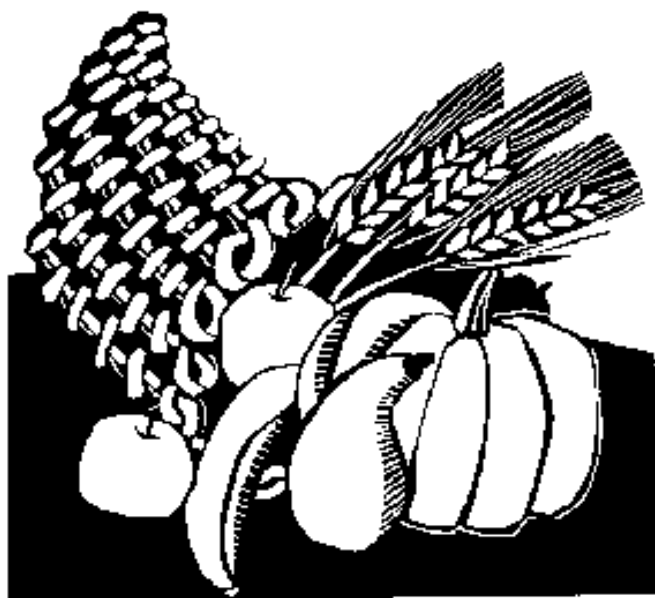
Said Mass 9.30am

Mass / Holy Communion is available at 6.30pm on request

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

will be within the 9.30am Parish Mass

ON SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER



For many years now we have collected goods at harvest-time such as tinned foods, packet foods, toiletries, root vegetables to be used by S.John's House of Mercy (in Gravesend) which meets the needs of local young and homeless people in our area.

Please give again and help make our harvest thanksgiving both a genuine and a generous celebration! If you can't be at the Sunday service do leave your offerings at the back of Church on Friday or Saturday. **NO SOFT FRUITS OR SOFT VEGETABLES PLEASE** as they just get squashed during transport to Gravesend. Thank You.

THAILAND'S HARSH WELCOME FOR CHRISTIAN REFUGEES

Pakistani Christians in Thailand are being held in desperate conditions, in an effort to make them go back to persecution in Pakistan.

The refugees include people like Ijaz, a 34-year-old who died this spring at the notorious Immigration Detention Centre in Bangkok. He had applied to the UNHCR for refugee status, but fallen ill at the IDC while waiting for his application to be processed. The IDC refused to allow local Christians to bring him any medicine.

Ijaz was one of around 4,000 Pakistani Christians who have fled persecution and ended up in Thailand. There they are treated harshly, and held in horrifically overcrowded conditions at the IDC. The medical care in the camp ranges from practically non-existent to actively harmful.

The Barnabas Fund is assisting Pakistani Christians seeking refuge in Thailand. It is providing food parcels for families, food aid for individuals languishing in the IDC, home-schooling materials, and help with critical medical needs. Food aid for a detainee in the IDC cost £6 per person per month. A monthly family food parcel costs £22 per month. Home-schooling materials for one child cost £15. If you would like to help, please go to: <https://barnabasfund.org/donate>

SMILE LINES

When young children pray...

"Lead a snot into temptation."

"And forgive us our trash baskets, as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

"Give us this day our jelly bread."

"Our Father, who art in heaven, how didja know my name?"

Church notices that didn't come out quite right...

This evening at 7 pm there will be a hymn-sing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the church hall on Friday afternoon.

The Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. All proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Can't count

It's easy to identify people who can't count to ten. They're in front of you in the supermarket express lane.

Golf

There was a clergyman who was an avid golfer. One Sunday was a picture-perfect day for golf, and the minister could not resist the temptation. He rang his assistant and told him he was too ill to attend church. Then he packed up the car, and drove three hours to a golf course where no one would recognise him. Happily, he began to play the course. But an angel up above was watching the minister and was quite perturbed. He went to God and said, 'Look at the minister. He should be punished for what he's doing.'

God nodded in agreement. The minister teed up on the first hole. He swung, and the ball sailed effortlessly through the air and landed right in the cup three hundred and fifty yards away. A perfect hole-in-one. The minister was amazed and overjoyed. The angel was a little shocked. He turned to God and said: 'Begging your pardon, but I thought you were going to punish him.' And God smiled. 'Think about it; who can he tell?'

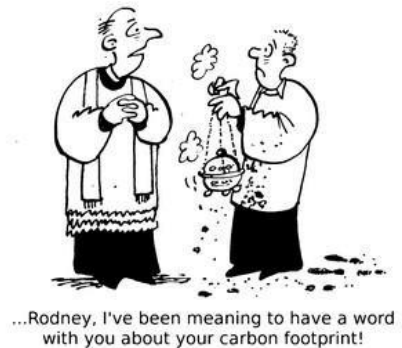
Help from above

The temporary Sunday School teacher was struggling to open a combination lock on the supply cabinet. She had been told the combination, but couldn't quite remember it. Finally she went to the minister's study and asked for help.

The minister came into the room and began to turn the dial. After the first two numbers, he paused and stared blankly for a moment. Finally, he looked serenely heavenward and his lips moved silently. Then he looked back at the lock, and quickly turned to the final number, and opened the lock.

The teacher was amazed. "I'm in awe at your faith, pastor," she said.

"It's really nothing," he answered. "The number is on a piece of tape on the ceiling."



Helpful signs

Sign on a door: Push. If that doesn't work. Pull. If that doesn't work, we're closed.

In front of a church: Don't give up. Moses was once a basket case.

In the grounds of a private school: No trespassing without permission.

A sign advertising a Company-wide skiing race: Let's see who can go downhill the fastest.

Outside a photographer's studio: Out to lunch: if not back by five, out for dinner also.

Notice in health food shop window: Closed due to illness.

On a plumber's van: We repair what your husband fixed.



"...and once you've done the flower arrangements, polished the pews, scrubbed the floor, shined the silver and taken a look at the problem with the boiler we wondered, well, you have to laugh, but all six bell-ringers are on holiday at the same time and..."

HIGHAM WOMENS' INSTITUTE

On Thursday 6th July 2017 the ladies of Higham W.I. were invited to the home of one of our members – Kay - to join her and her husband – Martin - to their home to view what is said to be the largest domestic aquarium in the South East. After enjoying a glass of sparkling wine, Martin told us of the building works involved in the creation of their aquarium which was indeed impressive and contained very many colourful fish as well as beautiful coral and many plants. We were then shown the “engine room” which contained the filters, etc, that are necessary to maintain the aquarium. We considered ourselves very lucky to be shown such a feature of the house.

On a warm summer evening we then sat at many tables in the pretty garden and were treated to a variety of sandwiches, scones with cream and jam and a variety of cakes. Cups of tea were served by our new Committee who had all worked together to provide such a special evening.

Our Chairman, Stephanie Griffiths, drew our attention to various events throughout the Hoo Peninsular, as well as the “Community Day” taking place on Thursday 17th August at Higham Library, 2 pm – 4.30 pm. Home-made cakes, especially small cakes, would be appreciated.

Christine Cavendar advised of final arrangements for the W.I visit to Kensington Palace on Wednesday 12th July.

The August meeting of Higham W.I. will be our Birthday Party, when we will meet in the garden of Joan and Michael Campbell for an evening of delicious food, fine wines and fruit juices. Members are asked to bring a chair plus cutlery, plates, glasses, etc. Our Drama Group will entertain us with their latest production. This is an annual event that is always looked forward to.

Josephine Smith

The Solemnity of
**THE DEDICATION FEAST OF THE
CHURCH OF S.MARY THE VIRGIN**



Sunday, 1st October 2017
SOLEMN PARISH MASS
at 10am in S.Mary's Church

Preacher – To be announced in October

S.Mary's is well over a thousand years old and, because its Dedication date is unknown, this important festival of the ancient, former parish church of Higham is kept on the first Sunday in October each year.

This is because the Church of England's 1928 Prayer Book and 2000 Common Worship book suggest this Sunday as Dedication Festival day.

Please note this is always the last of four services held each year in the Church. Our next service, hopefully, will be: Evening Prayer on Mothering Sunday 2018

A 6.30pm Said Mass will be celebrated in S.John's Church this Sunday for those unable to get to S.Mary's Church.



NEWS FROM THE TOWER

Notice of ringing at St John's

Practice will be every first Saturday of the month 10.30-12.00

The simulator is now in full working order so there will no longer be practices held on Sundays after Mass. Ringing for service will be as usual on Sunday from 9.00-9.25

Isn't it lovely how most of us love to talk about the old times and our love for the way things used to be. Old crafts such as carpentry, joinery and spinning, old tradespeople like blacksmiths, stonemasons and shoe makers, old cooking and farming methods, old traditions such as Clog and Morris dancing, village Carnivals that have long since gone. Just one look at 'The Higham Mutual Society' Facebook page will tell you this is so. People are forever posting up old photos and talking about the good old days. Unfortunately, for some people, bell ringing does not come under this nostalgic category.

From now on, the bells of St John's will be heard less due to our simulator. Although I am grateful of the technology, which enables us to continue to have an alternative practice, it is a little demoralizing to ring bells silently and disheartening to those who want to hear them, to have to listen to bells silently. I personally think it's a great shame. The St John's ringers continue to be enthusiastic and are gaining more and more knowledge of the art of this dying tradition. We are forever grateful to all the towers in the surrounding areas who welcome us to join them in their weekly practices. There is after all, nothing better than ringing bells for people to hear.

Teresa Joblin, Tower Secretary



AUG/SEPT 2017

Donation Guide

Please note

All items should be in date

And also be - longlife, tinned, dried, jar or packet.

- Tinned vegetables - potatoes, carrots, peas, sweetcorn
- **Packets of *Instant potato** Soup and Cup a Soup
- Tinned fruits
- ***Tinned meats - Corned Beef, Ham, Mince and onion, Stewed steak**
- ***Instant Noodles, *Rice,** couscous
- Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Sugar
- Packets of Instant Pasta in Sauce, Tins of Spaghetti
- Breakfast cereals, Cereal bars, ***Sweet Biscuits**
- Rice pudding (other tinned puddings –jam, syrup, dried fruit)
- Custard
- Spreads – jam, marmite, *peanut butter
- ***Longlife fruit juice and bottled Squash to dilute,** Longlife milk
- Deodorants , toothpaste, tooth brushes, bath & shower gels
- Ladies personal toiletries & Toilet rolls.
- Nappies size 4 & 5
- Laundry tablets and washing up liquid

Above * items are currently low in stock at the Foodbank.

At this time we have enough - baked beans.

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 your 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



TALK

HIGHAM VILLAGE
HISTORY GROUP




Norman Britain

With particular reference to life in Kent which was one of the first counties in England to feel the effects of the Norman Invasion

THURS 21 SEPT 8PM

SPEAKER: Kevin Holdaway
Memorial Hall, School Lane, Higham ME3 7JL

Find us on 

Free for Members
Visitors £3.50 (includes tea, coffee and biscuits)

www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk
email: highamvillagehistory@gmail.com
telephone: 01634 718285

NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS

Our last meeting was on a blazing hot June day, but we were fortunate our meeting room had air conditioning! Bliss! Many members have completed their red crosses for the 70,273 project (see our website for details).

Our afternoon speaker was Lorna Bateman

www.lornabatemanembroidery.com). Lorna brought along many pieces of her embroidery to let us see how she combines a variety of styles. Ribbon embroidery is at the forefront of Lorna's work. To complement her ribbon work, Lorna uses traditional embroidery stitches such as French knots and stump work. Lorna demonstrated how to make ribbon roses and you can see examples in the photograph below. Ribbon embroidery was new to me, but fascinating. I am going to try stitching a small piece myself.



There is no meeting in August, but we are out and about during the month. We will be at Miskin Library, MacKenzie Way Gravesend on 3rd August and then at the Clarendon Hotel for two days on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th August as part of the larger Gravesend "Something for the weekend" festival. Come along and meet us if you can. More about our meetings can be found at www.northkentembroiders.co.uk

VILLAGE DIARY

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2017

August

- Fri 4th HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 -4 pm
 Sat 5th Coffee & Conversation - Vestry Hall 10.30-12.30
- Fri 11th HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 -4 pm
 Tue 15th **The Assumption Of Our Lady Solemn Mass 7.30 pm**
 Thu 17th W.I. Memorial Hall 7.30pm
 Fri 18th HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 -4 pm
- Fri 25th HiARA - Monthly Meeting - Memorial Hall – 2 pm-4 pm

Sept

- Fri 1st **S Giles Day (Patron of Saint Merston) Said Mass 9.30am**
 HiARA - Activities – Memorial Hall - 1.30 -4 pm
 Sat 2nd Coffee & Conversation - Vestry Hall -10.30-12.30
- Sun 3rd Higham Village History Group - Guided Walk – 2.30 pm
 Thu 7th WI Memorial Hall - 7.30 pm
 Fri 8th HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 -4 pm
- Mon 11th Parish Council Meeting – Memorial Hall - 7.30 pm
 Fri 15th HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 -4 pm
- Sun 17th Harvest Thanksgiving 9.30 am**
 Mon 18th Higham Choral Group AGM Congregation Hall - 7.30 pm
 Thu 21st Higham Village History Group Talk – Memorial Hall - 8 pm
 Fri 22nd HiARA - Monthly Meeting - Memorial Hall – 2 pm-4 pm

CHURCH DRAW RESULTS JUNE 2017

£50	081	Mrs V. Jacquemin
£10	245	Mrs Poulton

NEXT DRAW 31st JULY 2017