

THE STAMP OF FAITH

How do you choose Christmas cards or Christmas stamps? Some outlets don't have any religious designs at all; ones which relate to the baby Jesus, his Family, the Shepherds, the Wise Men. It's as if it was something to be embarrassed about. Or is it that people, even Christians, are afraid to demand a supply of them? The Post Office are producing two sets of Christmastide stamps. First and Second Class have their own traditional art impressions of the Madonna and Child. The second 'Christmas' set is a cartoon version of a Snowman or Santa Claus. Please insist on the religious ones; rumour once had it they were going to stop them. If we can't obtain them perhaps we should decline the cartoons and ask for normal ones. Make a point about what a *real Christmas stamp* should be; and it's not robins, snowflakes, Xmas trees, etc. People of no religious faith or other faiths can buy them. The right image can set the right tone and hopefully lead to a right understanding about the *real* Christmas if people perceive in us what is really important.

I'm thinking of this issue because I have seen a rather striking poster for a talk which will have been given in November. It will, I suspect, have been very interesting talk about 'The Annunciation' (Gabriel's Visit to Mary and its consequences). Our Church's East Window depicts a very beautiful version of that event! The poster in question shows a lovely striking image of our Lady: but it's not about the Annunciation. For those who can perceive it properly, the poster depicts Mary, the Immaculate Conception. This religious doctrine, with implications for Mary's future role as Jesus' Mother, relates to HER conception (celebrated on 8th December). It's not about the Virginal Conception of the Lord at the Annunciation (celebrated on 25th March – nine months before Christmas, naturally!!).

This leads me (not so subtly) into letting you know that on 8th December at 12noon, Norman, our Bishop Visitor, will be celebrating Mass of the Immaculate Conception for us and preaching its meaning. Please, do come and hear him, helping us perceive more clearly, on this day, the increasing focus on the forthcoming great festival of the Incarnation – the birth of the Christ Child.

Furthermore, perhaps the best way to perceive anyone's faith isn't by cards and stamps; nor by lectures, concerts, Christmas shows or a plethora of group 'Christmas' meals. The world at large, neighbours and family will 'read' the truth of our personal faith by the way we will commit ourselves to worship and celebration of the great mystery of faith, at the ACTUAL Christmas itself; not by the peripheral events which accompany the celebration. If the Post Office are to take the message seriously for stamps – so must Christians 'stamp' their faith by their worship!

Father James

Erratum: Page 14 'Services During The Christmas Octave'
No. 4 - S.John's Day text should read 7.30pm only - *not* 10am only



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
	with Junior Church & Very Junior Church		
	Evening Prayer	(said)	6.00 pm

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION: Said Mass 9.30 am and Solemn Mass 7.30 pm
Solemn Evening Prayer & Benediction on Sundays at 5.30pm - **as announced.**

THE DAILY MASS TIMES	Monday	6.30 pm	DAILY MORNING PRAYER
	Tuesday	7.30 pm	Each day at 9am
	Wednesday	9.30 am	* * * * *
	Thursday	7.30 pm	DAILY EVENING PRAYER
	Friday	9.30 am	Each day at 6pm
	Saturday	9.30 am	(except Tue. & Thur. at 7pm)

**PARISH
PRIEST**

The Rev'd. Canon James F. Southward
Telephone 01634-717360
E.mail saintjohn.higham@yahoo.co.uk

**The Vicarage, Hermitage Rd.,
Higham, Kent, ME3 7NE.**
* * * * *

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..

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).

Evening calls only please for the * numbers

PARISH READER	Mr Simon Walker	11 St. John's Road, Higham	*Tel. 07794-523179
THE	Mrs Valerie Laurens	12 Villa Road, Higham	Tel. 01474-823423
CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs Helen Walker	11 St. John's Road, Higham	*Tel. 01474-396569
CHURCH HALL MANAGER	Mrs Julie Healey		*Tel: 01474-822008

December 2017 at S. John's, Higham

Calendar and Mass Intentions

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

*EXCEPT: Friday 8th Dec. 12 noon only; Midnight Mass is AT midnight;
 From Xmas Day to New Year's Day ALL masses at 10AM except 27th DEC.*

DAY	DATE	CELEBRATION	INTENTION
Fri	1st	Feria (Ord. Wk 4) <i>votive of Sacred Heart</i>	Those with HIV/Aids
Sat	2nd	Feria	The terminally ill
SUN	3RD	ADVENT – 1ST SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	4th	S. John Damascene; <i>Priest, Teacher</i>	Church in the Bible lands
Tue	5th	Advent Feria	Atheists and agnostics
Wed	6th	S. Nicholas; <i>Bishop</i>	Child protection work
Th.	7th	S. Ambrose; <i>Bishop, Teacher</i>	Openness to God's Word
FRI	8TH	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 12 NOON (S)	Walsingham
Sat	9th	Advent Feria	Church Schools
SUN	10TH	ADVENT – 2ND SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	11th	Advent Feria <i>Enthroned–11.12.10</i>	The Bishop of Rochester
Tue	12th	Our Lady of Guadalupe	(m) Church in Central America
Wed	13th	S. Lucy, <i>Martyr</i>	(m) The persecuted Church
Th.	14th	S. John of the Cross <i>Priest, Teacher</i>	(m) Society of the Holy Cross
Fri	15th	Advent Feria	Penitents & Confessors
Sat	16th	Advent Feria	+RIP's & Anniversaries
SUN	17TH	ADVENT – 3RD SUNDAY	O Sapientia (+) THE PARISH
Mon	18th	Advent Feria <i>O Adonai</i>	Step-families
Tue	19th	Advent Feria <i>O Radix</i>	Childless couples
Wed	20th	Advent Feria <i>O Clavis</i>	Expectant mothers
Th.	21st	Advent Feria <i>O Oriens</i>	The widowed and bereaved
Fri	22nd	Advent Feria <i>O Rex</i>	The lonely or unloved
Sat	23rd	Advent Feria <i>O Emmanuel</i>	Our servers & singers
SUN	24TH	ADVENT – 4TH SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
MON.	25th	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD	Midnight (+) THE PARISH
<i>Christmas</i>			<i>10am</i> Our Families & Relatives
Tue	26th	S. Stephen	10am (f) The world's destitute
WED		S. JOHN EVANGELIST	7.30PM SUNG (S) OUR CONGREGATION
		<i>Feast of title of the Parish Church, Co-Patron of the Parish</i>	
Th.	28th	The Holy Innocents Martyrs	10am (f) Save the Children
Fri	29th	S. Thomas Beckett Martyr, Bishop	10am (f) English Parish Clergy
Sat	30th	Of the Christmas octave	10am (f) The emergency services
SUN	31ST	THE HOLY FAMILY	O Sapientia (+) THE PARISH

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

THE DECEMBER 'REQUIEM'

is on SATURDAY 16th December 2017 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.*

2nd	David Richard Argent	20th	John Harris
	Michael Brundle <i>PRIEST</i>		Doris Lily Parkinson
4th	Kathleen Patricia Cole		Stephen Jeffrey Aspinall
8th	Frank Graffin		Joan Kent
	Violet Constance Eliz ^{bth} . Barber	21st	Ivy Wotton
9th	Ruth Hensman		Lily Agnes Pearce
10th	Geoffrey Charles Bavin	23rd	Joseph Hindle <i>PRIEST</i> *
	Walter Tom Anders		Matthias George Barker <i>CHILD</i>
	James Roxburgh <i>BISHOP</i>	24th	John Henry Newton
12th	Walter Raymond Frickey		Janette Hill Brown Rayner
	William Southward	25th	Frederick Walter Godwin
13th	Denis John Jones	26th	Janet Gomme
14th	John Moore	28th	John Rich
15th	Marilyn Wendy Peters		Nora Annie Maude Mahy
16th	Molly Allen		Mary Annie Glendinning
17th	Reecey Bridgeman	29th	Charles Robert Townsend
	David George Bate	30th	Marion Iris Rootes
18th	Rosina Ellen George		Isabel Violet ('Babs') Whittaker
	Peter Horne	31st	Monica Hanna Maria Harris
19th	Michael Houghton <i>BISHOP</i>		Betty Vera Argent

* = This priest was the Vicar of Higham and the founder of St. John's Church in 1862

PLEASE NOTE: Except for previous Incumbents of the parish (and where it is known that someone attends the requiem mass and prays for them) the names of those deceased more than 20 years have been removed from the list.

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

We proclaim your Death O Lord, and profess your Resurrection,
Until you come again!

~ DAILY BIBLE READINGS ~

ONLY A FEW MINUTES A DAY 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.

Ordinary Week 34

F Daniel 7.2-14 Luke 21.29-33
S Daniel 7.15-27 Luke 21.34-36
The Church's year ends today.

*The next cycle of Sunday readings (based
around Mark's Gospel) begins in Advent.*

*The weekday cycle Year 2 (for even years)
begins after Christmastide ends*

ADVENT – 1ST SUNDAY Dec 3rd

Isaiah 63.16-17,64.1-8
1 Corinth 1.3-9
Mark 13.33-37

M Isaiah 2.1-5 Matthew 8.5-11
T Isaiah 11.1-10 Luke 10.21-24
W Isaiah 25.6-10 Matthew 15.29-37
Th Isaiah 26.1-6 Matthew 7.21,24-27

F IMMACULATE CONCEPTION DEC. 8TH
Genesis 3.9-15,20 Ephes. 1.3-6,11-12
Luke 1.26-38

S Isaiah 30.19-26 Matt. 9.35-10.1,6-8

ADVENT - 2ND SUNDAY DEC. 10th

Isaiah 40.1-5. 9-11
2 Peter 3.8-14
Mark 1.1-8

M Isaiah 35.1-10 Luke 5.17-26
T Isaiah 40.1-11 Matthew 18.12-14
W Isaiah 40. 25-31 Matthew 11.28-30
Th Isaiah 41.13-20 Matthew 11.11-15
F Isaiah 48.17-19 Matthew 11.16-19
S Eccl'cus 48.1-4,9-11 Matt 17.10-13

ADVENT – 3RD SUNDAY DEC. 17th

Isaiah 61.1-2,10-11
1 Thessalonians 5.16-24
John 1.6-8, 19-28

M Jeremiah 23.5-8 Matthew 1.18-24
T Judges 13. 2-7,21-25 Luke 1.5-25
W Isaiah 7.10-14 Luke 1.26-38
Th Song of Songs 2.8-14 *or*
Zephaniah 3.14-18 Luke 1.39-45
F 1 Samuel 1.24-28 Luke 1.46-56
S Malachi 3.1-4,23-24 Luke 1.57-66

ADVENT – 4TH SUNDAY DEC. 24th

1 Samuel 7.1-5,8-12,14-16
Romans 16.25-27
Luke 1.26-38

MONDAY DEC 25TH

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

At Midnight Mass On Christmas Day

Isaiah 9.1-7 Isaiah 52.7-10
Titus 2.11-14 Hebrews 1.1-6
Luke 2.1-14 John 1.1-18

Tu S.STEPHEN, PROTO-MARTYR DEC. 26TH
Acts 6.8-10; 7.54-59 Matth. 10.17-22

WED – S.JOHN EVANGELIST DEC. 27th

PATRON OF THE PARISH CHURCH

Exodus 33.12-end 1 John 1.1-4
John 20.2-8

Th THE HOLY INNOCENTS DEC. 28TH
John 1.5-2.2 Matthew 2.13-18

F S.THOMAS BECKETT DEC. 29th
Colossians 1.24-29 Luke 22.24-30

S Of the Xmas Octave Dec 31st
1 John 2.12-17 Luke 2.36-40

SUN – THE HOLY FAMILY DEC. 31st

Genesis 15.1-6, 21.1-3
Hebrews 11.8,11-12,17-19
Luke 2.22-40

VOICE REJOICE



A new children's choir in Higham for both girls and boys

Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm
in St John's Vestry Hall, St John's Church, Hermitage
Road, Higham

The aims of running this choir are:

Teach the children to read music. Introduce them to other genres of music they may not be aware of. Teach them how to sing correctly using coaching techniques and games and the most important part is for the children to meet as a group and have lots of fun.

Any children interested in joining this club please contact

Catherine Ody on 07795 593355



News from the Tower

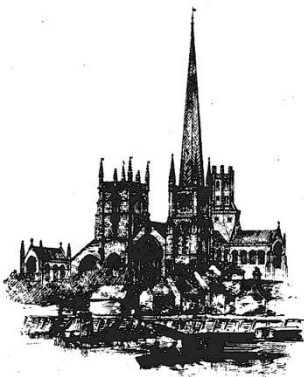
At the time of print, St John's Tower, Higham would have rung a quarter peal for the KCACR's project of trying to get as many towers ringing a QP during the month of November. I will update you on their achievements next month.

Meanwhile, whilst on a visit to The Lynn Minster last month, I gathered some information about their bells, which seemed of great interest to me so I thought I would share it with you.

The Bells of the Priory and Parish Church of St Margaret of Antioch.

Kings Lynn Minster.

The present Minster stands on the site of a church founded by Bishop Herbert de Losinga c 1101, as a Benedictine priory. In early times the monks would have used a bell to control their cycle of prayer through the day. Bells were also used to advise the townsfolk in time of great emergencies such as flooding and fire and, at one time, the fire engine was kept in the porch of the Minster.



St Margaret's before the collapse of the spire in 1745

The number and size of bells a town had was a matter of prestige and there is no doubt that the importance and wealth of Lynn was well demonstrated. Mackerell writing in 1738 told us “the largest bell was called the Margaret and was the finest of her kind and could be heard (wind favouring) a full ten miles distant”.

In 1616 a bell for St Nicholas' Chapel was recast in a pit dug on the Common Staithe in Lynn. The bell had been cast initially at a founders in Thetford but was unsatisfactory so was re-cast by James Edberry at Wiggshall St Germans. This was still unsuccessful so a warrant was served on Edberry to do the job again in Lynn. This pit was rediscovered during the preparation work for the conversion of the Corn Exchange to a concert hall in 1995.

Bell metal is an alloy of 77% copper and 23% tin but in the past, all sorts of things were put in to make up the weight. The bell cast in 1616 on Common Staithe for St Nicholas' included the pulpit candlestick as a makeweight. Bells re-cast in 1645 for St Margaret's included a brass eagle lectern and some more metal, which had been gathered by asking around the town.

We know that there were medieval bellfounders in Lynn, although making bells probably didn't provide a fulltime living. Evidence of other metals from excavated bell pits in Norwich suggests that the founders also cast every day pieces such as cauldrons and other domestic items. In later centuries there were still a number of small-scale local founders such as Thomas Osborn of Downham Market who recast St Margaret's 9th bell in 1800. Sadly, today there is only one bell founder left in the whole of England (Whitechapel foundry having closed earlier this year), this being John Taylor's at Loughborough. The present Minster bells are based on a ring of eight cast at Whitechapel in 1766, when six bells were also cast for St Nicholas' Chapel. Loughborough carried out major restoration work including a 9th bell in 2005. This now makes Loughbororough the only company anywhere in the world who can cast bells for the distinctively English practice of change ringing.

By the 16th century there seem to have been five bells in each of St Margaret's towers. The south-west tower contains two generations of belfries. Before the edition of the of the 14th century top stage, the 13th century middle storey had previously been a belfry. The tower now only houses the Sanctus bell. In the beams, supporting the floor of the 14th century bellchamber, you can see five holes through which the ropes of the medieval bells hung down. The holes are arranged in a line, unlike the circular arrangement familiar later for post medieval change ringing. These bells were sold by the town in 1550 to pay for munitions to defend it from potential attack.

The north-west tower, the present bell tower, originally resembled its southern neighbour. However, its surviving 12th century arch into the Church clearly showed how badly the tower began to lean due to the softness of the ground. An appeal for repair had raised £30.00 and in 1432 the church authorities approached the councilmen. The plan was to rebuild with two Arch buttants, possibly now forming the east and west walls of the north porch to strengthen the weakness that side. The constables were ordered to "go through the streets and ask every man how much they would be willing to give towards the building". The repair work started in 1436 and took two years. By 1452, the tower was rebuilt and lined with bricks faced with stone. Here the five bells of unknown age, known as "Margaret, Trinity, Nicholas, John and Thomas" were placed within the tower and were still in place at the time of the Reformation.

After the Reformation, the religious revolution in the 16th century led to the promotion of protestant ideas and all ringing was cancelled with the exception of the tolling of a single bell to announce the time of service and tolling on the day of a funeral. In 1552 the commissioners carried out their survey of Church goods where they made account of five bells remaining at St Margaret's Church, each weighing between 14 and 28 hundredweights. Being too heavy to remove, they remained in situ. On the death of Edward VI in 1553 and the accession of Mary to the throne, the bells were reprieved and once more bells were used to

sound out emergencies or invasions although during WW2 the bells were silenced for normal purposes and ONLY used in the event of an emergency. It was vital to maintain a corps of people who could sound the bells and it is clear that during Elizabeth's time bell ringing was considered a popular sporting activity. In 1566 a chiming mechanism was set up at St Margaret's, which played a different tune every day of the week on the five bells in the north-west tower.

The bells were kept in good order. The details of a new frame and rehung in 1595 make it clear that full circle ringing was the practice by now. Ringing was, and is, an activity requiring care and awareness. In 1621 "a man was drawn up by the rope of St Margaret's great bell and killed thereby" In 1626 the wardens were obliged to pay eight pence to "two men that carried the man out of the steeple that was wounded there" and two shillings and sixpence "to a woman who took him in pending recovery".

In 1646 St Margaret's bells were recast. In the summer of 1647 all five bells were back in place and when the chimes were reconnected, two new tunes were added to the repertoire. During 1664, the five-recast bells were augmented to create a peal of eight bells and Lynn ringers led the district for bell ringing. The Lynn ringers by this time had become proficient and were successfully attempting long lengths of ringing. They must have been frustrated when in 1741, during a gale, the spire crashed down and fell across the body of the Church. The damage was extensive and the repairs took four years to complete. The Church's first peal was rung to commemorate the completion of the repairs where a total of 5,040 changes were made. The board in the ringing chamber records "1746 Jan 20th Rung the five thousand and forty changes of Gathron's Trebles in three hours and forty minutes".

Another set of new bells were installed in 1766 - 8 for St Margaret's and 6 for St Nicholas' Chapel. A notice in The Norwich Mercury announced that the new bells would be opened on Tuesday 24th June.

The ringer's expenses for opening the bells were £9/6/8d. The cost for the new bells was £383/17/0. Ringers saw their efforts as public entertainment and crowds gathered to hear them perform. In between the great peals came the more regular ringing activities marking the services and the highlights of the year and the ringers continued to mark national occasions. The death of George III was marked by tolling the great bell from 2 pm until 11 pm. On the day of his funeral, the tolling lasted from 7 am until 8 pm followed by a muffled peal until 10 pm. Two new bells were augmented for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. The return of whaling ships which traveled from Lynn to Greenland from 1770s until 1820s, was hailed by the sound of the Church bells. These voyages were long and dangerous and a returning whaler was a cause for local excitement. Although whaling from Lynn had ceased by 1830, the Minster was lit by whale oil lamps until the introduction of gas in 1835. On the walls of the ringing chamber are letters of appreciation from H M The Queen, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and also a telegram of thanks from Winston Churchill for the peal rung to celebrate the end of the 1939-45 war.

By 2000 the bells were in great need of attention. The bells were out of tune and had become difficult to ring. Norman Harding BEM was the tower captain here for nearly fifty years. He died on January 26th 2001 aged 91 and it was largely through his generous bequest (aided with a grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund) that the bells of the Minster were completely restored in 2005. Norman started ringing at the age of twelve and it became his lifelong interest. He travelled all over the UK ringing peals and in 1983 he was awarded the BEM for services to bell ringing. In total he rang 611 peals and helped ring in the new Millennium at the age of ninety. After his funeral, the Minster and other local ringers rang the bells half muffled and on Sunday February 11th 2001, a peal of 5040 changes of plain bob royal was rung in his honour.



The bell in the Tuesday Market Cross

A single bell hangs in the south-west tower. This “Sanctus bell” is chimed at the consecration of the bread and wine during services of the Holy Communion. A medieval Sanctus bell may have hung in its own turret on an eastern gable of the building. However, this small bell was originally cast as a market bell. It hung in the market cross to regulate business proceedings. The market cross was taken down in 1831 and the bell’s whereabouts thereafter was unknown until it was hung in the small spire of St Edmunds Church in North Lynn, built in the 1950’s. When the Church closed in the 1990s, the bell was placed in storage until 1999 when it was placed in the southwest tower of the Minster.

Teresa Joblin. Tower Secretary.

HIGHAM AGE CONCERN

The Luncheon Club meets Fridays - usually the first and third every month – at Merston Court Day Centre. If you would like to join please contact Barbara West on 01474 822453 who will provide you with any information.



*...no I don't think you're the real Father Christmas!
I think you're up there pinching lead off my roof!!*

CARD or DECORATION

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Time to write your Christmas cards again – what designs have you picked to send this year? Are they religious ones?

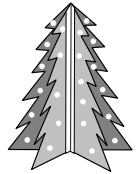
Look in the shops at all the different designs, traditional and modern. Traditional religious cards have usually included the nativity – Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. But what else would you count as religious? The Three Kings? The Bible doesn't say they were kings, or that there were three; just that they were Wise Men, who travelled far to bring special gifts for the baby Jesus.

Do you know why there are so many robins on Christmas cards? The first postmen in Victorian times wore red and were called robins, so robins were shown as delivering cards.



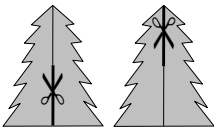
Whatever kind of card you send this year, be sure to include a kind message with love for your friends. Our love is a tiny echo of God's love for all the world.

Here is a simple 3-D Christmas tree that you can use as a decoration or a card. You will need green card, crayons, glitter or paint, scissors and sticky tape.



Fold a piece of card in half, then cut it in half. Put the two pieces together and fold them in half again.

Draw half a Christmas tree opposite the fold. Cut along the line and you will have 2 identical trees. Fold the trees in half, very lightly, hardly creasing the centre line to mark the centre of the tree. Cut a slit along the bottom half of the centre of one tree and along the top half of the centre of the other tree. Slip the two trees together along the slits. To help the tree to stand firmly, use sticky tape to fasten the parts together where they meet.



Decorate the tree. If you are using it as a card then leave an area free of decorations so that you can write on it.



*What goes red white red white red white?
Santa rolling down a hill.*

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

A Service of Carols & Readings

for adults and older children

Friday, 22nd December 2017 @ 7pm

ALSO

A Christmas Eve Crib Service

for the young (at heart!)

Sunday, 24th December @ 5pm

+

Please note the different times and age group for each service

ATTENTION: ALL CONFIRMED ANGLICANS!

We remind you again that Christmas Day is one of three days in the year on which communicant members of the Church of England should receive Holy Communion. The others days are Easter and Pentecost. We encourage you to plan for this wherever you find yourself at Christmas

SERVICES DURING THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE

(The Eight Days of Christmas week)

are printed in the centre of this edition of 'The Bridge'.

PLEASE NOTE CERTAIN TIME CHANGES:

1. The Crib service is NOW 5pm; Carol Service 7pm
2. 'Midnight Mass' of Christmas starts at Midnight;
3. From Christmas Morning to New Year's Day there is only one Mass only each day – all at 10am INCLUDING SUNDAYS
4. *S. John's Day (27th Dec) - Mass will be at 10am only SUNG*

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THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

The Feast of the Visitation of the Wise Men



Sunday, 7th January, 2018

**A Holy Day of Obligation for the faithful in thanksgiving
for the revelation of the Messiah to all nations.**

Morning Prayer – 8.45am

Solemn Mass - 9.30am

Evening Prayer – 6.00pm

EXTRA Said Mass - 6.30pm

*Holy Communion may be brought to the sick and housebound
upon request to Fr James.*

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LOWER THAMES CROSSING 2017

Update 5

Highways England announced the following project design changes on Wednesday 1 November:

- Removing the proposed A226 junction
- A new design for the junction with the A2
- The route will now be 3 lanes in each direction between the A2 and the A13
- A new junction design at the junction of the Lower Thames Crossing and the M25
- A new route and design to avoid Ockendon landfill
- Redesign of the A13 junction and the removal of the A128 junction (which is enabled by the A13 junction redesign)
- A new junction and link road at Tilbury



www.higham-kent-pc.gov.uk

Thursday 2 November 2017



HIGHAM VILLAGE PLAN

Update No. 5

The survey results are in ...A great **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone that completed the Survey - we had just over 500 responses

We're busy analysing all the results and the things you said - the top 3 priorities for residents are:

- The Rural Environment
 - Safe
 - Clean Tidy

A simple statistical summary will be posted on the Love Higham Website at the beginning of November, and then we will start drafting the Higham Village Plan.

PRIZE DRAW: Mayor Harold Craske drew the winning name at the Beating the Bounds event and the winner is:

Michele Hayes

Email: information@lovehigham.co.uk

Phone: 07480 518493

www.lovehigham.co.uk

TALK

HIGHAM VILLAGE
HISTORY GROUP



A ROYAL INTERLUDE

Based on personal experience, learn about service in the royal household and the traditions of Royal Maundy.

THURS 18 JAN 8PM

SPEAKER: PETER HARTLEY

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

Higham Choral Group
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

a seasonal selection

plus carols for all

7.30 pm

Saturday 16th December

St John's Church,

Hermitage Road, Higham

admission £8.00 includes light refreshments

pay at the door

for further information phone 01634 718285 or 01634
718818

or email kateiw@tiscali.co.uk

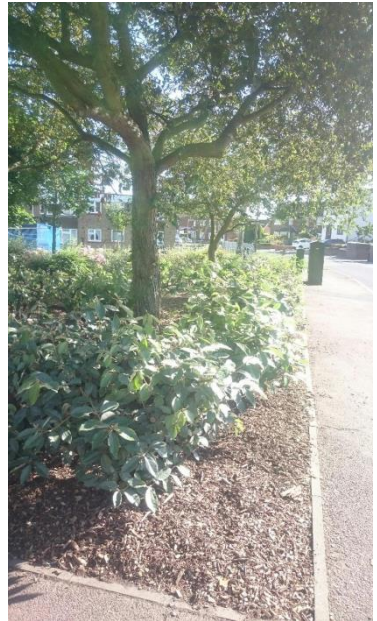
www.highamchoral.org.uk

HIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

A **HUGE THANK YOU** goes to the Higham Parish Council Volunteers who have done a fantastic job throughout 2017 picking up litter and tidying the patch in School Lane (at the end of Mountbatten Avenue.)

Our volunteers have:

- Done over 100 hours of litter picking
- Collected 70 bags of litter along with a wide range of odd items from hub caps to hosepipes
- Cleared 30 large bags of weeds, spread wood chippings and pruned shrubs and trees



Apart from these organised sessions, we know that many people in the village clear up litter and help to keep some of the grass verges tidy and so a **BIG THANK YOU** to them as well.

Litter Picking will start again in February and gardening will continue over the winter.

New volunteers are always welcome, contact

Sue Sparks on 07840 518493 or email sue3906@gmail.com



COFFEE
+
CONVERSATION



*with
Christmas
Craft
stall*



**2nd DECEMBER
10.30-12.30
S. John's Church**

*If not you, perhaps
someone you know
may need someone
to talk to, or to get
out for a few hours,
then tell them
about us!*

**Proceeds from
Christmas cards
& Sales go to
Church funds
Come and see!**



HIGHAM WOMENS' INSTITUTE

Higham WI met at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 2nd November 2017. Our Chairman, Stephanie, welcomed us all and the evening began with:

Representatives' Reports

Tess Packer's Art and Craft mornings will continue at the Vestry Hall during November and December.

Leisure: Christine Downes: No luck with obtaining tickets for the "Tina Turner" musical during 2018 but Christine will keep trying.

District "Veronica Mitchell: The arrangements for the Hoo District Annual Carol Service which will be held at St John's Church, Higham are going ahead. Higham WI has applied for £60 from District funds to pay for the refreshments, etc. This grant has been agreed.

Our December WI meeting (Thursday 7th) is our Christmas Party. It was suggested we all bring along a small plate of festive food, as well as cutlery and a glass for drinks. Plastic plates will be provided.

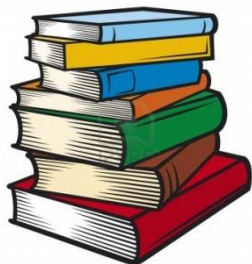
Our Drama Group's latest production is eagerly awaited and entertainment will be provided by Phil.

We then welcomed Toni Mount who had slides showing how Christmas was celebrated in medieval times – a very humorous and interesting speaker.

Ladies are looking forward to returning to The Knowle on January 4th 2018 for our Christmas meal. All monies have been collected and the menus chosen.

Josephine Smith

HGHAM LIBRARY BOOK CLUB



If you enjoy reading and have ever thought a book club might be for you then why not come along to this new book club? It meets the first Thursday of the month from 6.45 pm – 8.45 pm in the library. The start time is flexible so don't worry if you arrive later.

This is a very informal group, which met for the first time on the 2nd November. The library provided copies of the book which was agreed on by the group and we now have one month until the next meeting on the **7th December** to read “the Silence Between Breaths by Cath Staincliffe”. Library membership is not essential.

This is a great way to get out of your comfort zone and to try out various styles of writing and books and also to discover new authors. This month the evening ended with all those who wished to adjourning to the local hostelry - a great end to the evening!

If you would like to find out more speak to the librarian or just come along to the next meeting.

PRAYER AT CHRISTMAS

By Daphne Kitching

Father of all good gifts.

Thank you for the greatest gift of all – your precious Son, Jesus. Thank you that He chose to live with us so that all who trust Him will one day live with you in peace and wholeness.

Help us Father, this Christmas, to keep you at the centre of our celebrations and, in the midst of all the busy-ness and rush, to know your presence and the peace that only you can give. And Lord, may we reflect your love to those who don't yet know that you are real and alive and able to help, whatever their situation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



The date was set in heaven above
When love come down upon this earth,
A stable bare, a bed of straw,
The setting for the Saviour's birth.

Shepherds out upon the hillside
'Watching o'er their flocks by night',
When angels telling of a baby
In splendour, burst upon their sight

Signs were seen in distant lands
With wise men travelling from afar
Having searched the skies at night
Came following His natal star.

As we hear the Christmas message,
If we think these things are true,
We could come to seek this baby
We could be like wise men too.

By Megan Carter



LOCAL EVENTS

Myths & Legends of Gravesham and Dartford (illustrated talk) plus supper

Speaker: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

On: Monday 4th December 2017

At: Reliance Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend

Begins: 6pm for meal and talk to follow

Price: £15 for both meal and talk

Booking essential – Reliance Restaurant [01474 533593](tel:01474533593)

Grim Gravesend – festive guided walk with refreshments afterwards (at Marie's Tea Room)

On: Thursday 7th December 2017

Guide: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

Meet: outside Civic Centre, Gravesend-Community Square

Begins: 7pm

Price: £7.50 – includes guided tour and refreshments

Booking essential: manager@mariestearoom.co.uk or call into the restaurant in High Street, Gravesend

Mayors, markets & mayhem – festive guided walk with refreshments afterwards (at Forget-me –not vintage & crafts, High Street)

On: Thursday 14th December 2017

Guide: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

Meet: Heritage Quarter Gate at top (south) of High Street, Gravesend

Begins: 7pm

Price: £7.50 – includes guided tour and refreshments

Booking essential: fmnvintage@hotmail.com or in the shop in High Street, Gravesend

Guided historical circular walk from Cliffe to Cooling (Winter Warmer)

On: Wednesday 27th December 2017

Guide: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

Meet: The Buttway outside St Helen's church, Cliffe

Begins: 10.30am

Free event – donations welcome

Gravesend Historical Society Footpath Walk – no need to book, just turn up to walk off Christmas excess.

Information: Christoph Bull [07702287147](tel:07702287147)



DECEMBER 2017

Donation Guide

Please note
All items should be in date
and be - longlife, tinned, dried, jar or packet.

- Tinned vegetables - potatoes, carrots, peas, sweetcorn
 - Packets of *Instant potato, Packets of Soup and Cup a Soup
 - *Vegetarian Foods
 - *Tinned - Corned Beef, Ham, Mince, Stewed steak, Tinned Pies .
 - *Instant Noodles, rice, *couscous
 - Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Sugar.
 - *Jars of Pasta Sauce, Instant Pasta in a Sauce, Tins of Spaghetti .
 - Breakfast cereals, Cereal bars, Sweet biscuits & Chocolate Biscuits.
 - Rice pudding, *Tinned Fruit, Jam, Syrup sponge puddings, *Custard.
 - **Christmas Chocolates for children.
 - Spreads – Jam, Marmite, *Peanut Butter, Nuttella.
 - *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 *Washing up liquid, * Spray household cleaners
- *Above items are currently low in stock at the Foodbank.*

At this time we have enough - Baked beans & UHT milk

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 RCGG 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

Welcome. The weather is turning colder and the desire to sit and stitch on a cold winter's evening is nearly upon us.



Back on the 21st of October we were privileged to have Pat Trott as our guest speaker, when we learnt about Crewel work (www.pattrott.co.uk). Pat started sewing at a very young age and continues to delight, with her teaching and inspiration.

Crewel Work is an ancient craft using a thin worsted yarn and goes back to at least the 17th century. Work that we all know has either been done or inspired by Crewel work. The Bayeux tapestry, William Morris and in the 20's and 30's a revival of Jacobean work came about, some are still in use today in churches and museums.

On the 18th November we have our Christmas Stitching afternoon, where we have four groups of people each stitching a different project. Called the four corners for obvious reasons we try and get our projects completed in an afternoon, but it can be a tall order because of the chat and natter and mostly laughter that ensues, but, in the main, we get them done.

We now have a new Facebook page which is still in its infancy but getting there. You can find it at www.facebook.com/nkeg01 and, of course, we have a web page at www.northkentembroiderers.co.uk. We have had new members join and new friendships made, everyone with the same interest in all things stitchery. We meet up every month at Gravesend Library, please look at our web page for all the details.

Please pop in and say hello, we have a wide range of abilities and ages and would love to meet you, whether you are an experienced embroiderer or textile artist or do not know where to start. There are always people around who can show you, encourage you and help you on your journey.

Toni Houbart

VILLAGE DIARY

DECEMBER 2017

Fri	1 st	HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 -4pm
Sat	2 nd	Coffee & Conversation - Vestry Hall 10.30-12.30
Wed	6 th	Rainbows & Brownies - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Thurs	7 th	W.I. Memorial Hall
Fri	8 th	HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 -4pm
Sun	10 th	Boot Fair - Memorial Hall
Wed	6 th	Rainbows & Brownies - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	8 th	HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 -4pm
Tues	12 th	HiARA - Monthly Meeting - Memorial Hall -2pm -4pm
Wed	13 th	Rainbows & Brownies - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	15 th	HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 -4pm
Sat	16th	HIGHAM CHORAL GROUP - CHRISTMAS CONCERT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH 7.30PM
Fri	22nd	CAROLS & READINGS - ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - 7PM HiARA - Monthly Meeting - Memorial Hall - 2pm-4pm
SUN	24TH	ANNUAL CRIB SERVICE - ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - 5PM SOLEMN MASS OF MIDNIGHT - <i>Midnight</i>
Mon	25th	SOLEMN MASS 10AM
Wed	27th	ST. JOHNS DAY - SOLEMN MASS 7.30PM
Fri	29 th	HiARA Quiz - Memorial Hall - 1.30 - 4pm
Sun	31st	Feast of the Holy Family - Mass 10am

CHURCH DRAW RESULTS

OCTOBER 2017

£50	113	Mrs Dockrell
£10	218	Mrs Holmes

NEXT DRAW 27th NOVEMBER

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our advertisers and all our readers for their support throughout the year and wish you all
**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND
A GOOD NEW YEAR.**

