

NEW DEAN IS INSTALLED

The Very Revd Nick Papadopulos is 81st Dean of Salisbury



On the 9th September Salisbury's new Dean, the Very Revd Nicholas Papadopulos, made his way to the West Doors of Salisbury Cathedral dressed for the last time in the robes of Canterbury Cathedral.

After five years as Canon Treasurer in Canterbury, and still at this point the dean designate of Salisbury, Nicholas was accompanied by the Very Revd Dr Robert Willis, Dean of Canterbury, and his colleagues from Kent.

The Canterbury party was met at the Cathedral's West End by colleagues from Salisbury Cathedral and, following a ceremonial exchange of robes, Nicholas was presented to the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, the Bishop of Salisbury, who welcomed him.

The ceremony, which took place during the Cathedral's service of Evensong, began with the 'Royal Letters Patent' being read aloud, signalling the Queen's approval of the appointment and authorisation for Nicholas to take up what is constitutionally a Crown appointment.

Over eighty members of the clergy including three visiting Deans and five Bishops of other Dioceses were among the congregation or in the procession. Archbishop Justin Badi from South Sudan and the Dean of Riga, accompanied by group from the Deanery of Jūrmala, Latvia, were among those present.

Amongst the lay dignitaries were the Lord Lieutenants of Wiltshire and Dorset, the High Sheriff of Wiltshire, the Mayor of Salisbury, the Lord Mayor of Canterbury, the Mayor of Bournemouth, the Leader of Wiltshire Council and the Leader of Bournemouth Council. The Assistant Chief Constables of Wiltshire and Chief Constable of Dorset represented the police at the service.

As the installation ceremony got underway an Introit (or introduction) written for the occasion by Salisbury Cathedral's Director of Music, David Halls, was sung by Salisbury Cathedral's choir. The words were chosen by Dean Nicholas and were written by Richard Church, the twentieth century Kentish poet:

*I caught my breath
In the chill splendour
And hush of night;
Bowed my heart
Before humanity transfigured,
Touched with immortality.*

The service also featured a hymn written for the occasion by the Dean of Canterbury. It celebrates holy places – such as Salisbury and Canterbury – and all that they offer those who visit them and the communities that they serve.

Standing below the Cathedral's soaring Spire, the new Dean then swore the oaths of allegiance to the Queen and obedience to the Bishop. The Deed of Institution, a legal document that passes on the Bishop's authority to the dean-designate to function as Dean and priest in the Cathedral and Diocese of Salisbury, was read aloud.

Dean Nicholas' wife Heather and their son Barnaby and daughter Thea looked on as he was installed in his seat in the Quire of the Cathedral and preached his first sermon as Dean.

Bishop Nicholas said, "Nick Papadopoulos was warmly welcomed by the Cathedral and diocese. His commitment to this place as a house of prayer in service to the wider community is unwavering and his installation signals a new beginning for Salisbury Cathedral and the city after what has been a difficult year. That joy and optimism extends to Heather, Barnaby and Thea, who we hope will spend many happy years within this community."

The new Dean of Salisbury added, "Becoming Dean of this ancient and beautiful Cathedral is an awesome responsibility.

This place shaped my early ministry and taught me the power of worship and the value of a shared life of prayer. This Cathedral community sits at the heart of the city, just yards from the High Street – a place to gather, a place to relax, a place to study and a place to pray. It is a symbol of hope that is visible for miles around. I look forward to working with my colleagues, as well as with partners across the city, the counties and the Diocese to make a difference for the local community and all who visit this extraordinary place.”

The Very Revd Nicholas Papadopoulos is the 81st Dean of Salisbury, an ancient role that can be traced back to the 12th Century and the original Salisbury Cathedral at Old Sarum. He has served previously in Salisbury, as Senior Chaplain and Press Officer to the then Bishop of Salisbury from 2002 to 2007, so his installation is something of a homecoming.

Dean Nicholas Papadopoulos, aged 52, studied History at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and Law at City University, London. He was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1990 and practised at the criminal Bar for seven years. He trained for ministry at Ripon College Cuddesdon, and subsequently studied for his MA at King's College, London. He served his title as Assistant Curate at St Mark Portsea in the Diocese of Portsmouth from 1999 to 2002.

From 2002 to 2007 he was Senior Chaplain and Press Officer to the Bishop of Salisbury, and from 2007 to 2013 Vicar of Pimlico St Peter with Westminster Christ Church (St Peter's Eaton Square) in the Diocese of London. Since 2013 he has been Canon Treasurer at Canterbury Cathedral and Director of Initial Ministerial Education in the Diocese of Canterbury.

Nicholas is married to Heather, and they have two teenage children. His interests include reading, history, poetry and novels, listening to music (of all sorts), cooking and going to the gym and walking. He is also interested in Cyprus and Palestine.

The Dean of Salisbury is the head of Chapter, Salisbury Cathedral's governing body, responsible for the Cathedral fabric, worship, music, outreach, education, library and archives and visitors' experience. Chapter is supported by an executive team led by the Executive Director and Chapter Clerk, Jackie Molnar, four Directors and a staff of approximately 90 people.

Alongside Chapter the Cathedral's corporate body consists of the College of Canons and the Cathedral Council, both of which perform an advisory role and meet twice a year.

The Bridge

Monthly Magazine of the Parish of Higham (Ss. John & 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	Monday	6.30 pm	DAILY MORNING PRAYER
DAILY	Tuesday	7.30 pm	Each day at 9 am
MASS	Wednesday	9.30 am	* * * * *
TIMES	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.
	Email 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, one of the Churchwardens (details below).

THE	Mrs Teresa Joblin	Hill Cottage 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

December 2018 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: Saturday 8th Dec. 12Noon only; MONDAY 24th at 9.30am
 From Xmas Day to New Year's Day ALL masses at 10AM except 27th DEC.*

DAY	DATE	CELEBRATION	INTENTION
Sat	1st	Feria (Ord. Wk 34)	Those with HIV/Aids
SUN	2ND	ADVENT – 1ST SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	3rd	S.Francis Xavier; <i>Priest, Missionary</i>	(m) Migrants and refugee
Tue	4th	S.John Damascene; <i>Priest, Teacher</i>	Church in the Bible lands
Wed	5th	Advent Feria	Sick and disabled
Th.	6th	S.Nicholas; <i>Bishop</i>	Child protection work
Fri	7th	S.Ambrose; <i>Bishop, Teacher</i>	Openness to God's Word
SAT	8TH	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 12 NOON (S)	Walsingham
SUN	9TH	ADVENT – 2ND SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	10th	Advent Feria	Penitents & confessors
Tue	11th	Advent Feria	<i>Enthroned–11.12.10</i> The Bishop of Rochester
Wed	12th	Our Lady of Guadalupe	(m) Church in Central America
Th.	13th	S.Lucy, <i>Martyr</i>	(m) The persecuted Church
Fri	14th	S.John of the Cross <i>Priest, Teacher</i>	(m) Society of the Holy Cross
Sat	15th	Advent Feria	+RIP's & Anniversaries
SUN	16TH	ADVENT – 3RD SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	17th	Advent Feria	<i>O Sapientia</i> Jewish Christian Dialogue
Tue	18th	Advent Feria	<i>O Adonai</i> Step-families
Wed	19th	Advent Feria	<i>O Radix</i> Childless couples
Th.	20th	Advent Feria	<i>O Clavis</i> Expectant mothers
Fri	21st	Advent Feria	<i>O Oriens</i> The widowed and bereaved
Sat	22nd	Advent Feria	<i>O Rex</i> The lonely or unloved
SUN	24TH	ADVENT – 4TH SUNDAY	<i>O Emmanuel</i> (+) THE PARISH
Mon	10th	Advent Feria	<i>9.30am -last mass of Advent</i> Our servers & musicians
MON/TUE	25th	THE NATIVITY	<i>Midnight</i> (+) THE PARISH
<i>Christmas</i>		OF OUR LORD	<i>10am</i> Our Families & Relatives
Wed	26th	S.Stephen	10am (f) The world's destitute
TH.		S.JOHN EVANGELIST	<i>7.30PM SUNG</i> (S) OUR CONGREGATION
		<i>Feast of title of the Parish Church, Co-Patron of the Parish</i>	
Fri	28th	The Holy Innocents <i>Martyrs</i>	10am (f) Save the Children
Sat	29th	S.Thomas Beckett <i>Martyr, Bishop</i>	10am (f) English Parish Clergy
SUN	30TH	THE HOLY FAMILY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	31st	Of the Christmas octave	10am (f) The emergency services

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

THE DECEMBER 'REQUIEM'

is on SATURDAY 15th December 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.*

2nd	David Richard Argent	20th	John Harris
	Michael Brundle <i>PRIEST</i>		Doris Lily Parkinson
3rd	Reginald Stanley Merrison		Stephen Jeffrey Aspinall
4th	Kathleen Patricia Cole		Joan Kent
8th	Frank Graffin	21st	Ivy Wotton
	Violet Constance Eliz ^{bth} . Barber		Lily Agnes Pearce
9th	Ruth Hensman	23rd	Joseph Hindle <i>PRIEST</i> *
10th	Walter Tom Anders		Matthias George Barker <i>CHILD</i>
	James Roxburgh <i>BISHOP</i>	24th	John Henry Newton
12th	William Southward		Janette Hill Brown Rayner
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 a Vicar of Higham and the founder of S.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!

HIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors met at Higham Memorial Hall on Monday, October 15 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting began with Defibrillator Awareness Training in connection with the Restart a Heart Day on Tuesday October 16. Several other training sessions will be taking place throughout the village over the next few weeks. The defibrillator is sited at The Pavilion, by the recreation ground but another positioned elsewhere is planned and fund raising has already begun.

Chairman, Peter Allinson welcomed all those present and referred to the evening's agenda. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising were discussed and brought up to date.

A long debate took place regarding the Public Meeting being held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday October 25 from 6 to 8 pm, organised by LEJ Properties Ltd. Residents would be able to learn more about the future redevelopment plans for the Nuralite Industrial Estate in Canal Road. Plans will be on display and consultants available for any questions. Councillor's expected that more vehicle movements would be involved with any works carried out on the site.

Councillors mentioned the fly tipping in Canal Road, which has been reported to Gravesham Borough Council but currently remains uncollected. There had been another breaking at the Hairdressers and the village school had been broken into -two teenagers climbing over the perimeter fence had been captured on the school CCTV system and pictures had been handed to the police. Overgrown trees in Church Street are causing concerns to residents; landowners will be contacted to establish what can be done to resolve the issue.

The arrangements for the November 5 firework display on the recreation ground are being finalised. The display will begin around 6.30 pm and has free entry - it is hoped this will be supported by residents. The theme of the display is to commemorate the end of the First World War 100 years ago.

Planning applications were discussed and reports heard from the CDC committee, IFC committee regarding Highway issues and Litter, recreation ground and Lower Thames Crossing information. The LTC mobile information van will be visiting Higham in November.

The Emergency Planning Committee had met in September with KCC Resilience Officer, Steve Scully. It was interesting to learn about his very varied job, from dealing with warehouse fires to the appearance of the beluga whale in the Thames. He went over the document entitled "Community Emergency Plan" which forms a basic template for all communities to start their emergency planning. Councillor Sparks had attended a further meeting in October and all the parish council will be returning to this subject in the future.

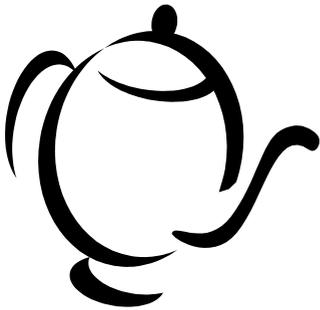
A survey of the winter salt bins has been carried out by Councillors and details will be forwarded to KCC in preparation for the cold weather.

The winners of the Gardens for Pleasure completion will be awarded their prizes by the Mayor of Gravesham; Councillor David Hurley, will be in attendance at the November meeting.

Liz Jeffery



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



1st December
10.30-2.00

In the Vestry Hall
'Christmas' Special

*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!*

NOT CHURCHY -

Just CHATTY!!!



WINTER VINTAGE AND CRAFT FAIR

@

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER

10:30 am-2:00 pm

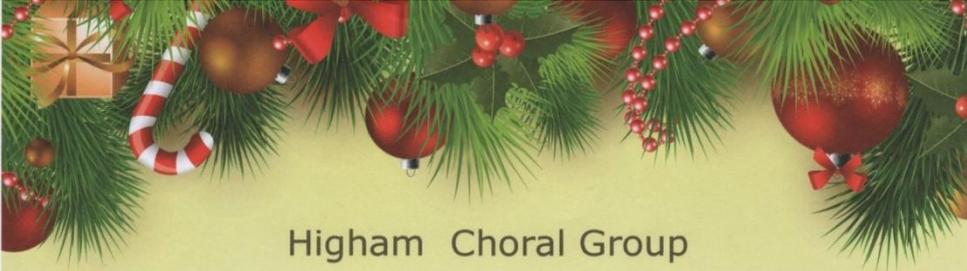


Tables for hire to sell your own items

or

just come along, have a coffee, cake and buy. Proceeds go to St John's Church funds

Contact Helen 07528472686



Higham Choral Group

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The choir will perform *FOLLOW THAT STAR*,
Christmas songs in close harmony arranged by Peter Gritton
and invite you to sing along with some favourite carols

Saturday 15th December

7.30pm

**St John's Church,
Hermitage Road, Higham**

admission £8.00 includes light refreshments
pay at the door

for further information phone 01634 718285
or email kateiw@tiscali.co.uk
www.highamchoral.org.uk



SAINT JOHN

Feast day: 26 December

John the Evangelist (d. first century) — Apostle, called “the Beloved Disciple,” and author of the fourth Gospel, three Epistles, and the Book of Revelation. A Galilean, he was the son of Zebedee, brother of James the Greater, with whom he was called boanerges, meaning “sons of thunder” (Mk 3:17). Originally a fisherman and probably a disciple of St. John the Baptist, he joined the Lord and became, with James and Peter, a member of the inner circle around Jesus.

He was present at the raising of Jairus’ daughter (Mk 5:37), the Transfiguration (Mt 17:1), and the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mt 26:37). It is generally accepted that John was referring to himself when he wrote in the Gospel of the disciple “whom Jesus loved,” reclining on Our Lord’s bosom at the Last Supper (Jn 13:23). John also was entrusted with the care of Mary at the crucifixion (Jn 19:26); ran with Peter to the tomb after the Resurrection (Jn 20:2-8); and proclaimed to Peter, “It is the Lord!” when Christ revealed himself at Tiberias (Jn 21:7). In the Acts of the Apostles, John appeared at the Temple with Peter (3:1, 11), stood before the Sanhedrin (4:1-21), and was in Samaria (8:14). In Galatians (2:9), St. Paul described John, with Peter and James, as a “pillar” of the Church in Jerusalem.

According to tradition, John lived in Ephesus before being exiled to Patmos during the reign of Emperor Domitian (r. 81-96), “Because I proclaimed God’s word and gave testimony to Jesus” (Rv 1:9). There he wrote the Book of Revelation, although some Bible experts believe it could have been written by a disciple of John’s instead of John himself. Returning to Ephesus under Emperor Nerva (r. 96-98), he wrote the Gospel and the three epistles attributed to him. He died apparently of old age, making him the only Apostle known with some certainty not to have died a martyr; however, some scholars point to the possibility that he died a martyr with St. James. In liturgical art, John’s symbol is the eagle.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

A Service of Carols & Readings

for adults and older children

Friday, 21st December 2018 @ 7pm

ALSO

A Christmas Eve Crib Service

for the young (at heart!)

Monday, 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 12 Midnight;
3. From Christmas Morning to New Year's Day there is only one Mass only each day – **all at 10am INCLUDING SUNDAYS**
4. *except S.John's Day (27th Dec) ONE Mass only; Sung at 7.30pm*



THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

The Feast of the Visitation of the Wise Men



Sunday, 6th January, 2019

**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

For those unable to attend in the morning

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





During October Higham residents were able to learn about the Defibrillator equipment that has been installed in the village by Higham Parish Council. Awareness sessions were organised to demonstrate the Defibrillator and people were invited to “have a go” using the training equipment.

These sessions were part of the Restart a Heart campaign - a designated yearly day of action with the aim to teach vital life-saving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills to as many people as possible – go to www.resus.org.uk for more details.

Sessions were held earlier in the year when the equipment was first installed on the Recreation Ground in School Lane and so far around 200 people have been shown how to use the Defibrillator.



Defibrillator on the Recreation Ground

Although the village equipment is located in the middle of the village and is accessible 24/7, the Parish Council is keen to see additional Defibrillators available in other locations. When someone suffers cardiac arrest, every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces their chance of survival by at least 7 – 10%.



A number of village groups and organisations are fundraising specifically to support the purchase of more equipment. If anyone would like to help raise funds or make a donation please contact Sue Sparks on 07480 518493 or email sue3906@gmail.com.

More Awareness sessions will be held next year.

Residents Queuing to take part in the Defibrillator session at Higham Library

EVENTS

Grim Gravesend – how the other half spent Christmas in old Gravesend (Illustrated talk and supper)

Speaker: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

On: Monday 3rd December 2018

At: Reliance Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend

Cost: £15 – inclusive of supper, hot drink and talk

Booking essential: Reliance Restaurant [01474 533593](tel:01474533593). Payment needs to be done at the shop – if tickets not paid, any spare will be sold on. Limited spaces in this popular location.

Winter Warmer walk: Chalk Marshes-come and blow your Christmas cobwebs away.

Guide: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

On: Friday 28th December 2018

Meet: Bottom of Castle Lane/Lower Higham Road, Chalk at 10.30 am

Cost: Free – donations welcomed.

No need to book, just turn up.

Gravesend Historical Society walk-open to everybody. Sensible footwear needed, uneven surfaces and stiles

Christoph Bull Chalk Parish Historian

SUMMER HAS ENDED, AUTUMN IS HERE AND THOUGHTS TURN TO

.....

your thoughts are probably moving on to Christmas. Whether planning what you will be doing or baking you may soon be thinking about those gifts you will be buying! Don't forget that if you shop online for food or gifts you will support St John's Church if you become a member of **Easyfundraising** since many businesses donate a set amount or percentage of your purchase values to a chosen cause.

Simply search for Easyfundraising, register your details and identify your cause. An additional bonus is that gift aid is payable to the cause where members are UK tax payers - an additional 25%! If you use a mobile device download the App, make your purchases through the app and the cause will benefit. On a computer you have already reached the right site when you became a member. Just bookmark or add the page to your favourites.

The graphic is a promotional poster for Easyfundraising.org.uk. At the top left is the logo 'easyfundraising.org.uk' with the tagline 'feel good shopping' in pink. The main text reads 'Help out when you check out' in large teal letters. Below this, there are illustrations of various retail brands: Argos (green bag), Tesco (white bag), John Lewis (blue box), Amazon.co.uk (orange box), and ASOS (purple box). There is also an Expedia logo with a yellow 'AA' badge and a small airplane icon. At the bottom, it says 'Join, shop and raise here:'. Below the graphic, it lists 'As featured in:' followed by logos for 'the guardian', 'The Telegraph', 'Daily Mail', 'The INDEPENDENT', 'Evening Standard', and 'MAIL'.

By the end of October 2018 over £400 plus Gift Aid had been donated at no cost to the members.

Full details of how to join, etc are available by using the links on the home page of St John's Church website:
www.highamparishchurch.org.uk.

Why not give it a try?

*Liz Croker
Easyfundraising Administrator, St John's Church*

DOES SOCIAL MEDIA ENHANCE COMMUNITY? A DEBATE.

On Tuesday, 30th October, as part of his visit to our Rochester Diocese, the Archbishop of Canterbury joined students at St George's School, Gravesend, for a live debate on whether social media enhances community or not. There were good arguments on both sides.

We know the potential harm that social media can do. There is cyber-bullying leading to increased depression in vulnerable young people. There is irresponsibility in the use of free speech and in creating an unrealistic image of oneself online. There is the mobilising and emboldening of hate groups and criminals. One can also argue that human beings were made for face-to-face relationships and that social media separates people rather than bringing them together.

BUT - we also know that social media can bring people together. Families and friends are keeping in touch with each other in ways that were impossible before. Positive campaigns are mobilised for good and job opportunities online are increased with wider advertising and networking possibilities.

Social media brings the worldwide community to us and can help cross-cultural understanding. We can also see people in crisis up close and may be moved to give charitably. For the Church it gives opportunities for sharing the good news of Jesus, for community outreach, and it enables support of those in difficult situations around the world. For example, of the 29 countries represented by participants in the Archbishop's most recent online Bible study, 22 of those were endangered communities where people would not have been able to take part safely in a Bible study in their own country.

So, let's face it. Social media brings mixed blessings. We are human and anything we do is flawed. And social media can't be uninvented – even if we wanted it to be.

We do need to work on our use of social media. And we need to ensure that it does not replace face-to-face relationships, but ensure that it enhances our sense of community, that we use the power of social media for good and do everything we can to limit its negative impact.

AND – HOW DID THE DEBATERS FARE?

After eight presentations and some time for consideration, it was judged that the team For the Proposition (that Social Media Enhances Community) did the better job of arguing their case.

I'm glad. But then I would be. I'm one of the approx. 70% of adults who use social media. I didn't grow up with it, as my children did, but I have embraced it wholeheartedly, especially for keeping up with my own worldwide community of family and friends.

SOCIAL MEDIA AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH, HIGHAM

As Administrator for our St John's Facebook and Twitter accounts, I can see the local benefits of social media (which also includes our church's website and The Bridge magazine). We can share news and events, give encouragement and inspiration, let people know they are not alone, and lend support through prayer and charitable giving. But most importantly, social media enables us to reach out and proclaim the Good News – that Jesus is alive and working in this community through his Spirit and his people, the Church. Just as with social media, we don't always get it right, because we're human. But we know that God is at work in us and at St John's we can put that into practice – face to face – and give ourselves (and our social media) to God's purpose.

Nancy Hughes

(see next page for St John's social media and policy)

DO YOU FOLLOW ST JOHN'S ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

If you don't already, you can find us at:



Facebook:

St John's Church Higham

<https://facebook.com/stjohnshigham/>



Twitter:

@stjohnshigham



Website:

St John's Church Higham

www.highamparishchurch.org.uk

The Bridge Magazine:

If this isn't your own copy – subscriptions are only £6 a year!

(60p for 10 issues – Aug/Sep & Jan/Feb double issues)

Contact: kate.haselden@btinternet.com

PLEASE NOTE:

We adhere to Rochester Diocese guidelines and policy with all our social media, which protects individuals and especially children, including the use of photos which is by permission.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JUNIOR CHURCH AT ST JOHN'S?

Since we started up again in September, we have been learning about the Fruits of the Spirit, the qualities which God grows in us as we follow Jesus. These are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Goodness, Kindness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. And we have been singing a progressive action song, each week adding a "Fruit" and another action with each verse – which all adds up to some hilarity!

Our Junior Church tree at the back of church also had a Fruit of the Spirit added each week, but we are now creating a Nativity scene as we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.



MANY THANKS to everyone – young and old – who contributed small change for the Junior Church Penny Jar. We give donations several times a year to local charities.

Last month for Harvest Thanksgiving we were able to give **£32.55** to the House of Mercy, who help the young homeless in Gravesham. (That's a lot of pennies!)

We will continue to collect pennies for our next charitable donation at Christmas – ALL CONTRIBUTIONS of your small change are most welcome, any time. It helps teach the children that small things (coins and even themselves) can make a BIG difference.

- Nancy Hughes

Turn your stamps into cash

Please donate your used stamps to Kent Association for the Blind

In the last three years, we have raised over £2000 just from donated stamps; your help enables us to continue supporting visually impaired people in the local area.

For more information about KAB visit:

kab.org.uk/support-us

Supporting sight impaired people to live independent lives

Kent Association for the Blind is a registered charity no. 1062354

Please place your used stamps for the Kent Association for the Blind in the RED box at the rear of St John's Church by the lighting box.

Signs that say it all

Shame nothing is
built in the UK
anymore.
I just bought a new
TV which says 'Built
in Antenna'.
I don't even know
where that is.

On a maternity room door:
Push. Push. Push.

At an optometrist's office:
If you don't see what you're looking
for, you've come to the right place.

Seen on a bin lorry:
Satisfaction guaranteed, or double
your rubbish back!

On a church door:

This is the gate of heaven. Enter ye
all by this door.
(This door is kept locked because of
the draught. Please use side door.)

In an office:

After tea break, staff should empty
the teapot and stand upside down on
the draining board.

Welcome

The country inn at the foot of the
Yorkshire Wolds was popular with
both cyclists and ramblers. The
elderly vicar of the church nearby asked if he could put up a notice
welcoming them all to visit his church. The innkeeper said yes, and
obligingly pinned up the notice: We will be glad to see you in
Church. Clothes don't matter.

The Pope is handing out
miracles to kids in
Liverpool. Billy walks on
stage and asks him, "Can
you help me with my
hearing"...? The Pope
says, "Yes" and puts his
hands on Billy's ears and
prays, he removes his
hands and says, "How is
your hearing now"...? Billy
says, "I don't know, it's not
until next Wednesday"...



THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

presents the

SIDCUP SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Conductor: James Ross

in a festive

NEW YEAR CONCERT

Tchaikovsky, Swan Lake

Johann Strauss, Radetzky March

and music by Malcolm Arnold, Ives and Debussy

SATURDAY 19 JANUARY 2019

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Doors and Bar open: 6:45 pm. Concert starts: 7:30 pm

Tickets: £15 each OR £12 for over 65s under 18s and unwaged

£40 Reception at the Deanery Tickets including a complimentary programme and chance to meet the conductor James Ross

Contact Email: newyearconcert2019@gmail.com

Book tickets online at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/>
OR from Rochester Cathedral Shop in the Crypt.





December 2018 Donation Guide

PLEASE NOTE: FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER THE FOODBANK HAVE SPECIALLY REQUESTED THAT WE GIVE PRIORITY TO THE HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS BELOW.

- **COFFEE**
- **TINNED MEAT**
- **TREATS FOR CHRISTMAS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

Household cleaners

Deodorants, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shower gels, bars of soap

Ladies personal toiletries, toilet rolls

Nappies size 4 & 5

Laundry tablets, *washing up liquid' spray polish

Fruit juice and squash

All types of tinned vegetables incl. Tinned potatoes

Instant smash potato, *instant noodles, *cous cous

Vegetarian foods

Tinned meat products & tinned pies

Coffee, tea, *hot chocolate, sugar.

Tins of spaghetti, tinned macaroni, jars of pasta sauce

cereals, cereal bars, sweet & chocolate biscuits, and

Custard – instant, tinned, rice pudding, *tinned fruit, sponge puddings,

Jam, *peanut butter, marmite, *no fridge/uh 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 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

Some of our members went along to Alexandra Palace for the annual Knitting and Stitching show. There they were able to see our stitched hearts on display for all to see. We made them for the 100 hearts project, commemorating 100 years since the end of the first world war. Then the hearts will be touring the country and eventually some will be auctioned to help SSAFA.



We had a lovely meeting this month, when we welcomed Mr Bill Barnes from Golden Threads UK. He talked about the history of gold thread. How it was made and is made today. He told of the way it is used for ceremonial uniforms and showed us examples of some beautiful threads which we were able to purchase. It was an enlightened and informative talk that seemed to end all too soon.

This was also our first meeting with our postcard project. Every month we make a postcard on a theme, and swap them with someone else. This month's theme was Trees. We had a lovely selection of styles. It is amazing how you can take a subject and watch how diverse and interesting the designs are created, all as individual as the person that created them.



If you would like to come along and see what we do, we hold our meetings at Gravesend Library on the 3rd Saturday of each month except August. Please look at our web site for all the information that you need. www.northkentembroiderers.co.uk

I believe that when you read this Christmas will soon be upon us, I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and prosperous New Year.

Happy Stitching (All links and photographs are used with permission)

VILLAGE DIARY DECEMBER 2018

DECEMBER

Sat	1st	Coffee & Conversation in the Vestry Hall - 10.30 – 2pm Winter Vintage and Craft Fair – Tables in Church 10.30 –2pm
Wed	5th	Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30 pm
Thurs	6th	W.I. Memorial Hall
Fri	7th	HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Sun	9th	Boot Fair - Memorial Hall
Wed	12th	Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	14th	HiARA Christmas Tea - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Sat	15th	Higham Choral Group will perform <i>Follow That Star</i> - Memorial Hall - 7.30 admission £8 includes light refreshments
Wed	19th	Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	21st	A SERVICE OF CAROLS & READINGS for adults and older children at 7pm in - St John's Church HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Mon	24th	ANNUAL CRIB SERVICE - ST.JOHN'S CHURCH 5PM SOLEMN MASS OF MIDNIGHT - <i>Midnight</i>
Tues	25th	SOLEMN MASS 10 AM
Thurs	27th	ST. JOHNS DAY - SOLEMN MASS - 7.30PM
Fri	28th	HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Sun	30th	Feast of the Holy Family - Mass 10am

JANUARY

Sun	6th	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - Solemn Mass 9.30am
Sun	13th	BAPTISM OF THE LORD - Solemn Mass 9.30am

CHURCH DRAW RESULTS

OCTOBER 2018

£50 164 Mrs S. Grant

£10 073 Mrs Moore

NEXT DRAW 26th 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