

# *Walking 'The Way of Lent' TOGETHER*

This 'Bridge' finds us two weeks into the Lenten season. Hopefully you'll have received it a few days after it began on Ash Wednesday. The liturgy of that day of fasting and abstinence [which sets the scene for the six weeks ahead] calls us, again to turn from self-preoccupation back to God as we prepare to renew our participation, by our baptism, in the suffering, death and resurrection of Easter Christ.

Ash Wednesday's readings call us all to a renewed effort in three areas: PRAYER (worship, study and spiritual growth); FASTING (discipline of self-denial); ALMS-GIVING (a consideration of the needs of others; also called 'charity').

Each year S.John's offers a programme of events to aid us all in fulfilling these 'religious duties': either individually or as a Church. More details will be found in the centre pages, or each Sunday on the weekly bulletin or on various flyers [because the information just cannot fit onto the bulletin at times].

In terms of worship there's AMPLE opportunities daily through the year as well as in Lent. These are in Church and would cover both prayer and self-denial (for you are giving

some of your 'time'). Every 'Bridge' contains daily bible readings to help those at home to follow them in union with those used in the daily mass in Church.

'Extra Worship' in the form of Stations of the Cross will be held on Sunday afternoons. There's also a Half Hour of Prayer, each week, on a different day added to a weekday mass. For this we really value and request YOUR intercessions: for the world, the village, the sick, the departed and also thanksgivings. 'M4' meets weekly in Lent. After Monday's 6.30 pm Mass we eat supper together then 'muse' on Holy Scripture and faith.

If you've given something up (discipline) and saved money please give us any savings to add to our Lent Charity Lunches on Saturdays. This is a corporate act of Alms/charity to fund famine relief via Christian Aid. If your discipline fails (you know it does) you can 'fine' yourself to its value and give that too! We raised a lot in 'fines' last year!!

Finally we'll collect each weekend for the local food-bank so that charity will extend among us at home as well as abroad.

*Father James*

# 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 &amp; 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<br>DAILY<br>MASS<br>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. &amp; 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 <a href="mailto:saintjohn.higham@yahoo.co.uk">saintjohn.higham@yahoo.co.uk</a> | *****                       |

**PLEASE NOTE: FATHER JAMES IS NOT NORMALLY AVAILABLE ON THURSDAY**

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

**TUESDAYS 8.15 pm and SATURDAYS 10.30 am**

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

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation** (Confession and absolution)

is available on Fridays at 6.30 pm or by appointment with Fr. James

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



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

|               |  |                          |                       |
|---------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| PARISH READER | Mr Simon Walker                        | 11 S.John's Road, Higham | Tel: 07794-523179*    |
| THE           | Mrs 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

# March 2018 at S. John's, Hingham

## Calendar and Mass Intentions

MASS )SUNDAYS: Sung Mass 9.30am; Said Mass at 6.30pm [Lent only]

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

*EXCEPTIONAL TIMES - SEE HOLY WEEK*

| <i>DAY</i>         | <i>DATE</i>   | <i>CELEBRATION</i>                          | <i>INTENTION</i>              |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Th 1st             | <b>S.David</b>                                      | <i>Patron of Wales, Missionary Bishop</i>   | (f) Welsh Christians          |
| Fri 2nd            | Lent Feria (Wk 2)                                   | Fri   | The unemployed                |
| Sat 3rd            | Lent Feria  |   | The blind /sight impaired     |
| <b>SUN 4TH</b>     | <b>3RD SUNDAY IN LENT</b>                           |   | (+) <b>THE PARISH</b>         |
| Mon 5th            | Lent Feria (Wk 3)                                   |   | Christian missionaries        |
| Tue 6th            | Lent Feria  |   | The unforgiving               |
| Wed 7th            | Lent Feria ~ Ss.Perpetua & Felicity, <i>Martyrs</i> |   | (c) The suffering church      |
| Th 8th             | Lent Feria  |   | The Congregational Chapel     |
| Fri 9th            | Lent Feria  |   | Care organisations            |
| Sat 10th           | Lent Feria <i>monthly mass intention</i>            |   | +RIPs & anniversaries         |
| <b>SUN 11TH</b>    | <b>4TH SUNDAY IN LENT</b>                           |   | (+) <b>THE PARISH</b>         |
|                    | <i>MOTHERING SUNDAY</i>                             |   |                               |
| Mon 12th           | Lent Feria (Wk 4)                                   |   | Anxious / Bereaved parents    |
| Tue 13th           | Lent Feria  |   | The disabled                  |
| Wed 14th           | Lent Feria  |   | Agnostics & atheists          |
| Th 15th            | Lent Feria  |   | Judeo-Christian dialogue      |
| Fri 16th           | Lent Feria  |   | Hospice staff & workers       |
| Sat 17th           | <b>S.Patrick</b>                                    | <i>Patron of Ireland, Missionary Bishop</i> | (f) Irish Christians          |
| <b>SUN 18TH</b>    | <b>5TH SUNDAY IN LENT</b>                           |   | (+) <b>THE PARISH</b>         |
| <b>Mon 19th</b>    | <b>S.JOSEPH</b>                                     | <i>Spouse of Our Lady</i>                   | (S) Step-/Foster families     |
| Tue 20th           | Lent Feria (Wk 5)                                   |   | The P.C.C.                    |
| Wed 21st           | Lent Feria  |   | Messianic Jews                |
| Th. 22nd           | Lent Feria  |   | Theologians & Preachers       |
| Fri 23rd           | Lent Feria~ S.Turibus <i>Bishop, Missionary</i>     |   | (c) Victims of Exploitation   |
| Sat 24th           | Lent Feria  |   | Our Holy Week                 |
| <b>SUN 25th</b>    | <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>                                  | <b><u>NO 6.30PM</u></b>                     | (+) <b>THE PARISH</b>         |
| Mon 26th           | Monday of Holy Week                                 |   | Lay liturgical ministries     |
| Tue 27th           | Tuesday of Holy Week                                |   | The PEV's                     |
| Wed 28th           | Wednesday of Holy Week                              |   | Our enemies                   |
| <b>Th. 29th</b>    | <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>                              | <b>7.30pm</b>                               | Parish priests                |
| <b>Fri 30th</b>    | <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>                                  | <b>3pm</b>                                  | Gratitude to Christ Crucified |
| <b>Sat 31st</b>    | <b>HOLY SATURDAY~ EASTER EVE</b>                    | <b>9PM</b>                                  | Renewal of the faithful       |
| <b>SUN 1st APR</b> | <b>EASTER DAY</b>                                   | <b>10AM</b>                                 | (+) <b>The Parish</b>         |

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

# MARCH 'REQUIEM' INTENTION

is on Saturday 10th March 2018 at 9.30am

|      |   |      |   |
|------|---|------|---|
| 1st  | Anne Thompson<br>Bryan David Stringer   | 13th | Patricia Ann West<br>Grace Margaret Wardell                                   |
| 2nd  | William John Smith<br>Frances Smith<br>Doris Irene Haselden<br>Zachary Benjamin David<br>Holman <i>BABY</i> |      | Monica Joan Barrow<br>Winifred Calmels  |
| 3rd  | Maureen May Whitehouse  | 15th | Stanley Hope Philpot  |
| 4th  | Betty Kernahan<br>Edward John Christmas   | 17th | Francis Searle <i>PRIEST</i>  |
| 5th  | Marjorie Joan Cornell   | 19th | William Green Boyd <i>PRIEST</i>  |
| 6th  | Elsie Edith Chesterton<br>Albert Frederick Martin   | 21st | Michael Peter Beek <i>PRIEST</i> *  |
| 8th  | John William Palmer   | 22nd | Bruce David Newton  |
| 9th  | John Reginald Harmer <i>BISHOP</i><br>Dorothy Isabelle Palmer   | 23rd | Rachael Emma Loft <i>INFANT</i><br>Ethel Elizabeth Whattler<br>Freda May Wren |
| 10th | Christopher Chavasse <i>BISHOP</i><br>Elsie Pamela Chilmaid   | 24th | William Branch<br>Alice Elizabeth Emily Goldsmith                             |
| 11th | Sheila Kathleen Haselden  | 25th | Henry <u>John</u> Eldridge<br>Marjorie Isabel Eagle                           |
|      |   | 27th | Arthur Richard Pigden<br>Stanley Eric Oake                                    |
|      |   | 28th | Elsie <u>May</u> Shipman  |
|      |   | 29th | Iris Branch<br>Joyce Lily Parker  |
|      |   | 30th | Tommy Thompson  |

*PLEASE NOTE: The names of those who have been deceased more than 20 years have been removed (except for \* previous Incumbents)*

*They will be remembered IF someone attends this requiem mass AND requests their inclusion in the prayers.*

*\* = This priest was a former Vicar of Higham*

SAVE US, SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD,  
FOR BY YOUR CROSS AND RESURRECTION  
YOU HAVE SET US FREE!

## ~ 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.

|  |                 |                                     |               |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>T<sup>h</sup> S.DAVID</b> Patron of Wales | <b>MAR 1st</b>  | T Numbers 21.4-9                    | John 8.21-30  |
| Philippians 3.8-14                           | Matth. 5.13-19  | W Daniel 3.14-20,24,25,28           | John 8.31-42  |
| <b>F</b> Genesis 37.3-4,12-28                | Matth. 21.33-46 | <b>T<sup>h</sup></b> Genesis 17.3-9 | John 8.51-59  |
| <b>S</b> Micah 7.14,15,18-20                 | Lk 15.1-3,11-32 | <b>F</b> Jeremiah 20.10-13          | John 10.31-42 |
|  |                 | <b>S</b> Ezekiel 37.21-28           | John 11.45-56 |

### **3RD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 4TH**

Exodus 20.1-17 1 Corinthians 1.22-25  
John 2.13-25

|                                       |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>W</b> Deuteronomy 4.1,5-9          | Matth. 5.17-19 |
| <b>T<sup>h</sup></b> Jeremiah 7.23-28 | Lk 11.14-23    |
| <b>F</b> Hosea 14.2-10                | Mark 12.28-34  |
| <b>S</b> Hosea 5.15-6.6               | Luke 18.9-14   |

### **4TH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>**

*Mothering Sunday*

2 Chron 36.14-16. 19-23 Ephes.2.4-10  
John 3.14-21

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>M</b> Isaiah 65.17-21                                    | John 4.43-54        |
| <b>T</b> Ezekiel 47.1-9.12                                  | John 5.1-3.5-16     |
| <b>W</b> Isaiah 49.8-15                                     | John 5.17-30        |
| <b>Th</b> Exodus 32.7-14                                    | John 5.31-47        |
| <b>F</b> Wisd 2.1.12-22                                     | John 7.1-2.10.25-30 |
| <b>S</b> <i>S.PATRICK</i> Patron of Ireland <b>MAR 17th</b> |                     |
| 1 Peter 4.7-11  | Luke 5.1-11         |

### **5TH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 18TH**

Jeremiah 31.31-34 Hebrews 5.7-9  
John 12.20-30

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>M</b> <i>S.JOSEPH</i> Spouse of BVM <b>MAR 19th</b> |                 |
| 2 Sam. 7.4-5,12-16                                     | Rom. 4.13-18,22 |
| Matthew 1.16, 18-21,24                                 |                 |

### **PALM SUNDAY MARCH 25TH**

*Palm Gospel* Mark 11.1-10 (or Jn 12.12-16)

Isaiah 50.4-7 Philippians 2.6-11  
*The Passion* Mark 15.1-39

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>M</b> Isaiah 42.1-7 | John 12.1-11        |
| <b>T</b> Isaiah 49.1-6 | John 12.21-33,36-38 |
| <b>W</b> Isaiah 50.4-9 | Matth. 26.14-25     |

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY MAR 29TH**

Exodus 12.1-8. 11-14 1 Corinth 11.23-26  
John 13. 1-15

### **GOOD FRIDAY Mar 30TH**

Isaiah 52.13 - 53.12 Hebrews 4.14-16;5.7-9  
John 18.1 - 19.42

### **HOLY SATURDAY MAR 31ST**

Genesis 1.1-2.2 Genesis 22.1-18  
Exodus 14.15-15.1 Isaiah 54.5-14  
Isaiah 55.1-11 Baruch 3.9-15,32-4.4  
Ezekiel 36.16-28 Romans 6.3-11  
Mark 16.1-7

### **EASTER DAY APRIL 1st**

Acts 10.34, 37-43

Colossians 3.1-4 or 1Corinthians 5.6-8  
John 20.1-9 (*morning*)  
or Luke 24.13-35 (*evening*)

*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.

## From the Church Registers

### **HOLY BAPTISM**

#### **Within 9.30am Parish Mass**

Sophia Evangeline HANSON (inf.)  
on Sunday 24th September 2017

Sophie Alice ALDOUS (infant)  
on Sunday 22nd October 2017

Megan Rose WIBBERLEY (infant)  
on Sunday 5th November 2017

#### **At 11.00am Baptism Liturgy**

Poppy Laura DRAY (infant)  
on Sunday 15th October 2017

Isabella Sophia CUTHBERT (baby)  
on Sunday 19th November 2017

Koa Aster WEEKLY (1 year)  
on Sunday 17th December 2017

### **FUNERALS - S.JOHN'S CHURCH** followed by Committal at:

#### **GRAVESEND CREMATORIUM**

Jean Elizabeth BARWICK (78)  
on Monday 6th November 2017

Reginald Stanley MERRISON (82)  
on Thursday 14th December 2017

Maureen Janet WRIGHT (70)  
on Monday 18th December 2017

John BARWICK (83)  
on Monday 15th January 2018

### **FUNERALS – Crematoria only**

#### **GRAVESEND CREMATORIUM**

Lilly UNDERHAY (neo-natal baby)  
on Tuesday 19th September 2017

Alfred Leonard EYERS (85)  
on Monday 21st August 2017

Ann GRAIN (87)  
on Monday 5th February 2018

### **BURIAL OF ASHES**

#### **In S.JOHN'S CHURCHYARD**

Duncan GRAHAM (93) in 2008  
on Saturday 11th November 2017

Reginald William ROOTES (88)  
on Sunday 21st January 2018

Alfred Leonard EYERS (85)  
on Sunday 21st January 2018

#### **In S.MARY'S CHURCHYARD**

William Henry WENHAM (91)  
and  
Violet Cecilia WENHAM (84) in 2012  
on Saturday 21st October 2017

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PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITORS OF ANY  
ERRORS OR OMISSIONS AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE

## **HIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL – DECEMBER 2017**

Members of the Parish Council met on Monday, November 27th in Higham Memorial Hall. All those present were welcomed by the Chairman, Councillor Jennifer Papadopulos who also warmly welcomed: The Mayor of Gravesham, Councillor Harold Craske, and his wife, the Mayoress, Veronica.

Routine matters from the meeting agenda were discussed. Webmaster, Clive Stanley, reported the Higham Parish Council website now had Christmas Greetings on it.

Also welcomed back to the meeting was Kent County Councillor. Bryan Sweetland who gave a short report on the latest news from the KCC including advising on further budget cuts which will mean further reductions in services in 2018. There will be a meeting soon relating to the Lower Thames Crossing revisions.

Higham Youth Club were appealing for members of the public to contact them with a view to joining the Youth Club Committee and hopefully someone who is willing to take on the position as the Chairman. If you are interested in this opportunity and would like further details of the roles available, you should contact Councillor Sue Sparks on 01474 823906 or Councillor Pat Holmes on 01474 824265.

Councillor Sparks gave a full report on the items listed from the Infrastructure Committee.

Kent County Council, Community Warden Steve Gray gave his last report to the Parish Council before retiring from the position of Warden in December. All the Parish Council members wished him well for the future and thanked him for all his service to the village over the past 11 years and presented him with a token of appreciation and a signed card.

Planning applications were reviewed and the next meeting for Budget and Finance was arranged for January 8, 2018 at 7.30 pm at Higham Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed with a few words from The Mayor, who said he is enjoying his role as Mayor and has already fulfilled over 150 various engagements. He particularly enjoyed the “Beating of the Bounds” weekend when he was able to visit Higham en-route. Chairman, Papadopulos, wished everyone a Very Happy Christmas and invited those present to seasonal refreshments at her home.

*Liz Jeffery.*

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## **HIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL – JANUARY 2018**

A Parish Council meeting took place on Monday January 15th in Higham Memorial Hall.

Chairman, Councillor Jennifer Papadopulos, opened the meeting with a warm welcome and New Year Greetings. Routine matters were swiftly dealt with and an item raised by Parishioners in attendance reported on their concerns with access at the roadside by Alexander Cottages. Details were taken and Councillors appreciated the difficulties, especially for those with accessibility issues.

A welcome newcomer to the meeting was KCC Community Warden, Paul Hassell. Paul now patrols the areas once covered by Steve Grey, and is currently on the same telephone number should he need to be contacted. Paul will still continue with the Warden Surgeries in the Library.

Reports for the Annual Parish Newsletter are coming in and work has already begun on the Newsletter editing and layout. Time was given to the revised Gravesham Borough Council planning application for new properties in Canal Road. Serious concerns still remain about safety and lack of amenities.

Councillors gave their reports which included an appeal for Volunteers to come forward to join the Youth Club Committee. For further details contact Councillor Sue Sparks 01474823906 or Parish Clerk, Linda Carnall.01474 822642.

Councillor Liz Jeffery announced the death of prominent local historian, Tony Larkin. Mr Larkin was very well known in the Gravesham area. His historical knowledge of the town, especially of General Gordon, will be missed.



Following a break for refreshments, The CDC and IFC reports were discussed and decisions made. Defibrillator Awareness sessions are planned for 24 -31 January. If you have any suggestions for village groups who may benefit from having one of the sessions, Councillor Sue Sparks will be happy to arrange these.

Councillors will all meet again on Monday, February 5th to discuss the Higham Village Plan which is on schedule for completion.

Planning applications were noted and the rest of the meeting was given over to debate on the 2018/19 Budgets. A further Budget and Finance meeting was scheduled for February 12th.

The next full Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday February 26th at 7.30 pm in Higham Memorial Hall. Members of the Public are welcome to attend.

*Liz Jeffery*

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# LENT 2018 AT S.JOHN'S

## SUNDAYS OF LENT

**Sundays of Lent - except March 11th & 25th ( see below )**

|                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Morning Prayer (said)        | 8.45am                        |
| <b>SOLEMN PARISH MASS</b>    | <b>9.30am</b>                 |
| <b>STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b> | <b>5.00pm</b>                 |
| Evening Prayer (said)        | 6.00pm                        |
| Mass or Holy Communion       | <i>is available at</i> 6.30pm |

***March 11th: 4th Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)***

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Morning Prayer (said)                    | 8.45am                     |
| <b>The PARISH MASS</b>                   | <b>9.30am</b>              |
| <b>SUNG EVENING PRAYER (IN S.MARY'S)</b> | <b>5.00pm</b>              |
| <b>NO STATIONS today at 5.30pm</b>       |                            |
| Mass or Holy Communion                   | <i>available at</i> 6.30pm |

**March 25th: PALM SUNDAY of the Lord's Passion**

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Morning Prayer (said)   | 8.45am                               |
| <b>BLESSING OF PALMS, PROCESSION</b>                                | <b>9.30am</b>                        |
| <b>AND SOLEMN MASS</b>  | This Service starts at 12 Villa Road |
| <b>No Evening Prayer or Stations of the Cross today because of:</b> |                                      |
| <b>THE ANNUAL PENITENTIAL SERVICE</b>                               | <b>5.00 pm</b>                       |

At S.James Elmer's End, Beckenham. Lifts leaving Higham at 4pm

# WEEKDAYS IN LENT

## SO – WHAT ABOUT WEEKDAY SERVICES?

**WEEKDAY MASSES** Have YOU ever been to a weekday Mass? No! Go on, give it a try! Some folk go to extra Masses for Lent! Nothing is sung as on Sunday but in 30 minutes of calm and quiet it has (not quite) everything of a Sunday Mass!

Could YOU support one mass a week this Lent?

Give it a try – especially if you've missed Sunday.

**Daily Mass** ) Monday 6.30pm; Tuesday 7.30pm; Wednesday 9.30am;  
**Times** ) Thursday 7.30pm; Friday 9.30am; Saturday 9.30am.

**MORNING / EVENING PRAYER – CALLED THE ‘OFFICES’** These last about 15-18 minutes each. You can just sit behind and listen to the psalms, reading and prayers; or you can actively participate – we have extra books – and we'd guide you through it!

**Morning Prayer 9.00am daily** (but 8.45am on Sundays)

**Evening Prayer 6.00pm daily** (but 7pm on Tue. & Thur.)

## EXTRA LENTEN WEEKDAY EVENTS

### **SATURDAY LIGHT LUNCH FOR CHARITY: NOON TO 1.30PM**

These are well established and well received. Each year we raise hundreds of pounds for Christian Aid. Volunteer teams are needed to do 'Soup, roll and cheese' lunches. **THE MARCH COFFEE 'N' CONVERSATION (1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY) WILL NOT TAKE PLACE** because of these lunches.

**'M4' STUDY GROUP:** meets each Monday (from 19<sup>th</sup> March) after first attending Mass at 6.30pm then a Munch (light supper) follows as we Muse (discuss and/ or study) aspect of life and faith and scripture.

**A 'HOLY HOUR' WITH GOD.** A said Mass leads into 20 mins. of silence, then 10 mins of intercession before the Blessed Sacrament exposed for Worship and concludes with Eucharistic Benediction of the Congregation. Please see the weekly **BULLETINS** for details as the day and time will vary each week.

**THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION or RECONCILIATION or PENANCE** or whatever you call this it is available EVERY Friday at 6.30pm after Evening Prayer. However Lent is a very appropriate time, as we prepare to celebrate Easter, to offer it at any time upon request. Usually ministered in Church it can also be celebrated in the privacy of the Church Office -or in your home. Guidance is always offered to 'newbies'.

# HIGHAM WITH MERSTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## LEGACY POLICY

St John's welcomes gifts in Wills and our policy is to use them to fund significant development projects in the parish, whether buildings, equipment or staff. As circumstances change over the years, it may not be possible to fulfil specific donor requests, so church members and others are encouraged to leave gifts in their Wills for the general purposes of the parish. The PCC will discuss with executors the most appropriate use of the gift in the light of current projects and the donor's known areas of interest in the church (eg children and youth work, music, buildings). Therefore any donor can be confident that their gift will be used to make a real difference to our future mission and ministry.

The PCC will discuss with the donor and/or his/her executors the most appropriate way of acknowledging their gift. Equally we can ensure that gifts remain anonymous if the donor or executors prefer.

If you are considering a legacy and would like:

- 1) further information
- or
- 2) to discuss this issue in confidence,

please contact:

Ann Utton      Stewardship Recorder      01474 822983  
stewardship@highamparishchurch.org.uk

Helen Walker Churchwarden      077945 23179  
church\_warden@highamparishchurch.org.uk

Val Laurens      Churchwarden      01474 823423

churchwarden@highamparishchurch.org.uk

Also, if you would like to make a gift to our church in memoriam of a loved one, please come and discuss this with us too. It can be a wonderful and appropriate thing to do.

*The Solemnity of*  
**The Annunciation  
of Our Lord  
Jesus Christ**  
to the Blessed Virgin

*Commonly called 'Lady Day'*



**Monday 9th April 2018**

Postponed from 25<sup>th</sup> March  
because of the precedence of both  
Holy Week and Easter Week

*This feast celebrates the beginning  
of the  
Incarnation of Our Lord  
and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

*This is a major day  
in the calendar of the  
Church of England*

There will be **TWO** masses:  
9.30am and 6.30pm

+

**SERVICES AT S.MARY'S**  
Church Street, Higham



**Candlelit Vespers for  
Mothering Sunday  
at 5. pm on Sunday  
11th March 2018**

\*\*\*\*\*

Depending on availability of the  
Church in the summer we aim to  
have two said Masses:

**Saturday 9th June at 11.30am**  
*Mass of The Immaculate Heart*

**and**

**Saturday 8th Sept. at 11.30am**  
*Mass of Our Lady's Nativity*

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Dedication Festival of  
the Church (and Parish)  
Solemn Mass at 10am on  
Sunday, 7th October 2018**

*This will be the last service of the year.*

## **S.JOSEPH of NAZARETH**

**March 19th**

*Step-father of Jesus, spouse of Mary; Patron of the whole Church and other causes*

All we know about S.Joseph comes from Scripture. He was a carpenter, for the sceptical Nazarenes say about Jesus, "Is this not the carpenter's son?" (Matt. 13:55). He wasn't rich: taking Jesus to the Temple to be presented [and Mary to be purified] he couldn't afford a lamb just the alternative allowed for poor people; a sacrifice of two turtledove pigeons (Lk 2:24). Despite his humble background, Joseph came from royal lineage. The Archangel greets him as "son of David," a royal title used also for the Lord Jesus himself. He must have been compassionate and caring for, when he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his and, as yet unaware she was carrying the Son of God, and knowing women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, he resolved to send her away quietly thus not expose her to shame or cruelty. However, when the angel came to him in a dream and told him, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins," he then willingly did as requested and took Mary as his wife. (Matt 1:19-25).

We know Joseph loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. When, at some point, the angel tells him that his family was in danger, immediately leaving everything he owned, his family and friends, he fled to Egypt with Mary and the child. Waiting in Egypt eventually an angel revealed it was safe to return (Matt 2:13-23). Even so, to protect Jesus, on return to Israel they settle in an obscure place called Nazareth fearing for Jesus young life. Later, when Jesus, aged 12, stays in the Temple after all have set off home, Joseph and Mary frantically search for three days for him (Luke 2:48). He must have treated Jesus as his own son, time and again the people of Nazareth say, "Is this not the son of Joseph?" (Luke 4:22). Joseph deeply respected God following his commands and keeping faith in handling the situation with Mary, going to Jerusalem to have Jesus presented and Mary purified after Jesus' birth. We are told the family went to Jerusalem every year for Passover; something that could not have been easy for working people.

Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or resurrection, many believe he probably had died before Jesus entered public ministry. Joseph is the patron saint of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus' public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth.

Joseph is also a patron saint of the Universal Church, of families, fathers, expectant mothers, travellers, immigrants, craftsmen and working people in general. There is a beautiful olive wood S.Joseph in our Church with prayer candles available for those who wish to seek Joseph's prayers for any or other causes.

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

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

Well now is the chance to do it:-  
However due to lack of storage, St John's will gladly receive your unwanted clothes, shoes, bags or soft toys from **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018**.

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

Place in a clear bag available from the Church Porch and return at the **latest** by **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018**. These will be collected and in return the church will receive up to £400 a tonne.

For more information contact  
Julie Healey on 01474 822008

## FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

**2 FEBRUARY 2018)**

Fr Nicholas Cooper of All Saints Frindsbury treated us to a challenging homily as S Johns marked this great feast.

The Christian ministry is in constant tension due to the doctrine of the Incarnation. Whilst we have a constant reminder of Jesus' perfection, Fr Cooper dared us to think in detail of his humanity in a graphic sense. One could not help but think of Isaiah 53's prophesy.

In this 'light' how great was Simeon's wisdom in seeing through the simple act of Jesus' parent's compliance with the Mosaic Law (to consecrate Jesus to the Lord!) to identify the fulfilment of the Mosaic Covenant.

In that child Israel's purpose would be fulfilled and God himself came once more to his temple and was (is and forever will be) the Light to enlighten the Gentiles.

Simeon's hymn the Nunc Dimittus is his hymn of praise for us gentiles and forever shall we echo it.

The Bun-fight that followed put the feast in feast day as only S Johns Church can.

*Chris Hanson*





# St. John's Church

## Lent Lunch

**We are hosting a series of Soup Lunches  
for charity on these Saturdays**

**17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

**3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH**

**17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

**10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**All in support of**



**AT THE  
VESTRY  
HALL**

**12.00 - 1.30**

**Lunches include: Homemade soup,  
bread, cheese, coffee or tea**

**Come and join us!  
Bring a friend**

**£5.00**

TALK


HIGHAM VILLAGE  
HISTORY GROUP

LONDON  
*is*  
STRANGER  
THAN  
FICTION

Lots of curious and little known facts about our great capital city

**THURS 15 MARCH 8PM**

**SPEAKER:** GEORGE WILDRIDGE  
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](http://www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk)  
email: [highamvillagehistory@gmail.com](mailto:highamvillagehistory@gmail.com)  
telephone: 01634 718285

# 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](http://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.*



**Kent Association for the Blind**

## WHAT'S IN THE OFFERING?

I love to count the offering  
One never knows what lies within  
The plates and bags of offertory  
—  
What have we here? Now let us  
see!

For “humbled” is the word for me  
To see the generosity  
Of folk who dig so very deep  
To give that money every week.

But, other things within the plate!  
I stand there, and with laughter  
shake!  
Sometimes I can't believe to see  
The offering's variety!

Empty wrappers cause a fuss;  
Used tickets from the local bus;  
In foreign coins – a tidy sum,  
I've even found some chewing  
gum!

And, while I count, my dinner  
waits  
But once I found within those  
plates,  
From one who knew I'd peckish  
be –  
A chocolate coin, just for me!

You know, within my mortal puff  
Among the cash, and other stuff  
I would not find it very odd  
To find an IOU to God!

So thank you, people, from my  
heart  
To those who from their money  
part;  
And thanks to all and everyone  
Who make a boring job such fun!

*By Nigel Beeton*

## USELESS INFORMATION?

One of my earliest memories is when our house caught fire. We were living in South East London. My mother came rushing into the bedroom where my brother, our aunt and I were sleeping. She said that the house was on fire. My brother and I were wrapped in blankets and handed out of the window to a fireman. The fireman asked me my name and I told him. My parents said it was the first time that I had used my name. Fortunately the fire damage was limited to one room but I remember my mother lamenting that the chest of drawers containing our clothes was ruined and that it would be very difficult to replace them (1949?).

Why do we remember such things? My brother was too young to remember and all the others involved are long gone. So, when I am no more, the memory be no more.

Apparently, everything that happens to us throughout our lives is stored somewhere in our mind like a database. Some memories remain alive to us. Others come back triggered by certain events or meeting with certain people. Senile dementia comes with the loss of immediate memory – ‘who are you?’ said a friend of fifty years when I visited her in a nursing home. But the dementia often unlocks memories of a past life and people. Having spent much time in nursing homes with people who have outwardly “lost the plot” I think of it as though a blind had been pulled down between us. In front of the blind the person shows no recognition of the present but behind it they live in a world, maybe of the past that is very real to them. I hope that a treatment for this condition lies in the near future.

All of us have selective memories, which both serve us well and cause a hindrance. When I went to a previous parish the two curates both said they couldn't remember the parishioners' names. Every staff meeting we went through the lists of parishioners until they could identify them by name. Some people may not be good at remembering names or practical domestic things but are

brilliant practitioners at their jobs. Some people, like me, have their memory bank clogged up with useless information. I can remember the day we moved to Higham. An aunt (not the one of the night of the fire) brought my brother and me to our new school on the train. We walked up School Lane. As we passed the school our aunt said “that’s where you’re going to school tomorrow”. It was a dank dark February day and I can remember very vividly all the details of the hedges and houses (very few then).

However, it’s obvious that it’s very important to keep some memories alive. This has been particularly true during 2014 – 2018 as we observe the centenary of World War I. The spoken and recorded memories of the soldiers and families, as vivid as any history book or war memorial, bring home to us the horrors of the war and what it was really like. St Paul’s Cathedral has a beautiful High Altar frontal embroidered during the War by wounded disabled soldiers. It is a poignant reminder of how the War filtrated all aspects of the nation’s life. So many television programmes are about recalling of the past through personal memories and searching the records. (A disadvantage of couples living together outside marriage and having children as a family is that there is no formal record for future generations of the family and where the parents and children came from).

It’s good for young people of today to know what it was like not so long ago when nobody had a computer or a mobile phone. Until the early sixties most homes didn’t have a television, a phone, a fridge, central heating or a car. Are we better off now or were we better off then? Modern communication is so advantageous – booking tickets and holidays on the computer, talking to relatives and friends on the other side of the world, downloading sermons from the internet (not in this parish, of course) and having such a wide range of

entertainment and the arts. It’s still all a bit fragile. Press the wrong button and you’re in big trouble! What is so cutting edge today will

seem hopelessly outdated in twenty-five years' time. No money, no tickets, no cards, no post and no need to remember anything. All that happens is all recorded in the great "Cloud" which can only get bigger. Whatever develops or happens I suspect that in the end it will be no substitution for the human mind with its powers of discernment, invention, emotions and memory.

For historians and archaeologist one of the biggest watersheds in time was when people began to be literate and write things down. One of the remarkable things about Stonehenge, perhaps the oldest and most obvious historical site in the country, is that throughout all its stages of construction and use nothing was written down. Nevertheless the people and society who made it were highly skilled, intelligent and inventive. As written language came into use windows were opened onto the world of the author and the scribe. When the venerable Bede wrote his "History of the English Church and People" he recorded an accurate account of the early formation of our Church and Nation, relying on written documents, some from Rome, and the memories of those around him. Without his book much of our early history would be hidden in the "dark ages".

I often think about all the faithful people who have gone before us in a parish, any parish and its church and community. Some are recorded in memorials. Most have disappeared beyond living memory, but in their day everything was alive to them as it is to us now. I wonder if the parishioners of Higham in the centuries before the closure of the priory (1522) had a wider view of the world in which they lived. They were tenant farmers of the prioress, farm labourers or smiths, millers or local craftsmen. Many of their names appear in the documents relating to the priory, estate accounts, manor court records, bequests to the church and legal agreements. It was a very small world. The same names appear from generation to generation. Some still exist today – "Swain". The parish continued as an agricultural community after the closure of the priory. In the Eighteenth century the field pattern was the same as

in the late middle ages, and still is today. The Church of England was fairly moribund but it operated especially in rural villages with the parson “reading” the services, baptizing, marrying and burying people, dispensing charity and collecting his tithes. All living memory is gone but the work is recorded in parish registers. The important point is that we build on the inheritance of the past and take it into the future. Sometimes we inherit decay and need to revive and rebuild. What a great burst of church revival took place in the Mid-nineteenth century in the Church of England with the Oxford Movement. It affected so many parishes (the building of St John’s, the school and the Clergy Houses in Higham thanks to the remarkable Vicar at the time – The Rev Joseph Hindle). Tradition, in the Catholic Christian sense, is not the continuation of past customs and habits, but the living and dynamic faith which we receive, live out and pass on to the next generations.

This is made real in the Church’s Liturgy, especially in mass. All the faithful people of the past, both sinners and saints, known and unknown, stand with us around the altar. We go out from the altar to continue as best we can the proclamation of the Gospel and sharing in the redeeming work of Christ and his Apostles. Our worship is joined to the continuous and timeless worship of the saints and angels in heaven. The Church of the future is also one with us and will look back on us, even though nobody remembers us, as we ourselves look back on those who have gone before us. Our individual memories in the end, whether they are recent or in the mists of the past, are not so important. All our lives are caught up in the mystery of God, who created us in his love and calls us back to that love which is all we shall need in the future.

*Father Andrew*





# Higham Youth Club

New club

**Every Wednesday**

Time: 7.30pm-9:30pm

In: Higham Memorial Hall

For more details:

Contact Amit Hayer

Email: [amit.hayer@thegrand.org.uk](mailto:amit.hayer@thegrand.org.uk)

Tel: 01474 320123 9.30-5pm

Tel: 07583784019 6pm-9pm

Young people aged 10 to 16 years are  
welcome

 GrandGravesend  GrandGravesend



**HIGHAM SPEED WATCH** is one of several schemes in Kent, supported by Kent Police, which monitors traffic speeds throughout the County. Although no drivers are prosecuted, persistent offenders do receive a letter from the Police reminding them of the dangers of speeding. The Police may also carry out their own checks in areas where there have been a high number of speeding vehicles reported.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer to help keep Higham's road safe, please go to the Community Speed Watch website:

**[www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk](http://www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk)**

Click on register and follow the links to Higham Speed Watch Group.

Volunteers can come to as many or as few sessions (which last one hour) as they wish.

For more information, telephone Peter Leakey (Group Co-ordinator)  
**07815 721966**

# Litter Picking

**SATURDAY 3 MARCH**

**10.00am**

**MEET AT THE TOP OF FORGE LANE –  
OPPOSITE GAD'S HILL**

*for more information email*

*[sue3906@gmail.com](mailto:sue3906@gmail.com)*

*or call/text 07480518493*

Litter picking is organised by Higham Parish Council

**PART OF THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN**





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When it feels **irreplaceable**, trust



## HIGHAM CRIME FIGURES - OCTOBER 2017

| <b>Type of Crime</b>         | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Anti-social behaviour        | 2            |
| Burglary                     | 1            |
| Vehicle                      | 3            |
| Criminal damage and Arson    | 4            |
| Other theft                  | 1            |
| Public order                 | 2            |
| Violence and sexual offences | 14           |

In October 2016 there were 27 reported crimes in Higham.

## HIGHAM CRIME FIGURES - NOVEMBER 2017

| <b>Type of Crime</b>         | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Anti-social behaviour        | 1            |
| Burglary                     | 4            |
| Vehicle                      | 4            |
| Criminal damage and Arson    | 2            |
| Other theft                  | 2            |
| Public order                 | 0            |
| Violence and sexual offences | 11           |

In November 2016 there were 23 reported crimes in Higham.

Figures obtained from the Police website, [crime-statistics.co.uk](http://crime-statistics.co.uk).

## DOUBLE CELEBRATION AT ST JOHN'S.

On Sunday, January 28, 2018 a large congregation gathered at the Church to celebrate the 156<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church. This was a double celebration as Mayor of Gravesham; Councillor Harold Craske had chosen this date also for the Annual Civic Service.

Father James Southward, currently the Mayor's Chaplain, welcomed all those present and offered greetings to Mayor: Harold Craske, Mayoress Mrs Veronica Craske, Deputy Mayor, David Hurley, Gravesham Borough Councillor and Parish Councillor Les Pearton and several other members of the Parish Council.

Father James expressed the importance of the Church over the last 156 years and its continuing role in the life of the village. The Mayor and various members of the congregation gave readings ahead of the Morning Mass. Mayor Craske offered his thanks, he said he was enjoying his term as Mayor and this was his 200<sup>th</sup> engagement to date, since taking office in May 2017. Finally, Father James remarked the service had begun thirty minutes later than usual in order that some alcoholic "fizz" could be served in celebration with the delicious refreshments. Many members of the congregation remained at the Church to socialise.

*Liz Jeffery.*

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### FOODBANK THANK YOU!



A big **Thank You** from the Gravesend Food Bank for your Christmas donations! In December you contributed more than double that of 2016 – 60% in fact. Well done to all.



# MARCH 2018

## Donation Guide

### PLEASE NOTE

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

- Tinned vegetables - \***POTATOES**, carrots, peas, sweetcorn.
  - \* **INSTANT SMASH POTATO**, Packets of Soup and Cup a Soup.
  - \*Vegetarian Foods.
  - \***TINNED - CORNED BEEF, HAM, MINCE, STEWED STEAK, PIES .**
  - \***INSTANT NOODLES, \*INSTANT COUS COUS**
  - \***COFFEE**, Tea, \***HOT CHOCOLATE**, Sugar.
  - \***TINS OF MACARONI CHEESE, \*INSTANT PASTA IN A SAUCE**, Tins of Spaghetti.
  - Breakfast cereals, Cereal bars, Sweet biscuits & Chocolate Biscuits.
  - Rice pudding, \***TINNED FRUIT**, Sponge puddings, \***CUSTARD**.
  - Spreads – Jam, Marmite, Peanut Butter, Nuttella Spread.
  - Long life fruit juice and bottled squash to dilute, Long life milk.
  - Deodorants, toothpaste, tooth brushes, bath and shower gels.
  - Ladies personal toiletries and Toilet rolls.
  - Nappies size 4 & 5.
  - Laundry tablets, \***WASHING UP LIQUID**, Spray household cleaners
- \*Above items are currently low in stock at the Foodbank.**

**This month we have plenty – BAKED BEANS, PASTA, SOUP,  
& TINNED FISH.**

**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](http://www.gravesham.foodbank.org.uk)





## LENT

Is this a Fast, to keep  
The larder lean?  
And clean  
From fat of veals and sheep?

Is it to quit the dish  
Of flesh, yet still  
To fill  
The platter high with fish?

Is it to fast an hour,  
Or ragg'd go,  
Or show  
A down-cast look and sour?

No: 'tis a Fast to dole  
Thy sheaf of wheat  
And meat  
Unto the hungry soul.

It is to fast from strife  
And old debate,  
And hate;  
To circumcise thy life.

To show a heart grief-rent;  
To starve thy sin,  
Not bin;  
And that's to keep thy Lent.

By Robert Herrick (17th century poet and cleric)

**HIGHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**



Thursday December 7th 2017 was the evening of our Christmas Party. We were greeted at the door with wine or fruit juice , our Committee had prepared the tables with attractive tablecloths and crackers and members had brought with them plates of home-cooked celebration food. Our glasses were regularly refilled by our Committee members and during the evening we were entertained by Phil, singing and playing his guitar.

On a bitterly cold evening – Thursday 4th January – we met for our Christmas get-together at the Knowle Restaurant. A roaring warm fire greeted us in the entrance hall and we were shown to our tables by the ever attentive staff. The meals we had chosen were delicious and the dessert trolley was, as ever, groaning with home cooked sweets. After tea and coffee, we left for home, hoping to return next year.

Thursday 1st February was our first meeting of the year and we welcomed two new members.

Reps Reports :

Christine Downes is still searching for “Tina Turner” musical ticket with so far, little success. There is however the chance of tickets becoming available for the matinee on 29th November 2018. More news soon.

Christine Cavendar will take names for KWKFWI Centenary Show at Rose Bruford College on Saturday 28th April 2018.

A long time WI member wished to share with ladies her disgust at the increased subscription – now £41, an increase of 13% in the last three years. There was agreement with this statement and two or three ladies were thinking of leaving because they feel they are supporting an expensive London office which should be sold and relocated to the Denman College and in addition, very few ladies had been able to visit the W.I. Kent office which is on the County

order with no public transport. After a show of hands, it was agreed that our Secretary would write to WI Head Office with our concerns.

Christine Downes urged ladies to read a recent “Daily Mail” article – copy on the table – which highlighted concerns from many WI members.

We then welcomed our Speaker, Gravesham Mayor, Harold Craske, who entertained us with his many experiences as a Registrar, based at Gravesend and travelling to various wedding venues in Kent.

*Josephine Smith*

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## **LOCAL EVENTS**

### **West Kingsdown to Southfleet-some hidden place on our doorstep (illustrated talk and supper)**

Speaker: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

On: Monday 23rd April 2018

At: Reliance Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend

Begins: 6 pm for the meal with talk to follow.

Cost: £15 for both meal and talk together.

Booking essential: Reliance Restaurant 01474 533593

### **Lord Darnley’s Gravesend – discovering links between Gravesend & Cobham Hall (Guided walk with 2 course supper)**

**– and some places in the town you might have missed.**

**Walk last about 1.5 hours.**

Guide: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

On: Friday 11th May 2018

Meet: 7 pm outside [Somerset Arms, Darnley Road](#), Gravesend.

Meal afterwards at [Clarendon Royal Hotel, Gravesend](#)

Cost: £18 for two course meal at Royal Clarendon Hotel and the guided walk together

Booking essential: Clarendon Royal Hotel 01474 362221.

Free parking in hotel car park (limited spaces-need to register your car in the Reception) or free (after 6pm) public car parks nearby.

*Christoph Bull*

## **HIGHAM ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

Date for your diary: The Annual Assembly is to be held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at .30 pm.

There will be refreshments and a talk by local historian – Andrew Rootes.

All residents are welcome.

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## **BURNS' NIGHT CELEBRATION**

We are so lucky to still have a village church. On Friday 26 January the Social Committee of St. John's Church, Higham held its annual Burns' Supper.

The church Hall and tables were festooned with Saltires and Scottish flags and 37 people attended paying only £12.50 for their tickets, including wine. The meal started with Cullen Skink, a soup made with smoked haddock and potatoes. This was followed by the Ceremonial Haggis, bashed neaps and tatties. The supper ended with raspberry cheesecake and a selection of cheeses, followed by coffee.

The Haggis was addressed by Les Baker, Chris Hanson and Nigel then toasted, by all, with a dram of whisky. A further tot of whisky was offered to be poured over each Haggis Supper.

Kim Wood compiled a Quiz of all things Scottish, which was followed by the raffle. Over £230 was raised for church funds. It was a wonderful fun evening and a thank you to everyone who attended.

Our next Social Evening is St. George's Night, so we shall be ironing the Union Flags in preparation. This supper will be held on Friday 27 April, at 7.30 pm. Tickets will be £12.50 for wine, roast beef, pudding and a cheese course, followed by coffee. There will be a raffle and a quiz with an English theme and once again profits will go to our Church Funds.

*Tricia Baker.*

## HIGHAM CHORAL GROUP

Our last concert was held at St John's Higham on 16<sup>th</sup> December. It was a miracle it went ahead at all. We had so many members of the choir unable to sing because of coughs, colds and influenza and a great number of the ones left singing at both the afternoon rehearsals and the concert in the evening were not feeling that great either. All in all, it was a good concert considering its problems. Audience numbers were not too bad but still nothing to what they used to be three or four years ago when we used to have a full Church every year. It would be great to see those crowds again. Maybe this year??? May I take this opportunity in making you aware that the date of our Christmas concert will be Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December at the same venue. Not that I am wishing this year away in a flash.

Our programme was varied, as it tends to be these days with something for every one's taste including carols for the audience to join in with. Amongst many other pieces, the choir sang 'Simple Things' which was an arrangement of the music to the John Lewis advertisements over the past four years as well as the bang up to date 2017 version. These were all arranged by our very talented choir member Frazer Westmorland. He was working like a little Santa's elf to get it finished in time for the concert. They were all great fun to sing and £125 was donated to St John's Church.

Our next concert will be at Saint Peter's Church, Fordcombe on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> March. A little nearer to most of our Bridge readers will be our summer concert on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> July at St Mary's Church, Lower Higham. This is a great little venue with the acoustics being just perfect for a balmy summer's evening. Don't take my word for it. Put the date in your diary and hopefully we will see you there.

If you are interested in joining the choir you will be very welcome. Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings from 8.00 pm to 9.30 pm in the Congregational Chapel hall in School Lane. Ring Mary on 01634 718818 for further information.

*Teresa Joblin, Chairman*

## NEWS FROM THE TOWER

My first and most important piece of news is to tell you that a Quarter Peal was rung here at St John's on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Congratulations to our two Higham ringers, Ivo Wengraf and Julie Aldous. Although Ivo has rung many quarter peals before in other towers around England, it was Julie's first. Well-done Julie. She tells me that she is greatly looking forward to the next one! Other guest ringers who helped with this event were Phil and Derna Brown, Keith Tolputt and Graham Cottle.

We had a visiting band from the Maidstone district on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October who were keen to try ringing on a simulator. Unfortunately, one of the members have changed the settings on the computer and unfortunately, we have been having problems with the circuit board ever since!! Next time, if there will be a next time, we will fit a default. Since we have not been able to practice at our tower other than the first Saturday in the month's scheduled practice, we have been visiting other towers in the area, which practice on a Wednesday. We have been to St Georges, Gravesend, SS Peter and Paul, Borden, St Mary Magdalene, Cobham, All Saints, Frindsbury and SS Peter and Paul, Shorne.

I am very pleased to announce that we have a new member, Linda Dray who is coming on in leaps and bounds. Linda has much enthusiasm and also joins us at our practices in High Halstow on Tuesdays. We are just awaiting the observation on her skills of ringing the bell down by a qualified trainer. After that, we can enter her into the ringing handbook.

We were invited to join the Cobham ringers on their ringing tour around the Maidstone area on 18<sup>th</sup> November. We visited and rang at St Mary the Virgin and All Saints, Boxley, All Saints, Hollingbourne, St Nicholas, Leeds, St Michael, Chart Sutton and St Nicholas, Linton. We had a lovely lunch in The George Inn, Leeds. It was great to be able to ring for Candle Mass "The Presentation of the Lord" on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. We always look forward to all special Masses where we are allowed to ring.

I hope to arrange a ringing tour for the Higham ringers and friends in the spring around the Swale area. More about that in a future issue.

*Teresa Joblin. Tower Secretary.*

## THE NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS' GUILD

Well here we are. Christmas seems a long time ago now. All the hustle and bustle that led up to it, is now a distant memory, and all the projects that were made for Christmas are now safely tucked away. It is almost as if we can take a deep breath and sigh a sigh of relief, but the long wintry nights have not left us yet, so what next?

Our first meeting of the year was filled as usual with laughter, chatting, sitting, stitching, and, of course, home-made cake!



One of our members took us on a virtual tour of the Bayeux Tapestry. It was superb and what a coincidence that it may be coming to the UK. The history behind it is amazing enough, but as an embroiderer it is inspiring and humbling at the same time. I am sure a wintry night would be a good companion to a needle and thread, but I am not sure my efforts would do the Bayeux justice.

Some of you may remember that last year we became involved with the worldwide 70,273 project, commemorating the lives of physically and mentally disabled people, young and old who were killed in concentration camps in WWII.

(Please take a look at our web page for more information.)

All the quilts that were made by groups like ours, schools and clubs are now going to be on public display all over the world including the UK.



Our local ones will be on display until the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and will be held in the Nave of Rochester Cathedral. The quilts made by schools will be on display at the Guildhall in Rochester, until the 8<sup>th</sup> March and which is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please come along and show your support for this remarkable undertaking by so many dedicated people.

February may hold Valentine hearts in its grasp, but here at the Guild we are making hearts for a different reason. This year's project is in association with SSAFA. – the Armed Forces Charity - to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WWI. We will create an embroidered heart honouring the life of a family member, a significant moment in time, objects of war, or an act of bravery. The hearts will be placed in exhibitions throughout the UK.

Please have a look at our website, where all the information and inspiration you need is there - [www.northkentembroiderers.co.uk](http://www.northkentembroiderers.co.uk) There is a link to our new Facebook page and times and dates of meetings as well as a list of all the visiting speakers that we have invited this year. We look forward to meeting you in the very near future.

Happy Stitching.!

*Toni Houbart*

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## **EASTER PRAYER**

Almighty Father,

When life is difficult and the way seems too hard, help us to remember the reality of Easter; of the resurrection of Jesus; of His wonderful saving work on the cross, overcoming death to offer us life for all eternity with you.

There is so much we don't understand, Lord, but you know everything, you are in charge and we can trust you even when we can't work things out.

Thank you for the hope, peace and joy that you alone can give - and all because of the resurrection of Jesus. Thank you that He is alive today and able to help us whatever our situation. Help us to be your Easter People, reaching out with your love and life.

In Jesus name, Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

