

Back To The Future

Way back in the 1980's a series of three films went under this title. It involved travel through time, with all the attendant problems of '*changing history*' and affecting subsequent events in the future. Invariably, when the problems or a situation was finally 'rectified', the characters were able to go '*Back, to the future*'.

In 2006 the calendar that we follow in S.John's was changed: certain holy days of obligation were moved from weekdays to Sundays. The reason given was for a fuller observance particularly by more people's participation in the feasts. The days affected were The Epiphany of the Lord (traditionally 6th January – the 12th day of Christmas); the Ascension of the Lord (on a Thursday 40 days after Easter); and Corpus Christi (Thursday after Trinity – giving thanks for the Eucharist).

This year the calendar has reverted in the case of Epiphany and Ascension to the traditional days. What was always celebrated on fixed days back in the past will, in the future, now be observed again on their traditional days. Corpus Christi remains on a Sunday.

The Ascension is a very major mystery of faith, which is why they

moved it to a Sunday in the past; but it never felt 'quite right' not being celebrated on Eastertide's fortieth day. To mark Ascension Day's return, our *back to the future*, observation of this great festival on Thursdays, this year, on May 10th our Bishop-Pastor (Norman, Bishop of Richborough) will be with us to preside and preach at the 7.30 pm Sung Mass. A said Mass will be at 9.30 am but it's really for those who CANNOT be there with the bishop. The Church is seen in its wholeness and fullness of communion when bishop, clergy and people gather and celebrate the Eucharist together.

The Ascension marks the return to the Father's side of the risen, glorified Christ, the Son of God, who descended from the eternal realm into time as a human baby. He didn't come 'back in time' for us, but he did come to resolve issues from time immemorial between us and God through his Cross and Resurrection.

Going back from whence he came, Christ Jesus returned to prepare the way for his faithful people. He went *back to the future that awaits his people*. It's a great hope – so, do come and celebrate it! (and on the right day too!!)

Fr James

The Bridge

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

WORSHIP AT S.JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH

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

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



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

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

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

PLEASE NOTE: FATHER JAMES IS NOT NORMALLY AVAILABLE ON THURSDAY

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

TUESDAYS 8.15 pm and SATURDAYS 10.30 am

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

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

May 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.

Bank Holiday Mondays are 10am.

| DAY | DATE | CELEBRATION | INTENTION |
|------|-------|---|--------------------------------|
| TUE | 1st | S. Joseph the Worker | (m) A blessing on human work |
| Wed | 2nd | S. Athanasius; <i>Bishop, Teacher</i> | (m) North African Christians |
| Th. | 3rd | Ss Philp & James Apostles | (f) The Diocesan Bishop |
| Fri. | 4th | English Martyrs of C16th-17th | (f) Local Roman Catholics |
| Sat. | 5th | Eastertide Feria - <i>of Our Lady</i> | (v) In honour O.L. of Higham |
| SUN | 6TH * | 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER | (+) THE PARISH |
| Mon | 7th * | Eastertide Feria - <i>of S. John</i> | (v) S. John's Congregation |
| Tue | 8th * | Eastertide Feria | Agricultural research |
| Wed | 9th * | Eastertide Feria | Local Farms & Businesses |
| Th. | 10th | THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD <i>HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION</i> | (+) THE PARISH |
| Fri | 11th | Eastertide Feria | Expectant mothers |
| Sat. | 12th | Eastertide Feria- <i>of Our Lady in Eastertide</i> | (v) Walsingham |
| SUN | 13TH | 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER | (+) THE PARISH |
| Mon | 14th | S. Matthias, Apostle | (f) Bishop Norman |
| Tue | 15th | Eastertide Feria | The PCC |
| Wed | 16th | S. Simon Stock, <i>Carmelite Friar</i> | (m) Aylesford Friary |
| Th. | 17th | Eastertide Feria | +RIP's & Anniversaries |
| Fri | 18th | Eastertide Feria Incumbency 18/5/95 | The Vicar |
| Sat | 19th | S. Dunstan, <i>Archbishop</i> | (m) The Archbishop |
| SUN | 20TH | PENTECOST - END OF EASTER | (+) THE PARISH |
| Mon | 21st | Mary, Mother of the Church | (m) Marian Devotion |
| Tue | 22nd | Feria (Ord. Wk 7) | Our ministry to children |
| Wed | 23rd | Feria | Other Higham Christians |
| Th. | 24th | Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest | (f) The ministerial priesthood |
| Fri. | 25th | S. Bede <i>the Venerable</i> | (m) The Northern Dioceses |
| Sat | 26th | S. Philip Neri | (m) Christian Teachers |
| SUN | 27TH | HOLY TRINITY | (+) THE PARISH |
| Mon | 28th | Feria (Ord. Wk 8) | (m) National Pilgrimage (Wals) |
| Tue | 29th | Feria | Christian Missionaries |
| Wed | 30th | Feria | Bishops & Church Leaders |
| Th. | 31st | The Visitation of Our Lady | (f) Marian Societies |

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

THE MAY 'REQUIEM'

will be offered on Thursday 17th May 2018 @ 7.30pm

The recently deceased, and this month's anniversary list of names [below], are specially prayed for at this Mass.

Anniversary names are remembered on the date and the Sunday prior to it.

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 st | Percy Edward Martin | Roger Calder <i>PRIEST</i> |
| | <u>Annie</u> Douglass Summers | 15 th Sylvia Maureen George |
| 2 nd | Prudence Williams | 16 th Nelly <u>Violet</u> Still |
| 3 rd | Annie Alice Want | Vera May Blackall |
| | Fred. Haskins | 17 th Dorothy Curtis |
| | John Albert Husband | Andrew Aloysius McMahon |
| 5 th | Nellie Georgina ('Peggy') Miller | Beatrice Maud ('Betty') Drayton |
| 6 th | Joseph Norman Birkett | Donald Edward Whitebread |
| | Jeanne Audrey Stevens | 18 th Isaac Glendinning |
| 8 th | Ethel <u>Grace</u> Williams | 23 rd Alan Stanley ('Chris') Frier |
| 9 th | Bevan Dyson | Peggy Littlewood |
| | Edward Wallace Martin | 25 th Randall Davidson <i>BISHOP</i> |
| 11 th | George Edward Glendinning | Michael Derek Jeal |
| | David Thomas <i>BISHOP</i> | 26 th Alfred Ernest Gammon |
| 12 th | Ivy Edna Evers | Grace Preston |
| 14 th | Edith May Gowns | 28 th Robert <u>John</u> Price |
| | David Dunn <i>PRIEST</i> | 31st Bridget Mary Wilkinson |

Also at this Requiem - deceased benefactors & communicants of S.Mary's

NOTE: The deceased of 20 years and more are removed from the list: except for previous Incumbents of the parish, previous Diocesan Bishops and where it is known someone attends the requiem mass to pray for a person / some people.

However, if anyone attend the requiem AND requests the inclusion of other names beforehand these will, of course, be included in those for whom we pray.

*Alleluia! We proclaim your Death O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection, until you come again. Alleluia!*

~ 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.

T ***S. Joseph the Worker*** *May 1st*
Coloss 3.14-17,23-24 Matt 13.54-58

W Acts 15.1-6 John 15.1-8

TH ***Ss. PHILIP & JAMES*** ***MAY 3RD***
1 Corinthians 15.1-8 John 14.6-14

F ***THE ENGLISH MARTYRS*** ***MAY 4TH***
Acts 7.55-60 Matt 1-.17-20

S Acts 16.1-10 John 15.18-21

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER ***MAY 6TH***
Acts 10.25-26,34-35,44-48 1 John 4.7-10
John 15.9-17

M Acts 16.11-15 John 15.26 - 16.4

T Acts 16.22-34 John 16.5-11

W Acts 17. 15,22-18.1 John 16.12-15

TH. *Ascension Day is now observed again
on the Thursday (40 days after Easter)*
ASCENSION OF THE LORD ***MAY 10TH***
Acts 1.1-11 Ephesians 4.17-23
Mark 16.15-20

F Acts 18.9-18 John 16.20-23

S Acts 18.23-28 John 16.23-28

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER ***MAY 13TH***
Acts 1.15-17,20-26 1 John 4.11-16
John 17.11-19

M ***S. MATTHIAS*** ***MAY 14TH***
Acts 1.15-26 John 15.9-17

T Acts 20.17-27 John 17.1-11

W Acts 20.28-38 John 17.11-19

Th Acts 20.30, 23.6-11 John 17.20-26

F Acts 25.13-21 John 21.15-19

S Acts 28.16-20,30-31 John 21.20-25

PENTECOST SUNDAY ***MAY 20TH***
Acts 2.1-11 Galatians 5.16-25
John 15.26-27, 16.12-15

Eastertide ends – Ordinary Time resumes

Ordinary Week 7

M ***Mary, Mother of the Church***
Genesis 3.9-15,20 John 19.25-34

T James 4.1-10 Mark 9.30-37

W James 4.13-17 Mark 9.38-40

Th ***JESUS CHRIST, THE HIGH PRIEST***
Hebrews 10.11-18 Mark 14.22-25

F James 5.9-12 Mark 10.1-12

S James 5.13-20 Mark 10.13-16

TRINITY SUNDAY ***MAY 27TH***
Deut. 4.32-34, 39-40 Romans 8.14-17
Matthew 28.16-20

Ordinary Week 8

M 1 Peter 1.3-9 Mark 10.17-27

T 1 Peter 1.10-16 Mark 10.28-31

W 1 Peter 1.18-25 Mark 10.32-45

Th. ***THE VISITATION OF*** ***MAY 31ST***
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Zephaniah 3.14-18 Luke 1.39-56

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.

JUNIOR CHURCH AT ST JOHN'S



How do you teach children about Lent and Easter? With activities that are fun but thought-provoking. This year we started with Jelly Bean Prayer Jars, having them place colourful sweets in their jars every day at home as they reviewed this prayer:



A JELLY BEAN PRAYER

Yellow is for doing what is honest & right
Orange is for praying to God at night
Red is for my mistakes today
Purple is for the 'sorry' I say
Pink is for times when I forgive
Green is for helping others to live.

They really enjoyed seeing those jelly beans adding up!

On Sundays we had stories and activities around the important aspects of Lent: Prayer, Saying Sorry, Saying No to Temptation, and Helping the Needy.

And then at Easter we praised them for their good work during Lent and celebrated Jesus rising from the dead with the ringing of bells, special activities and an Easter Egg Hunt!

If you are interested in your children learning about God and what it means to be a young Christian, join us at St John's any Sunday during school term time at 9:30am. And if you have any questions about Junior Church, please contact Nancy Hughes at nlhughes3@yahoo.com.

Nancy Hughes



Help keep your village Clean and Tidy

SATURDAY 21 APRIL

10.00AM

AND

WEDNESDAY 23 MAY

2.00pm

**MEET AT THE PAVILION ON THE
RECREATION GROUND**



*for more information email sue3906@gmail.com
or call/text 07480518493*

All equipment provided

Litter picking is organised by Higham Parish Council

HiARA REPORT: MARCH

“A kick up the Sixties” was the nostalgic talk by Alan Haines, who entertained members with a ‘Do you remember’ time. After a session of jokes and conjuring tricks, Alan continued to remind us of film stars like Roy Rogers, Hi Ho Silver and Popeye. T.V. productions such as I love Lucy and When the Boat Comes In which was followed by Radio Luxembourg items. He recalled to mind, nylon sheets and nylon shirts which gave off “Sparks” when worn. Remember Tupperware? (I expect you still have some) This was followed by film clips of The Twist with input from the audience, which proved very popular. (I can’t do it now – can you?) All our activities continue to be popular with books, raffle, cards and now cakes which are appreciated by members.

The main meeting in April is the Annual General Meeting when the new committee is formed. Do come along and see what is on offer. More details can be found on the Higham Parish Council website, just follow the links to HiARA.

*Pat Oakeshott
HiARA Publicity.*

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| <p>The editors of The Bridge Magazine disclaim any responsibility for inaccuracies submitted in advertisements, announcements and articles in this voluntary run magazine. All information is received in good faith and if a reader should find a problem they are asked to approach the responsible subscriber directly. We reserve the right to refuse items sent to us and any written complaints received by the editors will be considered public property and publication will be dependent on the discretion of the editors.</p> |
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GODPARENTS' SUNDAY

6 May 2018

Are you a godparent or a godchild? Do you let them know how special they are to you? We will be honouring godparents and godchildren during our Sunday Mass at St John's on 6th May at 9:30am.

Godparents really matter to families – from baptism, through childhood and into adulthood. Godparents are there to give advice, protection, support and encouragement. So setting apart a Sunday to celebrate and pray for this special relationship is a great opportunity to share with families and ask for God's blessing on godparents and godchildren everywhere.

Join us on Sunday 6th May and

Bring your godparents - Bring your godchildren!

Or if they live too far to come with you, let them know that they will be with you in spirit and come celebrate, thank God, and pray for them on this day.

SMILE LINES

Signs of the times

My 10 year-old niece says her prayers every night and instead of 'amen', she says 'click, send.'

Applied Law

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

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

REVISED DATE

Vintage Sale @ St Johns Church



**Saturday
7th July 2018
From**

**10.30 am
to
2.30 pm**

**Coffee and
Conversation in the
Vestry Hall**

**Tables for hire £10 to sell your own items
or just come and buy
Start sorting out those things you no longer need**

If you're interested in hiring a table

Contact Helen on 07528472686

All proceeds raised will go to Christian Aid

ARE YOU BOOKING A SHORT BREAK OR HOLIDAY IN 2018? At the end of March 2018 you had raised nearly £400 plus we were able to claim 25% in gift aid!

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for St John's Church - Higham, Kent?

There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, the Trainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra! It's really simple, all you have to do is:

1. Join.

Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohnschurchhigham/> and sign up for free.

2. Shop.

Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.

3. Raise.

After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and St John's Church - Higham, Kent will be really grateful for your donations.

Look at the next page to see how much your family could raise for St John's by shopping online for those items that we commonly buy.



Raise over £200 a year for

St John's Church

by shopping online through
easyfundraising

We're fundraising this year for:

**Christian work in the
community**



Shopping list

| | COST | RETAILER | ANNUAL DONATION |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Weekly groceries | £53.20 per week | Sainsbury's | 50p x 52 = £26 |
| Family summer holiday | £1,310 | Expedia.co.uk | 7% = £91.70 |
| Fashion | £101.80 per month | Boden | 3% x 12 = £36.65 |
| Takeaways | £21.14 per month | hungryhouse | 2% x 12 = £5.07 |
| Car insurance | £462 | AVIVA | £30 x 1 = £30 |
| Home insurance | £230 | AA | £30 x 1 = £30 |
| Switching Energy Supplier | Free | U | £12 x 1 = £12 |

TOTAL PER FAMILY =

£231.42

20 FAMILIES = £4,628

100 FAMILIES = £23,142

Join today and help us make a difference through your every day shopping
www.easyfundraising.org.uk



Over 3,300 shops and sites

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Thank you for your support.

Liz Croker
Easy Fundraising Administrator

+

**The Solemnity of
THE
ASCENSION
OF
OUR LORD
JESUS
CHRIST**

***THURSDAY,
10th May 2018***



A Holy Day of obligation

Celebrating the crowning glory of the Lord's Resurrection

Said Mass – 9.30am

SOLEMN PONTIFICAL MASS - 7.30pm

The Rt. Revd. Norman Banks, Bishop of Richborough

Will be Principal Celebrant and Preacher

*As many members as possible should be there when our bishop is present.
The morning mass is offered to those UNABLE to attend in the evening.*

Holy Communion may be brought to the sick or housebound upon request



The Solemnity of
PENTECOST



(Whitsunday)

*The Last Day
of Eastertide*

SUNDAY,
20th May
2018

The day the Universal
Church celebrates its
beginnings.

*Pentecost is one of three days in the year that Communicant
members of the C.of E. ought to receive Holy Communion.*

SOLEMN MASS - 9.30 am

Stations of The Resurrection – 5 pm

Said Mass - 6.30 pm (if required)

Holy Communion may be brought to the sick or housebound upon request.



#PLEDGE2PRAY

Between 10th-20th May (from Ascension to Pentecost), communities and churches around the world are gathering to pray that their friends, families and neighbours come to know Jesus Christ. What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

During these 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who participates will deepen their friendship with Jesus, bring others to know Jesus or know him better, and come to know that every aspect of their life is the stuff of prayer.

We will again be taking part at St John's Church and will have booklets for you to use and activities for you to join. We will also have regular postings on our social media: on Facebook, Twitter and our website.

In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about Thy Kingdom Come, go to: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/about>. There are videos and online resources for individuals and families, as well as the resources we will be drawing on for church participation.

And if you would like to Pledge2Pray as an individual, you can sign up on <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/#Pledge2PrayCounter>.

We hope that this time of prayer will be meaningful for you and will be fruitful for the kingdom of God.

Nancy Hughes

A WORLD IN CRISIS

During the past ten years there has been a dramatic rise in the number of refugees in the world. There have always been large numbers of refugees following conflicts, disasters and famines, but the numbers have risen enormously and alarmingly. According to the figures published by the United Nations Refugee Council (UNHCR) there were 65.6 million displaced people in the world by the end of 2016. The number will have risen considerably since then. Over fifty per cent are young people under the age of eighteen. 'Refugee' is a general term for someone who has been forced to leave their home and stability of life and has little more than they can carry and no means of support. Within that general term a 'displaced' person is someone who has been forced out of their home and maybe their country but may possibly be able to return if and when conditions return to peace and security. A 'refugee' is someone who has no hope of returning to their homeland. Currently there are more than 22.5 million people in this category (including 5.3 million Palestinians most of whom are in Lebanon or Syria). There are 10 million stateless people. These have no legal citizenship and no document to prove where they originally came from. 28,300 more people are forced out of their country each day. The UN Council for refugees employs 11,000 staff in 130 countries to provide shelter and aid. It spent US\$7.7 million in 2017. Only a minute number of people have been satisfactorily resettled.

These are shocking statistics and represent an unprecedented surge of people across the world in search of a new future of peace and security.

However, these are numbers. Each one represents a real story of fear and momentous upheaval for a family or an individual. Each one has a terrifying tale to tell – a hostile army drawing ever closer, grinding poverty, no hope of a better life, being a victim of a racial, tribal or social conflict. Many will have seen family, friends and neighbours killed. Others will have had their homes looted or burned. As if that was not enough, the flight from their homeland will have been fraught with dangers. Many have been at the mercy of people traffickers, making profit from their distress, and robbed of what little resources they have.

Many have died on dangerous sea crossings in terrible conditions (the world was moved by a UN soldier lifting the body of a little boy of the water – he and his mother and brother were among many victims of unsafe overcrowded boats. Thousands of children have been separated from their parents and are alone in a dangerous world. People accommodated in UN camps cannot stay there for ever. Many are fleeing countries in turmoil, like Afghanistan, Libya, Syria and the conflicts in central Africa. Added to this many refugees place their hope in being able to settle in peaceful and prosperous countries. This too is a source of anguish.

Not surprisingly there has been a worried and hostile reaction especially from countries which have been in the front line of floods of people seeking shelter. Germany generously let in over a million people but it caused political turmoil and nearly dislodged Chancellor Merkel. Three years ago I led a delegation to ask the Leader of the local Council if he would commit the Borough to taking 50 refugees. He was sympathetic but said No. He knew that there would be an outcry from people on the housing waiting list if 50 refugees were fast-tracked into council accommodation. He subsequently relented and agreed but it still hasn't been possible to find the means to provide for them. David Cameron's government offered to take 25,000 refugees into the country over a five year period. He was walking a tight-rope between those who felt we should take more and those (voters) who felt we shouldn't take any.

What can be done? Well, first we should not let the seemingly insurmountable problems mask what it first and foremost a humanitarian issue. People will suffer even more if they are at the mercy of power politics. This is a movement of people on an unprecedented scale. The best solution would be for people to be able to return to their home countries knowing that they could live and prosper in peace and security. Realistically, this is just not going to happen for most refugees in the foreseeable future. All people of concern should work together to provide as much help and reason for hope as possible. Jesus and Mary and Joseph had to flee as refugees into Egypt to escape Herod's wrath. Let us continue to pray and do all we can to make the love of God real to the victims of this terrible crisis.

Fr Andrew

Bags 2 Church

Summer is here, Fresh Start?

Need to declutter?

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

Well now is the chance to do it:-

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

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

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

For more information contact

HIGHAM CRIME FIGURES – FEBRUARY 2018

| Type of Crime | Total |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Anti-social behaviour | 2 |
| Burglary | 0 |
| Vehicle | 5 |
| Criminal damage and Arson | 7 |
| Other theft | 0 |
| Public order | 3 |
| Violence and sexual offences | 9 |
| Drugs | 1 |

In February 2017 there were 17 reported crimes in Higham
Figures obtained from the Police website – crime-statistics.co.uk.

EVENTS

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: 7pm 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](tel:01474362221).

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



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



**First Saturday
of the Month**

10.30-12.30

In the Vestry Hall

Not churchy, just chatty!

Open to all

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



HIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors met in the Memorial Hall on Monday March 5 and were given a warm welcome by Chairman, Councillor Jennifer Papadopoulos.

The evening's agenda began and items brought up to date. At a recent parish council meeting, a resident drew to the attention of the council the matter of issues with the access across the grass verge outside Alexander Cottages. The council were pleased to announce that a path has now been scheduled by KCC for later in the year.

The Annual Parish Newsletter 2018 is nearly completed and ready to go to print. Councillors were hoping the residents will come along to the Assembly at 7.30 pm on Thursday April 12. Highways England has agreed to attend to display the latest route for the Lower Thames Crossing. Guest Speaker is local historian, Andrew Rootes and his talk will be about Farms in the village. A light buffet and wine/soft drinks will be available.

A site visit had been made by some of the councillors to the Nuralite site in Canal Road. A proposal has been put forward for some commercial building units to be constructed. The developers are very enthusiastic as regards clearing the contamination at the site and have requested a public meeting with residents to explain their plans. The council will be liaising with them to arrange the meeting. The Infrastructure Committee (IFC) Report was tabled among the items: the village bus stops and shelters had been inspected and a report raised by a team of councillors with recommendations put forward to improve the structures and cleanliness. Litter Picking Sessions throughout the village have begun again. All the

allotments have been taken. Fly tipping remains an issue and it was agreed to write to the Kent Police Crime Commissioner on this subject to raise concerns further.

Kent County Council Community Warden, Paul Hassell gave his report and is no closer to finding out who is responsible for the abandoned trailer at the top of the village, he says he is still on the case.

Following a break for refreshments, budget items were agreed, planning and correspondence items dealt with.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday, April 9 at 7.30 pm in Higham Memorial Hall.

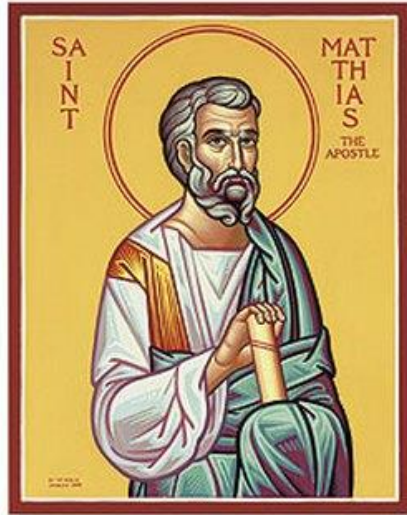
Members of the Public are welcomed to attend.

Linda Carnell



*They had been promised a Celebrity
Guest Preacher*

ST. MATTHIAS - APOSTLE



Feast Day - May 14th

St. Matthias is one of the lesser-known apostles. According to the Early Church Fathers, St. Matthias was one of the seventy-two sent out by the Lord Jesus in Luke 10:1-20. After the Ascension of the Lord, St. Matthias was chosen by lot, with prayer to the Holy Spirit, to fill the vacancy among the Twelve resulting from the suicide of Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:16-25). Early Church traditions place St. Matthias in a number of locations. Some suggest he went to Ethiopia; others place him in Armenia [which was the first nation to adopt Christianity as a national religion]. Martyred for his faith, St. Matthias may well have met with death at Colchis in Asia Minor, around AD 50. The Church of St. Matthias in Trier, Germany, claims the honour of being the final burial site for the apostles; the only one of the Twelve to be buried in Europe north of the Alps. Until the 1960's his feast day was observed on February 24th. It was moved in the liturgical revisions of that period out of the Lenten season into that season after the Ascension when, of course, we remember his 'election'.

HIGHAM AGE CONCERN LUNCHEON CLUB

We had several birthdays to celebrate this time - Mrs Marjorie Clark, Mrs Joan Nuttall, Mrs Rose Higgins, Mrs Eileen Marcantonio and Mrs Yvonne Holyhead: our congratulations to them all.

On our last day before breaking for Easter we had a lovely dinner consisting of Chicken and Leek Pie (superb pastry!), carrots, cabbage, mashed potatoes and gravy followed by Apple and Ginger Sponge with custard.

To take home we each had a chocolate Easter egg and a big bunch of daffodils in tight bud which, when they opened, were delightful.

None of this would be possible without the constant help of the volunteers, the drivers, cooks, and hostesses and, of course, Barbara, Carol and Sue. A very big thank you to all of them for doing such a lot for us all.

Jean Fawcett



There was no more dozing off after the vicar started serving the extra-strength coffee *before* the service



NEW SINGING CLUB!

**JUNIOR SINGING GROUP FOR
AGES UP TO 16.**

**MEETS EVERY THURSDAY AT 5PM
ST JOHN'S CHURCH
(TERM TIME ONLY)**

**THERE ARE NO FEES, WE ONLY ASK THAT
ONCE A MONTH YOU ATTEND A CHURCH
SERVICE TO PERFORM YOUR WORK!**

COME AND GIVE IT A TRY!

CATHERINE ODY - MUSICAL DIRECTOR

HIGHAM CHORAL GROUP

Our spring concert this year was held on 24th March in the charming village of Fordcombe at St Peter's Church. The concert also combined with Fordcombe Primary School Choir which was absolutely delightful. They sang Senwa Dedende, I'm Still Singing and We Get Together (from Grease). In addition they joined with the Choral Group to sing the Lord's Prayer and Like a singing Bird by Chilcott.

The concert was well supported by the locals who were treated to a variety of music including – from the stage – Phantom of the Opera, from the screen - Bare Necessities from Jungle Book, from the church – This is my Commandment, and from the Top of the Pops – Best of the Beach Boys and a Tribute to Queen. Finally the evening was rounded off with some flag waving to the Proms favourites – Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory.

The next concert is again away from the village and is being held in Silsoe in Bedfordshire – by popular demand we have been invited to sing at the village church during our tour on May 5th.

On 7th July Higham Choral Group return to sing at St Mary's Church in Lower Higham.

Please see our website or Facebook page for further details.

www.highamchoral.ork.uk

[www.facebook.com/HighamChoral Group/](https://www.facebook.com/HighamChoralGroup/)

Liz Croker

CHURCH BELLS WILL STILL RING OUT

Planning policy is finally coming to the aid of church bells. No longer will people who move into areas with 'noisy' church bells be able to complain and have them shut down.

As the Secretary of State for Housing, Sajid Javid, recently said, 'Churches have been part of British life in towns and villages for centuries. Their bells should not be silenced by new housing going up, which is why planning policy will be strengthened to ensure it will be up to developers building new properties nearby to identify and tackle noise problems.'

And so it is that under the new guidance, it will be up to developers to soundproof the homes they build near churches with bells, music venues, and community and sports clubs.

The Church of England has welcomed the decision, pointing out that bell-ringing has been part of Christian worship for more than 1000 years.

HUNGER IN OUR PARISH?

Are there hungry people in our parish? There could well be.

A recent poll found that one in every four parents worries about not having enough to eat. 23 per cent of parents of children under the age of 18, and 27 per cent of parents of primary-school children admit to either skipping meals, or having seen someone in their household skipping meals. 13 per cent of parents have even gone a whole day without eating because of a lack of money in the past 12 months.

The poll was commissioned by the End Hunger UK coalition, which includes The Trussell Trust, Church Action on Poverty and Oxfam. The Trussell Trust handed out more than a million parcels of food last year, and the NHS is spending millions on correcting malnutrition.

The poll results were released to coincide with the recent Second Reading of the Food Insecurity Bill in Parliament.

News from the Parish Pump

HOW FOODBANKS WORK

Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. A simple box of food makes a big difference, with foodbanks helping prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems.

FOOD IS DONATED Schools, churches, businesses and individuals donate non-perishable, in-date food to a foodbank. Large collections often take place as part of Harvest Festival celebrations and food is also collected at supermarkets.

FOOD IS SORTED AND STORED Volunteers sort food to check that it's in date and pack it into boxes ready to be given to people in need. Over 40,000 people give up their time to volunteer at foodbanks.

PROFESSIONALS IDENTIFY PEOPLE IN NEED Foodbanks partner with a wide range of care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers and police to identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher.

CLIENTS RECEIVE FOOD Foodbank clients bring their voucher to a foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three days' emergency food. Volunteers meet clients over a warm drink or free hot meal and are able to signpost people to agencies able to solve the longer-term problem.
Information extracted from Gravesham foodbank's website

A typical food parcel includes:

- Breakfast cereals
- Soup
- Pasta
- Rice
- Pasta sauce
- Tinned beans
- Tinned meat
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned fruit
- Tea or coffee
- Biscuits
- Snacks

If you would like to take part St John's Church collects over the last weekend of every calendar month until Monday evening. Please leave contributions in the green box at the rear of the church. A list of the items particularly required this month are on the Donation Guide.



MAY 2018 Donation Guide

PLEASE NOTE

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

- ***ALL TYPES OF TINNED VEGETABLES incl. TINNED POTATOES**
- *** INSTANT SMASH POTATO, *PACKETS OF SOUP**
- ***Vegetarian Foods.**
- ***TINNED - *CORNED BEEF, HAM, MINCE, STEWED STEAK, PIES .**
- ***INSTANT NOODLES, *COUS COUS *INSTANT PASTA**
- ***COFFEE, Tea, *HOT CHOCOLATE, Sugar.**
- ***TINS OF SPAGHETTI & *MACARONI CHEESE, Pasta Sauce.**
- **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. *SQUASH TO DILUTE,* LONG LIFE MILK.**
- **Deodorants, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shower gels,*BARS OF SOAP**
- **Ladies personal toiletries, Toilet Rolls, Nappies size 4 & 5**
- **Laundry tablets,*WASHING UP LIQUID, Spray household cleaners**

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

This month we have plenty – BAKED BEANS, TINNED SOUP & TEA

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 EMBROIDERY GUILD

I would have loved to tell you about our last meeting, and how fabulous the speaker was and how everyone enjoyed the home-made cake... but sadly it was not to be. The white lady, spread her snowy cloak across our part of the world and we were unable to surmount it. But, you can never keep a good crafter down and it was a brilliant opportunity (if a little unexpected), to have some extra time to carry on with a project or two. Even the last of our travelling books skidded to a halt but we hope to see them again at the next meeting.

One of our ladies has been making black work biscornu pin cushions to sell for a local Hospice. (See Picture). Another worked on some Crewel Work. One lady was finishing off a tiny knitted teddy with dungarees, and another was embroidering Ostriches!



What a diverse group we are. However, I think the pear and apple crumble made by one of our members, sounds like a lovely comforting treat on such a chilly day.

The 100 hearts project that the Embroiderers' Guild are participating in on behalf of SSAFA, have all been delivered. Everyone has their thinking caps on, trying to decide how they will transform a heart shaped piece of felt into a special memento, commemorating 100 years since the end of the first world war, and honouring lives lost and devastated.

The 70,273 project has ended. All the amazing quilts were taken down in Rochester Cathedral and the Guildhall, to be packed away and sent around the world to highlight the atrocity that the quilts represented. What an amazing feat of organisation, hard work and dedication that made the exhibition such a remarkable success. We

as a small group felt very privileged to be a part of it. Even though we were unable to sit, stitch and chat together about the things that are important to us, we still had our common interests of craft and all things stitchery.

So, if you would like to come along and join us, we would be more than happy to meet you. There isn't a password, or a test. No one will judge your work. There is always a warm welcome, encouragement and a place to learn new skills.

Please have a look at our web page.

www.northkentembroiders.co.uk all the information you need is there. There is also a link to our Facebook page.

Happy Stitching.

Toni Houbart

LENT AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH

During Lent a number of activities took place to raise funds for Christian Aid. Each Saturday lunches of home-made soup, bread, cheese and fruit were served which raised a total of £660.

In addition the church family donated "savings" and "fines" for the Lenten ill disciplined! and the sum of £340 was collected thus raising £1000 in total.

Normally there is a Foodbank collection held each month at the church but during Lent items were collected weekly and were passed on to the Gravesham Foodbank for distribution.

A very

BIG THANK YOU to all who contributed to these activities.

VILLAGE DIARY MAY 2018

| | | |
|-------|------|--|
| Wed | 2nd | Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm |
| Thurs | 3rd | W.I. Memorial Hall |
| Fri | 4th | HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm |
| Sat | 5th | Coffee & Conversation in the Vestry Hall 10.30 - 12.30pm |
| Sun | 6th | Godparents' Sunday at 9.30 Boot Fair - Memorial Hall |
| Wed | 9th | Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm |
| Thurs | 10th | Solemnity of The Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ Said Mass- 9.30am and Solemn Pontifical Mass - at 7.30pm with the Rt. Revd. Norman Banks, Bishop of Richborough |
| Fri | 11th | HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm |
| Mon | 14th | The Annual Parish Council Meeting - Memorial Hall 7.30pm |
| Wed | 16th | Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm |
| Thurs | 17th | Higham History Group - Memorial Hall - 8pm AGM & Talk "Who's Who in Hoo" Speaker Chris Bull |
| Fri | 18th | HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm |
| Sun | 20th | The Solemnity of PENTECOST Solemn Mass 9.30am Stations of The Resurrection - 5pm |
| Wed | 23rd | Litter Picking 2pm - Meet at the Pavilion on the recreation ground Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm |
| Fri | 25th | HiARA Monthly Meeting - Memorial Hall - 2-4pm |

CHURCH DRAW RESULTS

MARCH 2018

£50 078 Mr K. Dhami

£10 379 A. Dray

NEXT DRAW 30th April 2018