

## *Christian! Are you guilty?*

For over a thousand years S.Mary's Church building has stood out proudly not a *witness* but as a *sign* of Christian presence in Higham. So, although now only used exceptionally for worship, every first Sunday in October we offer Sunday Mass there (at **10am**). This is to witness to our Christian origins and heritage. I say '*witness*' not '*sign*' because it involves an action whereas *signs* only point to something.

In scripture the Greek word for *witness* is **martyr**. We know the connotations that word has for Christians: suffering and death for the faith. It would not, however, be martyrdom to go around killing people for the faith; that is called terrorism.

No one can suffer for an inanimate object like S.Mary's. One might say it 'suffered' neglect by the whole parish over decades and so lost its status as parish Church in the late 1980's. Nevertheless Christian witness, i.e. *action*, in worship and proclamation, continued and continues in those now based at S.John's, the Congregational Chapel and any other Christian community where Higham folk worship and are nourished for the living out of the Christian way of life.

Before S.Mary's was built, before the faith even came to Kent (597AD), Mass was often said over the tombs of martyrs during periods of persecution. Afterwards churches and altars were raised over the tombs. Eventually small fragments of martyrs' relics were cemented into all altar stones. S.John's altars contain four martyrs' relics; one

of whom, S.Philip Howard, is celebrated on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

S.Philp's sixteen century *witness* (martyrdom) saw him lose high social status, access to family, lands, liberty and ultimately, through harsh treatment in the Tower of London, his life. His persecution was based on political motives by calling his religious allegiance 'treason'. Yet it was an attack on his faith for which he suffered – and became a saint of God.

Christian martyrs have suffered for their loyalty to Jesus and his Church which brought them into conflict with prevailing political concerns or other groups' fear of 'difference'. Persecuting minorities, the *different*, is always the same whether children bullying in the playground through to full blown racism. All forms of Christianity **in our own country** face increasing constraint and even forms of semi-official persecution as the nation move rapidly away from its historical faith foundations. We are expected to be quiet and 'conform' to society and its 'new thinking' rather than be faithful to Jesus Christ and his teaching. People are losing jobs or being taken to court for their faith!

This month we might ponder an old adage: if Christianity was made a crime tomorrow, would there be enough evidence to convict us? What sort of *witness* might we be called to a millennium and more after S.Mary's was built? Would we be found 'guilty' for the Lord?

**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 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	( except Tue. & Thur. at 7 pm )

<u>PARISH</u>	The Rev'd. Canon James F. Southward	The Vicarage, Hermitage Rd.
<u>PRIEST</u>	Telephone 01634-717360	Higham, Kent, ME3 7NE.
	E.mail saintjohn.higham@yahoo.co.uk	* * * * *

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

**Marriages, Banns of Marriage, Baptism, Confirmation** and other general enquiries:

Father James is usually available, in Church, for initial enquiries about these on

**TUESDAYS 8.15 pm and SATURDAYS 10.30 am**

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

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

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

THE	Mrs Teresa Joblin	10 Telegraph Hill, Higham	Tel: 01474-823186
CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs Helen Walker	11 S.John's Road, Higham	* Tel: 01474-396569
CHURCH HALL MANAGER -	Mrs Julie Healey -		* Tel: 01474-822008
	* Evening calls only on these numbers please		

# OCTOBER AT S.JOHN'S - 2018

## CALENDAR AND MASS INTENTIONS

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

EXCEPT SUNDAY 7th OCT - 10AM in S.Mary's Church; EXTRA 6.30pm said Mass in S.John's

DAY	DATE	CELEBRATION	INTENTION
Mon	1st	S. Thérèse of Lisieux Teacher, Religious (m)	Christian Missionaries
Tue	3rd	The Holy Guardian Angels (m)	Abused Children
Wed	3rd	Feria Ord. Week 26	New Readers/Lay ministry
Th.	4th	S. Francis of Assisi Friar	Franciscan orders
Fri	5th	Feria of Sac. Heart (v)	The hungry & needy
Sat	6th	Feria of Our Lady, Patron of Higham (v)	All Villagers
<b>SUN</b>	<b>7TH</b>	<b>DEDICATION FEAST OF S.MARY'S</b> (+)	<b>THE PARISH</b>
NO 9.30AM because of the 10AM at S.Mary's / 6.30pm Mass at S.John's if required			
Mon	8th	Feria of Our Lady of the Rosary (v)	Prayer & Study Groups
Tue	9th	Ss Denis & Companions martyrs (m)	The Church in France
Wed	10th	S. Paulinus, 3rd Bp of Rochester (m)	James, Bp of Rochester
Th.	11th	Feria Ord. Week 27	Justice and Peace
Fri	12th	S. Wilfrid Bp, Missionary	The SOCIETY Bishops
Sat	13th	<b>S. Edward</b> Confessor, King (f)	H.M. The Queen
<b>SUN</b>	<b>14TH</b>	<b>28TH ORDINARY SUNDAY</b> (+)	<b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	15th	S. Teresa of Avila; Teacher (m)	Seminaries & Theologians
Tue	16th	Feria Ord. Week 28 of Requiem (v)	+RIP's & Anniversaries
Wed	17th	S. Ignatius of Antioch, Martyr-Bishop (m)	Church in the Bible-lands
Th.	18th	<b>S. Luke the Evangelist</b> (f)	The medical professions
Fri.	19th	S. Philip Howard Martyr (m)	Victims of persecution
Sat	20th	Feria of Our Lady (v)	Walsingham
<b>SUN</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>29TH ORDINARY SUNDAY</b> (+)	<b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	22nd	Feria Ord. Week 29	World Aid Organisations
Tue	23rd	Feria	The dying
Wed	24th	S. Antony Mary Claret Bp. / Soc'l Reformer (m)	The enslaved
Th.	25th	Feria	The Congregational Chapel
Fri	26th	Feria of Holy Cross (v)	Soc. of the Holy Cross [SSC]
Sat	27th	Feria of Our Lady (v)	Ecumenical Soc. of BVM
<b>SUN</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>30ST ORDINARY SUNDAY</b> (+)	<b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	29th	Feria Ord. Week 30	County & Unitary Councils
Tue	30th	Feria of Our Lady (v)	All Marian Shrines
Wed	31st	Feria	The lapsed or indifferent

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

# THE OCTOBER REQUIEM

is on Tuesday 6th October 2018 at 7.30pm

*The recently departed (and those named below) will be prayed for at this Mass.  
Those named below are remembered on the Sunday before and the actual date itself.*

1st	Percy Urwick Lasbrey <i>PRIEST</i> *	18th	Emilie Rebecca Shade
	Leslie Frickey		David Jesson Hewins
3rd	Craig Ashley Powell	19th	Eric Lane
	Violet Cecilia Wenham	20th	Kenneth Newton <i>PRIEST</i>
4th	John Richard Whattler		Connie Fowler
	Joseph Glendinning	23rd	Leonard Lewis Jarrett
5th	Jeffrey James Howes		Michael André Holyhead
	Pamela Cole	24th	'Pete' (Adrian Leonard) Browne
6th	Michael Eric Fowler	25th	Maudie Adelaide Isabella
7th	Gordon Eric Holroyd <i>SSM, PRIEST</i>		Gillingham
8th	Frank Glendinning	26th	Viola Gertrude Falwell
	Charles Peter Chesterton		Eileen Bassam
	Stanley Albert Wallis	27th	Walter de Merton <i>BISHOP</i> #
11th	Alexander Wainwright-Melnyk		'Sue' (Sylvia Alice) Lane
12th	Ina Hewins	30th	Ellen Margaret Reeks
13th	Ruby Ella Hayes	31st	Gloria Pearl Wallis
15th	Savvas Papadopoulos		Ernest Arthur Pope

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

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

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

# From the Church Registers

## **HOLY MATRIMONY**

*Nicholas David JOBLIN*  
with *Sally Ann BRADING*  
on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2018

*Daniel HAWKINS* with  
*Rebecca Sarah HANCE*  
on Sunday 5th August 2018

*Arthur Edward PETERS*  
with *Elina RASA*  
on Sunday 5th August 2018

*Billy Leonard STACEY*  
with *Bethany Rose CONWAY*  
on Thursday 23rd August 2018

## **FUNERALS RITES**

In S.John's Church followed by  
Burial at S.Mary's Churchyard

*Caroline Way QUIGLEY* (72)  
on Wednesday 1st August 2018

### **USE OF ST MARY'S CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD, HIGHAM**

*You will see above that a burial took place in S.Mary's **Churchyard**. Elsewhere you will see that a main Sunday Service is being celebrated in S.Mary's **Church**. Since 1987, when the church was declared redundant, the building has been vested in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust and is not the responsibility of the Church of England in Higham anymore. A few public services held each year with the Bishop's permission. It is no longer licensed for marriages and as there is a Parish Church in the centre of the village no baptisms or funerals take place there either. The Churchyard remain in the care of the Church Council and so burial of bodies and interment of ashes at S.Mary's still take place with Christian prayer. There are limitations as to who may be buried/ interred there in order to preserves space for the villages Christian residents.*

## **BURIAL OF ASHES**

In S.John's Churchyard  
*Reginald Stanley MERRISON* (82)  
on Sunday 19th August 2018

## **CONFIRMATION** **with admission to** **HOLY COMMUNION**

By the Bishop of Richborough in S.John's  
Higham on Wednesday June 28th

*Stephen William TOMSETT*

*James Anthony Philip*  
*JEFFERSON* [child]

*Holly May WATSON* [child]

By the Bishop of Richborough in S.Mary's  
Swanley on Wednesday August 15th

*Gary CUTHBERT*

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**PLEASE NOTIFY EDITORS OF**  
**ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS**

# ~ OCTOBER DAILY BIBLE READINGS ~

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

There are three readings for Sundays and special holy days.

## Ordinary Week 26

M	Job 1.6-22	Luke 9.46-50
T	<b>Holy Guardian Angels</b>	<b>Oct 2nd</b>
	Exodus 23.20-23	Matthew 18.1-5,10
W	Job 9.1-12, 14-16	Luke 9.57-62
Th	Job 19.21-27a	Luke 10.1-12
F	Job 38.1, 12-21,40.3-5	Luke 10.13-16
S	Job 42.1-3, 6, 12-17	Luke 10.17-24

## SUNDAY OCT. 7th S.MARY'S DEDICATION FEAST

Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church  
(1928 Prayer Book Provisional Date)

1 Kings 8.22-23,27-30

Acts 7.44-50

John 4.19-24

See alternative Sunday readings at\*

## Ordinary Week 27

M	Galatians 1.6-12	Luke 10.25-37
T	Galatians 1.13-24	Luke.10.38-42
W	Galatians 2.1-2.7-14	Luke 11.1-4
Th	Galatians 3.1-5	Luke 11.5-13
F	Galatians 3.7-14	Luke 11.15-26
S	<b>S.EDWARD CONFESSOR</b>	<b>Oct. 13th</b>
	Romans 8.26-30	Matthew 5.1-12

## 28<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SUNDAY OCT 14<sup>TH</sup>

Wisdom 7.7-11

Hebrews 4.12-16

Mark 10.17-30

M	Galatians 4.21-31, 5.1	Luke 11.29-32
T	Galatians 5.1-6	Luke 11.37-41
W	Galatians 5.18-25	Luke 11.42-46
Th	<b>S.LUKE EVANGELIST</b>	<b>Oct. 18th</b>
	2 Timothy 4.10-17	Luke 10.1-9
F	Ephesians 1.11-14	Luke 12.1-7
S	Ephesians 1.15-23	Luke 12.8-12

## 29<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SUNDAY OCT 21<sup>ST</sup>

Isaiah 53.10-11

Hebrews 4.4-16

Mark 10.35-45

M	Ephesians 2.1-10	Luke 12.13-21
T	Ephesians 2.12-22	Luke 12.35-38
W	Ephesians 3.2-12	Luke 12.39-48
Th	Ephesians 3.14-21	Luke 12.49-53
F	Ephesians 4.1-6	Luke 12.54-59
S	Ephesians 4.7-16	Luke 13.1-9

## 30<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SUNDAY OCT 28<sup>TH</sup>

Jeremiah 31.7-9

Hebrews 5.1-6

Mark 10.46-52

M	Ephesians 4.32-5.8	Luke 13.10-17
T	Ephesians 5.21-33	Luke 13.18-21
W	Ephesians 6.1-9	Luke 13.22-30

\* 7<sup>th</sup>Oct. Alternative Readings for:

27<sup>th</sup> ORD. SUNDAY

Genesis 2.18-24; Hebrews 2.9-11; Mark 10.2-12

**End by using the Sunday Bulletin 'Collect Prayer' or this 'Prayer after Reading Scripture'**

*Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your holy word.*

*May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths, and a strength in our lives.*

*Take us and use us to love and serve everyone in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## HIARA REPORT: JULY

At the July main meeting, members were privileged to hear and see a lecture by one of our members, Mick Mount, ably assisted by wife Jenny, all about Raptor Ramblings.

Mick showed slides of birds of prey in varying stages of development, including different habitats and food patterns. Did you know that the more food Barn Owls eat the more chicks they produce? A variety of different owls, including Snowy Owls, were shown including visitors from other countries. Wonderful moving slides of Buzzards, Golden Eagles and Kestrels catching prey, and Fish Eagles catching salmon - they have very fierce beaks as well, all were interesting.

Peregrines, which are welcomed by farmers because they catch pigeons, nest in Church spires and chalk pits, and have been seen at Bluewater

Buzzards which are increasing in our area have been seen flying over Cobham Hall.

The RSPB are protesting against the solar farms which are proposed near Gravesend, as it will decimate the bird population locally.

Mick and Jenny once had a large aviary and took in injured birds, including a Sparrow Hawk, which after treatment and care was returned to the wild.

The HiARA committee have agreed to donate toward the "sponsorship" of an Owl or bird of prey at Wildwood Nature Reserve, nr Canterbury as a thank you to Mick for stepping in at very short notice when the original speaker became unwell and cancelled. We eagerly look forward to a photograph of it.

Activity afternoons remain popular and the day trip to Hastings and Rye in September is getting booked up. A private guided tour of Cobham Hall is planned for August followed by tea, scones, jam and cream. More events are in the pipeline. New members are always welcome, call in any Friday afternoon at the Memorial Hall to find out more.

*Pat Oakeshott.  
HiARA Publcity.*

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### **OCTOBER EVENTS:**

**It's Northfleet, but not as we know it-** illustrated talk on Northfleet's transformation over the past century

Speaker: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

On: Monday 8th October 2018

At: Coldharbour Library, Coldharbour Road, Northfleet

Begins: 7.30pm

Price: £4 includes light refreshments

Booking essential: [max.fisher@kent.gov.uk](mailto:max.fisher@kent.gov.uk) or 03000 413131 and ask for Coldharbour Library. Please pay before event at Coldharbour Library otherwise unpaid tickets booked are sold on. Space limited.

**Swanscombe: puritans, pollution and politics - how a cement town changed the world (illustrated talk)**

Speaker: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

On: Monday 15th October 2018

At: Reliance Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend

Begins: 6pm for supper and talk to follow

Price: £15 includes fish and chip supper and talk

Booking essential: Reliance Restaurant 01474 533593. Please pay before event as unpaid tickets are sold on.

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



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



**SOLEMN PARISH MASS AT 10 am**  
**in S.Mary's Church on**  
**Sunday, 7th October 2018**

S.Mary's is well over a thousand years old and, because its Dedication date is unknown, this important festival of the ancient, former parish church of Higham is kept on the first Sunday in October each year. This follows the Church of England's 1928 Prayer Book and its Common Worship 2000 Book suggestion for this Sunday as a Dedication Festival day.

NOTE: This is always the last service held each year in the Church. Our next service, hopefully, will be: Evening Prayer on Mothering Sunday 2018

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A 6.30 pm said Mass is always celebrated in S.John's Church on this day for those unable to get to S.Mary's Church for one reason or another.

## HIGHAM MEMORIAL HALL

During the school summer holidays we have had the hall facilities re-decorated. This included the main and small halls, lobby, toilets, kitchen and store cupboards. There are still a few things to do but we will get there.

We continue to have our regular weekly users together with weekend and midweek events filling up the calendar.

Unfortunately, the hall was broken into in the late evening of 12<sup>th</sup> August. Some damage was done but fortunately we captured the event on CCTV . The police were informed prior to them reviewing the footage.

Boot Fairs start again on October 9<sup>th</sup> and again on November 11th and December 9th!! Bookings can be made on 01474824150 and 01474822775.

As always, there are openings for new committee members. We are a likeable lot but not getting any younger so new blood and younger muscles would be welcome.

*Peter Morriss*

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## HIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

ADVANCE NOTICE - Firework Display - set to music

Monday 5 November on the Recreation Ground, School Lane

Gates open at 6.30 pm

Fireworks at 7.00 pm

Hot Drinks available to buy

This is a FREE EVENT - donations for the Pavilion Renovation project welcomed

## THE BIG KNIT

Where: Rochester Cathedral

When: Saturday 13th October 2018 from 10 – 1 pm

Please come along and help us knit or crochet as many 6 x 6 inch squares as possible in pink, blue, cream & white in our BIG charity knit as part of Baby Loss Awareness Week!!

The squares will then be sewn together to make a variety of beautiful blankets for our community stalls, which will be sold to fund the services

Making Miracles provide such as trauma and bereavement counselling after a high risk pregnancy, premature birth or baby loss or our Baby Memorial Garden.

If this is something you or anyone you know would be interested in doing PLEASE do come along as we would love to have as many knitters having a “knit and natter” session and make this the biggest group meeting in the UK for a local charitable cause.



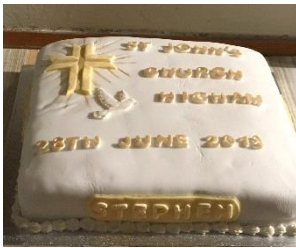
Please email [sally@makingmiracles.org.uk](mailto:sally@makingmiracles.org.uk) for further information or advising of the names of anyone that is attending to help us prepare and plan refreshments accordingly.

## CONFIRMATIONS

It was a lovely evening on 28<sup>th</sup> June. A special evening in St John's Church even more lovely. The evening was a delight and very moving.

The three candidates were Stephen Thomsett (taking the confirmation name Paul), and two youngsters James Jefferson and Holly Watson. They were excellent and we could hear every word they said.

Then there came the homily which was given by Bishop Norman which was very fulfilling and moving and it felt like the church was filled by the Holy Spirit.



After the service a nice spread was put on by the social committee and congregation which was enjoyed by all.

Our thanks go to Bishop Norman, Father James, Father Andrew. Father Paul, the social committee, and to Tessa Packer for making the cake. A cake always finishes off any event very nicely.

We also give our congratulations to Gary Cuthbert who was confirmed at St Mary's Church, Swanley on 15<sup>th</sup> August. He was supported by Father James, his own family and some friends from St John's Church as well as a number of parishioners from St Mary's. Again an excellent buffet was enjoyed by all. Our thanks go to Bishop Norman, Father Dane and the parishioners for making the event so special.



# THE HARVEST THANKSGIVING

*is A MONTH LATER than usual this year*

**Sunday 21st OCTOBER 2018**

*Within the 9.30am PARISH MASS*



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

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

## **JUNIOR CHURCH**

Junior Church has begun again for the new school year.

*What do we do?*

We are learning about God and what it means to follow Jesus in today's world. We have simple Bible stories or lessons and then have fun with games or crafts!

*When do we meet?*

Join us any Sunday during term time at 9:30am during morning mass.

### **Penny Jar Projects**

Our Junior Church children (and any adults who want to contribute) regularly collect small change in our Penny Jar and give it to local charities – mainly Gravesham Foodbank and the House of Mercy, both of which support the needy in our area. The children learn that there are people who don't have as much as we do and who need help. They also learn that when added up, a little can make a BIG difference!



Why not save and contribute your small change? Bring it along on any Sunday during term time and give it to the Junior Church teacher on duty.

We regularly contribute our collection at Easter and Harvest direct to the charities.

*Nancy Hughes*

## **Diocesan Visit by the Archbishop of Canterbury**

The Archbishop of Canterbury will be making a pastoral visit to our Diocese on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th October this year.

This will be an opportunity for us to share with the Archbishop something of the diverse life of the Diocese, the communities we serve and the challenges that we face. It is hoped that Archbishop Justin will meet with a wide variety of people – both within and beyond the Church – with opportunities to share his own faith in Jesus with them and to encourage them in their daily lives.

Over these two days the Archbishop will visit a number of church-based community projects, schools and mission initiatives, seeing how these sit within the shared Called Together vision. There will be times for shared prayer and questions, not just face-to-face, but also using social media, so that many of us will be able to share in the visit as we engage with the Archbishop in these ways.

Fuller details of where the Archbishop will be visiting will be made available shortly on the Diocesan website.

The visit will culminate in a service at Rochester Cathedral on Tuesday 30 October at 5.30pm, to which all are invited. This will be a chance to give thanks for the life and mission of the Diocese, with a particular focus on the issue of Modern Slavery. Doors will open at 5pm.

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Date for your Diary:

### **Harvest Festival**

21<sup>st</sup> October 2018, **9.30am Mass** followed by **12.30 Harvest Lunch**, details to follow via church social committee



## The Commandments

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September the M4 study group started their focussed exploration of the Ten Commandments. We discussed the “Priorities” found in the commandments as well as in Jesus’ summary.

During the lively discussion our ideas focussed in on the priority to love and to ensure that love of both God and neighbour is brought into action.

You are very welcome to join as many or as few of the upcoming sessions as you are able to, Mass is at 6.30pm with refreshment and reflections following after.

### **Monday, 1 October, Reverence**

Explores the vital importance of reverence and worship for God and the danger of making idols of what we love.

### **Monday 5 November, Rest**

This session further explores the theme of reverence in the third commandment and the linked theme of rest and the Sabbath in the rhythm of our lives.

### **Monday, 3 December, Respect**

Focussing on the honour shown within the family and respect for the sanctity of life, this session explores the theme of respect.

### **Monday, 10 December, Righteousness**

Looks at the commandments about adultery and theft and their implications for our daily lives.

### **Monday, 17 December, Reliability**

What are the dangers of dishonesty and covetousness? This session looks at the damage they may cause.





# October 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, \*instant noodles, **\*COUS COUS** , \*instant rice
- Vegetarian Foods
- **\*TINNED MEAT and TINNED MEAT IN SAUCES & TINNED PIES**
- Coffee, tea, \*hot chocolate, sugar.
- Tins of spaghetti, **\*BEANS, \*TINNED MACARONI CHEESE**, jars of pasta sauce
- Cereals, cereal bars, sweet & chocolate biscuits, and
- Childrens treats
- Custard – instant, tinned, **\*RICE PUDDING**, \*tinned fruit, sponge puddings
- Jam, peanut butter, nuttella spread, marmite
- No fridge/UHT fruit juice.,\*no fridge/UHT milk,
- Squash to dilute
- \*shampoo/ conditioner Deodorants, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shower gels, bars of soap.
- Ladies personal toiletries, Toilet Rolls, Nappies size 4 & 5
- Laundry tablets, washing up liquid, \*spray household cleaners
- **\*TIN OPENERS**

**\*ABOVE ITEMS ARE CURRENTLY LOW IN STOCK AT THE FOODBANK.**

**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 RCGG Life Start  
Connections & supported by Gravesham Churches Together  
Registered charity number 1135341 Registered in England & Wales  
graveshamfoodbank@gmail.com [www.gravesham.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.gravesham.foodbank.org.uk)



## CARPE DIEM

This is a quotation from the Roman poet Horace:

*‘Strain your wine and prove your wisdom; life is short; should hope be more?’*

*In the moment of our talking, envious time has ebb'd away.*

***Seize the present; trust tomorrow e'en as little as you may.***

A former Prime Minister, Sir Harold MacMillan, said that if you hadn't lived in the generation before the First World War you would not be able to appreciate a golden era and a certain sweetness of life. The British Empire was at its height and the western world was unaware of the great upheavals and carnage that were to follow. Today, in our 'cold realism' we would point to the poverty and bad conditions that also existed side by side with wealth and privilege. However, that's not the point. We all look back at certain periods of our life as seemingly happy and ideal compared to the present. It may be when we were younger, or things were working out just right and none of the complications of later life had come into play. As children or young adults discovering the world, or living in times of innocence, things seem so much better then. I loved being a curate before I became a vicar. I just worked as a priest without responsibility for administration, policy or raising money. Parishioners are more indulgent with a curate than with the vicar. He always gets the blame when things go wrong even when it's not his fault! None of these things can be recaptured. They are firmly embedded in our past. Comforting as the memory is, it's just nostalgia.

We can look back at times past and think how good it would be to have lived then. But when you consider it in detail there's always a downside even in periods of peace and prosperity – no dentists, no recourse to justice for many people, frequent plagues and no modern wcs! I hope that someone will in due course invent a 'time-capture machine'. It will enable us to go back into the past and watch history evolving without us being caught up in it. I would love to have stood in the crowd when the Emperor Constantine dedicated his new Christian capital city Constantinople, in 330, or watched the battle of Eddington in 878 when

king Alfred the Great defeated the 'great heathen' (Danish) army, or stood in the papal court when St Francis came to ask Pope Innocent III's blessing on his new order of poor brothers. You could go on indefinitely using the 't-c machine' like this (as long as it didn't break down and you got trapped in the past!). What we saw might be very different from how we imagine it. It's easy to have a romantic and sanitized picture of the past, even when it's our own past. Five continuous friends and I all joined the seminary to train for the priesthood fifty years ago this month. Life then in North Oxford all seemed so golden and happy and carefree. At the same time there were student riots in Paris which nearly brought down the French Government. There were demonstrations in London against the Western involvement in the war in Vietnam. It was far from golden and carefree. If we were to go back like this we would be watching the reality of the time which was just as complicated and confused as the present.

Looking back at the past maybe consoling and give us cause to reflect on the strange way events and conditions affect our lives, but it is also deluding. We need to be realistic about the present. There is nothing more than we have now. The future may hold better things but we cannot be certain. We live at a time when we are bombarded by media telling us we need more and better. These are shallow voices set to deceive us. Far better to take stock of what we have and make the best of it. This is what Horace means in his poem. Make the most of the present. Seize the advantages that we already have. By all means set out to improve your lot but first of all be content with what you have at your fingertips. Horace was not a Christian (he died in 8 BC) but the idea is totally consistent with the Christian concept of life. Jesus entered our humanity to be present at all times. He comes to give us abundant life in the present – "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and for ever" Hebrews 13:8. We are called to respond to him now both in the stability of our own lives and in sharing his redemptive work. When was there ever a time when the world did not need his redemption and healing touch? However worrying or depressing conditions may be in the world, our society or the Church it's not good enough to just grumble or despair. Now is the time to hear the voice of the Lord and to respond. Personally I am haunted by a text from the

epistle to the Hebrews – “Let us listen for the voice of the Lord and enter into his peace”. His peace, available to us right now, is both the rock of our personal faith and the base from which we try to show the reality of God’s love.

See “A saint for September” for an inspiring example of someone who looked about him and seized the present moment. *Fr Andrew*

### ***A Saint for September – St Vincent de Paul***

In a small rural village in Gascony in the south of France in the late sixteenth century a farm boy went to the school run by the village priest. It was obvious that he was exceptionally bright. The priest persuaded his parents to send him to the local seminary to train as a priest. In order to do this they had to sell their most valuable possession – their cow. The boy, Vincent, did very well. Becoming a priest meant that he would have a stable job and an income (a “living”). He was left a property by a wealthy lady and he had to go and arrange for its sale. It was easier to go by sea along the coast rather than across the mountains by land. The boat was attacked by Barbary pirates and Vincent was taken captive to the slave market in Tunis. Because he was small and not strong he wasn’t suitable as a galley slave but he saw what a terrible life the slaves had. He was sold as servant to a fisherman but he was constantly seasick so he was sold again, this time to a very successful physician. Vincent proved to be a very useful assistant to his new owner and learnt a great deal about medicine and healing. However, his master died suddenly and he was back in the slave market. His new master was a former priest who had converted to Islam, married several wives and lived in the hills above Tunis. One of the wives was very impressed by Vincent and berated her husband for leaving the Church. He decided to return and he and Vincent eventually escaped to France. After going to Rome Vincent came to Paris. As he journeyed he was deeply affected by the poverty and misery of rural communities. People were nominally Catholic but knew nothing about their faith, and the churches were doing nothing to help

them. In Paris he persuaded wealthy people to support his work of mercy financially. He had a personal mission to galley slaves and arranged for the ransom of over twelve hundred. He founded hospitals, assisted war victims and gave help to the poorest people. To firmly establish and continue the work he founded an order, 'the

Congregation', of priests to minister to people especially the poor. The priests took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. They were not to seek anything for themselves. Vincent remembered his own early formation among clergy who sought comfortable 'livings' and protection from poverty and trained his priests to see themselves as servants of God's people. He said that if a priest was praying and was urgently needed he must abandon his prayer and attend to the emergency. The action itself was a prayer and he could always return to his prayer later or know that others were upholding him in prayer. With St Louise de Maurillac he founded the Sisters of Charity to work among the poor especially in rural areas. The 'mission' of St Vincent grew and grew and had an enormous effect on the Church in the seventeenth century and continues to this day. Often the church was the only institution that provided assistance for people in trouble and poverty. It paved the way for our concept of state assistance and Social Security. St Vincent is the patron saint of all works of charity. The Society of St Vincent de Paul (the SVP) was set up in the nineteenth century to continue the Churches work of charity and approach to the poor. It still continues its work in all major RC parishes today. In the C of E we have the Church Army, the Mothers' Union and other excellent groups but nothing quite like the SVP network.

St Vincent died in old age in 1660. He was small of stature but large of heart and fervent in his desire to make the love of God real to those in greatest need in his day. We learn a lot from his example and his writings but, again, it's not enough just to look back. Although the Government is responsible for social security and aims to eradicate poverty it doesn't cover or answer all needs. Let us not be blind to the needs of our own times. I wonder how people in a hundred years' time will judge our present society. We are fierce in our judgement of the past but we are easily blind to the ills of the present. The moral

spotlight is currently on abuse and inequality but it will move away as the media tires of these issues and looks for others. In my mind the plight of so many refugees moving across the world (over a thousand drowned in July),

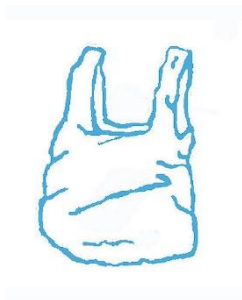
the diminishing respect for the beginning and end of life, and the continuous gap between the extremes of poverty and wealth are issues on which we may well be held to account by the future. Let us pray and

hope that the churches will not be judged, locally or internationally, as ignoring the dire plight of so many people.

St Vincent de Paul is celebrated in the Calendar on 27<sup>th</sup> September.

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## **NUMBERS OF BAGS PLUMMET**



Congratulations! You are using many fewer plastic bags. On average, you now use about 19 a year – as opposed to 140 a year.

The number of disposable carrier bags issued by the seven biggest supermarket chains has declined by 86 per cent since the charge was introduced in 2015, according to statistics from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Michal Gove, the Environment Secretary, has said it is vital to reverse the 'rising tide of plastic waste finding its ways into our rivers, seas and oceans, and the catastrophic impact this is having on our marine environment.

## HIGHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On the evening of Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July, Higham WI held a social evening where there were many plants for sale. The “Bring and Buy” stall was heaving with contributions and the money raised on these two tables was donated to our funds.

Our next get-together was on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July when 14 ladies met for a trip to the seaside! We met on the new Gravesend Pier and boarded the ferry to Tilbury where a bus was waiting to take us to Tilbury Town Railway Station. A very interesting journey alongside the River Thames brought us to Southend Central station. After a short walk along the High Street, we soon reached the promenade where several of us had booked lunch at “The Fisherman’s Wharf” restaurant (with a good view of the Thames) and we enjoyed a meal of freshly caught fish. After a walk along the promenade – and an ice cream – we were ready for the journey home. We were all very grateful to the committee for planning the day trip and we hear that plans are already in hand for another day out next year!

Higham WI held their Birthday celebration evening in the Memorial Hall on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Our Committee ladies had prepared the hall with a birthday theme and tables were soon filled with members looking forward to a festive evening. Wine and fruit juice were plentiful and we were soon helping ourselves to the cold buffet prepared by “Katie’s Klassic Catering”.

Soon the tables were cleared and we were treated to a performance by GEMS – a choral group – who sang songs from the musicals and - we knew all the words - Mama Mia, Kismet, Sound of Music, etc. We thoroughly enjoyed their music and have invited them to return later in the year.

The next Higham Wi meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

*Josephine Smith*

## **PHEW – IT’S SO HOT, HOT, HOT**

How did you all cope in the very hot, hot weather? If you are like me then not very well at all. One day especially I felt so hot and thirstyl went to the taps for a glass of water, then I went to the tap again for another. I felt something stop me and it made me feel so guilty.

What if I had to travel miles and miles for my water only to find it dirty and contaminated? Oh my – I felt dreadful. How can half of us have plenty and half nothing at all? What can I do, I think to myself? In this world people are thirsty, starving, homeless and there are foodbanks in this Britain, our own home towns, as well as in the rest of the world.

Well this is Britain. We got through two world wars didn’t we? If not us our parents or grandparents, etc, did. How did they all get through? By all pulling together, helping one another. We can all give a little, not only money for charity or food for the foodbank. But also by talking and saying to people “Is there any way I can help you today?”. Or go to see people who are lonely and just want a cup of tea and a little chat.

So I have my answer. How about you?

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## **HISTORY GROUP**

The last of 3 village walks with Andrew Rootes - covering Lower Higham  
[30 September 2018](#)

Meet at 2 pm at St Mary’s Church

The walk is mostly on the flat, across fields and will last around 2 hours

£4 per person - includes hot drinks and cakes in the church at the end of the walk

To book a place: Email : [info@highamvillagehistory.org.uk](mailto:info@highamvillagehistory.org.uk)  
or phone our secretary on [01634 718285](tel:01634718285)



# REMEMBRANCE 2018

## Commemoration of the Centenary of the end of World War I



### Tommy

£33 (inc. VAT & Postage)

10"/25cm high Perspex® Tommy figure of a World War One soldier

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Following the 2014 ceramic poppies at the Tower of London, which represented the 888,246 British and Commonwealth Service men and women who lost their lives in the First World War, this Tommy commemorates the centenary of the end of the 1914-1918 war and those who lost their lives.

The profits from the sale of the Tommies will enable Remembered to support the following charities: The Royal Foundation, Walking With The Wounded, Combat Stress, Help for Heroes, The Commonwealth War Graves Foundation and Project Equinox: Housing Veterans. Each of the Tommies is made by veterans employed by Royal British Legion Industries.

Higham with Merston PCC would like to purchase some of these figures to display around St John's Church on Remembrance Sunday. If you are interested in making a donation towards the cost of these figures, please contact:

Val Laurens Tel: 01474 823423



### Poppy Wreath

£50 (suggested donation)

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Also to commemorate this centenary, Higham with Merston PCC would like to renew the 2 wreaths, manufactured by Royal British Legion, that are currently placed at the altar in St John's on Remembrance Sunday.

If you would like to donate towards the cost of these, please contact:

Ken Aldous, Poppy Appeal Organiser for Higham

Tel: 01474 823326 (or speak to Ken or Julie after Sunday Mass)

# REMEMBRANCE 2018

## Commemoration of the Centenary of the end of World War I



The bell ringers at St John's will be joining the national call for ringers to ring their church bells at 12.30 p.m. on Remembrance Sunday. They hope to ring for about 30 minutes of called changes. The bells will be half muffled – the traditional mark of respect by ringers for the deceased.

The bells will be rung again, in clear ringing, at 7.05 pm, for just 10 minutes to celebrate the guns falling silent, 100 years ago on Armistice Day.

As Alfred, Lord Tennyson wrote:



'Ring out old shapes of foul disease  
Ring out the narrowing lust for gold  
Ring out the thousand wars of old  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.'  
(In Memoriam)

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**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2018**

**Solemn Mass of Requiem for the War Dead**

**10.00 am**

**Ending with the Act of Remembrance**

**at 11.00 am**

## LOVE IN A BOX 2018

(Showing love in action)



We are again participating in the Mustard Seed Mission's Love in a Box appeal.

The Mustard Seed Mission is a Christian organisation based in Eastbourne. They have, for many years, distributed shoeboxes filled with small items to disadvantaged children in east Europe. Last year the Mission distributed 30,000 boxes to children in Moldova – one of the poorest countries. These are distributed

at churches, schools, orphanages and hospitals.

By the time the boxes arrive at the border of Moldova the journey has taken the drivers approximately five days. Pastor Mark, who is involved with the distribution in churches, said "the poverty among the people is why congregations have been falling, and this act of love is what renews their faith in the kindness of others". The smiles on the faces of the children when they receive the boxes are a joy to see.



Please would you fill a box for a child this year? The leaflets will be at the back of St John's Church from the middle of September. These give suggestions as to what to put in the box for each age group. The boxes need to be at St John's or to Wendy Hance by 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Thank you

*Wendy Hance*

01474 822702

# WINTER VINTAGE AND CRAFT FAIR

@

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER

10:30 am-2:00 pm



Tables for hire to sell your own items

or

just come along and buy

Contact Helen

07528472686

TALK

HIGHAM VILLAGE  
HISTORY GROUP

# THE HISTORY OF *Puddings*

NOVEMBER 15TH 2018

8.00PM

**SPEAKER:** JULIA DAVIS

Millhouse Hall, School Lane Higham ME5 3 7L

What a treat & talk, with  
samples, on the history of  
these naughty but nice dishes.  
Remember a traditionally cold  
Christmas? Meeting to there will  
be wine and a raffle.

Free for 18 and over.  
Under 18 includes 100ml of soft drink.

[www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk](http://www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk)  
email: [info@highamvillagehistory.org.uk](mailto:info@highamvillagehistory.org.uk)  
telephone: 01634 778295



# ALL SAINTS DAY



***Thursday 1st NOVEMBER 2018***

**A Holy Day of Obligation for Christ's faithful in honour of all His Saints**

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**Morning Prayer: 8.45 am**

**Said Mass: 9.30 am**

**Evening Prayer: 6.45pm**

**SOLEMN MASS: 7.30 pm**

**Bring and Share food after Solemn Mass. Wine provided.**

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**Holy Communion is available for the sick or housebound upon request**





# All Souls Day

*Friday,  
2nd November 2018*

The traditional day of prayer  
for the faithful departed

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Only the names written on  
the lists in Church will be  
read out at the requiem  
masses below.

Lists will be available two  
weeks before All Souls' day.

Said Requiem Mass  
9.30am

**SOLEMN REQUIEM**  
7.30pm



*Rest eternal grant them O Lord;  
And let light perpetual  
shine upon them.*

## Remembrance Sunday

11th November 2018



Solemn Requiem

**At 10am**

for all those killed  
in warfare



Followed by an  
Act of Remembrance

at the  
War Memorials  
in S.John's Church

*Jesu mercy; Mary pray.*

11th November is also the

**32nd Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**

Mass of the Sunday will  
be offered at 6.30pm

Holy Communion may be  
received at both masses.

Sunday obligation is fulfilled  
at either mass.



## NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS' GUILD



Our last meeting before our summer break, was filled with colour and contrast. Our

guest speaker was a lovely lady called Jo Mabbutt. She brought with her inspiration and a fascination for working with different fabrics, lace and beads and talked about how to put colours together. Everyone enjoyed her talk. The techniques were intriguing and the samples superb.

Our 100 hearts project has all but finished and the precious hearts delivered safely. All were created to remember 100 years since the end of the first world war. There will be an exhibition and some of the hearts have been donated to go into an auction to raise money for SSAFA. The armed forces charity.

Thinking about embroidery, as I do quite often, you may be surprised how inventive people living through the world wars were. We have all heard about bridal gowns and underwear made from parachutes, sometimes embellished with embroidery and stitchery to make them special. But, did you know that grain sacks were also used to make clothing during the wars? Often called "Hunger Clothes" in China and used world wide to clothe the needy and the poor, the grain sacks would be embellished and embroidered. The American grain sacks were printed with patterns like gingham and florals to enable thrifty ladies to make dresses and clothes for themselves and their children, as the labels were designed to wash out easily. Even in times of adversity, embellishment, embroidery and stitchery did their bit in a very small way, to add colour to the lives of the people that created and wore them.



Well we don't have to make clothes out of grain sacks anymore, but the embroidery and embellishment of clothing survives to this day, bringing colour and even sparkle to our lives.

If you would like to share your stitching experience with like minded people of all ages, please come along to one of our meetings. Have a look at our web page at [www.northkentembroiders.co.uk](http://www.northkentembroiders.co.uk) where you will find all the information you need. You will also find photographs of some of our work and a list of all our planned meetings for next year. You can also pop into Gravesend library for more information. You will always receive a warm welcome, and home-made cake!

When you think of family and friends, you may also remember the milestones in their lives - births, deaths and marriages to name a few. Birthdays, engagements, new job, new home and so it goes on.

The joy and satisfaction of giving a homemade gift, outweighs anything that can be bought, (except maybe a diamond) even if it doesn't come out 'quite right', you have still created a unique gift with all that it entailed. Gone are the days when Grandma would knit Christmas jumpers, or Mum would make a crochet plant stand, which is a shame. These things can be bought cheaply now, but the fact someone put time, effort and love into a home-made gift just for you, cannot be bought, and should be celebrated.

You may be more than happy to craft at home, or you may be a bit nervous to join a group of strangers, but sharing your ideas and ambitions with other like-minded people makes the experience so much more enjoyable. We offer help and advice about all things stitchery, and friendships made are well worth the effort. We are a non-profit making charitable organisation. We are very often asked to participate in a project, that raises awareness for a cause. For

instance, our Guild was asked if we would like to take part in the 100 hearts project. Commemorating 100 years since the end of the First World War. We were asked to make a heart, created in felt and decorated accordingly. We all had the same instructions, we all had the same basic kit, but the variety and diversity which were adopted made the hearts unique and brilliant. Some were dedicated to family members who perished or were affected by the horrors of war. Others were dedicated to the animals that died working and helping with communication and transportation. Each one as individual as the person who made it. Some are being donated to eventually be auctioned and the money raised is to go to SSAFA - the services charity. Please look at the 100 hearts section of our web page, it lists all the hearts individually and explains the inspiration behind the making of them.



It was a pleasure and a privilege to be part of it and I am sure it won't be long before we have another project to enjoy.

We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month except August. We will be very happy to meet you, and you will find a warm welcome, people of all ages and abilities and of course home-made cake, what's not to like?

Any information you need is available on our web page.  
[www.northkentembroiders.co.uk](http://www.northkentembroiders.co.uk)

Happy Stitching.

(all Photographs and links are used with permission)



*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.



# VILLAGE DIARY OCTOBER 2018

## October

Wed 3rd Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30 pm  
 Fri 5th HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm  
**Sat 6th Coffee & Conversation** in the Vestry Hall 10.30 - 12.30pm  
**Sun 7th Dedication Feast of S. Mary The Virgin Church** at S.Mary's Church at 10am

Wed 10th Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm  
 Fri 12th HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm  
 Sat 13th The Big Knit- Rochester Cathedral from 10-1pm

Sun 14th Boot Fair - Memorial Hall  
 Mon 15th Parish Council Meeting - Memorial Hall - 7.30pm  
 Wed 17th Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm  
 Fri 19th HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm

**Sun 21st Harvest Thanksgiving Within the 9.30am Parish Mass**  
 Fri 26th HiARA Monthly Meeting - Memorial Hall - 2-4pm  
**Sun 28th BRITISH SUMMERTIME ENDS 200.AM**  
*Don't forget to put your clocks back 1hour on Saturday night.*

## November

**Thurs 1st All Saints Day** - Said Mass 9.30 am Solemn Mass 7.30pm  
**Fri 2nd All Souls Day** - Said Requiem Mass 9.30am Solemn Requiem 7.30pm  
**Sun 11th Remembrance Sunday** -Solemn Requiem at **10am**

### CHURCH DRAW RESULTS JULY 2018

£50 210 Mr Cass  
 £10 332 Mrs Wood

### CHURCH DRAW RESULTS AUGUST 2018

£50 519 Mrs Eldridge  
 £10 379 A. Dray

**NEXT DRAW 24TH SEPTEMBER**