

The Easter Parade

'Tell me the old, old story'.

That was one of the songs I used to sing in Sunday School (as they were then called). The song was about the story of Jesus' love for us. Of course some 'old, old stories' have been used for a long time unquestioningly and not given quite the right impression. We are coming to the time when we will be thinking of the love of Christ who offered himself as a sacrifice for our salvation. Strange as it seems the New Testament tells us it was in the plan of the Father that this should happen as our means of reconciliation with him. However, if asked the question 'Who killed Jesus?' many people through the ages would have said 'the Jews' – and it helped them to believe this for it fed their anti-Semitic prejudices. Of course it was not true – the Roman army of occupation literally executed him. It was no more true than saying all Russians were Communists or all Germans Nazis. Yet for centuries the Jews suffered from this – and the Pope, on behalf of Christians, has apologised and asked forgiveness for past injury and hurt – and rightly so. In the Nicene Creed, used for 1500 years week by week and on Solemnities, it is not the Jewish leaders or people who get a mention but Pontius Pilate. Yet the Creed says Jesus was crucified ;For our sake he was crucified *under*; *Pontius Pilate* not '*by*' him; meaning during his rule as Governor just as one might say that the last person executed in this country was 'under' Elizabeth II not '*by*' her. The theological 'Whodunit' of the *old, old story* is, if anything, that God did it himself. It was done not that we might persecute Our Lord's own people (remember Jesus, Mary, Paul, John, etc were Jewish) but that we might become his new Israel, adopted and chosen by this act of self-giving, sacrificial love for us.

The Game of Charades

Do you play this sometimes? Where you mime words or whole things. It can be good fun! Perhaps we could try a Holy Week and Easter version. Of course, you'd have to change it a little. They would have to be characters or events from *the Book*. The shallow Roman Governor who washed his hands of the affair – didn't want to know. The apparently best-friend, Peter, - who denied Jesus three times. The friend who sold him out with a kiss and for cash. The loyal band who rallied round him on Palm Sunday, shared food with him on Thursday but abandoned him when it came to the crunch on Friday and hung about doing nothing on Saturday. The Mother who watched and waited and followed - all the way to the bitter end. The religious people who could and should have known better – but didn't. The secret disciple, Joseph of Arimathea, who believed but kept it quiet.

The one dragged out of the crowd to help *that Man* carry the Cross. Those crucified with him – one a mocker, the other a penitent. The indifferent soldiers and crowd – out to enjoy the whole thing before the rigours of the Holy Day to come. The list could go on and on as the story unfolds and the parade of characters and events passes by in the ‘old, old story’. Yet come the great days of Holy Week and Easter what will each of us be doing? Playing a game of charades or will our personal response be nothing more than a charade? For there is an element in each of the events and characters which can apply to us all when it comes to observing the greatest days of the Church’s year as, in word and sacrament, we tell the old, old story. Will people be ‘on parade’ willingly or not; only on Sunday or on all the great days? Which characters would we willingly and honestly compare ourselves to from the list above when it comes to the three great days this year?

The Emperor’s New Clothes

Judy Garland always sticks in my mind singing a song, in the film ‘Easter Parade’. Everyone parades up and down at Eastertide in their new clothes and hats. Perhaps, like me, you remember getting (or still do it) new clothes for Easter? It was a tradition – but I think the meaning was well and truly lost as families outdid each other to show-off their offspring. It was supposed to symbolise being clothed with the new life of the risen Christ as, each Easter, we recall and renew our baptism into all he did for us – on the Cross and through the resurrection. We still symbolically clothe the newly baptised in our baptism services in S John’s. The story of the Emperor’s new clothes tells us he convinced himself – aided and abetted by others – that what he had on was not only true but the best possible clothes. In the end he found he had nothing on as he was left naked and exposed to ridicule. Our response to Holy Week and Easter reflects something of the way we have clothed ourselves in the life, faith and light of Christ crucified and risen. Either our personal Easter parade will be worth seeing and believing or leave our example and faith open to ridicule and mockery.

Easter Parade or Easter Charade?

However we dress up our faith and practice it willingly or unwillingly, openly or secretly – He who offered us the love and sacrifice of himself sees and knows all. A response from each hears is required one way or another – and therein lies the freedom God has given us to choose or to reject what the message of the parade or charade only our hearts can tell us – and only God will truly know. May we choose that which gives him the glory, majesty and praise his sacrificial love deserves, if not demands. Happy Easter!

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 & 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>)

<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).

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

April 2018 at S. John's, Higham

Calendar and Mass Intentions

TIMES) **Sung Mass 9.30am** **DAYS)** **Wed, Fri. & Sat. 9.30am.**

EXCEPTIONS or ADDITIONAL TIMES see shaded boxed areas below

DAY	DATE	CELEBRATION	INTENTION
SUN	1ST	EASTER DAY	10AM (+) THE PARISH
Mon	2nd	Easter Monday - <i>Bank Holiday</i>	10am (f) Newly baptised/confirmed
Tue	3rd	Easter Tuesday	(f) The bereaved
Wed	4th	Easter Wednesday	(f) All Communicants
Th.	5th	Easter Thursday	(f) Messianic Jews
Fri	6th	Easter Friday	(f) Atheists & agnostics
Sat	7th	Easter Saturday	(f) Christian missionaries
SUN	8TH	2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (<i>Low Sunday</i>)	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	9TH	THE ANNUNCIATION (<i>Transferred Solemnity</i>) OF THE LORD	9.30am (S) 6.30pm THE unborn Walsingham
Tue	10th	Eastertide Feria - (Wk 2)	Recent converts
Wed	11th	S.Stanislaus <i>Archbishop, Martyr</i>	(m) Church in Eastern Europe
Th.	12th	Eastertide Feria	Annual Parish Assembly
Fri	13th	Eastertide Feria	Hungry & needy
Sat	14th	Eastertide Feria	All seafarers
SUN	15TH	3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	16th	Eastertide Feria - (Wk 3) <i>monthly 'requiem'</i>	+RIPs & April anniversaries
Tue	17th	Eastertide Feria	Persecuted Christians
Wed	18th	Eastertide Feria	The dying
Th.	19th	S.Alphege <i>Archbishop, Martyr</i>	(m) The Archbishop
Fri	20th	Eastertide Feria	Lapsed Communicants
Sat	21st	S.Anselm <i>Archbishop, Teacher</i>	(m) HM The Queen (92nd Birthday)
SUN	22ND	4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	23rd	S.GEORGE <i>Martyr</i> PATRON OF ENGLAND	6.30pm (S) English Christians
Tue	24th	Eastertide Feria - (Wk 4)	Holy Land Christians
Wed	25th	S.MARK, <i>EVANGELIST</i>	(f) The Coptic Churches
Th.	26th	Eastertide Feria	Retired Clergy
Fri	27th	Eastertide Feria	The hungry & needy
Sat	28th	Eastertide Feria	2018 Wedding Couples
SUN	29TH	5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	30th	Eastertide Feria - (Wk 5)	Our new PCC & Officers

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

THE APRIL 'REQUIEM'

is on Monday 16th April 2018 at 6.30 pm

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

2 nd	Hazel Bate		Lilian Emily Aldina Irvine
3 rd	Audrey Rogers		Francis William Waterhouse
4 th	James Frederick Lewing	18 th	Jean Dilks
5 th	Hilary Eileen Glenister	19 th	Peter Poulton
6 th	Alan Tearle Ford		Eunice Erena Frier
	Mervyn W ^m Shakespeare	20 th	John William Burrow <i>PRIEST</i> *
	Hudson	21 st	Gladys Irene Hance
7 th	Miriam Bramhall		Peter George Lee
	Mildred Glendinning		Stephen John Hall
	Annie Findlay	23 rd	Martha Helen Jasper
9 th	Irene Florence Elizabeth Hill	24 th	Roger William Davison <i>PRIEST</i>
11 th	Matthew Merrikin <i>PRIEST</i> *		Bertha Elizabeth Price
	Kathleen Lockett		Harry Dean Ruck <i>Baby</i>
	Constance <u>Dorothy</u> Harper	25 th	George Cantrell Allen <i>PRIEST</i> *
12 th	Rose Emily Pope		Brenda Rosetta Nunn
	Robyn James Dyke		Robert <u>Allan</u> Price
13 th	Peggy Hughes	26 th	Eileen Mary Rice
	James Thomas ['Jim'] Agnew	27 th	Frank Carruthers
14 th	Leslie John Gibbs		Ann-Marie Figg
	George Edward Bentley	28 th	John Herbert Wheeldon
15 th	Lilian Walker	29 th	George William Summers
	Dorothy Titheridge	30 th	Michael Smith
16 th	Sonia Walton		Geoffrey Richard Poole
	Winston Dilks		

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

~ 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.

EASTER WEEK

EASTER DAY APRIL 1ST

Acts 10.34, 37-43

Colossians 3.1-4 or 1Corinthians 5.6-8

**John 20.1-9 (am) or Luke 24.13-35
(pm)**

M Acts 2.14. 22-33	Matt. 28.8-15
T Acts 2.36-41	John 20.11-18
W Acts 3.1-10	Luke 24.13-35
Th Acts 3.11-26	Luke 24.35-48
F Acts 4.1-12	John 21.1-14
S Acts 4.13-21	Mark 16.9-15

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 8TH

Acts 4.32-35 1 John 5.1-6
John 20.19-31

M THE ANNUNCIATION APRIL 9TH OF THE LORD

*Solemnity transferred from 25th March
because*

Holy Week and Easter Week take precedence

Isaiah 7.10-14, 8.10

Hebrews 10.4-10

Luke 1.26-38

T Acts 4.32-37	John 3.7-15
W Acts 5.17-28	John 3. 16-21
Th Acts 5.27-33	John 3.31-36
F Acts 5.34-42	John 6.1-15
S Acts 6.1-7	John 6.16-21

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 15TH

Acts 3.13-19

1 John 2.1-5

Luke 24:35-48

M Acts 6.8-15	John 6.22-29
T Acts 7.51-8.1	John 6.30-35
W Acts 8.1-8	John 6.35-40
Th. Acts 8.26-40	John 6.44-51
F Acts 9.1-20	John 6.52-59
S Acts 9.31-42	John 6.60-69

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 22ND

Acts 4.8-12

1 John 3.1-12

John 10.27-30

M S. GEORGE APRIL 23RD

Revelation. 12.10-12

2 Tim. 2.8-13; 3.10-12

John 15.18-21 or John 15.1-8

T Acts 11.19-26	John 10.22-30
W S. MARK, Evangelist	April 25th
1 Peter 5.5-14	Mark 16.15-20
Th Acts 13.13-25	John 13.16-20
F Acts 13.26-33	John 14.1-6
S Acts 13.44-52	John 14.7-14

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 29TH

Acts 9.26-31

1 John 3.18-24

John 15.1-8

M Acts 14.5-18	John 14.21-26
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End by using the Sunday Bulletin 'Opening Prayer' or this 'Prayer after Reading Scripture'

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so

to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience,

and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast

the hope of everlasting life which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

+ EASTER WEEK AT S.JOHN'S +

EASTER EVE [Holy Saturday]: March 31st

Confession available just after Midday or at 7pm

9.00pm SOLEMN VIGIL, RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL
VOWS AND FIRST MASS OF EASTER (EVE)
Followed by Fizz and Refreshments

EASTER DAY:

April 1st

9.15am Morning Prayer

10am SOLEMN MASS OF THE DAY
WITH RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

6.00pm Evening Prayer

6.30pm Mass (*if required*)

Easter Week to Low Sunday: 2nd April - 8th April

Each day of this week is a Feast of the Lord's Resurrection. Therefore no other celebrations, however important they are eg. Annunciation, or S.George's Day, may replace them.

	<i>Morning Prayer</i>	<i>MASS</i>	<i>Evening Prayer</i>
EASTER MONDAY	<u>9.30am</u>	<u>10am</u>	6.00pm
EASTER TUESDAY	9.00am	7.30pm	7.00pm
EASTER WEDNESDAY	9.00am	9.30am	6.00pm
EASTER THURSDAY	9.00am	7.30pm	7.00pm
EASTER FRIDAY	9.00am	9.30am	6.00pm
EASTER SATURDAY	9.00am	9.30am	6.00pm

LOW SUNDAY (2nd SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE)

8.45am Morning Prayer

6.00pm Evening Prayer

9.30am Solemn Mass

6.30pm Mass (*if required*)

MUSTARD SEED MISSION

(Love in a Box)



We have received a certificate of appreciation and a letter thanking everyone who filled a shoebox before Christmas. They distributed 30,000 boxes in Moldova (which is one of the poorest countries in Europe) to children who would otherwise not have had any presents. **We sent 51 boxes last**

year which was our lowest number for many years. Hopefully in 2018 more boxes will be filled from Higham.

By the time the boxes arrived at the border of Moldova the journey had taken the drivers approximately 5 days. Once there, and customs had been cleared, the team began delivering the gifts to reach the children in time for Christmas.

Many of the children attend church services where they receive their boxes. The Pastor explained that the poverty among the people is why the congregation has been falling and this act of love is what renews their faith in the kindness of others.



Wendy Hance

BAGS 2 CHURCH

The collection of your donations took place on 7th March and you will be pleased to know that £132 was raised. Well done to everyone who contributed.

Julie Healey



Higham Parish Council

Annual Parish Assembly

Thursday 12th April 2018

at

7:30 pm

Higham Memorial Hall

Featuring a talk by Andrew Rootes on

“Life on the farm in Higham”

Andrew will give us an insight into farming in Higham over the years with his collection of farm photographs

Buffet table will be provided





*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.



Vintage Sale @ St Johns Church



Saturday

5th May 2018

from

10.30 to 2.30 pm

Tables for hire to sell your own items
or just come and buy

If you're interested in hiring a table

Contact Helen on 07528472686

All proceeds raised will go to Christian Aid

The Solemnity of

The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ
to the Blessed Virgin *Commonly called 'Lady Day'*



will be celebrated on Monday 9th April 2018

It has been transferred from its normal date (March 25th) to the first 'free' day after Holy Week and Easter Week when NO FEAST WHATSOEVER of Our Lord, Our Lady, S.George or any Saint may be observed.

This major Festival (Solemnity) is the day which celebrates the beginning of the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**As this is a major day in the calendar of the Church of England so there will be TWO said masses:
9.30am and 6.30pm**

AS WE WERE

From December 1927 to December 1938 a very methodical and meticulous person cut out and pasted in nine note books all articles from The Chatham News relating to Higham. These are a record of village and church life these years just before the War. Unfortunately there is no identifying name attached but the same hand is writing the church log book until shortly after the War. The hand is very round and neat. It would be fascinating to know who it was.

The articles illustrate village and parish life well before televisions, phones and before most people had cars. Social life and entertainment was provided within the village community. The same was true of every village and parish in the country. Some on-going issues appear, like the widening of School Lane and the valiant efforts of the Girl Guides to raise funds for the new Scout hut. Many of the names are within living memory. The reporter or the type-setter for the Chatham News had a passion for the use of commas!

Here are some extracts for Spring 1928:

2 March 1928

“GIRL GUIDES – Youth can conquer every hurdle in time and apparently it is only a question of how long before the Hut, which the Higham Boy Scouts have so long desired, appears on the Recreation Ground, the latest move being the active co-operation of the Girl Guides in the matter. These have arranged a doll competition to assist in raising funds and by making a small charge they hope to do well, while the enthusiasm shown by every Scout and Guide is causing general comment in the village.”

“ROAD WIDENING – The widening of School Lane, above Vicarage Row, has commenced this week, the hedge on the eastern side being set back about six feet and a dangerous bend taken off. This widening which should be a distinct improvement, as no natural features are involved, is a continuance of the work done three years ago when the portion on both sides of the school, lower down the road, were adapted to modern needs.”

“ORGAN RECITAL – The second organ recital, held in St. John’s Church, after Evensong service, was excellently rendered by Mr. C. Webb, on Sunday, when he gave another greatly appreciated programme. This opened with Mozart’s Benedictus, and included two of Mendelssohn’s beautiful Songs without Words, and part of Tchaikovsky’s Symphony, after which Mr. A. Maytum sang “Into thy Hands”.”

9 March 1928

“VAN OVERTURNS – A mishap occurred just after noon on Monday, at the junction of Villa-road with the main Gravesend-Strood-road. A hardware van, belonging to the Rochester and District Co-operative Society, was standing by the grass verge on the main road, 100 yards from the cross roads, when the horse suddenly bolted just as the driver was coming from a house. Reaching the corner the animal turned sharply down Villa-road, when the van was suddenly upset and the various appurtenances were shot over the hedge, while a stream of paraffin ran down the road. The horse was slightly injured and frantically tried to free itself. Police-sergeant Ward and road contractors rendered assistance.”

16 March 1928

“BELLRINGERS’ VISIT. – The Kent County Association of Bellringers held a meeting at Higham last Saturday, when opening the tower at St John’s Church and touching on various themes on the six bells, they made melody for two hours. They then attended a short service in the church. This was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. P. Lasbrey), Mr Allen of Frindsbury, presiding at the organ, and afterwards an adjournment was made to the Workmen’s Institute for tea. A business meeting followed at which the Vicar presided, and a course of Grandsire was played on handbells, to the appreciation of all present. A return to the church was then made for a further peal, the tower finally closing at half-past eight. Mr. Mitchell, the Kent County Secretary was among the visitors, and the local arrangements were under the management of Mr. R. Crouch, Secretary to the Higham Ringers.”

16 March 1928

“ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – The annual parish meeting was held in the schools on Monday evening. At a Parish Council meeting held previously, the Clerk, Mr. H. R. Mitchell), read a letter from the Water Company, announcing that in view of its decreased use, they were prepared to reduce the rate on the memorial fountain at Gads-hill from approximately £2 per quarter to £2 per annum and this was accepted.

The accounts for the year were passed and the meeting was dissolved. The parish meeting was presided over by Captain Darby. Nine nomination papers were received for councillors, and this being the quota, the following were duly elected: Messrs. H. H. Batchelor, R. Cobb, F. T. Goodger, A. E. Humphrey, W. Kidney, G. Long, A. Steadman, E. W. Stephens and F. H. Weaver. Mr Glover Long then resumed the chair and read the report of the year’s work. In mentioning the granting of permission to the local, Scouts to build a hut in the recreation ground, he commented favourably on this open space in possession of the village. He regretted that in the matter of electric light and gas all requests for increased facilities had been refused, but they had been successful with regard to the railway service in so far as the 8.14 train from London Bridge now stopped at Higham. The long-desired widening of School-Lane was being undertaken and a vote of thanks to the donors of the land was accorded. The Rev. P. Lasbrey was then, as vicar, welcomed as a trustee of Shave’s Charity. The annual income of this was £57, the whole being spent on bread for the necessitous, while there was always a “nest egg” of £200 in reserve. One of the first points raised by the electors was the question of refuse, and it was agreed that something must be done in the near future, although a sixpenny rate for this purpose was not welcomed. The question of lighting in the parish was referred to, but after discussion and the view of the Clerk that another sixpenny rate would be necessary, the subject was dropped.”

6 April 28

“DEATH OF AN OLD RESIDENT – The death took place on the 28th ult., at his residence, 8 Vicarage-row, Higham, of an old resident in the person of Mr Joseph Wilson. The deceased who was in his 86th year, had resided at Higham for over half a century, for the greater part of which time he was employed as a gardener at the Knowle, the residence of Colonel Van Strawbenzie, and its former occupiers, Mrs Rosher* and family (Mrs Van Strawbenzie being a Miss Rosher). Deceased was highly esteemed as a parishioner, and his death will be regretted by many, more particularly by the surviving members of the Rosher family, who have always looked upon him as an honest, upright, loyal and faithful servant and friend. He leaves a widow but no family. Mr Wilson came from a long-lived family for he had twelve brothers and sisters, all except one living to a great age, two over ninety and five over eighty. The deceased is survived by one brother, Mr Benjamin Thomas Wilson of Windsor-road, Gillingham, who reached his eightieth birthday on the day his brother died. The funeral took place on Saturday, at Higham churchyard, the Vicar, the Rev. P. Lasbrey, conducting the service....The late Mr. Wilson will be remembered by local horticulturists as a judge at many of the local and village shows in days gone by.”

10 May 28

“JUMBLE SALE – The local Girl Guides organised a jumble sale, on Saturday, in the Schools, which was well patronised, the net result being nearly £10. To add to this was £5 10s, from the Doll competition which closed on the same day, and the whole is to be devoted to the Hut Fund.”

Fr Andrew

* *Mrs Rosher was a daughter of The Rev Joseph Hindle, vicar, who built The Knowle.*

HIGHAM CRIME FIGURES – DECEMBER 2017

Type of Crime	Total
Anti-social behaviour	1
Burglary	5
Vehicle	7
Criminal damage and Arson	3
Other theft	8
Public order	0
Violence and sexual offences	2

In December 2016 there were 24 reported crimes in Higham.

HIGHAM CRIME FIGURES – JANUARY 2018

Type of Crime	Total
Anti-social behaviour	1
Burglary	1
Vehicle	3
Criminal damage and Arson	4
Other theft	8
Public order	0
Violence and sexual offences	2

In January 2017 there were 19 reported crimes in Higham.

Figures obtained from the Police website, crime-statistics.co.uk

Information about S. Mark [author of the second Gospel] comes from both the New Testament and early Christian traditions. Mark is believed to be the '*John Mark*' referred to in the Acts of the Apostles. Son of *Mary of Jerusalem* (Acts 12:12), whose home was a meeting place for the apostles, Mark is also believed to be the cousin of St. Barnabas (Colossians 4:10), who was a Levite and a Cypriot.

From the Acts of the Apostles we know Mark joined Ss. Paul and Barnabas in 44 A.D. on their first missionary journey to Antioch. Reaching Cyprus tradition tells us that Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). Did this incident cause Paul to question Mark's reliability as a missionary? It created a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas leading Paul to reject Mark as a companion for their second missionary journey to the churches of Cilicia and Asia Minor. However, the trouble between Paul and Mark doesn't seem to have lasted long; for when Paul was first imprisoned, Mark, who was at that time in Rome with plans of visiting Asia Minor, visited him as a trusted companion (Col 4:10). The visit to Asia Minor, was most likely carried out during Paul's second captivity, just before his martyrdom, for Paul wrote to Timothy at Ephesus saying "take Mark and bring him with you [to Rome], for he is profitable to me for the ministry" (2 Tim. 4:11). If Mark did return to Rome then, he was probably there when Paul was martyred.

Early Christian tradition holds Mark in a close relationship with St. Peter, who referred to Mark as 'his son' in his first letter (1 Peter 5:13). Some Church Fathers [e.g. S.Clement of Alexandria, S.Irenaeus and others] believed Mark was an interpreter for Peter. Like S.Luke the Evangelist, Mark is not listed among the twelve apostles, but some believe Mark refers to himself when describing Jesus' arrest in Gethsemane. "Now a young man followed him wearing nothing but a linen cloth about his body. They seized him, but he left the cloth behind and ran off naked" (Mark 14:51-52). Mark's Gospel was probably written between 60 and 70 A.D., and based upon the teachings of St. Peter. It is generally thought that Mark provided both Luke and Matthew with basic sources for their Gospel's.

Tradition tells us Mark later lived many years in Alexandria, dying as a martyr and is regarded as the first bishop of Alexandria in Egypt and founder of its Church. Yet this connection is not mentioned by S.Clement of Alexandria nor by Origen. In 828, Mark's relics were stolen from Alexandria and taken to Venice. They remain there enshrined in the famous cathedral dedicated to the saint.

Venice's symbol is that of S.Mark, a winged lion. The winged Lion comes from the Prophet Ezekiel's vision of four winged creatures. These are also referenced in the Book of Revelation, and traditionally are assigned to all four of the Evangelists.



MONDAY

23RD APRIL
2018



THE SOLEMNITY
OF
SAINT GEORGE
THE MARTYR

PATRON SAINT
OF ENGLAND



6.30 PM SAID MASS

[WITH A FEW HYMNS]

NO MORNING MASS THIS YEAR

THE ANNUAL S. GEORGE-TIDE 'ENGLISH' SUPPER

WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR

A FEW DAYS AFTER THE FEAST ITSELF ON

FRIDAY, 27TH APRIL AT 7.30 PM

ENTRY BY TICKET - £12.50 EACH.

HiARA



We are a voluntary, non-profit making, friendly organisation for the retired or semi-retired over 50's.

We are one of a number of similar organisations located in the towns and villages throughout Kent which together form [KentARA](#). Our objective is to create an environment in which we can keep active in mind and body.

We meet on most Friday afternoons from 1.30 pm until 4-00 pm at Higham Memorial Hall, School Lane, Higham, Kent ME3 7JL.

Our annual membership fee is £10.00.

Admission to all our activities is £1.for members, £1-50 Waiting List and £2 for guests. Admission to our general meetings is free to members, £1-00 Waiting list and £1-50 for guests.

Currently we do not have a waiting list for membership and you may attend for one month free of charge to find out more about the Club, or just drop in any Friday afternoon or contact us at higham.hiara@gmail.com.

HiARA REPORT

How nutty are you?

Alexander Hunt, who farms at St Mary's Platt, brought along his many and varied products to our main meeting held on February 23 and members listened to his most interesting talk. The range of products made with nuts included mustard, savoury oils, biscuits, sweets and chocolate nuts. There is even a "nut cream" for easing skin problems.

The Romans originally brought walnuts to England. Green walnuts are still used in producing tattoo dyes. Early man ate cobnuts and hazelnuts and used the outer shells to dye cloth. Alexander also sells a large range of nut trees and many fruit trees and has a worldwide following for his products. There are about 150 nut growers in the UK and they meet annually, their main meal is Squirrel nut casserole! Potash Farm products are available at Country fairs, farm shops and on the web.

Pat Oakeshott Media and Publicity Officer



Higham Youth Club

New club

Every Wednesday

Time: 7.30pm-9:30pm

In: Higham Memorial Hall

For more details:

Contact Amit Hayer

Email: amit.hayer@thegrand.org.uk

Tel: 01474 320123 9.30-5pm

Tel: 07583784019 6pm-9pm

Young people aged 10 to 16 years are
welcome

 [GrandGravesend](#)  [GrandGravesend](#)



APRIL 2018 Donation Guide

PLEASE NOTE

ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE

IN DATE, LONG
LIFE, TINNED, DRIED, JAR OR PACKET.

- Tinned vegetables - ***POTATOES**, carrots, peas, sweetcorn.
 - *** INSTANT SMASH POTATO, *PACKETS OF SOUP** and Cup a Soup.
 - ***Vegetarian Foods.**
 - ***TINNED - CORNED BEEF, HAM, MINCE, STEWED STEAK, PIES .**
 - ***INSTANT NOODLES, *INSTANT COUS COUS *INSTANT RICE**
 - ***COFFEE**, Tea, ***HOT CHOCOLATE**, Sugar.
 - ***TINS OF SPAGHETTI *INSTANT PASTA IN A 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, bath and shower gels.
 - Ladies personal toiletries and Toilet rolls.
 - Nappies size 4 & 5.
 - Laundry tablets, ***WASHING UP LIQUID**, Spray household cleaners
- *Above items are currently low in stock at the Foodbank.**

This month we have plenty – BAKED BEANS, PASTA, TINNED SOUP, AND 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



THE NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS' GUILD

Hands up! Who of us are looking forward to spring?

It seems to have been a long, cold, wet, winter this year. Evenings spent with needle and thread in hand or even needles and yarn, has kept us occupied and in the warm, but It is almost time to enjoy the sunshine and the abundance of spring flowers that inspires us to be creative in whatever medium we choose.

At our last meeting we met a very inspirational lady who came along to



talk to us about her embroidery journey. and how she became well known in the Bridal Wear world. She also spoke about her family, especially her Grandmother, who stimulated her imagination when she was a



small child and encouraged her to follow her heart. The fabrics were so beautiful and the talk informative and well balanced with interest and a lot of laughing. I particularly liked the wedding gown with its hint of steam punk, and if you looked closely as well as pearls and sequins there were tiny watch parts carefully hand stitched on the bodice to make a unique and memorable gown. Amazing. Our thanks go to Sass Tetzlaff www.sasstetzlaff.co.uk for coming along.

After 6 months of travelling, our books came back to us. It was like greeting an old friend. Every month our books were passed along to the next member who added to its uniqueness by placing a work of art inside, to be kept and treasured. It has been a privilege to add our work to each member's book, and to keep theirs in return, I hope we can do it all again. If you would like to come along to a meeting as a visitor to find out more about us and enjoy a cuppa, there is a fee of £5, for each visit up to 3 visits, which subsequently goes up to £7.50 per visit, unless you become a member of our Guild. Please look at our website for more information. www.northkentembroiderers.co.uk where you will also find a link to our new Facebook page.

Hopefully we will inspire and encourage you to come back and of course there is always superb home-made cake! We look forward to meeting you in the very near future..

Happy Stitching

VILLAGE DIARY APRIL 2018

APRIL

Sun	1 st	EASTER DAY - Mass 10am
Thurs	5 th	W.I. Memorial Hall
Fri	6 th	HiARA Activities- Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Sat	7 th	Coffee & Conversation in the Vestry Hall 10.30 – 12.30pm
Sun	8 th	Boot Fair - Higham Memorial Hall
Mon	9 th	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Two said Masses 9.30am and 6.30pm (see page 12 for details) Higham Parish Council meeting Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Thurs	12 th	Higham Parish Council Annual - Parish Assembly Memorial Hall 7.30pm (see page 8 for details)
Wed	18 th	Brownies and Rainbows- Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	20 th	HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm Beavers - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Mon	23 rd	Solemnity of ST. GEORGE'S DAY 6.30pm Mass (see page 19 for details) <i>NB There is no morning Mass this year</i>
Wed	25 th	Brownies and Rainbows- Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	27 th	HiARA Monthly Meeting - Memorial Hall - 2pm-4pm Beavers - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm

CHURCH DRAW RESULTS

FEBRUARY 2018

£50	373	Mrs Goodwin
£10	297	Mrs K. Wilson

NEXT DRAW 26th March 2018