

# Presenting your Present for the Present!

The *Presentation of Christ in the Temple* [Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>] recalls a forty-day old Jesus taken by Mary and Joseph to 'present' him to God in the Temple. Offering the prescribed sacrifices to 'redeem' him, the religious '*dues*' under the old Jewish covenant with God (Levit. 12.1-8), an indication of their relative poverty is that they couldn't afford a Lamb. The poor peoples option is theirs, offering two turtledoves. Of course unobserved, in the form of a baby, is 'the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!' That Lamb is to be the light of joy and hope for all the world; as prophesied in the feast's gospel (Luke 2.22f).

An ancient nickname for this feast is 'Candlemas' as, on this day, a candlelit procession in honour of Jesus, Light of the World, is held before mass in which he is proclaimed as this 'Light' for non-Jews too. It was also the practice, still recommended by liturgical 'purists', to bless all the candles to be used in worship for the forthcoming year.

Candles in Church symbolise 'The Light of Christ', a phrase sung three times as the greatest symbolic candle of all, the Easter Candle, enters the church in the darkness of Easter Eve. Sadly, given the cost of candles for use in Church these days, the most we can do is buy them once a quarter! Thank you all who support our Lamp Sponsorship through the year, it REALLY helps. Worship costs, like everything else, increases; yet is as nothing compared to the annual running costs of a Church.

In 2019 £1,000 a week is needed for the diocese/wider Church alone and at least £600 for our local needs. Each February the 'Church regulars' are asked

to pray about, and consider, their giving and then renew their financial commitment to their Church Family and its home. The cost of maintaining, insuring, heating, repairing etc our sacred building in on top of having to pay the priest's stipend, national insurance and pension etc; plus the parish's 'share' of the diocesan costs (some of which are National Church ones). This all adds up to costly '*dues*' for those under the new covenant of Christ's self-giving sacrificial love. Scripture expects Christians to believe that all they have is gifted by God, in stewardship, to be used for his greater glory and purposes.

We enter another year with many challenges – not least the crumbling Churchyard wall! (I'm dreading the quote arriving). The Church Council and I express deep gratitude to S.John's people for their sacrificial giving over many years. The overwhelming majority of financing comes from them but we're grateful too for all donations from other villagers, the Parish Council and local groups in the past. Contrary to ongoing popular myth nothing comes from S.John's College, Cambridge who own and rent local landholdings. If any other reader/villager would like to help out financially on a more regular basis we really would, most gratefully, love to hear from you.

Indeed any gift [such as everyone rounding up their Bridge subscription to £10, which would give us another £1,200 per annum-] any *present* would help us in the *present* year to *present* to the Lord God all his *due* worth.

*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 &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.*

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

PARISH  
PRIEST

The Rev'd. Canon James F. Southward The Vicarage, Hermitage Rd.

Telephone 01634-717360

Higham, Kent, ME3 7NE.

Email [saintjohn.higham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:saintjohn.higham@yahoo.co.uk)

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

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

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

**TUESDAYS 8.15 pm and SATURDAYS 10.30 am**

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

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

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

**Information/requests** relating to funerals, ministry to the sick and dying,

Holy Communion at home or in hospital should be given to Father James.



In an emergency please contact him at any time or, if he is not available, one of the Churchwardens (details below).

HON. ASSIST. PRIEST

Fr. Peter Bolton 17 HERMITAGE ROAD, HIGHAM

TEL:01474-22726

THE

Mrs Teresa Joblin Hill Cottage Telegraph Hill, Higham

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CHURCHWARDENS

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\* Evening calls only on these numbers please

# January 2019 at S.John's, Higham

## Calendar and Mass Intentions

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

**Except: TUES. 1<sup>st</sup> JAN & SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JAN – 10am START TIME**

DAY	DATE	CELEBRATION	INTENTION
TUE	1ST	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	<b>10AM</b> (S) God's blessing on this year
Wed	2nd	Ss. Basil Bp. & Gregory Nazianzen	Teachers (m) The Ecumenical Patriarch
Th.	3rd	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	(m) SSM Sisters (Walsingham)
Fri	4th	Xmas-tide Feria	Catechumens & Confirmands
Sat	5th	Xmas-tide Feria	Messianic Jews
SUN	6TH	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	(+) <b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	7th	Xmas-tide Feria after Epiphany	Higham Parish Councillors
Tue	8th	Xmas-tide Feria aft. Epiph	The poor and needy
Wed	9th	Xmas-tide Feria aft. Epiph	Seafarers
Th.	10th	Xmas-tide Feria aft. Epiph	other Higham Christians
Fri	11th	Xmas-tide Feria aft. Epiph	social /religious outcasts
Sat	12th	Xmas-tide Feria aft. Epiph	<i>OF OUR LADY</i> (v) Walsingham Shrine
SUN	13TH	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	(+) <b>THE PARISH</b>
<b>Christmas-tide ends - Ordinary Time begins tomorrow</b>			
Mon	14th	Feria (Ord. Week 1)	<i>MASS OF REQUIEM</i> (v) +RIP's & Anniversaries
Tue	15th	Feria	The PCC
Wed	16th	Feria	The sick & disabled
Th.	17th	S.Antony of Egypt; <i>Hermit</i>	(m) Hermits & Enclosed Orders
<b>The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity [18th to 25th Jan.] begins</b>			
Fri	18th	Feria (Ord. Week 2)	<i>MASS FOR UNITY</i> (v) For Christian Unity
Sat	19th	Feria	Reformed /Protestant Christians
SUN	20TH	2ND ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+) <b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	21st	S.Agnes; <i>Virgin Martyr</i>	(m) Persecuted Christians
Tue	22nd	Feria (Ord. Week 2)	Orthodox/Oriental Churches
Wed	23rd	Feria	Anglican Tradition Churches
Th.	24th	S.Francis de Sales; <i>Bishop, Teacher</i>	(m) Roman Catholic Churches
Fri.	25th	The Conversion of S.Paul	(f) All Christian missionaries
<b>The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity ends on 25th January</b>			
Sat	26th	Ss Timothy & Titus; <i>Missionary Bishops</i>	(m) The Society Bishops
SUN	27TH	THE DEDICATION FEAST	(+) <b>THE PARISH</b>
29/Jan/1862		OF S.JOHN'S CHURCH	<b>10AM</b>
Mon	28th	S.Thomas Aquinas; <i>Priest, Teacher</i>	(m) All who assist in mass
Tue	29th	Feria (Ord. Week 3)	Our Church members
Wed	30th	Feria	Outreach and mission
Th.	31st	S.John Bosco; <i>Priest, Catechist</i>	(m) Children's Workers

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

# THE JANUARY REQUIEM

is on MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 6.30pm

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

<p>1<sup>st</sup> Mary Frances Edmonds Arthur Sidney Joblin Sylvia Anne Fowler Frank William John Heasman</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> ‘Kelly’ (Robert Hilton) Bradish</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Gladys Millgate</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> Alice Frances West</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Sybil Batchelor John Etherton</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> Nora Hotter Winifred Beatrice Avery</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> George Glendenning Barbara Frances Taylor</p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> Frederick Albert Edward Watson Margaret Kidney</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> Isobel Clatworthy Peggy Rosemary Last</p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> Valerie Elsie Howard</p> <p>12<sup>th</sup> Katherine Elliott Ann Grain</p> <p>14<sup>th</sup> <u>Albert</u> William Haselden</p>	<p>15<sup>th</sup> Percy John Dams <i>PRIEST</i> * Jack Berry</p> <p>17<sup>th</sup> Herbert Clement Scutts John Ernest Henry Parkinson</p> <p>18<sup>th</sup> Andrew Jones</p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> Eileen Starkey Evelyn Alice Gray <u>Jocelyn</u> Howard James <u>Gordon</u> Aspin</p> <p>22<sup>nd</sup> Winifred May Penney</p> <p>24<sup>th</sup> Robert Beard</p> <p>26<sup>th</sup> Mary Southward Florence Rose Oake Caroline Ann Grix</p> <p>29<sup>th</sup> <i>Deceased members and benefactors of S.John's</i></p> <p>30<sup>th</sup> Edward Stuart Talbot <i>BISHOP</i> Gerald Gordon Hodson Doreen Rose Taylor</p> <p>31<sup>st</sup> Marie Romula Jenkins Duncan Graham</p>
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*PLEASE NOTE: The names of those who have been deceased  
more than 20 years have been removed (except for \* previous Incumbents)*

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

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

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

## ~ 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.

### **TUE - MARY, MOTHER OF GOD      JAN. 1<sup>ST</sup>**

Numbers 6.22-27  
Galatians 4.4-7  
Luke 2.16-21

W 1 John 2.22-28	John 1.19-28
Th 1 John 2.29-3.6	John 1.29-34
F 1 John 3.7-10	John 1.35-42
S 1 John 3.11-21	John 1.43-51

### **SUN - EPIPHANY OF THE LORD      JAN 6<sup>TH</sup>**

Isaiah 60.1-6  
Ephesians 3.2-3,5-6  
Matthew 2.1-12

M 1 John 3.22-4.6	Matt. 4.12-17,23-25	
T 1 John 4.7-10	Mark 6.34-44	
W 1 John 4.11-18	Mark 6.45-52	
Th <sup>h</sup> 1 John 4.19-5.4	Luke 4.14-22	
F 1 John 5.5-13	Luke 5.12-16	
S 1 John 5.14-21	John 3.22-30	

### **SUN - Baptism of the Lord      JAN 13<sup>TH</sup>**

*Last day of Christmas-tide*  
Isaiah 40.1-5,9-11  
Titus 2.11-14, 3.4-7  
Luke 3.15-16,21-22

#### **Ordinary Time Week 1**

M Hebrews 1.1-6	Mark 1.14-20	
T Hebrews 2.5-12	Mark 1.21-28	
W Hebrews 2.14-18	Mark 1.29-39	

Th Hebrews 3.7-14	Mark 1.40-45	
F Hebrews 4.1-5,11	Mark 2.1-12	
S Hebrews 4.12-16	Mark 2.13-17	

### **2<sup>ND</sup> ORDINARY SUNDAY      JAN 20<sup>TH</sup>**

Isaiah 62.1-5  
1 Corinthians 12.4-11  
John 2.1-11

M Hebrews 5.1-10	Mark 2.18-22	
T Hebrews 6.10-20	Mark 2.23-28	
W Hebrews 7.1-3,15-17	Mark 3.1-6	
Th Hebrews 7.25-8.6	Mark 3.7-12	
F <b>CONVERSION OF S. PAUL</b>	<b>JAN. 25<sup>TH</sup></b>	
Acts 9.1-22 or 22.3-16	Mark 16.15-18	
S <b>Ss Timothy &amp; Titus</b>	<b>Jan 26<sup>th</sup></b>	
2 Tim 1.1-8 or Titus 1.1-5	Luke 10.1-9	

### **SUN - DEDICATION FEAST      JAN. 27<sup>TH</sup>**

**Of S. JOHN's [ The Parish Church ]**  
*( Original Dedication - 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1862 )*  
Ezekiel 47.1-2,8-9,12  
1 Corinthians 3.9-11,16-17  
John 2.13-22

#### **Ordinary Week 3**

M Hebrews 9.15,24-28	Mark 3.22-30	
T Hebrews 10.1-10	Mark 3.31-35	
W Hebrews 10.11-18	Mark 4.1-20	
Th Hebrews 10.19-25	Mark 4.21-25	

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

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scripture 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.

# February 2019 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.

*No Sung evening mass this year for Candlemas – see 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb.*

DAY	DATE	CELEBRATION	INTENTION
Fri.	1st	Feria (Ord. Week 3) <i>mass of Sacred Heart</i>	(v) Age UK -Higham
SAT	2ND	<b>The Presentation of The Lord In the Temple (Candlemas)</b>	(F) Parish evangelism
SUN	3RD	<b>4TH ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>	(+) <b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	4th	Feria (Ord. Week 4)	The 'disturbed'
Tue	5th	S.Agatha; <i>Virgin Martyr</i>	(m) Our bell-ringers
Wed	6th	The Japanese Martyrs	(m) H.M. the Queen
<i>6 /Feb /1952 - 67th Anniversary of the Queen's Accession</i>			
Th.	7th	Feria	Christian missionaries
Fri	8th	S.Josephine Bakhita, <i>Religious</i>	(m) Victims of slavery
Sat	9th	Feria <i>mass of Our Lady</i>	(v) Walsingham
SUN	10TH	<b>5TH ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>	(+) <b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	11th	Our Lady of Lourdes	(m) The sick & disabled
Tue	12th	Feria (Ord. Week 5)	The lapsed & indifferent
Wed	13th	Feria	For Ecological Awareness
Th.	14th	<b>Ss. Cyril &amp; Methodius</b> <i>Missionaries</i>	(f) Eastern Europe Churches
Fri	15th	Feria	agnostics and searchers
Sat	16th	Feria	The hungry and needy
SUN	17TH	<b>6TH ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>	(+) <b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	18th	Feria (Ord. Week 6) <i>monthly Requiem</i>	(v) RIP's & Anniversaries
Tue	19th	Feria	The hungry and needy
Wed	20th	Feria	The blind and sight-impaired
Th.	21st	Feria	catechumens & confirmands
Fri	22nd	<b>The Chair of S.Peter</b>	(f) Pope Francis
Sat	23rd	S.Polycarp <i>Martyr, Bishop</i>	(m) Persecuted Christians
SUN	24TH	<b>7TH ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>	(+) <b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	25th	S.Ethelbert <i>King of Kent</i>	(m) Higham Parish Councillors
Tue	26th	Feria (Ord. Week 7)	Children's Evangelisation
Wed	27th	Feria	Our deanery
Th.	28th	Feria ( <i>Soc. founded 28/2/1855</i> )	Society of the Holy Cross

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

# THE FEBRUARY REQUIEM

is on MONDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2019 at 6.30pm

*The recently departed, and those named below will be prayed for at this mass of requiem intention; and are remembered on the Sunday before and the actual date itself.*

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ena Mary Choules		Violet Frances Elsie Welham
7 <sup>th</sup>	Kenneth Asper	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Neil Andrew Haselden
8 <sup>th</sup>	Reginald Norman Barrow		George Edward Avery
11 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Beatrice Clark	24 <sup>th</sup>	Kevin Dwane Moore
13 <sup>th</sup>	Florence Evelyn Austen		Gladys Mary Christmas
	Roy Edward Whyman		Alice May (Betty) Heasman
	Bryan John Jones	25 <sup>th</sup>	Joyce Haskins
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mabel Dorothy Lambkin		James Leslie Britten
	Peggy Margaret Phoebe Williamson		Selina <u>Mary</u> Jarrett
17 <sup>th</sup>	Eric Shipman	26 <sup>th</sup>	May Helena Roberts
	James Douglas Abernethy		Kathleen Alice Rolfe
	'Bill' Dingle		May Tetley
18 <sup>th</sup>	Reginald William Rootes	27 <sup>th</sup>	Ellen Carruthers
19 <sup>th</sup>	Cecil Newman <i>PRIEST</i>		Gladys 'Jean' Richardson
21 <sup>st</sup>	Michael Peter Beek <i>PRIEST*</i>		Gladys Emily Trotter
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Richard Henry Holland		Peter Francis Cook
	Jessie Elizabeth Creamer	29 <sup>th</sup>	Alice Buttery

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

*They will be remembered IF someone attends this requiem mass*

*AND requests their inclusion in the prayers.*

DYING YOU DESTROYED OUR DEATH.  
RISING YOU RESTORED OUR LIFE.  
LORD JESUS, COME IN GLORY!

## ~ 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.

### ORDINARY TIME - WEEK 3

F Hebrews 10.32-39      Mark 4.26-34  
S **CANDLEMASS**      **FEB. 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
*Presentation of the Lord in the Temple*  
Malachi 3.1-4      Luke 2.22-40

### SUNDAY OF WEEK 4

**FEB 3<sup>RD</sup>**

Jeremiah 1.4-5,17-19  
1 Corinthians 12.31 -13.13  
Luke 4.21-30

M Hebrews 11.32-40      Mk 5.1-20  
T Hebrews 12.1-4      Mark 5.21-43  
W Hebrews 12.4-7,11-15      Mark 6.1-6  
Th Hebrews 12.18-24      Mark 6.7-13  
F Hebrews 13.1-8      Mark 6.14-29  
S Hebrews 13.15-21      Mark 6.30-34

### SUNDAY OF WEEK 5

**FEB 10<sup>TH</sup>**

Isaiah 6.1-8  
1 Corinthians 15.1-11  
Luke 5.1-11

M Genesis 1.1-19      Mark 6.53-56  
T Genesis 1.20-2.4a      Mark 7.1-13  
W Genesis 2.4b-9,15-17      Mark 7.14-23  
T Genesis 2.18-25      Mark 7.24-30  
F Genesis 3.1-8      Mark 7.31-37  
S Genesis 3.9-24      Mark 8.1-10

### SUNDAY OF WEEK 6

**FEB 17<sup>TH</sup>**

Jeremiah 17.5-8  
1 Corinthians 15.12,16-20  
Luke 6.17,20-26

M Genesis 4.1-15,25      Mark 8.11-13  
T Genesis 6.5-8,7.1-5,10      Mark 8.14-21  
W Genesis 8.6-13,20-22      Mark 8.22-26  
Th Genesis 9.1-13      Mark 8.27-33

### F CHAIR OF S. PETER

**FEB. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

1 Peter 5.1-4      Matthew 16.13-19

S Hebrews 11.1-7      Mark 9.2-13

### SUNDAY OF WEEK 7

**FEB 24<sup>TH</sup>**

1 Samuel 26.2,7-13,22-23  
1 Corinthians 15.45-49  
Luke 6.27-38

M Ecclesiasticus 1.1-10      Mark 9.14-29  
T Ecclesiasticus 2.1-11      Mark 9.30-37  
W Ecclesiasticus 4.11-19      Mark 9.38-40  
Th Ecclesiasticus 5.1-8      Mark 9.41-50

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*Not all Bible's contain the additional  
canonical texts. If your Bible says 'with  
Apocrypha' it will contain them eg.  
Ecclesiasticus above.*  
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*End by using the Sunday Bulletin 'Collect' 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.



## WELCOME TO FATHER PETER BOLTON

Our best wishes go to Father Peter who has recently moved into Higham and is taking up the position of Honorary Assistant Priest.



“I cannot tell you what a joy it is to come to Higham: the warmth of the welcome and the kindness that people have shown me in my first few days here have been overwhelming. Thank you so much!

Naturally people are curious to know about me and how I have come to be here; so, to save me telling the story a hundred times, here is a little bit about who I am.

I was born in Sevenoaks, Kent and was taught the faith at St John’s [John the Baptist] in Sevenoaks. I am pleased to say it is still a church where the fullness of the faith is taught! It was there that I learned to love Our Lady (and her shrine in Walsingham), to love Jesus present in His Blessed Sacrament and the (more difficult but equally important) practice of regular sacramental confession.

I still have two sisters living in Kent (one in Sevenoaks and the other in Hildenborough); I also have two brothers: one lives in South London, the other in Coventry. I was the (spoiled, the others will tell you) youngest of the five.

I was ordained deacon and priest in Rochester Cathedral by the great Bishop David Say and served my first curacy in the parish of St James’, Elmers End. (Interestingly, both Fr Andrew Davis and Fr David Preston had served curacies there before me). I served a second curacy in Leigh, Lancashire in the Diocese of Manchester and was parish priest in a parish near Oldham and later in Salford before

moving first to Watford and then Weston-Super-Mare.

It was while I was in Weston that I realised my health was deteriorating. The original diagnosis turned out to be incorrect and it was subsequently discovered that I had a disease of the muscles - undifferentiated connective tissue disease. This means that I experience some pain and am very easily fatigued.

I took early retirement in 2010. Later I tried to do a "House for Duty" job as part time parish priest in Ilkeston, Derbyshire but even that proved to be too difficult for me. For the last three years I have been living in Salford, Manchester but have very much missed the joys of parish life and so, as soon as I heard that 17 Hermitage Road had become vacant, I contacted Fr James asking whether I might be considered as a possible tenant.

As I say, it is a total joy for me to be here. Unfortunately, because of my condition, I cannot do much in the parish but I can (thank God) still do those things that are essential to being a priest: I can offer the Mass and I can pray the Daily Office and I am committed to doing these things for you as long as I am able. I hope too that I can also be a good friend to you all and especially a good friend to Fr James and a support to him in all his work for God's kingdom in this rather lovely corner of Kent.

God bless you all,"

*Father Peter*

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## VINTAGE FAIR

Well done all those who worked on 2<sup>nd</sup> December when £361 was raised towards Church funds. The weather was awful but this social event was extremely well supported.

Many thanks to all involved.

## REMEMBRANCE 2018

The centenary of the end of the First World War was marked at St John's Church with Mass at 10.00 am which was attended by over 230 people. The congregation included members from the uniformed organisations.



The bells were rung half muffled before the service and the tenor was chimed by Ivo Wengraf to coincide with Big Ben at 11.00 am and then a 2-minute silence was held.

Wreaths were laid by the War Memorial in St Johns by Father James Southward – for St Johns

Church, Gads Hill Cadets and the 2nd Higham Brownies. The cadets then marched back to the school with music and drums.



The bells were rung again at 12.30 and 19.05 pm to celebrate the guns falling silent and the declaration of peace.



St John's Church, as usual, was beautifully decorated with a stunning pedestal display, poppy wreaths and crosses but on this special occasion the congregation had raised funds to purchase ten "Tommies" which were displayed in

every window with commemorative candles.

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



## A Big Thank You!

It is lovely to be able to announce that the total raised in Higham this year was £2,282.42. This represents a 10% increase on last year.

A big thank you to all those who helped with the house to house collection and our local business for their sterling support – we could not do it without you.

A special mention to Joyce and Rodney Theobald who have for many years run a whist drive to raise funds. Their support over so many years has been much appreciated.

Well done everyone!

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## HIGHWAYMAN PUDSEY STRIKES AGAIN!



Many thanks to all who contributed to the annual collections in Higham. A grand total of **£2,078.19** was raised this year. Well done to all the collectors and contributors.



## NEWS FROM THE TOWER

### **“We remembered” – a message from the President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.**

Last Sunday – Remembrance Sunday – we were called to “look to” and take part in a most momentous commemoration. Being so intimately linked in to our local communities, it was no surprise that bell ringers everywhere stepped forward to participate, collectively and individually, in such a solemn centenary.

And it is entirely right and fitting those bells gave voice to the deep and lasting emotions felt so widely at this time. So many today owe so much to our forebears for the freedoms and liberties that we enjoy one hundred years on. As bell ringers, we are the “external choir” that calls out across time and space, giving tribute on this day for those who have gone before. This is what we do, this is our calling, this is our service.



#### **Kent County Association**

On Sunday, 11 November 2018

Higham, Kent

St John the Evangelist

Tenor: 6-0-0 in B

#### **Rounds and Call Changes**

- 1 Teresa Joblin
- 2 Julie Aldous (C)
- 3 Linda Dray
- 4 Kenneth Aldous
- 5 Keith Joblin
- 6 Ivo Wengraf

Rung half-muffled to commemorate the centenary of the World War One Armistice, on 11th November 1918.

On behalf of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, I wish to thank all who participated in this historic event. The Ringing Remembers campaign, promoted by the Central Council, has claimed some inspiring headlines – towers silent for many years have rung out once more; hundreds of bands have been augmented with new learners; tens of thousands of ringers mobilised to ring in thousands of towers – not just in the UK, but across the world; ringing featured strongly in local, national and international media; and the Bell Board website went into meltdown!

Our campaign sought to recruit 1400 new ringers, to symbolically replace those ringers who fell in the First World War. At the most recent count, new ringer registrations for the recruitment campaign totalled 2792 – close to 200% of the original target. The Council's newly-stated mission is, among other things, “to promote an environment in which ringing can flourish”. Last Sunday we witnessed what “flourish” looks like – more of that please

Whilst it is impossible to thank all key individuals by name, I would like to pay a special tribute to Vicki Chapman – Ringing Remembers Project Coordinator, Colin Chapman – Coordinator’s “roadie”, Alan Regin – Steward of the CCCBR Rolls of Honour, Andrew Hall – developer and administrator of the Ringing Remembers web platform, and Bruce & Eileen Butler – who linked thousands of enquirers to guilds, districts and towers. And there are so many others...

My thanks go also to all those who have come to ringing through this route – may you continue to develop in skill, and gain many happy years of fulfilment in your ringing. And to that widespread army of ringing teachers who have risen to the challenge of training so many enthusiastic learners – well done!

Last Sunday was a day of reflection, a day of commemoration, a day of participation. Bell ringers everywhere were able to say – “I was there – I remembered”.

**RINGING REMEMBERS**

The following ringers took part in commemorative ringing at  
St Johns Church Higham  
to mark the Centenary of the Armistice  
11th November 2018

(\* denotes those ringers who were recruited as part of the Ringing Remembers campaign to remember the 1,400 bell ringers who lost their lives in the First World War)

Teresa Joblin	Treble
Julie Aldous (C)	2
* Linda Dray	3
Kenneth Aldous	4
Keith Joblin	5
Ivo Wengraf	Tenor

Lord Bishop of Norwich  
Minister for Faith  
Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Christopher O'Mahony  
President  
The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

**Christopher O'Mahony**

# ***THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD***

*The Feast of the visit of the Wise Men*



***Sunday, 6th January, 2019***

A Holy Day of Obligation for the faithful in thanksgiving  
for the revelation of the Messiah to all nations.

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Morning Prayer – 8.45am

**Solemn Mass - 9.30am**

Evening Prayer – 6.00pm

**Said Mass - 6.30pm\***

*\*for those unable to be present in the morning*

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



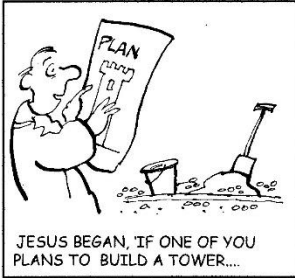
# The tale of the Tower Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

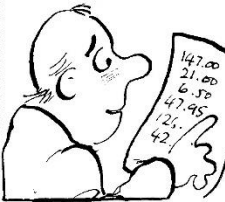


ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER...

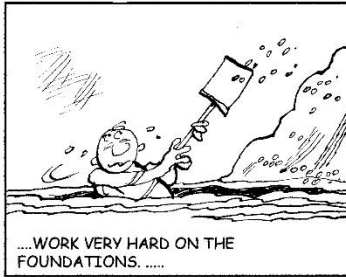
...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



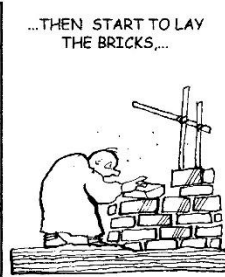
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS...



...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START, .....



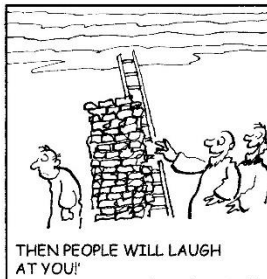
....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS. ....



...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,...



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.



## AS WE WERE (2)

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 between the Wars. Unfortunately there is no identifying name attached but the same hand is writing the church log book until shortly after the Second 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. Many of the names are within living memory. The reporter or the typesetter for the Chatham News had a passion for the use of commas and a now quaint way of naming streets and roads etc!

Here are some extracts for January, February and March 1929 (Ninety years ago the 'Great Frost' had a devastating effect on life in the village).

### **4 January 1929**

**“RING OUT THE OLD...”** – For over an hour the St John’s ringers signalled the passing of 1918 and the entry of the New Year, first semi-muffled and then a happy peal for the hopes and joys which 1919 may bring. On Sunday the old, old carols and some new beautiful ones were sung at evensong in both churches , the choirs being led by Miss Cullen and Mr Webb respectively.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TREAT**, - The annual treat and prize-giving of the Sunday Schools was held on Monday, when 90 children enjoyed the delights of a decorated Christmas tree, and had a happy time. The Vicar, the Rev. P. Lasbrey was unfortunately taken ill with a sudden chill, and Mrs B Hoskins (superintendent at the Parish Church) therefore took charge. Tea commenced at four o’clock, and after a short interval came the prize-giving. Mrs Lasbrey presented the prized-first to the Sunday School winners and then to the choir boys for good attendance. Then the presents were cut from the tree, one for every child, and Mrs

Lasbrey gave each teacher a present. Songs and three hearty cheers concluded the evening...

### ***14 January 1929***

**VICAR' SOCIAL** - The Rev. P. U. and Mrs. Lasbrey, on Thursday, gave a party at the school to all engaged in church work in the parish, and although clouded by the Vicar's absence, through illness, a pleasant evening resulted. A whist drive of eighteen hands opened the programme while those unable to play were catered for with games. Mr. Steadman was M.C., and Mrs. Lasbrey presented prizes to the following: Ladies: 1, Mrs Charlton, senior; 2 Miss Steadman, consolation, Mrs. Hartup. Gentlemen: 1, Mr. Webb; 2, Mr. Nye; consolation, Mr. Maytum. Refreshments were provided by the hostess, who later express the Vicar's regret at his absence. Mr. Steadman returned thanks to all present, after which a concert was held.

### ***1 February 1929***

**DEDICATION.** – at Holy Communion service at St John's Church, on Sunday, a delicately carved and polished mahogany re-table, with gilded decorative facing, was dedicated by the Vicar before a representative congregation. This re-table is the gift of Mrs. A. L. Merrikin , in memory of her late husband, the Rev. M. Merrikin, the late well-beloved Vicar who died in April 1927. It bears the inscription in gilt letters along the top facing "To the glory of God and in loving memory of Matthew Merrikin, Vicar of this Parish, 1921-27."

### ***15 February 1929***

**ARCHDEACON'S VISIT.** – The Archdeacon of Rochester conducted the morning service at St John's Church on Sunday, at which Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, and their children were present for their quarterly rally. The other services were conducted by Mr. R. Hogg, the Vicar being away for ten days' rest.

### ***22 February 1929***

**THE GREAT FROST.** – Apart from the more general results of the great frost, such as frozen taps and widespread 'flu, Higham has experienced other more special excitements. Foremost comes the canal frozen throughout its length and at its upper end where shallow waters assisted the "Ice King," a scene of daily animation unknown since 1895. Motor

cars, at times 50 in number, lined the bank, interspersed with a great army of cyclist, and luncheon parties were numerous, while hundreds of skaters, some expert, others having their first falls, swarmed on the fine surface. Sunday especially was a day of great activity and so loth were some of the happy band to go that motor headlights kept up the fun even when a day of cloudless brilliance was ended by the sun fading beyond the distant western hills. There were no services in St. John's Church on Sunday, as the boiler for central heating had burst on the previous Thursday, from the frost. It is uncertain when services can be resumed and meanwhile the gas lamps are burning night and day to save the organ, etc., and services at the Parish Church are being augmented. Two personal accidents have happened. In one case a young cyclist probably benumbed with cold, the son of Mrs. Trigg, of Latter's-terrace, collided with Messrs. Jerry's meat van, with consequent injuries for which he was taken into hospital, and some damage to the van. In the second case, as a result of a hot water bottle exploding, Mrs. Langridge, of Villa-road, is suffering from extensive facial burns, but is happily progressing.

### ***1 March 1929***

**CHURCH COUNCIL.**- A special meeting of the Parochial Church Council was held on Saturday to consider the heating apparatus at St. John's Church. The boiler and one of the radiators had burst in the recent frost, and the Council had consider estimates, expeditiously by Mr. Edmonds (churchwarden), for a new boiler. It was shown that the boiler would cost £52, which, with other items, would result in a total expenditure of £70. Colonel van Strawbenzee raised the question as to whether a system of pipeless heating he had in mind would be preferable, and after much debate it was decided to defer a decision until Wednesday, so that the Colonel might obtain particulars of this system. At the adjourned meeting on Wednesday, Colonel van Strawbenzee gave details of his pipeless heating. As members registered disapproval, a decision was postponed until next Tuesday, when a full Council is to be summoned, pending which the Vicar and Churchwardens are to examine a working example.

**8 March 1929**

**OBITUARY.**- Several of the older residents of the village have fallen victims to the severe weather. Most tragic is the case of Mr. and Mrs. Eaton of Hermitage-road, for only a brief time after the death of his 86 year old wife, Annie, Mr. James Eaton passed away last weekend. Mrs. Clarissa Morris, mother of Mr. E. C. Morris the Higham Stationmaster, died at Station House, aged 80, and was buried in the old churchyard of Tuesday. Two others who will be missed are Mr. Thomas William Mayor of Nursery Cottages, Chequers-street, and Mrs. Mary Osbourne, of Higham Upshire.

**CHURCH COUNCIL.**- A special meeting of the Parochial Church Council was held in the Schools, on Tuesday, to decide on the heating apparatus to be fitted in St John's Church, as a sequel to the bursting of the old boiler during the recent frost. The Vicar (the Rev. P. U. Lasbrey) reported on his visit to a Lambeth Church to examine the working of a system of pipeless heating suggested by Colonel A. Strawbenzee. He thought they would be ill-advised to alter their satisfactory steam heating in favour of the new idea, which he, however, considered quite good. Discussion ensued, the Council eventually decided that a new Robin Hood boiler should be fitted and the present arrangement adhered to.

**22 March 1929**

**OBITUARY.**- With the death of Mr Josiah Bennett, of 5 Latter's-terrace, Hermitage Road, in his 84<sup>th</sup> year, last week-end passes almost the last of the founders of the Higham Working Men's Club. The sixth octogenarian to die within a fortnight in Higham, Mr. Bennett had lived all his life in the village, and until recently was an active farm worker. It is interesting to know that, with others of the little band of whom he outlived all but two, the deceased originated the idea of a workingmen's club in the old cobbler's shop (now No. 1, Latter's-terrace), and an old shed, still standing, previously occupied by the Salvation Army, at the rear of 1, Pear-tree-place, was secured as the first hall. Later came the building of the present institute with MR. Bennett holding various offices at different times, and finally he lived to see the addition of then fine new club room. The funeral took place on Wednesday at St. Mary's churchyard.

*Father Andrew*

## HIARA REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

Guy Bartlett paid a welcome return visit to tell us all things that we didn't know about the aircraft, Concorde. England and France collaborated to build a subsonic jet. Bristol Lindley built the engines and had a very powerful thrust - the noise was deafening!

During this time, Soviet Russia was also developing a similar plane and was four months ahead of Concorde. In 1969, the first test flight took place and orders were taken from all over the world. The blast from the flight passing overhead was considerable and windows all over Southern England were shattered. In a speed race, France flew the plane to Senegal and a British Airways 747 to the Bahamas and return, Concorde won by 11 minutes. The plane has flown more supersonic flights, more than the rest of the world put together.

In 2003, Concorde burst into flames, and 113 people on board were killed in the accident. It is interesting that the Soviet plane also caught fire later. Guy has carried out enormous amounts of research into the crash and does not accept the formal report. His findings have revealed that there were several tons of baggage and 1.5 tons of extra fuel on board, which apparently, the Captain was unaware of. This caused the plane to veer off the runway and catch fire. A very sad ending to a wonderful airplane.

Activity afternoons are still well supported, with new members joining in. Thirty members of the club journeyed to Bury St Edmunds Christmas Market, leaving in dull misty conditions but upon arrival the sun came out! Over 300 stalls were situated throughout the town and Cathedral grounds, selling just about everything, decorations, clothing and lots of street food and local produce, including Christmas spirits! Although crowded it was very well managed and every one of us had a most enjoyable day out, leaving as it just began to spit with rain.

We even had a quiz afternoon in November.

We look forward now to our Christmas Tea Party and pantomime, Sleeping Beauty.

New members are always welcomed, call in any Friday afternoon from 1.30 in Higham Memorial Hall, speak to a committee member and see what is on offer. *Pat Oakeshott. HiARA Publicity Officer.*

## HIGHAM GARDENS FOR PLEASURE COMPETITION 2018

This annual competition organised by HIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL is judged on our behalf by horticultural officers from GRAVESHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL.

There are no entry forms for Parishioners to complete as every front garden in the village is considered when the judges tour the Parish looking for gardens that give the passer-by the most visual pleasure. In reaching a final decision the judges award points for colour, choice of plants and cultivation, and the overall design of the garden.

This year marks the thirty-fourth anniversary of the competition. The following prizewinners will receive their awards from The Mayor of Gravesham at a presentation before the Parish Council Meeting to be held on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Higham Library.

**FIRST PRIZE** (Silver Rose Bowl Trophy, Garden Gift Token and framed certificate)  
Anne and Robin Miles, 13, Highwoods Close.



SECOND PRIZE (Garden Gift Token and framed certificate)  
June and Anthony Stevenson, 3, Hayes Close.

THIRD PRIZE (Garden Gift Token and framed certificate)  
Michael and Jennifer Papadopoulos,  
“Hanklit”, 12, Charles Dickens Avenue.



"HIGHLY COMMENDED" (Garden Gift Token and framed certificate)  
John Thornton, 26, Chilton Drive.

"BEST HANGING BASKET AND CONTAINERS" - FIRST PRIZE  
(Garden Gift Token and framed certificate)  
Heather Golding and Trevor King, “The Banks”, Chequers Street.

“BEST HANGING BASKET AND CONTAINERS” - SECOND PRIZE - JOINT (Garden Gift Token and framed certificate)

Sarah Wall, 5, Providence Cottages, Crutches Lane

Mary and Nigel Wright, 6, Providence Cottages, Crutches Lane.

“BEST HANGING BASKET AND CONTAINERS” – THIRD PRIZE  
(Garden Gift Token and framed certificate)  
Evelyn Leach, “Highfields”, 32, Telegraph Hill.

“BEST HANGING BASKET AND CONTAINERS” - HIGHLY COMMENDED  
(Garden Gift Token and framed certificate)  
Jacqueline and Timothy Cousins, 9, Vicarage Row, School Lane.

“MOST COLOURFUL COMMUNITY FACILITY WITHIN HIGHAM”  
Merston Court, Hermitage Road.

FOR ANY OTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL, LINDA CARNALL, ON 01474 822642 [enquiries@higham-kent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@higham-kent-pc.gov.uk)

*Photographs by permission of Clive Stanley and Michael Papadopoulos*

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## ST JOHN'S CHURCH INVITES YOU TO .....

Join us on the first Saturday morning each month from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm when there is an open invitation for everyone to join us in the Vestry Hall for Coffee and Conversation – plus cake! Donations to cover costs are invited.



The coffee and cake are provided by church members and is an opportunity to get out and meet outside of our homes. Bring a friend, meet new people and enjoy yourself. If you know someone who is unable to get there under their own steam do let us know and we will try to arrange transport for them. Donations are made towards church funds.

During Lent the mornings change to lunches from 12 noon-2 pm when home-made soup with bread, cheese and grapes are available. All donations (normally £5) for these lunches contributes to our Christian Aid collections.



Volunteers to assist with these events are always warmly welcomed so if you think you could spare one or 2 Saturday mornings during 2019 please come along one Saturday, speak to the volunteers, or email [bridge@higham-parishchurch.org.uk](mailto:bridge@higham-parishchurch.org.uk). We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Kim Wood*





*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 COMMUNITY PAVILION PROJECT UPDATE NOVEMBER 2018



We wanted to update you on what's happened so far and give you an outline of the plans for the Pavilion over the next few months.

Over the last 18 months the Parish Council has been exploring ways to progress the works on the Pavilion building and to ensure that the village benefits from a new community facility.

We hope that this fantastic project, that Joanne Raff started in 2015, will be completed over the next 8 to 12 months. A Pavilion Management Committee has been formed to manage the Project. Work on applying for Charitable status is now underway.

The Pavilion building was in a poor state and through the fundraising events, donations and grants which Joanne organised, a start was made on the mammoth task of repairing, renovating and upgrading the facility. Joanne worked tirelessly to completely renovate the main room of the building - with new windows and doors, new ceiling and lighting.

Work has continued over several years to improve the garden and outdoor areas - many thanks to our Village Garden Volunteers who have weeded and watered through all kinds of weather.

Further works are needed and these are now being costed and planned, including:

- Upgrading the kitchen and the toilets
- Improving access – ramp from the Fire Exit
- Installing new flooring throughout the building
- Improving energy efficiency through better insulation and installing a new heating system

Plans are also being developed to set up a booking system and to promote the facility for local organisations and individuals to use.

When the Pavilion Management Committee was set up in April 2018, the balance of the funds raised by Joanne was transferred to their new Bank Account. This was a sum of £19221.39. Since then further money has been raised and new donations have been received, bringing our balance to £22231.88

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the Project – please contact us:

*Sue Sparks*

*Email [sue3906@gmail.com](mailto:sue3906@gmail.com) Telephone 07480 518493*

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"Looks like they've introduced contactless payments for their collections."

TALK

HIGHAM VILLAGE  
HISTORY GROUP

# THE Knights TEMPLAR

JANUARY 17TH 2019

8.00PM

**SPEAKER:** DR. GEOFF DOLL  
Memoirs Hall, School Lane, Higham MERTON

With Temple Manor in nearby Strood, this talk is of particular local interest. The 'Poor Knights of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon' was a military order founded in 1118 to protect pilgrims from bandits in the Holy Land and became very powerful and wealthy.

Free for Members  
Visitors £4 (includes tea, coffee and biscuits)

[www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk](http://www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk)  
email: [info@highamvillagehistory.org.uk](mailto:info@highamvillagehistory.org.uk)  
telephone: 01634 716265

# **Bags 2 Church**

## **New Year, Fresh Start? Need to declutter?**

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

Well now is the chance to do it:-

However due to lack of storage, St John's will gladly receive your unwanted clothes, shoes, bags or soft toys from **20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019**

**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 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2019**. These will be collected and in return the church will receive up to £400 a tonne.

For more information contact Julie Healey on 01474 822008

**Next collection: 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**The Solemnity of the  
DEDICATION FESTIVAL OF S. JOHN'S**

*Sunday, 27th January 2019*

157th Anniversary of Consecration

( S. John's was consecrated on 29th January 1862)



**SOLEMN  
PARISH  
MASS  
10.00am**

**Guest Preacher:  
Fr Paul Matthias**

*Please note  
Change of Time  
At Sung Mass*

A Said Mass  
will be offered  
at 6.30pm  
If required

*Holy Communion can be brought to the sick and housebound  
by one of the clergy upon request*

A Church's Feast of Dedication (Consecration) is observed annually as a local solemnity either on the date itself or on the nearest Sunday.

TALK

HIGHAM VILLAGE  
HISTORY GROUP

# A SCHOOLGIRL'S WAR

MARCH 21ST 2019

11.00PM

**SPEAKER:** MARY SMITH  
Memorial Hall, School Lane,  
Higham ME3 7JL

This talk, by a former head mistress of Maidstone Grammar School for Girls, is based on her book 'A Schoolgirl's War' which features the exquisite, original art work of an art teacher in WW2, who set out to document in paint and pencil, the lives of school children as the war unfolded. There are also fascinating memories and anecdotes shared by some of the pupils themselves.



[www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk](http://www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk)



## NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS' GUILD JANUARY 2019

T'was a month before Christmas and all through our Guild, a stirring excitement was starting to build. Arrangements were made, and kits were created, children arrived all keen and excited. Instructions were read, and needles were ready, onwards and steadfast and careful and steady. There was silver and glitter and Angels a plenty, smiling and laughter till kit packs were empty. Then out at the end an heirloom to treasure, made with love and a whole lot of pleasure. All that was left, a tree to adorn and to stand back and say that a Star has been born!



Our Christmas sit, and stitch is always a lovely day and yesterday was no exception. Some time ago our Guild thought it would be a nice idea to invite children to join in and we invited Guild members to bring along a family member to our Christmas Stitching day. Judging from the noise and laughter, I believe we all enjoyed their company and hope to do it again next year.

Meanwhile we had our own kits to tackle and we all ended up with stars...

If you would like to come along and see what we do, maybe even join in at our next year's sit and stitch, please take a look at our web site on [www.northkentembroiderers.co.uk](http://www.northkentembroiderers.co.uk) where you will find all the information you need.

What a memorable Armistice day we all had, our lovely felt hearts were adorning Cathedrals and Museums all over the country. The ones dedicated to family and loved ones will be returned to their owners whilst others are going to be auctioned, and the monies raised, given to SSAFA in aid of all the Armed Forces. A job well done, and we all felt very privileged to be a part of it. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year.



(all pictures and links are used with permission, poem by courtesy of the author)

## **NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS' GUILD. FEBRUARY 2019**

How is it that the New Year's resolution that seemed so achievable in January, is an impossibility by the time Valentine's day is over?

My resolution for years was to join the Embroiderers' Guild. I always made an excuse as to why I couldn't do it, but to be honest, I was just scared. What if all the talented embroiderers laughed at my work? Well that didn't happen, I was welcomed with open arms. It was such a relief.

Take last year for example, I was so pleased to meet Michele Carragher. Her work on The Game of Thrones TV programme was so inspiring. Her work is amazing. She came as a guest speaker on the same day as Prince Harry got married, an exceptional day, one I will never forget.

Another guest speaker was Sass Tetzlaff, who made wedding gowns, one was inspired by steam punk and had tiny cogs and wheels from a fob watch on the bodice, or the lady that came along to talk about Chinese embroidery.

Not many people have heard of us to start with, and if they have, most do not realise that we are a non-profit making charitable organisation. We get involved in all sort of projects, and as a branch of a bigger organisation we are privileged to be a part of some exceptional projects. Last year we supported the 70,273 project. Blocks of fabric were gathered together from across the world, marked with two red crosses, to commemorate the number of physically and mentally disabled men, women and children who were killed during the second world war, in concentration camps. Our quilt was one of many that were displayed in Rochester Cathedral and are touring the world as I write.



Varied and engaging, I wonder what endeavours will come up for us to enjoy this year.

Friendships are made with like-minded people of all ages and experience, we always welcome new members with a cup of tea and home-made cake! There is nothing to fear and everything to like.

If you would like to see what we do, please take a look at our web site on [www.northkentembroiders.co.uk](http://www.northkentembroiders.co.uk) you will find all the information you need. We hope to see you soon.

Happy Stitching!

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## **BURNS NIGHT SUPPER**

There will be a supper held in the Vestry Hall on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> January organised and provided by our Social Committee. More information will be available from Trisha Baker shortly.

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## **CHRIST THE KING**



On Sunday, 25 November, we celebrated Christ the King, with crowns made by the children of Junior Church and special music from the young singers of Voice Rejoice.

On Epiphany, 6 January, we celebrate when the Magi found the 'king' they had been seeking. They probably weren't expecting the baby Jesus. But they recognized that he was indeed the Messiah that had been promised. The King of Kings: for all people and all the world.



# January and February 2019 Donation Guide

**PLEASE NOTE: FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY THE FOODBANK HAVE SPECIALLY REQUESTED THAT WE GIVE PRIORITY TO THE HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS BELOW.**

- Instant rice
- Tinned meat products and tinned pies
- No fridge/UHT milk
- Instant mash
- No fridge/UHT juice
- Jam/peanut butter
- Packet soup
- No fridge/uht milk
- Tinned spaghetti

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Also required:

Household cleaners, Laundry tablets, washing up liquid' spray polish  
Deodorants, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shower gels, bars of soap  
Ladies personal toiletries, toilet rolls

Nappies size 4 & 5

Squash

All types of tinned vegetables incl. Tinned potatoes

Instant smash potato, instant noodles, cous cous

Vegetarian foods

Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, sugar.

Tinned macaroni, jars of pasta sauce

Cereals, cereal bars, sweet & chocolate biscuits

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

Marmite.

**THE COLLECTION BOX WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH DURING THE FIRST WEEKEND OF DECEMBER FROM FRIDAY TO MONDAY THEN LAST WEEKEND OF THE MONTH** Thank You very much for your support

Gravesham Foodbank hosted by RCG 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)



## VILLAGE DIARY 2019

### January

Thurs	3rd	W.I. Meeting Memorial Hall - 7.30pm
Fri	4th	HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall 1.30 - 4pm
Sat	5th	Coffee & Conversation in the Vestry Hall 10.30 - 12.30pm
<b>Sun</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>The Epiphany of our Lord - Solemn Mass 9.30</b>
Mon	7th	Parish Council Meeting - Memorial Hall - Budget & Finance - 7.30pm
Wed	9th	Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	11th	HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall 1.30 - 4pm
Mon	14th	Higham Parish Council Meeting- Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Wed	16th	Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Thurs	17th	History Group - Memorial Hall 8pm (see p25)
Fri	18th	HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 - 4pm
Wed	23rd	Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Fri	25th	HiARA - Main Meeting - Memorial Hall 2pm - 4pm
<b>Sun</b>	<b>27th</b>	<b>Dedication Festival of St. John's Church 157th Anniversary of Consecration Solemn Mass 10am</b>
Wed	30th	Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm

### February

Fri	1st	HiAra - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 - 4pm
Sat	2nd	Coffee & Conversation in the Vestry Hall 10.30 - 12.30pm
Wed	6th	Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Thurs	7th	W.I. Meeting - Memorial Hall - 7.30pm
Fri	8th	HiAra - Activities - Memorial Hall -1.30 - 4pm
Wed	13th	Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	15th	HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 - 4pm
Fri	22nd	HiARA - Main Meeting - Memorial Hall - 2-4pm
Mon	25th	Parish Council Meeting - Memorial Hall - 7.30pm
Wed	27th	Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm

**CHURCH DRAW RESULTS NOVEMBER 2018**  
**£50 538 Mr Williamson**  
**£10 040 Mrs Simmonds**  
**NEXT DRAW 24<sup>th</sup> December 2019**