

# Significant Gestures

My earliest memory of Archbishop Michael Ramsey was when he retired in 1974. Ten years later, at theological college, I was privileged to hear him as he gave talks during our Holy Week. Two years on, as I was about to leave for ordination, he gave talks to the pre-ordination group. I had the huge privilege of acting as his server/chaplain when he presided (over the Liturgy of the Word and Concluding Rites) from the Chair during Sunday Mass. My duties complete, and being then quite old fashioned, I knelt to kiss his episcopal (bishop's) ring and take my leave. Showing me the ring with great pride he informed me it been given to him by the late Pope Paul VI. I believe he then never wore another.

Ramsey's official visit to Rome in the early 1960's was the first after 430 years of the Church of England being formally separated from the Western Church. The gesture of Paul VI giving his own episcopal ring, after centuries of denying that Anglicans were not a valid Church, was very *significant*. Such actions spoke more loudly and clearly than any official words could at that point in their Churches relations. There was a long way to go, but it opened many hitherto closed doors. Their meeting paved the way for a, still ongoing, series of official dialogues called ARCIC (Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission) on various issues – seeking common ground not division. When Ramsey's successor was enthroned in Canterbury the Roman Church was officially present for the first time; along with Ramsey's other great ecumenical passion, the Orthodox.

Ramsey was a bridge builder; and building bridges and maintaining them is

more significant than all the rhetoric of official 'positions'.

In 1969, canonising the 19<sup>th</sup> century R.C. Martyrs of Uganda, Paul VI made a particular tribute to the Anglican martyrs too. By the year 2000 the RC festival of the English Martyrs of the 16<sup>th</sup> century had ALSO been adopted by the C of E calendar – though it includes all not just our own.

This year on May 28<sup>th</sup> we will observe S. Paul VI now that he has been canonised. On his feast we pray for his present successor who, like him, inhabits a papacy pulled at from all directions by different factions, each wanting their own way. Paul had to, and Francis tries to, hold on to what we have inherited but also trying to interpret it in a way suitable to a different world from the centuries past. Like Paul VI Francis has his detractors but is also a man of *significant gestures* which speak volumes to the unchurched, the ordinary Christian and those not involved in officialdom and bureaucracy. He also speaks, from experience, warmly of Anglicans; though often we Anglicans seem to put more obstacles than ever in the way of reconciliation. Two days before, however, we will have prayed, on S. Augustine's day, for his and Ramsey's present successor, Archbishop Justin. Much of what is said above about difficulties in leadership could apply to him. The significant *Christian* gesture for each must always be prayer. May S. Paul VI and Michael Ramsey, Servant of God, add their prayers to ours.

*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 The Rev'd. Canon James F. Southward  
PRIEST *Telephone* 01634-717360  
*Email* [saintjohn.higham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:saintjohn.higham@yahoo.co.uk)

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

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

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

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

**TUESDAYS 8.15 pm and SATURDAYS 10.30 am**

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

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

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

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



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

HON ASST PRIEST FATHER PETER BOLTON 17 HERMITAGE ROAD, HIGHAM TEL: 01474 822726

THE	Mrs Teresa Joblin Hill Cottage 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

# May 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.

**Bank Holiday Mondays – Masses are 10am.**

DAY	DATE	CELEBRATION		INTENTION
WED	1st	S. Joseph the Worker		(m) A blessing on human work
Th.	2nd	S. Athanasius; <i>Bishop, Teacher</i>		(m) North African Christians
Fri	<b>3rd</b>	<b>Ss Philp &amp; James Apostles</b>		(f) The Diocesan Bishop
Sat	<b>4th</b>	<b>English Martyrs of C16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup></b>		(f) Local Roman Catholics
SUN	<b>5TH</b>	<b>3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		(+) <b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	6th	<b>S. John at the Latin Gate</b>	<b>10 am</b>	(m) S. John's Congregation
Tue	8th	Eastertide Feria		Persecuted Christians
Wed	9th	Eastertide Feria		The dying
Th.	10th	Eastertide Feria		Higham Congregationalists
Fri	11th	Eastertide Feria		Society of the Holy Cross
Sat.	12th	Eastertide Feria - <i>of Our Lady in Eastertide</i>		(v) Walsingham
SUN	<b>12TH</b>	<b>4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		(+) <b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	13th	Our Lady of Fatima		(m) Sick & disabled
Tue	14th	<b>S. Matthias, Apostle</b>		(f) Bishop Norman
Wed	15th	Eastertide Feria		+RIP's & Anniversaries
Th.	16th	S. Simon Stock, <i>Carmelite Friar</i>		(m) Aylesford Friary
Fri	17th	Eastertide Feria		Christian Aid work
Sat	18th	Eastertide Feria - <i>of Our Lady</i>		(v) In honour O.L. of Higham
SUN	<b>19TH</b>	<b>5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		(+) <b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	20th	Eastertide Feria		Christian Missionaries
Tue	21st	The Martyrs of Mexico		(m) The PCC
Wed	22nd	Eastertide Feria		School Governors
Th.	23rd	Eastertide Feria		Our Deanery
Fri.	24th	Our Lady, Help of Christians		(v) All Marian Societies
Sat	25th	S. Bede <i>the Venerable</i>		(m) The Northern Dioceses
SUN	<b>26TH *</b>	<b>6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		(+) <b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	27th *	<b>S. Augustine of Canterbury</b>	<b>10 am</b>	(f) Archbishop of Canterbury.
Tue	28th *	Eastertide Feria		Local Farms & Businesses
Wed	29th *	S. Paul VI <i>pope</i>		Pope Francis
<b>Th.</b>	<b>30th</b>	<b>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b>	<b>9.30AM</b>	(+) The Cathedral
		<i>HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION</i>	<b>7.30PM</b>	<b>THE PARISH</b>
Fri	31st	<b>The Visitation of Our Lady</b>		(f) The unborn

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

# THE MAY 'REQUIEM'

will be offered on Wednesday 15th May 2019 @ 9.30am

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ~ DAILY BIBLE READINGS ~

ONLY A FEW MINUTES A DAY following the readings used at Daily Mass  
in Church - even if you can't be there. Choose one or both readings.  
There are three readings for Sundays and special holy days.

**W *S. Joseph the Worker*      *May 1st***

Colossians 3.14-17,23-24    Matt 13.54-58

Th Acts 5.27-33      John 3.31-36

**F *Ss. PHILIP & JAMES*      *MAY 3RD***

1 Corinthians 15.1-8    John 14.6-14

**S *THE ENGLISH MARTYRS*      *MAY 4TH***

Acts 7.55-60      Matt 1.-17-20

***3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER*      *MAY 5TH***

Acts 5.27,32,40-41    Revelation 5.11-14

John 21.1-19

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*      *MAY 12TH***

Acts 13.14,43-52    Revelation 7.9,14-17

John 10.27-30

M Acts 11.1-18      John 10.1-10

**T *S. MATTHIAS*      *MAY 14TH***

Acts 1.15-26      John 15.9-17

W Acts 12.24 - 13.5    John 12.44-50

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*      *MAY 19TH***

Acts 14.21-27      Revelation 21.1-5

John 13.31-35

M Acts 14.5-18      John 14.21-26

T Acts 14.19-28      John 14.27-31

W Acts 15.1-6      John 15.1-8

Th Acts 15.7-21      John 15.9-11

F Acts 15.22-31      John 15.12-17

S Acts 16.1-10      John 15.18-21

***6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER*      *MAY 26TH***

Acts 15.1-2.22-29    Rev. 21.10-14,22-23

John 14.23-29

**M *S. AUGUSTINE*      *MAY 27TH***

*OF CANTERBURY*

1 Thessalonians 2.2-8

Matthew 9.35-37 or Luke 10.1-9

T Acts 16.22-34      John 16.5-11

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

***THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD***

***THURSDAY*      *MAY 30TH***

Acts 1.1-11

Hebrews 9.24-28, 10.19-23

Luke 24.46-53

**F. *THE VISITATION OF*      *MAY 31ST***

***THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY***

Zephaniah 3.14-18      Luke 1.39-56

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

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

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

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



*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.



## HiARA

At our meeting on March 22, members were intrigued by a talk on “The Theory of Self Belief” by Paul Harris. Starting in his early years by purchasing a semi-detached house with 2 tenants! he persuaded the Building Society that the rents would pay the mortgage. (Belief in yourself). Paul gave several examples of famous people who had had very poor upbringings, yet who took every opportunity to help themselves “up the ladder”, these included Oprah Winfrey, Albert Einstein and Richard Dawkins. All these people had a self-belief in themselves.

Paul related how the Criterion Theatre, Blue town, Sheerness, came into being, from a derelict warehouse to a very popular venue, all due to the hard work and self-belief of two people. Paul is a published author and a well-known theatrical personality, whose motto appears to be: positivity makes things happen!

With all the publicity about eating well and keeping fit, perhaps we should all join Janet and Percy on their regular rambles and lunches over the coming spring and summer on their very successful jaunts locally and around Kent.

All our other activities are well supported with more and more members attending the various sessions every Friday. Along with the successful book stall and cake and craft sales every month it was lovely to welcome several new members to our meetings in March.

A cheque for £750.00 was presented to Martin Reeves, representing the Friends of the Wisdom Hospice, who outlined improvements the money would assist with, and stated how grateful the Friends of the Wisdom Hospice are for our help

*Pat Oakeshott  
HiARA Publicity*

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019

*Christians coming to the aid of others – and not just Christians!*

### In praise of charity

In John's gospel the Lord says: *By this love you have for one another, everyone will know you are my disciples.* In a letter by John we read: *My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.* So faithful Christians should look into themselves and carefully examine their minds and the impulses of their hearts. If they find some of the fruits of love stored in their hearts then they must not doubt God's presence within them, but to make themselves more and more able to receive so great a guest they should do more and more works of durable mercy and kindness. After all, if God is love, charity should know no limit, for God himself cannot be confined within limits.

What is the appropriate time for performing works of charity? My beloved children, any time is the right time ..... charity contains all other virtues and covers a multitude of sins.

As we prepare to celebrate that greatest of all mysteries, by which the blood of Jesus Christ destroyed our sins, let us first of all make ready the sacrificial offerings – that is, our works of mercy. What God in his goodness has already given to us, let us give to those who have sinned against us. And to the poor also, and to those who are afflicted in various ways, let us show a more open-handed generosity so that God may be thanked through many voices and the needy may be fed as a result of our fasting. No act of devotion on the part of the faithful gives God more pleasure than the support that is lavished on his poor. Where God finds charity with its loving concern, there he recognises the reflection of his own fatherly care.

Do not be put off giving by a lack of resources. A generous spirit is itself great wealth, and there can be no shortage of material for generosity where it is Christ who feeds and Christ who is fed. His hand is present in all this activity: his hand, which multiplies the bread by breaking it and increases it by giving it away.

When you give alms, do not be anxious but full of happiness. The greatest treasure will go to the one who has kept the least for himself. The holy apostle Paul tells us: *He who provides seed for the sower will give bread for food, provide you with more seed, and increase the harvest of your goodness, in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.*

*From a sermon of Saint Leo the Great (Pope from 440-461)*

Jesus Said: "Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands—all that you can hold.  
In S.Luke -  
Ch.6 v.38 The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you."





Jebbeh Konneh is heavily pregnant. Her sister recently died in childbirth and Jebbeh fears she may be next: 'I'm afraid. I pray, when that day comes, God will help me to deliver safely, so that I can have a bouncing baby and I'll be healthy.'

### **Christian Aid Week: 'All mums should live'**

Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking.

Jebbeh told us: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.'

This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.



*Photo credits: Christian Aid/Tom Pilston*

*Extract from Christian Aid literature*



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2019 12-18 MAY

In 2018 the envelope collections raised £834. This year the same method is being used in the way St John's fundraises in Higham during Christian Aid week.

We are no longer organising a house-to-house collection, **so no-one will be calling to collect the Christian Aid envelopes** that will be delivered to homes throughout the village. Instead, we are asking you to take your donation, in the Christian Aid envelope, to the nearest of the addresses shown on the flyer which will accompany the envelopes.

**OR**

If you prefer, please bring your envelope to St John's Church on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, between 10.30 am and 11.30 am.

**OR**

Join us for Mass at St John's on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 9.30 am and bring your envelope with you, or deliver it to the church between 10.45 am and 12 noon.

But please do not leave your envelope in St John's Church if there is no-one there to receive it.

If you have difficulty in getting out to one of our drop-off points, please ring either 01634 717360 or 01474 823423 and we will arrange for your envelope to be collected.

**PLEASE HELP US TO SUPPORT CHRISTIAN AID IN THEIR  
WORK WITH THE POOR AND HUNGRY OF THE WORLD.**

*Higham with Merston Parochial Church Council.*

## HIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting was held on Monday, April 8 at 7.30 pm in Higham Memorial Hall.

Following a warm welcome from Chairman, Councillor Peter Allinson, and following the uncontested election, one of the newly elected parish councillors, Stewart Mackie, was introduced and asked if he would like to stay for the meeting to get an understanding of the evening's procedures.

Councillor Allinson then gave the Councillors' thanks and gratitude to Councillor Jennifer Papadopulos and Councillor Pat Oakeshott who are stepping down from the parish council following a combined 68 years of service to the community.....quite an achievement.

The minutes of the last meeting were tabled and signed and matters arising discussed.

The Annual Parish Newsletter is currently being delivered to each property in the village and the arrangements for the Annual Parish Assembly on April 11th confirmed. The guest speaker this year is Tammy Woodhouse, Managing Director of Millbrook Garden Centres, and she will be telling us how the popular garden centres came about.

It was agreed to discuss the judging arrangements for the annual Gardens for Pleasure competition at the next council meeting.

KCC Community Warden, Paul Hassell, gave his report which included information given to him at a "drop-in" meeting about suspicious persons in a car driving around the area. He took note of all the information. Following this a resident of Cobham reported the very same information. Paul handed this to his "Intelligence Unit" and as a subsequence the persons were arrested by the police. Evidence in their vehicle matched them to a robbery in Rainham. Two persons have been jailed and one is on remand. Paul emphasised that no matter how small incidents or information

seems to be, if you feel it is suspicious, report it to him and he will log the report. To contact Paul call....07811271256.

Reports from the 3 subcommittees were discussed - the parking restriction bollards outside the Gardeners Public House have been installed and arrangements for the November 5 Firework Display confirmed.

12 speed watch sessions had been held recently resulting in 104 vehicles identified as over the speed limit, with one travelling along past Buckland Farm at 50 mph. This was reported to the police.

Following a short break, planning, finance and correspondence matters were attended to. Councillors Papadopoulos and Oakeshott were given a warm round of fond applause as they stood to leave their last parish council meeting.

The next meeting is on Monday, May 13th at 7.30 pm in Higham Memorial Hall where members of the public are welcome to attend.

*Liz Jeffery*



### **SMILE LINES – out of the mouths.....**

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two people standing by the door? They're hushers."

## HIGHAM'S LITTLE GEM - THE CHURCH ON THE EDGE

Sitting on the edge of the marshes in the pretty setting of lower Higham is an unusual rag and flintstone church. A grade 1 listed building, it was very familiar to Charles Dickens who moved to Higham in 1859. As well as being his local parish church it was where his daughter Katy got married. In addition to having Dickens connections, this ancient church has a long and interesting history stretching back to Norman and Saxon times. It was built on the site of a former Saxon church known to exist in 774. In 1151 King Stephan founded a priory nearby the church for his daughter, Princess Mary. The nuns from the priory were responsible for the causeway to the ferry that used to run between Higham and Essex in the early Middle Ages at a time when the village was quite a thriving port. The church grew over the years, doubling its size in the 14th century, and in early 1710 had its oak shingle spire added. To this day, St Mary's still contains Norman features, has some wonderful medieval woodwork and is set in a most distinctive landscape on the edge of open Marshland.

As with all old buildings, time marches on and bits fall off, rot, or get eaten by little creatures and St Mary's is no different. This year the "Friends of St Mary's" and the Church Conservation Trust, who help to restore and maintain St Mary's, will launch a programme on 12 June to replace and repair the oak shingles on the Spire (this is a free event that will take place in the church at 6 pm).

Every year the church hosts a variety of events, not only to help raise money for the restoration and maintenance of this lovely church, but also to encourage people to come and enjoy the beauty and atmosphere of the lovely church in its pretty location. The first event for 2019 is the "BIG LUNCH" on Saturday 8 June. This is part of a bigger nationwide event getting people together to share food, get to know each other and generally have fun. The event starts at 10.30 am with a guided tour of the Church, the Churchyard and nearby area followed by a ploughman's lunch. Tickets cost £15.

For further information and tickets contact  
[www.highamvillagehistory.org](http://www.highamvillagehistory.org), email:  
[info@highamhistoryvillage.org.uk](mailto:info@highamhistoryvillage.org.uk), or ring 01634 718288.

Other Events taking place in 2019 to help raise funds include:

Four Weddings, Baptism and Funerals; a talk by John Vigar - 28 June,  
7.30 pm, Tickets £8 from [friends@stmaryschurchhigham.com](mailto:friends@stmaryschurchhigham.com) or ring  
07900 473043.

Wind in the Willows - Performed by "This is my theatre", 26 July at 7.30  
pm. Tickets £10 from [www.thisismytheatre.com](http://www.thisismytheatre.com)

Artists in the Church -21 July 2-7 pm, be inspired and get creative at a  
"church on the edge" gathering and be inspired in your own way by St  
Mary's and the surrounding area. For more information go to  
[www.stmaryschurchhigham.com/artists-in-residence/](http://www.stmaryschurchhigham.com/artists-in-residence/)

Jazz in the Church - 17 August at 7.30 pm. Tickets £12.50 from  
[friends@stmaryschurchhigham.com](mailto:friends@stmaryschurchhigham.com)

For more information about any of these events please contact  
[friends@stmaryschurchhigham.com](mailto:friends@stmaryschurchhigham.com). For more information about  
visiting the church go to [www.stmaryschurchhigham.com](http://www.stmaryschurchhigham.com)

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## CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Congregational Church is located in School Lane. They hold  
services each Sunday at 11.00 am with other services as  
advertised. The Secretary, Peter Relf can be contacted on  
01474 322195 or by email: [pmyrw65@gmail.com](mailto:pmyrw65@gmail.com)

They regularly hold coffee mornings on Saturdays from 10-12 noon  
which provides funds for nominated charities. The dates for the  
summer are as follows:

27 <sup>th</sup> April	BLESMA	27 <sup>th</sup> July	Eleanor Hospice
25 <sup>th</sup> May	Kent Air Ambulance	31 <sup>st</sup> August	Fishermen's Mission
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Medway Maritime Hospital	28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Gospel Printing Mission

## STREET CRIME

From time to time I visit a young man in prison. He's serving a life sentence for murder – a street stabbing. He didn't actually kill the victim but he was present, did nothing to prevent the incident and disposed of the knife. Although only a teenager he was the oldest person present among two groups of youngsters each taunting each other. He was given life sentence for 'associate murder'. The crime was a tragedy that should never have happened. Tempers were high and the violence erupted very quickly. Not only was a young life lost but the guilty youngsters will be permanently blighted by a moment of madness. At another time I conducted the funeral of a teenager who was stabbed in the street in a silly spat about a girl. Over five hundred people attended the funeral and I still often think about the youngster and the devastating effect that his murder had on his parents and friends.

Knife crimes in our streets are on the increase at the moment (and here in Kent) despite the public outcry and revulsion. Increased action by the government and the police and community bodies is targeted to reduce the number of crimes and stop them altogether. It's necessary to ensure that the streets are safe, people know that such violence will not be tolerated and that the penalties reflect the serious nature of the crime. The social conditions which shape people's lives are an important factor in understanding why lives go seriously wrong but nothing is greater than the voice of conscience telling an individual that murder is wrong whatever the circumstances. This cannot work if youngsters involved do not take responsibility for their own actions. Moral teaching about what is right and what is wrong is 'given' to protect life and save us, as individuals and as a society, from descending into a violent and fearful society. All the major religious faiths teach that murder is wrong. I was alarmed in the cases that I had been involved with because as a Church Community all the influence we had exercised – Catechism, Sunday school, church schools, family support, youth groups and activities – wasn't strong enough to counteract the street culture of gangs and all the

glorification of violence and perverted heroism that goes with them. Often the truth only comes home when it's too late. The young prisoner I visit bitterly regrets what happened and is trying to rebuild his life. He's anxious that his younger siblings don't fall into the same ways that he did.

Personal moral responsibility is vital but so also is community responsibility. Our societies should be more concerned with the moral implications of human behaviour and the essential things about life and relationships. Too much emphasis on material enjoyment, 'self-fulfilment' and celebrity status all take away from the serious nature of life and its meaning. As we move towards a more 'secular' society we move away from abiding moral values. Secular morality is based on common welfare but it's pragmatic and has no deep inner base. If you know the Ten Commandments and make them a guide for life you have a sense of right and wrong and of 'holy fear – respect for God's law which is there for your own good and for general well-being. Our church communities cannot take it for granted that 'someone' will influence young people in the right way on our behalf. We need to be robust in instilling the values which produce strong moral character (in people at all stages of life).

The greatest thing about all that God has created is life itself. Our Christian view is that our life is an image of the divine life. Nothing is more precious than life. It is good and sweet in so many conditions of life and in relationships. At all stages it can be very fragile and come under attack. Just look at the terrible conditions in which so many people live today – dire poverty, famine, disaster, and human malice. Life is so easily abused and demeaned. It needs constant defence and protection, not just from charities and aid agencies but as a core value for governments and societies. Let us all make sure that in our own personal lives we work for a better society in which life is truly valued and respected. When one atrocity is committed it affects us all. Let us pray that the power of God's love, shown in the gift of life, will always overcome all else.

*Fr Andrew*



## HIGHAM CRIME STATISTICS

The figures below have been extracted from the website – UK Crime Statistics for Higham showing the Crime levels. More detailed information is available on this site –

[www.police.uk/kent/172/crime/violent-crime/stats/#crime\\_trend](http://www.police.uk/kent/172/crime/violent-crime/stats/#crime_trend)

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	Anti Social Behaviour	Bicycle Theft	Burglary	Criminal Damage/ Arson	Drugs	Public Order	Vehicle Crime	Violence and Sexual Offences
Feb-19	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	1
Jan-19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Dec-18	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4
Nov-18	0	0	1	2	0	3	1	3
Oct-18	1	0	3	1	2	3	5	8
Sep-18	2	0	2	1	0	1	4	6
Aug-18	5	0	0	4	0	7	6	18
Jul-18	9	0	6	4	0	2	7	6
Jun-18	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	4
May-18	4	0	2	3	0	0	3	6
Apr-18	3	1	1	2	0	3	0	5
Mar-18	4	0	2	1	0	0	1	5

### POEM

A vicar, from Islington way,  
Permitted his rose to decay.  
His wife, with more vigour  
Bought a hose with a trigger  
And said to her spouse, "let us spray!"



*By Nigel Beeton*

*Source: Parish Pump*

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



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

Well now is the chance to do it:-

However due to lack of storage, St John's will gladly receive your unwanted clothes, shoes, bags or soft toys from **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 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 18th June 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

## A TALE OF TWO CITIES

I trained for the priesthood at Salisbury and Wells Theological College. The college was so named because a generation earlier the two theological colleges, Salisbury and Wells were amalgamated.

The College was based in the Close in Salisbury - a wonderful place to live! There was little to remind us that we ever had had anything to do with Wells except that the then Bishop of Wells was on the Board of Governors of the college and, more importantly for us students, every year on Ascension Day the whole college got on a coach after breakfast and headed off to Wells where we attended a Solemn Mass in Wells Cathedral. After Mass we had a picnic lunch on the lawns of the Palace gardens (scrumpy was provided by the Pincipal) and a cricket match (students versus staff and old boys) was played. We would arrive back in Salisbury in time to attend Evensong in Salisbury Cathedral.

The two cathedrals, I always thought, each illustrated different aspects of the feast we were celebrating.

One enters Wells Cathedral by the West door. The outside West wall is a magnificent sight. It is covered with images of Saints. In medieval times there would have been even more than there are today. One was very definitely supposed to get the impression that when you were entering Wells Cathedral you were entering the very gate of heaven. Here you were in that blessed company of those who praised God for eternity.

In those days the Liturgy at Wells reflected that heavenly reality. It is not an exaggeration to say that the priests and other ministers were taken from our sight by the clouds of incense. Mass was celebrated in a way that left the congregation in no doubt that they were taking part in heavenly worship. Mere flesh and blood mortals were taking part in the eternal Liturgy of heaven. It was glorious!

Salisbury Cathedral is altogether different from Wells. The liturgy was more austere (though not lacking in beauty) and, like the spire of the cathedral itself, pointed beyond itself to what is to come. The spire points away from earth to the heavens and the bible-based liturgy of Evensong teaches about what we are to be and what we must aspire to and the second reading reminded us to “Grow up into him in all things which is the head, even Christ” (Ephesians 4:16). It was a liturgy that pointed to what we must become.

So, the worship at each of those two cathedrals pointed to two different aspects of the mystery of our Lord’s Ascension:

Wells, with its glorious heavenly worship, reminded us that the Lord of heaven and earth who became incarnate for us, who became man, has taken that humanity into the heavens. Humanity is in heaven seated at the right hand of the Father. The man who offered himself to the Father on the cross lives in the presence of God making intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25). And when we celebrate the Eucharist on earth, we are taking part in that heavenly offering; we are one with the Son who eternally offers himself in love and thanksgiving to the Father. Heaven is here, now, whenever we gather in his name and take his name upon our lips.

Salisbury pointed to where we must go. We must work out our salvation, as St Paul tells us, “with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12). Here in this life we need to journey onwards to where our leader has gone. Yes, Christ has opened for us the way to heaven, but it is not ours just yet. And, as we are told in the epistle to the Colossians: “So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God”. (1:1-3)

Both aspects of the mystery of the Ascension are conveyed in the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer given for the Solemnity of the Ascension.

For the Lord Jesus, the King of glory,  
conqueror of sin and death,  
ascended (today) to the highest heavens,  
as the Angels gazed in wonder.  
Mediator between God and man,  
judge of the world and Lord of hosts,  
he ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state  
but that we, his members, might be confident of following  
where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before.

God bless you all.

*Fr Peter*

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## EVENTS

### **Walks by Gravesend Historical footpaths Committee**

All are welcome to join us as we explore the landscape, local history and folklore. Please note that walks are steep in places, have stiles, uneven surfaces and are often muddy - please dress and act accordingly for yourself, your family and pets.

#### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June – Guided circular historical walk Hodsoll Street to Stansted**

Meet 2.30 pm outside the Green Man public house, Hodsoll Street, TN15 7 LE

**Leader and guide – Christoph Bull 07702287147**

#### **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July – circular Evening walk to Shorne and Claylane Woods**

Meet 7 pm on junction of Thong Lane, Vigilant Way DA12 4AA.



+

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

***THURSDAY,  
30th May 2019***

**A Holy Day of obligation**

*Celebrating the crowning glory of the Lord's Resurrection*

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**Said Mass – 9.30 am**

**Solemn Mass - 7.30 pm**

***The Lord Bishop of Rochester will be present;  
presiding from the Chair and preaching at this mass***

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

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



The Solemnity of  
***PENTECOST***

(Whitsunday)

*The Last Day  
of Eastertide*

***SUNDAY,***  
***9th June***  
***2019***



The day the Universal Church celebrates its beginning s.

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

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**SOLEMN MASS - 9.30am**

**Stations of The Resurrection - 5pm**

**Said Mass - 6.30pm (if required)**

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

## HIGHAM CHORAL GROUP

### Higham Choral Group

Another great concert was held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March in St Nicholas' Church, Strood. Our thanks for their warm welcome.

The programme included some of our favourites but included new pieces: The Anvil Chorus, the theme tune from Mission Impossible – without words (you had to be there!), Agnus Dei (Barber), Northern Lights (Gjeilo), and several pieces arranged by our own Fraser Westmorland. We finished with much flag waving and singing to the popular Proms songs – I Vow to Thee My Country, Rule Britannia, Jerusalem and Land of Hope and Glory.



There was huge support from friends, families as well as the congregation which enabled us to raise over £210 for the church. A great result.



The next concert is being held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July at St John The Baptist Church, Meopham.

If you would be interested in joining the Choral Group we rehearse on Mondays in the Congregational Hall at 8 pm until 9.30 pm. Please contact Sian Miller on 01634 366050 or email her at shaney1@blueyonder.co.uk.

*Liz Croker*



# VOICE REJOICE



## A children's choir in Higham for both girls and boys

Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 6.pm to 7.pm in St John's Vestry Hall, St John's Church, Hermitage Road, Higham

The aims of running this choir are:

Teach the children to read music. Introduce them to other genres of music they may not be aware of. Teach them how to sing correctly using coaching techniques and games and the most important part is for the children to meet as a group and have lots of fun.

The choir occasionally sings with the church singers at Sunday services and Higham Choral Group

Any children interested in joining this club please contact

Catherine Ody on 07795 593355

**AGM+  
TALK**

**HIGHAM VILLAGE  
HISTORY GROUP**

# THE LIFE AND TIMES OF EDITH CAVELL

Edith Louisa Cavell was a British nurse celebrated for saving the lives of soldiers, from both sides, during the First World War. She helped some 200 allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium, for which she was arrested. She was found guilty of treason and executed by a German firing squad on October 12 1915. A legendary and inspirational woman.

**MAY 16TH 2019**

**8.00PM**

**SPEAKER:** MELANIE GIBSON-BARTON  
Memorial Hall, School Lane, Higham ME3 7JL

Free entry for members – visitors are always welcome  
(£4.50 per talk – this 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 718285

## FROM THE EDITORS OF 'THE BRIDGE'



### **Duty Done (For this month)**

Sitting there, on Sunday morning,  
Congregations in their pews  
Read their magazines, informing  
Them of all the latest news.

All save one who sits there smiling –  
She knows that journal very well  
Having spent a month compiling –  
She knows what those pages tell!

She it was who, deadlines facing  
Got those varied items in  
Phoning, asking, pleading, chasing  
Each a battle she must win!

Though she earns no princely wages  
Though she gladly gives her time  
Efficiently she fills those pages  
Choosing pictures, prose, and rhyme.

So she sits, her rest deserving  
For this month her duty's done  
Maybe she's just strength conserving –  
Soon she starts another one!

*By Nigel Beeton*

## HOW FOODBANKS WORK

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

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

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

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

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

*Information extracted from Gravesham foodbank's website*

A typical food parcel includes:

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

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



# May 2019 Donation Guide

**PLEASE NOTE: FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH THE FOODBANK HAVE SPECIALLY REQUESTED THAT WE GIVE PRIORITY TO THE HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS BELOW.**

- ✓ **Smash (instant mash)**
  - ✓ **Tinned meat products – ham, corned beef,**
  - ✓ **Tin macaroni cheese**
  - ✓ **Custard**
  - ✓ **Instant packets of cous cous**
- 
- ✓ **Tinned fish**
  - ✓ **Shampoo Rice**
  - ✓ **No fridge/UHT milk**
  - ✓ **Instant noodles**

Also required:

- Household cleaners, washing up liquid' Laundry tablets, spray polish
  - Deodorants, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bars of soap, shower gels
  - Ladies personal toiletries, toilet rolls
  - Nappies size 4 & 5
  - Tinned meals
  - Shower gels
- 
- All types of tinned vegetables incl. Tinned potatoes Tinned spaghetti
  - Packet soup
- 
- Vegetarian foods
  - Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, sugar.
  - Jars of pasta sauce
  - Cereals, cereal bars, sweet & chocolate biscuits
  - Tinned rice pudding, tinned fruit, sponge puddings, Shaving foam/gel
  - Body spray
  - Squash/ fruit juices
  - Marmite, Jam/peanut butter

**THE COLLECTION BOX WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH DURING THE LAST WEEKEND OF MAY FROM FRIDAY TO MONDAY**

**Thank You very much for your support**

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



## NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS' GUILD

How lovely it is to see the sun. It makes everything seem so much brighter. We as embroiderers take a lot of inspiration from nature, whether it's flora or fauna we interpret what we see and even feel.

Recently, we met a lovely lady called Anne Hellyer ( [www.paintingthetown.org.uk](http://www.paintingthetown.org.uk)), who had a slightly different take on things. She gets her inspiration from buildings and towns. Hand painting all her



fabric, she then embellishes it with stitching and anything else that she feels fits. Usually self-supporting, her work is reinforced by wire and can be placed on a wall or as a standalone piece, they portray the places and people that she meets. Her work is amazing and inspirational, we really enjoyed her visit.

This month's postcard challenge was based on our favourite book. We had a diverse and colourful collection, they were all beautifully stitched. Titles included Paddington Bear, Summer Garden by Tove Jansson, The Velveteen Rabbit, Nora Roberts



Garden Trilogy and Ginkgo, The Tree That Time Forgot, as well as Winnie the Pooh and The Applique Book which gave us the beautiful Air Balloon. Our last challenge is based on Architecture and it will be interesting to see what evolves.

These projects give us the inspiration to create a small piece of art that we share with others. Being part of a group of like-minded people of all ages and experiences gives us the support and confidence we need to do them in the first place.

If you would like to come along and see what we do and even take part in some exciting projects, please have a look at our new web site ([www.northkentembroiders.co.uk](http://www.northkentembroiders.co.uk)) where you will find all the information and inspiration you will need to start you on your stitching journey.

We meet at Gravesend Library every Third Saturday starting at 2pm, if you would like to come and meet us. We have a lovely group of ladies of all ages and experience and would be happy to meet you.

Happy Stitching *Antoinette*

(all links and Photographs used with permission)

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## SMILE LINES

### Do you know your hymns?

Dentist's Hymn..... Crown Him with Many Crowns  
Weatherman's Hymn..... There Shall Be Showers of Blessings  
Contractor's Hymn..... The Church's One Foundation  
Tailor's Hymn..... Holy, Holy, Holy  
Golfer's Hymn..... There is a Green Hill Far Away

### For those on the roads

30 mph..... Pass me not, O gentle Saviour  
50 mph..... God Will Take Care of You  
70 mph..... Nearer My God to Thee  
85 mph..... This World Is Not My Home  
95 mph..... Lord, I'm Coming Home  
100 mph..... Precious Memories

- I think my family tree is a few branches short of full bloom.
- What is the difference between perseverance and obstinacy?  
One is a strong will, and the other is a strong won't.

➤ *Source: Parish Pump*

## VILLAGE DIARY MAY 2019

Wed	1 <sup>st</sup>	Brownies and Rainbows- Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Thurs	2 <sup>nd</sup>	W.I. meeting - Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Fri	3 <sup>rd</sup>	HiARA Activities- Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Sat	4 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee & Conversation- Vestry Hall 10.30 - 12.30pm
Mon	6 <sup>th</sup>	Higham Parish Council - Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Wed	8 <sup>th</sup>	Brownies and Rainbows- Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	10 <sup>th</sup>	HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	Boot Fair - Memorial Hall
Wed	15 <sup>th</sup>	Brownies and Rainbows- Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Thurs	16 <sup>th</sup>	History Village History Group - Memorial Hall - 8pm Talk: The Life & Times of Edith Cavell Speaker: Melanie Gibson-Barton
Fri	17 <sup>th</sup>	HiARA Activities- Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Wed	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Brownies and Rainbows- Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	24 <sup>th</sup>	HiARA Monthly Meeting - Memorial Hall - 2pm-4pm Beavers - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Thurs	30 <sup>th</sup>	Solemnity of <b>The Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b> Said Mass 9.30 and <b>Solemn Mass</b> at 7.30 pm <i>The Lord Bishop of Rochester will be present; Presiding from the Chair and preaching at this mass</i>
Fri	31 <sup>st</sup>	HiARA Quiz - Memorial Hall

### CHURCH DRAW RESULTS MARCH 2019

£50 227 B. Taylor  
£10 051 Mr & Mrs Vasler

### CHURCH DRAW RESULTS APRIL 2019

£50 107 Mrs Jupp  
£10 138 Mr & Mrs Jarvis

**NEXT DRAW 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY**