

## **‘All chop and change’ – but still the same!**

Welcome back to a printed ‘Bridge’. Many thanks to those producing this and those hardy souls taking it out and about the village. This is an act of faith that things are changing slowly but surely for the better. Who knows though? By October we may [like those details in the March Bridge] need to radically adapt Church life once again.

Back in July we were preparing to re-use the Church for worship again. Services had never actually stopped; they were just not held in the Church. In the on-line version I wrote *‘in services there can be no singing; Communion will be in one kind only [the sacred Host]; one-off service papers need be produced and isolated for 48hrs before use then taken away; any collection needs to be ‘taken’ as people enter, bagged and isolated for 48/72 hours before counting and banking’*. There is no change but since then facemasks have become compulsory. We have volunteers now who sanitise the pews after Sunday 9.30am. To attend this a place HAS TO BE RESERVED. Such cleaning means we can then offer mass at 11am for a smaller congregation. It is also zoomed to a dozen plus homes. The 6.30pm mass only happens now on request and so is no longer ‘live’ on Facebook.

Our daily masses resumed slowly in Church and are always ‘zoomed’. For various reasons – mostly to do with technology and other logistics- the times of weekday masses during lockdown were different. After consultation, weekday evening masses returned to 7.30pm in September. From

October 1st the morning masses will return to 9.30am. So, in terms of time its *‘back to normal’*, except, of course, given the restrictions and extra work involved afterwards, it isn’t normal at all.

All of this means necessary changes to other things. The long delayed Annual Meeting can finally be held after the Sunday 9.30am. No refreshments will mean a prompt 1030 start. The 11am will have be delayed that day for 30 mins.

When one considers the actions and people required to mitigate the risk of infection, it has been decided that, this year, we will NOT BE GOING TO S.MARY’S on the first Sunday of October. I know some of you will be quite disappointed, but this has already affected our Harvest Thanksgiving. Not only in the service but also in the traditional Harvest luncheon. We cannot even offer coffee at present let alone a celebration meal!

Taking these factors into account, particularly limitations of numbers at services, the annual Remembrance Sunday event will have to be radically different. Further in the Bridge you will see that this year it is to be observed at 1050am, with a silence at 11am, followed by laying of wreaths. This will only be by a quite limited number of uniformed organisation reps. The 11am mass will then become the Requiem we offer that day. For once, this mass WILL REQUIRE A RESERVED SEAT.

Please bear with us as this situation continues to evolve.

*Fr James*

# The Bridge

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

## S.JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH - WORSHIP

### Most MASSES also provided via Zoom

Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday MORNINGS 9.30 am  
Tuesday and Thursday EVENINGS 7.30 pm

**Sunday Mass** in Church only ) MORNING 9.30 am  
*Please contact **Helen Walker** 01474396569, text 07528 472686, or email [hwalker31@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hwalker31@hotmail.co.uk) if you wish to join us as numbers are limited*

Sunday Mass in Church and via Zoom 11.00 am  
Sunday evening Mass in Church only on request 6.30 pm

Private Prayer daily - 9 am - 6 pm - times published in the Bulletin each week – available on the Home page of the website.

**WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS ARE BOTH HELD IN CHURCH – ATTENDANCE IS LIMITED TO 30 PEOPLE**

**FUNERALS ARE ALSO HELD AT CREMATORIA.**

**Baptisms / Confession / Anointing** Contact Fr. James

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



PARISH The Rev'd. Canon James F. Southward

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

**Telephone** 01634-717360 **Email** [saintjohn.higham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:saintjohn.higham@yahoo.co.uk)

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

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**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

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\* Evening calls only on these numbers please

# OCTOBER - AT S.JOHN'S - 2020

## CALENDAR AND MASS INTENTIONS

**SUNDAY: 9.30AM Parish Mass – SEAT RESERVATION REQUIRED**  
*Reserved seating NOT required for the 11AM [Zoomed] or 6.30pm [on request]*  
**NOR for Weekday Mass at 10am - except Tue & Thur at 7.30pm**

DAY/DATE	CELEBRATION	INTENTION
Th 1st	S.Thérèse of Lisieux <i>Teacher, Religious</i>	(m) Christian Missionaries
Fri 2nd	The Holy Guardian Angels	(m) Abused Children
Sat. 3rd	Feria <i>of Our Lady, patron of Higham</i>	(v) All Villagers
<b>SUN 4TH</b>	<b>DEDICATION FEAST OF S.MARY'S</b>	<b>(+) THE PARISH</b>
NO SERVICES in S.Mary's this year		
Mon 5th	Feria <i>Ord. Week 27</i>	The Samaritans Org.
Tue 6th	Feria	Diocesan Officials
Wed 7th	Our Lady of the Rosary	(m) Prayer & Study Groups
Tue 8th	Feria	Higham Congregationalists
Fri 9th	Ss Denis & Companions <i>martyrs</i>	(m) The Church in France
Sat 10th	S.Paulinus, <i>3rd Bp of Rochester</i>	(m) +James, Bp of Rochester
<b>SUN 11TH</b>	<b>28TH ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>	<b>(+) THE PARISH</b>
Mon 12th	S.Wilfrid <i>Bp - Missionary</i>	(m) Bp. Norman & The Society
Tue 13th	S.Edward <i>Confessor King</i>	(f) H.M. The Queen
Wed 14th	Feria <i>Ord. Week 28 of Requiem</i>	(v) +RIP's & Anniversaries
Th 15th	S.Teresa of Avila; <i>Teacher</i>	(m) Seminaries & Theologians
Fri 16th	Feria <i>of Our Lady</i>	(v) Walsingham & Marian Shrines
Sat. 17th	S.Ignatius of Antioch <i>Martyr-Bishop</i>	(m) Church in the Bible-lands
<b>SUN 18TH</b>	<b>29TH ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>	<b>(+) THE PARISH</b>
Mon 19th	S.Philip Howard <i>Martyr</i>	(m) Victims of persecution
Tue 20th	Feria <i>Ord. Week 29</i>	The terminally ill
Wed 21st	Feria	Victims of crime
Th 22nd	Feria <i>of Our Lady</i>	(v) Ecumenical Soc. of BVM
Fri 23rd	Feria	Soc. Of the Holy Cross
Sat. 24th	S.Anthony Claret <i>Bp, Social Reformer</i>	(m) The enslaved
<b>SUN 25TH</b>	<b>30TH ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>	<b>(+) THE PARISH</b>
Mon 26th	Feria <i>Ord. Week 30</i>	County & Unitary Councils
Tue 27th	Feria	The lapsed & indifferent
Wed 28th	Ss. Simon & Jude <i>Apostles</i>	(f) The PEV's
Th 29th	Feria <i>Ord. Week 30</i>	The Church's mission
Fri 30st	Feria	The poor & indebted
Sat. 31st	Feria <i>of Our Lady</i>	(v) All Marian Organisations

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

# THE OCTOBER REQUIEM

is on WEDNESDAY 14th October 2020 at 10am

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

1st	Percy Urwick Lasbrey <i>PRIEST</i> *	18th	Emilie Rebecca Shade
3rd	Craig Ashley Powell		David Jesson Hewins
	Violet Cecilia Wenham	19th	Eric Lane
4th	Joseph Glendinning	20th	Kenneth Newton <i>PRIEST</i>
5th	Jeffrey James Howes		Connie Fowler
	Pamela Cole	23rd	Leonard Lewis Jarrett
6th	Michael Eric Fowler		Michael André Holyhead
7th	Gordon Eric Holroyd SSM, <i>PRIEST</i>	24th	'Pete' (Adrian Leonard) Browne
8th	Frank Glendinning	25th	Maudie Adelaide Isabella Gillingham
	Charles Peter Chesterton	26th	Viola Gertrude Falwell
	Stanley Albert Wallis		Eileen Bassam
11th	Alexander Wainwright-Melnyk	27th	Walter de Merton <i>BISHOP</i> #
12th	Ina Hewins		'Sue' (Sylvia Alice) Lane
13th	Ruby Ella Hayes		Jimmy Wise
15th	Savvas Papadopoulos	30th	Ellen Margaret Reeks
17th	John Challis <i>PRIEST</i>	31st	Gloria Pearl Wallis Ernest Arthur Pope

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

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

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

# ~ DAILY BIBLE READINGS ~

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

**Week 26**

Th Job 19.21-27a                      Luke 10.1-12  
**F Holy Guardian Angels                      Oct 2nd**  
 Exodus 23.20-23    Matthew 18.1-5,10  
 S Job 42.1-3, 6, 12-17      Luke 10.17-24

W Galatians 5.18-25                      Luke 11.42-46  
 Th Ephesians 1.1-10                      Luke 11.47-54  
 F Ephesians 1.11-14                      Luke 12.1-7  
 S Ephesians 1.15-23                      Luke 12.8-12

**SUNDAY    OCT.4th**

**THE DEDICATION FEAST OF S.MARYS**

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

1 Kings 8.22-23,27-30  
 Acts 7.44-50  
 John 4.19-24

**Week 27**

M Galatians 1.6-12                      Luke 10.25-37  
 T Galatians 1.13-24                      Luke.10.38-42  
 W Galatians 2.1-2.7-14                      Luke 11.1-4  
 Th Galatians 3.1-5                      Luke 11.5-13  
 F Galatians 3.7-14                      Luke 11.15-26  
 S Galatians 3.22-29                      Luke 11.27-28

**SUNDAY - WEEK 29    OCT. 18th**

Isaiah 45.1,4-6  
 1 Thessalonians 1.1-5  
 Matthew 22.15-21

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

**SUNDAY - WEEK 28    OCT. 11th**

Isaiah 25.6-10  
 Philippians 4.12-14,19-20  
 Matthew 22.1-14

M Galatians 4.21-31.5.1      Luke 11.29-32  
 T Galatians 5.1-6                      Luke 11.37-41

**SUNDAY - WEEK 30    OCT.25th**

Exodus 22.20-26  
 1 Thessalonians 1.5-10  
 Matthew 22.34-40

M Ephesians 4.32-5.8                      Luke 13.10-17  
 T Ephesians 5.21-33                      Luke 13.18-21  
 W **Ss SIMON & JUDE, APOSTLES    OCT.28th**  
 Ephesians 2.19-22                      Luke 6.12-19  
 Th Ephesians 6.10-20                      Luke 13.31-35  
 F Philippians 1.1-11                      Luke 14.1-6  
 S Philippians 1.18-26                      Luke 14. 1,7-11

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

Blessed Lord, who caused holy Scripture to be written for our learning:

Help us so to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest it that, through patience and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the hope of eternal life,

Given to us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

## HiARA - August Report

We begin with the news that a few of our members have lost loved ones recently, our thoughts and condolences go to them, whilst others have been unwell/hospitalized and to those we wish a speedy recovery.

What a “hot” time we have had! Holiday’s abroad disrupted causing distress and disappointment to a lot of people. We hope this situation hasn’t affected you too much.

For those who had booked the Jewels Tours have contacted me to say the Andre Rieu Concert trip in September is now re-scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2021.

It has been decided to waiver subscriptions for 20/21. More news on this at a later date for 2021/22.

There will be a letter going out to all members with details from the last six months. This will be especially useful to those without internet availability.

If you have an email address, please let me know and the monthly newsletter will be sent out to you.

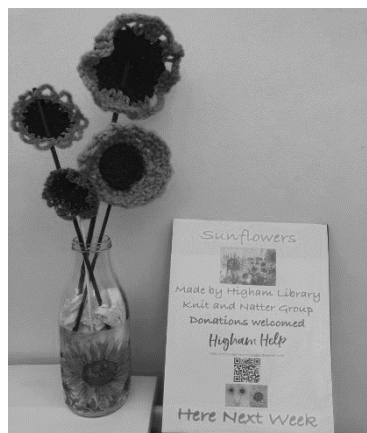
We have discussed the possibility of using ZOOM for our committee meetings in the future and this has been met favourably but it will be a big learning curve to us all, although Jenny has offered her experience. Also, discussed is a re-opening “celebration social” and what this might be, plans in the making although we have no idea when this might take place.

*Liz Jeffery*

## HIGHAM KNIT AND NATTER

After several months when the group was unable to meet in the library small groups of us started to meet in one of the members' gardens. Clearly with the potential of inclement weather this was flexible but the weather was very kind to us and we were able to meet every week during July and August.

The Vestry Hall was opened for limited use at the end of August and now 12 of us can get together on Tuesdays from 3- 5 pm. We do have to book a place, wear masks and sit 2 metres apart but really appreciate the opportunity to get together, help each other with our efforts in knitting and crochet.



Now that the sunflower project is coming to an end more poppies are being produced to increase the displays around the village this



November.

It's great that we know that we can meet up again in the coming months and may return to our usual time of 6 pm to 8 pm if the members who work are able to join us.

*Liz Croker*

## **Blast from the Past on the Dedication Anniversary of a Church**

***Words from an important Christian writer Origen of Alexandria (c.184- c.253)***

All of us who believe in Christ Jesus are said to be living stones according to the statement of scripture when it says, *'Like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.'* 1 Peter 2.5

We have learned to notice in the case of material stones, that those which are stronger and more powerful are placed first in the foundations, so that the weight of the whole building can be put securely on them. Similarly, you must understand that from among these living stones there are some in the foundations of this spiritual building. Now who are those who are laid in the foundations? The apostles and the prophets. This is what Paul himself has to say in his teaching, *'You are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the corner stone.'* Ephesians 2.21

You must learn that Christ also himself is the foundation of the building which we are now describing, so that you may more eagerly prepare yourself for the construction of his building and be found to be one of those stones which are closer to the foundation. For these are the words of Paul the apostle, *'For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Christ Jesus.'* 1 Corinthians 3.11

Blessed therefore are those who will be found to have constructed sacred and religious buildings upon that glorious foundation.

But in this building of the church there must also be an altar. From this I conclude that whichever of you *'living stones'* are ready for this and prepared to give up time to prayers, to offer entreaties to God day and night and to offer up the sacrifices of supplication, such people, I say, are the stones out of which Jesus builds his altar.

Study now what praise is offered to these same stones of the altar. *'Moses the lawgiver,'* he said, *'ordered that an altar be built out of unhewn stones, untouched by the chisel.'* Cf Exodus 20.25

Who now are these unhewn stones? Perhaps these unhewn, unviolated stones could be the holy apostles, all making together one altar by reason of their harmony and concord. For so it is reported of them that, as all prayed together with one accord and opened their mouths, they said, *'You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men.'*

These men therefore who were able to pray with one mind, with one voice, with one voice in one spirit, are perhaps worthy of being all employed to build together one altar upon which Jesus may offer sacrifice to the Father.

However, let us too try to take care that we may all with one mind say the same things, having the same sentiments, doing nothing in strife nor through vainglory, but remaining with one feeling, one sentiment, in the hope that we too can be made fitting stones for the altar.

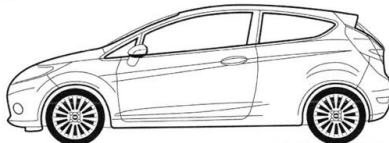


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Dear friends,

## “Our Gregory”

I am writing this on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – the Feast of Pope St Gregory the Great, Apostle of the English. The English Church has good cause to be grateful to him. He it was who sent a mission, led by St Augustine, to bring the Christian Faith to the pagan Angles.

Gregory was the only surviving child of a very wealthy Roman family. His parents owned vast estates in Sicily and Rome. Gregory was brought up as a Christian and received the best education possible. He was destined for high office in the civil government of the city. He was a capable administrator and a skilled negotiator. He soon rose to become Prefect, the highest position in the city. Deeply committed to his Christian Faith he felt a great sense of vocation to the monastic life (He was born in the same year that St Benedict died). Monasteries were growing in number. When his parents died Gregory converted the family villa on the Caelian Hill into a monastery dedicated to St Andrew and installed monks. Rebuilt many times since, it remains a monastery today.



In due course the Pope appointed Gregory as his ambassador to the Emperor in Constantinople. This was a most important job, both ecclesiastical and political, to which Gregory was eminently suited. He was a bridge between the Western and Eastern sides of the later Roman Empire. Gregory would have seen and worshipped in the Great Church of the Holy Wisdom which still stands today. When

his time in Constantinople was over, he retired to the monastery in Rome intending to stay there for the rest of his life.

However, in 590 Gregory was elected Pope. He fulfilled his duties with immense insight and energy. He sent embassies to the invading Lombards in the North of Italy to sue for peace and prevent bloodshed. He opened the imperial granaries in time of famine to feed starving people. He made many beneficial reforms in the administration of the church. At the same time he was a prolific writer. Many of his biblical commentaries, sermons and letters are still read today. He wrote a guide for bishops 'The Pastoral Rule' which is still given to new bishops. At the same time he led a very disciplined life of prayer. It was said that so much fasting led internal illness and complication. This was given as the reason why he was often grumpy and short with his staff! For him his high office was a work of service rather than bearing trapping. He used the title 'servant of the servants God' which has been used by popes ever since.



Gregory felt that a vital part of his role as the successor to St Peter was to evangelise the world. If peoples received their faith from Rome, the resting place of the Apostle St Peter and St Paul, they could be sure that it was the true faith. He himself would never be able to leave the city and be a missionary but he could use his position and powers to enable missions and supervise them. In his book 'The History of the English Church and People', written at the beginning of the eighth century, the Venerable Bede recounts that well before he became Pope Gregory was walking through the slave market in the city. He saw a group of boys for sale. They were unusual because they had fair skin and flaxen hair (how they came to be in the slave market is another



matter). He asked where they came from and was told that they were Angles from Deira (modern Northumberland) in the old Roman province of Britannia and that their King was called Aella. Gregory asked if they were Christians and was told that they were pagan. Gregory, making puns on the names, said they were not Angles but Angels, they should be delivered from wrath “De ira” of hell and their king Aella should sing Alleluia. He resolved to work to convert them to the Christian Faith. (A later legend says that Gregory bought the boys and had them educated in his monastery). In due course when he had become Pope he remembered the slaves from Deira. He planned a mission to convert the Angles. By then little was known



of Britannia but Gregory did his research and planned for a mission to go first to Canterbury and then move on to London and York, the old legionary capitals of the province. He chose the prefect of his monastery, Augustine, a Sicilian monk, to lead a party of forty monks to the distant Angles. (The later legend also says that the former slaves were among the missionaries – nice idea but no historical evidence). He provided them what they would need and with letters of introduction

for the long journey. The journey, mostly on foot, would take nearly a year.

As the party travelled through Gaul they heard more and more terrifying stories about how fierce and impossible the warlike Angles were. Augustine wrote to Gregory and said that he thought their task was impossible and it would be best to abandon it and return to Rome. Gregory replied gently but sternly that they were to continue and that they would never return to Rome! St Augustine’s mission is well-known. The king of the Kent Angles, Ethelbert, allowed him to establish a base in Canterbury and was himself baptized with many of his followers (pictured in the large mural in the north

transept of Rochester cathedral). Gregory sent another group of monks to help Augustine. He, then, sent monks along the old Roman road to establish churches in Rochester and to London. Not long after a group led by Paulinus went to York. Gregory wrote to Augustine with support and advice e.g. 'build your new churches on the sites of pagan temples so that the people may make an easier transition to their new Faith'.

Gregory died in 604. The evangelisation of the Angles and Saxons was only a part of an enormous legacy that he bequeathed to the growing church and the new emerging medieval world. He did indeed deserve the title "the Great", although he would have shunned it in his life. The fierce reformer, John Calvin described him as the last 'good pope'. Gregory lived in a world full of warfare, danger, plague, poverty and the collapse of an ancient society. Yet, he did all in his power to rescue people and societies and promote the Christian Faith at the same time. He was not daunted by the heavy tasks and duties laid upon him.

Let us pray and hope that God will raise up leaders in our own generation who will inspire people and be fearless in facing the wrath of the modern world.

In the Anglo-Saxon church, established on the foundation of the faith of the Apostles via Gregory's vision and work, Gregory was known as "Our Gregory". He never came to this land, so far and different from his own world, but he truly deserves the title 'Apostle of the English'.

With best wishes and constant prayer

*fr Andrew*



# Higham Village Directory

## Autumn 2020 edition

### WORSHIP AT S. JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH

EVERY Morning Prayer ( said ) 8.45 am  
SUNDAY PARISH MASS – booking essential 9.30 am  
Also via Zoom 11.00 am

*Junior Church and Very Junior Church NOT HELD at the present time*

Evening Prayer ( said ) 6.00 pm  
Mass - ON REQUEST ( said ) 6.30 pm

See latest Bulletin on the website for current times as the situation changes

**HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION:** Said Mass 9.30 am and Solemn Mass 7.30 pm

Solemn Evening Prayer and Benediction on Sundays at 5.30 pm - *as announced*

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

PARISH The Rev'd. Canon James F Southward The Vicarage, Hermitage  
Rd,  
PRIEST Telephone 01634-717360 Higham, Kent, ME3 7NE  
Email vicar@highamparishchurch.org.uk

\* \* \* \* \*

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

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

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

**TUESDAYS 8.10 pm and SATURDAYS 10.10 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 Father 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, a Churchwarden (details below).

**\*Evening calls only to this number**

HON ASST PRIESTS **F Peter Bolton** 17 Hermitage Road, Higham Tel: **01474 822726**

**F Andrew Davis** Tel: **01634 921542**

~THE PARISH ~ **Mrs Teresa Joblin** Hill Cottage, Telegraph Hill Tel: **01474 823186**

**CHURCHWARDENS** Mrs Helen Walker 11 St John's Road, Higham Tel: 01474 396569  
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Tel:01474 823872

Mrs Sarah Wright Email: [secretary@highamparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:secretary@highamparishchurch.org.uk)

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### **STROOD DEANERY SYNOD**

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Mr Chris Hanson Email: [christopher.hanson46@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.hanson46@gmail.com)

### **THE BRIDGE PARISH MAGAZINE**

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## **HIGHAM WRITERS GROUP**

email: [deniseleppard@btinternet.com](mailto:deniseleppard@btinternet.com)

Mrs Denise Leppard Tel: 01474 822881

## **UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS**

Brownies: Sharon Maynard/Krissi Higgins

Tel: 01474 823538

Email: [2ndhighambrownies@gmao;.com](mailto:2ndhighambrownies@gmao;.com)

Rainbows: email: [highamrainbows@gmail.com](mailto:highamrainbows@gmail.com)

Scouts Mrs Carolyn Shulver

Tel: 01474 823187

Email: [csh\\_55@hotmail.com](mailto:csh_55@hotmail.com)

Cubs/Beavers Mrs Andrea Jarmin

Tel: 01474 822192

## **YOGA**

Leah Ferreira

Tel: 07565 392320

Email: [yogaflowwithleah@gmail.com](mailto:yogaflowwithleah@gmail.com) [www.yogaflowwithleah.com](http://www.yogaflowwithleah.com)

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[Stacey.manley@thegrand.org.uk](mailto:Stacey.manley@thegrand.org.uk)

**Please contact Higham Parish Council**

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Head teacher Mrs C Grattan

Gads Hill Place & Gads Hill School

Tel: 01474 822366

Head teacher Mr Paul Savage

St George's School Gravesend – Mr Stephen Carey Tel: 01474 533082

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## Ignatius of Antioch

*memoria - 17<sup>th</sup> October*

S.Ignatius was bishop of Antioch in Syria during one of the persecutions of the Emperor Trajan. He refused to acknowledge the 'official' gods of Rome and, not being a Roman citizen, was sentenced to die in the amphitheatre of Rome. Nevertheless, along the way, despite the fact his soldier escorts could be quite vicious, he managed to visit some of the Christian communities mentioned in the New Testament. The letters he wrote to them reveals much vital information about Christianity in its first hundred years.

Of prime concern for S.Ignatius, was Christians to remain united and preserve in the faith handed down by the Apostles. Each community's bishop was its pastor and focus of this unity in faith. "*Do nothing without the bishops and presbyters [priests],*" he wrote. "*It is not lawful apart from the bishops either to baptize or to hold a love-feast.*"

S.Ignatius' letters reflect the growing influence of Greek philosophical concerns over the inevitability of death. He was convinced that Christian baptism brought about a new life in Christ and that this life was eternal unless it was frustrated by sin. As martyrdom was a way to overcome the sins committed since baptism, S.Ignatius wanted to be martyred in order to enter more quickly into eternal life with Christ. He said that if the animals in the amphitheatre were not hungry, he would urge them on. "*Let me be given to the wild beasts, for through them I can attain unto God. I am God's wheat, and I am ground by the wild beasts that I may be found the pure bread of Christ,*" he wrote to the Christians in Rome.

Some of his language had the ring of the Greek mystery religions about it. He called the Eucharist the "mystery" of Christ's body and blood and said it was "*the medicine of immortality and the antidote against death.*" The Eucharist, he wrote, is a spiritual food which strengthens the one who receives it and helps him into eternal life.

An intelligent and articulate leader, who would rather die than compromise his faith, the Roman officials saw S.Ignatius as a disruptive influence in an empire which valued the pagan religious rites of Rome as a politically unifying force. Christians have long considered Ignatius of Antioch a one of the Fathers of the Church.

*Great and holy martyr -pray for us and the unity of the one Church.*

## Excerpt from S. Ignatius of Antioch's Letter to the Romans

I am writing to all the churches to let it be known that I will gladly die for God if only you do not stand in my way. ..Let me be food for the wild beasts, for they are my way to God. I am God's wheat and shall be ground by their teeth so that I may become Christ's pure bread. Pray to Christ for me that the animals will be the means of making me a sacrificial victim for God.

No earthly pleasures, no kingdoms of this world can benefit me in any way. I prefer death in Christ Jesus to power over the farthest limits of the earth. He who died in place of us is the one object of my quest. He who rose for our sakes is my one desire. My desire is to belong to God. Do not, then, hand me back to the world. Do not try to tempt me with material things. Let me attain pure light. Only on my arrival there can I be fully a human being. Give me the privilege of imitating the passion of my God. If you have him in your heart, you will understand what I wish. You will sympathise with me because you will know what urges me on.

The prince of this world is determined to lay hold of me and to undermine my will which is intent on God. Let none of you here help him; instead, show yourselves on my side, which is also God's side. ....and, supposing I should see you, if I should beg you to intervene on my behalf, do not believe what I say. Believe instead what I am now writing to you. For though I am alive as I write to you, still my real desire is to die.

My love of this life has been crucified, and there is no yearning in me for any earthly thing. Rather within me is the living water which says deep inside me: "Come to the Father." I no longer take pleasure in perishable food or in the delights of this world. I want only God's bread, which is the flesh of Jesus Christ, formed of the seed of David, and for drink I crave his blood, which is love that cannot perish.

I am no longer willing to live a merely human life, and you can bring about my wish if you will. Please, then, do me this favour, so that you in turn may meet with equal kindness. Put briefly, this is my request: believe what I am saying to you. Jesus Christ himself will make it clear to you that I am saying the truth. Only truth can come from that mouth by which the Father has truly spoken. Pray for me that I may obtain my desire. I have not written to you as a mere man would, but as one who knows the mind of God. If I am condemned to suffer, I will take it that you wish me well. If my case is postponed, I can only think that you wish me harm.



# ALL SAINTS DAY



***SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2020***

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

---

**Morning Prayer: 8.45am**

**Parish Mass: 9.30am**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mass: 11.00am**

**Evening Prayer: 5.45pm**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Mass: 6.30pm**

*6.30pm only offered upon request for anyone unable to attend morning ones*

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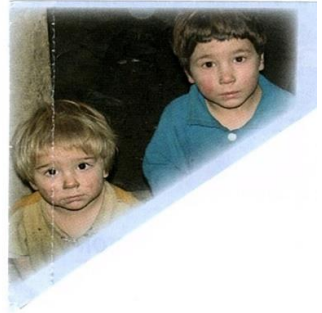
**Holy Communion is available for the sick or housebound upon request**



## LOVE IN A BOX 2020

We are again participating in 'Love in a Box' which is run by a Christian Charity – Mustard Seed Mission - based in Eastbourne.

Each year they collect filled shoeboxes full of Christmas gifts to distribute to deprived children in Moldova. Last year 24,000 shoeboxes were distributed through orphanages, schools, hospitals and churches. These gifts are probably the only Christmas present that these children would receive in that country, which is one of the poorest in Europe.



The leaflets, which will be left in the porch of St John's church from the beginning of September, give suggestion for the things to put into the box. Please will YOU fill a shoebox this year? – it is quite simple.



The appeal forms part of the parish's overseas mission so please take part and fill a box this year to make a child happy this Christmas.

The boxes need to be returned to the church by **5<sup>th</sup> November**.

Thank You

Wendy Hance

01474 822702





# All Souls Day

*Monday,  
2nd November 2020*

The traditional day of prayer  
for the faithful departed

**PLEASE NOTE:**

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

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Requiem Mass  
10.00am**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Requiem Mass  
7.30pm**



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

*Jesu mercy; Mary pray.*

8th November 2020

**32nd Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**

Parish Mass of the Day  
will be offered at 9.30am

**SEAT  
RESERVATION  
REQUIRED**  
at this mass  
**AND ALSO ON THIS  
DAY**  
At 11am  
*See below*

8th November is also

**Remembrance  
Sunday**

*in present circumstances*

An Act of Remembrance  
at the War Memorial  
in S.John's Church  
will be held at  
10.55am-11.05am



*This will be followed by  
[the slightly delayed]  
11am Mass  
Offered as a Requiem for  
all those killed in warfare+*



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## HIGHAM VILLAGE WEBSITE

To see the latest village news, Annual Parish Newsletters, What's On and Parish Council go to [www.higham-kent-pc.gov.uk](http://www.higham-kent-pc.gov.uk)

If your group or society plans an event or meeting and you want more advertising, just let me know so that it can be added to the village website to spread the word. Club and society contact details are always needed to update and extend the online list of groups. If your society has a website, then we can list this as well and link back to you.

Higham is a buzzing, friendly village so lets share this feeling on our parish website!

Robert Gilby, Webmaster

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Chris Hanson

**Email:** [bridge@highamparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:bridge@highamparishchurch.org.uk)

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## HIGHAM VILLAGE CLUB (CIU)



33 Hermitage Road, Higham, Rochester, Kent, ME3 7DD  
Tel 01474 822456

*The Club is currently closed as we are following Government guidelines, we are hoping to open 4th July.*

*Please check our Club website or telephone the Club*

**Join our Website for up to the minute news on all events**

**[www.highamvillageclub.co.uk](http://www.highamvillageclub.co.uk)**

*The club has a hall which can be hired out for  
Private functions to members and non-members.*

*Ideal venue for Birthdays, Weddings, Christenings & Wakes.*

All our events are usually open to non-members for a small entrance fee.

-----

**[www.highamvillageclub.co.uk](http://www.highamvillageclub.co.uk)**

<p><a href="http://www.jewelstours.co.uk">www.jewelstours.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>JEWELS TOURS</b> 56 New Road, Gravesend Kent DA11 0AD</p>		
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**OCTOBER**

6th September

**NOVEMBER**

4th October

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## SMILE LINES



### The language of church-going

**BULLETIN:** Your receipt for attending the service.

**HOLY WATER:** A liquid whose chemical formula is H2OLY.

**HYMN:** A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

**INCENSE:** Holy Smoke!

**JUSTICE:** When your children have children of their own.

**KYRIE ELEISON:** The only Greek words that most Catholics and Anglicans can recognise besides gyros and baklava. (it means Lord have mercy)

**PEW:** A medieval torture device still found in many Anglican and Catholic churches.

**PROCESSION:** The ceremonial formation at the beginning of the service, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

**RECESSIONAL:** The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of the service – led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the car park.

**RELICS:** People who have been going to church for so long that they actually know when to sit, kneel, and stand.

**TEN COMMANDMENTS:** The most important – and oldest – Top Ten list.

**USHERS:** The only people in the church who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.

*Source: Parish Pump*

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

If you have some spare time and would like to do something within the community St John's Church would be grateful for your help.

Do you like walking? You could help with delivering leaflets for Christmas or possibly the Bridge magazine – only ten times a year.

If you like flowers you might be interested in assisting with flower arranging or maintaining the church garden.

There is of course always some cleaning that needs to be carried out – whether this is general cleaning occasionally or helping to keep the brass gleaming your help would be appreciated.

Please contact one of the Churchwardens if you would like to help –  
Teresa Joblin - **Tel: 01474 823186** or Helen Walker – **01474 396569** – evenings only OR EMAIL [bridge@highamparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:bridge@highamparishchurch.org.uk)



...I've moved with the times - I've now got  
a solar-powered radio microphone...



# SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2020 Donation Guide

The next collection dates are Saturday and Sundays 9 am to 6 pm  
26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October

**PLEASE NOTE: FOR THE NEXT COLLECTIONS THE FOODBANK HAVE SPECIALLY REQUESTED THAT WE GIVE PRIORITY TO THE HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS BELOW**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Instant packets of cup of soup</li> <li>✓ Tinned ham &amp; corned beef</li> <li>✓ Tinned potatoes &amp; smash</li> <li>✓ Meals in tins - ravioli, chilli con carne, curries</li> <li>✓ Tins of - Spaghetti in tomato sauce, Macaroni cheese</li> <li>✓ Instant packets of noodles, pasta and rice</li> <li>✓ Tinned rice pudding &amp; custard</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Small bottles of squash</li> <li>✓ Cereal bars &amp; crisps</li> <li>✓ Small bottles of washing up liquid</li> </ul> <p style="color: blue; margin-top: 10px;"><b>Toiletries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Men &amp; women's deodorant</li> <li>✓ Bio laundry tablets</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

**Also required:**

- Meat pies
  - UHT whole and semi skimmed milk
  - Tin spaghetti and sausages
  - Juice
  - Tinned vegetables
  - Instant packets of cous cous
  - Spreads – jam and peanut butter marmite
- 
- Vegetarian foods
  - Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, sugar.
  - Jars of pasta sauce
  - Cereals, sweet & chocolate biscuits
  - Jars of pasta sauce
  - Cereals, sweet & chocolate biscuits

- Tinned fruit, sponge puddings,

**Cleaning and toiletries**

- Household cleaners, spray polish
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes, bars of soap
- Ladies personal toiletries, toilet rolls
- Nappies size 4 & 5
- Shaving foam/gel, body spray
- Shampoo
- Hand soap
- Shower gel,

## Thank You very much for your support

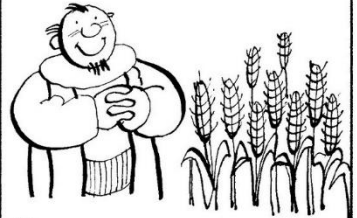
Gravesham Foodbank hosted by RCCG Life Start  
 Connections & supported by Gravesham Churches Together  
 Registered charity number 1135341 Registered in England & Wales  
 graveshamfoodbank@gmail.com [www.gravesham.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.gravesham.foodbank.org.uk)



# The tale of the RICH FOOL



JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS

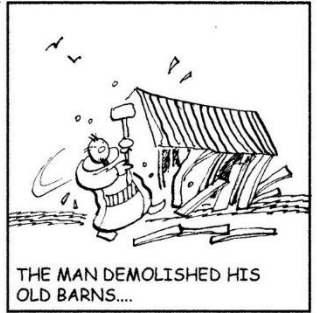


ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A MAN  
WHO HAD LOTS OF LAND WHICH  
GREW WONDERFUL WHEAT.

I HAVEN'T ANYWHERE TO  
KEEP ALL THIS FOOD



I KKNOW! I'LL PULL DOWN  
MY BARN AND BUILD  
BIGGER ONES



THE MAN DEMOLISHED HIS  
OLD BARN....

...AND BEGAN TO BUILD  
NEW ONES.



SOON I'LL BE THE RICHEST  
MAN IN THE TOWN!



I'M SO LUCKY - I CAN  
EAT, DRINK AND BE  
MERRY!



BUT THAT VERY NIGHT,  
THE MAN DIED!



WHAT GOOD WERE HIS  
RICHES NOW?



JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S NOT  
YOUR WEALTH THAT MATTERS,  
IT'S HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE  
THAT'S IMPORTANT