

Out with the Old! In with the New!

Weddings are on my mind - our youngest, due to marry last July, had the whole thing scotched by Covid! 2020 weddings here were cancelled or postponed. Now we're looking forward to the family wedding but, just as it draws nearer, there is talk of delaying the lifting of restrictions!

I have, however, just recently conducted a marriage service in Church. Planned for last July it was deferred until early May 2021. By early Spring it was obvious we would not be out of the woods so it was put back until 1st June. Sadly, limits were **still** in place so numbers were reduced to thirty people (all in masks except bride and groom); hymns were recorded choirs as singing is not allowed; and, as the Church where they live remains closed, until July ['shielding' issues] the Banns couldn't be called. This meant more expense as the couple had to obtain a 'Common Licence' [Bishop's permit] to overcome this problem.

Yet these were only minor changes to a hoped for traditional, 'old' style wedding. As from 4th May, how everything is different in Church Marriage services. The State, '*Gawd bless it*', in its infinite wisdom has modernized the system to bring it into the digital age! Church of England clergy are now NO LONGER registrars so there are now NO

REGISTERS for couples to sign. Nor can we hand them a 'Marriage Certificate' immediately afterwards. Clergy now have to fill out a 'Marriage Document' beforehand [essentially a dull print-out A4 piece of paper] with all the 'usual' details. The couple and witnesses sign it, as does the Officiant, after the service. It then has to be taken, or posted, to the local registry office for the marriage to be registered digitally. At some point, two weeks down the line, the couple can apply to buy a certificate to prove they are married!! Heaven knows what happens if the document gets lost!

Some 'new' bits are good. All parents' names can now be inserted not just the fathers. Up to six people can witness the document too. But that is about all. Even the way one must write the date of marriage is quite different from dates of birth; and you will be reprimanded for any errors! There is a register of marriage services (like those for baptisms or burials) but it is NOT a Register of Marriages. The marriage document details are recorded in it but no one except the cleric signs it.

It might be 'modern' but, I feel, it's very dull, bureaucratic, and has wiped out a much-loved traditional ceremony.

Fr James

The Bridge

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

S. JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH - WORSHIP

Weekday Mass

Weekdays & Saturday MORNINGS 9.30 am

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Sunday Mass MORNING 9.30am

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in church and via Zoom 11.00 am

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Any revised times are published in the Bulletin each week – available on the Home page of the website – www.highamparishchurch.org.uk

As at 12th June. Check the news for the latest information

WEDDINGS and FUNERALS MAY BE HELD IN CHURCH –

ATTENDANCE IS LIMITED by the number of people permitted at the time.

FUNERALS ARE ALSO HELD AT CREMATORIA.

Baptisms / Confession / Anointing Contact Fr. James



In an emergency please contact F James at any time or, if he is not available, contact 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

PLEASE NOTE: FATHER JAMES IS NOT NORMALLY AVAILABLE ON THURSDAY

HON ASST PRIEST	FATHER PETER BOLTON 17 HERMITAGE ROAD	TEL:01474 822726
THE	Mrs Teresa Joblin Hill Cottage Telegraph Hill	Tel:01474-823186
CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs Helen Walker 11 S. John's Road, Higham	*Tel: 01474-396569
CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS	Mrs Liz Croker	<u>Tel: 07811 028803</u>

* Evening calls only on these numbers please

July 2021 at S.John's, Higham

Calendar and Mass Intentions

MASS) SUNDAYS Parish Mass 9.30am and Said Mass 11am
 TIMES) WEEKDAYS Every Day at 9.30am until further notice

EXCEPTION: 29th June - ADDITIONAL 7.30pm Mass

DAY	DATE	CELEBRATION	INTENTION
Th.	1st	Feria (Ordinary Week 13)	Higham Congregationalists
Fri	2nd	Feria <i>of the Sacred Heart</i>	(v) N.G.O. Charities
Sat	3rd	S.Thomas the Apostle	(f) Churches of India
SUN	4th	14th ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	5th	Feria (Ordinary Week 14)	Higham Parish Council
Tue	6th	Feria	The sick & disabled
Wed	7th	Feria	The bereaved
Th	8th	Feria <i>for Unity</i>	(v) The Church of England
Fri	9th	The Martyrs of China	(m) The Chinese Churches
Sat	10th	Feria <i>of our Lady</i>	(v) Walsingham
SUN	11th	15th ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	12th	Feria (Ordinary Week 15)	Catechumens/neophytes
Tue	13th	Feria	Christian adoption agencies
Wed	14th	Feria <i>Monthly requiem</i>	(v) + RIPs & July anniversaries
Th	15th	S.Bonaventure <i>Bishop, Teacher</i>	(m) Vocations to religious life
Fri	16th	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	(m) Aylesford Friary
Sat	17th	Feria	Christian Missionaries
SUN	18th	16th ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	19th	Feria (Ordinary Week 16)	Judeo-Christian dialogue
Tue	20th	Feria	7.30pm The P.C.C.
Wed	21st	Feria	Our Mission & Evangelism
Th	22nd	S.Mary Magdalen	(f) All who seek Christ Jesus
Fri	23rd	S.Bridget of Sweden; <i>Abbess</i>	(f) Church in Northern Europe
Sat	24th	S.Sharbel Makhlufl <i>priest</i>	(m) Middle-Eastern Churches
SUN	25th	17th ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	26th	Ss. Joachim & Anne	(m) Christian Grandparents
Tue	27th	Feria (Ord. Wk 17) <i>elected 26.7.10</i>	The Bishop of Rochester
Wed	28th	Feria	Church work with children
Th.	29th	S.Martha of Bethany	(m) SSM Sisters at Walsingham
Fri	30th	Feria	Soc. of the Holy Cross
Sat	31st	S.Ignatius Loyola <i>priest</i>	(m) Retreat Conductors/centres

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

THE JULY REQUIEM

is on Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 9.30am

*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.*

1 st	Ivy <u>Joan</u> Miles	Derek Albert Clark
	Sheena Wilkie Dallas	18 th Constance Ivy Ward
	Alan William Michael Taylor	19 th Malcolm David Ivory
3 rd	Annie Morphew	20 th Peter Anthony Hilton Kelly
	Barrie Andrew Howes	Caroline Way Quigley
4 th	David Ian Gillingham	Emily Rutherford
7 th	Olive Beard	21 st Sr. Catherine O.H.P.
9 th	Susan Linda O'Grady	Nellie Mathilda Dodd
11 th	Nicholas Austen <i>child</i>	22 nd Beryl Hook
	Ronald Alfred Cole	23 rd Frederick George Holt
12 th	Dennis Roy Clarke	24 th Eileen Renwick
13 th	Benjamin Thomas Rogers	Denis John Charles Gilchrist
15 th	Peggy Eileen Peters	25 th Frederick John Still
16 th	Geoffrey Earl Raven <i>PRIEST</i> *	26 th Freda Stanley
	William Henry Wenham	28 th David Sherwen
17 th	Edward William Mahy	30 th Gladys Shipman
	Beatrice Margaret Baker	John Leslie Austen
	Mavis Winifred Reason	Marion Nicolas Jenkins

PLEASE NOTE: Except for previous Incumbents* of this Parish
(and where it is known that people attend this mass to pray for someone)
the names of those deceased more than 20 years have been removed from the list.
However should someone attend this requiem mass AND request the inclusion
of other names these will be included in the list of those for whom we pray.

*Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.*

~ DAILY BIBLE READINGS ~

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

There are three readings for Sundays and special holy days.

Ordinary Time WEEK 13 *JULY 1st*
 Th Genesis 22.1-19 Matthew 9.1-8
 F Genesis 23.1-4,19 Matthew 9.9-13
 24.1-8,62-67
 S **S. Thomas, Apostle** **July 3rd**
 Ephesians 2.19-22 John 20.24-29

SUNDAY - WEEK 14 **JULY 4TH**
 Ezekiel 2.2-5
 2 Corinthians 12.7-10
 Mark 6.1-6

M Genesis 28.10-22 Matthew 9.18-26
 T Genesis 32.23-33 Matthew 9.32-38
 W Genesis 41.55-57; Matthew 10.1-7
 42.5-7,17-24
 Th Genesis 44.18-21, Matthew 10.7-15
 23-29;45.1-5
 F Genesis 46.1-7,28-30 Matt 10.16-23
 S Genesis 49.29-33; Matthew 10.24-33
 50.15-26

SUNDAY – WEEK 15 **JULY 11TH**
 Amos 7.12-15
 Ephesians 1.3-14
 Mark. 6.7-13

M Exodus 1.8-14,22 Matt. 10.34-11.1
 T Exodus 2.1-15 Matthew 11.20-24
 W Exodus 3.1-6,9-12 Matthew 11.25-27
 Th Exodus 3.13-20 Matthew 11.28-30
 F Exodus 11.10-12.14 Matthew 12.1-8
 S Exodus 12.37-42 Matthew 12.14-21

SUNDAY – WEEK 16 **JULY 18TH**
 Jeremiah 23.1-6
 Ephesians 6.30-34
 Mark 6.30-34

M Exodus 14.5-18 Matthew 12.38-42
 T Exodus 14.21-15.1 Matthew 12.46-50
 W Exodus 16.1-5,9-15 Matthew 13.1-9
 Th **S. Mary Magdalen** **July 22nd**
 Song of Songs 3.1-4
 or 2 Corinth 5.14-17 John 20.1-2,11-18
 F **S. Bridget of Sweden** **23rd July**
 Galations 2.19-20 John 15.1-8
 S Exodus 24.3-8 Matthew 13.18-23

SUNDAY – WEEK 17 **JULY 25TH**
 2 Kings 4.42-44
 Ephesians 4.1-6
 John 6.1-15

M **Ss Joachim and Anne** **July 26th**
 Eccl'sticus 44.1.10-15 Matt 13.16-17
 T Exodus 33.7-11; Matt 13.36-43
 34.5-9,28
 W Exodus 34.29-35 Matt. 13.44-46
 Th **S. Martha** **July 29th**
 1 John 4.7-16 John 11.19-27
 or Luke 10.38-42
 F Leviticus 23.1, 4-16, Matt. 13.54-58
 27, 34-37
 S Leviticus 25.1,8-17 Matt. 14.1-12

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.

HiARA MAY REPORT

This month's newsletter begins with the news that another long serving member, Eileen Ware, passed away following a short illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Bill and their family at this sad time. Eileen was a keen crafter, made beautiful cards and loved to crochet. Donations, if you wish, to Demelza House. We send all our other members who have been unwell or been into hospital recently our good wishes for a speedy recovery.

We are planning to hold a committee meeting in late June to organise the reopening of the club. I have contacted ShorneARA and Maureen there has said that their club is hoping to open up again in Mid-July, subject to government guidelines at the time, and it was reassuring to know that our plans and theirs were on the same lines.

Several members of the club are still performing their marshalling duties at Vaccination Centres. The NHS Staff are very grateful for their help and assistance, which in turn makes their jobs run more smoothly. Another member helped out at the recent elections.

The Rambling group numbers have been good, keeping the walks local and with the benefit of a refreshments in Higham Village Club's garden upon their return.

If you have any suggestions as to what you would like happen when we start up, please let a committee member know and we will try and accommodate your ideas. Remember, it is your club and your ideas will bring enjoyment to others.

Don't forget we will have committee nomination papers available at the first few meetings, so please consider putting names forward. It is difficult to run the club without a full committee. No specific skills necessary, access to emails would be an advantage but not essential. We hold 8 or possibly 9 short meetings, usually held at the Memorial Hall, when past meetings are reviewed, next meetings

are arranged and any issues or ideas discussed. You never know, you may enjoy being on the team. We do and you may find you find yourself taking on a role which may suit you. We look forward to seeing who is nominated.

To end on a hopefully brighter note, I understand the Tilbury Cruise Terminal is going to open up again to cruise ships. A new company has been formed by the ex CEO of Cruise and Maritime Voyages, which sadly went into administration during the pandemic. The new company is called Ambassador Cruises and will cater for the over 50's market, similar to the ones CMV used to do. But this time the new ships will have all the environmental improvements necessary for the future and the passengers will be able to travel with confidence - their words not mine. The new schedule is out this June and I shall be taking a look to see what they offer. The announcement also said Disney Cruises would be based there as well, but no further details on that as yet.

Liz Jeffery

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2021



Christian Aid donation envelopes were delivered by volunteers to the majority of houses in Higham. The amount raised in this way was £867.02. This was topped up with £277.89 raised by the Congregation of St John's Church in Lent 'fines' and donations. So a total of £1,144.91 has been sent to Christian Aid for this year's appeal.

This was a good result, particularly given the difficulties experienced during the Covid pandemic. Many thanks to all those who delivered envelopes, acted as drop-off collection points and donated.

Val Laurens
Christian Aid Co-ordinator, Higham

Bags 2 Church 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 - place items in a **clear** bag which will be available from the Church Porch.

Subject to the regulations

Bags should be delivered to the church in the Buggy area on Monday and Tuesday 5th and 6th July between 10.30-5.30.

ONLY IF THIS IS NOT PERMISSIBLE – deliver them to the garage at the rear of 81 Oak Drive (access via Taylors Lane)}

Please note we still cannot take DUVETS, PILLOWS, MATTRESS COVERS.

We are able to accept TOWELS, BEDDING (Sheets, blankets or duvet covers/pillowcases) or CURTAINS.

These bags will be collected **7th July** and in return the church will receive up to £300 a tonne.

For more information contact
Cheryl Robins 01474 822861

BRIDGE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Last year we announced that the annual subscriptions for the Bridge were being delayed and would start again in October 2020. This would provide time to collect the final subscriptions for the year.

Owing to the increase in the cost for producing the magazine the PCC have recently agreed to a small increase in the charge per copy to 70p - £7.00 per year. Our collectors will start collecting the next subscriptions in September when they will also be distributing the October issue.

Our thanks for the ongoing volunteers distributing the magazine and to you for your continued support.

Liz Croker, Editor

KNIT AND NATTER



Walking around the village in April and May you will probably have spotted our “yarn bomb” decoration on top of the post-box outside the post office.

With the kind permission of the postmasters the Knit and Natter group were able to provide a fun filled decoration for spring – this may now been seen in Lower Higham.

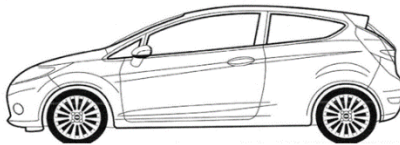
A new decoration replaced this in June – a Teddy Bear’s Picnic – and we all hope that it gives some more cheer to everyone. Now we are working on the next “topper” with plans for more over the coming months. Keep your eyes open!

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COPY DATES

Double issue

AUG/SEPT

4th July

SMILE-LINES

The Parish Pump Editor: With holidays approaching, some of the following may strike a chord with your readers!

Holiday: an all-expense tour

Holiday: something you take when you can't take what you've been taking any longer.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight before you appear in a swimsuit, because by then your body and your fat are really good friends.

Why is it called tourist season if we can't shoot at them?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains? (A question for anyone holidaying in the Lake District or Wales.)

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the 'terminal'?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes when he had the chance?

I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be without sponges.

Editor: Summer is a time when families spend more time together. With this in mind...

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

If they squeeze olives to get olive oil, how do they get baby oil?

Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have had to wait for them?

How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.

Children's wisdom: In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits and threw the java.

**

Church notices that didn't quite come out right....

The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.

The minister is going on holiday next Saturday. Could all missionary boxes be handed into the vicarage by Friday evening, at the latest.

Ladies, when you have emptied the teapot, please stand upside down in the sink.

**

The sacristan was in a hurry to inform the congregation that their minister had recovered from an illness, so he put the following notice outside the church: *God is good. The vicar is better.*

**

Once asked how many people worked in the Vatican, the Pope replied, 'Oh, about half.'

**

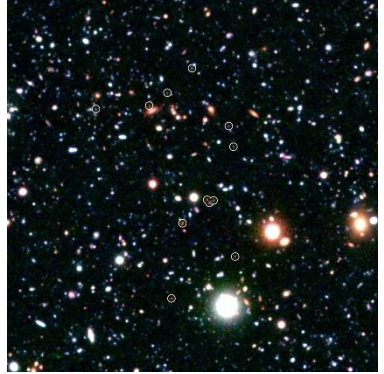
Sky at night

The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.

Source: Parish Pump

Dear friends,

I love watching and listening to Professor Brian Cox in his tv programmes as he explains about the cosmos and the laws of physics as they relate to the world around us and to the vastness of space, remote constellations and new discoveries. I find it difficult to take it all in or remember what he says about it all. What does remain with me his delight and enthusiasm at what he sees. It is all marvellously made and wonderful to behold. There is a captivating beauty in all that we can see. Stars are being born, achieving their 'shape' and then dying, all the time. Ultimately the whole cosmos is coming to its end and one day will simply swallow itself up – its purpose, whatever it may be, will be fulfilled. Professor Cox doesn't claim to be a Christian but, unusually among astrophysicists, is interested in a dialogue with religion. What he says seems to be a parallel view to our belief that one day all will be consumed in God – we shall be united with him. There is dying and rising all the time in creation but ultimately everything is working towards the time when God will be all in all.



The world as we know it, or perceive it to be, is coming to an end just as life rises and declines for each of us. The present pandemic, the threat of climate change, continuous violence and destruction, human perversity and shallow personality cults mark the moment but are nothing new. We are called as Christians to rely on what is constant and eternal. Our Faith gives us strength to perceive lasting values in which we put our trust, even though they may not be obvious to the fleeting world around us. Foremost is the love of God on Christ. This was, is and will be always our strength and stay. This is made real to us in the eucharist and especially in the Blessed Sacrament – the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. As I write this we are

about to celebrate the feast of “The Body and Blood of Christ” – Corpus Christi (6th June). The feast acclaims the Real Presence of the Lord in the Sacrament. It is wonderful to contemplate and celebrate. St Thomas Aquinas wrote:

**Word made Flesh, by word he maketh,
Very bread his flesh to be;
Man in wine Christ’s blood partaketh;
And if senses fail to see,
Faith alone the true heart waketh,
To behold the mystery.**

It’s always awesome and inspiring to enter a church and to see the light burning before the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle. A church without this always seems strangely empty. The light reminds us that God chooses to “dwell in our midst” and to “pitch his tent among us” (both biblical texts). The Real Presence of God in the Sacrament is something that is constant in the midst of all the changes in the world and in the course of our own lives. Once you become a communicant this gift of God himself is there for you throughout your life. If you fail to make the most of it or don’t regard it as very important you are the loser. If you let it be the centre point of your life both spiritually and in daily conduct you will be rewarded.



Nowadays we receive Holy Communion much more frequently than in the past (which is good) and in much more casual circumstances. This means that it’s easy to forget the solemnity and significance of what we are doing. We should always try to make a private act of preparation before receiving the Sacrament and an act of thanksgiving afterwards. Always be concentrated on what you are doing as you approach the altar. Be calm, don’t talk to people or make eye contact. This sounds unfriendly but it helps you focus on the divine encounter with Our Lord in Holy Communion.

These words must sound hollow to all those people have been unable to receive the Sacrament because of the restrictions of the pandemic. For some it is well over a year. We have tried to compensate with participation in the Zoom masses and making the act of spiritual communion. God will grant grace to those who through no fault of their own are unable to make their Communion.

Nothing can actually replace the real act of receiving the Bread and Wine of the altar, which makes the longing even greater. The deprivation is a form of spiritual pain which has had to be patiently borne. Let us pray and hope that it will not be long before we can restore full access to Holy Communion for everybody.

In a world of constant change, of both decay and growth and as our lives take their course let us always be grateful for the love of God made real to us in the presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. For us it is heavenly food supplied to nourish us on our earthly pilgrimage.

**O Jesu, by thee bidden,
We here adore thee hidden,
'Neath forms of bread and wine
Grant when the veil is riven,
We may behold I heaven,
Thy countenance divine.**

From an ancient hymn (EH 321)

With my best wishes and continuous prayer

Fr Andrew



...just humour him - he's hoping it'll help him reach the young people in his diocese...

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Please take my money

Have you ever tried to use cash in a shop, and been refused? That happened to more than a third of us last year.

But now, in response to widespread protest, supermarkets and high street shops have promised that they will continue to accept cash. Aldi, Asda, Co-op, John Lewis, Lloyds Pharmacy and Waitrose have all joined a pledge organised by the consumer group Which? to protect customers' choice.

Which? is now asking the government to set out when it will introduce laws protecting access to cash, which the Treasury promised in March 2020. A treasury spokesman said: "We remain committed to further legislation to protect cash."

What will you miss about lockdown?

More than half of us admit that we will miss some aspects of the Covid-19 restrictions, especially spending more time at home with our family, and appreciating the quieter roads.

A recent study by King's College London and Ipsos Mori found that around one third of us feel the past year has been similar or better than normal, while 54 per cent of us say that we will miss some of the changes.

Three in ten of us feel closer to our immediate family than we did before the pandemic, while just one in six of us say that we have grown further apart. One in five of us say that our finances are better because of the pandemic.

Overall, it seems that while the public would rather the pandemic hadn't happened, that doesn't mean it's been all bad for everyone, or that people see it as deeply affecting their future lives.

What happens when you look at your smartphone

Looking at your smartphone, or touching it, makes other people want to do the same to their smartphones.

A recent study at the university of Pisa calls it 'human mimicry', when people unintentionally change their physical behaviour to match those of people nearby.

The study found it happened to people in social settings that included work, restaurants, cinemas, gyms, waiting rooms, social parties, social meals, public parks and family environments.

Try it yourself, and see what happens to people near you a few minutes later....

Source: Parish Pump

HIGHAM IN 1900

There was less than usual about the village recorded in this year's magazines. There were records of baptisms, confirmations and deaths but no mention of Entertainments or Temperance meetings and Jumble sales seem to have been the main means of raising money. The Church Army came on a Mission, their van being parked here, and the combined choir outing of 40 people went down the river to Southend

A big shock to the village was the sudden death at the age of 53 years of the school Headmaster who was also church organist and founder of both the brass and string bands and plaques were erected in the church and at the school.

Harvest Festival collections were usually given to charity but were kept by the church this year as their finances were in a bad state. Organists for both churches now had to be paid and they were overdue. The hop harvest was poor due to inclement weather which was a loss not only for the farmers but also the pickers who relied on the money earned to pay for winter clothing.

There was much celebration in the village after the relief of Ladysmith. Later the Queen bestowed the rank of Major General on Baden Powell for the relief of the siege of Mafeking and great crowds lined the streets of London for the triumphal march ending the Boar War.

In the back of the book containing this information happened to be the Deanery Magazine of January 1945, one page for each parish, that of Grain being spelled Grayne. The Higham page contained notice of the marriage between Percy Edward Martin and Joyce May Pomfrey and readers may remember Percy Martin as later being Churchwarden.

Barbara Manley

S.Thomas, was born, who knows when, probably in Galilee in the first century AD and died @ 53 AD in India. His feast is now in July having been moved half a century or so ago from December 21. This was in late Advent, and far too close to the lead up to Christmas Day.

S.Thomas is named among 'The Twelve' (ie. apostles rather than the numerous disciples). His name in Aramaic Te'oma and Greek Didymos means "twin"! S.John's gospel Ch 11:16 states he was "Thomas, called the Twin." He is also called Judas Thomas (i.e., Judas the Twin) by the Syrian Christians.

S.Thomas's character, according to John's gospel, shows devotion to the Lord [John 11:5–16] when the disciples' warn Jesus about his enemies plans in Judea but S.Thomas says: "Let us also go, that we may die with him." During the Passover, the Last Supper, [John 14:1–7] it is S.Thomas, who cannot comprehend Jesus's meaning when he said, "you know the way to where I am going." To this S.Thomas's replies, "How can we know the way?" causing Christ to respond, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."!

Perhaps S.Thomas is known most well by his nickname "doubting Thomas". In S.John 20:19–29 he was not with the disciples who met the risen Christ on Easter evening. When they told him he doubted and said he needed proof. When Christ reappears eight days later and S.Thomas touches him, in sheer amazement and joy he blurts out – or perhaps prophesies – the Christian truth "My Lord and my God"; marking him out as the first to explicitly acknowledge the Lord Jesus' divinity.

S.Thomas's history afterwards is unclear. Eusebius of Ceasarea [4th-century] tells us S.Thomas evangelized Parthia (eastern Iran). Later tradition says he extended his apostolate south into India, where he is recognized as the founder of the Church of the Syrian Malabar Christians, or S.Thomas Christians, also called Mar Thoma Christians. Some traditions records his martyrdom as having occurred under a ruler of Mylapore, Madras (now Chennai) where one finds San Thomé Cathedral, his traditional burial place.

Sadly his relics were supposedly were taken to the West and are enshrined at Ortona, in the central eastern region of Abruzzo, Italy.

More information and links to the Thomas Christians and beyond can be found

On-line at www.britannica.com or just google them!



The advertisement features a light blue background with a white airplane flying in the top left corner. The Easyfundraising logo, consisting of a stylized 'e' and the text 'easyfundraising feel good shopping', is in the top right. The main text is centered and reads 'Help us raise FREE donations if you're planning any getaways this year'. Below this, a blue rounded rectangle contains the text 'St John's Church Higham'. Further down, it states 'You Shop. 4,400 sites will Donate to us. For Free.' A grid of 18 travel-related logos follows, including Booking.com, trainline, Travelodge, lastminute.com, flybe, FIRST CHOICE, Holiday Inn, HomeAway, VIF HOLIDAYS, easyJet, TUI, secret Escapes, Jet2holidays, Haven, Europcar, DisneyLAND, HOSEASONS, and Skyscanner. At the bottom, it says 'Find us on easyfundraising.org.uk or get the App' with buttons for Google Play and the App Store. A yellow bus with luggage is in the bottom right corner. The footer contains three statistics: 'Over £34 million raised', a Trustpilot 5-star rating, and '1.9 million users'.

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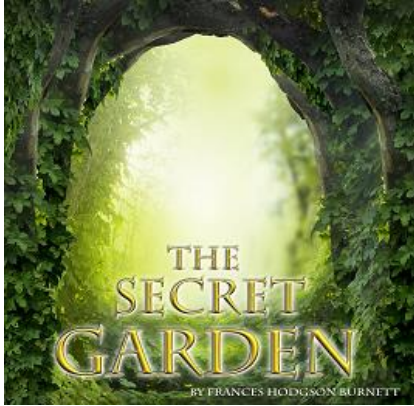
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SECRET GARDEN AT ST MARY'S CHURCH



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St Mary's Church in Higham is delighted to welcome back the “This Is My Theatre Group. They will be performing this much loved story about young Mary, who having lived in India, was sent to live with her uncle at his country estate in the Yorkshire moors following the

sudden death of her parents.

Mary discovers friendship and laughter with Martha the housemaid and Ben the gardener, and when a friendly Robin helps her discover a secret garden life for all those at the estate changes.

Folk music weaves through this stage adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic story which the whole family will love on 31 August at 6pm.

Tickets are available from www.thisismytheatre.com, or if you do not have access to a computer you can contact them on 07732 253311
Tickets are £15 for adults, £12 for under 16s

Lygia Schubert



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

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!

Linda Atkinson, Webmaster web.manager@higham-kent-pc.gov.uk



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HIGHAMVILLAGE CLUB (CIU)



33 Hermitage Road, High am, Rochester, Kent, ME3 7DD
Tel: 01474 822456

*Bingo every Sunday commencing at 8pm and first
Wednesday of the month starting at 2pm.
Quiz night 25th July*

**Join our Website for up to the minute news on all events
or check out our website www.highamvillageclub.co.uk**

*The club has a hall which can be hired out for
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SERVICE AND PURPOSE

S John Henry Newman has written much to inform and inspire us and lead us to a closer relationship with God. In terms of an individual's personal vocation, perhaps the most impactful is the following:

“God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons”.

One may look at one's life and see utter confusion and yet still be reassured that through the barely-navigable windings of our earthly existence Almighty God is using us and our actions for his glorious plan of salvation. It doesn't matter whether we can see our role in that purpose or even the fruits of our labours, as the hymn has it, God is working his purpose out.

As I sat in the sanctuary with a full team of Altar Servers on Trinity Sunday, for the first time since March 2020 and all that COVID has thrown at us, I reflected on S John Henry Newman's words. It unlocked to me a new perspective to see that the service of the Altar Servers operates on every level of reality, to God's service.

What significance in the heavenly realm, I hear you ask? One of my favourite accounts of Christian liturgy comes from c. 1110 when a Kievan envoy attended worship in Constantinople, they were so moved by the experience that they reported:

“We knew not whether we were in Heaven or on Earth... We only know that God dwells there among the people, and their service is fairer than the ceremonies of other nations”.

To these pagan observers was revealed a truth that may be missed even by ourselves if we aren't careful to notice, that we participate in nothing less than the heavenly worship of God. Next time someone dares to say that churches are empty, remind them that actually they are full of Angels and Archangels and the whole company of Heaven! Altar Servers operate to facilitate that worship by the Priest and the People in harmony with the Church Triumphant.

Leading from that, Altar Servers support the community of Christ in Higham, no less than a part of the mystical body of Christ Himself, in its worship of God. And focussing further to the smallest unit of human existence, Altar Servers support you as an individual in your personal worship of God within the broader body corporate of the Church.

Of course, all of us are to play our equally important roles in the very same activity, nonetheless, I felt humbled and honoured to sit amongst my friends who are Altar Servers who willingly play their role in supporting Creation's worship of its Maker. Perhaps those same Altar Servers have recognised that function as part of God's "definite service" for them, their mission. I am confident that this is true. May they also get to recognise the fruit of that labour in this world or the next.

Chris Hanson

NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS

Hello Everyone

This month many of us met together for coffee and cake at White Finch tea room. It was lovely to see each other again 'in the flesh' after so many months of restrictions. Those of us who had taken part up the lockdown stitching challenge were able to swap the postcards they had embroidered. The themes included 'VE day', 'afternoon tea', 'a flower', and 'how I survived the crisis'. You can see some of the results in the picture.



Another exciting event was our Zoom workshop entitled 'Tutti Frutti' with Isobel Moore. Sixteen of us took part, ready and waiting with our sewing machines, a large array of fabric scraps, threads, sequins, beads etc. We worked hard! The two hours went past in a flash but the timing was very well managed by Isobel who is an excellent teacher. At the end of it we were able to display a large number of beautiful 'Tutti Frutti' pieces, all different. We had learnt new techniques which were simple to master but very effective.



If you would like to join us or just find out a bit more about us then please look at our website

<https://northkentembroiders.co.uk/>

or email us at: info@northkentembroiders.co.uk

or contact our Chairman, Eileen Tuff on 01474 324734



Happy stitching, Karen (All links and photographs used with permission)

JULY 2021 Donation Guide

The next collection dates are Saturday and Sundays 9.30 am to 5 pm

26th and 27th June AND 24th and 25th July

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

SHOPPING LIST FOR MOST NEEDED ITEMS - THANK YOU!

- **EGG NOODLES**
 - **MEAT PIES**
 - **TIN FISH - MACKEREL, SARDINES, PILCHARDS AND TUNA (NO ANCHOVIES)**
 - **MICROWAVEABLE HOT PUDDINGS**
 - **LONG LIFE READY MADE JELLY POTS**
 - **PEANUT BUTTER AND CHOCOLATE SPREAD**
 - **INSTANT MASH POTATO**
 - **CHOCOLATE BISCUIT BARS - KIT KAT, PENGUIN, CLUB ETC**
 - **CEREAL BARS**
-
- **TOMATO KETCHUP**

HOUSEHOLD & TOILETRIES NEEDED PLEASE - THANK YOU!

- **WASHING UP LIQUID**
 - **LAUNDRY TABLETS BIO AND NON-BIO**
 - **LADIES & MEN'S DEODORANT**
 - **TOOTHPASTE**
-
- **SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER**

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