

# Flight Check In?

Over the last few years my wife and I have grabbed some ‘borrowed sunshine’ in spring in places like Malta, Spain, Croatia. These were wonderful visits but the travel arrangements sometimes tested patience and stamina.

As Summer approaches, many people are about to ‘fly off’ to all sorts of places. We hope they won’t have any ‘computer glitches’ with all its attendant delays. Flying is complicated by all the security now very visibly in place even after booking a flight and pay its cost. Check-in times are fixed or if you’re too late you’ll be barred from boarding. Passport control (if you’ve actually received it in time) takes you finally to the departure area where you can shop, eat or just wait. You’ll need the correct currency or ensure your credit cards will be accepted where you’re going. At the boarding gate a final valid ticket and passport are needed and checked. Once on the plane, after take-off, the holiday is on its way. Landing, and after passport control, collecting your luggage it’s on to your accommodation. All being well, journey over, the holiday has begun. The only sour note is knowing you have to return to your real life.

Holiday Flights can be salutary reminders to consider the FINAL flight we all must make. Will we ever get there despite all the arrangements our God and Father has put in place, made and offers? The Lord Jesus Christ warns us (*S. John Ch.3*) that unless we are ‘*born again of water and the Spirit*’ we shall not see the Kingdom of God. Baptism is like ‘booking the flight’. The ‘cost’ of it is discipleship and its promise to live the Christian life.

Booking any flight is confirmed by check-in. Check-in, we know has to be done before it is too late. Baptism too need *Confirmation* if we are to enter, as it were, ‘the waiting lounge’ of life within the Church: lots to see, do, be fed and watered, or obtain necessities for the journey. Finally, beyond the boarding gate, and because we have the ‘right paperwork’, we begin a *one-way flight* to a place from which we shall never return: from this ordinary reality to that extraordinary reality which if God, *inexpressibly described* even in the vivid picture language of Holy Scriptures.

The Born-Again (BA?) flight, that spiritual flight, only begins with baptism. Yet without the rest of it check-in, sufficient resources and nourishment (i.e. Confirmation, worship, study and Holy Communion) we might actually be going nowhere. Just watch the TV show ‘Airport’. Despite all the arguments people bring forward, whatever they say, however much they argue (or abuse the staff) – they’re **never** allowed on board if the necessary conditions aren’t met. *You can’t make up your own rules to fly*. There are no ‘stowaways’ nor self-made rules on the spiritual flight either!

Allegories are not perfect but as the travel season arrives we can ask ourselves if only the booking (baptism) has been made? Have all the other requirements for *the flight* been fulfilled? If not, will we even make it into the waiting area because you have yet to *check-in*. No one can do this for us but too late may indeed be too late. The *spiritual* departure gate closed, the transport gone, we may be left behind.

*Fr James*



# The Bridge

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

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

EVERY	Morning Prayer	( said )	8.45 am
SUNDAY	PARISH MASS	( sung )	9.30 am
	<b>with Junior Church &amp; Very Junior Church</b>		
	Evening Prayer	( said )	6.00 pm

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION: Said Mass 9.30 am and Solemn Mass 7.30 pm  
Solemn Evening Prayer & Benediction on Sundays at 5.30pm - **as announced.**

THE DAILY MASS TIMES	Monday	6.30 pm	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 6pm
	Saturday	9.30 am	( except Tue. & Thur. at 7pm )

**PARISH**  
**PRIEST**

**The Rev'd. Canon James F. Southward**  
**Telephone 01634-717360**  
**E.mail 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 either of the priests.

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

In an emergency please contact him at any time or, if he is not available, the Parish  
Reader or a Churchwarden (details below).

**Evening calls only please for the \* numbers**

PARISH READER	<b>Mr Simon Walker</b>	11 St. John's Road, Higham	<b>*Tel. 07794-523179</b>
THE	<b>Mrs Valerie Laurens</b>	12 Villa Road, Higham	<b>Tel. 01474-823423</b>
CHURCHWARDENS	<b>Mrs Helen Walker</b>	11 St. John's Road, Higham	<b>*Tel. 01474-396569</b>
CHURCH HALL MANAGER	<b>Mrs Julie Healey</b>		<b>*Tel: 01474-822008</b>

# July 2017 at S. John's, Higham

## Calendar and Mass Intentions

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

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>CELEBRATION</i>		<i>INTENTION</i>
Sat	1st	Feria Ord. Wk 12		Engaged / newly married
<b>SUN</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>13th ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>	(+)	<b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	3rd	S.Thomas Apostle	(f)	Churches of India
Tue	4th	Feria Ord. Week 13		The Deanery
Wed	5th	S.Anthony Zaccaria Priest	(m)	Single clergy
Th	6th	Feria <i>SYNOD MEETS 7<sup>TH</sup>-11<sup>TH</sup> JULY</i>		The General Synod
Fri	7th	Feria <i>OF SACRED HEART</i>	(v)	N.G.O. Charities
Sat	8th	Feria <i>OF OUR LADY</i>	(v)	Walsingham
<b>SUN</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>14th ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>	(+)	<b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	10th	Feria Ord. Week 14		Recently Ordained
Tue	11th	S.Benedict Abbot	(f)	Church in Western Europe
Wed	12th	Feria		The Society Bishops
Th	13th	Feria		Christian Missionaries
Fri	14th	Feria		Society of the Holy Cross
Sat	15th	S.Bonaventure Bishop, Teacher	(m)	Vocations to Religious Life
<b>SUN</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>15th ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>	(+)	<b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	17th	Feria Ord. Week 15		Catechumens & neophytes
Tue	18th	Feria <i>mass of requiem</i>	(v)	+RIPs & anniversaries
Wed	19th	Feria		Church Children's work
Th	20th	Feria		Higham Congregationalists
Fri	21st	Feria		The hungry & needy
Sat	22nd	S.Mary Magdalen	(f)	All seeking Christ Jesus
<b>SUN</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>16th ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>	(+)	<b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	24th	S.Sharbel Makhluif priest	(m)	Middle-Eastern Churches
Tue	25th	S.James the Gl, Apostle	(f)	PCC Meeting
Wed	26th	Ss. Joachim & Anne	(m)	Christian Grandparents
Th	27th	Feria Ord. Week 16 <i>elected 26.7.10</i>		The diocesan bishop
Fri	28th	Feria		The lapsed & indifferent
Sat	29th	S.Martha of Bethany	(m)	SSM Sisters (Walsingham)
<b>SUN</b>	<b>30th</b>	<b>17th ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>	(+)	<b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	31st	S.Ignatius Loyola priest	(m)	Soc. of Retreat Conductors

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

# THE JULY REQUIEM

is on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 7.30pm

*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 <sup>st</sup>	Ivy <u>Joan</u> Miles		Derek Albert Clark
	Sheena Wilkie Dallas	19 <sup>th</sup>	Malcolm David Ivory
	Alan William Michael Taylor	20 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Anthony Hilton Kelly
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Annie Morphew	21 <sup>st</sup>	Yopé Clarke
4 <sup>th</sup>	David Ian Gillingham		Sr Catherine O.H.P.
7 <sup>th</sup>	Olive Beard		Nellie Mathilda Dodd
9 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Linda O'Grady	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Frederick George Holt
11 <sup>th</sup>	Nicholas Austen <i>child</i>	24 <sup>th</sup>	Eileen Renwick
	Ronald Alfred Cole		Shirley Margaret Blake
	Robert Runcie <i>BISHOP</i>		Denis John Charles Gilchrist
12 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis Roy Clarke	25 <sup>th</sup>	Frederick John Still
13 <sup>th</sup>	Benjamin Thomas Rogers	26 <sup>th</sup>	Kathleen Mary Stevens
15 <sup>th</sup>	Peggy Eileen Peters		Freda Stanley
16 <sup>th</sup>	Geoffrey Earl Raven <i>PRIEST</i> *	28 <sup>th</sup>	David Sherwen
17 <sup>th</sup>	Edward William Mahy	30 <sup>th</sup>	Gladys Shipman
	Beatrice Margaret Baker		Frank Oliver Randall
	Mavis Winifred Reason		John Leslie Austen

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 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.

S Genesis 18.1-15                      Matt. 8.5-17

**SUNDAY - WEEK 13                      JULY 2ND**

2 Kings 4.8-11,14-16 Romans 6.3-4, 8-11  
Matthew 10.37-42

**M S. THOMAS THE APOSTLE                      JULY 3RD**

Ephesians 2.19-22                      John 20.24-29

T Genesis 19.15-29                      Matthew 8.23-27

W Genesis 21.5,8-20                      Matt. 8.28-34

Th Genesis 22.1-19                      Matt. 9.1-8

F Gen. 23.1-4,19                      Matt. 9.9-13  
& 24.1-8,62-67

S Genesis 27.1-5,15-29                      Matt. 9.14-17

**SUNDAY - WEEK 14                      JULY 9TH**

Zechariah 9.9-10                      Romans 8. 9,11-13  
Matthew 11.25-30

M Genesis 28.10-22                      Matt. 9.18-26

T **S. BENEDICT of Monte Cassino JULY 11TH**

Proverbs 2.1-9                      Matt. 19.27-29

W Gen. 41.55-57;                      Matt. 10.1-7  
& 42.5-7,17-24

Th Gen. 44.18-21,                      Matt. 10.7-15  
23-29; & 45.1-5

F Gen. 46.1-7,28-30                      Matt. 10.16-23

S Gen. 49.29-33;                      Matt.10.24-33  
& 50.15-26

**SUNDAY - WEEK 15                      JULY 16TH**

Isaiah 55.10-11                      Romans 8.18-23  
Matthew 13.1-23

M Exodus 1.8-14,22                      Matt. 10.34-11.1

T Exod. 2.1-15                      Matt. 11.20-24

W Exod. 3.1-6,9-12                      Matt. 11.25-27

Th Exod. 3.13-20                      Matt. 11.28-30

F Exod. 11.10-12.14                      Matt. 12.1-8

S **S. MARY MAGDALEN                      JULY 22ND**

Song of Songs 3.1-4                      or 2 Corin. 5.14-17  
and John 20.1-2,11-18

**SUNDAY - WEEK 16                      JULY 23RD**

Wisdom 12.13,16-19                      Romans. 8.26-27  
Matthew 13.24-43

M Exodus 14.5-18                      Matt. 12.38-42

T **S. JAMES THE APOSTLE                      JULY 25TH**

2 Corinthians 4.7-15                      Matt. 20.20-28

W **Ss Joachim and Anne                      July 26<sup>th</sup>**

Ecclesiasticus 44.1.10-15 Matt. 13.16-17

Th Exodus 19.1-2,9-20                      Matt. 13.10-17

F Exod. 20.1-17                      Matt. 13.18-23

S **S. Martha                      July 29th**

1 John 4.7-16 and  
either John 11.19-27 or Luke 10.38-42

**SUNDAY - WEEK 17                      JULY 30TH**

1 Kings 3.5, 7-12                      Romans 8.28-30  
Matthew 13.44-52

M Exod. 32.15-24,30-34                      Matt. 13.31-35

*Note: Ecclesiasticus is only found in Bibles with the Apocrypha & Deuterocanonical texts*

*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.

## From the Church Registers

### **HOLY BAPTISM**

**Chloe Elsie Meade** (infant)  
at 9.30am Parish Mass  
on Sunday 23rd April 2017

### **HOLY MATRIMONY**

**Luke Anthony Dickinson** with  
**Kerry Marie O'Connell**  
on Friday 2nd June 2017

*Anniversary of Marriage Thanksgiving  
with Blessing of New Rings*

**Andrew & Leah McLeod**  
on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017  
(Married 31<sup>st</sup> January 1987)

**FUNERALS - S.John's Church**  
*followed by Committal elsewhere*

**Peggy Rosemary Last** (85)  
on Ash Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017  
*followed by Burial in S.Mary's Churchyard*

**Peter Alan Cook** (75)  
on Friday 9th June 2017  
*followed by Cremation (Gravesend Crem.)*

**FUNERALS –at Crematoria only**

**GRAVESEND CREMATORIUM**  
**Betty Lilian Martin** (80)  
on Monday 23rd January 2017

**Kenneth James Marsh** (73)  
on Wednesday 22nd March 2017

**Reginald William Rootes** (88)  
on Monday 3rd April 2017

**John Dougall Goring** (84)  
on Tuesday 16th May 2017

### **MEDWAY CREMATORIUM**

**Joyce Lily Parker** (92)  
on Tuesday 18th April 2017  
*followed by Requiem Mass in S.John's  
for those unable to attend funeral rites*

### **Burial of Ashes**

#### **S.JOHN'S CHURCHYARD**

**Pamela Cole** (86)  
on Sunday 12th March 2017

**Marjorie Constance Miller** (99)  
on Wednesday 12th April March 2017  
(100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her birth)

#### **S.MARY'S CHURCHYARD**

**Bernard Alfred Batchelor** (89)  
on Saturday 11th March 2017

**George Henry 'Bill' Clare** (95)  
+RIP 2016  
& **Audrey May Clare** (79)  
+RIP 2006  
on Saturday 11th March 2017

### **MEDWAY CREMATORIUM**

**Betty Lilian Martin** (80)  
on Tuesday 14th March

*PLEASE LET EDITORS KNOW OF  
ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS*

## HiARA NEWS REPORT: MAY 2017

Members at our May meeting were enthusiastically entertained by Helen Stockton from Uckfield, Sussex, who spoke about her Border terrier called Rolo. After much family discussions (objections from “Mr S”) Rolo joined the household and was a great asset, particularly to the children who spent many hours teaching him to read!

Via, Helen, Rolo’s life developed rapidly and now he has his own Blog and his own Twitter Account where he has 1352 followers. Rolo also tells his own stories on Facebook (not quite his “Masters Voice” but almost). If you are ever close to the village of Uckfield, you will find that Rolo has his own column in the local “Magnet” Magazine, called: “A Dogs Life” and covers his thoughts on many subjects: food, politics etc. He is endeavouring to get a 24 hour biscuit law passed through Parliament!

Our Ramblers Group have various interesting walks planned through the summer so, do join them, even if it is just for lunch. The Craft Group are obviously working hard to produce all the delightful gifts, which they had on sale and the beautiful cards were quickly sold out. Curling and other activities are very well attended and enjoyed. Come and try it.

Our new charity is The Friends of the Wisdom Hospice and donation boxes were available for all your small change: every little helps.

Our next meeting will be on June 23 which will be a Nautical Event with sea shanties from “Swinging the Lead” and a naval hat competition and ice creams.

For more information follow the links on the Higham Parish Council website or telephone the Secretary on 01474 747090.

Pat Oakeshott, HiARA Media and Publicity.

## FORTHCOMING ROAD WORKS IN HIGHAM

### Southern Gas Networks

As you are probable aware of the SgasN works that are progressing in the area. This will involve the Temporary Closure of a section School Lane near the shops commencing 24th July 2017.

### BT OpenReach

Contractors working for BT will be installing new telecommunications ducts across the Gravesend Road at the junction with Peartree Lane and Villa Road . The works will be under temporary lights over 2 weekends and there will be a part closure of Villa road near the traffic lights for 1 week from 1st July 2017.

### UK Powernetworks

New power cable will be installed from Eastcourt Oast, Church Lane to across the junction with Lower Higham Road.

Lower Higham Road will be closed at the junction with Church Road for approximately 5 days to start 19th June 2017.

Church Lane will be closed for approximately 15 days to start 22nd June 2017

Please contact below if you require any further information:

**David Marshall** | Streetworks Co-ordinator | Highways and Transportation | Gravesham

Kent County Council | Aylesford | ME20 7BU | Internal: 413717 | External: 03000 413717 |





## HIGHAM VILLAGE PLAN

### Update No. 3

Following on from the Love Higham Day we are running some small **Discussion Groups**. These are for residents to talk about each of the 6 Key Themes in a little more detail - so we can understand what we mean, for example, by a Clean and Tidy Village or a safe place to live. See below for the dates, times and venues

TUESDAY 23 MAY 7.30PM	Higham Library Villa Rd
FRIDAY 2 JUNE 2.30PM	St John's Church Hall
SUNDAY 11 JUNE 2.30PM	Higham Library Villa Rd
SATURDAY 17 JUNE 10.00AM	Memorial Hall School Lane
WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE 7.30PM	St John's Church Hall

**Free tea coffee and biscuits**



To find out more & book a place... email, text or phone - contact details below.

**Village Plan Display at Higham Railway Station:  
18 May to 5 June**

Email: [information@lovehigham.co.uk](mailto:information@lovehigham.co.uk)

Phone: 07480 518493

[www.lovehigham.co.uk](http://www.lovehigham.co.uk)

## HIGHAM WOMENS' INSTITUTE

Higham W.I. met at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017. Our newly elected committee:

Chairman, Stephanie Griffiths : Secretary, Kay Lakin and Treasurer, Samantha Clark, welcomed ladies, plus one guest.

Representatives' Reports: Tess Packer gave dates and times of her classes during June and she would welcome members and visitors to them.

Leisure: Christine Downes. Change of date for the production "Girls" at the Phoenix Theatre, London – new date, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June – four tickets for the matinee performance.

Looking ahead, Joan Campbell is happy to hold our Birthday Party in her garden on Thursday August 3<sup>rd</sup> (6.30pm for 7pm) . A £12 fee was to be collected at the meeting. Ladies are asked to bring their own chair, plus cutlery and all plates, glasses etc.

Drama : Joan Campbell – A production for the Birthday Party is at the rehearsal stage.

District : Veronica Mitchell : Bluebell Hill Open Garden on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August will be open from 10 am – 12.30 pm. Admission is £3.50. Frindsbury Extra will hold a Beetle Drive on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August, tables of six £4. a head.

The July W.I. meeting will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm. at the home of Kay Lakin.. Her husband, Martin will speak on "Tropical Marine Life at the Lakin Household. Kay and Martin apparently have the largest domestic aquarium in the County.

There is to be an Open Day in Higham Library on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2 pm – 4 pm. The W.I. has a cake and tea stall – members were asked to please bring a cake with them.

We then welcomed Anna Astin who displayed interesting slides charting how women learned to love the car.

Our next meeting at the Memorial Hall will be on Thursday September 7<sup>th</sup>, when Derek Marsh will be telling us the secrets of a walled garden.

Josephine Smith

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## PENTECOST

S Johns never misses an opportunity for a bit of a do – S Paul might have said that it is our gift - and Pentecost, the church's birthday, (4<sup>th</sup> June 2017) was no exception..

The theme of this feast is gifts themselves: From the gift of the Holy Spirit to the universal church (accounted in Acts) to the individual gifts the Holy Spirit bestows on each of us (explained in S Paul's letter to the Corinthians). The most tangible consequence of these gifts is the church itself. Whether by miracle or other means the Apostles were able to give the message of our Lord to the peoples of the Globe, to undo the folly of Babel, and unite humanity in peace and hope. The two things the world needs more than ever, if only it would accept that they are within its grasp.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is not something that can be packaged away and put in a corner, like an unwanted gift, it is too powerful. That power does not corrupt like the world's power though, it transforms. So when you pray *Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful* be ready for the change that it will bring.

*Chris Hanson*



**FRIENDS OF  
ST MARY'S CHURCH  
HIGHAM**

**SATURDAY 15 JULY 7.30PM**

**SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY**

# **JAZZ** **evening**

**THE STORY OF DORIS DAY  
WITH THE FABULOUS CLAIRE  
HARPER AND THE DAVE  
BOWDLER TRIO**

St Mary's Church Church Street Higham ME3 7LS

[www.stmaryschurchhigham.com](http://www.stmaryschurchhigham.com)

TICKETS: £12

LICENSED BAR WITH NUTS AND CRISPS AVAILABLE TO BUY

+ RAFFLE

BOOKING IS ADVISABLE

TO RESERVE YOUR TICKETS:

PHONE: 01634 725018

EMAIL: [FRIENDS@STMARYSCHURCHHIGHAM.COM](mailto:FRIENDS@STMARYSCHURCHHIGHAM.COM)



# St. Benedict

Feast day 11<sup>th</sup> July.

Born in of Norcia, Italy, around 480, Benedict was the son of a Roman noble and twin of his sister, St. Scholastica.

Sent to Rome to finish his education his subject for study was rhetoric -- the art of persuasive speaking. A successful speaker was not one who had the best argument or conveyed the truth, but one who used rhythm, eloquence, and technique to convince. The power of the voice without foundation in the heart was the goal of the student's education. And that philosophy was reflected in the lives of the students as well. They had everything -- education, wealth, youth --

and they spent all of it in the pursuit of hedonistic pleasure, not truth. Benedict watched in horror as vice unravelled the lives and ethics of his companions. Afraid for his soul, Benedict fled Rome, gave up his inheritance and lived in a small village.

When God called him beyond this quiet life to an even deeper solitude, he went to the mountains of Subiaco. Although becoming a hermit was not his purpose in leaving, there he lived as a hermit under the direction of another hermit, Romanus. Living in a cave above a lake as a hermit, after years of prayer word of his holiness brought nearby monks to ask for his leadership. He warned them he would be too strict, but they insisted - then tried to poison him when his warning proved true. It is said when he prayed a blessing over a poisoned cup it shattered. The next set of followers were more sincere and he set up twelve monasteries in Subiaco where monks lived in small separate communities of twelve ( reflecting Jesus and his twelve apostles). He left these monasteries abruptly the attacks of another envious hermit made it impossible to continue their spiritual leadership.

At Monte Cassino he founded the monastery that became the roots of the Church's subsequent monastic system. Instead of small separate communities he gathered his disciples into one whole community. His twin sister, Saint Scholastica, settled nearby to live a religious life amongst women. After 1,500 years of monastic tradition this direction seems obvious to us yet Benedict was an innovator. No one had ever set up communities like his before or directed them with a rule. What is history to us now was a bold, risky step into the future. Benedict had the holiness and the skill to take this forward. His beliefs and instructions on religious life were collected in what is now known as the Rule of Saint Benedict -- still directing most religious community life after 15 centuries.

In this tiny but powerful Rule, Benedict put his rhetorical skills at the service of the Gospel. Scholars suggest that his Rule reflects an understanding of and skill with the rules of rhetoric. Benedict did not shun rhetoric because it had been used to seduce people to sin; he reformed its use for good. Benedict did not want to lose the power of voice to reach up to God simply because others had used it to sink down to the gutter. There was always a voice reading aloud in his communities at meals, to receive guests, to educate novices. Hearing words one time was not enough- it states - "We wish this Rule to be read frequently to the community."

Benedict realized the strongest and truest foundation for the power of words was the Word of God itself: "For what page or word of the Bible is not a perfect rule for temporal life?" He had experienced the power of God's word as expressed in Scripture: "For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to him who sows and bread to him who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:10-11).

For prayer, Benedict turned to the psalms, the very songs and poems from the Jewish liturgy that Jesus himself had prayed. To join our voices with Jesus in praise of God during the day was so important that Benedict called it the "Work of God." And nothing was to be put before the work of God. "Immediately upon hearing the signal for the Divine Office all work will cease." Benedict believed with Jesus that "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

But it wasn't enough to just speak the words. Benedict instructed his followers to practice sacred reading, to study the very Scriptures they would be praying in the Work of God. In this 'Lectio Divina', he and his monks memorized Scripture, studied it, and contemplated it until it became part of their being. Four to six hours were set aside each day for this sacred reading. If monks had free time it "should be used by the brothers to practice psalms." Lessons from Scripture were to be spoken from memory not read from a book. On Benedict's list of "Instruments of Good Works" is "to enjoy holy readings."

A story from Benedict's life is of a poor man begging for a little oil. Although Benedict commanded that the oil be given, the cellarer refused - because there was very little left and there would be none for the monastery. Angry at this distrust in God's providence, Benedict knelt down to pray and a bubbling sound came from inside the oil jar. The monks watched, fascinated, as God filled the vessel so completely with oil it overflowed and pushed the cover off, cascading out on to the floor. In Benedictine prayer, our hearts are regarded as the vessel empty of thoughts and intellectual striving. All that remains is the trust in God's providence to fill us. Emptying ourselves thus brings God's abundant goodness bubbling up in our hearts, first with an inspiration or two, and finally overflowing our heart with contemplative love.

Benedict died on 21 March 543, shortly after his sister, St Scholastica (feast day February 10<sup>th</sup>). It is said he died with high fever on the very day God told him he would.

The spread of Benedictine monasteries played an immense role in the development or preservation of Christian faith and culture throughout Europe (eg Higham Priory, Hoo Priory, Strood Hospital, and the re-founded cathedrals of Canterbury and Rochester and numerous others JUST in Kent).

Due to such widespread influence one can see why St Benedict is one six co-patrons of Europe along with five others: Two other men, Ss Cyril and Methodius, and three women Ss. Bridget of Sweden, Theresa Benedicta of the Cross and Catherine of Siena. He is also, and one can understand why from his life and rule, patron of all students.

In collaboration with the Friends of St. Mary's Church  
and with kind permission of the Churches Conservation Trust

## **Higham Choral Group**

presents a concert of varied music for a summer  
evening

### **SUMMER SOUNDS**

### **at St Mary's Church**

Lower Higham

7.30 pm Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July

**£10.00** includes light buffet

pay at the door

further information contact

01634 718818/01634 718285 - email: [kateiw@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kateiw@tiscali.co.uk)

musical director Richard Shackleton

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





# July 2017 Donation Guide

Please note

All items should be in date

and be – long life, tinned, dried, jar or packet.

- Tinned vegetables - potatoes, carrots, peas, sweetcorn
- **Packets of \*Instant potato \*Soup and Cup a Soup**
- Tinned fruits
- Tinned meats - **\*Corned Beef, Ham**, mince and onion, stewed steak
- Instant noodles, \*couscous, rice,
- Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Sugar
- **\*Packets of Instant Pasta in Sauce, \*Tins of Spaghetti**
- Breakfast cereals, sweet biscuits & cereal bars
- **\*Rice pudding** (other tinned puddings –jam, syrup, dried fruit)
- **\*Custard**
- Spreads – jam, marmite, \*peanut butter
- Longlife milk, Longlife fruit juice and bottled squash to dilute
- Deodorants, toothpaste, tooth brushes, bath & shower gels
- Ladies personal toiletries & **\*Toilet rolls.**
- Nappies size 4 & 5
- Laundry tablets and washing up liquid

***Above \* items are currently low in stock at the Foodbank.***

**At this time we have enough - baked beans.**

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

**Thank You very much for 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)



## LOCAL EVENTS

### Chalk Village Fete

On: **Saturday 8th July 2017**

At: Chalk Church, Church Lane, Chalk **from 11.30 am to 3 pm**

Price: £1 for adults, children free.

A great family day out in lovely countryside – includes lunches, BBQ, cream teas, beer tent, lots of stalls and performances by Applause Outdoors live theatre. Information: Heather Bull [01474 320156](tel:01474320156)

### Gravesend Old Town Hall – Guided tour & afternoon tea – Second tour offer

After many years this is a chance to indulge your mind and body with a guided tour of Gravesend Old Town Hall with its fantastic stories and enjoy a full tea in delightful surrounds, a real Summer treat.

On: **Thursday 13th July 2017**

Meet: **2 pm** by entrance to Old Town Hall, just off High Street, Gravesend

Guide: Christoph Bull

Tea and refreshments provided by Rico Sabor Restaurant inside the former Old Town Hall. Price: £24.50

Booking Essential via Rico Sabor on [01474 365003](tel:01474365003) / [07960002171](tel:07960002171)

Email: [gravesendoldtownhall@gmail.co.uk](mailto:gravesendoldtownhall@gmail.co.uk)

### Guided tour – Gravesend's Victorian Dream

On: **Tuesday 25th July 2017** Guide: Christoph Bull

Meet: **11.30 am** on corner of The Grove opposite Clock Tower, Gravesend

Price: £4 per person – no need to book, just turn up.

Discover the Wellington Street area and how Gravesend's development suddenly took a very different turn. A visit to the Zoar Chapel included.

Information: Christoph Bull [07702287147](tel:07702287147)

### Circular walk of Cobham Woods via Knight's Place

On: **Sunday 30th July 2017**

Meet: **2.30 pm** at Lodge Farm, Lodge Lane, Cobham DA12 3BS

Leader: Jenny Ellert [01474 361977](tel:01474361977).

Event is free – no need to book (Gravesend Historical Society event).

**Christoph Bull - Chalk Parish Historian and Historical Advisor to Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council**



We would like to invite you all,  
With the Mayor & Mayoress of Gravesend,



to attend our exciting



## Strawberry Afternoon Tea

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017

Higham Village Club

2pm - 4.30pm

£5.50

To include food & refreshments. Children welcome

There will be lots of stalls and a raffle

Tickets can be bought in advance

From Linda at the Higham Greengrocers,

Or phone Janet on 01474 822665



All funds raised will go to the Ellenor Hospice  
fundraising to support my trek planned for  
November 2017 across the Sahara. (Charity No: 1121561)

If you are unable to attend this event, you can still  
donate at: [www.justgiving.com/sarahlouiseharvey1](http://www.justgiving.com/sarahlouiseharvey1)



*William Shakespeare's*

# Macbeth



**Touring Summer 2017**

[www.thisismytheatre.com](http://www.thisismytheatre.com)

## HIGHAM CRIME FIGURES FOR MARCH 2017

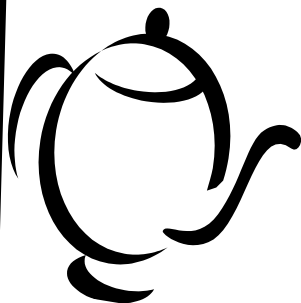
Type of Crime	Total
Burglary	1
Vehicle Crime	3
Violence & Sexual Offences	5
Anti Social Behaviour	5
Other Theft	1
Public Order Offence	1
Criminal Damage & Arson	6
Robbery	1

Figures obtained from the Police website, [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk), by K.C.C Community Warden Steve Gray

Mobile: 07811 271256      E Mail: [steve.gray@kent.gov.uk](mailto:steve.gray@kent.gov.uk). In March, 2016 there were 8 reported crimes in Higham



*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.



## **Why it is good to talk to yourself**

When we see people talking out loud to themselves, we can tend to avoid them as slightly odd. But, in reality, they may be very smart indeed. According to a recent study at Bangor University, those of us who speak to ourselves while focusing on a task do better than those of us who stay silent.

It seems that when we read instructions out loud, our brains absorb information more quickly. As one psychologist at Bangor explained: 'Our ability to generate explicit self-instructions is actually one of the best tools we have for cognitive control.'

Things simply work better when said aloud. Talking to ourselves helps us to better organise our thoughts, plan our actions, consolidate our memories, and control our emotions.

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## NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS GUILD



May is sometimes described as “the merry month of May” and it certainly has been for North Kent Embroiderers’ Guild. It was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North Kent branch of the Guild, so we did not miss the chance to celebrate. I hope some of you made it to our exhibition at St. Andrews. We have some very talented members who kindly loaned their work for display, and we were also on hand to greet visitors and discuss the different styles of embroideries. As you can see from the picture, there were many different pieces on show.



More pictures are available on our website, of both the exhibition and our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary lunch. Kay Dennis, Regional Chair of the South East, was our guest and she and her husband, Michael, displayed many stumpwork pieces – see [www.kaydennis.co.uk](http://www.kaydennis.co.uk)

Our next meeting is July 15<sup>th</sup> and Karin Buchannan is our speaker.

See [www.northkentembroiderers.co.uk](http://www.northkentembroiderers.co.uk) for more information.

## VILLAGE DIARY JULY 2017

- Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Coffee & Conversation - Vestry Hall 10.30 am -12.30
- Weds 5<sup>th</sup> Rainbows & Brownies - Memorial Hall - 5.30 pm
- Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> W.I. Memorial Hall – 7.30pm
- Fri 7<sup>th</sup> HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 -4 pm
- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Rainbows & Brownies - Memorial Hall - 5.30 pm
- Fri 14<sup>th</sup> HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 -4 pm
- Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Rainbows & Brownies - Memorial Hall - 5.30 pm
- Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Higham History Group – Memorial Hall – 8pm  
Cobham Landscape Detectives – Andrew Mayfield
- Fri 21<sup>st</sup> HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 - 4 pm
- Fri 28<sup>th</sup> HiARA - Monthly Meeting - Memorial Hall – 2 pm-4 pm

### CHURCH DRAW RESULTS

**MAY 2017**

£50 146 Mrs Sparks

£10 289 Mrs Dodgson

**NEXT DRAW 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE**