

LEST WE FORGET!

One hundred years ago my grandfathers would be returning from War to mining jobs in different parts of Cumberland. Lloyd-George had promised the and others ‘...a fit country for heroes to live in.’ (23rd Nov. 1918) Within three years both were married. One died from TB in 1927 leaving a widow and three children under five with very little, if any, support from a ‘grateful nation’. The other raised a family in poverty-like conditions, also with little, if any, support from a ‘grateful nation’. Political rhetoric and popular jingoism about heroes is one thing. Paying for it and putting it into practice quite another! After ALL the wars and conflicts in which our service personnel have been involved I’ve often queried the paradox of a supposedly ‘grateful nation’ with the need for a Royal British Legion, ‘Help for Heroes’ Campaign and such-like. Why are they needed I muse? Shouldn’t a ‘grateful nation’ actually provide ALL they need afterwards especially for the maimed, severely injured and the psychologically ‘wounded’ who so often end up on the streets!

My father, and uncles on both sides of the family, all served across the globe during the World War 2. Like their fathers before them, they went to defend their country against tyrannical opponents. Amazingly my grandfathers, father and uncles all made home. The many names on my home village cenotaph, in both Higham Churches, in the Memorial Hall, and countless other places reveal immense numbers who did not.

Considering my grandparents hard lives (and the economy of the 1920s and 1930s didn’t help) and those of my father’s generation; when I think of all the dead, combatant and non-combatant alike, I do wonder if they ever thought: ‘Was it worth it?’ Worth it when they’ve seen pension values decrease; access to health provision apparently (though hotly denied) limited by age; elderly care outrageously limited by lack of financial resources or adequate provision; when younger generations are aggressive or rude in the streets; when they’re victims of violence and crime? Was it worth it? Is it still a country ‘fit’ for heroes? What use is ‘Remembrance’ if we’re not willing to provide fully for that generation and their needs?

Yet I suspect if THEY went back to 1914, or 1939, and the dire situation facing us and other nations, they would do it again. They were of that generation did things for others. Should we be surprised? Once our nation was taught Christian values and belief about service and sacrifice. J. F. Kennedy said: ‘ask not what your country can do for you but ask what you can do for your country’. These days we seem to have spawned a ‘me and mine only’ generation, constantly demanding ‘rights’ and ‘wants’.

Think of Jesus Christ, Son of God. Freely giving up his life for others. Entering, for us, into spiritual warfare, dying freely on a cross to win salvation which is not temporal but eternal. Yet now by the majority he is ignored at best, at worst his name used as a swear word. He thought we were more than worth it. He would do it all over again. So, we shouldn’t be surprised at any lack of gratitude and the forgetfulness of new generations. God in Christ himself, by all generations, is treated thus - is he not?

Father James

The Bridge

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

WORSHIP AT S.JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH

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

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

Solemn Evening Prayer & Benediction on Sundays - *as announced.*

THE	Monday	6.30 pm	DAILY MORNING PRAYER
DAILY	Tuesday	7.30 pm	Each day at 9 am
MASS	Wednesday	9.30 am	* * * * *
TIMES	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.
	E.mail saintjohn.higham@yahoo.co.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 8.15 pm and SATURDAYS 10.30 am

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

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession and absolution)

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

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

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



THE	Mrs Teresa Joblin	10 Telegraph Hill, Higham	Tel: 01474-823186
CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs Helen Walker	11 S.John's Road, Higham	* Tel: 01474-396569
CHURCH HALL MANAGER -	Mrs Julie Healey -		* Tel: 01474-822008

* Evening calls only on these numbers please

NOVEMBER AT S.JOHN'S - 2018

CALENDAR AND MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY PARISH MASS
Sung at 9.30am

Weekday masses) Mon. 6.30pm; Tu. 7.30pm; Wed. 9.30am.
 Th. 7.30pm; Fri. 9.30am; Sat. 9.30am.

EXCEPT for changes of time or additions as noted in grey boxes below

DAY	DATE	CELEBRATION	INTENTION	
TH.	1ST	ALL SAINTS DAY <i>Said Mass 9.30am / Solemn Mass 7.30pm</i>	(+) (S)	The Congregation THE PARISH
Fri.	2nd	All Souls Day <i>Said Mass 9.30am / Sung Mass 7.30pm</i>	(m)	The faithful departed
Sat	3rd	Feria		The bereaved
SUN	4TH	31ST ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+)	THE PARISH
Mon	5th	Feria	Mass of Requiem	(v) Higham & Merston Clergy
Tue	6th	Feria	(Ord. Week 31)	Social workers and carers
Wed	7th	Feria		Undertakers / Crem. workers
Th.	8th	S.Willibrord Bishop, Missionary	(m)	'Old Catholic' Churches
Fri.	9TH	Dedication of S.John at Lateran	(F)	Roman Catholic Church
Sat	10th	Pope S.Leo the Gt.	(m)	The world's war zones
SUN	11TH	32ND ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+)	THE PARISH
<i>Remembrance Sunday Mass at 9.30am / Ordinary Sunday Mass said at 6.30pm</i>				
Mon	12th	S.Josaphat; Martyr Bishop	(m)	The Uniate churches
Tue	13th	Feria	(Ord. Week 32)	Warfare wounded & disabled
Wed	14th	Feria	Mass of Requiem	(v) RIPs & Nov Anniversaries
Th.	15th	Feria		Prisoners & dependents
Fri.	16th	S.Edmund of Abingdon Archbishop	(m)	The Archbishop
Sat	17th	S.Hilda of Whitby Abbess	(m)	The Society Bishops
SUN	18th	33RD ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+)	THE PARISH
Mon	19th	Feria	(Ord. Wk 33)	Hospices and workers
Tue	20th	Feria	Mass of Requiem	(v) Communicants /Benefactors
Wed	21st	The Presentation of Our Lady	(m)	Walsingham
Th.	22nd	S.Cecilia, Martyr	(m)	Church Musicians
Fri.	23rd	Pope S.Clement Martyr	(m)	The persecuted Church
Sat	24th	The Vietnamese Martyrs	(m)	The Church in Indo-china
SUN	25th	CHRIST THE KING	(+)	THE PARISH
Mon	26th	Feria	(Ord. Wk 34)	Christian Youth work
Tue	27th	Feria		Refugees & displaced people
Wed	28th	Feria	Mass of Requiem	(v) Higham Priory Sisters
Th.	29th	Feria		The Cathedral
FRI	30TH	S. Andrew Apostle, Patron of the Diocese	(S)	The Diocese

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

THE NOVEMBER REQUIEM

is on WEDNESDAY 14th November 2018 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	David Barfleet <i>BISHOP</i>	17 th	Sergius Frederick Lewis Clougher (Clewer) <i>PRIEST</i> *
	Gordon Clement Annetts		
	Jean Hollis	18 th	Olive Whyman
2 nd	Kenneth Turner		Paul Edward Wakelin <i>PRIEST</i>
3 rd	'Joe' (Cecil) Bassett		Audrey Edgar
4 th	James Richard Foster <i>PRIEST</i> *	19 th	Monica Wardle
5 th	Michael Frederick Henry Grey - [<i>PRIEST</i>]		Leonard Henry Carter
6 th	Alfred Leonard Eyers		Bertha Mary Ivory
7 th	John Thomas Waghorn	20 th	Edwin William Edgar Leeson
8 th	'Sam' (Frederick) Weller		Marjorie Primrose Walker
	Herbert Reginald Jarvis		Sidney George Farrant
9 th	John Richards <i>BISHOP</i>	21 st	Joan Kent
10 th	Peter Warwick Simpson		Phyllis May Philpot
	Arthur Barber		Mary Bruce Thurlow
	Elsie Jury	23 rd	Minnie May Pigden
11 th	<i>Those killed in warfare</i>		Peter Richard Hill
12 th	Jennifer Jane Steer		Robert Featherstone
	Marjorie Wise	24 th	Hilda Esther Allen
	Jill Reynolds	25 th	May Rich
13 th	Ethel Mabel Alice Lewing		Leonard Herbert Merchant
	Marjorie Constance Miller	26 th	Audrey May Clare
14 th	David John Barnes <i>PRIEST</i>	28 th	Christopher Birkett
	'Kay' [Kamala Mary] Davis		Eric Waldram Kemp <i>BISHOP</i>
16 th	Lille Victoria Leeson	29 th	Lilian Fordham
			Joyce Irene Helen Conway
		30 th	Margery Bertha Bassett

NOTE: Except for previous Incumbents of this parish (marked *) or where it is known that people attend this mass to pray for a person 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.

Dying you destroyed our death. Rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory!

~ DAILY BIBLE READINGS ~

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

There are three readings for Sundays and special holy days.

T^h	ALL SAINTS' DAY	Nov. 1st	
	Revelation 7.2-14	1 John 3.1-3	
	Matthew 5.1-12		
F	ALL SOULS' DAY	Nov. 2nd	
	Isaiah 25.6-9	Romans 5.5-11	
	Mark 15.33-39;16.1-6		
S	Philippians 1.18-26	Luke 14. 1,7-11	
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31ST ORDINARY SUNDAY		NOV. 4TH	
	Deuteronomy 6.2-6		
	Hebrews 7.23-28		
	Mark 12.28-34		
M	Philippians 2.1-4	Luke 14.12-14	
T	Philippians 2.5-11	Luke 14.15-24	
W	Philippians 2.12-18	Luke 14.25-33	
Th	Philippians 3.3-8	Luke 15.1-10	
F	DEDIC^V S.JOHN LATERAN	Nov. 9th	
	Ezek. 47.1,2,8-9.12	John 2.13-22	
S	Philippians 4. 10-19	Luke 16.9-15	
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32ND ORDINARY SUNDAY		NOV. 11TH	
	<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>		
	9.30am	6.30pm	
Remembrance		32nd Ordinary	
Sunday		Sunday	
<i>II Maccabees</i>		1 Kings 17.10-16	
<i>12.43-45</i>		Hebrews 9.24-28	
<i>Romans 5.5-11</i>			
<i>John 19.17-18,25-26</i>		Mark 12.38-44	
M	Titus 1.1-9	Luke 17.1-6	
T	Titus 2.1-8,11-14	Luke 17.7-10	
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W	Titus 3.1-7	Luke 17.11-19	
Th	Philemon 7-20	Luke 17. 20-25	
F	2 John 4-9	Luke 17.26-37	
S	3 John 5-8	Luke 18.1-8	
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33RD ORDINARY SUNDAY			NOV. 18TH
		Daniel 12.1-3	
		Hebrews 10.11-14,18	
		Mark 13.24-32	
M	Revelation 1.1-4,2.1-5	Luke 18.35-43	
T	Revelation 3.1-6,14-22	Luke 19.1-10	
W	Revelation 4.1-11	Luke 19.11-28	
Th	Revelation 5.1-10	Luke 19.41-44	
F	Revelation 10.8-11	Luke 19.45-48	
S	Revelation 11.4-12	Luke 20.27-40	
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CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY			NOV. 25TH
		Daniel 7.13-14	
		Revelation 1.5-8	
		Mark 18.33-37	
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34TH ORDINARY WEEK			
M	Revelation 14.1-5	Luke 21.1-4	
T	Revelation 14.14-19	Luke 21.5-11	
W	Revelation 15.1-4	Luke 21.12-19	
Th	Rev 18.1-2, 21-23, 19.1-3,9	Luke 21.20-28	
F	S.ANDREW, APOSTLE	NOV 30TH	
	Isaiah 52.7-10 or Zechariah 8.20-23		
	Romans 10.9-18	Matthew 4.18-22	
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NOTE a Bible 'with Apocrypha' will only contain the Maccabees and Wisdom 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.

A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION

On Saturday 29th September a number of parishioners had the pleasure of attending the service of the Ordination of Deacons in the Cathedral where Simon Walker (the *now former* Lay Reader of St John's) was deaconed. It was a beautiful and sunny day with a very special service led by the Bishop of Rochester assisted by the Bishop of Tonbridge.



During the service the sermon was given by Dr Sharon Prentis, from the Diocese of Birmingham, who had led the Ordinands' retreat in the days leading up to the service.

Family and friends were invited to stand in prayerful support of each Ordinand as the Bishop laid his hands on their head. They then each received a stole and a Bible.

Our best wishes to Simon in his new role as Deacon at St Mary's Church, Swanley -God Bless you.



LOVE IN A BOX 2018

(Showing love in action)



We are again participating in the Mustard Seed Mission's Love in a Box appeal. The Mustard Seed Mission is a Christian organisation based in Eastbourne. They have, for many years, distributed shoeboxes filled with small items to disadvantaged children in east Europe. Last year the Mission distributed 30,000 boxes to children in Moldova – one of the poorest

countries. These are distributed at churches, schools, orphanages and hospitals.

By the time the boxes arrive at the border of Moldova the journey has taken the drivers approximately five days. Pastor Mark, who is involved with the distribution in churches, said “the poverty among the people is why congregations have been falling, and this act of love is what renews their faith in the kindness of others”. The smiles on the faces of the children when they receive the boxes are a joy to see.



Please would you fill a box for a child this year? The leaflets will be at the back of St John's Church from the middle of September. These give suggestions as to what to put in the box for each age group. The boxes need to be at St John's or to Wendy Hance by 5th November.

Thank you

Wendy Hance 01474 822702

HIGHAM WOMENS' INSTITUTE

Higham WI met in the Memorial Hall on Thursday 6th September 2018.

Representatives' Reports:

Art & Craft : Tess Packer's craft meetings are continuing at her home – Tuesday 11th September is the next date – subject, cushion covers.

Leisure: Christine Downes : WI Celebration Dinner has been booked at The Knowle on Thursday 3rd January 2019. Slight price increase to £31 and Christine would appreciate a deposit of £10 asap.

Drama : Joan Campbell : Rehearsals for Christmas Show – Wednesday 19th September at 7.30.pm.

President Stephanie Griffiths reported that the October Home Economics evening will not now go ahead and if we do not have a speaker, there will be a quiz and a "Bottle Evening". Christine Downes asked all ladies to bring a bag containing a bottle (of anything) costing £1. Each member will, on the evening then purchase a bag for a £1 – Monies raised will be added to our WI funds.

Stephanie reported on the successful Birthday Party in August. Caterers prepared the food and cleaned the tables afterwards. It was unfortunate that for the last table to be served, some of the main course was not available and ladies expressed their disappointment.

We then welcomed a return of Barbara Stevens who told us stories of her life as a speaker. Barbara is a past Chairman of Downe WI She is a mother of three sons (one of whom is Nigel Farage) and has many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Barbara has recently been accepted as a Cruise Ship speaker and we hope she will return with stories of her life on board. A fun evening.

Josephine Smith

HIARA SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORT

As the HiARA members settle into the autumn and winter programme of events, held on the fourth Friday of the month, we started off with a "Social" afternoon on September 28.

Over 80 members came along to catch up with the latest club news and to chat with friends. We also welcomed several new prospective members, who immediately met people they knew.

A special request had been made by a member sometime ago to hear a talk by the Kent Fire and Rescue Services and we were pleased to introduce Christopher Wilmer of the Service who gave an interesting presentation explaining how to prevent fires starting within the home and gave advice on escape routes. His talk was given in good humour and had everyone's attention. He showed equipment available for those with disabilities and was pleased to stay and answer member's many questions. Tea and biscuits were served along with a surprise choc-ice which was much appreciated.

The ladies on the Events table were busy taking bookings for the Christmas lunch booked at the North Kent College in December. The day trip to Bury St Edmunds for the Christmas Fair is full and eagerly anticipated; let's hope it's not too cold! The November social evening with guests: Abbalicious is also proving popular with members.

The craft table, cake stall and book stall also did a roaring trade and this all adds to the monies paid over to our Charity, The Friends of the Wisdom Hospice.

The Friday Activity afternoons are also well supported as are the rambles and lunch days out.

Our next main meeting in October, we will welcome Nicola White, a distinguished artist, who creates stunning artwork from materials she finds along the Kent shoreline.

Not a member? think you might like to join us? drop in any Friday afternoon from 1.30 pm at Higham Memorial Hall and speak to a committee member for further details.

Liz Jeffery

REMEMBRANCE 2018

Commemoration of the Centenary of the end of World War I



The bell ringers at St John's will be joining the national call for ringers to ring their church bells at 12.30 p.m. on Remembrance Sunday. They hope to ring for about 30 minutes of called changes. The bells will be half muffled – the traditional mark of respect by ringers for the deceased.

The bells will be rung again, in clear ringing, at 7.05 pm, for just 10 minutes to celebrate the guns falling silent, 100 years ago on Armistice Day.

As Alfred, Lord Tennyson wrote:



*'Ring out old shapes of foul disease
Ring out the narrowing lust for gold
Ring out the thousand wars of old
Ring in the thousand years of peace.'*
(In Memoriam)

Sunday 11th November, 2018

Solemn Mass of Requiem for the War Dead

10.00 am

Ending with the Act of Remembrance

at 11.00 am

ACTIVITIES AT YOUR LIBRARY - WHAT'S GOING ON AT HIGHAM LIBRARY

Library Extra

Higham Library customers can now access the library when it's not staffed! Wow!

Outside the usual staffed 'opening' hours, using a Library Extra registered card and your personal PIN, you can enter the library from 7 am until 9 pm, Monday to Saturday. This is ideal for customers who find it difficult to get to the library during its opening hours, to pick up a reservation or return a book for example, but it also provides an opportunity for quiet study and email catch-up, using the public computers for an hour, or WiFi.

Anyone interested can join the library (with proof of address and DOB) or get their existing library card registered. You just need to sign acceptance of the Terms & Conditions and receive a short induction. You'd have to pop in during the staffed hours to do this though! Those staffed hours are still Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays 9 am - 1 pm, Tuesdays/Thursdays 2 - 5.30 pm, and Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm.

Tuesdays

Knit & Natter

Knitting and crochet every Tuesday 6-8 pm for beginners and old hands!! (Library Extra card needed)

Books & Beverage

Book club meeting 2.30-4 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month discussing books by a chosen author for the month. Refreshments served by Paul, the Community Warden!

Wednesdays

Talk Time

Meet up and chat, with refreshments and quiz, every Wednesday 10-11.30 am.

Thursdays

Higham Library Book Club

Book club meeting 6.45-9 pm on the 1st Thursday of the month discussing the chosen book of the month. Very informal. (Library Extra card needed)

Higham Quilters

Quilting group meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 7-9 pm. (Library Extra card needed)

Community Warden Surgery

Last Thursday of the month 2.30-4 pm. Raise any issues with Community Warden, Paul Hassell, and a local Parish Councillor. Free refreshments provided!

Fridays

Baby Rhyme Time

Every Friday during school term time, 9.30-10.30 am, followed by parents/carers coffee and chat.

Saturdays

Reading Champion

Every Saturday, 10.15-11.15 am, a young volunteer reads with children.

Games Club

Every Saturday from 10.30 am, games and crafts for children (volunteer needed).

Home Library Service (HLS)

If you are someone (or you know of someone) who would like to borrow a book (standard or large print or 'audio' disc) but you're unable to get to the library, we have a volunteer who can visit you fortnightly with books for your enjoyment. There is no charge for this service and you have an extended loan period.

Chess

Why not pop in with a friend to play a game of chess, using our lovely, donated chess set. If you fancy setting up a Chess Club, even better!

Coming Soon!

Higham Village History Group now has its archive materials stored at the library and a volunteer will be available once a month to help customers with their local history enquiries. Dates/times to be confirmed.

To contact the library please note the telephone number is 03000 413131 (local call rate). It's a central switchboard where callers are transferred to the relevant library, if open, or the operator tries to assist if the library is closed.

EVENT

The Only one that got away – (illustrated talk)

Discover the unique First World War event, largely unknown, that links Germany, Gravesham, Holland and China – come and be amazed. Speaker: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

On: Thursday 8th November 2018: St Nicholas Church, Southfleet

Begins: 7 pm Price: £5 includes light refreshments

Booking via 01474 833669 or pay at the church on the evening
or email: WW1@philippainter.co.uk

Parking: at Southfleet Village Hall, Dale Road.

Commemorating the end of World War 1 with a very human story.

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

SILENT AUCTION

Proudly supporting



To raise much-needed funds for
Médecins Sans Frontières /Doctors Without Borders/MSF

on

WEDNESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2018 at 7:30 pm at

**Oliver's Bar and Restaurant
186 High Street
Rochester Kent ME1 1EY**



(Organised by Jenny Wallace)

Tickets - £10 per person, includes a glass of Prosecco and canapes -

Book Online at Eventbrite: [msfsilent-auction.eventbrite.co.uk/](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/msfsilent-auction-tickets-50000000)

Or Email: msfsilentauction@gmail.com

To give you a taster, auction lots include: a Victorian 9 carat ring; a family ticket for this year's pantomime at Central Theatre, Chatham; a private tour of Westminster Abbey for 20 people; original artwork from three young local artists; a rather special lot from Ian Hislop; Gilbert and George signed framed poster; a just-published signed book from Jo Brand; a hand-made jewellery box and a tee shirt signed by the First Team of Ebbsfleet Football Club, and a pair of diamond ear-rings worth £400 with a special provenance !

1918 - November 11th - 2018

This month observes the Centenary of the end of the First World War "The Great War". Fighting formally stopped at 11 am on the 11th November. Although Germany retained the will to continue fighting she had simply run out of men. The end of the war was an Armistice, an agreed truce, but Germany was effectively defeated. The end was a great relief following the appalling loss of life, carnage and destruction.

Today the battlefields of Northern France are now wide rolling fields and forests. At the end of the War experts said that land could never be farmed again because of all the metal of war and gasses that had polluted the soil. But within a few years the determined local farmers were ploughing the land again. The villages, churches and farms were rebuilt and life started again. The countryside is dotted with large and small cemeteries, maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, very peaceful and a permanent reminder of the men who died in battle and were buried where they fell. The large imposing memorial arch at Thiepval, where the fighting started records the names of those whose bodies were never recovered on the Somme. That it is so peaceful now masks the great slaughter and loss of life during the four years of the conflict. The Menin Gate at Ypres records the names of those who fell at Passchendale in Belgium. The Last Post is sounded there every evening. There are also Canadian, Australian and other national memorials as well as French and German cemeteries.

Other reminders are the memorials in every church and institution in this country recording the names of soldiers who died. "O valiant hearts who to your glory came..." we used to sing at John's on Remembrance Sunday at the British Legion service when I was a small boy. Even tiny villages lost a high proportion of their men. There are no longer any survivors of the armed forces who took part in the war, but the memorials and cemeteries keep the memory alive. Fortunately, with the coming of recording equipment, survivors were able to recount their experiences and memories. St Paul's cathedral has a high altar frontal embroidered by men recovering from wounds. It's been on display in the cathedral throughout the four centenary years.

Many who fought would have found it difficult to evaluate the conflict in the modern sense. It was enough to fight for God, King and Country.

They went trustingly and mostly without hatred for the enemy. The War affected everybody. A great insight into its effect on ordinary people is Vera Britten's 'Testimony of Youth' one of the most moving books of the twentieth century. Ordinary life was diminished by the loss of so many men at all levels of society. Life was different after the Great War. Old certainties no longer held fast and there was turmoil throughout Europe. The old imperial dynasties in Russia, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire fell and new states were established. The Kaiser abdicated in Germany and the country quickly fell into the grip of the Nazi party. Little did people realise that another terrible world conflict was only twenty-one years away.

People still visit the battlefields to look for lost family members who lie there and to feel the mixture of sadness and heroism that haunts the sites. Farmers still continue to reap the "harvest of iron" – the remains of shells and weapons. Bodies are even now discovered where they fell and given funerals with military honours.

The reasons for the War and why Great Britain became involved in what was in origin a mid-European conflict are now an academic debate. It was considerably after the end of the War, that it came to be seen in terms of the lives of ordinary people, rather than in terms of military strategy and its successes and failures. The morning of first of July 1916 saw the start of the battle of the Somme. There were nearly sixty thousand casualties, including twenty thousand dead, within the first half hour, and many more in the weeks afterwards. There was very little gain. The policy had been to throw forward so many men that the enemy would be overwhelmed. For some while afterwards it was thought that the battle did not achieve its objective because the commanders had not pushed their men hard enough and the men had not fought as well as they could. In due course historians came to see it not in terms of military strategy but in terms of the terrible loss of life, individual heroism in the face of a virtually impossible task. The men were, as one writer put it "lions led by donkeys". The War poets, several of whom were soldiers and died in the fighting, wrote about the horror and suffering of warfare and sought to counteract glorying in war and victory. Here is one of Wilfred Owen's poems:

Anthem for Doomed Youth

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?

— *Only the monstrous anger of the guns.*

Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle

Can patter out their hasty orisons.

No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells;

Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,—

The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;

And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all?

Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes

Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.

The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;

Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,

And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

(Wilfrid Owen was killed in November 1918, a week before the Armistice).

Although none of us has any personal memory of the Great War it still looms very large in our national consciousness. We cannot forget the terrible carnage or the sacrifice of life of those who died and fought. We don't glory in victory or in a false pride in nationalism; however drawn we may be to the battlefields and the personal stories of those who fought in them. However cynical about war we may be or saddened by the losses we do not believe that they died in vain and we rightly continue to salute them.

The War is sufficiently far away for us to assess it more rationally and try to understand it in the wider context of history and society. Like all conflicts it was complex. Some aspects of it seem incomprehensible to our modern mind. However the greatest things we learn from it are how terrible is war, especially world war, and that we should always work for peace among the nations of the world, with war as the very last resort. The Centenary of the Armistice on eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 is a cause for gratitude, reflection and determination.

Jr Andrew

A Saint for November

Blessed Salvio Huix was a Spanish bishop martyred in 1936 during the Spanish Civil War. Over 500,000 people died in the war. Nearly seven thousand bishops, priests and nuns were killed, plus numerous other students and church workers and parishioners.

As a priest and later a bishop, Salvio Huix was an outstandingly caring and diligent pastor with a great concern for peoples' spiritual and material welfare, unafraid of getting his hands dirty when necessary.

In 1931 the newly established Republican Government was very hostile to the Church and closed many Church run schools and institutions and tried to eradicate it from the centre of Spanish life. The bishops tried hard to work under the new regime and urged people not to defy the authorities, hoping that better times would come.

In July 1936 there was an uprising against the Government which opened the Civil War. It was a bloody conflict and atrocities were committed by both sides. The Republicans immediately turned against the Church with great ferocity. Bishop Huix's cathedral, Lleida, was set on fire. The mob then ransacked the bishop's palace. The bishop and his staff fled and took refuge in the house of the gardener. In order to save the gardener and his family, the bishop surrendered himself to the police. They immediately handed him over to the Republican Militia who imprisoned him. Many of his clergy and leading citizens were already in the prison. He ministered to them and impressed everyone with his cheerfulness. On 5 August he and twenty other men were loaded on to lorries and told that they were being taken to Barcelona to stand trial. Outside the city, by the cemetery the men were told to get out of the lorries. They realised that they were about to be shot and asked the bishop for his blessing. He blessed them saying '*Be brave, for within the hour we shall be reunited in the presence of our Lord*'. They were made to dig their own graves. Bp Huix was given the chance to save his life if he would abjure the faith. He refused but asked that he could be the last to die so that he could bless each of the others as they fell. Each time he blessed someone one of the militia shot him through the hand but he continues his blessing with his left hand and then died himself. His feast day is 6 November.



ALL SAINTS DAY



Thursday 1st NOVEMBER 2018

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

Morning Prayer: 8.45am

Said Mass: 9.30am

Evening Prayer: 6.45pm

SOLEMN MASS: 7.30pm

Bring and Share food after Solemn Mass. Wine provided.

Holy Communion is available for the sick or housebound upon request



+

All Souls Day

*Friday,
2nd November 2018*

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.

Said Requiem Mass
9.30am

SOLEMN REQUIEM
7.30pm



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

Remembrance Sunday

11th November 2018



Solemn Requiem
AT 10AM
for all those killed
in warfare



Followed by an
Act of Remembrance
at the
War Memorials
in S.John's Church

Jesu mercy; Mary pray.

11th November is also the
**32nd Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

Mass of the Sunday will
be offered at 6.30pm

Holy Communion may be
received at both masses.
Sunday obligation is fulfilled
at either mass.

Diocesan Calendar of Prayer now available on free PrayerMate App

For those who like to access their prayer on the go, the Diocese of Rochester's Calendar of Intercession is now available via the free PrayerMate App.

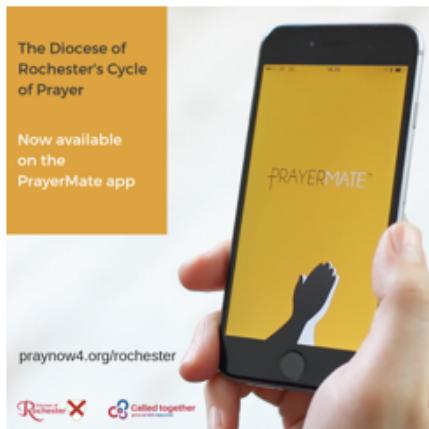
PrayerMate is an award-winning Christian prayer app that helps bring your prayers for the people and causes you care about in one place on your phone or tablet.

You can even set up alerts to remind you to pray.

Helping encourage our prayer lives

The Calendar of Intercessions offers a daily suggestion of prayer for the life of the diocese, its people, parishes, church schools and chaplaincies.

Offering the calendar on the PrayerMate App is part of our commitment, through the Called Together vision, to help ensure prayer underpins all we do as a Diocese and to encourage and support peoples' individual prayer lives.



The calendar of intercessions is still available to download on the Diocesan website – just search for Intercessions - and available on request by contacting:
bishopscourt@rochester.anglican.org or 01634 814439

How to start

Follow this step by step guide to how to download the app and access the Diocese's Calendar of Intercessions.

- **Step 1:** Download the PrayerMate on to your Apple or Android device via the [Apple AppStore](#), [Google Play](#), or [Amazon Appstore](#).
- **Step 2:** Once you've opened the Prayer Mate App, tap the '+' button at the top of the home page to add a new prayer feed.]
- **Step 3:** Scroll down to the 'Ready-made content' section and tap 'Church life'.
- **Step 4:** Scroll down to 'Sub-categories' and tap 'UK Churches'.
- **Step 5:** Scroll through the UK Churches Feeds, which are listed alphabetically. Tap 'Diocese of Rochester Cycle of Prayer'. Next, tap 'Subscribe to this feed' and choose the list 'My Church'.
- **Step 6:** Return to homepage, swipe left and you're ready to go. You can also set up daily reminders to pray by tapping the 'clock' symbol at top of screen.

If you have any [questions](#) please contact communications@rochester.anglican.org

Download PrayerMate free to get started:
<http://praynow4.org/rochester>



Subscribe to Diocese of Rochester Cycle of Prayer



1. Tap the "Add" button
2. Scroll to "Church life"
3. Choose "UK Churches"

Add five friends you're praying for



Dylan
Emily
Casper
Mike
Chloe

1. Tap the "Add" button
2. Tap "Enter a list of names" and create yourself a new list
3. Type your five names, one per line

Set yourself a daily reminder



Higham Choral Group

The choir will perform *FOLLOW THAT STAR*
Christmas songs in close harmony arranged by
Peter Gritton
and invite you to sing along with some favourite
carols

Saturday 15th December

7.30 pm

**St John's Church,
Hermitage Road, Higham**

admission £8.00 includes light refreshments
pay at the door

for further information phone 01634 718285
or email kateiw@tiscali.co.uk

www.highamchoral.org.uk



THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

presents the

SIDCUP SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Conductor: James Ross

in a festive

NEW YEAR CONCERT

Tchaikovsky, Swan Lake

Johann Strauss, Radetzky March

and music by Malcolm Arnold, Ives and Debussy

SATURDAY 19 JANUARY 2019

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Doors and Bar open: 6:45 pm. Concert starts: 7:30 pm

Tickets: £15 each OR £12 for over 65s under 18s and unwaged

£40 Reception at the Deanery Tickets including a
complimentary programme and chance to meet
the conductor James Ross

Contact Email: newyearconcert2019@gmail.com

Book tickets online at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/>

OR from Rochester Cathedral Shop in the Crypt.





November 2018 Donation Guide

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

- **HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS**
- **DEODORANTS, TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES, SHOWER GELS, BARS OF SOAP**
- **LADIES PERSONAL TOILETRIES, TOILET ROLLS**
- **NAPPIES SIZE 4 & 5**
- **LAUNDRY TABLETS, *WASHING UP LIQUID' SPRAY POLISH**
- **FRUIT JUICE AND SQUASH**

*ALL TYPES OF TINNED VEGETABLES incl. TINNED POTATOES
INSTANT SMASH POTATO, *INSTANT NOODLES, *COUS COUS*

Vegetarian Foods

TINNED MEAT PRODUCTS & TINNED PIES

*COFFEE, Tea, *HOT CHOCOLATE, Sugar.*

TINS OF SPAGHETTI, Tinned Macaroni, Jars of Pasta Sauce

Cereals, Cereal bars, Sweet & Chocolate Biscuits, and

*CUSTARD – instant, tinned, Rice pudding, *TINNED FRUIT, Sponge puddings,
JAM, *PEANUT BUTTER, Marmite, *NO FRIDGE/UHT MILK,*

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

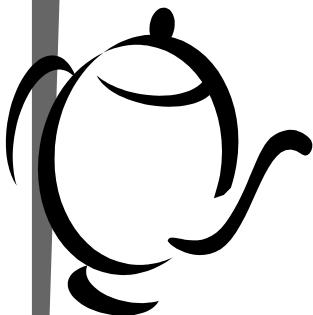
Thank You very much for your support

*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*





*The Kettle's on,
the tea brewed,
all we need is
you.*



*1st December
10.30-12.30
In the Vestry Hall
'Christmas' Special*

*If not you, perhaps
someone you know may need
someone to talk to, or to get out for a
few hours, then tell them about us!*

*NOT CHURCHY -
Just CHATTY!!!*



WINTER VINTAGE AND CRAFT FAIR

@

***ST JOHN'S CHURCH
SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER
10:30 am-2:00 pm***



***Tables for hire to sell your own items
or just come along and buy***

Contact Helen

07528472686

M 4



*Meet in the Vestry Hall about 7pm following the
6.30pm Monday Mass for food, bible study,
prayer and discussion*

Next Session 5th NOVEMBER

*Then, for ADVENT, every Monday in December
(except Christmas Eve!)*

About M4

M4 grew out of our 2014 Lent group; ‘Lent: a Biblical Feast’ in which we met over a meal and discussed S. Matthew’s Gospel.

How we got our name –

We meet on a Monday, after Mass, to Muse and discuss over a Meal

M4’s ethos is friendly, welcoming and non-judgemental, in which everyone’s opinion is listened to and all present

M4 aims to provide a friendly relaxed environment, a forum for open discussion, a place to explore the Christian Faith and opportunity to learn and grow in Faith



**✠
S. John
Patron of
our
Church
Pray for**

*For more information about these sessions email:
bridge@highamparishchurch.org.uk FAO Chris*



The Commandments

The M4 study group continues its focussed exploration of the Ten Commandments. We have discussed the “Priorities” found in the commandments as well as in Jesus’ summary, as well as the need of “Reverence and the nature and prevalence of idols in our society.



You are very welcome to join as many or as few of the upcoming informal engaging and informative sessions as you are able to, Mass is at 6.30pm with refreshment and reflections following after.

Monday 5 November, Rest

This session further explores the theme of reverence in the third commandment and the linked theme of rest and the Sabbath in the rhythm of our lives.

Monday, 3 December, Respect

Focussing on the honour shown within the family and respect for the sanctity of life, this session explores the theme of respect.

Monday, 10 December, Righteousness

Looks at the commandments about adultery and theft and their implications for our daily lives.

Monday, 17 December, Reliability

What are the dangers of dishonesty and covetousness? This session looks at the damage they may cause.

NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS' GUILD

Autumn has arrived, but it seems in name only. We still have the colour and smells of summer. As an embroiderer I take inspiration from my surroundings and although most of us are gearing up for Christmas, here in North Kent the summer hasn't left us just yet.

It was wonderful to meet everyone again after our August break. The morning was filled with catching up with news and lots of tea, and one member brought in a large tub of chocolate sweets to celebrate the start of our new year, as we do every September.

We had our AGM, and the afternoon was rounded off with a show and tell where we got to see some extraordinary work by some of our members.



This lovely lady had been to one of our workshops and learnt about Crewel work. Her example of this old craft was skilfully done and much to be proud of. We have several workshops during the year that are superbly organised. It is a great opportunity to try your hand at something new taught by an expert. You can find out more about the workshops and guest speakers we will be enjoying in the coming year on our web page at northkentembroiderers.co.uk and where

you will also find the link to our Facebook page and all the information you need to come along and join in.

Another of our talented members created this beautiful work, commemorating the First World War. I can assure you that every poppy was beautifully stitched by hand, and there were a lot!



And even when one of our members was given a crate of buttons that she wasn't sure what to do with them, then came up with an inspiring idea, that was so lovely I knew I would have to give it a go. What a lovely idea for Children to make as well.



It's not all about embroidering intricate heirlooms, or making the equivalent of a Picasso, it's about meeting and making new like-minded friends. People who love all things stitchery, whether it includes Beading or Ribbon Work, Cross Stitch or Red Work, Quilting or even Hardanger. We can help you on your creative journey. .

So, if you would like to come along and see what we do, have a look on our web page for details of our meetings. You will always find people of all ages and abilities ready to help, a cup of tea, home-made cake and a very warm welcome. I hope to see you very soon.

Happy Stitching.

(All links and Photographs are kindly used with permission)

The editors of The Bridge Magazine disclaim any responsibility for inaccuracies submitted in advertisements, announcements and articles in this voluntary run magazine. All information is received in good faith and if a reader should find a problem they are asked to approach the responsible subscriber directly. We reserve the right to refuse items sent to us and any written complaints received by the editors will be considered public property and publication will be dependent on the discretion of the editors.

VILLAGE DIARY NOVEMBER 2018

Thurs	1st	All Saints Day - Said Mass 9.30 am Solemn Mass 7.30pm
Fri	2nd	All Souls Day - Said Requiem Mass 9.30am Solemn Requiem 7.30pm
/		HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Sat	3rd	Coffee & Conversation in the Vestry Hall 10.30 - 12.30pm
Mon	5 th	M4 group 'The Commandments' 6.30-8.30pm Hall
Wed	7th	Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30 pm
Fri	9th	HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Sun	11th	Remembrance Sunday -Solemn Requiem at 10am Boot Fair - Memorial Hall
Wed	14th	Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Thurs	15th	Higham History Group Talk - History of Puddings Memorial Hall 8pm
Fri	16th	HiARA Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Mon	19th	Parish Council Meeting - Memorial Hall - 7.30pm (with the Mayor of Gravesend)
Wed	21st	Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	23rd	HiARA Monthly Meeting - Memorial Hall - 2-4pm
Sun	25 th	Christ the King Sunday Parish mass 9.30am
Mon	26th	Parish Council Meeting - Memorial Hall - 7.30pm

CHURCH DRAW RESULTS

SEPTEMBER 2018

£50 218 Mrs Holmes

£10 323 Mrs Stevens

NEXT DRAW 29TH OCTOBER