

# FR ROGER DAVISON, PRIEST 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1920 – 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017

*This is an edited version of the funeral homily given by The Revd. Prebendary Graeme Rowlands – a similar version also appeared recently in the Walsingham Review*

I was the last of the Curates trained (by Fr Roger) at Higham Ferrers, in the shared life of the Clergy House and as members of the Company of Mission Priests; because of that I owe so much to Fr Roger for his formation of me as a Priest. To be a priest is not to play out a role or do a job which begins and ends at particular times each day. It is what we are at every moment and we show that essence to others by being ourselves, I learned that very clearly from the moment I arrived in Higham Ferrers. <sup>[1]</sup> They were very different days. We received £10 per month in spending money, £60 per year for holidays and £30 before Christmas with which to buy presents. The house was 'in silence' from 10.30pm to 9.30am. On 'the day off' we sang the Office at 7.00am, concelebrated Mass at 7.30am and then, if you had not decided otherwise, Fr Roger would suggest what you might then usefully do! This was not a distant and draconian regime: it was the rich and fertile ground in which men newly ordained could learn how to be a priest.

Fr Roger trained at Kelham <sup>[2]</sup> after the war, after he had received his discharge from the Army. There, with its daily cold showers, he had learned the benefits of communal life and of priestly discipline. He always taught by example. Every morning he was in Church and on his knees before anyone else arrived – you could feel the attention and care with which he prayed. The daily Office was the rhythm by which he lived and breathed and it remained an essential part of his routines until the day he died (his Office book was marked up to the evening he was taken to hospital). The reverence with which he celebrated the Mass and, latterly, received Holy Communion, was tangible. His service at the altar led on naturally to his care for God's House and a sacrificial love for his people.

Trained at Maples, in the furnishing department, before the war, Fr Roger knew what could be usefully made into an elegant pelmet and altar frontal;

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<sup>[1]</sup> *Fr Graeme was Fr Roger's curate from 1976-1979*

<sup>[2]</sup> *Kelham was a theological college - now long closed - under the auspices of the monastic community of the Society of the Sacred Mission.*

he had a natural eye for colour and for graceful lines; and he loved tall and tapering candles. There are many churches, countrywide, which bear the stamp of his artistic flair; many of those furnishings were often supplied out of his own pocket.<sup>[3]</sup>

He lived and breathed the life of his people. In his daily and regular contact with his Parish he found many a truth, which could not be told or discussed elsewhere, could be learned over a mug of tea in the kitchen. He had an eye for those details in peoples' lives that mattered to them and an almost photographic memory; he knew when to sympathise or encourage, to challenge or rebuke. He remembered their aches and pains, knew their joys and sorrows. He also had very powerful guardian angels, in fact, we all did, for his driving was somewhat erratic and his culinary skills were legendary: he was actually a very good cook but sometimes the left-overs which he used up were not in the first flush of youth.<sup>[4]</sup> And it was fun: we laughed about the eccentricities of human nature, about our own faults and foibles, about the vagaries of Church and clergy.

Fr Roger's connections with Walsingham go back into Fr Hope Patten's time<sup>[5]</sup> and he remembered 'The College' (of clergy) functioning as such in the Shrine. He was made a Guardian in the 1960's when Fr Colin Stephenson was the Administrator.<sup>[6]</sup> Fr Roger has served the Shrine faithfully ever since. How good it is, then, that it is in Walsingham he finds his final resting place.<sup>[7]</sup> May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

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<sup>[3]</sup> *We at S.John's Higham can bear witness to this.*

<sup>[4]</sup> *Ask Fr James about the turkey carcass story!*

<sup>[5]</sup> *The re-founder of the shrine in the Village in 1932*

<sup>[6]</sup> *Fr Stephenson had been a curate of Fr Roger's in Bolton in the late 1950's.*

<sup>[7]</sup> *Fr. Roger's ashes, having rested here in Higham from August, will be taken to Walsingham to be interred on 3<sup>rd</sup> October the tiny Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows [the fourth Station of the Cross in the grounds]. This will happen after a midday requiem mass held for him by the College of Guardians. A group of Higham parishioners are travelling up for this and hopefully there will be representatives too from his former parishes of Higham Ferrers, Northants., and Tonge Moor, Bolton, Lancs.*



# The Bridge

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

## WORSHIP AT S.JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH

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

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

THE DAILY MASS TIMES	Monday	6.30		pm	DAILY MORNING PRAYER
	Tuesday	7.30		pm	Each day at 9 am
	Wednesday	9.30 am			* * * * *
	Thursday	7.30	pm		DAILY EVENING PRAYER
	Friday	9.30 am			Each day at 6 pm
	Saturday	9.30	am		( <i>except Tue. &amp; Thur. at 7 pm</i> )

<u>PARISH</u>	The Rev'd. Canon James F. Southward	The Vicarage, Hermitage Rd.,
<u>PRIEST</u>	Telephone 01634-717360	Higham, Kent, ME3 7NE.
	E.mail <a href="mailto:saintjohn.higham@yahoo.co.uk">saintjohn.higham@yahoo.co.uk</a>	* * * * *

**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 Father James.

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

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

PARISH READER	Mr Simon Walker	11 S.John's Road, Higham	Tel: 07794-523179*
THE	Mrs Valerie Laurens	12 Villa Road, Higham	Tel: 01474-823423
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

# October 2017 at S. John's, Higham

## Calendar and Mass Intentions

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

**EXCEPT SUNDAY 1st OCT - 10AM in S.Mary's Church; EXTRA 6.30pm said Mass in S.John's**

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>CELEBRATION</i>		<i>INTENTION</i>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>DEDICATION FEAST OF S.MARY'S</b>	<b>(+)</b>	<b>THE PARISH</b>
		NO 9.30AM because of the 10AM at S.Mary's. 6.30pm Mass at S.John's if required		
Mon	2nd	The Holy Guardian Angels	(m)	Abused Children
Tue	3rd	Feria <i>Ord. Week 27</i>		Recently Ordained
Wed	4th	S.Francis of Assisi <i>Friar</i>		Franciscan orders
Th.	5th	Feria		Diocesan Readers
Fri	6th	Feria	<i>of Sac. Heart</i>	The hungry & needy
Sat	7th	Our Lady of the Rosary	(m)	World justice and peace day
<b>SUN</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>28th ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>	<b>(+)</b>	<b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	9th	Ss Denis & Companions <i>martyrs</i>	(m)	The Church in France
Tue	10th	S.Paulinus, 3rd Bp of Rochester	(m)	James, Bp of Rochester
Wed	11th	Feria <i>Ord. Week 28</i>		The F.C.P. conference
Th.	12th	S.Wilfrid Bp, Missionary		The SOCIETY Bishops
Fri	13th	S.Edward Confessor, <i>King</i>	(f)	H.M. The Queen
Sat	14th	Feria	<i>of Our Lady</i>	Walsingham
<b>SUN</b>	<b>15th</b>	<b>29th ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>	<b>(+)</b>	<b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	16th	Feria	<i>of Requiem</i>	+RIP's & Anniversaries
Tue	17th	S.Ignatius of Antioch, <i>Martyr-Bishop</i>	(m)	Church in the Bible-lands
Wed	18th	S. Luke the Evangelist	(f)	The medical professions
Th.	19th	S.Philip Howard <i>Martyr</i>	(m)	Victims of persecution
Fri.	20th	Feria	<i>of Holy Cross</i>	Soc. of the Holy Cross (SSC)
Sat	21st	Feria	<i>of Our Lady</i>	Ecumenical Soc. of BVM
<b>SUN</b>	<b>22nd</b>	<b>30th ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>	<b>(+)</b>	<b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	23rd	Feria <i>Ord. Week 30</i>		Chronically sick or disabled
Tue	24th	S.Antony Mary Claret Bp. / <i>Soc'l Reformer</i>	(m)	The enslaved
Wed	25th	Feria		The lapsed / indifferent
Th.	26th	Feria		The Congregational Chapel
Fri	27th	Feria		Retired and elderly people
Sat	28th	Ss. Simon & Jude <i>Apostles</i>	(f)	The P.E.V.s
<b>SUN</b>	<b>29th</b>	<b>31st ORDINARY SUNDAY</b>	<b>(+)</b>	<b>THE PARISH</b>
Mon	30th	Feria <i>Ord. Week 31</i>		County & Unitary Councils
Tue	31st	Feria	<i>of Our Lady</i>	All Marian Shrines

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

# THE OCTOBER REQUIEM

is on MONDAY 16th October 2017 at 6.30pm

*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.*

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

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

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

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

~ OCTOBER DAILY BIBLE READINGS ~

ONLY A FEW MINUTES EACH DAY and 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.

**SUNDAY**

**OCT. 1<sup>st</sup>**

**S.MARY'S DEDICATION FEAST**

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

1 Kings 8.22-23,27-30

Acts 7.44-50

John 4.19-24

M Romans 1.1-7 Luke 11.29-32

T Romans 1.16-25 Luke 11.37-41

W **S.LUKE, EVANGELIST** Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>  
2 Timothy 4.10-17 Luke 10.1-9

Th Romans 3.21-30 Luke 11.47-54

F Romans 4.1-8 Luke 12.1-7

S Romans 4.13-18 Luke 12.9-12

**26<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Week**

M **Holy Guardian Angels** Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>

Exodus 23.20-23 Matthew 18.1-5,10

T Zechariah 8.20-23 Luke 9.51-56

W Nehemiah 2.1-8 Luke 9.57-62

Th Nehemiah 8.1-22 Luke 10.1-12

F Baruch 1.15-22 Luke 10.13-16

S Baruch 4.5-12,27-29 Luke 10.17-24

**27<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY SUNDAY** Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 5.1-7

Philippians 4.6-9

Matthew 21.35-43

M Jonah 1.1-2.11 Luke 10.25-37

T Jonah 3.1-10 Luke 10.38-42

W Jonah 4.1-11 Luke 11.1-4

Th Malachi 3.13-20 Luke 11.5-13

F Joel 1.13-15,2.1-2 Luke 11.15-26

S Joel 4.12-21 Luke 11.27-28

**28<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY SUNDAY** Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 25.6-10

Philippians 4.12-14,19-20

Matthew 22.1-14

**29<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY SUNDAY** Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>

Isaiah 45.1,4-6

1 Thessalonians 1.1-5

Matthew 22.15-21

M Romans 4.20-25 Luke 12.13-21

T Romans 5.12-21 Luke 12.35-38

W Romans 6.12-28 Luke 12.39-48

Th Romans 6.19-23 Luke 12.49-53

F Romans 7.18-25 Luke 12.54-59

S **Ss SIMON & JUDE** Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>

Ephesians 2.19-22 Luke 6.12-19

**30<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY SUNDAY** Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>

Exodus 22.20-26

1 Thessalonians 1.5-10

Matthew 22.34-40

M Romans 8.12-17 Luke 13.10-17

T Romans 8.18-25 Luke 13.18-21

NOTE on Wisdom Not all Bibles contain the Deutero-canonical or apocryphal texts. If your Bible says 'with Apocrypha' it will contain these eg. Baruch, Ecclesiasticus and some parts of the prophet Daniel.

*End by using the Sunday Bulletin 'Collect 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**

#### ***Within 9.30am Parish Mass***

**Abbie Rae STANTON** (1 year)  
*on Sunday 29th July 2017*

#### ***At 11.00am Baptism Liturgy***

**Christopher John LEE** (adult)  
*and his son*  
**Stan Carmichael James LEE** (baby)  
*on Holy Trinity Sunday 11th June 2017*

**Hayley May PEXTON** (6),  
**Nikita Roseanne PEXTON** (5),  
*and*  
**Christopher Lawrence PEXTON** (4)  
*on Sunday 9th July 2017*

**Jennifer LYONS** (adult)  
*and daughter*  
**Maddison Ava TURLEY** (1 year)  
*on Sunday 13th August 2017*

*and also at that Service*  
**Toby John JAMES** (baby)

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NOTE on BAPTISM: They may be celebrated on most Sunday Mornings at the 9.30am Parish Mass for one family at a time. 11.00am Baptisms are limited to a certain number of Sundays per year and have to be shared with other families if there are more than one request for that date. There are no afternoon celebrations.

### **FUNERALS –at Crematoria only**

#### **MAIDSTONE CREMATORIUM**

**Irene Jessie Love** (70)  
*on Monday 24th July 2017*

#### **GRAVESEND CREMATORIUM**

**William Henry Wenham** (91)  
*on Friday 11th August 2017*

**Dennis Ronald Smith** (84)  
*on Monday 21st August 2017*

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NOTE on FUNERALS: Services in S.John's may be celebrated for any Christian who resided in Higham; not just for regular members of the congregation. They're usually followed by cremation, sometimes by burial at S.Mary's Churchyard. Again Christian burial there is possible for any resident not just Church members. This applied to ashes in both Churchyards too. Neither do you have to have been a regular attender of any Church of England congregation for the parish's Vicar/Rector to take your funeral service. However if you definitely want your parish priest to lead the service it is advisable to inform the Undertakers straight away before they make arrangements with crematoria. It is becoming frequently common for clergy to be asked to lead a service by special family request only to find this out after everything else has been fixed. When we cannot then oblige it leads to disappointment for clergy as well as families.

## HiARA JULY REPORT

An extremely funny talk by Brian D'Arcy entertained HiARA members with his light-hearted lecture on "The Crown Jewels".

Mr D'Arcy started his working life as a Yeoman Warden at the Tower of London, eleven years later was promoted to "Custodian of the Crown Jewels". He holds The Royal Victorian Medal, which is a gift of Her Majesty, the Queen.

We were taken on a journey through the life of the jewels; from before Oliver Cromwell melted them down/sold them off, which resulted in no crown for Charles II at the restoration of the monarchy. A new Crown and Sword of State were made and over time various Monarchs added to the Royal Collection which includes the Cullinan and other famous gems.

All our other activities continue to be well supported and our Ramblers go even further afield. HiARA has been fortunate to have received a bequest from the estate of the late Eileen Rice, a very popular founder member, which will be used to purchase an engraved trophy in her memory for use at our Quiz afternoons. *Pat Oakeshott*

*HiARA Publicity and Media committee member*

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## LOCAL EVENTS - CHANGE OF DATE

### **Guided tour and afternoon tea experience at Gravesend Old Town Hall**

On: Sunday 8th October 2017

Guide: Christoph Bull

Begins: 2pm

At: Gravesend Old Town Hall, High Street, Gravesend – meet in the Rico Sabor restaurant entrance.

Cost: £19.50 – includes afternoon tea and guided tour.

Booking essential via Rico Sabor Restaurant on [01474 365003](tel:01474365003) or email at [info@oldtownhallgravesend.co.uk](mailto:info@oldtownhallgravesend.co.uk)

Come and discover the fascinating history behind one of Gravesend's most important and mysterious buildings.

*Christoph Bull*

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

## HIGHAM VILLAGE PLAN



From all the comments gathered at the Love Higham Day, it is obvious that you would all like a safe, healthy, clean and tidy village. The rural environment is important to you as is the community spirit. Most of you love living in the village and its sustainability is the key to the future.

To help us identify your priorities we're running a survey which you can complete in 10 minutes - either online [www.lovehigham.co.uk](http://www.lovehigham.co.uk) or on paper. The paper copies of the survey can be picked up at, and returned to Higham Library, the Railway Station, the Surgery or the Village Greengrocer.

The survey will be available until **30th September 2017**.

By completing the survey you could **win a £50 shopping voucher**.

Your priorities and ideas will be used to inform the Village Plan and the actions we need to take to deliver the Plan. **The Plan should be ready early in 2018**.

**In the meantime** .... we are helping to keep the village clean and tidy by carrying out Litter Picking sessions - next session Saturday 21 October. We also have some volunteers who are picking up litter on a regular basis in Hermitage Road, Gore Green Road and Sandhill Road.

We know that some residents pick up litter on their walks or around their homes - a BIG THANK YOU to all of you that do this.

So ... ..If you see people around the village picking up litter, they are not paid to do it, but are volunteering because they care about our community and the countryside. You can help by putting your rubbish in the bins around the village or by taking it home, and encouraging your children, friends and contractors to do the same. And of course you can join the regular litter pickers - see the posters

around the village and details in this magazine.

To find out more about Love Higham and the Village Plan:

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

or Phone: 07480 518493

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

## HIGHAM YOUTH CLUB



The new Youth Club will start on **Wednesday 20 September in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm** - young people aged 10 or over are welcome to come along for fun, activities and games.

The Club will run on **Every Wednesday evening during School Term times.**

Come along and meet the new Youth Workers - you can become a member for the year or just come along to try it out.

Call 07480 518493 for more details.

## BEATING THE BOUNDS

The ancient tradition of “Beating the Bounds” takes place every year, with the Mayor walking around the Borough perimeter - that’s about 30 miles!

This year this will take place over the weekend of 7 and 8 October. There are refreshment stops along the way and you can join in for all or just part of the walk. You can book a place on the walk online

at [www.gravesham.gov.uk](http://www.gravesham.gov.uk) for a paper copy.



Email [jackie.denton@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.denton@gravesham.gov.uk) or phone Jackie on 01474 337725. You can collect sponsors or make a donation to help raise funds for the Mayor's Charity Fund.

As our Mayor this year is Higham's very own Gravesham member - Harold Craske - the Parish Council is organising a **"bit of do"** on **Sunday 8 October** when the walkers will be covering the Higham boundary. Harold will take a detour and call in at the **Village Club at around 11.30 am**. Residents are invited to join him for some **musical entertainment and a Ploughman's Lunch** - drinks will be available to buy in the Club.

**To book your lunch:**

email [enquiries@higham-kent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@higham-kent-pc.gov.uk)  
or phone/text **07480 518493**

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## THE STRAWBERRY AFTERNOON TEA 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2017 IN AID OF THE ELLENOR

On behalf of the Ellenor I would like to thank you all for attending the Strawberry Tea.

Together we raised £427. I also wish to thank everyone who helped me on the day.

*Janet Callaby*

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### **Full name, please**

A man was registering at the doctors surgery near his new home. Asked for his complete name, he replied: Peter John ODear Sullivan.

The receptionist repeated it slowly. Your third name is very unusual – some family connection, I suppose?

“Oh no,” sighed the man. “Nothing like that. I was given the third name when the vicar dropped me in the font.”

The Solemnity of  
**THE DEDICATION FEAST OF  
S.MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH**



**SOLEMN PARISH MASS AT 10am  
in S.Mary's Church on  
Sunday, 1st October 2017**

S.Mary's is well over a thousand years old and, because its Dedication date is unknown, this important festival of the ancient, former parish church of Higham is kept on the first Sunday in October each year. This follows the Church of England's 1928 Prayer Book and its Common Worship 2000 Book suggestion for this Sunday as a Dedication Festival day.

NOTE: This is always the last service held each year in the Church. Our next service, hopefully, will be: Evening Prayer on Mothering Sunday 2018

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A 6.30pm said Mass is always celebrated in S.John's Church on this day for those unable to get to S.Mary's Church for one reason or another.

## HIGHAM WOMENS' INSTITUTE

Higham W.I. met on Thursday August 4th to celebrate our 70th birthday. Because of weather conditions, we were unable to meet in Joan Campbell's garden but the Memorial Hall was decorated by our committee and ladies enjoyed a buffet meal with wine or fruit juices. Our Drama group performed sketches for us which were hilarious and we all appreciated the time they had spent rehearsing and sourcing their amazing costumes.

On Thursday 7th September, we returned to the Memorial Hall and at short notice, Mr. Cyril Baldwin entertained us with stories of his career as an Auctioneer.

Future Events: We are invited to Fenwicks at Tunbridge Wells on Friday 20th October to enjoy their traditional festive shopping event.

Tess Packer's Craft morning will resume on 9th October and the Art morning on 16th October, both of these will be held in the Vestry Hall.

Leisure: Christine Downes reported that the theatre visit on September 6th for the production of "Kinky Boots" which was enjoyed by all the ladies lucky enough to join her.

Thursday January 4th 2018 is the date for our "Christmas" meal at The Knowle Restaurant. 6.30/7pm. Apparently, there will be more choices than previous years and Christine was able to negotiate the price of the meal @ £30 per person – the tip is not included. Names will be taken this evening, together with a £5 deposit.

Drama: Joan Campbell. Rehearsals ongoing.

Home Economics – Susan McCarthy. The Silver Cup event will take place on Thursday 5th October, the entry schedule was circulated and Susan reminded ladies that to win the Silver Cup, you must try to enter most of the ten entries.

District: Veronica Mitchell. The Beetle Drive at Frindsbury Extra was enjoyed by all.

Memorial Hall Committee: Veronica reported that the new lighting had been installed. Decorators will soon be working on the hallway and kitchen. There is soon to be an investigation as to why the Hall's water usage is so high.

Higham Library Fun Day: Sylvia Shelton. W.I.ladies had been generous with cake contributions and a profit of £20.05p was made.

Josephine Smith



# HIGHAM CHORAL GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## Chairman's Report

A warm welcome back to you all for our 2017-2018 season. Just a brief look at our achievements during 2016-2017.

We began our season at St John's Higham for our Christmas concert held on 17<sup>th</sup> December. Two larger works performed were 'When Icicles Hang' by John Rutter and 'In Terra Pax' by Gerald Finzi. We sang two numbers arranged by our very own Frazer Westmorland. We also sang popular Carols for the audience to join in. There were about 75 in the audience and we took £580.00 at the door. Not too bad a turn out but we have had better in previous years.

Our Spring concert was held at St John the Evangelist, Groombridge on 8<sup>th</sup> April. This was a very mixed programme ranging from The Shows, The Church, The Films, Nursery Rhymes, Songs from 50s to the 80s and a group of patriotic songs. This was very poorly attended with an audience of 40. £250.00 was raised for their Church funds.

Our tour this year took us to Eythorne near Deal. This was over the 28<sup>th</sup> April-1<sup>st</sup> May bank holiday weekend. We sang at The Eythorne Baptist Church. This was a very good concert, which seemed to be enjoyed by all. It was lovely to have The Eythorne Silver Band join us for our last number 'As Long as I Have Music' Something very different to what we were used to. A fantastic sound. The whole tour was superbly organised by Frazer and Charlotte Westmorland. They opened their home to us all and made us so very welcome. The weather was kind to us and we were able to have tea and cake in their garden on the Saturday. Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to our accompanist David Chapman and his wife Jo who has also

charmed us all with her superb oboe playing in concerts in the past. The Choir had a collection and we presented David and Jo with £150.00 Ticket Master vouchers. They both promised they would keep in touch. We wish them both all the best for the future and thank them for all they have contributed to the Choir in the past years. Once again, very many thanks to Frazer and Charlotte. Well done you two.

Our Summer concert was held at St Mary's Lower Higham on 8<sup>th</sup> July. Larger pieces were Missa Brevis in D by Mozart and a selection of songs from the show 'Jesus Christ Super Star'. This was reasonably attended but has been a lot better in the past. I think we will always be clashing with other events going on in Rochester during July. Although not a massive audience, we were able to give £100.00 to The Friends Of St Mary's and £89.00 to The Churches Conservation Trust.

We continue to be very thankful to have such a wonderful Choirmaster in Richard Shackleton. He continues year after year to get the best out of us and we are eternally grateful to him. Here's wishing us all a very high achieving, fun spirited and joyful year of singing in the year ahead.

*Teresa Joblin*

New members welcomed. Contact our Secretary – Mary Davis – email [mary.davis59@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.davis59@btinternet.com) or go to our website for more information: [www.highamchoral.org.uk](http://www.highamchoral.org.uk).

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## **Music**

Two young vegetarians were getting married and had to choose their wedding music. The minister suggested the voluntary: Sheep may safely graze.

## HIGHAM AGE CONCERN LUNCHEON CLUB

We have some birthdays to celebrate this time: Mrs June Waterhouse, Mrs Betty Weller and Mrs Edna Pearce. Congratulations to them all.

During the year a party of members went to Gads Hill School for a celebration. There was entertainment, quizzes, tea, coffee, sandwiches and cake, and also each received a gift. The occasion was much enjoyed by all.

On our last day before breaking for the summer we spent the morning chatting then had a lovely dinner of fish cakes with parsley sauce, chips, peas and tomatoes, followed by jelly, fruit and cream – most acceptable.

All of this would, of course, not be possible without the help of many people over the years; the hostesses, cooks and drivers, and, of course, Barbara, Carol and Sue. Everyone is looking forward to getting back together on 8<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you to everyone concerned – it wouldn't happen without you.

Jean Fawcett

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### Welcome

The country inn at the foot of the Yorkshire Wolds was popular with both cyclists and ramblers. The elderly vicar of the church nearby asked if he could put up a notice welcoming them all to visit his church. The innkeeper said yes, and obligingly pinned up the notice:

We will be glad to see you in Church. Clothes don't matter.



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

# VINTAGE AND COLLECTIBLES FAIR

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**SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER 10- 4PM**

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£2 entrance ..... children free  
Hot drinks, cakes and savoury snacks available to buy  
To book a stall:  
Email: [melaniejeggio@gmail.com](mailto:melaniejeggio@gmail.com)  
or [sue3906@gmail.com](mailto:sue3906@gmail.com)

Phone: 07958359746 or 07480 518493

St Mary's Church Church Street Higham ME3 7LS  
[www.stmaryschurchhigham.com](http://www.stmaryschurchhigham.com)

## **SAINT PAULINUS, Bishop & Missionary**

**Feast - 10th OCTOBER**

S.Paulinus, with others who were accompanying Ss. Justus and Mellitus, was sent to 'England' by Pope S.Gregory the Great in 601; four years after S.Augustine landed in Kent. S.Justus was to be the first bishop of Rochester in 604, S.Mellitus the first of the newly re-established bishopric of London.

Originally monks from Rome, their roles in the life of the Church led both Ss. Augustine and Paulinus to be known by the places where they served. S.Augustine of Canterbury as he is called was its first bishop. The name distinguishes him from the great bishop and teacher S.Augustine of Hippo in North Africa. S.Paulinus is usually referred to as 'of York' as he was to become its first bishop.

For 24 years little is known of S.Paulinus' life and work in Kent. Evidently he built a reputation for in 625, when Princess Ethelberga of Kent married the pagan King Edwin of Northumbria, S.Paulinus travelled north with her. He was to play a major role in the conversion of Northumberland which, by 625, was the largest and most powerful of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. On Easter Day, 12<sup>th</sup> April 627, in a timber chapel erected at York, King Edwin was finally baptised, "together with all the nobility and a large number of humbler folk". Subsequently S.Paulinus became the first Bishop of York. He pursued his Northumbrian mission for six more years, during which the temporary wooden chapel began its evolution into York Minster. Such was his prestige by then that, around 630, he was called upon to consecrate a fellow Italian, S.Honorius, as the new Archbishop of Canterbury.

Sadly in October 633 King Edwin was slain in battle by the pagan forces of the kingdom of Mercia. Driven from his diocese S.Paulinus fled with Queen Ethelberga and her family back to Kent. Here Archbishop Honorius was able to honour his principal consecrator by appointing him as the third Bishop of the vacant see of Rochester. He headed the diocese until his death in 644.

It is because of that role, not the one in York (important as it was), that on October 10th, the feast of S. Paulinus, our mass is always offered for the ministry and role of our diocesan bishop. We will pray for Bishop James Langstaff who, as successor to S.Justus, S.Paulinus and other saintly bishops, is the 107<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Rochester.

May these great saints pray with us, for him, to the God of us all.



## **NEWS FROM THE TOWER**

I am very pleased to say that the Higham ringers are now of the standard to be able to assist other towers in the surrounding area to ring at weddings, funerals and thanksgivings etc. We have been helping out quite regularly all summer. We continue to have 8 registered members of the KCACR, however, we will always welcome new members. If you are in the area and already ring or whether you would like to learn and are involved with our Church here at St John's or indeed would like to be involved, please contact me on 07956336134.

Because we are now entered into the KCACR handbook as bells regularly rung, I am pleased to say that we are now creating interest from other towers wishing to ring our bells (albeit that they have to be rung via the simulator). So far we have had two requests to ring from All Saints Maidstone and SS Peter and Paul, Headcorn.

The St John's Higham ringers had their very first own ringing tour in the Darenth Valley area. This took place on 29<sup>th</sup> July and comprised of 5 Higham ringers and 13 others, the farthest coming from Sparsholt, Winchester. Our first ring was at St Mary, Westerham and is an 8 bell ground floor ring. This Church has a rare mediaeval wooden 'ladies' staircase. General James Wolfe is commemorated in a stained glass window by Burne-Jones. Our next ring was at St Martin, Brasted. This is an 8 bell tower, hung anticlockwise in an Elizabethan frame. The tower was built in three stages beginning in

the 12<sup>th</sup> century and completed some 200 years later. The Stocket chapel was privately owned until 1912. Our third ring was at St Lawrence, Seal Chart. This is a lovely little Victorian Church with six bells, designed by Charles Howell and built in 1868. Twenty years later, a tower was added. The bells were restored in 2015. A very welcomed lunch came next at The Crown Point Inn. Seal Chart. We then moved on to St Peter, Ightham, where they have 6 bells. We had a lovely ring in the gallery enjoying views down into the church. The Church is recorded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and a Saxon Church probably preceded it. The present Church was rebuilt in the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Our last ring was at SS Peter and Paul, Seal. This is a 6 bell tower and the ringing used to take place just below the belfry. When the clock was installed, the ringing chamber was moved to the ground floor where the bell ropes are now a challenging 60 feet long!! A little statue of St Peter complete with keys is above the porch door. This was a very enjoyable tour. We all look forward to the next one. Hopefully, I will be looking to arrange the next one in the coming Summer/Autumn.

Teresa Joblin. Tower Secretary

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### **Your choice**

One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a £50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a £10 sermon that lasts a full hour. "Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

### **Oldest computer**

The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve. Not surprisingly, it was an Apple. But it had an extremely limited memory: just one byte, and everything crashed.

## SUMMER HAS ENDED, AUTUMN IS HERE AND THOUGHTS TURN TO .....

your thoughts are probably moving on to Christmas. Whether planning what you will be doing or baking you may soon be thinking about those gifts you will be buying! Don't forget that if you shop online for food or gifts you will support St John's Church if you become a member of **Easyfundraising** since many businesses donate a set amount or percentage of your purchase values to a chosen cause.

Simply search for Easyfundraising, register your details and identify your cause. An additional bonus is that gift aid is payable to the cause where members are UK tax payers - an additional 25%! If you use a mobile device download the App, make your purchases through the app and the cause will benefit. On a computer you have already reached the right site when you became a member. Just bookmark or add the page to your favourites.



By the end of August 2017 **£286.73** had been donated at no cost to the members.

Full details of how to join, etc are available by using the links on the home page of St John's Church website:  
[www.highamparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.highamparishchurch.org.uk).

Why not give it a try?

*Liz Croker  
Easyfundraising Administrator  
St John's Church*



# ALL SAINTS DAY



***Wednesday 1st NOVEMBER 2017***

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

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**Morning Prayer: 8.45am**

**Said Mass: 9.30am**

**Evening Prayer: 6.45pm**

**SOLEMN MASS: 7.30pm**

**Preacher: The Revd Canon Susanne Carlsson**  
*The Diocesan Adviser for Spirituality*

**Bring and Share food after Solemn Mass. Wine provided.**

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



## LENT WITH THE NHS

When I was admitted to hospital with an infection in my leg on 10 June I didn't realise that I would be in three hospitals successively for six weeks. As time moved on I began to see the days (just over forty) as a sort of secular Lent. I was in the Medway Maritime, Charing Cross and St Mary's Paddington. As I write I'll combine them into one experience, mainly based on St Mary's.

I thought of St Matthew's account of Jesus' time in the desert (4:1-11) and couldn't help comparing this with my own experience and seeing some of the similarities in a more secular way

The hospital was like the desert – a vast place full of voices and noises, of people constantly on the move both day and night in which the individual was a very small person. It was a place of apprehensions and fears – the discomfort following treatment, confusion about what was happening and not understanding all the medical terminology, being away from home and the after-effect of an anaesthetic on ones 'regular bodily system'. Despite this it was possible, especially in the long night hours, to be entirely on one's own and to think and reflect on immediate concerns and on wider universal themes.

Every Christian uses Lent to try to face and overcome temptation. "...by thy Baptism, Fasting and Temptation, *Good Lord, deliver us*" (The Prayer Book Litany). My first temptation was to feel sorry for myself but as I thought about my predicament I knew that it was entirely my own fault and, looking at the other men in the ward, I could have been in a much worse position. The second temptation was to cut myself off from the wider world and live in the cocoon of the daily round of the hospital and its programme. Since I left Ealing I had been feeling in the wilderness as a priest without a parish. I was looking forward to starting at St Luke's Gillingham

(on 11 June!) and helping Fr James at Higham (my local parish) when he was away. I had to accept that this was not going to happen. I didn't tell anyone in the hospital that I was a priest but they all seemed to know in due course. The matron apologised for not calling me father. Another senior nurse asked me to bless her for her forthcoming marriage. As I lay in the ward it came home to me that wherever I was, at the high altar at St Mary's Bourne St, or seated in splendour in my stall at St Paul's or here in bed, the priest never ceases to be a priest even if he isn't where he would wish to be. When I stepped down as a full time parish priest I complained to a secular friend that I missed being the centre of attention. Another temptation in the hospital was to talk and think solely about myself (even more than normal!). My friend came to see me in the hospital and pointed out that at least I was the centre of attention again! I thought about this. Visitors, friends, family and parishioners, and other people in the ward, without realising it, helped me turn the attention away from myself.

Jesus fasted in the forty days. I had no intention to fast but the hospital fare made the time feel like a time of abstinence and fasting. I planned a daily diet as though I was in a monastic house (not like the French Benedictine houses where I've stayed in the past and eaten very well!). Visitors kindly brought me mountains of biscuits, fruit chocolates, drinks and nice things. I was most grateful but couldn't cope with them all. My brother took them away for later consumption or redistribution. I realised about the fifth week that I hadn't had any alcohol or wine, and I hadn't missed it. When I left the hospital I had lost over two stones. I had never been able to achieve that through the liturgical fasts or diets!

Another abstinence was not being able to go Sunday and daily mass. I was very grateful to the priests who brought the sacraments to me each week, especially to Fr John Hunter from St Stephen's

Gloucester Rd. Fr John is tall and gaunt. One day when he came into the ward my elderly neighbour in the next bed sat up in alarm thinking that his time had come! Thanks to the iPad I was able to recite the Divine Office each day. I wondered what the other inmates would have thought if they knew that they were in a place sanctified albeit silently by the daily prayer of the whole Church, ascending to heaven from their midst. Some of the language in the male ward was very profane but the silent prayer seemed to neutralise it and rise above it!

Everyone who has been in hospital for any length of time knows how long and sleepless the nights can be. I was extremely grateful to two Ealing friends who brought me a radio and headphones. This meant that I could listen to music in the dark hours. That the radio stations continue throughout the night is such a blessing. I also tried to pray in the night and use my long experience of attempting 'the prayer of silence'. However, the length of the night and the frustration at not being able to sleep in such a comfortable hospital bed, seemed overwhelming. I have learnt by experience that saying the rosary is a good way of falling asleep. After only one Our Father and six Hail Mary's you soon drop off. I tried this and it worked at first. However, not wishing to misuse the rosary, I also made sure that I knew by heart all the events of Our Lord's life included in the four sets of the Mysteries. I tried to say one of the Mysteries each night with a specific group of people as my intention. Then I found, rather to my secular chagrin, that I was staying awake to the very end of the set of particular mysteries! I began to realise what a wonderful tool for prayer the rosary is, combining verbal prayer, bodily prayer, counting the beads, and reflection on the cycle of human redemption revealed in the life of the Saviour. I felt that even after all these years as a priest I had learnt something new and enriching about the life of prayer. The monks of the Benedictine monastery of Le Barroux in France say in the introduction to their rule that they pray in the night because it is a

time when “thieves operate, plots are hatched and lust rages”. I didn’t exactly feel like that in these circumstances but I could see the opportunity of sanctifying the long night hours with prayer and trying to turn sleeplessness into watching for the Lord “I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart” (Ps 16).

When the devil had finished with Jesus “the angels ministered unto him”. For me the ministering angels were the hospital staff – consultants, doctors nurses healthcare workers ward personnel, so many involved in the daily care of a patient and all so dedicated and thorough. Equally ministering as angels were all the family, friends and parishioners who came to visit me, or phoned me from faraway places. I was very pleased to see them all and resolved to be a better friend in the future. I felt humbled to know so many wonderful friends. Their visits were so helpful in enduring such a long time in hospital.

I had stopped thinking about coming home but when I was given a release time I was counting the hours to freedom. As the ambulance took me through the London suburbs on a busy Friday afternoon towards Rochester it was a sort of resurrection experience – moving on from the 42 days in the hospitals. At the end of Lent comes the joyful celebration of the Lord’s Resurrection. The Liturgical Lent and my NHS Lent are outwardly not the same, but there were many similarities. Both are very real experiences within the same person. I feel that the sacred and the so called secular are intertwined and God imbues all aspects of our lives with his saving grace.

*Father Andrew*

## HIGHAM CRIME FIGURES - MAY 2017

Type of	Crime Total
Other Crime	2
Vehicle Crime	2
Violence & Sexual Offences	5
Anti-Social Behaviour	2
Criminal Damage & Arson	2
Public Order	1
Shoplifting	1

In May 2016 there were 23 reported crimes in Higham

## HIGHAM CRIME FIGURES - JUNE 2017

Type of	Crime Total
Other Theft	2
Vehicle Crime	6
Violence & Sexual Offences	7
Anti-Social Behaviour	4
Criminal Damage & Arson	3
Public Order	3
Burglary	7

In June 2016 there were 14 reported crimes in Higham.

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)

## MACBETH AT ST MARY'S

On Saturday, August 5, The Friends of St Mary's, in partnership with the Churches Conservation Trust, were pleased to welcome back to St Mary's church "This is My Theatre".

A large audience were there for the play by William Shakespeare: Macbeth, adapted and directed by Sarah Slator. The five actors played all the characters, which was rather confusing to begin with but as the story unfolded, it became obvious who were the "goodies" and the "baddies". Macbeth's ambitions and desires for the Scottish throne, spurred on by his wife, eventually turn into fear and paranoia and further bloodshed. A really gripping performance which was interspersed with atmospheric music based on Scottish Gaelic song played and sung by the actors, under the direction of Simon Stallard. A very entertaining evening.

The "This is My Theatre" group tour throughout the year and are appearing at the Brighton Open Air Theatre in September performing The Importance of Being Earnest and Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and at Christmas will be repeating the Dickens's classic, A Christmas Carol, dates and venues to be announced. Details can be seen at [www.thisismytheatre.com](http://www.thisismytheatre.com).

*Liz Jeffery*

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### **Something for Halloween Month – A Kentish man in Transylvania – do vampires exist (illustrated talk)**

On: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Speaker: Christoph Bull

At: Reliance Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend

Begins: 6pm for meal and talk to follow

Price: £15 – includes fish supper and illustrated talk

Booking essential: Reliance Restaurant 01474 533593

This talk is unique bringing together the legends, films and real historical evidence of vampires with an opportunity for Christoph Bull to share his experiences in Romania and its beauty as the background to this subject. Discover how our area of Kent had a direct influence on Romania's borders in 1918.

## MUSTARD SEED 2017

### Love in a Box

We are once again taking part in “Love in a Box” – providing a shoebox of presents for disadvantaged children in the East European country – Moldova.

Last year 30,000 shoeboxes were distributed throughout Moldova to children in orphanages, hospitals, schools and churches by the Mustard Seed Mission based in Eastbourne.

In 2016 we sent 65 boxes from Higham which were collected and taken to the depot in Eastbourne. These were then loaded onto lorries, driven by volunteers, and taken to distribution points in Moldova. One of the contact people in Moldova writes “You brought so much joy to the children that most of them were so surprised that they were asking – “Is this really for me?”. They simply could not believe their eyes! For most of these children this is the only Christmas present they will receive.



The leaflets for 2017 will be in St John’s Church from mid-September. Please pick up a leaflet and fill a \*shoebox.

Thank you

*Wendy Hance*

\* Shoeboxes should be returned to St John’s Church or to Wendy Hance by 5<sup>th</sup> November – please do not leave shoeboxes unattended in the Church.



## All Souls Day

*Thursday,  
2nd November 2017*

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

12th November 2017



Solemn Requiem  
at 9.30am  
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.*

12th November is also the  
32nd Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

Mass of the Sunday will  
be offered at 6.30pm

Sunday obligation is fulfilled  
at either mass.

Holy Communion may be  
received at both masses.

## SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

The Friends of St Mary's Church, Church Street, Higham in partnership with the Churches Conservation Trust presented an evening of jazz music by the fabulous Claire Harper and the Dave Bowdler Trio on Saturday, July 15.

The warm summer evening and peaceful, beautiful ancient church was the perfect setting and steady stream of guests arrived to enjoy the music. This was a return visit by Claire and the trio and they dedicated this evening's entertainment to the story of Doris Day. Claire told of the American singer's rise to fame and the trials and tribulations along the way. Doris Day starred in over 30 Hollywood films, Broadway musicals and sung with some of the most famous singing legends of all time. Doris, now well into her 90's made popular, songs such as "It's Magic" and as the evening suggested "Sentimental Journey".

A licensed bar, nibbles and a raffle were all on offer and rounded off a very enjoyable event.

*Liz Jeffery*

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### **Shorne Parish-saints, sinners and scenery (Illustrated talk)**

On: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Speaker: Christoph Bull

At: Shorne Village Hall, The Street, Shorne

Begins: 7.30pm

Small entrance fee for non-members of Shorne Local History Group

This talk is a virtual tour throughout Shorne Parish – opening its treasures and folklore for residents and visitors alike.

## COBHAM LANDSCAPE DETECTIVES

Higham Village History Group held a meeting on Thursday, July 20 in Higham Memorial Hall at 8.00pm.

A warm welcome was given to all those present and notices read, which included details of a walk around the village on August 6, which will be lead by Andrew Rootes. A register of interest was set up.

The guest speaker was KCC archaeologist and project leader, Andrew Mayfield. Andrew has been involved for some time with the excavation works at Shorne Country Park, especially with the Randall Manor discoveries, this project being completed in 2015. He has now moved on with his team to finding out what lies beneath the village of Cobham and the areas around the Cobham mausoleum. He has been very fortunate to have been awarded Lottery community funding to put towards a LIDAR investigation system, a sophisticated aerial photography mapping system. This can identify old field boundaries, water courses, traces of old buildings, some dating back over 500 years and are seen from the air. This work is essential in the recording of the changes which have happened and what bearing they will have in the future. Ancient trees in Cobham Woods are also being discovered and recorded. Thirty households in Cobham village have agreed to have "test" pits in their gardens. The local school children have been helping with a trench dig on the playing fields, which has turned up lots of different finds: pottery, clay pipes, bones, etc. The test pit in the Darnley Arms car park is especially of interest to Andrew and his team; he said it is sometimes difficult to move from the inn to the car park. Residents in the village have also helped with the history project by sharing their memories with Andrew and he thanks them for this.

Andrew brought along some of the finds and copy maps, which the large audience found very interesting to look at

The next meeting is being held on September 21, when the talk will be about Norman Britain.

*Liz Jeffery*

## COMING SOON

### SHORNE CANDLELIT CONCERT

I first saw Tinderbox at St Botolph's Church in Otford and it was a wonderful evening with this artistic trio – the beautiful voice of Dublin born Monique, with her husband Dan Tucker playing guitar, accompanied by multi-instrumentalist Bob Burke. Immediately I thought I would like to bring this experience to Shorne and our lovely Church of St Peter and St Paul is the perfect venue. With several albums to their credit, they say they have been influenced by James Taylor, Jackson Browne and Counting Crows.

Tinderbox, from the south coast, will be supported by an excellent local group called Larkspur. They are a band of four whose influences are wide – including medieval, English and European folk music. They will be playing songs from their new album, Imago.

No doubt there will be the opportunity to purchase CDs during the evening and a refreshments bar will be available. Tickets will be £15 per person, with all proceeds going to the Church Fund. So please put this date in your diary: Saturday 25 November. Doors opening 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Please show your support and join us for what promises to be a very special evening. **All funds raised for Shorne Church Fund.**

For more information and tickets (£15): Available from Dave Pullen  
01474 82285707982 333736 [dave.rena717@btinternet.com](mailto:dave.rena717@btinternet.com)

Saturday 25 November 2017 7.30 pm - doors open 7.00 pm

The acoustic sounds of **TINDERBOX** Plus **LARKSPUR**

Bar available



# OCTOBER 2017 Donation Guide

Please note

All items should be in date

And also be - longlife, 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, \*rice**, couscous
- Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Sugar
- Packets of Instant Pasta in Sauce, Tins of Spaghetti
- Breakfast cereals, Cereal bars, **\*Sweet Biscuits**
- Rice pudding (other tinned puddings –jam, syrup, dried fruit)
- Custard
- Spreads – jam, marmite, \*peanut butter
- **\*Longlife fruit juice and bottled squash to dilute**, Longlife milk
- 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)



## NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS GUILD

We were busy stitching during our July morning meeting. Most of us were working on individual pieces, finding time to admire other people's embroideries and talking over what we had planned to stitch after our August summer break. When we return on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be time for a "show and tell" section to our AGM, held from 2 pm. See [www.northkentembroiderers.co.uk](http://www.northkentembroiderers.co.uk), for programme details.



Our July speaker was Karin Buchanan who entertained us with her talk on how to customise your clothes. Karin started customising her clothes aged 12, by stitching logos and embroidery stitches on to a pair of jeans. Now, how many of us could still fit into a pair of our jeans we wore aged 12? Well, Karin still can! We saw a photo to prove it. Karin showed examples of plain T shirts transformed by cutting off the original neckline, then adding lace around the neckline. Ever had a top with a neckline that was just too low? Add some contrasting lace. Or, unusual shaped buttons were added to pick up on a part of the original design of the item. The same was done with beads, stick on sequins

and pieces of old jewellery. Skirts and dresses had necklines removed, sleeves chopped and hemlines were altered to become asymmetric on tops, dresses and skirts. Clothes became much more interesting and individual. Even boots were embellished. Here you can see Karin wearing embellished jeans, cardigan and T shirt, holding a boot that has been upcycled.

# VILLAGE DIARY OCTOBER 2017

## October

- Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Dedication Feast of St Mary's Church – 10 am**  
 Mon 2nd Higham Choral Group Practice Chapel Hall – 8.00 pm  
 Wed 4th Brownies & Rainbows - Memorial Hall 5.30pm  
 Thu 5<sup>th</sup> WI Memorial Hall - 7.30 pm  
 Fri 6<sup>th</sup> HiARA - Activities – Memorial Hall - 1.30 -4 pm  
 Sat 7th Coffee & *Conversation* - Vestry Hall -10.30 am-12.30 pm
- Mon 9th Parish Council Meeting – Memorial Hall - 7.30 pm  
 Mon 9th Higham Choral Group Practice Chapel Hall – 8.00 pm  
 Wed 11th Brownies & Rainbows – Memorial Hall 5.30pm  
 Fri 13th HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 -4 pm
- Sun 15th Antique and Collectibles Fair St Mary's Church 10-4.00 pm  
 Mon 16th Higham Choral Group Practice Chapel Hall – 8.00 pm  
 Wed 18th Brownies & Rainbows Memorial – Hall 5.30pm
- Fri 20th HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30 -4 pm
- Wed 25th Brownies & Rainbows – Memorial Hall 5.30pm  
 Fri 27th HiARA - Monthly Meeting - Memorial Hall – 2 pm-4 pm
- Sun 29th **BRITISH SUMMERTIME ENDS 2.00AM.**  
*Don't forget to put your clocks back 1 hour on Saturday night.*

### CHURCH DRAW RESULTS JULY 2017

£50 205 Mr S. Wright  
 £10 143 Mrs A. Tomsett

### CHURCH DRAW RESULTS AUGUST 2017

£50 023 Mrs Barras  
 £10 468 Mr Robins

**NEXT DRAW 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**