

Grapevine

March 2018

The Parish Magazine of St. Nicholas, Allington
stnicholasallington.org.uk



*"Our Lord has written the promise of
the resurrection, not in books alone
but in every leaf in springtime."*

Martin Luther

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Parish General Information

For enquiries about Baptisms, Funerals or Weddings,
please contact Rev Chris on 01622 297307

Or rev.chris@hotmail.co.uk

Also for Banns of Marriage

(the form can be downloaded from the website).

www.stnicholasallington.org.uk

Jenny Stone - Parish Administrator

Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays 10.00am - 12 noon

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stnicholas1@outlook.com

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Sunday Services

- 8.00 am Holy Communion – 1st & 3rd Sundays
9.30 am OASIS All-age worship – 2nd & 4th Sundays
10.00 am Morning Worship - 1st Sunday
10.00 am OASIS Joint Communion – 3rd Sunday
10.00 am Joint Service - 5th Sunday at
St Nicholas or St Andrew's
11.00 am Holy Communion - 2nd & 4th Sundays
5.00 pm OASIS in the Afternoon - 1st Sunday
6.00 pm JAHFA for senior school pupils - 1st Sunday

Mondays 8.30 am Morning Prayer

Wednesdays 8.30 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Holy Communion
7.30 pm Evening Prayer

Thursdays 9.00 am Prayer Space

St. Nicholas Explorers

After school club for 7-11s – **term time only**

Allington Primary School – Wednesday 3.15 - 4.30 pm

Palace Wood Primary School – Tuesday 3.20 - 4.30 pm

Saturday Club / Messy Church

Normally held on the 3rd Saturday morning of the month
and advertised in ***Grapevine***.

Home Groups

Group 1 - meets on alternate Monday mornings at
23 Buckland Lane. Contact tel: 752181 Rachel Norman

Group 2 – meets on alternate Thursday evenings at various venues
around the parish. Contact tel: 764913 Mary Garrett

Group 3 - meets on Thursday afternoons 2.00pm - 3.00pm
2 Hazlitt Drive Contact Carol on 686771 or Angela on 758641

Pastoral Group

This is available to bring Home Communion, or just pay a visit to anyone
who needs it. Please phone Mary Garrett on 01622 764913

Rev Chris Writes.....

In the four years that I have been in these parishes I haven't known such a busy period for funerals. The first couple of months of this year have been particularly hectic and all the funeral directors that we deal with on a regular basis have said the same.

Why is that? I have no idea, sometimes it is just the way of things - some might say it's the time of year but I don't think that is necessarily the case. Whatever the reasons the important thing is that we do our best to respond to the needs of grieving families at a difficult time.

To be afforded the privilege of being alongside those that have lost a loved one at such a time is to walk on holy ground and my hope is that those of us engaged in funeral ministry take our task seriously and do the very best we can for those we minister to.

Each funeral taken is unique because each life that we give thanks for, and remember, was unique because that person was made in the image of God. Every memory, for each person that is grieving, is unique to that person - in the majority of circumstances those memories are happy ones but that is not always the case and helping families to deal with their anxieties requires great tact and pastoral care.

As Church of England ministers we are called to be alongside those of faith and those of none. This means that we treat each situation according to its needs and with the respect it deserves - we are not there to 'bible bash' but to be with those that call upon our services in their hour of need so that we might bring comfort and reassurance.

Of course that comfort and reassurance is embedded in the faith which we have in a God who transcends this mortal life as we experience it. We are in the season of Lent and heading towards Easter but before we get there we need to encounter Good Friday which is a time of death, a time of darkness, a time of grieving. But that is just a step away from the rejoicing of Easter Sunday as the reality that death is not the end breaks into the world. On the first Easter Sunday the whole nature of reality changed and I certainly hope that in the funerals we conduct something of the light and joy of that is present in all we do.

I also hope that those who struggle with the ongoing pain of bereavement would find some comfort in our church communities even if only to step inside the church to light a candle. Such a simple thing as that tiny flame burning in the darkness around can make the day just a little more bearable and give strength to keep going, whether you are a person of great faith, little faith or no faith.

In the words of one of the prayers we often use at funerals; 'Your mighty power brings joy out of grief, and life out of death. Look in mercy on all here who mourn. Give them patient faith in times of darkness. Strengthen them with the knowledge of your love. Amen'.

Every blessing this Lent & Easter time, Rev Chris



Annual Parish Meeting (APM) & Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Our annual meetings will take place on the 18th March. There will be a 10am Oasis Communion service followed by coffee in church and then the meeting at 11.30am, also in church. The APM is very short and is to elect churchwardens - that is followed by the longer APCM (not too long) at which annual reports are presented and vacant posts on PCC and Deanery Synod are voted upon.

If you wish to put your name forward for Churchwarden or PCC please contact Jenny, the administrator, for the relevant nomination form.

Annual meeting 'packs' will be available for collection from the back of church in due course - all are free to take one, although if you are registered on the Electoral Roll there will be one specifically with your name on it - if you are able to deliver any that would be much appreciated.

The meetings will be followed by a BRING AND SHARE LUNCH - please indicate on the sign up sheet at the back of church what you can bring to that lunch.

Rev Chris

THE MEANING OF THE CROSS

I have been reading a talk given by a previous Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey (see note below). He said that in thinking about the cross, we are thinking about catastrophe. The first Good Friday was that. Jesus had been proclaiming the reign of God. He had convinced his followers that the reign of God was here, with himself at its heart and centre. The outcome of all this was Jesus being executed by crucifixion, the penalty meted out to slaves and criminals.



The instrument used was a cross. It was made of two pieces of wood, hard and cruel. Yet that instrument went on to become a symbol of the new Christian religion, a sign of victory. It continued to be powerful through centuries of history. In some ways it has always been a clash between the picture of the perfect love of

God and the weaknesses of the whole human race.

This is because the characters in the story that put Jesus on the cross portray familiar human attitudes. There is the complacent sense of virtue of the Pharisees. There are the compromises of the Roman Governor, Pilate. There is the callousness of the soldiers. These are like the attitudes and actions of various people through the ages. True, the awful details of the original scene do not fit in with the detail of our own actions. But they do symbolise what can happen at a very bad moment in the human heart.

Again, at the crucifixion ordinary people cried "Away with him, away with him, crucify him". It is a picture of the heart of any of us at a bad moment. My own way of thinking or doing things is my own little castle, my own way of seeing things. And everything else must be put to one side.

The crucifixion of Jesus will draw out the tensions within us. But it can also go on to bring forgiveness to us. Forgiveness is the first necessity for the world, and for each of us. But our ideas about it can easily get shallow and casual.

Do we understand what a costly thing forgiveness is? Try and see the bigger picture. Human wrong, or sin, is an affair between us and God, our Father and Creator. It can include those times when we are ungrateful to him, ignoring his perfect will for us, putting our own pride or way of doing things in place of it. Similarly, when we do wrong to other people, man against man, group against group, race against race, we trample upon God's creatures.

God is holy, so how then can forgiveness come? True forgiveness cannot come from just saying "never mind", "it does not matter" and all that. In our experience, forgiveness between man and man costs more than that. No, forgiveness comes as an act in which God blends into one the recognition of when we get things wrong and his love for us.

Yet, wrapped up in all of this might be one great source of hope. If we, in some small way, are part of the journey to the cross, then we can be in a much fuller way part of what came after it. There is the resurrection, the opening of the door to reconciliation and forgiveness, all that can bring out the best in us.

Robin Hiam

Note: Above based on "Introducing the Christian Faith", Michael Ramsey 1961. A more recent book on the cross and the resurrection is "God with Us" by Rowan Williams, £8.99, 106 pages.

In the Ugandan Refugee Camps

Last month some members of the Trustee Board of Mothers' Union in Canterbury Diocese visited refugee camps in Northern Uganda. The camps are the current home of people displaced by civil war from South Sudan in the Diocese of Kajo-Kedi, one of our link dioceses. Both Mariana Poliszczuk from St. Nicholas and Jean Sweetman from St. Andrew's were on this visit. You may remember that St. Nicholas donated £400 from its Christmas collections to support aid provided to these refugees. The following is a report provided by Daniele Ligneau-Wilton from Canterbury who is also a Trustee.



So, on our first day, after a good rest, a lovely lunch on the shores of Lake Victoria, and many phone calls we made our way to Kampala, in the rush hour, to

meet Irene, a refugee volunteer who trains women and girls into "dignity kits" making, an essential for these women. It was decided then, that some of our initial and final money would be spent on supplies to make hundreds of "dignity kits", plus lots of underwear for the orphanage.

A very early rising was necessary to catch the MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) plane to the camps in the North. It was a 7 seater plane, and before starting the pilot asked us to join him in prayers. On any other flight we would have been worried when asked to pray with the pilot before taking off, but here it was rather comforting. The plane was so small that it felt as if we were all in the cockpit, and 90 minutes later we landed at a small airfield in Arua, Northern Uganda where a team of MU members led by Cecilia, the new Bishop's wife, welcomed us.



After several hours of discussion, phone calls and shopping with the staff who had come to welcome us, we set off in two jeeps for Moyo, loaded with 700 mosquito nets, boxes of exercises books, pens and pencils, bags of food, soap and many essential ingredients on which our money had been spent.

There are many camps around Moyo and further on, but altogether there are about 120,000 people gathered there in zones 1, 2 and 3. It is dry season at the moment, so driving along roads and tracks is a very dusty proposition. Each night I washed my hair and the water came out brown; same thing for our clothes. Fortunately with 30 degrees at night and 40 and up during the day, drying was no problem! None of the camps are nearby and the closest is about one hour drive.

Our first day was spent at the orphanage, located on the other side of the White Nile (yes we did cross the Nile several times on this adventure) via ferry and tracks which took around 2 hours plus waiting... It was an extremely moving visit as the children welcomed us with songs and prayers. There are about 90 orphans there, ranging from 2 weeks (Mum had died from haemorrhage at birth in the camps) to 18 years. I think the most beautiful moment was handing out those knitted teddies and toys we had brought from the UK in our suitcases and which the children cuddled with great love. We also left 100 mosquito nets and all kinds of supplies, and entrusted a former orphan, now working in Moyo, to buy toys



(football, skipping ropes, toy cars etc..) for the children among other things. The children look happy and healthy, the older ones taking care of the younger ones. Schooling is limited, and the older children will only attend university if sponsored, as all of them are South Sudanese refugees and government scholarships are only reserved to Ugandans.

We knew that the Bishop had organised a Mothers' Union Conference to coincide with our visit, but, unlike in the UK where a MU conference is for MU members, there it was for everybody around, women, men and children, with, of course, lots of prayers, singing and dancing, but also speakers on marriage, family, trauma, etc.

When we arrived at the Conference in zone 3 we were surprised to see a large square the sides of which were covered with UN Refugee Agency tarps, and under which people were sitting on chairs or on the ground. Altogether we were told that 2500 people were gathered there, while children gathered in another area and teenage girls were making their "dignity kits" under a tree 50 yards further. Marianna, our MU Diocesan President read a letter from Lynne Tenby, our World Wide President. Powerful gusts of whirlwinds kept blowing; at one time a large empty UN tent got blown out of the ground, up into the air, and landed on another tent, while a few minutes later another gust lifted our tarpaulin cover. I just had time to put my head in my knees, wondering what was to come. I was simply covered in dust

If this second day was long and tiring, with no food until 16:30 and back home quite late, things were not going to become easier the next. Up again for an "early" start, we did not get on the way until 10:00 for our visit back to zone 3 to see the teenagers at work on their "dignity kits" and to whom I delivered my "health and hygiene" talk. Then, we were off to zone 1 in another area for a knitting lesson while our dear "childrens team" entertained the kiddies. Again no food until late when we stopped, in the camp, at a little road side restaurant for a welcome plate of beans and rice. We had wanted to come back early as we were quite tired, but early means not before 18:00 at the earliest... Gosh, the shower (i.e. a bucket of warm water thrown over me as the shower head was blocked)



Marianna—'Our African Queen'

felt really good.

We set out for the morning service at yet another camp where we were expected for 10:30. A group of children came to meet us singing and dancing, and the congregation (who had been waiting since 09:00) sat in a church made of wooden poles covered with UN tarpaulins. There were lots of children and in comparison very few adults, because, as the pastor explained, a funeral was taking place at the same time and many adults had gone there. In fact, we

had seen a man on a bicycle on the way with a purple rectangular box tied on the back seat: it was the coffin! After the shortish 40 minutes sermon I was then asked to give my "last" and final talk on health and hygiene. The translator had a great time and lots of people laughed so at least people were not bored! When all was done we had to drive back to the conference in zone 2 (another 20 minutes away) to say our farewells. More speeches, prayers, and good byes. Since we anticipated no lunch and had been invited at the Bishop's house for 6:00pm we had all wrapped a sandwich for lunch from breakfast, which we had eaten as soon as the church service had ended. So wasn't it a surprise when we were told that, after the goodbyes, we would be served lunch.....

It was about 18:00 by the time we reached our Guest house. We figured the Bishop would not be back before 19:00 so we had time to freshen up and rest before the endless speeches, prayers, thanks and so on. We all sang and danced, hugged and laughed as we said our good-byes. We were all exhausted, but what an adventure!

It has been an incredible experience, made richer by the fact that we were a team of seven, pooling our resources, using our talents, and sharing with our brothers and sisters in the camps. We have heard the tales of the people running away from the war, with only their papers and some clothes with them, running away from the killings, raping, and torture. We have seen their fragile tent homes and their efforts to make bricks and build new homes. We have spoken with people trying to make a bit of money by cooking food out of their rations of rice and beans. We have seen the desperation of people turning to God for comfort and hope, in a Billy Graham type crusade at the end of each day. Everything has been enriching, traumatic, and unforgettable. How blessed are we in the West with all that we have and all that we can share. Thank you, all of you, for helping us with that experience.

**Daniele Ligneau-Wilton—General Trustee Mothers' Union
Canterbury Diocese**



*(Conductor Martin Hindmarsh)
presents*

Creation

An oratorio by
Joseph Haydn

"Probably Haydn's greatest single achievement"

All Saints Church, Maidstone

Sat 17th March 2018,

7.30pm,

Tickets £12 unreserved on the door
or from the Ticket Secretary: 01622 726193
fredacrispin@gmail.com

KETTLE BRIDGE CLOGS

Annual Quiz Night

Saturday 24th March 2018

7:15pm for a 7:30pm start

**St Nicholas Church Hall, Poplar Grove,
Allington, Maidstone.
ME16 0DE**

£6 per person – Min 6 /Max 8 per table

Please bring your own food and drink

To book a table

07876 194375 or 07876 256235

Email: quiz@kettlebridgeclogs.org

Web site: www.kettlebridgeclogs.org.uk

**This is always a fun evening.
Look forward to seeing you there!**

New Allington Players Death in Darjeeling

A Murder Mystery set in India in 1944,
with a 3 course meal, but BYOD's

Saturday 5 May at 7 pm
St Nicholas Church Hall

Tables of 6 or individuals/couples welcome.
Dress for the occasion if you wish.
Tickets £16 from Anne ~ 764063



Maidstone Bible Week
Monday 14th – Thursday 17th May 2018,
7.30pm-9.30pm

Speaker: Rev Chris Wright,
Theme: *Celebrating Faith in a Threatening*
World: Habakkuk for Today.

Venue: The Salvation Army Citadel,
Maidstone

Admission: FREE (A collection will be taken)

FAVOURITE PIANO CONCERTOS

In aid of
Heart of Kent Hospice



Simon Proctor
Piano

Tyler Hay
Piano



WARSAW CONCERTO

RACHMANINOFF PIANO CONCERTO NUMBER 2

GRIEG PIANO CONCERTO

And Simon's Brand New

QUEEN PIANO CONCERTO

Heart of Kent Orchestra

ADRIAN GOSS—Conductor

6pm on Sunday April 22nd 2018

Invicta Grammar School

Huntsman Lane, Maidstone ME14 5DS

Tickets £15 Adults, £10 Children

Tickets available on the door, from Simon Proctor or by visiting www.hokh.co.uk

Tickets: Adults £15 Children £10

Telephone 01622 790195

Email fundraising@hokh.co.uk

RCN 298164





The Brighton Marathon and Dandelion Time

In April this year I will be running the Brighton Marathon (my first marathon ever) in aid of Dandelion Time.

As some of you are probably aware this is a local charity based in West Farleigh that is a charitable project for children and young people traumatised by abuse, neglect or having early life attachment difficulties.

They provide practical farm-based developmental activities and a therapeutic service to help children overcome past suffering, develop in confidence and self-esteem and discover a new and positive path to follow.

I have pledged to raise £500 for the charity and would very much value your support, both prayer and sponsorship. If you would like to sponsor me this can be done online on my giving page:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/StellaBlackburn>

or via a paper sponsorship form that Sarah Lavender has very kindly agreed to look after for me.

Many thanks

Stella Blackburn

(One of St Andrew's Church Wardens)

Palms

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, young James stayed home from church with his grannie. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father told him.

"Wouldn't you know it," James fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up."

News of the Church UK and Worldwide

The unexpected effect of celebrity vicars

Celebrity clergy such as the Revd Richard Coles and the Revd Kate Bottley have helped the Church of England, by making it appear more accessible, and thereby boosting the number of trainee clergy up to a ten-year high.

Such is the belief of a number of church leaders, such as the Bishop of Repton, the Rt Rev Jan McFarlane. 'With Richard and Kate being on *Strictly Come Dancing* and shows like that, they've just come across as human people who happen to have a strong faith.'

And so, while in 2016 there were 476 new trainees; last year there were 544 new trainees. New priests are also getting younger; last year 28 per cent of trainees were under 32.

Is 'religious karaoke' growing in popularity?

It seems that churches across the country are increasingly ditching their hymn books, in favour of using big screens to project the words. Some churches have spent up to £50,000 on audio-visual systems including projector screens and LCD TVs for their flock. Many churches reckon that it is cheaper to subscribe to a licensing service which allows them to project the words to hymns and worship songs, rather than buying books.

Christian Copyright Licensing International currently sells churches licenses, which allows them to reproduce hymns and worship songs. It currently covers about 24,500 sites in the UK. The most recent figures suggest that in 2013, there were 50,660 churches in the UK.

Community fridge receives warm welcome

Janet Holmes, a team vicar in Telford, Shropshire, has responded to shocking statistics around UK food waste, resulting in the launch of Brookside Community Fridge.

After participating in the 'Make Goodmissional' entrepreneurship course, a partnership between Church Mission Society, Matryoshka Haus and the Pickwell Foundation, Janet worked with others in her community to bring the idea to fruition.

The fridge, hosted in a local community centre, is a place where anyone can put in and take out food – so supplies are donated by both individuals and local businesses, and anyone in the community can come to make use of them. The team saw the idea in London, and managed to secure some funding from the Sainsbury's "waste less, save more" initiative.

It seems a simple solution to the issue of food waste – yet it has caught the eye of local media, and the fridge has been featured on Midlands Today TV news and the project co-ordinator, Sam Smith, was interviewed by BBC Radio Shropshire. To learn more about the Make Good missional entrepreneurship course, which helps bring good ideas like this to life www.pioneer.churchmissionsociety.org

Thanks from Charities Abroad

Firstly a big thank you from PLAN International, UK, for our sponsorship of Jacinto, now 15 years old. Our 10 years of contributions means he has been able to stay in school and receive an education which will, hopefully, enable him to rise from the poverty in which he lives and give him a better chance of a skilled job when he leaves school.

When we, as a church, took on the sponsorship, there was discussion about the extent to which we were favouring and singling out one child from equally poor children in the same village. The letter of thanks makes it clear that *'when you sponsor a child, on average more than 72 children in the community benefit. That means your generosity reaches from Jacinto, to children in his community, in Ecuador and beyond'*.

Secondly, a thank you from me, and from Friends of St Anne's, Liuli, Tanzania, for continuing to fill up those jam jars with spare change. I've just totalled up all the pennies and, rounding it up a little, I shall be sending another £40 this week. That's in addition to those of you who continue to support St. Anne's by monthly contribution. The regular sums are making a huge difference in being able to renovate the old hospital and provide better health care and maternity services for a huge area of Tanzania where St. Anne's Hospital is the only health centre.

PLAN and St Anne's Hospital are just two of the many, many worthwhile and needy charities, and it's increasingly difficult to make decisions about where to give our money, so many thanks again to all of you at St Nicholas' who help support these two. There will be more jam jars at the back of church for those who are willing to fill them up again! Thank you.

Dianne White



Enjoying 'The Sound of Music' at our recent Film Afternoon in St Nicholas Church

Charity of the Month Church Army



Church Army has a strong, proud heritage and all it does today is based on the legacy of its' past.

Church Army was founded in England in 1882 by the Rev. Wilson Carlile to enable ordinary Christian men and women to share their faith. Through his visionary work, people were trained to be evangelists in the Church of England amongst the most needy in society. Wilson Carlile began by holding open air gatherings to share faith and encourage faith in to action such as serving the slums of Westminster.

Since this beginning, Church Army has trained thousands of evangelists and been involved in a wide range of work always seeking to be culturally relevant to those being encountered. All we have done is rooted in our faith in the gospel, because we believe it changes lives. Church Army has always had a heart for the marginalised and vulnerable, those on the edges of society and for seeing God's love and hope break into people's lives.

Many of you will know Captain Graham Nunn who is based in Maidstone and continues the work of the Church Army both locally and overseas.



**A very busy OASIS Café with Mums and Babes!
Next café is on Friday 9th March 10.00am—12 noon**

Youth & Organisations News

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Friday **2 March** at 11.00am is the "Women's World Day of Prayer" service at the URC Church, Week Street. Please go if you can as numbers have decreased over the years.

Our Wednesday morning Communion Service is on **7 February** at 10.00am. All are welcome.

Don't forget "Mothering Sunday" on **11 March**. Please make posies if you can. Mothers' Union are running a "Make a Mothers' Day" appeal. Anyone can make an "Ethical Gift" for or in memory of your mother. Details are on the board near the font, along with catalogues.

Please come to our "Wave of Prayer" service on Thursday **15 March at 2.00pm** followed by the Rev Julian Waite talking on "Lent Reflections" at 2.30pm.

The "Lady Day" service will be combined with the 11.00am Holy Communion service at St Nicholas on Sunday **25 March**. Please contact Heather Rooke if you would like to see "Guys and Dolls" at the Hazlitt Theatre on Tuesday **20 March** at 7.30pm.

A blessed Easter to you all.

Mary Gentry (678312)

Branch Leader

Follow Mothers' Union on Facebook



ALLINGTON CASTLE

Just to remind you that our April meeting is members only due to it being our birthday party.

Allington castle W.I has been around since 1969, we have always had a very good speakers to entertain us.

We run a craft group, book club, theatre trips and also a lunch club. We sometimes have a raffle and occasionally our members will make cakes to compliment our tea and coffee. If you would like to come and see for yourself we meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the small hall at St Nicholas' Church, 7.00pm for 7.30pm.



Pat Gibbons

ST NICHOLAS FELLOWSHIP

At our February meeting Brian Davison told us of his experiences as

a volunteer steward with the National Trust at Ightham Mote in west Kent and of its history. The original part of the building was the Great Hall. This was constructed by an unknown builder in 1320 almost entirely of local ragstone and oak. It was used mainly as a meeting-house and over the years has been extensively developed.

The property was owned for



some 300 years from the seventeenth century by the Selby family and eventually came into the hands of Henry Robinson.

When he died aged ninety six in 1985 Ightham Mote was bequeathed to the National Trust. Since then the property has been the subject of what was at the time one of the largest renovation projects carried out by the Trust, costing over £10 million. At the Fellowship's next meeting on Friday 9th. March, the Rev. Robin Williamson will be coming to guide us through our Lent Reflections. The meeting will be held in the main Church hall, starting at 2.30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Mike Garrett (764913)

OPEN CIRCLE

I really enjoyed our February book, *A Rising Man* by Abir Mukherjee, so much so that I've reserved the next one in the series from Allington Library. Mukherjee's central character is Sam Wyndham, a detective in the Indian Police Service with crimes to solve, as well as dealing with the prejudices of the British white population in Calcutta in early 20th century India. I hope the second novel will be as good as the first, and apparently there's a third due out in June ...

Our March read is *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep* by Joanna Cannon, a book which I've had, unopened, on my shelf for sever-



al months. Set in 1970's suburbia, the novel's central characters are two ten-year olds, Grace and Tilly, who set themselves the task of solving the mystery of the missing Mrs Creasy.

However there are secrets to be uncovered which are more than they bargained for.

It sounds like a good read and I can't imagine why I haven't read it long before now. Clearly, this is the push I need to get started on it.

Our meetings this month are on Wednesday March 14th and March 28th at 10.30 am.

Please ring Margaret 672985, or Anne 764063 for details of venue

Dianne White 756660
mrsdiannewhite@gmail.com

ALLINGTON GARDEN CLUB

At our AGM the existing committee agreed they would stand for another year, however we do have a new treasurer. This was followed by Alison Marsden giving a talk about 'Year round colour in the Garden.' She gave plant suggestions for each season including those with variegated leaves and coloured stemmed plants which would give colour through the winter months. She also got the members involved by asking them to share their ideas.

On March 1st Jude Lawton will be speaking about 'Ferns' and on April 5th Kevin Tooher's talk will be on 'Pots & Baskets.'

Pam Blake

ALLARA

The entertainment at our January meeting was a singer performing 50's and 60's songs that had the Members joining in. It proved to be a very lively and enjoyable afternoon. On another occasion we also had a quiz that was very well supported. Upcoming we have a Beetle Drive and an outing to 'Legal London'. The monthly entertainment and/or speakers are very varied and interesting and these meetings - plus our other clubs activities and outings - make Allington Active Retirement Association a very worthwhile local friendship club.

We meet on 3rd Tuesday of each month in St. Nicholas Church Hall.

More information can be obtained from our website allara.org.uk or from Phillip on 01622 686305.



MENS BREAKFAST

Our breakfast on Saturday 27th January was well attended with sixteen hungry souls.

We started 2018 with a bang - or should I say with bangers-meaning we had a cooked breakfast starting with cereals and toast followed by sausages (bangers), eggs, hash browns and baked beans all cooked to perfection by Michael and Rosemary Froud who were both given a hearty applause for serving up such a wonderful breakfast.

Many thanks to you both.

Our next breakfast will be held in April as Easter Saturday is the last Saturday this month.

Brian Davison

A Date for Your Diary!

*Garden Safari and Driveway Table Top Sale
Saturday 23rd June*

Will you volunteer your garden for the Church?

Please let Judith or Margaret know—details below

*We are also willing to advertise your table top sale for anything
you would like to sell.*

You do not have to show your garden as well!

Gardens £5 for programmes at the church. Tables £10

For more information contact

Judith 01622 662425 nicholson.judith@btinternet.com

Margaret 01622 672985 dm.salvage@btinternet.com

An Early Christian Message?



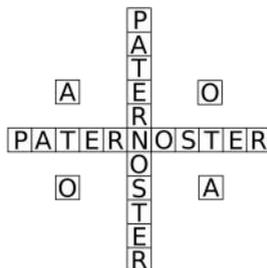
This marble plaque is on the wall of our sitting room, and it was made by David Salvage, after Dianne and I saw a similar plaque that he had made for someone else. We were intrigued by it, and it makes an interesting talking point, as everyone wants to know its meaning.

Examples of this plaque have been found at many Roman sites, and the Latin statement, SATOR AREPO TENET OPERA ROTAS, is not only a palindrome in the usual sense, but it forms a two-dimensional palindrome on the plaque, which can be read in four directions. A common translation is something like 'the sower Arepo holds the wheels for his work', so it may refer to the use of a plough. The name 'Arepo' is unknown in other contexts, so it seems to have been made up, to match 'opera' (work).

But what does this have to do with Christians? The letters can be rearranged in the shape of a cross, to read the first two words of the Lord's Prayer in two directions, plus alpha (A) and omega (O), 'the beginning and the end', which is a well-known Biblical concept.

It has been suggested that when early Christians were in danger of persecution, they used the palindrome as a secret sign to identify each other, but no one really knows whether this is the case, so a mystery remains.

Brian White



SAVE THE DATE



**St Nicholas Church is holding
A Christmas Tree Festival**

14th-16th December 2018

**You are invited to join us in contributing
a tree of your design
Further details to follow later in the year
Time to think and make!
You can contact Karen Hunter
or Ruth Brind
through The Parish Office at
St Nicholas Church
stnicholas1@outlook.com**



Observations on Life

In the old days child guidance was something parents were expected to provide, not to submit to.

A recession is a period when people do without the things their parents never had.

If he dodges cars, he is a pedestrian; if he dodges taxes, he is a financier; if he dodges responsibility, he is a statesman!

Common sense is a flower that, sadly, doesn't grow in everyone's garden.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Thursday 15th March 2.00pm

Wave of Prayer Service

Followed by

'Lent Reflections'

Rev Julian Waite



Notice March



St Nicholas Fellowship



Friday 9th March 2.30pm

'Lent Reflections'

Rev Robin Williamson

Contact Mike Garrett for details 764913

Charity Bottle for March

Church Army

See page 16 for details

Easter

Maundy

7.00pm

Good

9.30am

2.00pm Good

Easter

8.00am H

10.00am O



No Breakfast in March!

We will meet on Saturday
28th April
Main Hall

8.30am—9.30am
Brian 01622 759278

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- ☐ OASIS Café & Mums & Babes ☐
- ☐ @ St Nics ☐
- ☐ 10am -12 noon in the ☐
- ☐ Church once a month ☐
- ☐ on a Friday. ☐
- ☐ An opportunity to relax and ☐
- ☐ spend time with other new ☐
- ☐ parents and members of the ☐
- ☐ local community of all ages! ☐
- ☐ Next meeting ☐
- ☐ Friday 9th March ☐
- ☐ Do join us for coffee & ☐
- ☐ cake! ☐
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Saturday Club
10.00am-12 noon
17th March

Deadline for April Grapevine
Saturday 10th March
Please send articles
and information to
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grapevinemairstone@outlook.com

Rotas for March

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Boots, King Street, Mon-Sat 8.30am-5.30pm, Thu 8.30am-8.00pm, Sunday 10.30am-4.30pm.

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Sainsbury's Pharmacy, until 10 pm Mon to Sat, normal opening times on Sunday.

CHURCH ROTAS

Sidespeople

| | 8.00am | 9.30am | 10.00am | 11.00am |
|-----------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| March w/e | | | | |
| 4 | A Waddams J Sargent | | E Harrington D & M Derry | |
| 11 | | A Redford C McInnes | | R Froude J Harlock |
| 18 | D & B Davison | | M Salvage D Salvage C Colyer | |
| 25 | | I Redford S Lavender D Hayles | | M Gentry G Garrett |

Sanctuary Cleaning

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| March w/e | |
| 4 | N Bailey |
| 11 | |
| 18 | M Gentry |
| 25 | |
| 31 | |

Flowers

| | | |
|----|--------|-------------------------------|
| 4 | | LENT |
| 11 | | LENT |
| 18 | | LENT |
| 25 | | LENT |
| 31 | Easter | D Davison/P White/J Nicholson |

Other Duties

Coffee

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| March w/e | |
| 4 | Bob Butcher & Michael Froude |
| 11 | Liz Walker/ & Anna Harries |
| 18 | Ruth Brind & Jenny Stone |
| 25 | Margaret Salvage & John Tester |

We commend to the loving care of our Lord

Barbara Cocks Barbara Jermy Rosemary Smetham
Thomas Holland Don Harding Pam Bagshaw Leonard Burgess

We welcome in to the family of the church

Chloe Trickett Gwendolen Griffiths

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-

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ACA Playgroup (Term time only)

Call Katie

07545 556290

Mondays & Wednesdays

ZUMBA 7.30pm

Call Claire

07812 564460

Tuesday's

Orchard Club for the over 60's 1.30pm

Call Pat

01622 673633

Slimming World 5.30pm & 7.30pm

Call Vanessa

07712 647797

Wednesday's

Whist Drive 1.00pm

Call Joy

01622 761346

Thursday's

Bingo 7.15pm

Call Joy

01622 761346

Eucher Cards (Lounge Bar) 7.00pm

Call Julie

07813 956187

Saturday's

Kungfoo (6-11yrs 9.30am)

Call Neil

07980 945378

(11-15yrs 10.30am)

Sunday's

Bingo 8.00pm

Call Joy

01622 761346

Adult £34

Adult & Spouse £46 (inc admin fee)

Family - Adult & spouse plus 1 child (second child free) £58

(all to reside at same address)

Juniors £22

Senior (Over 60) £22

Senior & Spouse £34

Keep up to date with what's going on !

Email secretary@aca-club.co.uk Telephone 01622 673633

WHERE AND WHEN — ORGANISATIONS IN THE PARISH

Mondays:

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------|
| Quilting Web | 9.00am - 12.00pm ~ <i>Small Hall 2nd, 4th, 5th</i> | 01622 710829 |
| Zumba | 9.15am - 10.30am | 07999 444045 |
| ALLARA Tai Chi | 11.30am - 12.30pm | 01622 756475 |
| ALLARA Painting | 2.00pm - 4.00pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i> | 01622 662707 |
| ALLARA Kurling | 2.00pm - 5.00pm <i>2nd & 4th</i> | 01622 686305 |
| Flair School of Dance | 4.00pm - 6.00pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i> | 07713 260452 |
| J R Fitness Classes | 8.15pm - 9.15pm | 07746 082182 |
| 2nd Allington Rainbows | 4.30pm - 5.30pm @ <i>Allington School</i> | 01622 685264 |
| Weight Watchers | 6.15pm - 8.15pm | 07888 740221 |
| 4th Allington Brownies | 6.00pm - 7.30pm @ <i>Allington School</i> | 01622 686527 |
| 1st Allington Guides | 7.15pm - 8.45pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i> | 01622 672985 |
| Allington Castle Beavers | 6.00pm - 7.00pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i> | 07846 600953 |

Tuesdays:-

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| Slimming World | 9.45am - 11.45am ~ <i>Small Hall</i> | 07770 700688 |
| Parent & Toddler Group | 9.30am - 11.30am | 07527 743438 |
| 1st Allington Brownies | 5.45pm - 7.30pm | 01622 685007 |
| Kettlebridge Clog Dancing | 8.00pm - 10.30pm | 01622 727147 |
| Allington Scouts | 7.30pm - 9.00pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i> | 07846 600953 |
| ALLARA Sequence Dancing | 2.00pm - 4.00pm ~ <i>1st & 2nd</i> | 01622 756475 |
| ALLARA | 1.00pm - 4.30pm ~ <i>3rd</i> | 01622 756475 |
| Simply Pilates | 6.00pm - 7.00pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i> | 07845 442885 |

Wednesdays:-

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------|
| Zumba | 9.15am - 10.15am | 07999 444045 |
| Quilting Web | 9.30am - 12.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall 2nd, 4th, 5th</i> | 01622 710829 |
| Quilting Friends | 9.30am - 12.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall 1st & 3rd</i> | 01622 744170 |
| ALLARA Keep Fit | 11.00am - 12.00noon | 01622 756475 |
| 2nd Allington Brownies | 6.15pm - 7.45pm | 01622 753563 |
| Maidstone Dance Academy | 3.15pm - 6.15 Hall & 4.00 - 6.00 ~ <i>Small Hall</i> | 01622 746835 |
| Allington Castle WI | 7.00pm - 9.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall 3rd</i> | 01622 721170 |
| Maidstone Circle Dance Club | 8.00pm - 10.00pm ~ <i>1st</i> | 01622 753090 |

Thursdays:-

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| Adults Tap Dance | 9.45am - 10.45am | 01622 746835 |
| NHS Retirement Fellowship | 11.00am - 1.00pm ~ <i>1st</i> | 01622 670240 |
| ALLARA | 10.00am - 12.00 ~ <i>Small Hall 1st</i> | 01622 756475 |
| Creative Art & Textiles | 10.00am—3.00pm | 01622 695769 |
| Allington Knights Beavers | 6.00pm - 7.00pm | 07846 600953 |
| Allington Cub Scouts | 6.30pm - 8.00pm @ <i>Allington School</i> | 07846 600953 |
| 2nd Allington Guides | 7.00pm - 8.45pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i> | 01622 685264 |
| Allington Garden Club | 7.30pm - 9.30pm ~ <i>1st</i> | 01622 754855 |
| Mid Kent Fuchsia Group | 7.15pm - 10.15pm ~ <i>2nd</i> | 01795 539722 |
| Mothers' Union | 2.30pm - 4.30pm ~ <i>Church ~3rd</i> | 01622 678312 |

Fridays:-

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---------------|
| Zumba | 9.15am - 11.15am ~ <i>Small Hall</i> | 07999 444045 |
| Musical Playtime | 10.00am - 11.00am | 01622 669400 |
| St Nicholas Fellowship | 2.30pm - 4.30pm ~ <i>2nd</i> | 764913/762548 |
| OASIS Café / Mum's & Babes | 9.30am—12noon ~ <i>2nd in Church</i> | 07951 777854 |

Saturdays:-

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Children's Saturday Club | 10.00am—12 noon ~ <i>3rd</i> | 07951 777854 |
| 1st Allington Rainbows | 9.00am - 10.00am ~ <i>Small Hall</i> | 07742 846625 |
| Hearty Quilters | 9.00am - 1.00pm ~ <i>1st</i> | 01732 823383 |
| Clouds Youth Group | 1.30pm - 4.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i> | 07886 566984 |
| Children's Saturday Club | 10.00am - 12 noon 4 - 11 years old ~ <i>3rd</i> | 07951 777854 |
| Mid Kent Metal Detecting Club | 6.30pm-10pm ~ <i>2nd</i> | 01233 612312 |
| Men's Breakfast | 8.30am - 9.30am <i>Last Saturday</i> | 01622 759278 |

Sundays

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Light Life Christian Fellowship | 11.00am—1.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i> | josephanderson111@icloud.com |
| Light Life Christian Fellowship | 5.30pm—8.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i> | josephanderson111@icloud.com |

All information is for reference only and may be subject to change - please check for further information regarding hall availability with the Church Office on 01622 299715

March 2018

| | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------|--|
| 1 | Thur | 9.00am | Prayer Space |
| 4 | Sun | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| | | 10.00am | Morning Worship |
| | | 5.00pm | OASIS in the Afternoon |
| 5 | Mon | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| 7 | Wed | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| | | 10.00am | Holy Communion with MU followed by Lent Course |
| | | 7.30pm | Evening Prayer |
| 8 | Thur | 9.00am | Prayer Space |
| 11 | Sun | 9.30am | OASIS |
| | | 11.00am | Holy Communion |
| 12 | Mon | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| 14 | Wed | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| | | 10.00am | Holy Communion followed by Lent Course |
| | | 7.30pm | Evening Prayer |
| 15 | Thur | 9.00am | Prayer Space |
| 18 | Sun | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| | | 10.00am | OASIS Communion followed by APCM and Lunch to Share |
| | Mar 19th - 22nd | | Easter Experience in Church |
| 19 | Mon | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| 21 | Wed | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| | | 10.00am | No Holy Communion today |
| | | 7.30pm | Evening Prayer |
| 22 | Thur | 9.00am | Prayer Space |
| | | | PALM SUNDAY |
| 25 | Sun | 9.30am | OASIS |
| | | 11.00am | Holy Communion MU Lady Day Service |
| 26 | Mon | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| 28 | Wed | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| | | 10.00am | Holy Communion |
| | | 7.30pm | Evening Prayer |
| | | 7.00pm | TAIZE Service at St. Andrew's |
| 29 | Thur | 9.00am | Prayer Space |
| | | 7.00pm | Maundy Thursday Supper & Vigil |
| 30 | Fri | 9.30am | Good Friday OASIS |
| | | 2.00pm | Good Friday Service |