

Grapevine

April 2018

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



*For behold, the winter is past; the rain
is over and gone. The flowers appear on
the earth, the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.*

Song of Solomon 2: 11-12

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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 Barry Writes.....

I am tempted to say that the snow is well and truly behind us, but I recall not that long ago going out in the snow on Good Friday. Whatever the weather, this is and will always be, my favourite time of year. We see the signs of new life through nature, like the daffodils and the spring lambs. There is the hope of milder weather and longer days to enjoy now the clocks have changed. What I thoroughly appreciate is the celebrations for Easter. Much goes on at this time of year in relation to Easter and this year is no exception.



During Lent, we deepened our understanding of Mark's Gospel through our two Lent courses that complemented the sermon series on Mark earlier in the year at St Nicholas. We then enjoyed the privilege of having our local primary school children come into church for Experience Easter. It is such a joy to see the children learning to appreciate that there is far more to Easter than chocolate.

This joy then continued through Easter Week. Unlike Christmas, which focuses primarily on the one event, the birth of Jesus, Easter Week focuses on the many events that occurred during the last days of Jesus. You really need to experience these celebrations and reflections to fully appreciate both the sacrifice and hope that Jesus' death signifies.

After what seems like a long wait, we are finally off to Spring Harvest. Here we will have the opportunity to listen to world class teaching as well as attend seminars on a broad variety of subjects. There will be something for everyone whatever their age or preference. I feel sure everyone will return enthused and passionate to share their experience with others. It will be interesting to see what impact our new knowledge and experiences will have on the events that follow, something everyone can share in.

The year ahead looks promising as we reflect on past experience and look how we can serve those around us with more love and compassion. The world is needy and so is our community. With Jesus' help and guidance, we can do so much to help through the many skills and gifts we share. Jesus had such love for us as we are reminded each Easter. Surely we can find a just little more love for one another?

Rev Barry

Westborough Bowls Club



Having retired, I was reliably informed that I needed an interest that would get me out from under my wife's feet. I decided I would prefer something that was outdoors and which provided some gentle exercise. As luck would have it, my daughter passed on to me a flyer from Westborough Bowls Club who were having an Open Day for anyone wanting to take up the game. The club was tucked behind the Pippin

pub on London Road, Allington, next to the Millennium Green and I was made to feel really welcome. The basics of the game were explained to me and I spent a very pleasant couple of hours in the sunshine trying to get the bowls to go where I wanted. By the time the session was over, I was hooked.

Well that was two years ago and I have not looked back. The club is a small one but this does have its advantages. Within a few weeks, I knew everyone by name and, after a couple of months, I was playing matches for the club against other teams in the Maidstone area. Perhaps the best bit has been the club roll-ups where anyone who is available turns up at the club to play with whoever else is there. This has been a great way to get to know everyone in a relaxed environment. I have also enjoyed the social side of the club with the bingo sessions and quizzes and the presentation dinner where the club champions are acknowledged.

I have found myself getting more and more involved in the club. I do a bit towards keeping the green and surrounding gardens neat and tidy and have run a quiz for the benefit and enjoyment of the club. More recently I was also persuaded to take on the role of secretary and I was only too pleased to help.

If this all sounds like something you might be interested in, I have some good news — Westborough is currently looking to recruit new members. We welcome men and ladies, young and old, all levels of abilities from complete beginner upwards. We are delighted to say that your first year of membership would be free. You would only need to pay a small fee of a couple of pounds each time you play, and even the first three sessions are free. We also have equipment that you can borrow while you are still a beginner. You really have nothing to lose by giving it a go and you may find that you enjoy the game as much as I do. It is also a great way to meet new people and make new friends.

If you want more information, look at our website at

www.westboroughbowls.co.uk

contact me at **steve@westboroughbowls.co.uk**

or telephone me on **01622 725650**.

We will be having an Open Day in May (date to be confirmed) which is open to all and sundry but you would also be most welcome to have a go at one of our roll-up sessions which start at the end of April. I look forward to hearing from you. Happy bowling!

Steve Cordery - Secretary Westborough Bowls Club.

PCC Meeting 19th February

- General Data Protection Regulations come into force in May which will affect all groups within the church as to how they keep records. Further information will be available in due course
- Film afternoon a great success – further one planned for 12th May – Paddington Bear 2
- Budget approved for building new storage cupboards in small hall
- Approval for installation of new heating system in church in due course with a new gas supply
- Memorial Garden planned for church grounds. Faculty and drawings being prepared
- Spring Harvest 52 people attending from the church
- New building projects in the pipeline to provide for kitchenette and additional toilets in church
- Rev Chris to take sabbatical after next Easter to walk the Camino de Santiago (500 miles through France and Spain)

The truth about 'text neck'

Text neck is the condition where you damage your neck by leaning over your phone for extended periods of time. Some experts have warned of an 'epidemic' of text neck on the way.



Nonsense. So says the results of an extensive study, published in the European Spine Journal. It concludes:

'Text neck isn't an epidemic - it isn't even a thing. The mechanics of looking at a phone are no different to reading a book, which we've done for centuries with few alarms.' After all, the study points out, the ancient Greeks did not suffer from 'scroll neck', nor the folk in the 1950s from 'newspaper neck'.

Packaging - A Necessary Evil??

Packaging, especially plastics, has been in the news lately, so Gary Nevill has sent this information from a blog by Pack Hack.

Do we need food packaging? - A key reason is to protect food from waste. Our modern methods of large farms and international companies selling food through national retail chains like Tesco, is a long way removed from the old local model whether we like it or not. Even with packaging we waste a lot of food, and without it things would be far worse.

What food waste? Well did you know the following? 10 million tons of food is currently wasted in the UK each year (60% of which could have been consumed). That's in addition to 700,000 tonnes being distributed through charities. And in other countries it can be worse. In India 50% of the harvest doesn't make it to table? Typically it takes 10 x the amount of CO2 to make protein (meat) than to make the pack to protect it? To farm an animal and then waste the meat doesn't make sense.

How much packaging do we use in the UK? The answer is 11.4m tonnes (5 million tonnes of which is household related) There are targets for food waste, packaging waste, recycling, landfill, all of which are to be met during a time of austerity for people, for retailers in a struggle with German discounters, and for local authority with budget cuts - and so extra cost and investment doesn't come easily for households, companies or councils.

A **Courtauld Agreement** exists and has gone through 3 phases since inception in 2005, and is funded by Westminster and delivered by an organisation called W.R.AP. (<http://www.wrap.org.uk/>) which has gained signatories from the retailers, and brand owners to take action to reduce food and packaging waste. It calculates that in the lifetime of the agreement to date that 219,000 tonnes of food and packaging has been saved (equal to 555,000 tonnes of CO2e).

In the UK we are announcing new **2025 targets** (1) Eliminate unnecessary packaging (2) 100% of pkg. to be recycled, reused or compostable (3) 80% collection for recycling with 70% actually recycled or composted (4) 1 in 3 tonnes of material to be recycled content.

Why have we got so much packaging now and why is so much of it plastic these days? - is packaging especially plastic the scourge of our time? All packaging types have particular strengths. Plastic use has grown because it is good with moisture unlike paper, it doesn't rust or dent like metal, it doesn't break like glass or weigh as much. It can be made into special shapes. We like the convenience of squeeze packs, being able to microwave in the pack and so on - so we need to either reduce the amount of convenience or improve the amount of recycling of plastic - or both.

What happens to our packaging waste?

What are the options for plastic in particular after it's put in the bin? Local authorities typically have a long, perhaps, 7 year contract with waste providers and there hasn't been much standardisation so far of what and how to collect waste across the approx. 330 LAs in England, as you may

have gathered. About 98% of the local authorities collect plastic bottles and now approx. 66% of them also collect plastic Pots, Trays & Tubs (PTTS) which equates to somewhere around 100,000 tonnes.

Landfill - Packaging and all waste used to go to landfill, but that is an expensive option for councils now with capacity running out, as well as being something we all know is not ideal anyway.

Recycling of plastic is one option. But plastic isn't one material it can be one of many polymers, PET, PP, PE and so on and some are multilayer to help extend shelf life. That variety doesn't help when it comes to recycling. However, in Rochester we have Viridor that recycles 7 different polymers. Recycling of bottles is nationally approx. 58% and pot, tubs & trays are also recycled to a lesser extent. Currently there are discussions in the packaging industry on how to increase collection and recycling of plastics. Perhaps a deposit recovery system? In Norway & Germany collection rates are >90%, but what happens to the current system if we go that way? Perhaps a tax on single use plastics (Whatever single use might be) might be imposed? In Holland now they take in trays and recycle them back into trays – perhaps we will? Should we change away from black plastics? Carbon black trays & pots can't be seen by many infra- red sorting machines, but there are some now that can, and some blacks that are not carbon.

Incineration Locally we have Enviropower to incinerate items that cannot be recycled and to prevent landfill. As a country we are doubling our capacity of incinerators currently. They bring energy from the waste. PVC plastic cannot be incinerated, but some plastics help the paper to burn. There is much media interest following the Blue Planet TV programme and Iceland Supermarket's No Plastics statement, and that is welcomed by all as a catalyst to increase the speed of change.

In our country there is busy discussion between the government and industry as to how to improve further what we should do following the recently announced **Government's Environment Plan** which stated aims as follows: Cutting the amount of plastic in circulation; Reducing the variety of plastics used to help ease the recycling process; Improving the rate of recycling; Making it easier for consumers to identify what items can be recycled and what goes into general rubbish.

We wait to see the result of collaboration between government and industry going forward. The outcome will be a mixture of politics and economics.

Nobody wants litter of the land or the seas with plastic or anything else, and the best way forward is for everyone globally to work together and to take responsibility.

Pack Hack.

**Volunteers to deliver Grapevine needed!
Contact Marianna on 01622 751243**

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

This month I want to think about how the Christian cross became a sign of victory. I want to do this by thinking how two very different people would have seen a cross: a Roman soldier, just before Jesus came on the scene, and a modern day monk.

Any Roman soldier serving in another country might have been involved in a crucifixion. It was a way in which the Roman authorities dealt with anyone who rebelled against their way of doing things. It was a measure against those who plotted against, deserted their responsibilities, refused to pay taxes or otherwise tried to cause trouble.

It was the soldier's job, done with his own mind and hands, with others, under supervision and efficiently carried out. It removed a threat to the Roman authorities. The soldier could now put this particular duty behind him, rub his hands, and get on with the next job.

A modern day monk was on television some months ago. He had spent some time cutting out, filing down and finishing off his own hand-made cross. He had been involving his eyes and hands. But surely he would have also involved his own emotions. And even for a monk this could have included some frustration that things had not worked out quite the way he had expected. Someone else had now been given a job in the monastery he would have liked. Instead he has been given a less rewarding task, perhaps cleaning the loo. Or he might have been full of praise and thanksgiving.

Whatever, the monk continued to work on in his own quiet way, finishing his little cross. It now bore his mark and personality. After the work was finished, he walked into his church and knelt in prayer.

His cross had now become something else. It had moved on from being something made with his own hands and reflecting his personality, hopes and fears to the sign that Jesus had once died on a cross to offer forgiveness and peace both to this monk and to the rest of mankind. The cross was now a symbol of a gift from heaven which could be received and reflected on in a new depth of prayer.

He might also have reflected that his scriptures said that, after the cross, Jesus had been raised. Jesus had been raised by God. In the midst of darkness and fears that were around on that Friday, God had now acted. The group of disciples that had stood around the cross had become different people. And when the monk had been called by God into his new life then presumably he had become a different person.

Yet it was not just him. Beyond the monastery, in nearby villages and towns, other people had been called to serve God in different ways: as priests, lay readers, as people who helped in churches in a wide variety of ways, and as people who lived, worked and served others in the local community.

To all these the cross is now something different. It has gone from being two pieces of wood used by the Roman soldier as a method of punishment and revenge to a sign now used by the monk and many others as a source of hope and forgiveness. It has been a transformation which we celebrate on Easter Sunday and through the rest of the year.

Robin Hiam

Free Afternoon Film Event

PADDINGTON 2

St Nicholas Church
Refreshments Available

Saturday 12th May 2018 3:00pm



The Absolute Gospel Company



presents an exciting NEW Musical

The King is Coming



Starting at 7:30 p.m.

Tonbridge Parish Church TN9 1DA
- Sat 5th May 2018

St. Luke's Maidstone ME14 5AW
- Sat 12th May 2018

St. John's URC Church Sevenoaks
- Sat 19th May 2018 TN13 3LW

Tickets: £10 (Senior Citizens £8)

Tickets Available from:-

Online: **www.absolutegospel.org**

CLC Bookshop Tonbridge: 01732 364897

Absolute Gospel office: 07549 830906

www.absolutegospel.org

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)



Crafts

Worship

Cooking



Messy
CHURCH

Resurrection!

Games

Saturday
21st April

From 11.00am - 1.30pm

In the Church and Church Halls

Poplar Grove ME16 0DE

ALL WELCOME!

£3.00 per person or £10 per family

to include lunch

More details or to book

Contact Fiona on 07951 777854

Latest booking date

Wednesday 18th April

Date for your Diary!

**Allington Garden Safari
and
Driveway Table-top Sale**

Saturday 23 June, 2-5pm

**Will you volunteer your garden
to be open for our Garden Safari?**

**As an additional feature this year
the Garden Safari will also include
driveway table-top sales.**

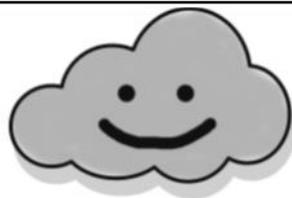
**For a cost of £10 we will include
the location of your table in the
Garden Safari programme.**

**Further details and offers of open gardens
and/or driveway table-top sale points
contact:-**

**Judith: 01622 662425
email: nicholson.judith@btinternet.com**

**Margaret: 01622 672985
email: dm.salvage@btinternet.com**

CLOUDS YOUTH CLUB



Clouds Youth Club is aimed at main stream secondary school children between the ages of 11-16 who may be finding it difficult to socialise outside of school. We support children with additional needs, such as a disability, emotional issues, including shyness and lacking confidence or family circumstances preventing them from being able to attend after school or evening social groups.

Parents and carers are welcome to stay for a cuppa and chat. Our regular activities include playing games on the Wii, board games such as monopoly and arts and crafts. We also have a variety of outdoor games.

Drinks and biscuits are provided.

Check out our Facebook page @cloudsyouthclub for details of past activities.

We meet most Saturday afternoons between 2pm–4pm at St Nicholas Church Small Hall, Poplar Grove, Allington, Kent ME16 0DE.

Cost £1 per visit.

Contact Jo on 0788 6566984
or email cloudsyouthclub@gmail.com

Clouds Youth Club—Nominated for National Award!!

Clouds Youth Club a local youth group from Maidstone, Kent, has been nominated for the Community Organisation – Age award category at The National Diversity Awards 2018.

The Breath-taking Liverpool Anglican Cathedral will play host to this year's awards, to be held on 14th September 2018. Britain's most inspirational and selfless people will come together to honour the rich tapestry of our nation, recognising individuals and groups from grass roots communities.

The prestigious black-tie event recognises nominees in their respective fields of diversity including age, disability, gender, race, faith, religion, and sexual orientation.

Clouds Youth Club was founded three years ago when it became apparent that there was a lack of opportunity on offer, for main stream secondary school children who have additional needs, to be able to socialise outside of school due to restrictions. These

may include a physical or mental disability, lacking in confidence, shyness, a learning difficulty, or family circumstances preventing them from accessing other clubs on offer. The club provides a safe and friendly environment and is run by a dedicated team of volunteers, who give their time most Saturday afternoons, to help run this nurturing club. One person who nominated stated that Clouds Youth Club was "A very worthwhile and much needed cause, which helps our less able younger people develop into stronger and confident adults" and another stated "My daughter really enjoys going, she was made very welcome, able to be herself and was not judged".

Sponsors for the Awards Ceremony include Direct Line Group, Security Service M15, Nielsen, The Open University, The Voice, Able Magazine, and Inclusive Top50 UK Employers to date.

Last Year, Olympic Diver Tom Daley said, 'The National Diversity Awards is a true celebration. A celebration of role models and community organisations who are having a huge impact on people's lives. Everybody who has been nominated and shortlisted is striving towards making society better for everyone'.

The National Diversity Awards receives over 20,000 nominations and votes annually. Founder & CEO Paul Sesay said, 'Unlocking Britain's diverse talent and rewarding unsung champions remains at the heart of these awards. As we enter our 6th year, I know there are still so many game changers who remain unnoticed and unheard. We aim to provide a platform for those who have the passion and determination to spread the positive message of inclusivity. I look forward to learning about this year's nominees and witnessing their spectacular journeys.'

**To nominate Clouds Youth Club please visit:
nominate.nationaldiversityawards.co.uk -
entering Clouds Youth Club in the search
for nominee by name box!**

Best of Luck Clouds Youth Club!

Praying for wheels

A boy was desperate for a bicycle, and his minister urged him to pray for one. A few days later he met the boy on the road, on a new bike, and so he congratulated him on his quick answer to prayer. 'So, will you keep praying?' the minister said encouragingly.

'Oh yes,' the boy replied, 'More than ever. You see, I stole the bike and now I'm praying for forgiveness, and also that I won't get caught.'

Charity of the Month Crossline Christian Counselling

Crossline Christian Counselling Service is a professional organisation based in Maidstone established in January 1991 by Christians who wished to provide a resource to those who were hurting or struggling with life's problems. As such, Crossline is here to serve the local community.

Crossline offers short term or open-ended counselling on a one to one basis for individuals or couples within a confidential and safe environment.

There is an initial assessment to see if we can help with your problem, and it is also an opportunity for you to ask questions and decide whether Crossline suits your needs. The assessor also decides who will be the most appropriate counsellor for you. Crossline welcomes anyone seeking counselling regardless of personal faith or circumstance.

Crossline can help with a wide range of issues. Here are a few examples: bereavement, depression, anxiety, panic disorder, phobias, spiritual problems, relationship difficulties, abuse, anger management etc. Those struggling with alcohol or drug addiction will be referred elsewhere.

Clients can either self refer, or be referred by their GP, hospital doctor, church minister or other agencies. Crossline has a policy that if a person is being counselled elsewhere then we do not normally accept them at our agency for counselling as this could be confusing for the client.

We see approximately 400 clients annually. The number of hourly sessions held per year are approximately 3000. There is a variable waiting list.

**Crossline Christian Counselling Service
2nd Floor
13 Tonbridge Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 8RL**

**01622 754447
contact@crosslinecounselling-maidstone.org**

The best news the world ever had came from a graveyard. Anon
Our friends bring us to the grave and leave us there, but God will not.
anon

Youth & Organisations News

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Thank you to all who joined in our Mothers' Union and Palm Sunday service at the end of March.

Sunday **1 April** is Easter Sunday. Hope to see you all in church. Our Wednesday morning Communion Service is on **4 April** at 10.00am. All are welcome.

At our monthly meeting in church on Thursday **19 April** at 2.30pm we shall have a talk by "Crossroads" on Young Carers. All are welcome to attend. Cathedral Prayer Time is on Thursday **26 April** at 12.00 noon in the crypt.

Mary Gentry (678312)
Branch Leader
Follow Mothers' Union on Facebook



ALLINGTON CASTLE

Barbara Stevens was the speaker at our last meeting the subject being life in journalism, as always we look forward to her visits.

She is very entertaining and amusing and doesn't mention her son Nigel Farage much.

We all had a very pleasant evening, so much so we have already booked her for later in



the year.

We are looking forward to our party and some of us are on a trip to the Marlow Theatre to see Beautiful.

You are as always more than welcome to come along to our meetings. To remind you we meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month at St Nicks small hall. 7 for 7.30.

Pat Gibbons

ST NICHOLAS FELLOWSHIP

We were privileged that the Reverend Robin Williamson was able to join our March meeting and lead us through some Lent reflections. About twenty Members were treated to some meaningful stories together with a hymn and prayers.

It was announced the river trip that we have enjoyed for many years each May will not take place this year. At our next meeting we are asking

Members to bring along a CD of their favourite piece of music or a reading/poem to share with us and perhaps to explain what it means to them. The meeting will take place in the larger Church Hall on Friday 13th. April at 2.30 pm.

Mike Garrett (764913)

OPEN CIRCLE

I thoroughly enjoyed last month's book, *The Trouble with*



Goats and Sheep, which was a lovely story, narrated largely through the eyes of two ten-year-olds, Tilly and Grace, who set out to discover what has happened to Mrs Creasey. Their naïve explorations, set against the secrets of the adult world which surrounds them, makes this an absorbing story, and highly recommended.



I'm not quite so sure about the novel for April, *The Seeker* by S.G. Maclean. On the surface it sounds like a good read, particularly if you enjoy C.J. Sansom's Shardlake novels, as Maclean's novel, like Sansom's, is set in the 17th Century, with a murder mystery at its heart. The Seeker of the title is in the pay of the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell, as he sets out to unmask the murderer of one of Cromwell's popular captains, and to save an innocent man from the gallows.

However, I've just finished chapter 3 and am becoming irritated and distracted by Maclean's style of writing. I like description to set the scene and convey the atmosphere of historical places, but Maclean doesn't know where to stop! His adjectives pile up along with multiple clauses so that the result is often clunky and unconvincing. However, perhaps I need to stick with it and read a bit more before I cast it aside. It will be interesting to find out what the rest of the group thinks of it.

Our meetings in April are on Wednesday 11th for discussion

of the novel, and 25th for coffee and chat, at the usual time of 10.30. Ring Margaret (672985), or Anne (764063) for venues. New members are always welcome.

Dianne White 756660
mrsdiannewhite@gmail.com

ALLINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Unfortunately we had to cancel our March meeting due to the bad weather (snow).

Our next meeting will be on April 5th when Kevin Tooher will be giving a talk on Pots & Baskets.

Hope to see you all then. We will also be taking bookings for for two outings this year and if anyone has any unwanted garden related gifts or plants please bring them for our bring and buy table which then helps with the clubs funds.

Pam Blake

MENS BREAKFAST

Once again a very good turn out with lively chat.



We also enjoyed some of Chris Cook's home-made marmalade.

We were given a very interesting and informative talk by James Alder about the work of CAST, (churches and schools together) which is part of The Family Trust in Maidstone.

We learnt from James that CAST is supported mainly by volunteers who visit schools to encourage pupils to understand the meaning to growing up and experiencing life's challeng-

ing obstacles and to help them through perhaps difficulties they may be experiencing during their studies, their social life or perhaps home life and that they should never feel spiritually alone, all of which is just a small part of CASTs function.

Our thanks to James.

Our meeting for 31st March has been cancelled as it is Easter Saturday.

Our next meeting will take place on Sat. 28th April and Trevor Cox of TWAM (Tools with a Mission) will be with us to give a talk about it's aims and objectives so please do bring any old or unwanted tools, electrical or otherwise to be renovated / repaired and sent to those in need abroad. If you are unable to be with us and have some tools to donate please do let me know.

Brian Davison 759278

ALLINGTON GUIDING



On the evening of 23rd February over 120 girls and their leaders from Allington went to Adventure Kidz in Aylesford for a sleepover to celebrate World Thinking Day which is the birthday of their founders, Lord & Lady Baden Powell.

All the girls arrived excited for the night ahead. After a safety briefing they were allowed to play on the equipment and the high ropes, stopping briefly for a sandwich, cake and plenty of squash. As the evening wore

on the girls started to become weary with the Rainbows first setting up their beds for the night, gradually the Brownies joined them and then the Guides. At 11:30pm the lights were turned out. Although the girls mainly got some sleep the Leaders did not and were on hand if needed!



At 6:30am the lights were switched back on and with lots of bleary eyes there was just time for a cereal bar and fruit for breakfast, packing of bags and one last go on the equipment until they were collected at 8:15am.

A brilliant time was had by all and a great opportunity for all the different age ranges and sections of girls to get together in one space and the leaders to catch up over (many) cups of tea and coffee.

Paula Savage
District Commissioner
paula.savage22@sky.com

The Lord's Prayer is not allowed in most U.S. Public schools any more. A student in Minnesota, USA wrote the following (and received an A* for his efforts!)

Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule
For this great nation under God
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If scripture now the class recites,
It violates the Bill of Rights.
And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or green,
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene..
The law is specific, the law is precise.
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall
Might offend someone with no faith at all..
In silence alone we must meditate,
God's name is prohibited by the State.

We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks...
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,
And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.
It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong,
We're taught that such 'judgments' do not belong..

We can get our condoms and birth controls,
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles...
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,
No word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess,
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:
Should I be shot; My soul please take!

Amen

(submitted by Shirley Rose)

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 01622 299715
stnicholas1@outlook.com**



Some of Billy Graham's notable quotes!

I've read the last page of the Bible, it's all going to turn out all right.

It is the Holy Spirit's job to convict, God's job to judge and my job to love.

My home is in Heaven. I'm just traveling through this world.

God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you.'

The only time my prayers are never answered is on the golf course.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Thursday 19th April 2.30pm

'Crossroads - Young Carers'



Notice April



Royal

Save t

Saturday

All welcome to j

watch the wedd

enjoy a picn



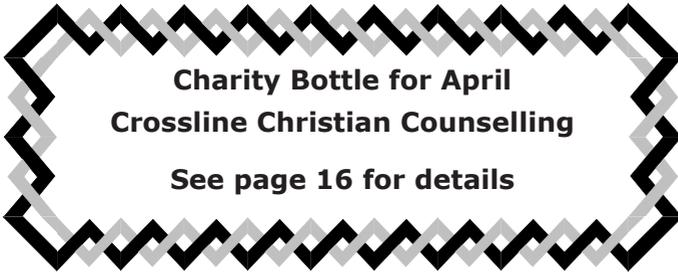
St Nicholas Fellowship



Friday 14th April 2.30pm

'Favourite Music or Poem'

Contact Mike Garratt for details 764913



Charity Bottle for April

Crossline Christian Counselling

See page 16 for details



We will meet on Saturday
28th April
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8.30am—9.30am
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- ☐ on a Friday. ☐
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- ☐ spend time with other new ☐
- ☐ parents and members of the ☐
- ☐ local community of all ages! ☐
- ☐ Next meeting ☐
- ☐ Friday 20th April ☐
- ☐ Do join us for coffee & ☐
- ☐ cake! ☐
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

No Saturday Club
this month!

Deadline for May Grapevine
Tuesday 10th April
Please send articles
and information to
Email:
grapevinemaidstone@outlook.com

Rotas for April

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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
April w/e				
1	A Waddams J Sargent		E Harrington D & M Derry	
8		A Redford C McInnes		R Froude J Harlock
15	D & B Davison		M Salvage D Salvage C Colyer	
22		I Redford S Lavender D Hayles		M Gentry G Garrett

Sanctuary Cleaning

April w/e

8	
15	A Hiam
22	
29	M Salvage

Flowers

S Tipping
A Wylie
P White
J Nicholson

Other Duties

Coffee

April w/e

1	Ian Redford & Mary Garrett
8	Ann Williams & Carol Jones
15	Mary & Chris Cook
22	Ruth Brind & Margaret Fagg

We welcome in to the family of the church

Hayden Duffield

We commend to the loving care of our Lord

Jean Hoad Elsie Porter Charlie Wells
Joan Young Kenneth McDuff

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Pupils taken from 2¹/₂ years to Adults

Dance for Fun, Dance for Fitness, or take
ISTD Examinations



**For further information
Call 01622 746835**

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 - Shed bases●
 - General property maintenance●
 - Gutters cleaned out●
-

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— we do them all**



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Direct line:-

0780 050 4442

Free
Estimates



ACA Castle Road Maidstone ME16 0PZ



Why not come and see
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- ◆ Licensed Bar with Sky Sports & BT Sports
- ◆ Family bar and Function Hall available for hire
- ◆ Lounge Bar over 18's only - also available for wakes (Catering available upon request)

Monday - Friday

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

April 2018

EASTER DAY

1	Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.00am	Easter Day Holy Communion
4	Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion with Mothers' Union
8	Sun	10.00am	OASIS Worship
9	Mon	8.30am	Morning Prayer
11	Wed	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion
		7.30pm	Evening Prayer
12	Thur	9.00am	Prayer Space
15	Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.00am	OASIS Communion
16	Mon	8.30am	Morning Prayer
18	Wed	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion
		7.30pm	Evening Prayer
19	Thur	9.00am	Prayer Space
21	Sat	11.00am	Messy Church Resurrection!
22	Sun	9.30am	OASIS
		11.00am	Holy Communion
23	Mon	8.30am	Morning Prayer
25	Wed	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion
		7.30pm	Evening Prayer
29	Thur	9.00am	Prayer Space
29	Sun	8.00am	Benefice Holy Communion - St Nicholas
		10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion - St Andrews
30	Mon	8.30am	Morning Prayer