

# Grapevine

May 2018

*The Parish Magazine of St. Nicholas, Allington*  
[stnicholasallington.org.uk](http://stnicholasallington.org.uk)



COME  
HOLY SPIRIT

PENTECOST

*And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.*

*Acts 2: 2*

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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](mailto:rev.chris@hotmail.co.uk)

Also for Banns of Marriage

(the form can be downloaded from the website).

***[www.stnicholasallington.org.uk](http://www.stnicholasallington.org.uk)***

***Jenny Stone - Parish Administrator***

***Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays 10.00am - 12 noon***

***Church Office ~ 01622 299715 (answerphone)***

***stnicholas1@outlook.com***

# St Nicholas Church

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## ***Sunday Services***

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

Following on from Easter myself, Sarah and a group, of all ages, from across both churches headed off to Butlins Minehead for a few days to experience the annual Christian event known as Spring Harvest.

Some of us had been before but for most it was the first time experiencing such an event where several thousand Christians gather to worship and to learn more about our faith. This was no holiday or quiet 'spiritual' retreat - the time was full on with no end of options available to plug into.

Personally I was very pleased to go to the bible study sessions led by priest, and theologian, Simon Ponsonby. His erudite and down to earth manner made these sessions most enjoyable and I could have listened to him all day.

I also took the opportunity to attend sessions on some of the hard questions of our faith, particularly;

how can I believe in a God who allows suffering?

how can I believe in a God who sends people to hell?

how can I believe in a God who is so old fashioned?

These were challenging topics but then it is good for us to be challenged from time to time.

There were also presentations by charities such as Mercy Ships, Care for the Family and Open Doors. All were engaging and those that went found the subjects presented were helpful and, at times, moving. Probably the most moving part of the week was at one of the evening celebrations when we heard the powerful testimony of a lady from North Korea who was persecuted for her faith - when she sang Amazing Grace in her native language, unaccompanied, there was hardly a dry eye in the arena and all gradually joined in to almost take the roof off.

I was very taken with a presentation from a charity called Kintsugi Hope that deals with issues of mental health. The founder led sessions on anxiety, depression, anger and perfectionism. He later came to the main arena as the speaker at an evening celebration and spoke powerfully about mental health. Many were moved by what he had to say and I wonder if this might be a charity that our parishes could connect with in some way, particularly when you take into account the fact that many within our communities struggle with such issues.

I have to say that whilst the style of worship at Spring Harvest may not be to everyone's taste (loud!!) I found it very uplifting and a perfect way of continuing the Easter celebrations where we live in the joy and the truth of the resurrection of our Lord and saviour, Jesus Christ.

I believe that all who went got something meaningful out of the experience that will add flavour to the life of the parishes. I am truly thankful for all that goes on in the name of Christ across both churches and pray that by the grace of God such work will continue.

**Every blessing,  
Rev Chris**



## THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE COMFORTER

At this time of the year we usually think about the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first disciples. Just after the resurrection, Jesus left this earth. He left behind in Jerusalem a seemingly unsure group of disciples. They had seen the crucifixion. They had witnessed the resurrection. Now Jesus, their leader for the last three or four years, had gone from them. They were on their own. But Jesus had told them that a new source of blessing would come to them. They would receive the Holy Spirit.



This Holy Spirit had already been mentioned in the Gospels. Luke tells us that Jesus, at the start of his adult ministry, was baptised in the River Jordan. Then, the Holy Spirit came upon him. Shortly afterwards, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, was led out into the wilderness to cope with temptation. Afterwards Jesus began preaching in the local synagogue with the words "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me".

Jesus then went on to gather round him an unlikely group of disciples. He was inspired or led to tell them more about the Kingdom of God. He talked to the people in picture language or parables that they could easily understand. We have the story of the Good Samaritan who stopped to look after a Jewish man left robbed and beaten by the roadside. We read of the prodigal son who ran off with money from his father, realised he had done wrong, and welcomed back by his father. There is a story of looking for a lost sheep and looking for a lost coin. Jesus, guided by the power of the Holy Spirit in him, spoke about his Father who welcomed his faithful followers but went far beyond this to welcome those who were outside or lost.

In John's Gospel, (chapter 14: onwards), Jesus starts to prepare his disciples for the time that he would no longer be physically with them. Yet, they would not be left on their own. The disciples would themselves receive a new source of inner strength and guidance. Jesus told them that the Holy Spirit will abide with you and will be in you. Here, different versions of the Bible use a different word to describe the Holy Spirit, such as helper (GNB) or advocate (NIV). To this writer, the more old fashioned word "comforter" has a warmer ring to it.

'Comforter' does not promise a perfect world. But it speaks of a

source of guidance and advice, an inner source of inspiration.

No sooner had Jesus made this promise than we have the great events of the last supper, the betrayal by Judas, the crucifixion by the Romans, and the resurrection, all in a few days. Soon after, Jesus would physically leave this earth to be with his Father. Yet the disciples stayed together in Jerusalem.

Luke, in his second book, Acts of the Apostles, tells what happened next. How on the Day of Pentecost the disciples, now on their own, went out in the power of the Holy Spirit, and everything that followed on from that.

## **Robin Hiam**

### **MAIDSTONE DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

#### **Venue @ St. Martin's Church Shepway**

The meeting was divided into Open ( visitors) and Closed ( Clergy and Laity Deanery Synod members)

#### **A) Open Meeting.**

Addresses given by Bishop Trevor, Archdeacon Stephen and Julian Hills the Diocesan Secretary.

The addresses and subsequent discussions covered the New Diocesan Strategy " Changed Lives –Changing Lives" see pamphlet at rear of church for further information.

#### **B) Closed Meeting**

i) Way Point—A short film was shown illustrating the successes and inputs during 2017. These included drama productions throughout Maidstone ie. Walk to Bethlehem and Martin Luther. It is hoped to continue the ethos of Waypoint but financial issues and attracting volunteers may make the project prohibitive.

ii) Parish Share and the Way Forward.

iii) Eco-Church and the Environment.

A suggestion was offered that individual churches discuss how each can protect the environment, repairing issues that we each have created and are responsible for.

## **Alan Foreman**

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### **With Pentecost in Mind.....**

He who has the Holy Spirit in his heart and the Scriptures in his hands has all he needs. *A MacLaren*

We could not pray at all were it not for the Holy Spirit. *D Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

The Spirit is the source of all our natural gifts. *D MacLeod*

# **St Nicholas Church Christmas Tree Festival**



**SAVE  
THE DATE**

**14th—16th  
December 2018**



**You are invited to join us in  
contributing a tree of your  
own design.**



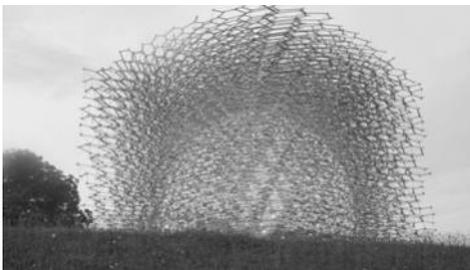
**Further details to  
follow later in the year.**

**Contact Karen Hunter  
or Ruth Brind  
via the office on  
[stnicholas1@outlook.com](mailto:stnicholas1@outlook.com)**



## St. Andrew's Parish Outing - Saturday 1st September 2018

Our destination this year is Kew gardens. It is home to the world's largest collection of living plants and fungi. The glasshouses contain a wide variety of plants including palms, water lilies, alpines, orchids and much more. The largest, the Temperate House has recently been restored and will reopen to the public in May this year. The Hive is a new attraction to highlight the plight of the honeybee - it is 55 feet high and is connected to a real beehive. Microchips inside the beehive detect the bees' movement, which then activates a light and soundscape in The Hive itself. The Great Pagoda is reopening this summer and after a challenging climb of 253 steps you will be rewarded with spectacular views of London!



Tickets for this are limited and need to be booked in advance. The Kew Explorer is a hop on, hop off land train service, with driver commentary, which has regular departures throughout the day. There are seven stops around the Gardens giving the opportunity to

explore the further parts of the Gardens.

The cost, including admission to Kew, will be Adults - £30, age 60+ - £28 and children 4 - 16 - £20.

I can order tickets for the Kew Explorer for £4 adult and £1.50 children. The Great Pagoda is £4.50 adults and £3 children. The coach will leave Fant Hall, Fant Lane at gam. For more information please do contact me.

Liz Deane tel 204569

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

## **Those Wonderful Church Bulletins!**

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

And this one just about sums them all up:

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

**Submitted by Elsa Harrington**

Free Afternoon Film Event

# PADDINGTON 2

St Nicholas Church  
Refreshments Available

Saturday 12th May 2018 3:00pm



## Reflections of a Reader

At the Palm Sunday Service Rev Chris presented me with a Certificate signed by Bishop Trevor and two lovely gifts to mark my retirement after fifteen years of Reader Ministry. My grateful thanks go to all at St. Nicholas for their love and support during those years. It was very special to see some in the congregation who were there at the beginning, so to speak, at Canterbury Cathedral when I and ten others were presented with our Blue scarf and a Bible signed by Bishop Graham. A huge thank you to you all.



It was suggested that I send something to Grapevine about those fifteen years. However, how on earth can I write a short article that will even begin to do justice to those years - all I have learned, the people I have met, the places I have been to. After some thought, I have picked out three occasions that I would never have experienced had I not embarked on this journey as a Reader.

Firstly, I was told that I qualified to join the library at Rochester Cathedral, so I sent off my application and shortly afterwards received my membership ticket. I duly presented myself to an official and was directed down a stone lined corridor near the altar. I arrived at a very modern office and handed two keys; one being a Yale type and the other large, ancient and very heavy. The door to which I was directed was normal, fairly modern looking, and opened with the Yale key. Inside, however, was another - this time a huge oak door with iron hinges that looked positively medieval. This led to a large oak panelled room containing a number of vestments, glass cases displaying documents and photos, depicting the history of the cathedral, as well as shelves of ancient books. However, amongst all these fascinating items there was a very well equipped library containing many of the books on my reading list. What a place - and what a privilege to be given access to somewhere like that.

Secondly, one of our Saturday training days took place in the refectory of St. Nicholas, Harbledown. To quote from a guidebook of Canterbury, "Of all the ancient charitable foundations of the City none can compare for beauty of situation with that of St. Nicholas, Harbledown perched on a grassy knoll beside the high road to London with the finest chapel of all and a unique collection of ma-

zer bowls (begging bowls carried by lepers)". It was founded around 1090 for lepers (it is one mile outside Canterbury and it was considered to be a safe distance from the City). I was determined to visit this beautiful place again so one Tuesday morning Mike and I attended the weekday Service in the ancient chapel. We were made so welcome. After leprosy died out around 1370 the foundation became a collection of almshouses for the elderly and it remains as such today. On the day we arrived, one of the residents was celebrating a special birthday and after the Service we were invited to join the residents for wine and birthday cake. We were then able to stroll around the well kept gardens. That was another highlight.

For my third and most special memory I go back to my third year of training which by this time had moved from Rochester to Canterbury. Most of the lectures were in the evenings at the Education Block in the Cathedral precincts, and the doors were just opposite the cathedral itself I would come out of the evening's lecture at around 9.30 p.m.. Everything was silent, dark and deserted, except that right in front of me was that glorious cathedral - floodlit - just for me!

These are just three of the many memories of my training that I shall never forget. **Mary Garrett.**



## THY KINGDOM COME

**Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international call to prayer.**

**As part of the event a global wave of prayer is taking place between the 10<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018. St Nicholas' Church will be taking part through a prayer maze. A small number of interactive prayer stations focussing on the Lord's Prayer will be set up in the church throughout the ten days. Anyone can come along between 8.30 and 5 o'clock on each of the ten days and take part by follow the simple instructions on display. The aim is to pray for people to come to know Jesus but also to enrich our own prayer life.**



A 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



*Royal Wedding!*

**Saturday 19th May**

**Come and Join us to Celebrate!**

**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**

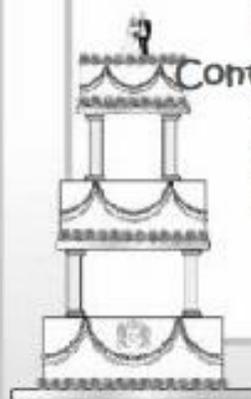
**to include lunch and a street party in the  
Car park!**

**More details or to book**

**Contact Fiona on 07951 777854**

**Latest booking date**

**Wednesday 16th May**



## **Looking at the Church in UK and Worldwide**

### **No escape clauses**

I've noticed a sudden increase in the number of banns of marriage being read in our church. I suspect that a few couples reckon it would be a nice idea to get married in the same month as Prince Harry and his bride Meghan – at least you'll be regularly reminded of the date!

But I hope, and believe, that some couples are not just looking for a bit of reflected glamour on the occasion, but instead are wanting to share in its solemnity. After all, they will make (if they marry in church) exactly the same awesome vows as the royal couple. 'I Harry take you, Meghan, to be my wife; to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish till parted by death.' Wow! I remember one young man at a wedding preparation saying, when I read out those words, 'No escape clauses, then? No, there aren't.

On a wedding day we celebrate the joining together of two people for life. Their commitment is not based on rules, laws or tradition, but on love: 'to love and to cherish'. Sadly, on occasions that commitment may prove unattainable, in the complexity of human relationships. But the great majority of marriages which begin with those vows are indeed life-long and life-giving.

Harry and Meghan will be surrounded by a nationwide burst of goodwill as they set out on their journey together. It will be a good time to hold every married couple, young or old, in our prayers.

**Canon David Winter**

### **Chinese church growing – despite persecution**

A former house church leader, prisoner of faith, and one of the leading voices for the persecuted Church in China, Bob Fu has recently warned that the persecution of Christians in China is worsening and is now as severe as at any time since the Cultural Revolution.

Bob Fu was one of the original Chinese pro-democracy campaigners and founder of China Aid. On a recent visit to London, through the help of Release International, he said that despite the increasingly open persecution of Christians in China, the growth of Christianity there seems unstoppable. 'Under communism, Christianity has grown from one million Christians in China to an estimated 100 million today.'

Some sociologists project that the number of Chinese Christians

will exceed 220 million by 2030 – making China the largest Christianised nation in the world. Meanwhile, China is arresting pastors, pulling down crosses and demolishing churches. Christian human rights lawyers claim they are being intimidated and tortured, and lawyer Li Baiguang, who had been an outspoken campaigner for religious freedom, died in suspicious circumstances this Spring.

## **Church Mission Society shines spotlight on ‘vital, but hard to fund’ mission in the UK**

In parts of the UK, there is a kind of poverty more profound than in Uganda. This is the view of Rev Jenny Green, a missionary working with Church Mission Society on the Faxfleet estate in Bradford.

Prior to being community chaplain in Bradford, Jenny Green spent 20 years with CMS in Kisoro, south west Uganda, where she set up Potter’s Village, a children’s crisis and medical centre. And while it is true that one third of the population of Uganda subsists on less than \$2 a day, Jenny points out that at least: “In Kisoro, almost everyone has someone... there is help from extended family networks and the local community. But in Faxfleet, as in many other parts of the UK, community and even primary family structures are so broken that many find themselves completely destitute.”

Jenny tells of one woman in Bradford who spent three months living in a tent in the woods, with no income or benefits, surviving on food from her local food bank. For many in the area, ‘vandalism, arson and fly-tipping are rife, and people are frightened and lonely. A few frail elderly people find themselves unable to sell the homes they bought years ago, as their value has been so eroded. They’ve been joined by people from a mix of nationalities, unfamiliar with each other’s cultures and languages, and struggling in isolation with their own issues.’

As a community chaplain with Church Mission Society (CMS), Jenny helps bridge the gap between church and community, supporting those whose lives have been torn apart by poverty, unemployment and family breakdown.

Naomi Steinberg, CMS head of communications, said, ‘People don’t realise how much work CMS does in the UK. Unfortunately, this vital UK mission can be harder to raise support for. But the reality is that so many others in our nation feel utterly abandoned and without hope or help. Yet they matter so dearly to God.’

To read more about Church Mission Society’s work in the UK go to [www.churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope](http://www.churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope).

**Editorial material from Parish Pump**

## **Charity of the Month Christian Aid**

We are the international development agency for 41 sponsoring churches and keen to serve and work with other churches, too. We were established so that the sponsoring churches and others 'could respond to Christ's command to care for all in need'.

Our values are rooted in our Christian belief and are based on our understanding of relational theology, which asserts that human beings are called to have a special relationship with God and in turn to have a particular relationship with one another.

Everything we do is in response to God's gift to the world, of his son Jesus Christ. Jesus promised 'good news' for the poor and 'freedom' for the oppressed, calling us to action.

Jesus called his followers to 'love God and love your neighbour'. Through his life and teaching, his death and his resurrection, he inspired his followers to love God, love their neighbours and long for justice.



## **Canterbury Monks**

My boyfriend was working as an attendant in Canterbury Cathedral when one afternoon he was approached by two American tourists. "Are you a monk?" one of the women asked eagerly.

"No," he replied, "I wear this robe as part of my job, but I'm not a member of any religious order."

"Then where are the monks?" asked the woman, looking around. My boyfriend explained: 'Oh, there haven't been any monks here since 1415.' Hearing this, the woman looked at her watch and announced to her friend, 'Betty, we missed the monks.'

## **Signs of the Times**

My 10 year-old niece says her prayers every night and instead of 'amen', she says 'click, send.'

## **Parish Pump**

# Youth & Organisations News

## Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Our Wednesday morning Communion Service is on **2 May** at 10.00am. Hopefully, you will all come as this service is followed at 11.00am by our annual fund-raising **Coffee Morning and Light lunch**. We will also have a Bring & Buy and a Raffle. The proceeds will go towards the Canterbury Diocese Mothers' Union Projects.

Our monthly meeting on Thursday **24 May (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday)** at 2.30pm is a talk by Marianna and Jean Sweetman about their visit to the Ugandan Refugee Camp. All are welcome to attend. Cathedral Prayer Time is on Thursday **31 May** at 12.00 noon in the crypt.

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



### **ALLINGTON CASTLE**

For our May meeting we have our AGM. This is always an interesting meeting when we elect our committee and back track over what we've done in the past year.

In June our speaker is Wilf Lower and the subject will be 'Lost Empires.' We have booked our Christmas lunch already (you have to get in early these days!)



If you would like to come along to one of our meetings we meet on the third Wednesday of the month at St Nicks small hall 7 for 7.30.

### **Pat Gibbons**

#### **ST NICHOLAS FELLOWSHIP**

The meeting opened with Beryl saying a prayer to reflect the very sad passing of our dear friend and member Donald Bish. He will be sadly missed by all.

Fiona started by reading a passage from a book written by Michèle Guinness titled 'Chosen' about a Jewish families culture which was very entertaining.

We then had the pleasure of listening to a recording by Fleetwood Mac, 'Albatross', supplied by Michael which we found very relaxing. This was followed with Julian reading Bishop Trevor Wilmot's Easter message which was appreciated by all that hadn't heard it.

Rosemary supplied us with a recording of Russell Watson's recording of 'You Don't Have To Say You Love Me' which he sang in Italian. 'Did Cilla Black record this song also??'

Following tea Roger shared a recording of several variations of 'Waltzing Matilda' played by Robert Ampt and Amy Johnson on the Ronald Sharp organ from the Sydney Opera House' I will have to ask Roger if he got to play the organ whilst he was there! Alan then gave us a reading from a book titled 'Poetry Please'. He read "A Diary of a Church Mouse' which was very funny. Perhaps we could have it reproduced for our Grape-



vine magazine. Finally Shirley Rose reminded us of the 1950's when ration books were still being used, television was still only for the more well off, the coronation of our Queen, the Suez crises and many other 50's memories.

We finished with Beryl playing piano and all singing 'Look for a Silver Lining' and 'When You're Smiling' followed by a prayer once again remembering our dear friend Donald. Our next meeting will take place in the main hall on 18th May at 2.30 when we will have the pleasure of James Alder talking about the work of CAST (Churches and Schools Together ).

### **Mike Garrett (764913)**

#### **OPEN CIRCLE**

Despite my initial reservations, *The Seeker* turned out to be a very enjoyable read.

It seemed that as soon as the stage had been set in infuriating and, sometimes, unnecessary detail, the novel moved on at a good pace with the central character of the Seeker, well drawn. Set in the time of the Commonwealth under Cromwell it was a murder mystery with lots of twists and a range of interesting characters. There will be more in the series, so worth looking out for.

Our May read is *The Essex Serpent* by Sarah Perry. If the reviews on the back, and the blurb inside, are to be believed, this looks like being an interesting, intelligent read. Set in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it covers a variety of themes including life, love and belief, science and religion.

Our meetings in May are on 9<sup>th</sup> for the discussion of the book, and the 23<sup>rd</sup> for coffee and chat. Do ring Margaret (672985) or Anne

(764063) for venues. All are welcome at any meetings.

**Dianne White 756660**  
**mrsdiannewhite@gmail.com**

#### **ALLINGTON GARDEN CLUB**

At our last meeting Kevin Toohar gave a really excellent talk on pots and baskets.

He showed and explained what they can be made of, their size, what type of compost and feed to use and the best way to mix and use water retaining crystals. He also spoke about plants that can be put in containers/pots and also when to re-pot them on. He was very knowledgeable and kept our attention throughout. It was a brilliant evening.

We will NOT be having a May meeting in the Church Hall due to the local elections so instead we will be having an afternoon visit to Spadework, Teston Road, Offham ME19 5NA from 2-4 using our own cars.

It was nice to see some new faces and we hope they will join us again and maybe become future members.

Our first outing is getting well supported so don't leave it too long before booking seats.

### **Pam Blake**

#### **ALLARA** **Allington Active** **Retirement Association**

At the end of February we held our usual Beetle Drive, which is always great fun and a good way to meet other Members. March saw 50 of us on a very interesting outing to 'Legal London' with a guide taking us around all the Inns of Court and the Royal Courts of Justice. A few of us sat in on a procedure in progress. Nothing like on the TV



where everything is over in an hour! Our monthly meeting had speakers from the British Legion Industries at Aylesford. What an eyeopener to hear how much goes on there. Well worth a visit and perhaps some volunteering. Our meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2pm in St. Nicholas Church Hall. More information can be obtained from our website [allara.org.uk](http://allara.org.uk) or from Phillip on **01622 686305**

## TREFOIL GUILD

Our April meeting held at Allington Library found us making bunting in readiness for our 75th Trefoil Celebrations later in the year. Thank you to Christine for running the evening.

Our next meeting on the 1st May will be a visit from SERV Kent Blood Runners.

We went as a group to see Guys and Dolls at the Hazlitt Theatre. It was a lovely show, enjoyed by us all.

19th May will be our Spring Walk as it is the day of the Royal Wedding and the Cup Final we hope that the weather will be kind to us.

## **Daphne Butler** **01622 676836** **WESTBOROUGH** **BOWLS CLUB**

Although the bowls playing season does not start until the beginning of May, a tremendous amount of work is done by the members during April to get the green and grounds in top condition ready for the beginning of the season. So much depends on the weather and we have had our fingers crossed that everything will be done in time.



The highlight of our May programme is our **Open Day**. This will be on **Saturday 26th May** from **2pm to 5pm** and is a great opportunity for anyone to have a go at the game of bowls. No equipment is required but all that we ask is that flat soled shoes are worn. Trainers with minimal ridges on the soles are perfectly acceptable. We just need to ensure that the green is not damaged. If you have ever fancied trying the game, I would encourage you to come along. Help and advice (and refreshments!) will be available and you will be assured of a warm welcome. The club is accessible from **Cloudberry Close** off Buckland Lane or via the far end of the **Pip-pin** pub car park.

If you are unable to make the Open Day, you are very welcome to turn up at a roll-up (informal practice game). These are held on Mondays at 3pm and Thursdays at 5pm and are due to start at the beginning of May. Just contact me for further information.

Finally a big "thank you" to a very generous Allington resident who has offered their bowls to the club as they are no longer able to play. I won't embarrass them by naming names but the gesture is very much appreciated and the bowls will be used to help new players get started.

**Steve Cordery (725650)**  
**steve@westboroughbowls.co.uk**  
**www.westboroughbowls.co.uk**

## **BOWER MOUNT MEDICAL PRACTICE**

Bower Mount Medical Practice PPG has arranged a talk on "Parkinson's Disease" at 7:00pm on Tuesday May 15th, at the Surgery. All patients registered at the Practice are welcome to come.

## **When the Spirit Comes**

**Before the Spirit came, you were just words on a page,  
Black on white and yellowed with age.**

**Simply a story of long ago,  
Of a man who had so much love to show;  
Who healed the sick and cured the lame;  
Took our guilt and bore our shame.  
It sounded so good, but it just couldn't last.  
It was not for today but locked in the past.  
Until the Spirit came.**

**Now the Spirit has come, you are here at my side,  
Larger than life and ready to guide;  
Making real to me all that you said  
And doing through me the things that I read.  
I am the glove that your hand has filled;  
I am the cup into which you have spilled  
All the love and the power which you promised would come,  
Right now in the present and for everyone.  
Since the Spirit came.**

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# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Thursday 24th May 2.30pm  
'Visit to Ugandan Refugee Camps'  
Marianna Poliszczuk &  
Jean Sweetman



# Notice May

St Nicholas Fellowship

Friday 18th May 2.30pm

'CAST' - Churches and Schools Together

James Alder

Contact Mike Garrett for details 764913



Charity Bottle for May  
Christian Aid

See page 16 for details



Royal

Saturday

Page 13 f



We will meet on Saturday  
26th May  
Main Hall

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Brian 01622 759278

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## 2018



Wedding

Friday 19th May

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☐	parents and members of the								☐
☐	local community of all ages!								☐
☐	Next meeting								☐
☐	Friday 11th May								☐
☐	Do join us for coffee & cake!								☐
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No Saturday Club  
this month!

Deadline for June Grapevine  
Thursday 10th May  
Please send articles  
and information to  
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# Rotas for May

## LOCAL CHEMISTS' ROTA

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

**Lloyds Pharmacy**, Mid Kent Shopping Centre Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30 pm, Saturday 9am-5pm.

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

## CHURCH ROTAS

### Sidespeople

	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>11.00am</b>
May w/e				
6	A Waddams J Sargent		E Harrington D & M Derry	
13		A Redford C McInnes		R Froude J Harlock
20	D & B Davison		M Salvage D Salvage C Colyer	
27		I Redford S Lavender D Hayles		M Gentry G Garrett

### Sanctuary Cleaning

May w/e

6	
13	A Harries
20	
27	N Bailey

### Flowers

6	D Davison
13	D Davison/K Hunter
20	S Tipping
27	A Wylie

## Other Duties

### Coffee

May w/e

6	Caroline McInnes & John Tester
13	Margaret Salvage & Michael Froude
20	Anna Harries & Christine Colyer
27	Sarah Lavender & Bob Butcher

## We welcome in to the family of the church

Lenny Phillips

## We commend to the loving care of our Lord

Donald Bish

David Roberts  
Valerie McGeorge

David Jackson

**MAY HALF TERM**

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*12.30pm—3.30pm 11yrs +*

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4 Cavendish Way, **BEARSTED**, Maidstone, ME15 8PW

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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](mailto: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 &amp; 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

**Tel.enquiries**

**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>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup></i>	01622 756475
ALLARA	1.00pm - 4.30pm ~ <i>3<sup>rd</sup></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 &amp; 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 1<sup>st</sup></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>1<sup>st</sup></i>	01622 754855
Mid Kent Fuchsia Group	7.15pm - 10.15pm ~ <i>2<sup>nd</sup></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>2<sup>nd</sup></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>1<sup>st</sup></i>	01732 823383
Clouds Youth Group	1.30pm - 4.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	07886 566984
Mid Kent Metal Detecting Club	6.30pm-10pm ~ <i>2<sup>nd</sup></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

# May 2018

2	Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion with Mothers' Union
3	Thur	9.00am	Prayer Space
6	Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.00am	Morning Worship
		5.00pm	<b>OASIS in the Afternoon</b>
7	Mon	8.30am	Morning Prayer
9	Wed	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion
		7.30pm	Evening Prayer
10	Thur	9.00am	Prayer Space
12	Sat	3.00pm	<b>Paddington 2 in Church</b>
13	Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion
		9.30am	<b>OASIS PRAISE</b>
		11.00am	Holy Communion
14	Mon	8.30am	Morning Prayer
16	Wed	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion
		7.30pm	Evening Prayer
17	Thur	9.00am	Prayer Space
19	Sat	11.00am	<b>Messy Church Royal Wedding!</b>
20	Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.00am	<b>OASIS Communion</b>
21	Mon	8.30am	Morning Prayer
23	Wed	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion
		7.30pm	Evening Prayer
24	Thur	9.00am	Prayer Space
27	Sun	9.30am	<b>OASIS</b>
		11.00am	Holy Communion
28	Mon	8.30am	Morning Prayer
30	Wed	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion
		7.30pm	Evening Prayer
31	Thur	9.00am	Prayer Space