

# Grapevine

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



**December 2018**



*A Happy and Joyous Christmas  
to all our readers!*

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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 & Wednesdays 10.00am - 12 noon***

***Fridays 9.00am - 10.00am***

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

**[stnicholas1@outlook.com](mailto: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.....



'Advent is here as we count down to Christmas. Many will do that with an Advent Calendar - I used to as a child, although in a more traditional way with each door that was opened revealing a character from the Christmas story. Such Advent Calendars do still exist but the vast majority will have a secular perspective rather than a religious one, and each door opened will reveal a sweet or a piece of chocolate - as I understand it there are ones available that have miniature bottles of alcohol each day (I am no prude but I find this worrying).

As Christians it is important to recognise that the event that we are counting down to is so much more than a public holiday, a family gathering or a time to party. It is also so much more than a cute story of a baby in a manger, carol singing and presents.

The story behind the story is about a world in need of a saviour. What do we need to be saved from you might ask? A good question. The story behind the story takes us back to the first book of the bible and the characters of Adam and Eve who, as the pinnacle of God's creation, have been given a privileged position in that creation and yet choose to take their own path to 'enlightenment' with the desire to become self-accountable and not subject to a higher power, thereby breaking a significant relationship.

Whatever you may think of these characters, and this story, I am sure we all get the point it is making in that we, as 'humanity' (the underlying meaning of the name Adam), continue to choose to take a path which leads away from God. This has consequences. The 'salvation' we need is from the nature within us that chooses to take the other path and from the consequences of our actions, whether as individuals or humanity in general.

I have a very real concern that secularism in the western world is leading us away from God (don't get me wrong, I think the church has much to answer for in all of this). Somehow our underlying 'need' for God has been written out of the agenda as humanity presses on with its own 'agenda'.

And yet every year along comes Christmas with all its bells and whistles and somehow, for most, the real point of '*God entering this world to save it from itself, because that's how much he cares*' goes whistling by faster than Santa in his sleigh.

I really do hope, and pray, that you have a happy and peaceful Advent and Christmas. I also hope that you find space and time to reflect on the cosmic significance of just what it is that we are supposed to be celebrating - invite God in, He might just surprise you!

**Rev Chris**

## ZECHARIAH IN THE TEMPLE

This time my background reading has taken me into a scene very early in Luke's Gospel normally skipped over. About a year before the gathering at the crib, Zechariah was a priest on duty in the magnificent temple at Jerusalem offering up the incense. What has this scene got to tell me?

In the Temple in Jerusalem, each morning and evening, a sacrifice was made for the whole nation. A burnt offering of a male lamb, one year old, without spot or blemish, was offered, together with a meat offering of flour and oil and a drink offering of wine. Before the morning sacrifice and after the evening sacrifice incense was burned on the altar of incense so that, as it were, the sacrifices might go up to God in an envelope of sweet smelling incense. It was quite a privilege for a priest to be on duty to offer up this incense.

On this day the lot fell to Zechariah and he would have been thrilled to the core of his being. While the crowd outside were in prayer, he went into the great Temple Building. It was huge. It probably covered an area of twelve present day football pitches. Salisbury Cathedral would have probably fitted into one of the colonnades. Zechariah would have been using a procedure followed for hundreds of years.

The offering of incense was part of an elaborate and detailed procedure of animal and bird sacrifices set out in a number of holy books of what is now called the Old Testament. For example, there was a sacrifice to redeem the first born son (Book of Exodus chapter 34), a sacrifice to make peace (Leviticus 3), sacrifices to do away with guilt (Leviticus 4-7), a sacrifice for the national Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16), sacrifices made for sin (Numbers 15) and back to Exodus (Chapter 29) for a commandment given to offer a lamb, morning and evening, day by day, in the Temple Sanctuary.

It was the system in place at the time. It did offer people some forgiveness for wrongs. It was complicated, only went so far and was at times quite messy. It was the way of doing things laid down in the ancient scriptures. All this may seem a bit ancient, a bit odd. Yet, Luke goes on to tell us that on that day Zechariah in the Temple had a very different experience. As he stood by the altar an Angel of the Lord appeared to him and told him that he and his quite elderly wife, Elizabeth, would have a son.

Today, we know that this son of Zechariah would grow into the person we know as John the Baptist. He would offer people a much simpler and profound way of receiving forgiveness, baptism by water. We also read that even all this was but a preparation for someone even greater who was about to appear.

Perhaps, from that starting point, the traditional Christmas story of Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, the shepherds and the wise men, can have another

dimension.

Note. Books used were The Gospel of Luke by William Barclay 1975 and God with Us by Rowan Williams 2017, page 22 onwards.

**Robin Hiam**



**Maidstone Choral Union**

# Christmas Concert

Saturday December 8th 2018 at 7.30pm  
All Saints Church, Mill Street, Maidstone

## Carols for Choir and Audience

The Messiah Part 1  
Hallelujah Chorus



Tickets £12 unreserved. Children and students half price

Available on the door,  
from Marion Heredia at  
[marionheredia@yahoo.com](mailto:marionheredia@yahoo.com)  
and from choir members.



[maidstonechoralunion.org.uk](http://maidstonechoralunion.org.uk)  
RCM 1059214



**Christmas Events  
at St Nicholas Church and in the halls**

**Sunday 16th December  
5.00pm Lessons & Carols**

**Christmas Eve Monday 24th December**



**11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion**

**Christmas Day Tuesday 25th December**

**8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Oasis Communion**



## WHO ARE THEY?

### Where did all the Christian denominations come from?

#### This month: The Church of England

The Church of England is the largest Christian denomination in England and is the Established Church of the country. It is also the 'Mother Church' of the world-wide Anglican Communion which is composed of thirty-eight provinces and has a total membership of about 73 millions.

The word 'Anglican' comes from the Latin *ecclesia anglicana*, meaning 'the English Church.' The Church of England as it exists today emerged from the English Reformation in the early 16th century, but it prefers to trace its history to the arrival of Augustine in Kent in 597AD. Augustine (? – 604?) was a monk sent to England by Pope Gregory the Great. His mission was two-fold; to convert the pagan tribes in England and to bring all English Christians under the jurisdiction of Rome.

While there is no certain evidence as to when the Christian faith was first brought to England, or by whom, there is good evidence that it had arrived by at least 200AD. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland (390? – 461?), had established the Celtic Church in Ireland by the 430s. Celtic missionaries took the Christian faith to the Scottish island of Iona and later to Lindisfarne, or Holy Island, off the north-east coast of England.

By the time Augustine arrived in England in 597, the Celtic Church was well established. Augustine set up his headquarters at Canterbury in Kent and became the first Archbishop of Canterbury. In 664, at the Synod of Whitby in Yorkshire, Celtic and Roman Christianity merged because Augustine's successors had the power and influence of the Roman Church behind them.

It was during the reign of King Henry V<sup>11</sup> that the Reformation arrived in England. Henry, a devout Roman Catholic, wanted a 'reformation' in the English Church to get rid of abuses but he did not want a Protestant 'Reformation.' The writings of Martin Luther, the German Reformer, were burned in London in 1521 and King Henry was totally opposed to all forms of Protestantism, whether it was Lutheranism, or Zwinglianism, or Calvinism or Anabaptism. William Tyndale (1494? – 1536) had to flee from England and seek protection on the Continent when he began his translation of the Bible into English. He was finally tracked down and executed for the 'crime' of translating Scripture. The Reformation really began to take hold in England during the reign of Henry's son, Edward V<sup>1</sup> (1537-1553) and was finally and permanently established in the reign of Edward's half-sister, Elizabeth I (1533-1603).

From the time of Henry V<sup>11</sup>, and down to the present, all English monarchs have had the title 'Supreme Governor of the Church of England.' This makes the Church of England the Established Church in the country and explains

why all coronations, royal weddings and funerals are conducted at Anglican cathedrals and never in non-conformist or Roman Catholic churches. It also explains why all England's kings and queens, from an Act of Settlement in 1701, must be of the Protestant faith and be a member of the Church of England.

The Church of England regards itself as both Catholic and Reformed. The description 'Catholic' does not mean Roman Catholic; rather it refers to a continuation of the true New Testament and Apostolic Church. The adjective 'Reformed' points to the Church of England holding the doctrines of the 16th century Reformation in opposition to the cardinal doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church.

The doctrines of the Church of England are laid out in its Thirty-Nine Articles which were first published in 1553 as Forty-Two Articles. These Articles strongly and explicitly affirm Reformed Christianity. The other foundational formulae of the Church of England are the Homilies, a collection of doctrinal sermons published for the education of the clergy between 1547 and 1571, and the Book of Common Prayer, first issued in 1549. The Catholic ethos of the Church of England is seen most clearly in the Anglo-Catholic wing of the Church while the Reformed emphasis is found in the Evangelical wing.

The spiritual head of the Church of England is the Archbishop of Canterbury, currently the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby, appointed in 2013. The Church of England's administration includes the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. The Church of Ireland, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church in Wales, are independent Churches in the Anglican Communion.

The Church of England is regulated by its legislative body, the General Synod. The decisions made by the General Synod must have the approval of the British Parliament, the House of Commons. Following this approval these decisions must receive Royal Assent, after which they become part of the constitution of the Established Church. The Rectors and Vicars of the Church of England are appointed by Patrons, who may be individuals or corporate bodies or Trusts. Some appointments are in the control of the Crown. One of the most influential Trusts that appoint parish ministers is the Simeon Trust, named after the Rev. Charles Simeon (1759-1836), who, for almost fifty-four years, was the very influential evangelical Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Cambridge. All Church of England parish ministers swear a royal Oath of Allegiance at their induction service.

*Dr H B McGonigle is Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology, Church History and Wesley Studies in Nazarene Theological College, Manchester, England.*

**Originally published in 2007 - Parish Pump**



*Friends in Harmony present  
at*

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH,  
TONBRIDGE ROAD  
BARMING HEATH ME16 9LW

# CHRISTMAS VOICES

**FRIDAY**

**7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

**7.30pm**

Carols Old And New, Choruses And Readings

ADMISSION AND REFRESHMENTS FREE

COLLECTION IN AID OF

KENT YOUNG CARERS



**St Nicholas Allington**

*and let us exalt His name together!*

**OASIS Praise  
Sunday 9th December  
at 9.30am**

**Praise  
service**

### **MOTHERS' UNION GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED**



For many years it has been the practice for Mothers' Union members of local branches to donate gifts for patients and residents of Priority House and the Trevor Gibbons Unit. These gifts are often the only presents that the patients receive and they are sometimes moved to tears when they receive their gift.

The gifts are taken to the Voluntary Services Unit in Priority House who arrange for their distribution to the various wards and units. We are advised not to include items such as scarves, belts, breakable items such as glass, razors or any items with which the patients could inflict self-harm.

There are three adult wards in Priority House as well as Orchard Villa, a unit for elderly patients with dementia. Gifts also go to the longer term residents in the Trevor Gibbons Unit which is a forensic unit occupied by patients with criminal records who have long term mental health problems. Gifts are also sent to residents of community homes run by the Mental Health Trust.

Thank you so much for your generous gifts which are so much appreciated by patients and residents with mental health issues.

**JOHN SWEETMAN**

December 14-16th 2018  
St. Nicholas Church

Poplar Grove, Maidstone,  
ME16 0DE

# Christmas Tree Festival

**COME AND SEE THE TREES!**

Fri. 14th Dec 12pm - 9pm

Sat. 15th Dec 9am - 9pm

Sun. 16th Dec 9am - 5pm

concluding with  
a Carol Service at 5pm

**FREE ENTRY, REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE. ALL  
CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS**

For more information please contact:  
stnicholas1@outlook.com, 01622 299715

Poster by [www.woodenstockgroup.co.uk](http://www.woodenstockgroup.co.uk)

## Peaceful Praise on a Silent Night

200 years ago this Christmas Eve a parish priest near Salzburg in Austria and his organist wrote a new carol for the midnight mass. The priest, Fr Joseph Mohr, provided the words in a poem he had recently written. The organist was Franz Xavier Gruber who created a tune of haunting beauty. The carol, *Stille Nacht*, was duly sung at the service.

We don't know what the congregation thought of it, though I bet someone said, 'I can't stand all these new tunes!' But the simple words and wistful melody were to become one of the world's favourite carols, translated into hundreds of languages, 'Silent Night' as we know it.

My father told me of his experience in the First World War, when on Christmas Day the British troops heard the sound of German soldiers singing *Stille Nacht*. They responded with Silent Night, and the sacred words echoed across the blood-stained no man's land. It is a carol that breathes peace, quite unlike the traditional ones that stir us to action – 'O come all ye faithful', 'Hark the herald angels sing'. This German song is about the infinite peace of nativity – Mary pondering her heart all that was happening and the shepherds returning to their fields. The birth of this royal baby went largely unnoticed. There were no crowds, no cheering, no processions. But for two centuries people have sung this precious song of peace to recall that silent and holy night.

### Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Saviour is born!  
Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

## **News of the Church in the UK**

### **Christmas services growing in our cathedrals**

Attendance at Christmas services in England's cathedrals has broken records for the second year running, according to recent statistics. A total of 135,000 people came to Church of England cathedrals to worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in 2017 – an increase of three per cent on the previous year, and the highest total since records began.

Attendances at Sunday worship in cathedrals throughout the year also continued to hold steady over a five-year period, while average weekday attendances continued their pattern of increase, with just over 18,000 attending in 2017, compared with 7,000 in 2000 when this data was first recorded. Over 10 years, the total number attending all regular services in cathedrals has increased by 10 per cent.

While year-on-year changes to Advent and Christmas attendance can be affected by the number of Sundays in Advent and the day on which Christmas falls, numbers attending cathedrals on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day have increased by 13 per cent over the past 10 years, evidencing sustained growth. Meanwhile, more than 10 million people visited cathedrals (including Westminster Abbey) in 2017, with fewer paying for entry than in previous years.

Elsewhere, more young people came through cathedrals' doors for educational events, with 2017 seeing an increase of three per cent on the previous year with a total of 318,000 children and young people attending, compared with 309,000 in 2016.

Cathedrals continued to be centres of civic life, with 1.3 million people reported at 5,300 civic services and events. In 2017, 289,000 people attended 290 graduation ceremonies. Around 900,000 people attended special one-off events at cathedrals in 2017, with 29 hosting Beacon Events at the conclusion of Thy Kingdom Come, a global week of prayer for Christians from all denominations.

### **The woman bishop who does not much like all-female clergy at services**

It is as undesirable to see all women 'at the front' of church leading worship as it was once to see all men 'at the front' leading worship.

So says the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, and the first female bishop to sit in the House of Lords. Speaking at this year's Cheltenham Literature Festival, she said: 'For me, I want to see diverse leadership, and part of that includes men and women working together.' She spoke of her own joy of 'discovering the joy of being in leadership alongside men, as an equal.'

## The Cross in my Pocket

I carry a cross in my pocket,  
A simple reminder to me,  
Of the fact that I am a Christian  
No matter where I may be.



This little cross is not magic  
Nor is it a good luck charm;  
It isn't meant to protect me  
From every physical harm.

It is not for identification  
For all the world to see.  
It's simply an understanding  
Between my Saviour and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket  
To bring out a coin or a key,  
The cross is there to remind me  
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me too, to be thankful  
For my blessings day by day,  
And to strive to serve Him better  
In all that I do or say.

It's also a daily reminder  
Of the peace and comfort I share  
With all who know my Master  
And give themselves to His care.

So I carry a cross in my pocket  
Reminding no one but me  
That Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life  
If only I'll let Him be.



## Wordsearch for December

The nearly four weeks leading up to Christmas is Advent. It means 'coming'. It refers to Jesus' first coming as a baby, but it also looks forward to a day when Jesus is expected to return in triumph at his 'second coming' to establish perfect justice and a new order of peace. Originally Christians marked Advent as a time when they refrained from excessive eating and drinking. Then Christmas Day reintroduced them to the joys of feasting. Christmas celebrations lasted for twelve days, with gifts exchanged as a climax at Epiphany (6 January). Today, however, Advent is more likely to be associated with accelerating festivity, with the days following Christmas something of an anti-climax until 'twelfth night', on which decorations are removed. Many Christians worldwide are trying to revive the spirit of Advent by setting aside time to pray and address global poverty.



four  
weeks  
advent  
coming  
Jesus  
first  
baby  
return  
triumph  
second

establish  
perfect  
justice  
new  
order  
peace  
eating  
drinking  
celebrations  
days

gifts  
epiphany  
twelfth  
decorations  
revive

# Santa Dash

at

## Maidstone United Football Club



**Saturday 22nd December 2018**

Dash across the Maidstone United football pitch this Christmas.

Registered Santa's receive a Santa Suit, a finishers medal and then get to watch the match for free after the dash.

Book today at [www.hokh.org/events](http://www.hokh.org/events)

£20 per adult and £15 per child

*Spaces are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.*

Heart of Kent Hospice, Preston Hall, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7PU



Heart of Kent Hospice



@heartofkenthosp



www.hokh.org



01622 790195



# Youth & Organisations News

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

**Saturday 1 December** – 10.30am St Nicholas Market in the Halls and Church.

**Tuesday 4 December** - The MU Christmas Lunch at the Cornwallis Suite, Courtenay Road, Tovil – 12.00 for 12.30pm.

There is no meeting this month.

**Wednesday 5 December** at 10.00am is our monthly Communion Service.

**Thursday 6 December** (change of date) – the MU Diocesan Advent Service in the Quire of Canterbury Cathedral at 11.00am when Roger has been asked to play the organ.

**Friday 14 – Sunday 16 December** is the St Nicholas Christmas Tree Festival. Help with refreshments would be appreciated.

**Sunday 16 December** at 5.00pm is St Nicholas Carol Service.

The Mothers' Union Committee would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

**Mary Gentry (678312)**

**Branch Leader**

**Follow Mothers'**

**Union on Facebook**



## ALLINGTON CASTLE

We had a very happy shopping trip at Westwood Cross. There was plenty of Christmas shopping completed and we enjoyed a nice lunch. It's now time to prepare for



our Christmas lunch at West Malling Golf Club and then we have our own party for members only. We always provide plenty of food and excellent entertainment. Our speaker for January is Barbara Stevens who will give us a humorous look at 'Extra Virgin Olive Oil' – sounds very interesting! Come and join us if you wish. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at St Nicks hall 7 for 7.30. Allington Castle WI wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Pat Gibbons**

## ALLINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Our speaker in November was Paul Patton whose talk was on 'Bugs and Beasties'.

He showed pictures of pests so we can identify them and the damage they can do to our plants and then the products and treatments that can be bought to get rid of them. He also pointed out that prevention is always the best, so to watch out for the early signs. It was an interesting talk.

December 6th is our Christmas social evening so could all members please bring a plate of food to share and their own drink. We will not be having a bring & buy table on this event.

I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and thank you to all those are supporting the club.

**Pam Blake**

## WESTBOROUGH BOWLS CLUB



Although the bowls green closes for the autumn and winter months, there is still plenty of activity within the club. The off season is the opportunity to give the green a rest but also to start preparing it for next year by encouraging the grass to grow and flattening out any humps and bumps that have become apparent. A full programme of work has been planned and this is due to start shortly.

Surrounding the green, we have some lovely flower beds and, like all gardens, these need tidying up at this time of year. The usual gang of helpers have been hard at work pruning back the shrubs and other plants and generally preparing the beds for winter. We have also installed some new lighting in the clubhouse.

But it is not all work and no play. As mentioned last month, we had our annual presentation dinner at the Grange Moor hotel and this was a splendid evening. The food was excellent and there was a quiz and a raffle to keep everyone entertained. And talking of quizzes, we had our annual quiz night in October. This proved to be a fun evening with some excellent scoring, illustrating just how much trivia we all carry around in our heads!

Finally, this will be the last report from Westborough before Christmas, so let me, on behalf of the club, wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2019.

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

## OPEN CIRCLE

Reading has slowed down a bit now but I enjoyed re-reading the Neville Shute novels, *On the Beach* and *Requiem for a Wren*, although the latter was rather dull in parts and not as good as I remember from years ago when I read it first. However *The Muse* by Jessie Burton was excellent and I much preferred it to the first of hers I read *The Miniaturist*, I've also enjoyed the Booker prize winning novel *Amsterdam* by Ian McEwan. Concise, often humorous and chilling, with a brilliant ending; definitely worth reading.

*The Other Hofmann Sister* was also excellent, covering the historical events of the Uprising and subsequent genocide of the Herero and Nama peoples in what is now Namibia at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and life in Berlin after the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and the German Revolution of 1918. It was an enthralling read with the historical events acting as a backdrop to the fictional events of the Hofmann family. Well worth reading.

Our December book is *A Necessary Evil*, the second historical crime novel by Abir Mukherjee with his central characters, Captain Sam Wyndham and his sergeant 'Surrender-not' Banerjee. I've enjoyed both novels by Mukherjee and the insight he gives his readers about life in India in the 1920s;

Our meeting in December will be at Sally's on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 for a discussion of *A Necessary Evil*. Do feel free to join us, and to look out for our super Christmas Tree during



the weekend of December 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>.

**Dianne White 756660**

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Our breakfast was well supported and with plenty of chat, it seems men can always find something to talk about !!

Please note it was agreed not to have breakfast in December being so close to Christmas festivities but will resume for Sat. Jan. 26th 2019. I look forward to seeing many of you there. In the meantime I wish you all a very **HAPPY CHRISTMAS** and **NEW YEAR.**



**Brian Davison 759278**

### **ST NICHOLAS FELLOWSHIP**

For our annual lunch meeting, 25 members descended on Newham Court Village or as it's known Notcutts, for some retail therapy and a browse around the Christmas displays or for others a cup of coffee. Then onto Newham Court Inn next door where we all sat in the recess area on the ground floor and enjoyed the meal we had pre-selected a month ago, a few having three courses with the more sensible having only two! All members left well satisfied and asked if we could go back next year. My sincere thanks to Andrews Rogers for organising the venue and meal.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Party on 14<sup>th</sup> December at



2.30pm in the Small Hall. Please bring with you a plate of nibbles. Before or after our meeting you are can view the Christmas Tree Festival.

### **ALLINGTON GIRL GUIDING**

All units are embracing the new programme, with lots of fun activities being worked on towards the girls earning new badges.

1<sup>st</sup> Brownies have had a visit from a local Policeman, who explained what the Police do, showed them his various headwear and equipment and they got to sit in his car with the lights flashing. He even handcuffed their Young Leader. They also had a visit from Metro bank to explain the fun ways of saving and budgeting their money, They then went to the Metro branch in Maidstone for a tour of the branch which included a look inside the vault, all got a goodie bag and met Metro Man.



Lots of Christmas activities and parties are planned for nearer the end of term

**Paula Savage  
District Commissioner**

**paula.savage22@sky.com  
MID KENT FUSCHIA CLUB**

The speaker at our November meeting was Melanie Gibson-Barton who gave an extremely interesting talk entitled 'Bruges, it's more than chocolate.' Melanie did not use any notes and effectively gave us details of the history of Bruges itself, its buildings and events throughout the year.

Our December meeting takes the form of a social evening including a light hearted quiz set and compered by Peter We do not hold a meeting in January **Mary Hart**

## **Holding On Letting Go**

At our Mothers' Union meeting in November we were privileged to have a presentation on this local charity which is doing such important work and felt that it was important to share this with our readers!

Holding On Letting Go is a Kent-based charity that helps children to cope with the death of someone close to them. Their vision is a world in which every bereaved child, and their family, receives the support they need. Our purpose is to provide bereavement support to promote resilience and provide emotional support to children, young people and their families and carers and assisting them to move positively through the grieving process.

Often the children that are seen have lost their mum, dad, grandparents, a sibling or a friend. Sometimes more than one person in their family has died or there are sudden and traumatic circumstances surrounding the death, such as suicide, a road accident or murder. Since the adults around them are also grieving, these children often feel unable to express their feelings or talk about their loved one or their sadness.

Many adults don't know how to support children through the grieving process, so we give support and guidance to parents and carers too. Support is offered to children, young people, parents and carers at their bereavement support weekends which are held throughout the year. These non-residential weekends are free to children and their families and are staffed by our trained volunteers. Children are encouraged to share their feelings in a safe, nurturing place. They can ask questions and learn strategies to help them deal with difficult emotions such as grief, fear, anger and sadness.

The weekend activities are full of creative and musical activities which are designed to help the children to hold on to those precious memories of their loved one, whilst learning to let go of the sadness. At the end of a bereavement weekend, each child goes away with a memory box full of things that they have made that help them to remember their special person.

In addition, children get to meet other children and young people who have experienced a bereavement, be listened to by people who understand and find new ways to cope and have fun!

For further information please check out the website

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

**or telephone 03445 611 511**



## **CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD SCHEME**

This year we will be running the church Christmas Card Scheme again. Since many people have joined the church since we first began, we thought we should explain more fully how it works.

### **What is it?**

It's a way of donating to charity and cutting down on the number of cards you need to buy.

### **How do I join in?**

Sign the list at the back of church between 25<sup>th</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> December.

### **How does it help charity?**

The money you might spend on buying Christmas cards for your church friends you can then donate to the charity – Water Aid – which is used to help those who have no access to a clean water supply.

### **How does it work?**

We supply a card with your name on it; you then sign all the other cards, which will be at the back of church, and make a donation in the "Water Aid" bottle. You then collect your card – full of signatures from the back of church from Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**Margaret & David Salvage**

**Tel. 672985**

**email: [dm.salvage@btinternet.com](mailto:dm.salvage@btinternet.com)**

## **Charity of the Month Mercy Ships**



Mercy Ships is a faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need.

As well as completing thousands of urgent operations onboard its "floating hospital", the Africa Mercy, Mercy Ships volunteers also work closely with host nations to improve the way healthcare is delivered across the country, by training and mentoring local medical staff, and renovating hospitals and clinics.

Founded in 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens, Mercy Ships has worked in more than 70 countries, providing services valued at more than £1 billion. By improving healthcare delivery in every country it visits, Mercy Ships is working to eradicate the diseases of poverty and effectively do itself out of a job. Mercy Ships follows the 2,000-year-old model of Jesus by "bringing hope and healing to the forgotten poor", helping people of all faiths and none.

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families









No Meeting in December

Christmas Wishes to all our Members



# Notice

## December


  
 St Nicholas Fellowship 
  
 Next Meeting 
  
 Friday 11th January 2.30pm 
  
 All Welcome! 
  
 Contact Michael Froude for Details 
  
 01622 759098 
  
 




  
 Charity Bottle for December  
 Mercy Ships
   
 See page 21 for details



No Breakfast meeting in December!  
Brian 01622 759278



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 Christmas  
 and  
 Happy  
 Year  
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**Next meeting**

**Friday 14th December**

**Do join us for coffee & cake!**



**No Saturday Club  
this month!**

**Deadline for  
January Grapevine  
Monday 10th December  
Please send articles  
and information to**

**Email:**

**grapevinemairstone@outlook.com**

# Rotas for December

## 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>
December w/e				
2	A Waddams J Sargent		E Harrington D & M Derry	
9		A Redford C McInnes		R Froude J Harlock
16	D & B Davison		M Salvage D Salvage C Colyer	
23		I Redford S Lavender D Hayles		M Gentry G Garrett

30

### Sanctuary Cleaning

December w/e

2	
9	R Froude
16	
23	A Hiam
30	

### Flowers

2	D Davison
9	D Davison/K Hunter
16	D Davison
23	Christmas
30	Christmas

### Other Duties

#### Coffee

December w/e

2	Mary Garrett, Sarah Lavender & Barbara Styrtford
9	Ann Williams & Michael Froude
16	NO SERVICE
23	Margaret Fagg & Ian Redford
30	Gill & Julian Waite

### We welcome into the family of the church

Farrell and Keegan O'Hara

### We commend to the care of our Loving Lord

Irene Coates

Brenda Gale

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

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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](mailto:secretary@aca-club.co.uk) Telephone 01622 673633**

**WHERE AND WHEN — ORGANISATIONS IN THE PARISH**

**Mondays:**

**Tel.enquiries**

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
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	07812 564460
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	1.00pm - 4.30pm ~ <i>3<sup>rd</sup></i>	01622 756475
Simply Pilates	6.00pm - 7.00pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	07845 442885
Trefoil Guild	7.00pm onwards - <i>1st Tuesday</i>	allington@btinternet.com

**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	10.30am - 11.30am	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:-**

NHS Retirement Fellowship	10.30am - 12.45pm ~ <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	5.45pm - 6.45pm	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
Simply Pilates	12.30pm - 2.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	07845 442885
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 / Mums & 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
Hearly 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**

## December 2018

<b>1</b>	<b>Sat</b>	10.30am	<b>Christmas Market</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Sun</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.00am	Morning Worship
		5.00pm	<b>OASIS in the Afternoon</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Mon</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer
<b>5</b>	<b>Wed</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion with Mothers' Union
		7.30pm	Evening Prayer
<b>6</b>	<b>Thur</b>	9.00am	Prayer Space
<b>9</b>	<b>Sun</b>	9.30am	<b>OASIS PRAISE</b>
		11.00am	Holy Communion
		12.30pm	<b>Sunday Lunch Club</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Mon</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer
<b>12</b>	<b>Wed</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion
		7.30pm	Evening Prayer
<b>13</b>	<b>Thur</b>	9.00am	Prayer Space
<b>14</b>	<b>Fri</b>	12.00pm - 9.00pm	<b>Christmas Tree Festival</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Sat</b>	9.00am - 9.00pm	<b>Christmas Tree Festival (with reflections on the hour)</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Sun</b>	9.00am	<b>Christmas Tree Festival</b>
		5.00pm	<b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Mon</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer
<b>19</b>	<b>Wed</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion
		7.30pm	Evening Prayer
<b>20</b>	<b>Thur</b>	9.00am	Prayer Space
<b>23</b>	<b>Sun</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>24</b>	<b>Mon</b>	3.00pm	<b>Crib Service</b>
		4.30pm	<b>Crib Service</b>
		11.30pm	<b>Midnight Communion</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Tue</b>	8.00am	Christmas Day Holy Communion
		10.00am	<b>Christmas Day OASIS Communion</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Sun</b>	8.00am	Benefice Communion - St Andrews
		10.00am	Benefice Communion -St Nicholas