



Grapevine

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



December 2018



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

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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 & Wednesdays 10.00am - 12 noon

Fridays 9.00am - 10.00am

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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
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
and from choir members.



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 V¹¹ 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 V¹ (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 V¹¹, 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

7TH 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

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

£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 20th century, and life in Berlin after the 1st 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 12th 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 15th/16th.

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 14th 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.

1st 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

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 25th November and 9th 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 16th December.

Margaret & David Salvage

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email: 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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Next meeting

Friday 14th December

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**No Saturday Club
this month!**

**Deadline for
January Grapevine
Monday 10th December
Please send articles
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Rotas for December

LOCAL CHEMISTS' ROTA

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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

| | 8.00am | 9.30am | 10.00am | 11.00am |
|--------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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

| |
|--------------------|
| D Davison |
| D Davison/K Hunter |
| D Davison |
| Christmas |
| 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 |

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Irene Coates

Brenda Gale

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All fencing and tree work

- All types of fencing renewed and repaired●
 - All kinds of trees topped, felled and pruned●
 - Hedges pruned and trimmed●
 - Regular lawn mowing●
 - Turfing●
 - Rough gardens put in order●
 - Patios, paths and drives pressure washed●
 - Patios laid●
 - Sheds repaired and treated●
 - Shed bases●
 - General property maintenance●
 - Gutters cleaned out●
-

**No job too big or too small
— we do them all**

Don't delay phone today

Direct line:-

0780 050 4442

Free
Estimates



ACA Castle Road Maidstone ME16 0PZ



ALLINGTON COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION



**Why not come and see
what we have to offer!**

- ◆ 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:

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 & 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>3rd</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 & 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 1st</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>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 |
| 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>2nd</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>1st</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>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

December 2018

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