



Grapevine

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



February 2019



*Who was St Valentine?
Find out more on Page 9!*

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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

Tuesdays 9.00am - 12 noon

Fridays 9.00am - 12 noon

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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.....



By the time that you read this the Commons vote will have taken place on the Brexit deal presented by Theresa May and her supporters. We should by now have a better idea as to whether we will exit from the EU with, or without, a deal of some sort.

The implications of our leaving the EU with, or without, that deal are immensely complicated and impossible to predict. Will it be better for our economy, or not - who knows? Whatever the situation there will be winners and there will be losers.

As a nation I firmly believe that, on the whole, we have a history of fairness, tolerance and a desire to play a just and appropriate part on the world stage. I am sure that these underlying principles will continue post Brexit - indeed they must continue.

Our nation, and our politicians, have been very divided over the issue and there have been inflammatory remarks that have been less than helpful. I have no doubt there has also been some political manoeuvring that was more about individual egos rather than the common good.

The Queen, in her Christmas Day message, talked of the need as much as ever, at this time, for "peace on earth and goodwill to all". She emphasised the importance of people with opposing views treating each other respectfully. The Archbishop, in his New Year message, talked of how we all too often 'fall out' with each other but that we must be "committed to discovering more of what it means to be citizens together, even amid great challenges and changes."

I recently mentioned in one of my sermons that the Brexit debate has been dominated by economics and politics. But these must never be allowed to have the last word. There is a moral, and I must say spiritual, duty each of us has that goes way beyond our own needs and desires and embraces a global humanity, along with all the challenges that face this planet of ours. I hope, and pray, whatever the outcome of Brexit we will live by the example of humility, self-sacrifice, generosity, tolerance and respect that should be at the heart of the faith we have in Jesus Christ - not for our own sakes but for the sake of all humanity, and indeed for all of creation.

Rev Chris

BASED ON THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

SAM
WORTHINGTON

OCTAVIA
SPENCER

TIM
AND
MCGRAW

YOU'RE NEVER AS ALONE AS YOU THINK

St Nicholas Church

Free Film Afternoon for Lent

Saturday 23rd March 3.00pm

FROM THE PRODUCER OF LIFE OF PI AND THE BLIND SIDE

THE SHACK

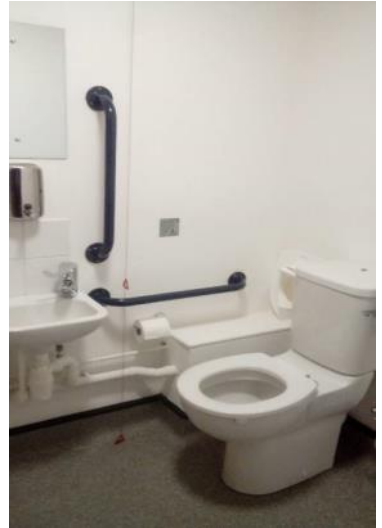
**A Christian Drama about a grieving man
who receives a mysterious, personal
invitation to meet with God at a place
called 'The Shack'**

St Nicholas LOOs and LIGHTs CAMPAIGN

Have you ever used the toilet in our church?

You will appreciate that, after 40 years, it needs updating.

Your Church Council has decided that **the toilet facilities must now be improved and plan to create 3 separate toilets (including an accessible one) and a new tea-bar in the church** - all to 21st century standards. These new facilities will be constructed within the existing office and vestry area; it will cost around £35,000.



At the same time, we intend **to improve the standard of lighting in the church** to make it less harsh and a more flexible source for services and other events; this will cost around £10,000.

So, in total we need to raise £45,000.

We shall be running a variety of fund-raising events in 2019 but the majority of the funds need to be raised by us in the form of donations.

If you would like to see improved toilet facilities and better lighting in the church please consider making a donation.

The fund raising campaign is launched this month – so pick up a donation form from the back of church or from the website www.stnicholasallington.org.uk so you can contribute towards this major improvement to our facilities.

Thank you for your support,

Sarah, David, Nigel & Jill (Fundraising Team)
01622 299715 – Parish Office



Allington Millennium Green
Wine and Wisdom Evening
Saturday 2nd March 2019
7.30pm @ St. Nicholas Hall.
Teams of up to 8 welcome,
£5 per head
Bring your own drinks!

To book tickets, telephone 01622 756660

- This quiet oasis, on the site of the old Sharp's sports ground, is both a refuge for nature and a place for relaxation.
- The Green is run by volunteers; however, money is needed to pay for equipment, materials and insurance, and for some work by contractors, so please come to the quiz and support this local charity.



The Christian is supposed to love his neighbour, and since his wife is his nearest neighbour, she should be his deepest love. – *Martin Luther*

WHO ARE THEY?

Where did all the Christian denominations come from? We continue the series on Christian Churches in the UK

This month: Where did all the Presbyterian churches come from?

The word 'presbyterian' comes from the Greek term '*presbuteros*,' which is found in the Greek New Testament. In most English Bibles it is translated as 'elder.' In Acts 13 and 14 there is the record of the places where Paul and Barnabas preached on their first missionary journey. The Christian converts were gathered together into Church fellowships and Paul and Barnabas 'appointed elders for them in every church' (14:23).

These 'elders' or 'presbyterers' were pastors, appointed to preach the Word of God and shepherd the flock of God. Two other terms are also found in the Greek NT relating to Church leadership. They are '*episcopus*,' translated 'bishop' and '*diakonos*,' translated 'deacon.' It is fairly clear that these four words, elder, presbyter, bishop and deacon, are interchangeable. They all refer to the pastors and leaders who were responsible for preaching and pastoral ministry in the NT churches.

Presbyterian Churches were founded as a result of the 16th century Protestant Reformation. The German Reformation, led by Martin Luther, preferred the word bishop, so the Lutheran Church became episcopal, meaning the rule of bishops. The Reformation in Switzerland, led by John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli, preferred the words elders and presbyters, so their churches were organised under the leadership of presbyters, hence 'presbyterian.' One reason for this preference was that Calvin and Zwingli did not like the power and authority and prestige that belonged to bishops in the Roman Church.

When the Reformation took root in Britain, it produced an Episcopal Church in England and a Presbyterian Church in Scotland. This was because John Knox, Scotland's fiery Reformer, had spent time in Geneva and was very attracted to the kind of church worship, government and preaching that he found there. The Church that Knox founded in 1560 and led until his death in 1572, became the Church of Scotland. It was strongly Protestant and Calvinist in its doctrine, putting strong emphasis on the importance of preaching and the leadership of God-called elders. In the following century the *Westminster Confession* was drawn up in London between 1643 and 1646. Together with the Longer and Shorter Catechisms, this Confession became, after Scripture, the doctrinal foundation of Presbyterianism, both in Britain and wherever Presbyterian Churches were founded across the world.

In the reign of Elizabeth I Presbyterian churches were organised in England but they were never as numerous or as influential as the Church of England. The Presbyterian Church in England united with the Congregational Church

in 1972 and became the United Reformed Church. Scottish settlers in the North of Ireland in the 17th century brought their Presbyterian faith with them and it became strongly established. Eventually Presbyterianism was established in North America and particularly in the countries of the old British Empire including South Africa, India, New Zealand and Australia. Presbyterian missions expanded the work in Central and South America, in Europe, the Middle East and the Far East.

From the beginning, Presbyterianism was characterised by the rule and leadership of elders but this did not mean a sharp division between ministers and lay people. Instead elders who had the gifts of teaching and preaching were ordained while other elders were appointed to have administrative and financial responsibility. Each local congregation calls its own minister. The local church is governed by the Kirk Session while Presbyteries are groups of churches in a geographical area, resembling a large parish. On a national level Presbyterian Churches are governed by their General Assemblies.

Presbyterian worship has traditionally been conservative with most Presbyterian churches having choirs and congregational hymn-singing. A number of smaller Presbyterian groups, however, broke away from the larger organisation and formed churches where only the metrical Psalms are sung. These more conservative congregations adhere strictly to the theology of the *Westminster Confession* and are often openly critical of what they label the 'liberalism' of the larger Presbyterian groups.

From the very beginning, the mainstream Presbyterian Churches were active supporters of the Ecumenical Movement. In general Presbyterianism has always been characterised by a ministry that is theologically learned and noted for its preaching and scholarship. Presbyterianism has also promoted both home and overseas missions, established schools and hospitals in its missionary work, and has been very active in local and national endeavours to promote an improvement in social welfare.

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

With Lent coming, we consider prayer...

Kneel before you leap. – *George Allen*

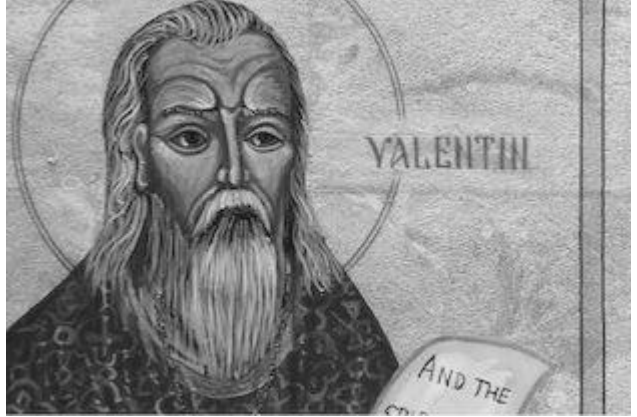
Anything is a blessing which makes us pray. – *C H Spurgeon*

A prayer in its simplest definition is merely a wish turned God-ward. *Phillips Brooks*

A clenched fist produces anger; an open hand produces harmony. – *Anon*

St Valentine - Who Was He??

Officially recognized by the Roman Catholic Church, St. Valentine is known to be a real person who died around A.D. 270. However, his true identity was questioned as early as A.D. 496 by Pope Gelasius I, who referred to the martyr and his acts as "being known only to God." One account from the 1400s describes Valentine as a temple priest who was beheaded near Rome by the emperor Claudius II for helping Christian couples wed. A different account claims Valentine was the Bishop of Terni, also martyred by Claudius II on the outskirts of Rome. Because of the similarities of these accounts, it's thought they may refer to the same person. Enough confusion surrounds the true identity of St. Valentine that the Catholic Church discontinued liturgical veneration of him in 1969, though his name remains on its list of officially recognized saints.



The saint we celebrate on Valentine's Day is known officially as St. Valentine of Rome in order to differentiate him from the dozen or so other Valentines on the list. Because "Valentinus"—from the Latin word for worthy, strong or powerful—was a popular moniker between the second and eighth centuries A.D., several martyrs over the centuries have carried this name. The official Roman Catholic roster of saints shows about a dozen who were named Valentine or some variation thereof. The most recently beatified Valentine is St. Valentine Berrio-Ochoa, a Spaniard of the Dominican order who traveled to Vietnam, where he served as bishop until his beheading in 1861. Pope John Paul II canonized Berrio-Ochoa in 1988. There was even a Pope Valentine, though little is known about him except that he served a mere 40 days around A.D. 827.

Saints are certainly expected to keep busy in the afterlife. Their holy duties include interceding in earthly affairs and entertaining petitions from living souls. In this respect, St. Valentine has wide-ranging spiritual responsibilities. People call on him to watch over the lives of lovers, of course, but also for interventions regarding beekeeping and epilepsy, as well as the plague, fainting and traveling. As you might expect, he's also the patron saint of engaged couples and happy marriages.

The flower-adorned skull of St. Valentine is on display in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Rome. In the early 1800s, the excavation of a catacomb near Rome yielded skeletal remains and other relics now associated with St. Valentine. As is customary, these bits and pieces of the late saint's body have subsequently been distributed to reliquaries around the world. You'll find other bits of St. Valentine's skeleton on display in the Czech Republic, Ireland, Scotland, England and France.

The medieval English poet Geoffrey Chaucer often took liberties with history, placing his poetic characters into fictitious historical contexts that he represented as real. No record exists of romantic celebrations on Valentine's Day prior to a poem Chaucer wrote around 1375. In his work "Parliament of Fowles," he links a tradition of courtly love with the celebration of St. Valentine's feast day—an association that didn't exist until after his poem received widespread attention. The poem refers to February 14 as the day birds (and humans) come together to find a mate. When Chaucer wrote, "*For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate,*" he may have invented the holiday we know today.

Because of the abundance of St. Valentines on the Roman Catholic roster, you can choose to celebrate the saint multiple times each year. Besides February 14, you might decide to celebrate St. Valentine of Viterbo on November 3. Or maybe you want to get a jump on the traditional Valentine celebration by feting St. Valentine of Raetia on January 7. Women might choose to honor the only female St. Valentine (Valentina), a virgin martyr in Palestine on July 25, A.D. 308. The Eastern Orthodox Church officially celebrates St. Valentine twice, once as an elder of the church on July 6 and once as a martyr on July 30.

Source www.history.com



ALLINGTON COMMUNITY MARKET
Friday 1st March
12 noon to 3.00pm
St Nicholas Church Hall - Poplar Grove Allington
Refreshments available - provided by Little Fant Farm
Come and support your local independent traders

St Nicholas Church



on **Friday 1st March 2019 at 7pm**
in St Nicholas Church, Poplar Grove,
Maidstone ME16 0DE

Tickets: £5 each (Family £15)
from Sarah Lavender 297307 or Parish Office.

BYO drinks & snacks



Following on from the success of our summer 2018 series on the Old Testament and our series on Romans last Autumn we will continue to offer the opportunity to engage in our study series using this video based resource 'The Bible Project'.

For the New Year we will be looking at the last book of the bible, Revelation.

There will be evening and daytime groups available in St Nicholas' Church during January, February and March. The daytime meetings continue on **Wednesdays, at 11am**, as follows;

FEBRUARY 13th & 27th
MARCH 13th & 27th

The evening meetings continue on **Tuesdays, at 7.30pm**, as follows

FEBRUARY 12th & 26th
MARCH 12th & 26th

All are welcome to attend - refreshments will be provided.

Rev Chris

News of the Church in the UK

The Bible verse of 2018

A Bible app, YouVersion, has named Isaiah 41:10 as the most popular verse of 2018.

That verse has been posted, bookmarked, and highlighted more times than any other on the app (which has been downloaded more than 350,000 times around the world).

Isaiah 41:10 reads: 'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.' The verse also came top in Chile, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Perus, South Africa, Spain and the United States.

But in the UK, for 2018, we preferred Jeremiah 29:11: 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'

Child slavery tackled

World Vision's new programme to help stop child slavery in Ethiopia, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of Congo is to receive £12.4m in funding from the UK aid budget over the next four years.

The programme launched late last year and is aimed at supporting and bringing justice to 12,000 children suffering from the 'worst forms' of child labour. Such children can be sold, trafficked, put into debt bondage, serfdom, or forced labour, or forcibly recruited into armed conflict, or used in prostitution or pornography, or engaged in hazardous work.

The programme will offer sustainable employment to families, work with businesses to end child labour, and establish a mentoring scheme for 13,000 lawyers, policymakers and other officials. World Vision is working alongside War Child for this project.

Historic churches share in funding payout

77 churches and chapels in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are sharing in a recent £430,000 grant payout from the National Churches Trust, the charity supporting church buildings of all Christian denominations across the UK.

Broadcaster and journalist Huw Edwards, Vice President of The National Churches Trust, said: 'The UK's historic churches and chapels are a vital part of our national heritage. The cost of this work is far beyond what most congregations can pay for themselves and the latest grants from the National Churches Trust will help ensure that 77 churches and chapels are safe for future generations to enjoy.'

In 2018 the National Churches Trust awarded grants of £1.2 million to help 202 projects at churches and chapels around the UK. Demand for funding from the National Churches Trust continues to grow, with 583 grant applications received in 2018, up from 473 grant applications in 2017.

Sunday 10 March 2019
Starting & finishing at
Cornwallis Academy, ME17 4HX



HALF MARATHON, 10K RUN, 5K RUN OR 1K FUN RUN



Join us for a morning run through the beautiful rural areas of Boughton Monchelsea, Chart Sutton, Linton and surrounding villages.

Three distances offering a perfect warm up for the Spring races with a run for all abilities. Plus our new 1k family fun run also added for 2019!

Register now
Visit: www.hokh.org/events
Tel: 01622 790195
Email: events@hokh.co.uk



Wordsearch for February

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas

Candlemas, 2 February, comes exactly 40 days after Christmas. In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. (Luke 2: 22-40) So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day.



Candlemas
Forty
Days
After
Christmas
New
Testament
Important
Age
Baby

Boy
First
Public
Appearance
Mary
Jewish
Temple
festival
presentation
described

light
world
candles
lighting
early

Seventeenth Century Nun's Prayer

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains, but help me to endure them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint-some of them are so hard to live with-but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen. (Anonymous)

Submitted by June Bagshaw

WIT & WISDOM
St. Nicholas Church Hall
Poplar Grove, Maidstone
Saturday 23rd February 7.30pm

Teams of 6-8 £5 a head
Tea and coffee provided –
bring your own drink and nibbles
Bookings – 01622 204569
In aid of THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



Youth & Organisations News

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

We were delighted to hear that Lynne Tembey, our outgoing World-Wide President has been awarded an **OBE** for services to the Mothers' Union.

We start the month with our MU Communion Service on **Wednesday 6 February** at 10.00am, which is a "said" Communion. Please join us if you can.

Our meeting this month, which is on **Thursday 21 February** at 2.30pm in church, It is the Triennial AGM when we shall be electing new officers and committee for the next 3 years.

Following the AGM by a talk by Dawn Riach-Brown, a Community Support Worker for Maidstone and Allington.

This is my farewell report, as I shall be retiring after 7 years as Branch Leader, 3 as Treasurer, 6 as Secretary and 20 years overall on the committee. Now is the time for others to take charge! Roger will also be retiring after 7 years as Treasurer of the Branch but will be continuing as Treasurer for the Archdeaconry.

I would like to thank everyone who has been so supportive over the years.

My best wishes to you all for the new Triennial.

Mary Gentry (678312)
Branch Leader
Follow Mothers'



Union on Facebook



ALLINGTON CASTLE

We are back in the swing of things and making plans for the new year, already we have a fish and chip lunch in February and hopefully many cream teas in the spring. At our February meeting Chris Steward will be talking about boating adventures in France. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month in St Nicks small hall 7 for 7.30. You are always welcome to join us.

Pat Gibbons

ALLINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Our next meeting is on February 7th when we will have our AGM followed by a talk on Herbs.

Our membership fees are staying the same at £13 cheques preferred and visitors £3 per visit. We have two outings planned for this year, Leonardslee on 25th May and Wisley on 27th July. We will start taking names and money from February onwards and again cheques would be preferred.

Pam Blake

WESTBOROUGH BOWLS CLUB



As you would expect, the winter months are quite quiet at Westborough Bowls Club. We try to work on the green but this very much depends on the weather. As

there is nothing much to report, I thought that the readers of The Grapevine might be interested in learning a little about the history of the club.

In 1925, the **Cherry Orchard Bowls Club** was formed, taking its name from the road where their green was located. Inevitably, the club's green was converted to allotments during World War II to help the war effort and club activity was suspended for the duration.

Once the war was over, some keen members reformed the club and arranged to share facilities with **Clare Park**. It was decided to rename the club as **West Borough** as the committee meetings were held in the West Borough Social Club and the club had lost its association with its original location.

Keen to have their own bowls green, the club was very pleased when, in 1980, they were invited to take over the green that existed in Sharps Toffees Sports Ground on London Road. When the sports ground was eventually sold off to developers in about 2000, the green was preserved and leased back to the club. At the same time, the Millennium Green next door was established as a protected open space.

Westborough (now usually written as one word) has continued to thrive ever since so if you are looking to join a small, friendly club, please do get in touch.

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

OPEN CIRCLE

What connects William Wordsworth, Fletcher Christian from *Mutiny on the Bounty* and a lost manuscript? The answer is Val McDermid and her well-written (though rather implausible) story entitled *The Grave Tattoo* which is our book for February. The novel is a departure from Mc Dermid's usual plots but there are still murders to be solved as characters vie to be the one to recover a lost manuscript of a poem by Wordsworth, apparently given to his friend Fletcher Christian after leaving Pitcairn Island. Suspend disbelief and you'll enjoy the novel as I did last year.

Over Christmas and the New Year I've enjoyed reading Pat Barker's *Border Crossing*, another novel which is completely different from Barker's famous war trilogy. It's an absorbing novel centring on child psychologist Tom Seymour and a former patient of his, Danny Miller, convicted of murder when he was 11 years old. When Danny re-enters Tom's life as an adult, the past is re-examined. It's a thoroughly absorbing, intelligent novel and well-worth reading.

I was given the new CJ Sansom Shardlake novel for Christmas, *Tombland*, and am looking forward to reading that very soon, though at the moment I'm engrossed in *Good Sugar, Bad Sugar*, a non-fiction book which speaks for itself!

We were delighted that Margaret Rouse and Rosemary Froude joined us recently, and to welcome Fiona Foreman who joins us this month.



Allington library will have to increase our number of copies!

Our meetings in February are on Wednesday 13th for a discussion of *The Grave Tattoo* at Margaret Rouse's, 9 Hazlitt Drive, and Wednesday 27th at Margaret Salvage's, 36 Poplar Grove, for coffee and discussion, both at 10.30 am. Everyone is free to join us.

Dianne White 756660

ST NICHOLAS FELLOWSHIP

The January Meeting was a 'Quiz Afternoon', The format was quizzes either side of our tea/coffee and not biscuits this month but cake which had appeared with lit candles as it was somebody's birthday and 'Happy Birthday' was sung, yes it was mine! The initial quiz consisted of cryptic clues to find the names of London Underground Stations and a large-scale map was provided for assistance. Two groups achieved 23 correct answers out of 25, with the second quiz of the afternoon being trivia cryptic clues and the second section questions relating to the Bible. The meeting closed with a prayer, 21 members had had an enjoyable afternoon.

Please note all our 'at home' meetings are now in the church, and the next meeting is 8th February with the theme 'Readings and Afternoon Tea' (scones jam and cream). A warm welcome awaits anyone who would wish to join us.

Michael Froude
01622 759098



ALLINGTON TREFOIL GUILD



Our January meeting saw us welcome in the new year with 'fizz and a quiz' to get the grey matter working; We were joined by two new members.

February's meeting will be an international evening including a celebration of the Chinese New Year; and our meeting on the 5th March includes a presentation by the Kent Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance.

If you would like to know more about Trefoil Guild, please feel free to contact us on the email address below.

Nicola
allingtontg@btinternet.com

NEW ALLINGTON PLAYERS



Rehearsals are well underway for our latest production of an evening of humorous sketches and popular songs For *Better or for Worse* on the theme of Love and Marriage, in celebration of St Valentine's Day on Saturday February 16th at 7.30 pm in the church hall.

Brian, Richard and Kathryn will provide most of the musical items including *Love and Marriage; As time Goes By; Almost Like Being in Love* and *The Anniversary Waltz*.

With a light-hearted quiz during the interval, a Valentine's raffle and homemade cakes, we hope that everyone who comes will have a super evening. Donations out of our proceeds will be given to the relationship charity Relate, and to St Nicholas' Loos and Lights Appeal.

Tickets are £8, available from Anne Sargent 764063

Dianne White 756660

THEY CAME TO BE BAPTISED

Luke's Gospel has moved on to about thirty years after the first Christmas. We hear about John the Baptist. He emerges as some wild figure coming out the desert offering to baptise people from villages along the river Jordan. Up until then, people born into the Jewish religion did not need to be baptised. Baptism was only for outsiders. So why did all this happen? I want to explore my own reasons.



The world at that time was not a perfect place. There were a lot of good things going on. There were a lot of good people around but there were other things. These included unfairness, hunger and illness, injustice, lack of looking after, greed and exploitation, and people living under foreign Roman occupation. Local working people had all these things going on around them. It was a hard life in hard times. People had to get out of life what they could. To some extent, people might also be part of the system that imposed these wrongs on others. So there were reasons why ordinary working people wanted to receive God's forgiveness.

Next, the ways in which people could seek that forgiveness had now become more available. Instead of a fairly complicated system of animal sacrifices in the Temple in Jerusalem, forgiveness was now being offered to people living in villages along the River Jordan. It appeared that different kinds of levels doing wrong or sin could all be forgiven at the same time. Along the banks of the river Jordan the sins were forgiven near to the place, or near to the kind of place, where the difficulties may have occurred.

Equally important, the offer of forgiveness had still come from God, this time it was being offered by a son of a former Temple Priest who one day emerged from the desert and seemed full of the Holy Spirit of God. However he made very clear that he was not the chosen one or Messiah, but someone sent to prepare the way for someone else to come.

There seems to have been one other thing and this led me to ponder. From what we read, it appears that John the Baptist offered forgiveness to anyone who turned up and wanted to receive it. There were no preliminaries. Did that mean that this new forgiveness couldn't quite have been explained in advance? People had to experience it for themselves to know what it was that they were receiving. Only after that did they go back to their villages where they could have discussed what they had just received. As they shared their experience in their own words with people around them, the news started to spread. Other people came to the River Jordan.

Robin Hiam

Grapevine - Important Changes!!

In order to ensure a more timely delivery of 'Grapevine' each month there will be some changes that will effect our regular contributors and magazine distributors!

Our deadline date has been on the 10th of the month for the following month for many years - and stems from the time when we use to produce the magazine ourselves in house. Now that we have been using a commercial printer to produce a magazine of a much more acceptable standard it is evident that there needs to be a longer 'lead in' time to ensure timely delivery each month.

As from the March 2019 edition reports for our 'Organisation News' section and any other contributions need to be with the editor by 3rd of the month and not the 10th as previously.

In addition, the December edition will cover the period up to mid January and the February edition will be published mid January to include the remaining half of January as well. There will be no August edition published as previously. Our advertising year will also now run from March to the following February.

It is hoped that these changes will ensure an improvement in the current timescale for publication!

Editor

Charity of the Month Alongside Africa

Alongside Africa is a UK-based not for profit organisation that is committed to a world in which every person has the opportunity to earn a living. We recognise the rights of marginalised and disadvantaged children, individuals and communities to be able to take responsibility for their own development and independence. We focus on providing **opportunities, not aid** and our efforts are geared towards developing countries – initially in Africa.

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Our strap line of opportunities, not aid recognises the right of marginalised and disadvantaged communities to be able take responsibility for their own development, and for this to be achieved with dignity and self respect, critical factors that are often lost when aid is provided instead of opportunities.



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10		A Redford C McInnes		R Froude J Harlock
17	D & B Davison		M Salvage D Salvage C Colyer	
24		I Redford S Lavender D Hayles		M Gentry G Garrett

Sanctuary Cleaning

February w/e	
3	N Bailey
10	
17	M Gentry
24	

Coffee

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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

February 2019

2	Sat	3.00pm	Free Film Afternoon - 'Peter Rabbit'
3	Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.00am	Morning Worship
		4.45pm	OASIS in the Afternoon
4	Mon	8.30am	Morning Prayer
6	Wed	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion with Mothers' Union
		7.30pm	Evening Prayer
7	Thur	9.00am	Prayer Space
8	Fri	10.00am	OASIS Café with Mums and Babes
		2.30pm	St Nicholas Fellowship
10	Sun	9.30am	OASIS PARADE SERVICE
		11.00am	Holy Communion
		12.30pm	Sunday Lunch Club
11	Mon	8.30am	Morning Prayer
12	Tue	7.30pm	Bible Project
13	Wed	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion
		11.00am	Bible Project
		7.30pm	Evening Prayer
14	Thur	9.00am	Prayer Space
5	Fri	10.00am	Mums & Babes Pilgrim Course
17	Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.00am	OASIS Communion
		4.45pm	OASIS in Afternoon Communion
18	Mon	8.30am	Morning Prayer
20	Wed	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion
		7.30pm	Evening Prayer
21	Thur	9.00am	Prayer Space
23	Sat	8.30am	Men's Breakfast
24	Sun	9.30am	OASIS
		11.00am	Holy Communion
25	Mon	8.30am	Morning Prayer
26	Tue	7.30pm	Bible Project
27	Wed	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion with Mothers' Union
		11.00am	Bible Project
		7.30pm	Evening Prayer
28	Thur	9.00am	Prayer space