



Grapevine

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



March 2020



**Messy Church - Mothers!
Saturday 21st March**

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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

Church Office ~ 01622 299715 (answerphone)

stnicholas1@outlook.com

St Nicholas Church

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Sunday Services

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

Mondays 9.00 am Morning Prayer

Wednesdays 9.00 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Holy Communion
7.00 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 Barry Writes.....



March already, how time marches on. Who would have thought it was a year ago that Rev Chris was making his plans to walk the Camino. More of a concern to me was being left to fly solo. So much to consider and be aware of; and now it seems such a distant memory. Despite the fears, and at times anxiety, there was no need to worry. All went well, if not very well, while Rev Chris was away. Nothing went wrong and in hindsight, nothing could have gone wrong that could not have been solved by myself or any number of people who I could call upon for help or advice.

Soon I am to take up a post as incumbent in my own right. As I consider what that means, the challenges, the highs and lows, the joy, and I am sure at times, sadness, I am reminded of this time last year. All those thoughts and fears, yet I do not feel nervous or anxious as before. The lessons from last year come to the fore and I have learnt not to be worried. Matthew 6:34 teaches us, *'Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'* What we are being told is this, 'live for the moment'. Make the most of the day God has given us.

I read an article recently that was written by a medical professional but reflected exactly what the bible has been telling us for two-thousand years. The article stated that those who tend to live in the past can suffer with depression. Those who tend live in the future, often suffer with anxiety. Those who live in the moment tend to be the happiest. Two things of real importance present themselves here. First, the current scientific opinion of a senior medical professional supports the teaching inspired by God, our creator who knows exactly how we function. He knows what is good for us and what is not. Secondly, that we should trust the word of God in our lives. Not just in some things, but in everything.

We are not simply told that God knows what is best for us, we are taught that we should look to God in all things. For God wants what is best for us and inspired those who wrote the bible so that we can benefit each and every day. So be reassured and do not let the world put doubt in your mind. We were created for a purpose to be a blessing to God through our worship of Him. The world around us does appear to be trying to distract us from that fact at any opportunity. So do not waste your energy fretting, be confident of who you are and give thanks to God who promises to bless those who trust in Him.

Rev Barry

St Nicholas Church

Free Film Afternoon for Lent

Saturday 7th March - 3pm

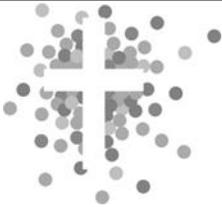
THE WAY

FROM DIRECTOR EMILIO ESTEVEZ



YOU DON'T CHOOSE A LIFE.
YOU LIVE ONE.





ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, ALLINGTON

Seeks to appoint a

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

To provide administrative support for both church and church halls related activities.

Applicants should be friendly and outgoing, have experience in general office administration, excellent computer skills, some basic knowledge of accounting and possibly credit control.

This will be a part time post carried out in our Parish Office on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday between the hours of 9.30am and 12.30pm for a total of nine hours per week paid at a rate of £9.30 per hour. The post will be subject to an enhanced D.B.S. check.

Please contact Rev Chris Lavender to obtain a more detailed job description and application form.

Closing date for applications: 20th March, 2020

REV. CHRIS LAVENDER

01622 297307

rev.chris@hotmail.co.uk



EXPERIENCE EASTER

This year we will be, again, putting on Experience Easter for the older pupils at all our local primary schools, during the w/c 16th March. This will be the 4th time we have hosted this event which happens every other year!

Experience Easter consists of 6 stations representing the events of Holy Week, including Easter Day. They are :- Palm Sunday, Washing of Disciples Feet, the Last Supper, Praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, Good Friday and the tomb on Easter Sunday.

The children go round in small groups to each station and are encouraged to think about the emotions and feelings at each one, they complete an activity and move on to the next before coming together to celebrate the joy (and puzzlement) of Easter Day. This brings the Easter story to life for all involved- pupils, teachers and helpers manning the stations, and gives us all a deeper insight to that first Easter. If you would like to help with this event please contact me.



Fiona Higgs

**Annual Parish Meeting (APM) &
Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**



Our annual meetings will take place on Monday 30th March at 7.30pm, preceded by an act of worship, with communion, at 7pm. The APM is very short and is to elect churchwardens - followed by the longer APCM (not too long!) at which annual reports are presented and vacant posts on PCC and Deanery Synod are voted upon.

If you wish to put your name forward for Churchwarden, membership of the Church Council or Deanery Synod, please contact Rev Chris for the relevant nomination form.

Annual meeting 'packs' (containing the agenda and annual reports) will be emailed where possible, although there will be some printed copies available at the back of church for those that do not have email facilities. If you wish to receive a copy and are not able to attend church, then please contact our church administrator who will post one to you.

Rev Chris

St John Passion -- Bob Chilcott

Saturday 28th March, 7.30pm All Saints Church, Maidstone.

The seven last words of Christ-- **Heinrich Schütz**

Advance Tickets £12, £14 on the door, U19's **FREE**,
Students £3. Tickets online and more information at
www.maidstonechoralunion.co.uk



Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love, and the future to His providence. – *Augustine*

While all men seek after happiness, scarcely one in a hundred looks for it from God. – *John Calvin*



TUESDAY CAFE

**This community Café opens
10am to 12noon each Tuesday
in St Nicholas Church**

(Poplar Grove ME16 0DE)

**There is coffee and chat,
home-made cakes and a table quiz,
if you fancy doing it.**

**There is no charge,
Although you can make a donation.**

All are welcome – do come!

Wheelchair access

Saturday 25 April 2020
Invicta Grammar School for Girls
ME14 5DS



Concert: 6:00pm – 8:00pm | Doors open: 5:30pm

CONCERT OF FAVOURITE MUSIC



**20%
DISCOUNT**

for groups of ten
or more if booked by
6 April 2020

FEATURING

The Blue Danube • Mars • Jupiter • Elizabethan Serenade
Sabre Dance • Bohemian Rhapsody • The Simpsons • Hungarian Rhapsody No 2
Original and Hollywood Piano Concertos by Simon Proctor

Featuring Heart of Kent Orchestra conducted by Thomas Shelbourn
with pianists Simon Proctor and Oliver Poole

Prices: £15 adult • £7 child

How to book tickets

www.hokh.org/support-us/events

01622 790195

fundraising@hokh.co.uk





Christmas is a time when we hear again certain familiar bible passages. The most famous is from the gospel of John chapter 1, verse 1-14, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.....".

With those words in mind our series in the New Year will be on the gospel of John.

There will be five sessions in which we hope to touch on the major themes, and, more importantly, what they mean for us today.

The sessions continue on **Tuesday evenings, at 7.30pm in church, as follows;**

MARCH 10th & 24th

All are welcome to attend - refreshments will be provided.

Rev Chris

A Migrant's Tale!

A heart warming tale of one of the many migrants who have fled from religious persecution - Editor

'I was a homeless asylum seeker; now I work and save £1,000 a month'

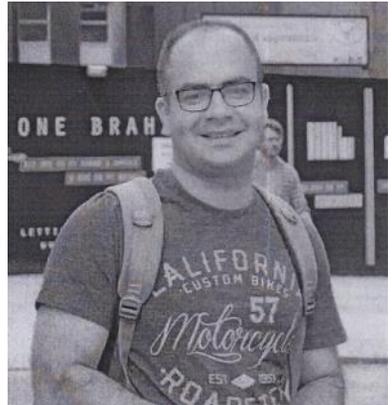
Javad, 30, on how he received help with training through a crowdfunding website

Name: Javad

Age: 30

Income: About £28,000, or £120 a day

Job: Digger operator, Romford



I was forced to flee Iran when I converted to Christianity. I could have been imprisoned or killed because of my beliefs. I didn't want to leave Iran - I'd graduated and was just starting to build a career as a survey engineer but there was no alternative. My uncle paid some smugglers to help me escape Iran and get to Europe. That journey took five months. It was a very difficult time. I remember walking for days. Other times, I travelled in the back of a lorry. I didn't have any money or any belongings apart from the clothes on my back. "

I arrived in the UK in the back of a lorry. When the driver saw me, he was so angry. I felt scared. The police turned up and arrested me. I was sent to a detention centre. There were so many different nationalities. I didn't know what would happen to me but I felt safe at last; people were kind and provided me with food and a bed. Afterwards I was sent to a hotel in Glasgow to live with some other asylum seekers before being placed in Dagenham. Shortly afterwards the Home Office granted me leave to remain for five years. This led to me becoming homeless as I had to vacate the designated housing I'd been put up in. Fortunately I found a bed at a YMCA. That's when my journey really began to change. I was referred to Renaisi, a social enterprise that helps disadvantaged people, and during their weekly visits they'd ask me about what I wanted to do with my life, what my goals were. I said I wanted to study civil engineering and return to the building trade. I really wanted a job as digger operator but knew I'd struggle to do the training as it was expensive and I would need to save for years. Renaisi organised my CSCS card, which is required to work on construction sites, and by some miracle, my support worker referred me to Beam, a crowdfunding website that helps homeless people like me. I received £4,324 - more than enough for the £2,844 digger operator course and the £700 for the street works course. I couldn't believe it.

For the past four months I've worked as a freelance digger operator. Recruitment agencies find me jobs which could last for a few days or a few weeks. Recently I was on a demolition job, which was exciting as I hadn't done that before. I receive about £18 an hour, or about £120 a day. I know people work a lot harder for a lot less so I'm really happy with that rate. I rent a room in a shared house with two other people for £500 a month including bills. A lot of my income goes on my car, which I need because of work. I often work outside of London so end up spending £200 a month on petrol. Car insurance costs £150 a month.

I spend £250 to £300 a month on food and drink. I do eat a lot. Every morning I spend about £8 on food and drinks. I normally stop off at a petrol station and pick up a coffee and croissant. If I'm working on a big site, I'll buy lots of coffees and food like sandwiches, sausages and chips.

But if I'm working at a small place with no canteen, I'll bring in Iranian food cooked at home.

I'm good at saving. I'm single and don't have many outgoings so I'm able to save about £1,000 a month. I'm saving to help me pursue my dreams. I want to go to university here in the UK.

I'm constantly trying to learn - I spend about five hours a week studying. Over the past year I've studied for my maths and English language GCSEs plus English for speakers of other languages (Esol) courses. My aim is to build my savings so I can study civil engineering here and then later buy my own place to live. My dream is to set up my own construction firm. I'm feeling really happy. When I was living at the YMCA I wasn't happy, I felt depressed and isolated. I thought that was my future. But thank God so many opportunities have come through. I've been able to study, learn English, fit in to British life, save money, pay my taxes, and I have a home to live in. But most of all, I'm free.

For more information about Beam visit www.beam.org

Reprinted from The Guardian 2nd January 2020
Submitted by Robin Hiam

Deep in your heart it is not guidance you want so much as a guide. – *John White*

Speed reading may be a good thing, but it was never meant for the Bible. It takes calm, thoughtful, prayerful meditation on the Word to extract its deepest nourishment. – *Anon*

The rich are not always godly; but the godly are always rich. – *Anon*

Charity of the Month Church Army

We work in some of the most deprived communities in the UK and Ireland and work with children and teenagers, the elderly and everyone in between.

We work with those who are homeless, lonely, those experiencing self-harm, who are at risk of gang or knife crime, the unemployed and those who are struggling to make ends meet.

“Church Army exists both to talk to people about Jesus and bring them to faith in Jesus but it also does this extraordinary work of serving the poor and the poorest parts of the country and that speaks to the value of human beings.” - Archbishop Justin Welby

Our evangelists and projects work across the British Isles and Ireland to share the Good News of Jesus through words and actions. We work in a variety of contexts and reach out to communities in ways that help them live life to the full as we seek to transform lives with the gospel.



Our income outside of donations comes from grants, fees and historical investments, meaning 100% of your donation can go straight to our frontline work.

Your support is bringing hope and community transformation across the UK and Ireland.

ALLINGTON LIBRARY Presents



The Stroke Association Art Exhibition

From Friday 6th March 2020 – Friday 27th March 2020

Viewing within library opening times

For further information please contact Allington Library 03000 41 85 58

Monday	Closed all day	
Tuesday	9am – 1pm	2pm - 5pm
Wednesday	9am - 1pm	2pm - 5pm
Thursday	Closed	2pm - 5pm
Friday	9am - 1pm	2pm - 5pm
Saturday	9am - 1pm	Closed

Table Top Sale

Saturday 14th March

St Nicholas Church Hall, Poplar Grove, Allington ME16 0DE

Fundraising for
Chris Stone's
expedition to Vietnam



Tables £10 set up from 8am

(discount for Scout & other World Challenge fundraisers)

General admission 9am to 1pm

***Any questions, and to book,
contact Jenny on:***

*menhirs@outlook.com or
07442534148*

KEEP FAITH

Keep faith with God. Believe in Jesus. These are the confident messages of the Letter to the Hebrews towards the back of our Bible. But the background is intriguing. Its precise origins are unknown and the only indication comes from the text itself and from recent commentaries. It appears that the writer was very familiar with the Old Testament way of worship then became convinced of the greater importance of Jesus. And this belief comes from his own experience. There is no mention of him being in Jerusalem or in touch with any of the Apostles.

It seems that the author was writing to a group of people from a similar background. But this group were living in an area of the Roman Empire where they were experiencing outside misunderstanding or even criticism of their new-found faith. As one commentary puts it, the Epistle tries to reassure its readers that they can stand firm. It speaks of a God of encouragement, commitment and utter faithfulness. This God is a God of passion in every sense of the phrase.

For this reason, God sent to earth his only Son. This Son is now in heaven, higher than the angels and higher than the prophet Moses with whom the readers of the Epistle would have been familiar. Through the Son and his cross and resurrection, this group of readers can now have a stronger belief and a stronger faith. Also, this God has strong feelings. He yearns for his people. He suffers with them and for them. Although the word 'love' is not used of God in the Epistle, the reality of divine love seeps through the whole text.

This is not a God who is remote or detached. This is a God determined to communicate with his people, to take the initiative. And in the heart of all this is God's only Son. The writer of Hebrews wants his audience to be in no doubt that when they look to the Son, they see into the life of God. And this Son is Jesus. The writer's ongoing experience of Jesus, and his reflections on that experience, pushed him into a deep place. But out of those depths has come this very creative piece of writing.

Early in the Epistle, chapter two, the theme has become more challenging. It has the potential to reach right down into the depths of human experience. Only there, says the writer, can God be found and known. For the God of majesty, authority and glory has deliberately taken on through the life of his Son the human experiences of weakness, testing, suffering and even death – death on a cross. This is in order to offer to the whole of humanity a way through to hope and spiritual fulfilment.

This is not an easy message to accept, either then or now. It does not sit

comfortably with any image that no difficulties would arise on this earthly journey. This Epistle does take very seriously the reality of fear and pain. Yet it also takes very seriously the hope that is now on offer.

So, Hebrews urges his readers to keep faith with God, and keep believing in the Jesus who once walked this earth, and bore its pains on the cross.

Robin Hiam

Note: Source used was Encounter with God in Hebrews by Joy Tetley 1995.



ALLINGTON COMMUNITY MARKET

Friday 6th 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

Church Magazine Bloomers

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

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

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 pm at the Baptist Church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.

The Old Violin

Let us all remember that the quality of our lives can be radically changed by letting Christ enter into it. Also, it is not always advisable to take people at face value and on first impressions.

I was battered and scarred, and the auctioneer
Scarcely thought it worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin
And he held it up with a smile;
'What am I bidden, good folks ' he cried
'Who will start the bidding for me?'
'A pound, a pound, now two, only two and three pounds once;
Three pounds twice and going for three....
But no; from the room far back, a grey haired man came forward
And picked up the bow, then wiping the dust from the old violin
Tightening up all the strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet, as sweet as an angel's song.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low, said
'What am I bid for the old violin' and he held it up with the bow
'A thousand and who will make it two and who will make it three?'
'Three once, 3000 twice and going and gone' he said
'We do not quite understand what changed its worth?'
The man replied; 'the touch of the Master's hand'.

Many a man with life out of tune, all battered, and torn with sin
Is auctioned to a thoughtless crowd, much like the Old Violin
A mess of potage, a glass of wine – a game and he travelled on
He's going once, he's going twice, he's going and almost gone.

But the Master comes and the foolish crowd can never quite understand
The worth of a soul, and the change that is wrought by the touch of the
Master's hand.



Submitted by Angela Redford

Youth & Organisations News

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

At our February Ruth Brind gave an update on 'Alongside Africa' and the amazing work that continues to be undertaken by this charity.

We look forward to Rev Barry leading us in 'Lent Reflections' and our participation in the 'Wave of Prayer' on 17th March.

Chris Cook

01622 670240

Branch Leader

ALLINGTON CASTLE

Unfortunately at our January meeting our speaker was unable to present his talk on the 'Long Walk to Hadrian's Wall' due to a technical problem with his computer. At our March meeting Peter Hartley will be giving a talk about "Diamond Queens" and the competition is an item beginning with G. All visitors are welcome at our very friendly WI.

Joyce Foster

ALLINGTON GARDEN CLUB

By now we will have had our first meeting of 2020 and hopefully all our members will have re-joined for another year.

On March 5th we have Ian Fleming from Hadlow College giving a talk on 'Hellebores' and on the 2nd April we will have a talk on 'Lawn Care'

with Paul Patton.

At our March meeting we will start taking money for our coach outing to Nymans on 11th July.

We will have our Bring & Buy Table again this year. Have you split plants or taken cuttings? or got anything garden related if so please bring them to our meetings as it all helps with the club funds.

Pam Blake

WESTBOROUGH BOWLS CLUB

As I reported last month, we replaced our old and dilapidated shed that served as the **men's**



changing rooms with a brand new, smart cabin. This has now been sprayed to protect the wood from hungry insects and all that is left to do is decide which colour to paint it so that it blends in with the surroundings. Then it will be ready for the new bowls season.

Obviously, projects like this are not cheap so we are always looking to raise funds in a variety of ways. As I have mentioned before, we are holding our first **Race Night** on **Saturday 28th March** in **St. Nicholas Church Hall**. If you are thinking of coming but are not sure what to expect, let me explain.

Throughout the evening we will be showing **8 pre-recorded horse races**, each with 8 runners. Everyone has a race card that lists all the horses in each race and, before



each race is shown, there is an opportunity to **place one or more bets** on the runners in that race. People tend to choose horses bearing their "lucky" number or those with names that tickle their fancy. You can always bet on more than one horse to increase your chances of winning. We then show the race on the big screen and, if you have bet on the winner, **you collect your winnings!**

The emphasis of the evening is on **having fun** as absolutely no skill is required to pick a winner. There will be a lucky race card draw together with the usual raffle. Admission is £4, which includes a race card, and all bets are £1. Doors open at 7:00 pm for a **7:30 pm start**. Please bring your own refreshments.

If you would like to come along, please contact **John Kellum on 01622 693055** or email racenight@westboroughbowls.co.uk hope to see you there.

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

OPEN CIRCLE

Being unwell during January which left me feeling quite tired in the afternoons. The silver lining was that it gave me more time to read.

As a Christmas present I was given *The Fate of Fausto* by Oliver Jeffers, marketed as 'a painted fable'. It's a beautiful book, suitable for adults and children, with its bold art and wonderful prose, beginning *There*



was once a man who believed he owned everything and set out to survey what was his.

I was also given *The Book of Dust* volume 2 written by Philip Pullman, only to realise that I still hadn't read volume 1, *La Belle Sauvage* nor *The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood. Both the latter are fairly hefty books but in January I thoroughly enjoyed both of them. I have to admit that, although I admire Margaret Atwood's achievements as a writer, *The Testaments*, while thoroughly absorbing and well-written, had very little of the astonishing brilliance of *The Handmaid's Tale*. My personal opinion is Atwood deserves the Booker prize, but probably not for *The Testaments*.

Philip Pullman's novel was a super, enjoyable novel and I'm looking forward to reading Volume 2, and re-reading his *Dark Materials*. What a pity that as a staunch 'Remainer' Pullman has made public some very silly comments about the Oxford comma, or lack of it, on the new 50p piece. It hasn't spoilt my enjoyment of his books, but it has exposed his clay feet!

I've just finished *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman, a fictionalised biography of Rachel Pomie, mother of Camille Pissarro the impressionist artist, which was full of the colour, scents and sounds of the island of St Thomas in the West Indies where Pissarro was born, and am currently enjoying *Where Angels Fear to Tread*, the first novel by EM Forster, a witty comedy of manners and a clash of cultures set in Italy and Edwardian Britain.

Our meetings in March are on Wednesday 11th when we'll be discussing *My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout which is a lovely, and often moving ac-

count of the relationship between a mother and daughter, and on 25th for coffee and discussion.

Please ring Margaret Salvage 672985 for details of venues in March. New members are always welcome

Dianne White 756660

ST NICHOLAS FELLOWSHIP



The January Meeting was a Quiz Afternoon and the initial quiz consisted of clues for Parts of The Body with the winners being Too Old To?, During the tea break Dennis Derry, our Treasurer, presented the 2018/2019 Accounts which showed a healthy balance to be carried forward to 2020, He also informed us that he was standing down as Treasurer from July 2020. The second quiz after tea was 'Cryptic Clues for South East Town/Villages' and again the winners were Too Old To? All those attending had an enjoyable afternoon.

You are all most welcome to join us at any of our meetings, the next will be in church on Friday 13th March at 2.30pm which is a Lent Reflection with Rev Canon Liz Walker.

If you would like a copy of the Fellowship 2020 Programme, please get in touch.
Michael Froude
01622 759098

MENS BREAKFAST

Our next Breakfast is Saturday 28th March.



TREFOIL GUILD



In January we had a very interesting presentation from the Kent Search and Rescue team and their dog. Februarys meeting was themed around 'Think Pink' There will be challenges with lots of pink activities. All money raised will be given to Guides attending the International jamboree later in the year.

The craft group is going strong and had recently been making pin cushions. We have also rented a pear tree from Little Fant Farm and will receive regular updates on our crop.

On 22nd February we had a county Thinking Day service which was held in Allington.

If you would like to join our Trefoil guild please email us at allingtontg@btinternet.com.

Nick Hughes
ALLINGTON GIRL GUIDING



At the end of 2019 Paula Savage stepped down after 7 years of being our District Commissioner. We want to say a big 'thank you' for all the hard work you have put into our District. Allington District is made up of all the Leaders and girls across Rainbows, Brownies & Guides.

She will still be running her Rainbow and Guide Units and be spending more time with her family. Glenys Stittle has taken over in the short term and we will all continue to support her in the coming year.

If you would like your daughter to join one of our units or become a leader please go to www.girlguiding.org.uk and register your details.

Millennium Green News

It has been a busy year on the Millennium Green, with a lot of work being carried out thanks mainly to a grant of £8,000 from the National Lottery. Three large boulders have appeared, and a new knee rail has just been installed.



On the downside, a bench was destroyed by arson, and this demonstrated the need for us to remain vigilant in our generally quiet area of the town, as we are not immune from unpleasant forces and anti-social behaviour. However, we are lucky that residents keep an eye open for what is going on, and we have had help from both the Police and Kent Fire and Rescue when we have needed to contact them

Congratulations are due to two of our stalwart volunteers, Bob Kingsland and Keith Wooler, who have received 'Highly Commended' awards from the Kent Messenger charity team, following 145 nominations from across Kent. Thanks go to all of our volunteers, and to the directors of our trustee company; we are keen to welcome more people to join our ranks, so please contact me if you would like to become involved with our environmental work. We are also grateful to everyone who supports our bi-annual 'Wine and Wisdom' quizzes, which typically raise over £1,200 each year.

We lost four trees from the orchard recently however, they have just been replaced by two Allington Pippin apple trees, the variety having been developed in the 1870s by Thomas Laxton in south Lincolnshire, where it was originally known as the 'South Lincoln Beauty'. In 1894 it was taken on by George Bunyard, the owner of the Allington Nursery, and he renamed it. Luckily, we were able to source them locally, from Keepers Nursery in East Farleigh, which states that it 'probably has the largest range of fruit trees for sale in the world'.

Incidentally, if you see copper nails hammered into tree stumps on the Green, these reflect a traditional method designed to stop them re-growing; whether the method works will become evident over the next year. Also, you may notice in January that grease will be repainted on the fruit tree trunks, to control aphid damage. The grease prevents ants from reaching the aphids in order to 'milk' them for honeydew and protect them from predators like ladybirds.

Brian White



St Nicholas Church

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Mothers!**

Saturday 21st March

11.00am - 1.30pm

£3 pp / £10 family

(light lunch included)

Contact Fiona to book

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Board

March

your Diaries!

**7th March
Afternoon**

Page 4

**14th March
Top Sale**

Page 13

**21st March
March - Mothers!**

Page 21

**30th March
Parish Meeting**

Page 6

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once a month
on a Friday.**

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Next meeting

Friday 13th March

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**No Saturday Club
this month!**

**Deadline for
April Grapevine
Tuesday 3rd March
Please send articles
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Rotas for March

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

Welcomers

March w/e

	8.00am	10.00am
1	A Waddams J Sargent	D & M Derry E Harrington
8		C Colyer & C McInnes
15	B & D Davison	D Arnett & S Lavender
22		M Gentry & G Garrett

COFFEE ROTA

March w/e

1	June Bagshaw & Michelle McLaughlin
8	Sarah Lavender & Michael Froude
15	Christine Colyer Caroline McInnes & Betty
22	Ian Redford & Mary Gentry

We welcome into the family of the church

Emilia Hodges

We commend to the loving care of our Lord

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Wordsearch for March

Lent lasts for 40 days. Sundays in Lent are 'oases'; as Sunday is never a day of fasting, but a weekly celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Christians have used Lent as their '40 days in the wilderness', when they set aside the indulgences of life and instead look inward, seeking spiritual renewal and growth. Lent looks towards the Cross and the Empty Tomb, with the assurance of redemption and new life in Christ. The daffodils in our gardens are golden trumpets to proclaim the wonderful message of Easter! The English word for Lent is not at all religious; it is an abbreviation of the Old English word 'lencten', or 'lengthen'. At last winter is over, and the days are getting longer...



Lent
Forty
Days
Sundays
Fasting
Weekly

Celebration
Resurrection
Jesus
Wilderness
Indulgences

Inward
Spiritual
Renewal
Growth
Cross

Empty
Tomb
Redemption
Daffodils
Lencten

WHERE AND WHEN — ORGANISATIONS IN THE PARISH

Mondays:		Tel.enquiries
Quilting Web	9.30am - 12.00pm ~ <i>Small Hall 2nd,4th,5th</i>	01622 710829
Zumba and Seated Exercise	9.15am - 11.15am	07999 444045
ALLARA Tai Chi	11.30am - 12.30pm	01622 752127
ALLARA Painting	1.30pm - 4.00pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	01622 759426
ALLARA Kurling	2.00pm - 5.00pm ~ <i>2nd & 4th</i>	01622 686305
Flair School of Dance	4.00pm - 5.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	07713 260452
Flair School of Dance	5.30pm - 6.00pm	07713 260452
2nd Allington Rainbows	4.30pm - 5.30pm @ <i>Allington School</i>	01622 685264
4th Allington Brownies	6.00pm - 7.30pm @ <i>Allington School</i>	01622 686527
Weight Watchers	6.30pm - 8.30pm	07888 740221
Allington Beaver Scouts	6.00pm - 7.00pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	07770 227254
1st Allington Guides	7.15pm - 8.45pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	01622 672985
Tuesdays:-		
Tuesday Café	10.00am - 12 noon In Church	
Slimming World	9.45am - 11.45am ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	07770 700688
Parent & Toddler Group	9.30am - 11.30am	07527 743438
ALLARA General Meeting	1.00pm - 4.30pm ~ <i>3rd</i>	01622 686305
1st Allington Brownies	5.45pm - 7.30pm	01622 685007
Trefoil Guild	7.00pm onwards ~ <i>Various locations 1st</i>	allingtontg@btinternet.com
Allington Scouts	7.30pm - 9.00pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	07770 277254
Wednesdays:-		
Quilting Friends	9.30am - 12.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall 1st & 3rd</i>	01622 744170
Quilting Web	9.30am - 12.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall 2nd,4th,5th</i>	01622 710829
ALLARA Keep Fit	10.30am - 11.30am	01622 756475
Sandra's Child Friendly Pilates	1.30pm - 2.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	07837 783061
Maidstone Dance Academy	3.15pm - 6.15pm	01622 746835
Maidstone Dance Academy	4.00pm - 6.00pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	01622 746835
2nd Allington Brownies	6.15pm - 7.45pm	01622 753563
Light & Life Christian Fellowship	7.00pm - 8.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall 1st,2nd,4th</i>	see Sunday
Allington Castle WI	7.30pm - 9.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall 3rd</i>	01622 721170
Maidstone Circle Dance	8.00pm - 10.00pm ~ <i>1st</i>	01622 753090
Thursdays:-		
ALLARA Committee Meeting	10.00am - 12.00 ~ <i>Small Hall 1st</i>	01622 686305
Creative Art & Textiles	10.00am - 2.00pm ~ <i>Small Hall 3rd</i>	01622 695769
NHS Retirement Fellowship	11.00am - 1.00pm ~ <i>1st</i>	01622 670240
Sandra's Child Friendly Pilates	1.30pm - 2.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	07837 783061
Mothers' Union	2.30pm - 4.30pm @ <i>Church 3rd</i>	01622 670240
Allington Cub Scouts	6.30pm - 8.00pm @ <i>Allington School</i>	07770 227254
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
Fridays:-		
Zumba	9.15am - 11.15am ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	07999 444045
OASIS Café / Mums & Babes	9.30am - 12noon @ <i>Church 2nd</i>	07951 777854
Musical Playtime	10.00am - 11.00am	07901 712510
Allington Community Market	12noon - 3.00pm ~ <i>1st</i>	07747 822898
Jenny Tai Chi	12.30pm - 1.15pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	07985 438296
St Nicholas Fellowship	2.30pm - 4.30pm @ <i>Church 2nd</i>	07917 123087
Flair School of Dance	16.15pm - 18.45pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	07713 260452
Saturdays:-		
Messy Church / Saturday Club	Once a month as advertised	07951 777854
Men's Breakfast	8.30am - 9.30am ~ <i>Last</i>	01622 759278
Hearty Quilters	9.00am - 1.00pm ~ <i>1st</i>	01732 823383
1st Allington Rainbows	9.00am - 10.00am ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	07742 846625
Flair School of Dance	10.00am - 1.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	07713 260452
Clouds Youth Group	1.30pm - 4.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	07886 566984
Mid Kent Metal Detecting Club	6.30pm - 10.00pm ~ <i>2nd</i>	01233 612312
Sundays:-		
Light & Life Christian Fellowship	11.00am - 1.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	josephanderson111@icloud.com
Light & Life Christian Fellowship	5.30pm - 9.30pm ~ <i>Small Hall</i>	josephanderson111@icloud.com
JAHFA	6.00pm - 7.30pm @ <i>Church 1st</i>	07951 777854

**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**

March 2020

1	Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.00am	Morning Worship
		5.00pm	OASIS in the Afternoon
2	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer
3	Tue	10.00am	Tuesday Cafe
4	Wed	9.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion with Mothers' Union
		7.00pm	Evening Prayer
5	Thur	9.00am	Prayer Space
7	Sat	3.00pm	Free Film Afternoon
8	Sun	10.00am	OASIS Communion
		12.00pm	Baptism
9	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer
10	Tue	10.00am	Tuesday Cafe
		7.30pm	Bible Project
11	Wed	9.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion
		7.00pm	Evening Prayer
12	Thur	9.00am	Prayer Space
13	Fri	2.30pm	St Nicholas Fellowship
15	Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.00am	OASIS Parade Service
16	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer
			EXPERIENCE EASTER ALL WEEK
18	Wed	9.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion
19	Thur	9.00am	Prayer Space
		2.30pm	Mothers' Union Meeting
21	Sat	11.00am	Messy Church - Mothers!
22	Sun	10.00am	Holy Communion
		12.00pm	Sunday Lunch Club
		6.30pm	Encounter
23	Mon	9.00am	Morning Prayer
24	Tue	10.00am	Tuesday Cafe
		7.30pm	Bible Project
25	Wed	9.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.00am	Holy Communion
		7.00pm	Evening Prayer
29	Sun	8.00am	Benefice Holy Communion St Nicholas
		10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion St Andrew's
30	Mon	7.00pm	Annual Parish Meeting
31	Tue	10.00am	Tuesday Cafe