

# The Higham Bridge

*Community, Friendship, Worship*



November 2023

Monthly Magazine produced by St John's  
Church for the Parish of Higham with Merston

70p



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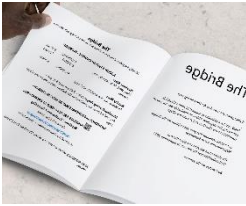
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## FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM



Thank you for continuing to support us with your subscription for 2023-24. If you were not at home when the distributor called, please hand in the £7 in an envelope with your name and street address to 12 Villa Road or 11 St John's Road asap.

If you would like to receive the magazine in digital format, please inform the distributor when they knock to collect your subscription during September/October. Provide them with your email address or please email [bridge@highamparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:bridge@highamparishchurch.org.uk) stating in the heading your name and street address.

You will notice that there are several articles from local organisations included in this issue and hope that you enjoy them. Please do let us know to [bridge@highamparishchurc.co.uk](mailto:bridge@highamparishchurc.co.uk). Your feedback would be appreciated.

Do you have a contribution that could be included? One side of A5 (approximately 250 words or just a few sentences) is ideal.

**If you are able to help with delivering the magazine each month please do contact me as we are in need of someone who is willing to undertake the delivery of 8 magazines to High View - just off School Lane**

*The Editor*

# ***The Higham Bridge***

Monthly Magazine produced by the Parish of Higham with Merston

## **S.JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH - WORSHIP**

### **Weekday Mass**

Mon, Wed, Fri & Saturday only

MORNINGS 9.30 am

Tuesday

EVENING 7.30 pm

### **Sunday Mass**

MORNING 9.30 am

All Masses are also available via Zoom

Please check the Bulletin for the special service times available on the website - [www.highamparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.highamparishchurch.org.uk).

**WEDDINGS and FUNERALS MAY BE HELD IN CHURCH –  
FUNERALS ARE ALSO HELD AT CREMATORIA.**

**Baptisms / Confession / Anointing**

Contact Fr Clive Jones

[vicar@highamparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:vicar@highamparishchurch.org.uk)

or one of the Churchwardens – details below

Please note that Father Clive is not normally available Mondays

In an emergency please contact one of the Churchwardens

**Email: Teresa Joblin**

**[churchwarden@highamparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden@highamparishchurch.org.uk)**

**Helen Walker**

**[church\\_warden@highamparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:church_warden@highamparishchurch.org.uk)**

PARISH PRIEST

FATHER CLIVE JONES

TEL: 01634 711019

HON ASST PRIEST

FATHER ANDREW DAVIS

TEL: 01634 786144

Mrs Teresa Joblin

Tel: 07956 336134

THE

Hill Cottage Telegraph Hill

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Helen Walker

\*Tel: 01474-396569

11 S. John's Road, Higham

CHURCH HALL  
BOOKINGS

Mrs Liz Croker

Tel: 07811 028803



## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICARAGE

November is a month of remembering, especially of course those who have given themselves for our country in war and the souls of our loved ones. The 1<sup>st</sup> Nov is All Saints Day and the 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls Day which appropriately calls us to pray for the souls of departed family and friends and place their names before the great company of heaven where the greater church rejoices in eternal prise of God.

As a Eucharistic church which celebrates mass almost daily, we are conscious of the fact that we remember Christ's death which is re-presented on our altars and brought into the here and now as we also celebrate his resurrection. A daily remembering and making present the past into the present. To receive the sacraments of salvation regularly is a privilege and as we do so we pray for those whose anniversaries of death occur as we do monthly at our requiem.

Praying for departed loved ones is a beautiful gift and for many of us a helpful way of bonding with the glory which is to come – the great hope of the Christian faith. To be able to light candles and spend some time in a peaceful church brings us closer to the things of heaven. May we ever seek to rejoice in the hope of eternal life with our glorious saviour whose resurrection and breaking forth into eternity is at the heart of the Christian faith.

With my prayers

*Fr Clive*

*Please note the insert this month regarding the candles you can buy to be lit on All Soul's Day.*

*Editor*

## HiARA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The season of mellow fruitfulness will soon be here and new plans are being considered by the committee.

The situation over the management of the Memorial Hall is under discussion with the Parish Council and when some positive news is reached, you will be informed. Meanwhile, keep calm and carry on.

We have our day out to Windsor to look forward to on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, I shall miss this as I am taking my Good Citizen Award test with one of my dogs that day and we've been practising for it for a while.

Jan Topp has researched a cruise for September 2024 around Britain and if you see Mary Martin, she will be taking names if you would be interested. No costs are available at this time, as Jan will be discussing a Group price with Ambassador Cruises.

The "ramblers" had a day out in Southend recently, by ferry and train followed by a good enjoyable lunch.

We are also researching a trip to the seaside and maybe an afternoon tea to celebrate the club's 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary next year. More news on that soon.

Tickets for the November 18<sup>th</sup> race night are still available but it is as popular as ever. Menu choices for the Stone Lodge Christmas lunch have been circulated, please complete and return with the payment to Jan and Peter Morris as soon as possible.

My thanks to Mick and Jenny for their help in my absence at main meetings. Also to Ingrid who has written up the reports for the newsletter.

*Liz Jeffery*

## **Coffee, Cake and Conversation**

The Kettle's on, the tea's brewed, all we need is **YOU**

**First Saturday of EVERY MONTH**

Next dates—4th November

2nd December—Christmas Fayre



See p26

**10.30-12.30**

**in the  
Vestry Hall**

**Not Churchy—just Chatty!**

**Open to all**

Come along, bring a friend. This community event provides a friendly welcoming space to meet new people.

## CHALK VILLAGE GARDENERS' CLUB

We are a group of like-minded people of mixed ages and sex. Our youngest member is 15 and we go up to people in their 90's. Since I last wrote to you 5 years ago we now have a meeting or event every single month.

We start in January and go all the way through to December when we end the year with a social event.

We currently have a special offer. £17 the yearly rate, for the rest of this year and all of next. If you want to come as a visitor it's £3 a meeting. Always the 2nd Friday in the month. We meet in Chalk Parish Hall. Including refreshments.

The meetings are " 10 Nov Martin Newcombe "Bats in the Belfry" ; Sat 2 Dec "Christmas Social" hopefully fish and chips paid for by the club.

2024 is not completely booked but it is close.

12 Jan Darren Everest "Sweet peas"; 9 Feb "AGM"; 8 Mar Martin Gurdon " The life of the chicken"; 15 Mar Nick Bailey – Gardeners World "Unusual Urban Edibles"; 12 Apr Caroline Halfpenny "Bulbs"; 10 May Jean Griffin "A question and answer session "; 14 Jun Judith Harthall " Ponds"; 12 Jul Sally Channon "Thanet Earth"; 9 Aug "TBA"; Sat 7 Sep "The Show"; 11 Oct Tom Hart Dyke – "TBA"; 8 Nov Katherine Hook "Sloe Seduction"; 7 Dec "Christmas Social"

Our meetings are zoomed and you don't need to live in Chalk. We have members from all areas.

Why not take a look at our website  
[www.chalkvillagegardenersclub.co.uk](http://www.chalkvillagegardenersclub.co.uk)

*Julie Merritt*



# THE NOVEMBER REQUIEM

is on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

*The recently departed (and those named below) will be prayed for at this Mass.  
Those named below are remembered on the Sunday before and the actual date itself.*

1 <sup>st</sup>	Gordon Clement Annetts	Paul Edward Wakelin <i>PRIEST</i>
	Jean Hollis	Audrey Edgar
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kenneth Turner	19 <sup>th</sup> Monica Wardle
3 <sup>rd</sup>	'Joe' (Cecil) Bassett	Leonard Henry Carter
4 <sup>th</sup>	James Richard Foster <i>PRIEST</i> *	Bertha Mary Ivory
5 <sup>th</sup>	Marion Vann	Edwin William Edgar Leeson
	Michael Grey <i>PRIEST</i>	Terence Elvin Wootton
6 <sup>th</sup>	Alfred Leonard Eyers	Kenneth Wesley Jones
7 <sup>th</sup>	John Thomas Waghorn	20 <sup>th</sup> Marjorie Primrose Walker
8 <sup>th</sup>	'Sam' (Frederick) Weller	Sidney George Farrant
	Herbert Reginald Jarvis	Joan Kent
9 <sup>th</sup>	John Richards <i>BISHOP</i>	21 <sup>st</sup> Phyllis May Philpot
	Geoffrey Waghorn	Mary <u>Bruce</u> Thurlow
10 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Warwick Simpson	Minnie May Pigden
	Arthur Barber	23 <sup>rd</sup> Peter Richard Hill
	Elsie Jury	Robert Featherstone
11 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Those killed in warfare</i>	24 <sup>th</sup> Hilda Esther Allen
12 <sup>th</sup>	Jennifer Jane Steer	25 <sup>th</sup> May Rich
	Marjorie Wise	Leonard Herbert Merchant
	Jill Reynolds	26 <sup>th</sup> Audrey May Clare
13 <sup>th</sup>	Ethel Mabel Alice Lewing	28 <sup>th</sup> Christopher Birkett
	Marjorie Constance Miller	Eric Waldram Kemp <i>BISHOP</i>
14 <sup>th</sup>	David John Barnes <i>PRIEST</i>	29 <sup>th</sup> Lilian Fordham
	'Kay' [Kamala ] Mary Davis	Joyce Irene Helen Conway
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sergius Clougher (Clewes) <i>PRIEST</i> *	Yvonne Mary Isobel Holyhead
18 <sup>th</sup>	Olive Whyman	30 <sup>th</sup> Margery Bertha Bassett

**NOTE:** *Except for previous Incumbents of this parish (marked \*),  
or where it is known that people attend **this** mass to pray for a person,  
the names of those deceased more than 20 years have been removed from the list. However, should  
someone attend the requiem mass AND request the inclusion  
of other names these will be included in the list at the mass.*

Dying you destroyed our death.  
Rising you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus, come in glory!



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### HIGHAM VILLAGE WEBSITE

To see the latest village news, Annual Parish Newsletters, What's On and Parish Council go to [www.higham-kent-pc.gov.uk](http://www.higham-kent-pc.gov.uk)

If your group or society plans an event or meeting and you want more advertising, just let me know so that it can be added to the village website to spread the word. Club and society contact details are always needed to update and extend the online list of groups. If your society has a website, then we can list this as well and link back to you.

Higham is a buzzing, friendly village so lets share this feeling on our parish website!

Linda Atkinson, Webmaster [web.manager@higham-kent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:web.manager@higham-kent-pc.gov.uk)



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or find me on facebook - Sonia K Curtains

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S- HERITAGE OPEN DAY



Another successful Heritage Open Day for St Mary's as part of this National event which took place at the beginning of September. St Mary's hosted the This Is My Theatre Group who gave a sterling rendition of Shakespeare's Much Ado About

Nothing, over 50 people came to watch the play and partake in wine and cookies.

The following day the church was open for very interesting free guided tours on the history of the church, the churchyard and surrounding areas. It was an extremely warm day outside but people were able to enjoy the cool of the church while they wandered around perusing photographs and documents about Higham and the marshes which the History Group put on display. Thanks to peoples' kind generosity we were able to raise just over £132 through donations for refreshments. This is very much appreciated and is going towards the restoration and maintenance of St Mary's.

## FOLK MUSIC AT ST MARY'S

Come and join us at a performance by the folk group The Kimberleys on Saturday 28 October at 2.30 pm in St Mary's church. They will perform two sets of 45 minutes each. Light refreshments will be available to purchase during the intermission. For comfort you may want to bring a cushion to sit on as you will be sat on the church pews. Tickets cost £15 and are available at <https://www.wegottickets.com/event/595866/> For those unable to use on line booking systems it will be possible to buy tickets on the door. For fuller details please go to [www.stmaryschurchhigham.com](http://www.stmaryschurchhigham.com)

This brings to a close our events programme for 2023. If you have any suggestions for possible ideas for next year's programme we

would love to hear from you at [friends@stmaryschurchhigham.com](mailto:friends@stmaryschurchhigham.com)  
Also please keep a check on our website at  
[www.stmaryschurchhigham.com](http://www.stmaryschurchhigham.com) for any events we might be able to  
sneak in before Christmas!  
*Lygia Schubert*

## LOVE IN A BOX



A reminder about Love in a Box – shoeboxes are filled with various items to be distributed in churches, schools, hospitals and orphanages to children who otherwise would not receive Christmas gifts in Moldova which is the poorest country in Europe.

We are fortunate this year to be given knitted hats and gloves to go into the boxes and also 'Treasure Bags' with many thanks to Janet Callaby and her friend for providing these.

Please take a leaflet and fill a shoebox and make a child happy this Christmas.

The boxes need to be in St John's Church or to me by 5<sup>th</sup> November. Please do not leave the boxes in the church unattended.

Thank You

*Wendy Hance*  
01474 822702

## ALLOTMENT ANECDOTES

Having survived the courgette glut and made one last batch of Courgette Muffins this week, we are now moving into managing the pumpkin and squash harvest.

We have a mix of butternut squash, small orange squashes and a few heavy weight pumpkins – although not quite Guinness Book of World Records this year. The large orange one in the photograph below weighs in at 14.3 pounds (around 6.5 kg). It's still quite mild here at the beginning of October, as I am writing this piece, some of the pumpkins are continue to grow on the vines and may get a little bigger, others have been brought back home to ripen on the window sill. An early display – waiting to be carved for Halloween.



We are still harvesting potatoes, tomatoes, cooking apples and a few autumn raspberries - plus we have a good supply of red onions stored for the winter and some rather nice spicy plum chutney.

We are just starting to plan for next year's planting and aiming to get the plot cleared of weeds over the autumn – mind you .....we say that every year and never seem to get it all done! Favourite pumpkin recipe – another cake, although pumpkin curry is delicious – the cake wins!

300 g self-raising flour  
250 g golden castor sugar  
2 tsp mixed spice  
2 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
65 g sultanas  
3 large or 4 medium eggs –  
beaten

200 g butter (melted)  
Zest of 1 large orange  
1 tbsp orange juice  
500 grams peeled pumpkin –  
grated

1. Heat oven to 180 or 160 fan or gas 4
2. Butter and line a 30x20cm baking or roasting tray
3. Put the flour, sugar, spice, bicarbonate of soda, sultanas into a large bowl and combine by stirring
4. Beat the eggs into the melted butter, stir in the zest and orange juice and then the grated pumpkin. Mix with the dry ingredients.
5. Pour the mixture into the baking tray and cook for 30 minutes or until the cake is golden and springy
6. Leave cake in the tray for 5 minutes and then put it to cool on a wire rack

You can prick some holes across the top of the cake and pour over some additional juice from another orange.

Or you can make some cream cheese icing

200 g soft cheese

85 g butter

100g icing sugar

Zest of 1 orange

1 tsp orange juice

Beat together and spread over the cooled cake

With the cream cheese icing, store the cake in the fridge – it will last around 3 days

*Sue Sparks*

## **USEFUL INFORMATION**

Did you know that you can receive up-to-date village information alerts from the Parish Council and the police? Sign up at

***higham-kent-pc.gov.uk*** and alerts from the police  
***mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk***

# HIGHAM VILLAGE HISTORY GROUP

## THEN & NOW:



The top view of the crossroads is from the Bell's series of postcards, understood to be from the 1930s.

*Illustration provided by Andrew Rootes*



Andrew and Higham Village History Group are always keen to add more old views of the village to the archive, so please bear them in mind when turning out your old suitcases, attics and albums!

And don't forget: the history group has a drop-in session on the first Friday of every month between 11 am-1 pm in Higham Library. If you can't make that time, another can be arranged to suit you via email [info@highamvillagehistorygroup.org.uk](mailto:info@highamvillagehistorygroup.org.uk) or phone 01634 718285.

Andrew can be messaged via the Higham Mutual Admiration Society website or via email [bykented@gmail.com](mailto:bykented@gmail.com)

## HISTORY GROUP NEWS

On **16<sup>th</sup> November @ 8 pm** at **St. John's Church Hall** the Group will be holding a talk by David Rouse entitled "Thames & Medway Canal". **Please note the change in venue. All future talks will be held in the St John's Vestry Church Hall.**

Light refreshments will be available following the talk, free of charge.

Entrance fee for non-Members is £5 (Members free)

The Group, with financial help from Higham Parish Council, is pleased to have been able to reprint the publication "A History of Higham" Volume 1 by Andrew Rootes. This had previously been out of stock. The cost is £7.50 and can be obtained via the Group's website or at the Village Post Office

The Group always welcome new members. Details of how to become a member are on our website: [highamvillagehistory.org.uk](http://highamvillagehistory.org.uk) or email: [info@highamvillagehistory.org.uk](mailto:info@highamvillagehistory.org.uk) or telephone the Group's Secretary (Kate) on 01634 718285

*Coral White*

## THE POPPIES OF REMEMBRANCE

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

*Source: Parish Pump*

# RIDE + STRIDES for Churches



Ride & Stride Kent 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023 10.00 am -- 6.00 pm

Keith & Teresa Joblin, Andrew & Maria Stevens took part again in this year's Ride & Stride event to raise funds for The Friends of Kent Churches.

This year we covered 34 miles and visited 13 churches.

The morning started off with technical issues with one E-bike which delayed our departure from Higham.

The plan was to catch the train from Higham after visiting our three churches then travel to Rainham by train to continue our planned route.

Group travel was a bargain at £4.00 per person including the return journey.



Pictured here, left to right  
Keith Joblin, Fr  
Simon Walker,  
Andrew Stevens.  
Teresa Joblin.  
Maria Stevens.  
Enid, Teresa and  
Maria's mum, came  
along to wish us  
well before we left



We visited the following churches and chapels

St Johns Higham  
Congregational Church  
Higham  
St Margaret Rainham.  
St Mary Upchurch.

St Margaret Lower Halstow.  
St Bartholomew Bobbing.  
Holy Trinity Milton Regis.  
St Peter & St Paul Borden.  
Methodist Church Lane Newington.  
St Mary Newington.  
St Michael & All Angels Hartlip.  
Methodist Church Hartlip.  
St Mary's Lower Higham.



*Cont'd p25*

# The Higham Bridge Village Directory

## Autumn 2023 – (pull out and keep)

### S.JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH - WORSHIP

#### Weekday Mass

Mon, Wed, Fri & Saturday only	MORNINGS	9.30 am
Tuesday	EVENING	7.30 pm

#### Sunday Mass

MORNING	9.30am
---------	--------

All Masses are also available via Zoom

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**Helen Walker [church\\_warden@highamparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:church_warden@highamparishchurch.org.uk)**



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<b>LAY MINISTER</b>	<b>STEVE PHILIPS</b>	<b>TEL: 07720 886700</b>
	<a href="mailto:layminister@highamparishchurch.org.uk">layminister@highamparishchurch.org.uk</a>	
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## **ST JOHN'S CHURCH FLOWERS**

Mrs Julie Aldous, 17 Taylors Lane

## **JUNIOR CHURCH**

Mrs. Nancy Hughes Email: [nlhughes3@yahoo.com](mailto:nlhughes3@yahoo.com)

## **PCC SECRETARY**

Tel: 01474 823872

Mrs Sarah Wright Email: [secretary@highamparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:secretary@highamparishchurch.org.uk)

## **PCC TREASURER**

Mrs Anne Tammas-Williams Email: [treasurer@highamparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@highamparishchurch.org.uk)

## **STROOD DEANERY SYNOD**

Mr Steve Phillips

Tel: 07720 886700

Mrs Lynne Chesterton

## **HIGHAM BRIDGE MAGAZINE**

Editors' Email: [bridge@highamparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:bridge@highamparishchurch.org.uk)

Mrs Liz Croker, Mrs Catherine Ody

Subscriptions and advertisements: Mrs Liz Croker 07811028803

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## **DICKENS COUNTRY PROTECTION SOCIETY**

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## **EAGLES FOOTBALL CLUB**

Mrs Pat Jeal Tel: 01474 822607

[www.highameagles.co.uk](http://www.highameagles.co.uk)

## **HIGHAM ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION - HiARA**

Secretary: Mrs Liz Jeffery

Tel: 01474 747090

Membership Enquiries: Mrs Jenny Mount

Tel: 01474 356785

## **HIGHAM BOWLERS**

Secretary: Susanna Potter Chairman: Mr Gerry Davies Tel: 07519 941098

## **HIGHAM CHORAL GROUP**

[www.highamchoral.org.uk](http://www.highamchoral.org.uk)

Secretary: Sian Miller Tel: 01634 366050

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Secretary: Mrs Kate Woollacott Tel: 01634 718285

Email: [kateiw@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kateiw@tiscali.co.uk)**HIGHAM WRITERS GROUP**email: [deniseleppard@btinternet.com](mailto:deniseleppard@btinternet.com)

Mrs Denise Leppard Tel: 01474 822881

**UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS**Brownies: Email: [2ndhighambrownies@gmail.com](mailto:2ndhighambrownies@gmail.com)Rainbows: Email: [highamrainbows@gmail.com](mailto:highamrainbows@gmail.com)

Cubs/Beavers Mrs Andrea Jarmin Tel: 01474 822192

Scouts Tel: 01474 823806

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH** Secretary Peter Relf Tel: 01474 322195**HIGHAM VILLAGE SPORTS ASSOCIATION**

Facebook: @highamvillagesportsassociation Tel: 01474 824265

Email: [highamvillagesports@hotmail.com](mailto:highamvillagesports@hotmail.com)**HIGHAM YOUTH CLUB**

Ravinder Marwaha Tel: 01474 320123

Tel: 07856 474595

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Rachael Martin email: [tisthemartins@aol.com](mailto:tisthemartins@aol.com) Tel: 07883 115361

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Tel: 01474 366121

PCSO

Email:[csu.gravesham.allatkent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:csu.gravesham.allatkent.pnn.police.uk)

**SCHOOLS**

Higham Primary School

Tel: 01474 822535

Head teacher Mrs C Grattan

Gads Hill Place & Gads Hill School

Tel: 01474 822366

Head teacher Mr Paul Savage

St George's School Gravesend – Mr Stephen Carey Tel: 01474 533082

**ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH**

Website:[www.highamparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.highamparishchurch.org.uk)

or scan the QR Code

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnshigham](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnshigham)

Twitter: @stjohnshigham



**PARISH CLERK (Higham Parish Council)**

[enquiries@higham-kent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@higham-kent-pc.gov.uk) [www.higham-kent-pc.gov.uk](http://www.higham-kent-pc.gov.uk)

Parish Clerk

Tel: 07379 014741

If there is any incorrect information on these pages please email corrections to: [bridge@highamparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:bridge@highamparishchurch.org.uk)



*From p20* The temperature was over 30 degrees which made cycling very tiring but still enjoyable. All the churches were very welcoming and nice and cool they supplied the riders with a choice of water, soft drinks, tea, coffee - some even supplied cake and biscuits. There were further power issues with two of our E-bikes which meant we had to stop several times to rectify the faults. We saw many other cyclists taking part in the event so I believe Ride & Stride 2023 was a success and well supported once again this year, even though it was the hottest day of the year. We broke our journey at Borden and enjoyed a well-deserved pint in 'The Maypole' public house with a hearty lunch in a nice shady part of the garden to cool off in.



There was even a church cat to welcome us!

Then we were on our way to finish off our final leg, Newington and Hartlip.

It was then time to cycle back to Rainham to catch the train back to Higham.

On checking how many Ride and Striders visited St John's it totalled 17 cyclists, - refreshments were available for the thirsty participants in the porch of the church.

It was then time to put the bikes away relax, put our feet up and sit and watch The Last Night of The Proms on TV.

We would like to thank everyone who sponsored us including one person who doubled their sponsorship in lieu of the scorching weather. It's a worthwhile cause providing very much needed funds for churches and chapels throughout Kent for repairs and renovations.

We raised £403.00 this year with your kind donations.

With much thanks for your support from  
Keith, Teresa, Andrew and Maria



**St John's Church, Higham**

# **Christmas Fayre**

**2nd December 2023**

**We are now taking bookings for tables for our 2023 Christmas Fayre taking place on 2nd December 2023. Each table is £10.**

**To place your booking please contact Helen Walker on**

**[church\\_warden@highamparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:church_warden@highamparishchurch.org.uk)**

## EASY SUDOKU

		4	1					
		9	4				2	
		2	6			3		8
	6		8	4	3		9	
2	8	5				4	3	1
4	9		2	1	5		8	
3		6			9	5		
	2				1	9		
					4	8		

© 2013 KrazyDad.com

*Solution p32*

### Did Noah fish?

A Sunday school teacher asked, “Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?”

“No,” replied Johnny. “How could he, with just two worms?”

### Light

A small boy was fascinated by the red Sanctuary lamp during a rather long sermon. Finally, he whispered: ‘Mum, when the light changes to green, can we go?’

*Source: Parish Pump*

## WHO MOVED THE STONE? PART 4 *(Continued from October)*

As the summer of 1552 turned to autumn Master Henry Woodman, the vicar of Higham, known as Sir Henry to the parishioners, was becoming more and more disturbed by the increasing influence of the radical movement sweeping through the Church of England. The young king, Edward VI, was becoming a staunch protestant thinker and agreed to more and more new reforms. Much of the property of the Church had already been taken into lay hands and it was becoming more and more incapable of resisting the decrees of Parliament and the Court. It took some while for them to affect the lives and practices of ordinary people in agricultural communities. His older parishioners in Higham resented the loss of the old ways. The younger ones were increasingly unaware of what had gone before and confused by what was expected of them now. None could read or write. They all depended on what was handed on to them by their parents and by what their priest taught them. A tenant labourer, Stephen Cooper, came to Sir Henry asking for a requiem mass for his wife who had just died in childbirth. Sir Henry had to say that there was no longer a requiem mass for the departed. All he could do was to commend her to God in the new burial service. Depending on her state of grace when she died, she would either go straight to heaven or straight to hell. There was nothing that he or any other priest could do about it, but only hope that God would be merciful to her. No amount of masses, candles or offerings would make any difference. Stephen Cooper flew into a rage and harangued Sir Henry for refusing to help. How could he be so unkind and hard in the face of the death of beloved young wife and mother. He already had three children. Sir Henry felt helpless and couldn't say anything to console him. He sat by the fire and thought about his failure to convince his parishioners of the changes that were imposed upon them and his own misgivings about them. He entirely understood the need to abolish abuses, like the sale of indulgences and spurious relics, but the recent changes went way beyond that. Henry VIII rejected the authority of the Pope but remained Catholic in essence. The new reforms under Edward seemed to be undermining

this position. The conflict with Stephen Cooper made him feel distanced from his parishioners. They did not understand the new ways and rejected his attempts to explain them.

Sir Henry had now been in Higham for two years. In the long evenings, especially in winter, he had read all the books in his small collection. He had not been beyond Rochester. He decided to go to London in search of more books before the winter set in. He started out very early one morning and rode along the old Watling Street towards London. The road was quite busy which made him feel safe. Late in the afternoon he came to Southwark. He decided to stay there and cross London Bridge in the morning. There were no longer any Religious houses where he could seek lodgings. The priory of St Mary Overy just south of the bridge had been closed. The priory buildings were being converted into warehouses but the church remained intact although it was closed. He found an inn which would stable his horse and give him a bed and food. Until pilgrimages were abolished it had been one of the starting places for pilgrims to travel together to the shrine of St Thomas Becket at Canterbury. He felt overwhelmed by the noise and bustle of the inn after the quiet of the village. In the morning he walked across the bridge. There were houses, shops and stalls on each side. He was surprised that the bridge was strong enough to support them all. On the city side he made his way through the narrow and crowded streets to St Paul's. The cathedral completely dominated the city. It was one of the biggest churches in Europe. It looked in poor repair. Going in at the west end Sir Henry was amazed at the length of the church. Like all churches it had been stripped of all its altars, statues, and decoration. The stalls for the prebendaries and the lesser clergy remained in place but the sanctuary looked bare and forlorn. In one of the aisles there were lots of people sitting and talking. Hawkers moved among them selling drinks and food. On the south side of the church was the open air pulpit. It had been used to preach to kings and the Court especially by the reforming bishops. This morning a preacher was denouncing the Church of Rome and praising the German and Swiss

reformers. A large crowd was listening and shouting approval. Nearby was the real reason for Sir Henry's visit – the bookshops. A whole market of shops and stalls selling books had been established on this side of the church. Sir Henry spent the day browsing and chatting with other browsers about what was available and of best value. Many of the shops were dedicated to distributing the new protestant teaching but not all. Some sold older books of devotion from private collections or dispersed monastic libraries. Some sold bibles in English, Latin and Greek. Sir Henry decided to come back the next day and make his choice. Back in the inn he met another priest whom he had known when they were students in Cambridge. He was also looking for books. They set off together for St Paul's the next morning. Sir Henry, after much deliberation, bought a Greek New Testament, the 'City of God' by St Augustine, a work he always wanted to read, and a hand version of the 1552 Prayer Book. With his remaining six pence he bought an old book of personal devotions for the Christian year in Latin. He could translate them for his parishioners. His friend spent all his money on Martin Luther's Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans. They had supper together looking at their books and discussing what to buy in the future.

He set off for home the next day with his new books well concealed in case he was robbed on the way. He arrived well after dark pleased to be home and glad that he didn't live in London. He and his friend from the inn had agreed to meet again at some point and exchange books.

Winter set in, bleak with cold winds blowing down the estuary. Christmas would bring a welcome relief from the harsh conditions but Sir Henry knew that for most people, especially the elderly and poorest labourers, winter was a struggle to stay alive. He would enjoy sitting by the fire reading his new books. But, he wondered, how would this new knowledge help him reach out to his disgruntled parishioners?

*Father Andrew  
(To be continued).*

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## HIGHAM VILLAGE CLUB (CIU)



33 Hermitage Road, Higham, Rochester, Kent, ME3 7DD Tel: 01474 822456

[Check out our Website www.highamvillageclub.co.uk](http://www.highamvillageclub.co.uk)

*The club has a hall which can be hired out for private functions to members and non-members. Ideal venue for Birthdays, Weddings, Christenings & Wakes.*

**All our events are usually open to non-members for a small entrance fee.**

## EASY SUDOKU SOLUTION

8	7	4	1	3	2	6	5	9
6	3	9	4	5	8	1	2	7
1	5	2	6	9	7	3	4	8
7	6	1	8	4	3	2	9	5
2	8	5	9	7	6	4	3	1
4	9	3	2	1	5	7	8	6
3	4	6	7	8	9	5	1	2
5	2	8	3	6	1	9	7	4
9	1	7	5	2	4	8	6	3





*...his constant droning from the pulpit  
is really getting on my nerves!*



### **Thine**

A Yorkshireman wanted an inscription on his wife's grave to read: 'She was Thine'. The engraver mistakenly put 'She was Thin'. The man wrote to explain that they had left off the 'e'. The next attempt read: 'E', She was Thin.'

### **Scare it**

A man had the courage – but not always the skills – to tackle any home-repair project. For example, his garage was littered with the pieces of a lawn mower he had tried to fix. One day his wife found him in the living room, attacking the vacuum cleaner with a screwdriver. "I can't get this thing to cooperate!" he exclaimed.

His wife replied, "Why don't you just drag it out to the garage and show it what happened to the lawn mower?"

*Source: Parish Pump*

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## Spiders

On a chill November morning  
A spider's web, bedewed  
With the moisture of the dawning  
Will cheer our wint'ry mood.

'Tis one of nature's wonders  
'Tis lovely to behold  
Till a moth, unwary, blunders  
Into its sticky fold.

The spider's role is savage  
Its killing bite is sure.  
Sweet nature then will ravage  
'Tis red in tooth and claw.

Such goings-on we pardon,  
We do not moan or grouse

If kept within the garden –  
But not inside the house!

For webs across the doorway  
Or underneath the bed  
Are pretty much a sure way  
To get *me* seeing red!

No house stays clean and tidy  
When spiders are about,  
Their webby messes spidery –  
You cannot help but shout!

I wish, to our eight-legged friends  
I could request, "Oh, please,  
"Just go outside, don't be a pest!"  
But I don't speak spider-ese.

*Source: Parish Pump  
By Nigel Beeton*

## Bags 2 Church Need to declutter?



Have you been meaning to clear  
some space in your wardrobe  
and drawers?

Well now is the chance to do it:-

However due to lack of storage, St John's will  
gladly receive your unwanted clothes, shoes, bags

**FROM**

11 am Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January until  
5.30 pm Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Place items in a **clear** bag which will be available  
from the Church Porch.

Yes we accept these		None of these
All clothing	Hats	Soft toys
Paired shoes (tied together)	Bags	Household linen
Hats	Scarves	Household curtains
Bags	Jewellery	Household towels
Lingerie	Socks	Household bedding
Handbags	Belts and ties	

For more information contact  
Cheryl Robins 01474 822861

# CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## Community – serving together

It was a delight to be able to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress of Gravesham to our Civic Service on 23rd September, and with them, Father Clive and representatives of our Parish and Borough Councils.

Our community is supported by a wide range of voluntary organisations and by a number of professionally run shops and businesses. Their contribution to making Higham a good place in which to live and to the wellbeing of all our villagers remains the hallmark and bedrock of our community. They are the unsung heroes who quietly and efficiently get on with the business of serving us, in contrast with the culture of celebrity which often generates so much noise and negativity. We were glad to be able to celebrate and give thanks for that contribution, and for all the hard work and commitment that underpins it.



At the heart of the service was the passage from Mark's Gospel chapter 10 read by the Mayor. The Rev'd Peter Michell's sermon reflected on the challenging and encouraging Bible text. He drew attention to Christ's teaching on self-seeking service, its evident contrast with selfless service and its ultimate expression in sacrificial service. Rousing singing by the congregation and good fellowship over refreshments made for a blessed time, evidenced in the group photograph.

Higham has a sense of place and identity, and shared values. An African proverb wisely asserts that if you want to go fast, go alone, and if you want to go far, go together. We are much blessed by that togetherness, and we continue to pray for all who work tirelessly to that end.

*Rev'd Peter Michell and David Mead*

## REMEMBRANCE DAY 2023



You will see around the village and in the village shops poppies made by the Knit and Natter Group. Also, both the post boxes will have a poppy theme. Also the lamp posts in Forge and School Lane are usually decorated with large poppies provided by Higham Parish Council.

Volunteer collectors will be calling at as many houses as possible to enable the purchase of poppies to wear. This year you will be able to purchase these by scanning a QR code with a mobile device if you wish. Please give as generously as you are able.

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November St John's will be holding its special Remembrance service at 10 am with uniformed organisations in attendance.

*Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator*



## EDITH CAVELL, NURSE – PART 2



In May 1919 Edith Cavell's body was returned to Britain with full military honours. As the boat arrived at Dover a full Peal of bells was rung at St Mary's Church. This took 3 hours and 3 minutes and was rung half muffled, 5040 changes, continuous ringing with no breaks and no mistakes.

The coffin rested in the church overnight before being conveyed on a special train carriage to Westminster Abbey for the memorial service. This carriage later carried home the body of the Unknown Warrior to be buried at the Abbey as well.

This train carriage is now preserved in the care of the Kent and East Sussex Railway at Tenterden, Kent and is open most days for visitors.



The Peal rung at Dover is commemorated in the bell tower of St Mary's Church by a beautifully illustrated Peal Board that hangs there to this day.

One hundred years later this feat of ringing on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in Nurse Cavell's honour.

*St John's Bell Ringers*

## CHILDHOOD MEMORIES – SHAUN WALTON

For the past 18 years Shaun has been the caretaker of Higham Primary school, his title these days being Site Manager. He loves his job and is very much appreciated by both children and staff.

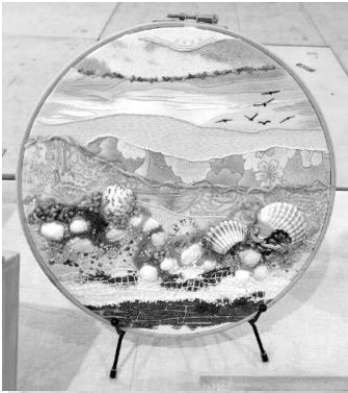
Shaun was born in Parrock Street in Gravesend and has one sister. Theirs was a happy family and he had the grandmothers of both sides of the family both living off Whitehill Road and to differentiate they were referred to as 'Up' Nans (the hill!) and 'Down' Nans (the hill). He went to infant school in Riverview and onto Junior school there and then onto Gravesend Grammar School. Although not considering himself as particularly academic, at the Gravesend Grammar School, the teachers seemed to lose interest in him when he insisted that his ambition was to be a lorry driver, but when he was 13 years old the family moved to Brunei.

Then started a very different life style that most of us would envy. His father was a pipeline welder mostly working abroad and they followed him, so Shaun has lived in many countries including Brunei in Borneo, Iran and Kuwait and going to school in those countries, the Correspondence school in Brunei coming to mind and mixed with people from other places including China. Living in Brunei was not easy for him as their home was on the edge of the jungle and he was afraid of spiders. Also, water skiing in crocodile infested rivers must have been dicey to say the least. Not put off by all that travel his mother, a social worker, enjoyed holidays abroad taking them to the Balearics and also on the QEII.

On coming back to this country from Brunei, he took O Levels in London, left school at 17 years and eventually fulfilled his ambition of HGV driving for Swains. Shaun has lived in Higham for 30years.

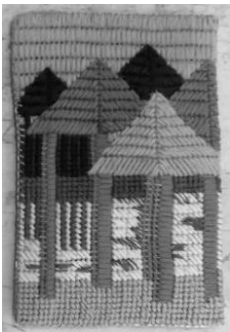
*Barbara Manley*

## NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS



Hello Everyone,  
Our speaker this month was Beth Power <https://www.dottytextiles.com/> talking about 'The Art of 'Stitchscaping' - hand embroidered landscapes. Beth says, "the itch to stitch drew me to my stash" and she told us how her business had taken off during lockdown when she was able to produce many beautiful pieces and started to add 3D elements including shells, to her designs. The range of embroidery stitches used in each piece is amazing and includes bullion knots, French knots, drizzle stitch, seed stitch, running stitch, cross stitch and whip stitch, many of which are used in imaginative ways. Her work is inspired by the

landscapes she encounters on a daily basis.



Everything Beth does is hand stitched and she brought with her many of her delightful pieces for us to see and handle.

This month was the first one of our postcard challenges – the subject being 'holiday memories.' Those who were taking part had placed them in an envelope and then swapped



their creations with that of another participating member. You can see some of the postcards here.

Our next speaker is Dr Susan Kay-Williams CEO of the Royal School of Needlework. She will be talking about 'The Development of Blackwork.'

Before that some of us will be taking part in a day school run by the 'Woolly Felters' [www.woollyfelters.com](http://www.woollyfelters.com) . We will be making a Christmas bear– more of that in the next article!

If you would like to join our group or would just like to find out a bit more about us then please pay us a visit - look at our website

<https://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/>



or email us at: [info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk](mailto:info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk)

or contact our Chairman, Eileen on 01474 324734  
Happy stitching, Karen

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  - **SMALL BAGS OF RICE (500G, 1KG, 2KG)**
  - **TINS OF VEGETABLES (CARROTS, PEAS, GREEN BEANS, BROAD BEANS, SWEETCORN)**
  - **COUS COUS**
  - **TINS OF MACARONI CHEESE**
  - **SMALL JARS OF INSTANT COFFEE**
  - **TINS OF SALMON/PILCHARDS**
  - **EVAPORATED MILK**
  - **SMALL PACKETS OF INSTANT MASH**
  - **MAYONNAISE**
  - **LOGLIFE MILK - GREEN OR BLUE**
- 
- **INSTANT NOODLES**

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## NEXT COPY DATE

November – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November

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Advertising: Liz Croker

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Circulation and Subscriptions: Heather Harvey

Contact: 07811 028803 or [bridge@highamparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:bridge@highamparishchurch.org.uk)

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Half Page	£63.84	1/6th page	£24.94

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*Higham Choral Group*

# *Christmas Concert*

*lots of lovely Christmas music  
and carols for all*

**Saturday 16th December**

**6.30pm**

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