

Higham Bridge

Community, Friendship, Worship



January and February 2025

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

70p

FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM



In this issue you will find a number of additional articles from our resource - the Parish Pump - which I hope you enjoy.

Do you have new neighbours? Let us know and we will deliver an introductory issue free of charge as well as a welcome pack from St John's.

Sight difficulty? If you know someone who has sight impairment, we do print an A4 copy of the magazine if this will help. Please let us know - 07811 028803.

The **Christmas Fayre** was extremely successful in spite of the terrible weather. It was great to see both new and familiar faces there. A total of £1,162.43 was raised. Well done to all.

Recycling and waste collection dates change over Christmas and New Year so check out the revised dates for Gravesham which are in the magazine. Don't forget that large supermarkets collect soft plastic recycling which are not suitable for the waste bins so to assist in this a handy list is also included this month. See page 22.

Recycling Ink Cartridges has been very successful and so far we have raised £46 simply by collecting the cartridges in the box in St John's Church porch.

Many thanks to all who are contributing to this.

Liz Croker, 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
Tuesday

MORNINGS 9.30 am
EVENING 7 pm

Sunday Mass (sung)

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.

**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

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

Helen Walker

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

APPOINTMENT OF THE FOURTH BISHOP OF RICHBOROUGH

Posted on the **10th Dec 2024** in the category **Announcements**



The Society and Forward in Faith welcome the announcement that His Majesty the King has approved the nomination of Fr Luke Irvine-Capel SSC, currently the Archdeacon of Chichester, to the See of Richborough, with pastoral and sacramental oversight for Society parishes in the eastern half of the southern province of the Church of England.

The Right Reverend Jonathan Baker, Chairman of The Society's Council of Bishops, said: "I extend a warm welcome to Fr Luke to the Council, and assure him of the support and prayers of the Society bishops as he prepares to become the Bishop of Richborough."

The Right Reverend Paul Thomas, Chairman of Forward in Faith, said: "I have no doubt that Fr Luke will teach and promote the Catholic Faith across the See of Richborough with dynamism and good grace, enriching the life of the See in so doing."

Fr Philip O'Reilly, on behalf of the Richborough parishes, said: "It is wonderful to be able to welcome Fr Luke to the See of Richborough, and we greatly look forward to his ministry among us."

Fr Luke Irvine-Capel said: "It is a great honour to accept this nomination, and I undertake to serve the Richborough parishes as their bishop prayerfully and faithfully."

The date and venue for Fr Luke's ordination to the episcopate have yet to be confirmed. They will be made publicly available as soon as they are available.

I am delighted that Fr Luke has been appointed new Bishop of Richborough who is our pastoral and sacramental bishop, complimenting that of the Bishop of Rochester. Please hold him in your prayers.

Please be assured of my prayers for you all for the new calendar year!
Blessings
Fr Clive

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 2nd March 2025

5.30 pm Tuesday 4th March 2025

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

Clothing



Accessories



Soft Toys



Household items



Curtains

Towels

Bed linen

Household Linen

For more information contact
Cheryl Robins 01474 822861

Coffee and Conversation

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First Saturday EVERY MONTH

**Next dates — 4th January,
1st February**



10.30-12.30

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Check out our Website www.highamvillageclub.co.uk

*The club has a hall which can be hired out for
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The Siren Sea

A Talk by Imogen Corrigan



The ship is one of the most common images found in medieval churches and manuscripts and not just on the coast, but often far inland as well. Nations depend on it for nourishment, safety and wealth but, all too often, it brings ruin and death. It was ever thus.

In this lecture the life of the medieval mariner will be brought to life with his hopes, fears and superstitions. We'll also look at some spectacular shipwrecks, some of which changed the course of history, and see how they fought to save their ships and cargo. We'll learn how they built ships and think about how they navigated: extraordinary journeys were made in a time when no one was completely confident that they wouldn't simply sail off the edge of the world or into the mouths of dragons. No wonder those returning to safe harbour were so full of tall tales.

Members : Free

**Guest Entrance: £5.00
Inc. Light refreshments**

When:

16th January 2025, 8pm

Where:

**St John's Church Hall,
Hermitage Rd, Higham
ME3 7DB**

www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk

**HIGHAM VILLAGE
HISTORY GROUP**

The JANUARY Requiem

is on Saturday 4th January 2025 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.*

1st	Sylvia Anne Fowler	James <u>Gordon</u> Aspin
	Frank William John Heasman	'Diana' Julia Rosina Dartnell
	Arthur Sidney Joblin	22nd Winifred May Penney
2nd	'Kelly' (Robert Hilton) Bradish	Eileen Poulton
3rd	Gladys Millgate	21st Ethel Mary <u>Valerie</u> Phillips
	Joyce Irene Dockrell	24 th Joan Savickis
5th	John Etherton	25 th Stella Phillips
	David Seth Pankhurst	26th Florence Rose Oake
6th	Nora Hotter	Caroline Ann Grix
	Winifred Beatrice Avery	Vincent Buhagiar
	Jean Goldup	27 th Liam O'Brien
10th	Peggy Rosemary Last	29th <i>The deceased clergy, communicant members and benefactors of S.John's</i>
12th	Ann Grain	
14th	<u>Albert</u> William Haselden	30th Edward Stuart Talbot <i>BISHOP</i>
15th	Percy John Dams <i>PRIEST</i> *	Doreen Rose Taylor
16th	Jean Nicolas Hill	31st Duncan Graham
17th	Herbert Clement Scutts	Anne Louise Carpenter
	John Ernest Henry Parkinson	
20th	Dorothy Alice Southward	
	Robert Bolton	
21st	<u>Jocelyn</u> Howard	

* = *This priest was a former Vicar of Higham*

PLEASE NOTE: Except for previous Incumbents of the parish, the names of those deceased more than 20 years have been removed from the list.

However, should someone attend the requiem AND request the inclusion of additional names these will be included in the list of those for whom we pray.

We proclaim your Death O Lord, and profess your Resurrection,
Until you come again!

MEDWAY ARCHIVE CENTRE SPRING LECTURE SERIES 2025

These lectures are always very popular and tickets sell fast, so pop in or call to buy your tickets. Our phone number is 01634 332714. All tickets must be purchased at the time of booking, and please note that due to the limited number of seats available, no tickets will be sold on the door.

Tickets are £4 each or £20 for the whole series.

Wednesday 5 February, 2 pm to 3.30 pm
Philandering Pearces - Rebecca Clarke

Join us for the first lecture in the series about the life and times of Sir William Pearce, his wife Lady Dinah Pearce, and their son Sir William George Pearce. Born at Brompton in 1833, Sir William Pearce trained as a shipwright and naval architect at Chatham Dockyard. He supervised the construction of HMS Achilles, the first ironclad warship built at Chatham, before moving to Scotland. Rebecca covers aspects of William's private life in her talk, including the mystery of illegitimate sons, affairs in Victorian times, and how to have your husband remembered as an honourable man.

Wednesday 5 March, 2 pm to 3.30 pm
Theatre Royal, Chatham: Medway's most prestigious theatre - Robert Hall

Discover more about the history of the former Theatre Royal. The talk will showcase items from the Theatre Royal Chatham Archive, telling the ups and downs of the South East's biggest theatre.

Wednesday 2 April, 2pm to 3.30pm
The Medway Forts - Keith Gulvin
Keith's talk explores the reasons for fortifying the Thames and Medway estuaries, and looks at the various phases of construction and scientific advances. His talk also considers what remains of the forts today.

Wednesday 7 May, 2 pm to 3.30 pm

Borstal: From building forts to building up young men

- Ralph Allison

There has been a prison at Borstal for over 150 years. Ralph looks at the history of a prison that has had many different roles, from housing labourers who built defensive fortifications, to starting a self-titled system of youth justice which spread across the country, and around the world.

Wednesday 4 June, 2 pm to 3.30 pm

The Explosive Works at Cliffe: Cordite, Nitroglycerine and the Flying Archaeologist - Amanda J Thomas

Amanda's talk explores the history of the Cliffe explosives works during the early twentieth century. Notorious for its many fatal and grisly accidents, the factory employed a great number of local women during World War One, including Amanda's grandmother. In 2013, English Heritage published an archaeological survey and analysis of the remains of the Curtis and Harvey works, to which Amanda and her mother Dulcie contributed. Later that year, Amanda appeared on BBC 4's *Flying Archaeologist*, to talk about her family's involvement with the production of explosives at Cliffe.

Wednesday 2 July, 2 pm to 3.30 pm

A meander along Rochester High Street, part 2 - Geoff Ettridge

For over 10 years Geoff has used tours and rambles to tell something of our past, and to raise money for good causes. In this talk Geoff draws from his various tours to make connections with places along the High Street, and our local and national past. Geoff gave the first part of this popular talk in 2024. Join him for part 2 as he continues his meander along Rochester High Street.



I grew up in London going to Sunday school and was confirmed but then stopped going to church. When I was 11 my uncle died suddenly; we had been very close to our aunt and uncle and his sudden death made me wonder about life and what the purpose of it all was. They had both been regular church goers so I started reading the bible thinking it might help. On the first anniversary of his death a little voice inside of me told me to go to church and so I took myself off for the 11 am

service, there were hardly any young people there and I hid myself away at the back but somehow I felt at peace. It was a sort of middle of the road church with acolytes but no incense and very soon I was asked if I would like to join the serving team and became the first female server they had there.

After I left home to go to the Polytechnic, I found a warm welcome at the local evangelical church and very quickly found myself running the Guide Company and joining the bible study house group. Soon after leaving the poly, I got married and moved to Abbey Wood. The first time I walked into the Mass at St Michael's I was struck by the beauty of the service, I'd never experienced anything like it before. We soon started a family, had a daughter and then a son who was born prematurely weighing 3lb 11oz. As I sat by his incubator, I prayed saying please God make our baby be ok and I would do anything for you. Four weeks later we were able to take him home, fit and healthy.

Unfortunately, our marriage wasn't good, my husband soon became an alcoholic and life became difficult. I continued going to St Michael's on a Sunday and as soon as my son was old enough, he became a boat boy and my daughter joined the choir. When they were old enough my son and daughter went to the Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage. After his first visit, my son came back saying that Walsingham is a fantastic place and I must go. And so it was that I started going on the weekend parish pilgrimages and to help with the Youth Pilgrimage.

(Continued page 32)

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

We beheld His glory

Did you ever wonder what visitors to the manger might have seen?

The shepherds hastened to see. What they beheld made a significant impression. ***And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen*** (Luke 2:20) Then many months later the magi visited as well. Similarly, an impact was made on them. ***And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him*** (Matthew 2:11). John, in his gospel, expresses it like this: ***And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory*** (John 1:14).

That succinct statement of the incarnation is written in terms that reflect the divine presence in the Mosaic tabernacle. The verse could even be rendered, ***the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us, and we beheld His shekinah***. The divine glory that was visible in the wilderness has its parallel in the tangible divinity evident to those who were in the company of Christ.

Those who saw the Christ-Child recognised in Him God.

O that birth forever blessed,
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Saviour of our race,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed His sacred face—
(evermore and evermore).

Prudentius (348-c.413) tr. J. M. Neale (1818-66)

What mystical truth is told in the Nativity and Epiphany narratives. May our souls be stirred afresh this year and may our hearts be warmed again by the ancient story.

The Rev'd Peter Michell and David Mead

AN EPIPHANY QUIZ FOR FAMILIES

How much do you know about Epiphany
which we celebrate on 6th January?

1. What is another name for the wise men who came to see the Christ Child, Jesus?
2. What 3 gifts were brought to Jesus?
3. What are the traditional names for the 3 wise men, beginning with the letters C + M + B?
4. People all around the world celebrate Epiphany. In Spain and Latin America they call it *El Dia de los Reyes*. What does this mean in English?
5. 'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal', and Jesus is revealed as S__ of God and S_____ of the world.
7. One of the themes of Epiphany is light. What 'light' guided the wise men to Jesus?
8. What Christmas carol would you sing on Epiphany? (sing it!)
9. What is the evening before Epiphany called, signifying the end of Christmas?

* * *

An easy recipe **Galette Des Rois**, or Kings Cake, you can make:

Ingredients

2 ready-made sheets of puff pastry	125g ground almonds
125g granulated sugar	2 eggs + 1 yolk
125g softened butter	
1 earthenware small figure for the lucky charm	

Preheat your oven to 220°C.

Beat the butter and sugar together until the mixture is fluffy.

Add the ground almonds and the two eggs. Mix well.

Unroll one of the puff pastry sheets on an oven-proof tray, keeping the baking sheet underneath.

Spread the almond paste, drop the charm in then cover with the other sheet of puff pastry. Seal the edges by pressing them together.

Glaze the top with beaten egg yolk then scar the pastry in a zig zag pattern. Bake in the oven for about 20 minutes until golden on top.

Nancy Hughes

'I CHOOSE AMPHFELISSA' – TALES FROM HIGHAM PRIORY

Part 2 - (continued from November 2024)

Domina Amphelissa had been elected prioress in 1275 AD. She was a determined and well-organised character. The other nuns chose not to contradict her but they liked her. After her election she had immediately removed the old and infirm chaplain and installed a new younger priest – William de Cuckestune. She expected him to be her chief ally in all that she wanted to do. Fr William lived in a small cottage attached to the priory, but outside the cloister. His duties were to sing the daily mass, to hear the nuns' confessions and to administer the last rites when necessary. He also taught the younger nuns to read Latin for the daily offices so that they knew the meaning of the words in the breviary. It was not necessary for them to be able to write. Fr William also acted as a scribe for basic correspondence.

As prioress Amphelissa sat in her stall she looked at her sisters. The convent was built to house sixteen nuns and several novices. Two of the nuns were too old and infirm to walk with the others into the chapel. They mostly sat in the warming room or stayed in bed. Three of the nuns were very elderly and could not be trusted with the various tasks allotted to the nuns. Two more were capable but found it very difficult to keep the silence of the house or avoid gossip and indiscretions. Amphelissa had been cellaress, responsible for the running of the kitchen and ensuring the house was well run. Now she had to appoint someone else to the role. Domina Johanna was young but sensible. She had come from a local farming family in Shorne. It was a risk but Amphelissa felt it was worth taking. Domina Mary was novice mistress and could continue in that role. The other people the prioress had to deal with on a regular basis were the manager of the demesne (home) farm, attached directly to the priory and the stewards of the manor farms of Lillechurch and Higham. Coming from a farming family herself and standing by her father as he managed his estates and

her mother as she ran a large household, she had long suspected that the farms were not run as profitably as might be and that the stewards were not entirely honest in their dealings with the prioress.

When she felt the time was right, she called in the desesne (home) farm manager and discussed the way in which the farm was run, especially the supplies for the priory kitchen and the priory fish ponds which were very poorly maintained. The manager was also responsible for the repair of the priory building. Nothing had been done for a long time. There were several leaking rooves and broken windows. Amphelissa had noted on her inspection of the priory properties that his own house was in excellent condition. She insisted to Stephen, the manager, that the priory and the fish ponds must be put in good order immediately and paid for from the farm profits. He protested that there were no profits and the repairs must wait. She replied that if the repairs were not done within a month she would dismiss him and find another manager. The repairs commenced the next morning.

Next she called in the stewards of the two manors. She asked questions about the tenants, the planning of the annual crop planting and the annual harvests. They looked very surprized that she knew so much. She asked to see the written accounts for each manor. They said there were no written accounts and that they knew year by year what the gains and losses were. She said that they must provide an account of expenditure and income for each year. Neither of them could read or write but they were both capable of holding figures in their head. Amphelissa said that she would appoint a clerk to whom they must make a detailed report of all that they spent and received. He would list everything and the figures would be checked by another clerk and herself. Any anomalies would have to be explained by the stewards. The process would start immediately. Each annual account would be for twelve months running from January to December. Until then

each steward had paid himself from the farm profits but was also expected to make up any losses. Now the priory would receive all the profit income but would also bear any losses. The stewards would be paid from the account. Neither steward liked this but Amphelissa gave them no choice. No prioress had ever interfered in the management of the estates before. Her aim was to ensure a better income for the priory and more efficient management. Amphelissa then set about appointing a clerk draw up the account. It would be worth the extra cost. She herself would tour the estates from time to time.

The priory had been granted the income from the ferry across the Thames. It was responsible for the maintenance to a larger and a smaller boat and the wharf. Soon after her appointment was in trouble with the county sheriff for the bad state of the boats. She arranged for the repair of the boats and put up the tariff of the river crossings. The ferry man was old and gave way to his son. He too was to give an account of his income directly to the prioress.

Domina Amphelisa now felt that she had taken control of the priory and its assets and could look towards her greatest aim – to rebuild the priory and its church. The buildings, now over 125 years old and beginning to wear badly. As she planned for the future, she wanted to build a convent fit for the fourteenth century.

(To be continued)
Fr Andrew

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

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, clerk@higham-kent-pc.gov.uk 07379 014 741

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THE FEBRUARY REQUIEM

is on Saturday 1st February 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

The recently departed, and those named below will be prayed for at this mass of requiem intention; and are remembered on the Sunday before and the actual date itself.

2nd	Ena Mary Choules	18th	Reginald William Rootes
4th	Dario Modena	19th	Cecil Newman <i>PRIEST</i>
	Joyce Davis	20th	Michael Peter Beek <i>PRIEST*</i>
5th	Mandy Burgess	22nd	Violet Frances Elsie Welham
	Cherry Tottenham	23rd	Simon Barnes Farnham
7th	Kenneth Asper	24th	Neil Andrew Haselden
	Samuel Edward Bruno Modena		Kevin Dwane Moore
9th	Brenda Mary Shackleton		Gladys Mary Christmas
	Hazel Cavell		Alice May (Betty) Heasman
11th	Joan Beatrice Clark	25th	Selina <u>Mary</u> Jarrett
13th	Roy Edward Whyman	27th	Peter Francis Cook
	Bryan John Jones	28th	Michael Conway
16th	Mabel Dorothy Lambkin		
	Peggy Margaret Phoebe Williamson		
17th	Eric Cecil Shipman		
	James Douglas Abernethy		
	'Bill' Dingle		

*** = This priest was a former Vicar of Higham**

PLEASE NOTE: Except for previous Incumbents of the parish, the names of those deceased more than 20 years have been removed from the list.

However, should someone attend the requiem AND request the inclusion of additional names these will be included in the list of those for whom we pray.

Save us, Saviour of the world!
For by your Cross and resurrection you have set us free!

Your recycling and waste collection dates

Don't forget your collection dates change over the Christmas and New Year holidays. Here is the guide to the correct days to put out your bins/sacks.

Christmas Collections

Normal Collection Day

- Monday 23 December 2024
- Tuesday 24 December 2024
- Wednesday 25 December 2024
- Thursday 26 December 2024
- Friday 27 December 2024
- Monday 30 December 2024
- Tuesday 31 December 2024

Revised Collection Day

- Monday 23 December 2024
- Tuesday 24 December 2024
- Friday 27 December 2024
- Saturday 28 December 2024
- Monday 30 December 2024
- Tuesday 31 December 2024
- Thursday 2 January 2025

New Year Collections

- Wednesday 1 January 2025
- Thursday 2 January 2025
- Friday 3 January 2025
- Monday 6 January 2025
- Tuesday 7 January 2025
- Wednesday 8 January 2025
- Thursday 9 January 2025
- Friday 10 January 2025

- Friday 3 January 2025
- Saturday 4 January 2025
- Monday 6 January 2025
- Tuesday 7 January 2025
- Wednesday 8 January 2025
- Thursday 9 January 2025
- Friday 10 January 2025
- Saturday 11 January 2025

Your waste collections revert to normal on Monday 13 January 2025. No Garden Waste Service from 22 December until 6 January inclusive. Garden waste collections will follow the waste collection schedule commencing Tuesday 7 January.

SUPERMARKETS - RECYCLE FLEXIBLE PLASTICS

All items should be clean and free of food
All sticky labels removed where possible

Yes please

- ✓ **Dry food flexible plastic**
Bread, Cereal, Rice & Dry food bags
Confectionery, Biscuit & Cake wrappers
Crisp & Snack packets
- ✓ **Other food flexible plastic**
Cheese wrap, Peelable film lids & Frozen food bags
Fruit, Vegetable, Salad bags & Flower wrapping
Multipack film wrap, Clingfilm & Sleeves on bottles
- ✓ **Pouches & Sachets**
Coffee, Confectionery, Homecare, Sauce pouches
Baby, Pet food & Microwaveable food pouches
Toiletries refill pouches, packets & sachets
- ✓ **Non-food flexible plastic**
Carrier bags, Clothing bags, Bubble wrap
Magazine & Newspaper wrappers
Toilet roll & Kitchen roll wrapping

No thanks

- ✗ Disposable gloves or masks
- ✗ Compostable or biodegradable bags & wrapping
- ✗ Foam or polystyrene of any kind
- ✗ Medical blister packs
- ✗ General litter or rubbish

Recycle at Home

- ✗ Rigid plastic bottles, pots, tubs or tray packaging
- ✗ Glass, paper, cardboard, metal packaging



E Scooters operation OHME

Yesterday officers from various departments of Medway's community safety unit went out to Chatham and Rochester Highstreets with the specific tasking of stopping and dealing with E scooters robustly.

Allow me to clarify the legal standpoint. E scooters are classed as mechanically propelled vehicles and so they are governed under the same laws as cars and motorbikes. No exemptions.

Ryders need,

A licence – (can be provisional.) so you need to be at least 16 years old.

Insurance is required – (but not possible to insure on the roads at the moment.)

Tax – E-scooters do not need to be registered, display registration plates or pay vehicle excise duty.

Technically everyone riding an e scooter should be stopped and the scooter seized for having no insurance and crushed.

E scooters can be ridden on private land with land owners' permission.

Retailers of E scooters are required to explain the law when E-scooters are being sold and customers are supposed to sign paperwork to acknowledge this.

Kent police have been into schools, before Christmas, for the last 4 years, and really pushed for parents not to buy their children E scooters. I feel like we are just fighting against the tide.

I can only speak for Medway, and this is my opinion and does not reflect Kent police official policy but usually, we will only stop an E scooter if it is driving in a manner that risks public safety.

This is simply because of the sheer volume of E scooters and the manpower it would take to stop and seize all of them.

Each E scooter seizure takes approximately an hour of a police officer's time to complete the correct paperwork and deliver the E scooter to the appropriate holding facility. the man power it would take to deal with all e scooters would be unmanageable and take us away from our current control strategy.

Yesterday we stopped as many E scooters as possible and dealt with them robustly as part of operation OHME. We Seized 7 scooters in total and gave out 4 warnings to people with E scooters who were not seen riding them.

Op OHME will be continuing on random dates in to 2025 so warn friends and family who ride e scooters that they risk losing it if they ride.

I found this article online from the 13th of November about E scooters and potential changes in the law that might interest you about potential updates in e scooter law.

New laws around e-scooter use promised soon

We had very mixed feedback from passers by yesterday whilst conducting these seizures. Some members of public were really pleased, where others thought it was wasting police time and public money and the officers and funds would have been better spent on other issues. I would be interested to hear your viewpoint via the reply buttons below.

If the public want a more robust e scooter approach, then reports of E scooters need to increase and it would be beneficial to complain to local councillors.

Legislation in UK parliament needs to be updated to manage the E scooter issue more effectively.

Message Sent By

Sean Humphrey

(Kent Police, PCSO, Medway Neighbourhood Task Force)

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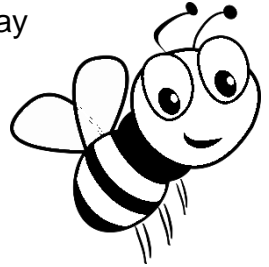
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LIFE OF A HONEY BEE

I was born from one of the 1000 to 2000 eggs a day which the Queen lays in the summer. When I turned into a grub the worker bees fed me honey and pollen until I was ready to pupate, when they sealed me in my cell with wax and left me to mature.



On breaking out of my cell I became a worker bee. There was lots to do, cleaning the cells like those from which I had emerged, feeding the grubs and making propolis, the glue that we use to keep the frames stable and fill any spaces to keep the hive cosy. On hot days in summer, you could see a row of us at the entrance fanning our wings to cool things down by circulating the air. I knew I could sting but would only do so to protect the colony knowing that as the sting was part of my body I would die without it.

Eventually I would be sent out to forage. I started by flying over and around the hive so that I would recognise it on my return and then fly off up to 1.5 miles in any direction hunting for nectar. If I found a good source like oil seed rape I would gorge myself with nectar and fill the sacs on my legs with pollen. On my return to the hive to unload I would then do a waggle dance to tell the other bees which direction to go and how far to save them having to search for such a good crop. Although prolific at giving off nectar and pollen the only problem is that when oil seed rape honey sets hard and much water is needed to dilute it for feed which is sometimes a problem in the winter when it is too cold to fly out for the liquid.



In summer when the hive gets crowded, a decision is made to swarm. We feed some of the grubs with Royal Jelly to make new Queens and elongate their cells as they grow. We would stop feeding the old Queen to slim her down so that she could fly and gorge ourselves with honey to

make new comb when we land. Unfortunately for the Queen, often the beekeeper has clipped one of her wings so she can't fly and drops to the ground on take-off and is lost. The swarm, realising that they are now Queenless, return to the hive to wait for another Queen to emerge which gives the beekeeper enough time to divide the colony putting half of the frames into a new hive making sure that both have the makings of a new Queen. As soon as they can fly, they take a mating flight and are soon back laying 1000-2000 eggs a day.

In August, that thieving beekeeper takes most of the honey we have stored for the winter. He will either feed us with syrup to make more stores or wait to see if we will replace them from ivy, which blooms at that time of the year and has become abundant recently.

My life expectancy is about 3 weeks in the summer, longer in the winter when there is less work to do. If I die in the hive the workers will haul me out and drop me over the landing board. With any luck I will die of exhaustion while out foraging to save them the job.

Barbara Manley



"That's two t's in Matthew", said Osric

Fr David Herbert ssc

A former vicar of Bickley (now retired)

As I write this, the UK parliament is beginning to consider a Bill which would legalise, under safeguards, assisted dying. This is being proposed following the introduction of similar legislation in several countries, and in the light of several public figures in our own country arguing that it should be possible for an individual facing death in great pain and discomfort to be assisted to end their suffering.

I am sure that the motives for proposing this move are very much based on humanitarian concerns, and a profound desire to end individual suffering. It perhaps would seem to lack empathy to oppose such a step. Many objections to such a move have been raised, mostly because of a danger that some people might decide this is what they want for themselves because of a misplaced desire to relieve their families to care for them, or because such a move is a “slippery slope” to universal suicide. Although these may well be dangers, careful drafting of the law I’m sure could reduce these fears. If it is the right move to make, we are clever enough to avoid such problems.

The real problem is that it is not the right move. At least it is not the right move from the perspective Christian faith, nor is it in fact right for Islam or Judaism. Life is a gift from God. Our lives stem from his creative work, and these lives continue to belong to him until he decides that our work on earth is completed.

At each and every stage of life we contribute, even though sometimes it may be for better or worse, to the building up of God’s kingdom on earth. We are able to do this in spite of our limitations which often increase with age. I know at first hand that I am no longer as fit and active as I was once, but nevertheless I believe we still have much to offer in spite of our limitations. In my life I have gained much from the courage, spirit and faithful lives of

parishioners in their (often painful) declining years. The life that God has given us is valuable in every phase of our journey to our eternal home, and may indeed be a necessary part of the preparation we need in order to share in eternity with the saints who have gone before us.

Value the life we have been given, and value the lives of each and every child of God, whether young or old, fit or disabled. Life is a gift; not to be thrown away.



***Do Not Suffer in Silence this
Christmas Period***

Samaritans 116 123

Age UK - 0800 678 1602

Alcoholics Anonymous - 0800 917 7650

Cruse Bereavement Care - 0808 808 1677

Men's Adviceline - 0808 801 0327

Narcotics Anonymous - 0300 999 1212

National Debt Helpline - 0808 808 4000

NHS 111

Relate Relationship Support - 0300 003 0396

Shelter - 0808 800 4444

Shout (confidential text service) 85258

Women's Adviceline - 0808 200 0247

Emergency Services / Police 999 / 112

Sister Carol Elizabeth SSM - Part 2

I found Walsingham a wonderful place, as soon as I entered the grounds it felt like I had left all my troubles behind, I had found my spiritual home. Keeping my husband's drinking secret from everyone, even my parents and sisters, I found solace, peace and strength to carry on by going to daily Mass, saying Morning prayer, going to Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the local RC church and going on pilgrimage to Walsingham twice a year.



Eventually, our marriage broke up. When you go to Walsingham, you should have an intention for your pilgrimage. Each year mine had been that my husband would stop drinking and this continued even after we had broken up. Eventually he did stop and was also admitted to the RC church. My daughter was already at uni and my son applying to go, and that year on the parish pilgrimage I sat in the Shrine praying 'God now what?' I was going to be all alone and was living in poverty, doing 3 jobs to pay the bills. Then I saw 2 Sisters in the distance and felt God saying to me 'that is what I want you to do'. I thought that was a silly idea; I wasn't young, I had 2 children and I was still married, although separated. But God doesn't give up; hymns told me to leave everything and follow him, the bible told me the same and although I didn't watch much TV, Sisters seemed to start appearing whenever I watched something. God was definitely telling me something so eventually I went and spoke to my parish priest who suggested I write to the Sisters at Walsingham.

Writing to them I gave all the excuses I could think of as to why I couldn't join them but the answer came back saying of course you can if God is calling you, come and visit. On that very first visit I just felt at home, it took a couple of years and several visits before I could join the Community but 13 years ago I joined them as a Postulant and was professed as a Sister 10 years ago on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

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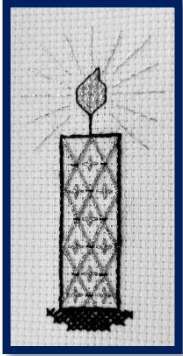


3. Raise

After you've made your purchase, the retailer will make a donation to us at no extra cost whatsoever!



NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS



Hello everyone. Our last meeting was the 'Four Corners' stitching. This meant that three corners of the room were allocated each to a different embroidery task whilst the fourth was a free choice, either to do your own work or to sit and chat and drink tea! Most of us decided to use the occasion to sew under the guidance of either Angela, Veronica or Lis who had each planned a little project for those who had signed up to do. Angela was teaching her group how to make a little pop open purse like the ones that Callisto had

shown us during a previous talk.

Veronica's group's task was to make a felt tree decoration and Lis was showing her group how to stitch an embroidered panel for a Christmas card, like the one you can see here. The session was well attended and everyone seemed pleased with what they had achieved (even if we went away with some



homework to do). These sewing sessions are always a good opportunity to get to know each other and for our new members to see how the group works.

The other main activity of the afternoon was the swapping of our 'postcards'. You may remember that the idea of these is for those who wish to take part to embroider a postcard size piece using the theme given for each month. The theme for the month in question was "Remembrance" so you can imagine that there were many poppies to be seen, I have added a picture of Angela's piece here, which as you can see is embroidered with poppies and daisies using a beautiful combination of collage and stitching techniques, together with a painted background.

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

or contact our Chairman, Eileen on 01474 324734

Happy stitching, Karen All photos with permission.





Donation Guide January and February

The next collection dates are Friday to Sunday
24th-26th January
21st-23rd February
from 9.30 am to 5 30 pm

Our Shopping List

- ✓ Tins of Custard
- ✓ Tins of Hot meat/Cold Meat/Hot Dogs/Meat Pies
- ✓ Crackers/Savoury Biscuits/Cereal Bars
- ✓ Tins of Ravioli/Spaghetti Bolognese
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Longlife Milk - Green or Blue
- ✓ Instant Noodles
- ✓ PLEASE WE ALSO NEED THE FOLLOWING HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AND TOILETRIES;
- ✓ Shampoo & Conditioner
- ✓ Washing up liquid
- ✓ Ladies Deodorant
- ✓ Non-Bio and Bio Laundry Tablets

THANK YOU!

WE WILL ACCEPT OTHER FOOD ITEMS, TOILETRIES AND CLEANING PRODUCTS IF THEY ARE DONATED

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2025

