

The Bridge

Parish of Saint John and Saint Mary Higham with Merston



Lent

March 2023

70p

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER CLIVE

It was good to spend my first Christmas with you in Higham and especially to celebrate Midnight Mass and the joy of Christingle by the Crib. I have a long history of working with children and schools which brings me much pleasure.

Snow and ice caused Higham School's Carol service to be in school rather than church – but none the less it was very impressive with some very excited children and some great singing. I was also able to attend Gads Hill's Carol Service at Rochester Cathedral which was also impressive with some very able musicians and readers showing off their gifts and talents.

Higham Choral Society did not disappoint either with a very enjoyable programme and delicious refreshments.

St John's Day was celebrated on 27th December which is perhaps not the greatest day for a Patronal Festival, but that is his day and we made the most of him!

On 22nd February the church keeps Ash Wednesday the beginning of our Lenten Journey. It would be good to see you at our Sung Mass that evening with imposition of ash which is made from last year's rendered palm crosses. Lent is of course a holy and sacred 40 days leading up to the great events of Holy Week and Easter when once again we will rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I continue to meet new villagers and parishioners and am grateful for your friendly welcome.

Blessings

Fr Clive Jones
Parish Priest

The Bridge

Monthly Magazine of the Parish of Higham (Ss. John & Mary) with Merston

S.JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH - WORSHIP

Weekday Mass

Mon, Wed, Fri & Saturday only
Tuesday

MORNINGS 9.30 am
EVENING 7.30 pm

Sunday Mass

MORNING 9.30am

All Masses are also available via Zoom

Morning/Evening Prayer daily – 8.45 am -and 5.45 pm –

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**



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March 2023 at St John's - Calendar
and Bible Readings for Each Day – Year A (I)

Date	Celebration	Rank	Bible Readings
1 st	SAINT DAVID <i>Patron of Wales, Bishop</i>	Feast	Philippians Ch3 vv 8 to 14 Psalm 1 Matthew Ch5 vv 13 to 16
2 nd	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 1)		Esther Ch4 v 17 Psalm 137 Matthew Ch7 vv 7 to 12
3 rd	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 1)	 Lent fast day	Ezekiel Ch18 vv 21 to 28 Psalm 129 Matthew Ch4 vv 20 to 26
4 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 1)	 March Requiem Mass	Deuteronomy Ch26 vv 16 to 19 Psalm 118 Matthew Ch5vv 43 to 48
5 th	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT		Genesis Ch12 vv 1 to 4 Psalm 32 2 Timothy Ch1 vv 8 to 10 Matthew Ch17 vv 1 to 9
6 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 2)		Daniel Ch9 vv 4 to 10 Psalm 78 Luke Ch6 vv 36 to 38
7 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 2)		Isaiah Ch1 vv 10 to 20 Psalm 49 Matthew Ch23 vv 1 to 12
8 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 2)		Jeremiah Ch18 vv 18 to 20 Psalm 30 Matthew Ch20 vv 17 to 28
9 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 2)		Jeremiah Ch17 vv 5 to 10 Psalm 1 Luke Ch17 vv 19 to 31
10 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 2)	 Lent fast day	Genesis Ch37 vv 3 to 28 Psalm 104 Matthew Ch21 vv 33 to 46
11 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 2)		Micah Ch7 vv 14 to 20 Psalm 102 Luke Ch15 vv 1 to 32
12 th	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT		Exodus Ch17 vv 3 to 7 Psalm 94 Romans Ch5 vv 1 to 8 John Ch4 vv 5 to 42
13 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 3)		2 Kings Ch5 vv 1 to 15 Psalm 41 vv 2 to Psalm 42 v 4 Luke Ch4 vv 24 to 30
14 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 3)		Daniel Ch3 vv 25 to 43 Psalm 24 Matthew Ch18 vv 21 to 35
15 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 3)		Deuteronomy Ch4 vv 1 to 9 Psalm 147 Matthew Ch5 vv 17 to 19

16 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 3)		Jeremiah C7 vv 23 to 28 Psalm 94 Luke Ch11 vv 14 to 23
17 th	SAINT PATRICK <i>Patron of Ireland</i> <i>Bishop</i>	Feast	Jeremiah Ch1 vv 4 to 9 Psalm 116 Luke Ch10 vv 1 to 20
18 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 3)		Hosea Ch5 v 15 to Ch6 v 6 Psalm 50 Luke Ch18 vv 9 to 14
19 th	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	 Laetare Sunday  Mothering Sunday	1 Samuel Ch16 vv 1 to 13 Psalm 22 Ephesians Ch5 vv 8 to 14 John Ch9 vv 1 to 41
20 th	SAINT JOSEPH <i>Spouse of The Blessed</i> <i>Virgin Mary</i>	Solemnity	2 Samuel Ch7 vv 4 to 16 Psalm 88 Romans Ch4 vv 13 to 22 Matthew Ch1 vv 16 to 24 or Luke Ch2 vv 41 to 51
21 st	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 4)		Ezekiel Ch47 vv 1 to 12 Psalm 45 John Ch5 vv 1 to 16
22 nd	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 4)		Isaiah Ch49 vv 8 to 15 Psalm 144 John Ch5 vv 17 to 30
23 rd	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 4)		Exodus Ch32 vv 7 to 14 Psalm 105 John Ch5 vv 31 to 47
24 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 4)	 Lent fast day	Wisdom Ch2 vv 1 to 22 Psalm 33 John Ch7 vv 1 to 30
25 th	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	Solemnity	Isaiah Ch7 v 10 to Ch8 v 10 Psalm 39 Hebrews Ch10 vv 4 to 10 Luke Ch1 vv 26 to 38
26 th	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	 Passiontide begins	Ezekiel Ch37 vv 12 to 14 Psalm 129 Romans Ch8 vv 8 to 11 John Ch11 vv 1 to 45
27 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 5)		Daniel Ch13 vv 1 to 62 Psalm 22 John Ch8 vv 1 to 11
28 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 5)		Numbers Ch21 vv 4 to 9 Psalm 101 John Ch8 vv 21 to 30
29 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 5)		Daniel Ch3 vv 14 to 28 Daniel Ch3 vv 52 to 56 John Ch8 vv 31 to 42
30 th	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 5)		Genesis Ch17 vv 3 to 9 Psalm 104 John Ch8 vv 51 to 59
31 st	Weekday Of Lent (Wk 5)	 Lent fast day	Jerimiah Ch20 vv 10 to 13 Psalm 17 John Ch10 vv 31 to 42

MARCH 'REQUIEM' INTENTION

is on Saturday 4th March 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

The recently departed, and those named below will be prayed for at this Requiem.

*Those named below are remembered on the Sunday before
and the actual date itself.*

1st	Anne Thompson	15th	Stanley Hope Philpot
2 nd	Frances Smith	17th	Francis Searle <i>PRIEST</i>
	Doris Irene Haselden	21st	Michael Peter Beek <i>PRIEST</i> *
	Zachary Benjamin David		Sheila Constance Gibbs
	Holman <i>BABY</i>	22nd	Bruce David Newton
	Rosaline ('Rose') June Lewis		Allan David Buik <i>PRIEST</i>
4th	Edward John Christmas	23rd	Rachael Emma Loft <i>INFANT</i>
6th	Elsie Edith Chesterton		Ethel Elizabeth Whattler
8th	John William Palmer		Freda May Wren
9th	Dorothy Isabelle Palmer	24th	William Branch
	John Reginald Harmer <i>BISHOP</i>		Alice Elizabeth Emily Goldsmith
10th	Christopher Chavasse <i>BISHOP</i>		Jean Mary Fawcett
	Elsie Pamela Chilmaid	25th	Henry <u>John</u> Eldridge
	Carolyn Shulver		Marjorie Isabel Eagle
11th	Sheila Kathleen Haselden	27th	Arthur Richard Pigden
12th	Eileen Agnew		Stanley Eric Oake
13th	Patricia Ann West	28th	Elsie <u>May</u> Shipman
	Grace Margaret Wardell	29th	Iris Branch
	Monica Joan Barrow		Joyce Lily Parker
	Winifred Calmels	30th	Tommy Thompson

*PLEASE NOTE: The names of those who have been deceased
more than 20 years have been removed (except for * previous Incumbents)*

*They will be remembered IF someone attends this requiem mass
AND requests their inclusion in the prayers.*

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

SAVE US, SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD,
FOR BY YOUR CROSS AND RESURRECTION
YOU HAVE SET US FREE!



St John's Church

Lent Lunch

We are hosting a series of Soup Lunches for charity on these Saturdays

25th February 4th March

NO LUNCH 18th March

Bishop Norman at All Saints

25th March 1st April

All in support of



At the
Vestry Hall
12- 1.30 pm

Lunch includes:
Homemade soup,
bread, cheese, grapes,
tea/coffee

YOU MAKE THE
DIFFERENCE

Come and join US!
Bring a friend

£5.00

HiARA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, JANUARY 2023

Happy New Year to you all and I do hope you all had happy and healthy Christmas whether it was with family and friends, or, just quietly, feet up in front of the television. All the Christmas festivities, all enjoyed, are behind us now, but thanks must go to Tess for the super Christmas cake she made for our tea party.

This report is slightly different to usual as it includes outline details of things being planned for this year.

February main meeting, February 24, will be our Bring unwanted gift sale, all proceeds go to charity, also we will welcome your suggestions for next year's charity.

As you are probably aware, 2023 celebrates 20 years since the club was established and to mark the occasion, we have a party planned for Saturday, March 25th and tickets at £15.00 each are available now.

May has two events, May 5th will be a celebration tea party to mark the coronation of King Charles III and May 26 will be our Annual General Meeting and presentation of donation to Gravesham Sanctuary.

During September, one of the activity afternoons will have children from Higham School coming to read aloud and chat to our members. This is part of their reading lessons and building confidence. More on that when we have sort out the finer points.

Saturday, November 18 sees the return of the always popular Race Night. Details still to be announced.

That brings us to December and the Christmas tea party on December 15. No club on December 22 but will be open on December 29th.

Please let Jan know your suggestions for outings this year, we have some already but more welcomed and we will see what can be arranged. There will be another lunch at Stone Lodge probably in the Spring.

We had some good news from KentARA informing us that chair, Joan Rhodes, has been awarded an MBE. We send congratulations to her on receiving such an honour.

I would like to thank the committee for working so hard to get this programme of events set up and I am sure they have a few more ideas up their sleeves for you to enjoy.

Liz Jeffery



On **16th March @ 8 pm** at **Higham Memorial Hall** we will be having a talk by Geoff Doel entitled “The Darker Side of Dickens”
Light refreshments will be available. Entrance fee for non-Members £5

Archive Drop in Sessions: All are welcome to visit and research local maps, photographs and other items of memorabilia that the Society hold. Sessions take place at Higham Library the first Friday of the month between 11 am and 1 .m.

Details of how to become a member of the Group are on our website: highamvillagehistory.org.uk
or email: info@highamvillagehistory.org.uk or telephone the Group's Secretary on 01634 718285

Coral White



As the servers's strike entered its third week, the Army was called in.

BAGS2CHURCH APPEAL

Our thanks to all who contributed to this in January. A total of £100 was raised this time with more than 70 bags collected.

EASY FUNDRAISING

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for St. John's Church - Higham, Kent?

There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, the Trainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra! **So far £1,424 has been raised since St John's has become a member of this scheme.**

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

1. Join.

Head to

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohnschurchhigham/>
and sign up for free.

2. Shop.

Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.

3. Raise.

After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and St. John's Church - Higham, Kent will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support

Bridge Editor

St Mary's Higham

Mothering Sunday

19th March 2023

4.00 pm

VESPERS & BENEDICTION



Our Mother Church, Our Mother Mary, Our Mothers and Grandmothers



Recycle Your Ink Cartridges and Help Support St John's Church Higham

Did you know that you can help us raise funds simply by recycling your ink cartridges via our Recycle4Charity programme?

For each ink cartridge recycled via the programme we will receive up to £2 donation.

Toner and laser cartridges are not accepted as part of the programme.

Place any used ink cartridge in the box in the church porch.



Musings on daily life



'Ecclesiastic' is material used to fasten a clergyman's robes.

A day without sunshine is like, well, night.

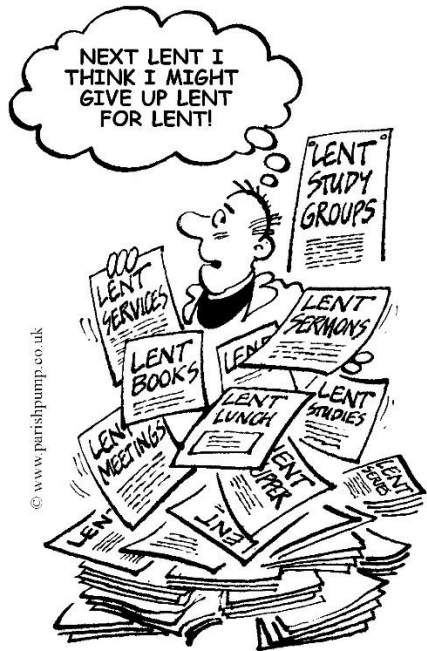
I am in shape. Round is a shape.

I plan on living forever. So far, so good.

I am having an out of money experience.

What's a perfect gift for a person who has everything? Storage space.

What's the leading cause of dry skin? Towels.



Source: Parish Pump

HIGHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Ye are the light of the world

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

(Matthew 5:14&16)

This is the text adopted by Higham Congregational Church for the year 2023. Here is the substance of a sermon preached by the Rev'd Peter Michell at the chapel on New Year's Day.

We may bemoan the darkness of these days with all the challenges we face. Amid all the gloom, Jesus pays His believing people a great compliment when He says to us:

Ye are the light of the world. ...Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14&16)

These words are familiar but not necessarily thought out or lived out. So, let us consider them with care.

1. Ye are the light...

Forty years ago, I was preaching on the text and when I said the words "You are the light of the world", a child looked up from the front row and announced audibly, "No! Jesus is the light of the world." She was right. The Lord said it Himself: ***I am the light of the world*** and then went on to say: ***he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life*** (John 8:12).

Christ is the light who enlightens us. We bear His light. Moses went into the mountain to receive the commandments and came down with his face glowing because he had been with God. (See Exodus 34:29-30.) We must keep company with the Lord to shine with His light.

2. Ye are the light...

Ye indicates a plural. The Lord, here, is not saying that you are a light as an individual in isolation. It is ***yous*** are the light and not you (singular) are the light; The sentiment of *Jesus bids us shine - you in your small corner* is not entirely wrong. (See Philippians 2:15.) But in our text, Jesus was teaching that the churches are the light.

There is a similar reference in the book of Revelation: ***And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned I saw seven***

golden candlesticks. ... the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches (Revelation 1:12 & 20).

3. **...the light of the world**

You are the light not just in your small corner, nor your neighbourhood, village or county, but in the whole world. There is a global emphasis in the Bible - **God so loved the world** - (John 3:16); **Go ye into all the world** (Mark 16:15); **Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth** (Acts 1:8) No wonder it is not dependent upon you or me as individuals.

4. **Let your light so shine before men**

You will make no impact if you are not seen shining. The Lord taught: **Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light unto all that are in the house** (Matthew 5:13). Christianity is not just a personal and private matter. It is a personal experience, but it is of public significance. Visibility is all-important.

To illustrate the point: though it is not so popular among ministers of the gospel today, the clerical collar is useful in making the church visible on the high street.

5. **... that they may see your good works**

The message of the Christian gospel is that we are reconciled with God by the gift of His grace. Nevertheless, there are **good works** to be done and observed. This is explicit in Christ's words. The evangelical works to be seen by men are:

(i) The word preached. This is the chief work of the church in this world. We are all involved. Not all stand in the pulpit, but we pray for the preaching and invite others to hear it.

(ii) Love for Christ – That love is evident (shining) as we keep the Sabbath, attending the services, singing and tithing. If we go to church, people see and conclude that we love the Lord. If you do not attend, it will not be seen that you love Him.

(iii) Love for men – This is the Christian trademark. **By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another** (John 13:35).

6. ...and glorify your Father which is in heaven

That people are impressed, not by us, but by God is our motive and the result. The glory of God is:

(A) our motive. Our concern is not our own reputation; we do not do good to be applauded.

(B) the result. Sometimes we may be disappointed, but at other times, by a work of the Holy Spirit in another, he sees that it is God who works in us.

7. **Ye ARE the light**

This is not primarily a command but your condition. You ARE the light. There are practical implications and requirements, but we should take seriously that light is what we are. We are simply to be ourselves as Christians. Light, by definition, shines. Just be light. Just shine!

A postscript on behalf of the congregation of Higham Chapel.

We were enlightened and encouraged by the theme of Peter's ministry at the gate of the year with its echo of the lovely Minnie Haskins poem. We pray that you will be similarly inspired and blessed as you reflect on what Christ's loving challenge to His Church is saying to us at this time, in this generation.

Rev'd Peter Michell and David Mead

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

From 'God knows' by Minnie Louise Haskins



"The new vicar is really cool, Dad.
Did you know that God emailed the Ten
Commandments to Moses' Tablet PC?"

Carry on

The vicar was making an appeal for more help with the Sunday School: "At the moment I'm just carrying on with a couple of single ladies!"

Breakdown

Yesterday I broke down on the M1. One of those emergency trucks charged me £200 to pull me off. I think it was the abominable towman!

Present

For their elderly vicar's 70th birthday, the congregation at St Mary's decided to give him a present of a new suit. The vicar was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his homily with a tear in his eye, "Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit."

Source: Parish Pump

NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS



Happy New Year to all our readers. This month's report and photos come from Veronica. It may have been bitterly cold outside Southfleet Village Hall where we met for our December Christmas meeting but inside, it was warm with Christmas trees and decorations! There was much fun and laughter as, divided into tables, our members attempted the quiz which Veronica had compiled. As we are an embroidery group, she even included some embroidery questions! Tea and coffee were on tap as were the light refreshments including crisps, savoury sticks, mince

pies, and rocky road cake, a perennial favourite. We participated in the Secret Card and Secret Santa sacks with much hilarity as well as much admiration for the cards that others had made!

The banner of North Kent Embroiderers' Guild was on display for members to decide what happened next to it as we are no longer NKEG. Those present decided that they wished it to be disassembled and made into a book or some sort of a working format so that members can refer to it. It is too large and cumbersome in its present form.

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

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

or email us at: info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk

or contact our Chairman, Eileen Tuff on 01474 324734

Happy stitching, Karen (All links and photographs used with permission.)



MARCH 2023 Donation Guide

The next collection dates are Saturday and Sunday
25TH AND 26TH MARCH from 9.30 am to 5 pm

SHOPPING LIST FOR MOST NEEDED ITEMS - THANK YOU!

- TINS OF MAC & CHEESE
- COUS COUS
- INSTANT NOODLES
- BISCUITS, CRACKERS
- TIN CUSTARD
- TIN
MACKEREL/SALMON/PILCHARD
- SMALL PACKETS OF INSTANT MASH
- READY MADE JELLIES
- MICROWAVABLE HOT PUDDINGS
- EVAPORATED MILK
- LONGLIFE MILK - GREEN OR BLUE
- SMALL BOTTLES OF SQUASH
- CARTONS OF FRUIT JUICE
- CHOCOLATE SPREAD
- JARS OF HONEY
- TIN RICE PUDDING
- PORRIDGE OATS AND INSTANT PORRIDGE
- WE WILL ACCEPT OTHER FOOD ITEMS, TOILETRIES AND CLEANING PRODUCTS IF THEY ARE DONATED INCLUDING PET FOOD (CAT AND DOG)

- MAYONNAISE
- BARS OF CHOCOLATES

HOUSEHOLD AND TOILETRIES NEEDED PLEASE - THANK YOU!

- WASHING UP LIQUID
- SHAVING FOAM/GEL
- DISPOSABLE RAZORS
- SHOWER GEL
- INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED BARS OF SOAP
- SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER
- MEN AND LADIES DEODORANT
- ANTIBACTERIAL SURFACE WIPES
- NON-BIO AND BIO LAUNDRY TABLETS
- SINGLE TOOTHBRUSHES
- WE WILL ACCEPT OTHER FOOD ITEMS, TOILETRIES AND CLEANING PRODUCTS IF THEY ARE DONATED INCLUDING PET FOOD (CAT AND DOG)

Thank You very much for your support

Gravesham Foodbank hosted by RCCG Life Start

Connections & supported by Gravesham Churches Together

Registered charity number 1135341 Registered in England & Wales

graveshamfoodbank@gmail.com www.gravesham.foodbank.org.uk



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