

Services at St John the Baptist Halling & the Jubilee Hall Upper Halling		
2 nd November Collection of shoeboxes for Blythswood	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall 4 th Sunday before Advent	I Thessalonians 2 vv 9-13 p1186 Matthew 24 vv 1-14 p993
	11.00 Holy Communion All Saints Sunday & Commemoration of All Souls	Revelation 7 vv 9-17 p1238 Matthew 5 vv 1-12 p968
9 th November 3 rd Sunday before Advent Remembrance Sunday	10.50 Holy Communion & Act of Remembrance	Amos 5 vv 18-24 p920 I Thessalonians 4 vv 13-18 p1188 Matthew 25 vv 1-13 p994
	5.30 Evening Prayer Jubilee Hall Trinity 21	Judges 7 vv 2-22 p249 John 15 vv 9-17 p1083
16 th November 2 nd Sunday before Advent	11.00 Stop! Look! Listen! & Holy Communion	Zephaniah 1 vv 1-18 p944 I Thessalonians 5 vv 1-11 p1188 Matthew 25 vv 14-30 p994
23 rd November Christ the King	11.00 Holy Communion	Ezekiel 34 vv 11-24 p865 Ephesians 1 vv 15-23 p1173 Matthew 25 vv 31-46 p995
30 th November Advent Sunday Year B	11.00 Holy Communion	Isaiah 64 vv 1-9 p750 I Corinthians 1 vv 1-9 p1145 Mark 13 vv 24-37 p1019
Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxton		
2 nd November Collection of shoeboxes for Blythswood	9.30 Holy Communion All Saints Sunday & Commemoration of All Souls	Revelation 7 vv 9-17 p1238 Matthew 5 vv 1-12 p968
	9.30 Holy Communion & Act of Remembrance	Amos 5 vv 18-24 p920 I Thessalonians 4 vv 13-18 p1188 Matthew 25 vv 1-13 p994
16 th November 2 nd Sunday before Advent	8.00 Holy Communion	Epistle & Gospel BCP Trinity 22
	9.30 Holy Communion & Holy Baptism	Zephaniah 1 vv 1-18 p944 I Thessalonians 5 vv 1-11 p1188 Matthew 25 vv 14-30 p994
23 rd November Christ the King	9.30 Holy Communion	Ezekiel 34 vv 11-24 p865 Ephesians 1 vv 15-23 p1173 Matthew 25 vv 31-46 p995
30 th November Advent Sunday Year B	9.30 Holy Communion	Isaiah 64 vv 1-9 p750 I Corinthians 1 vv 1-9 p1145 Mark 13 vv 24-37 p1019
	6.30 Evensong	Isaiah 1 vv 1-20 p685 Matthew 21 vv 1-13 p988

All Souls Day

On the 2nd November each year, the Church commemorates the Festival of All Souls. It is a day specially set aside to remember the faithful departed. In the words of the Creed, we believe in *the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of the body*. In other words, we believe that we can trust God for those whom we love but see no longer. Death is not the end, but a new beginning, a new phase of existence. Our love for them and their love for us continues within the love of God. The things we have done wrong on earth can be forgiven if we ask God in Christ. Our personality, our soul, is not extinguished by death, but finds its fulfilment in God's love. These are the kinds of thoughts to remember when we think about our loved ones who have died. In this parish, we remember by name on All Souls Day all those whose names are in the Books of Remembrance, those whose funerals we have arranged in the last year and any other individuals we are asked to commemorate. The All Souls services this year are on Sunday 2nd November at 9.30 am at St Michael & All Angels' Church Cuxton and at 11.00 am at St John the Baptist's Church Halling. At both services we remember all those whose funerals we have taken in this last year and people from the parish we have heard about. If you or other members of your family or friends would like to be present at either service, you would be most welcome. If there are other names you would like remembered, please give them in writing to the Rector.

9.30 Wednesday Holy Communion at Cuxton		9.30 Thursday Holy Communion at Halling	
5 th November	Philippians 2 vv 12-18 Luke 14 vv 25-33	6 th November	Philippians 3 vv 3-8 Luke 15 vv 1-10
12 th November	Titus 3 vv 1-7 Luke 17 vv 11-19	13 th November	Philemon Luke 17 vv 20-25
19 th November	Revelation 4 Luke 19 vv 11-28	20 th November	Revelation 5 vv 1-10 Luke 19 vv 41-44
26 th November	Revelation 15 vv 1-4 Luke 21 vv 12-19	27 th November	Revelation 18 v1 – 19 v9 Luke 21 vv 20-28

Onward Christian Soldiers



Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
with the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
forward into battle see his banners go!
*Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
with the cross of Jesus going on before.*

At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee;
on then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;
brothers, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.

Onward Christian Soldiers is one of my favourite hymns, which will not surprise anyone who comes regularly either to St Michael's or St John's Church. I am sure we shall sing it in November! One of the reasons I like *Onward Christian Soldiers* is the tune to which we sing it (*St Gertrude*). I do feel a bit guilty about liking hymns for their tunes. It does seem a little immature when surely we should be concentrating on the words, but then music is very important in worship and so it has been certainly since biblical times. That is perhaps material for another article one day, but, for now, let me just say that I think it is fair enough to associate a good tune with good words and to enjoy them both.

Some people of course really dislike *Onward Christian Soldiers* and it is omitted from some hymnbooks – the ones which I am unlikely to recommend for use in either of our two churches! I shall return to why some people do not like this hymn later, but, first, the reasons why I love it.

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here in earth. There is a great deal of evil in the world. You only have to look around you, read the newspapers, watch television. There are the pandemic evils of war and civil war, of oppression, of chronic and acute poverty. There are disease and ignorance, homelessness and hunger, worldwide. There is crime on our streets, domestic violence and child abuse in our homes and in our institutions. There is dishonesty and there is deception, infidelities and adulteries. There is a cold indifference to the plight of others and the consequences of our actions. Materialism segues into greed, selfishness, self-centredness and heartlessness. God is misrepresented, dishonoured, blasphemed, abused and ignored. The devil shows Jesus all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time and says: *All this glory will I give thee, and the glory of them; for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.* Jesus resisted the temptation to worship the devil, but, if the rest of us resist temptation (which too often we fail to do), it is by His grace and by His grace alone. The Church's task, as the Body of Christ, is to work for that day *when the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ.* Our task is to preach the

Like a mighty army moves the church of God;
brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.

We are not divided, all one body we,
one in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise
and wane,
but the church of Jesus constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never 'gainst that church prevail;
we have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.

Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng,
blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.
Glory, laud, and honour unto Christ the King,
this through countless ages men and angels sing.

Gospel to every creature in all the world, to bring peace and justice to the earth, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, visit the prisoner. Our task is to complete the work which God sent Jesus to do – to redeem and sanctify the whole of creation. We can only play our part in His plan because He works with us and in us, pouring out upon us the grace of His Holy Spirit. To every person we baptise we say, *Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.*

That is our Christian commission and we are called to be no less committed or courageous in our Christian service than soldiers preparing for battle. We need to train – reading the Bible and praying. We need to be well-nourished - participating in the Sacraments and Christian fellowship. We need to build an *esprit de corps* with all our fellow Christians: in the local Church to which we belong; in the Church worldwide, *militant here in earth*; and in the Church triumphant, risen in glory. We need to be every bit as ready to lay down our lives in the cause as any soldier going into battle. *Onward Christian Soldiers* puts into words my passion for the Gospel, which I hope is your passion too, more passionate than my passion.

Read on, however. This hymn is not just about soldiering, not in a worldly sense. What overcomes evil, the power of sin, the world and the devil, is praise. When the devil promises Jesus the kingdoms of this world if only Jesus will worship him, Jesus answers Satan by quoting Scripture, *Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.* You won't get on, you won't achieve anything, using the devil's methods – violence, dishonesty, self-centredness, etc.. The only way to achieve anything worthwhile for yourself, for your family, for the Church, for the world at large, is to walk with God, to live by His Law – His Law which begins in loving God with all our hearts and overflows into loving our neighbours as ourselves. *Except the Lord build the house: their labour is but lost that build it. Except the Lord keep the city: the watchman waketh but in vain.* It is a mammoth task which confronts the Church. Without Jesus, we can do nothing. With Him, there is nothing we cannot do. It begins and ends in the love of God.

Verse three sometimes saddens me, even brings a tear to my eye. It describes what the Church ought to be like: unified in our love for God and for one another, unified by our common faith and our shared hope. *One in hope and doctrine, one in charity,* we ought to be *treading where the saints have trod*, telling the Good News to the whole of creation, bringing peace and justice to the world, healing the sick, comforting people in need of every kind. And yet church life is often so different from what it is clearly meant to be. This is where we fail. We don't have enough faith, hope and charity (or love as you could translate Paul's Greek). Why not? The answers are there in the Bible. No space here, but maybe another topic for another article. What I cling on to is the *nevertheless*. While we may fail dismally, *nevertheless* the success of the Church's mission depends not on us, but on God, Whose resources are unlimited. Not only the Church's mission, but her very nature as the Body of Christ depends not upon us, but upon God. That is why we pray in Eucharistic Prayer G: *Remember Lord, your Church in every land. **Reveal her unity,** guard her faith, and preserve her in peace.* We are at one. We really are, but our unity needs to be revealed!

If verse 3 sometimes saddens me, verse 4 inspires me. We live in a country in which most people see no need to go to Church. Increasingly, the Christian faith is being marginalised. We can't get enough people to do the jobs that need doing. We don't have enough clergy. There is certainly not enough money. The majority of people – even of those who call themselves Christians – don't seem to care. We argue among ourselves about trivia. At our gloomiest, the future we see for this parish is absorption into a team with other parishes, too few ministers to do their work properly, aging, diminished and overstretched congregations and the possible closure of much loved buildings. However! Nevertheless! *Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane, but the church of Jesus constant will remain. Gates of hell can never 'gainst that church prevail; we have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.* The Church relies not on Christians, but on God. For that very reason, the Church has always proved, and will always prove, more resilient than any human institution, no matter what appearances may seem to indicate. God's Church will not fail. *We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.* The Church may not carry on as it is in Cuxton and Halling, but God's Church will carry on with or without us. I'm sorry to say this, but if we

really believe it is God's Will for His Church to continue as it is here with our two Churches of St Michael and St John, we have to ask ourselves whether we are prepared to work whole-heartedly with Him, to reconsider the reasons we don't attend regularly, to think seriously about whether our financial contributions are worthy of our faith, to examine our own Christian discipleship. Are we even trying to do the good works God has prepared for us to walk in? Are we building the Church in Cuxton and Halling? By our prayers, by our fellowship, by our reaching out into the community?

And so to the last verse, to be members of that happy throng, all those millions of Christian people from every nation and every age, joyously overcoming all the evil in the world by the power of praise and finally resting joyfully and eternally in Him.

So why don't some people like this hymn? Because they don't read it properly. They think of jihad and the crusades, of inquisitions and persecutions and religious wars. They mistake this hymn and imagine it celebrates that disfigurement of religion which attempts to establish righteousness at the point of a sword or out of the barrel of a gun. *Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before.* Our standard is the Cross of Christ. The Church, when she is authentically Christ's Church, does not attempt to overcome evil with evil. She overcomes evil with good. The only way to succeed in the battle against sin, the world and devil, the only way to succeed at all, is the way of Jesus, the way of the cross, the way of self-sacrificial love. *Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.* Anything less is sub-Christian. That's why I love this hymn. Roger.

Quotation

As the Americans say let's PUSH (Pray Until Something Happens).

Confirmation 2015

I am pleased to be able to say that we shall be holding a service of Confirmation next year on 24th June at 7.30 pm at St John's Church. This is, of course, our Patronal Festival at Halling.

If you wish to be confirmed, please let me know. Classes will begin in the new year. Candidates should be twelve years of age or older, but, with the bishop's permission those who are ten or eleven may be confirmed if they are ready for the commitment involved. What is required of candidates for Confirmation? Simply that they take seriously the promises we all make at Baptism (or our godparents make for us). The classes are an opportunity to consider what this means at a level appropriate for you.

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

O What Risky Lives We Lead!

I've just been asked to sign off on a risk assessment for something which we have been quite safely doing for decades! I was happy to do this until I pondered the risks involved in signing the risk assessment. So I carried out a further risk assessment and this is what I came up with.

There is a risk that deliberately or unintentionally I might stab myself or somebody else with the nib of the pen. There is a second risk that I might go temporarily insane and poison myself by drinking the ink. The second risk could be avoided and the first reduced by using a ball point pen.

However, when handling paper, there is always the risk of a paper cut. Safety gauntlets, therefore, ought to be worn whenever handling paper. Being flammable, paper also constitutes a fire hazard and care should be taken, therefore, to avoid bringing paper into contact with hot surfaces or naked flames except, of course, when paper is being used as kindling.

A friend reviewing this added that an open fire or a bonfire would also constitute an unacceptable risk. So there should be no question of using paper or anything else as kindling. Roger.



My 60th Birthday

God willing, I shall be 60 on 30th November this year. I shall be celebrating at Evensong at St Michael's at 6.30 pm that day, followed by a party in the church hall. All my friends are invited, which I hope includes all readers of this magazine. So see you there. No presents, please, but a celebratory donation to our church would be much appreciated. (I still need a job!) Any cheques should be made payable to Cuxton & Halling PCC. Roger.



Blythswood Shoebox Collection

This year is the 21st anniversary of Blythswood running the appeal and over 1.7 Million boxes have been donated and distributed through the years. To watch the Shoe Box Appeal video, *Two Box Tale*, and also have a look at the video aimed at younger children, *The Perfect Christmas*, go to the Blythswood website. You can help us this year by filling a box yourself or as part of your church, school or other organisations you belong to. It's very easy to put some basic items together; you could even do this with your work colleagues. It's not difficult to choose gifts for someone who has so little. Things we take for granted can often be luxuries for people living in desperate poverty. There will be leaflets in church with suitable suggestions, including small toys, underwear, socks, soap, shampoo, stationery and similar items. No food. Boxes will go to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania and Serbia this year. Please bring to church 2nd November at the latest.

The Merits of Mobiles?

I was asked whether I would let Max tell this story in this month's magazine, but since he wasn't present, I thought I had better own up to it myself! One Monday I was supposed to be going to the Turner Gallery at Margate with a friend, but, when I got home Sunday night, she had e mailed to say that Turner is closed Mondays and suggested we meet at the Walpole Bay Hotel Museum instead. I e mailed back to say I would meet her at the museum. (We had originally arranged Margate Clocktower.) She did not pick up my e mail and went to the clocktower while I went to the museum at Cliftonville. Having waited forty minutes, I gave up on my friend and decided to visit a shop I know in Margate. That too was closed Mondays. I couldn't find any other shops with what I wanted, but as I had now walked back to Margate, I thought I would check to see if she was at the Turner. She wasn't and I totally gave up and set off to find the public conveniences prior to going home. I past the clocktower where my friend was still sitting. She thought I was late because she had heard that the trains were delayed. I had travelled by car. She did find a shop where I could buy what I wanted. So the day was not wasted, but, by the time we had eaten and walked back to Walpole Bay, it was too late to go in the museum. Mobile telephones might have their uses! On the other hand, would I have got a day off if I had carried a 'phone with me? RIK.

Christmas Coffee Morning and Minimarket

13th December: 10.00 Church Hall.

From the Registers

Baptism:

5th October

Olivia Alison Birch

Upnor

Funerals:

18th September

David William Robert Parker (79)

Poplicans Road

24th September

Gladys Rose Stephenson (91)

Upper Halling

St Michael's Draw: £10 each for Chris. Beaney and Sue Hughes, £5 each for Dennis Hills and Dorothy Taylor - drawn by Ann Saunders.

St John's Draw: £5 each to Mrs Parris (53), Mrs Fennemore (71), Mrs Terry (125) & Mrs Gyde (133) – drawn by Mr Wooding.

And Next Year

6th January: 9.30 am Epiphany Service at St Michael's – followed by brunch in church hall.

24th January: 7.30 pm Concert at St Michael's to commemorate 1914 Christmas truce.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Thanks, as usual, to all those who decorated our churches so beautifully, did all the necessary cleaning and maintenance jobs, made music, rang the bells and prepared the Harvest Supper. A good time was had by all.

Quotations (Cited by Alister M^cGrath in *Science & Christian Belief* Oct 2014)

C S Lewis: I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.

Simone Weil: If I light an electric torch at night out of doors, I don't judge its power by looking at the bulb, but by seeing how many objects it lights up. The brightness of a source of light is appreciated by the illumination it projects upon non-luminous objects. The value of a religious or, more generally, a spiritual way of life is appreciated by the amount of illumination thrown upon the things of this world.

Mysterium Lunae – The Mystery of the Moon.

Fulget Ecclesia non suo sed Christi lumine

The church shines not with its own light, but that of Christ.

S Ambrose of Milan.

The Gideons Came to Halling

On the afternoon of the 4th October the Gideon Friends group in the Medway area held their meeting at Halling Baptist Church. They held a brief act of worship including an address explaining that Jesus Christ crucified is the Word, the Wisdom and the Power of God, and that to know Him is eternal life, but that we can only know Him by faith and that faith is God's gift to us, without which the Truth will always be hidden from us.

Worldwide, the Gideons seek to make the Word of God available through distributing bibles in hotels, hospitals, school, prisons and in as many places as possible. There was news that two more countries have joined Gideons International this year.

A report on the Gideons' work in the Medway area informed the meeting of the movement's good relationship with Medway Hospital and asked for prayers that this would continue. Many schools welcome the Gideons' offer of testaments for every pupil, but some schools refuse. Again, prayers were asked for – that doors (and hearts) might be opened. There were also distributions to hotels.

Nationally, militant atheists have been mounting something of a campaign against bibles in hotel bedrooms. What are they afraid of? Nobody has to read them. They don't object, say, to Agatha Christie novels left around. The atheists' fear of the bible suggests that they understand something of its power. People were asked to ask for a bible when they are staying in a hotel.

There were testimonies from people whose lives have been turned round from near suicide to being born again by reading the bible – a marvellous demonstration of the power of the Word and the reason why the Gideons' work is so worthwhile.

There was then a film about the Gideons' work in South Sudan, the newest country in the world. It is a very poor country with many problems, but a great thirst for the Word of God which is a wonderful blessing.

The afternoon finished with a strawberry tea, of which your correspondent had been unaware. So he missed out there!

Nature Notes September 2014

The waning moon plays hide and seek, With clouds around the mountain peak. Barn owls swoop to catch their prey, In golden fields of new-mown hay.	"Nocturnal Interplay" Brian H Gent And busy excavating moles, Make little hillocks digging holes. Badgers from their setts emerge, With hedgehogs in the grassy verge.	Bats embark on silent flight, And disappear into the night. Such sweet nocturnal interplay That lasts until the newborn day.
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Early sunshine greets the day but clouds soon cover the sky as we set off for Wiltshire. Rain eventually falls but there are glimpses of the sun as we reach our destination. Along the route I am aware of Autumn displays especially on beech trees. Hips and haws have ripened. As the sun sets, the sky is tinged with salmon pink among the grey clouds which drift across from the west. Sheep graze on the hill. The next day the sun shines warmly after grey clouds disperse. We drive through beautiful countryside and stop at Marlborough. We then drive to the Ridgeway where I am able to walk at least two miles, admiring once again the beautiful views. Along the verges meadowsweet blooms. We then drive to Royal Wootton Bassett, a place David, as an ex army officer, needs to visit to pay his respects to fallen soldiers. On our way back I see a sign "The Bug and Spider Inn"; not a place to appeal to me. The warm sunshine continues into the early evening. The hawthorn hedges are laden with ripe berries. The early morning of 3rd is grey but eventually the sun breaks through to give another gloriously warm day. We drive across Salisbury Plain to Devizes where we walk by the canal. Swans bring their cygnets along the grassy paths. We then have our picnic before returning to the cottage. I sit in the peaceful garden listening to the wind rustling in the trees. Rooks fly across to roost in the ash tree.

We visit a friend and her grandchildren the next day. We return home on 5th. On 6th I walk across Church Fields where ripe fruits of bramble, hawthorn and wild rose are displayed in their Autumn glory. Spindleberries are turning pink and old man's beard straddles the hedges. The wych elm is splendid in gold and green. Mallow and a single clump of pink campion are in bloom. Bristly ox tongue still blooms along the grassy paths. I walk in Mays Wood where all is silent except for the occasional call of a woodpecker. I skirt the field where sweet corn is ripening. In Six acre field saplings and scrub are beginning to take over. Hedge woundwort blooms along the footpath of Six acre Wood. On 7th I'm aware of how quickly darkness is falling. After a beautiful day on 8th, a full moon shines in the night sky. On 9th, which is a glorious day, I walk round the lake at Bluewater with Murphy. A solitary coot glides across the rippling water. The sun beams down from a blue cloud-brushed sky. In the evening, a thin band of cloud drifts across the moon. North east winds blow from 10th to 16th; the weather remains warm but with ever increasing signs of Autumn. On 17th, I watch a wren hopping among the plant pots on the patio. It is such a diligent little bird. On 19th a southerly breeze blows as we walk at Bluewater where a few flowers bloom among the grasses, other colours being manifested in the trees as Autumn

approaches. Darkness falls before 8.00pm. On 20th a garden warbler investigates the plants on the patio. On 22nd, which is a sunny day, north west winds blow and as I walk, I'm aware of a chill in the air. Later, while in the garden, I watch four red admiral butterflies hovering over the ivy flowers. On 24th, Murphy has an under cover walk because of heavy rain. Then in the afternoon north west winds drive the clouds away to give a sunny afternoon. The next day the sun shines brightly from blue skies but with a fresh breeze blowing. I walk along Pilgrim's Road where red hips adorn the hedgerows and leaves are changing colour. I hear a robin calling from a hedge. The 26th brings rain and west winds. I visit neighbours

to see Bella and Daisy two charming lop-eared rabbits. They are fascinating to watch. There is a misty start to the 28th but soon the sun emerges dispersing the grey clouds. The afternoon is warm and sunny with thin cloud brushing the blue sky. I sit outside enjoying the warmth and listening to birdsong. A pair of collared doves perch on a branch of the conifer tree and groom each other. The 29th is damp and chilly. The morning of 30th is grey but a warm, sunny day develops. I walk round the lake with Murphy. The sun shines through the parted clouds. A coot glides on the rippling water. The afternoon is warm with bright sunshine. A crescent moon shines in the night sky. Elizabeth Summers.

Has Anyone Any Information?



The Probation Service have done a great job clearing Halling Cemetery on which they are to be congratulated and for which everyone is very grateful. In the course of their work, they have uncovered one of the oldest graves in the burial ground. It is the grave of Emily Ann Sedgewick. On the stone is also the name of her 3rd son John who died fighting in Belgium on 30th October 1917. I could not find a reference in the burial register. So it is possible that John is buried somewhere else (maybe in Belgium) or possibly even that his body was not found. His father is given as B Sedgewick, with no date of death. So presumably he was alive in 1917 and it is not impossible that there is someone in the village who knew him or at least who knew of him. Another mystery is the war grave of Charles Thomas Sheehan 23/11/1915 in the burial ground. In the burial register, he is recorded as 13th East Malling which looks like an army unit, but we know that he was RN Chief Stoker on HMS Swiftsure. His parents Daniel and Emma lived in Ditton and he was born in Birling. So, does anyone know why he was buried in Halling? Another puzzle is why neither of these men is commemorated on the war memorial.

Halling Great War Commemoration

On Remembrance Sunday our usual service of Holy Communion, Parade and Act of Remembrance at 10.50 will be followed by a procession to the new war memorial at Forge Green. There will then be refreshments and an exhibition in the community centre. In the evening from 6.30 – 8.00, there will be a beacon and fireworks at the mound (next to the school).

PARISH CHURCH OF KING CHARLES THE MARTYR, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

The King Charles the Martyr annual lecture will be taking place at the Parish Church of King Charles the Martyr, London Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1YX at 2.30 pm on Saturday 31 January 2015. Professor John Harper, Honorary Professor, Liturgy and Music, University of Birmingham and Emeritus Professor, Bangor University, will be giving a lecture entitled *Music in the Chapels Royal of Charles I and his Queen*. Charles had established his own court musicians as Prince of Wales, and then inherited an exceptionally fine body of musicians in both the Royal Music and the Chapel Royal on his accession. Following his marriage to Henrietta Maria in 1625, a new Roman Catholic Chapel Royal was required. In London (and in Oxford during the Civil War) the Chapels Royal of the king and queen were major centres of the musical activity of both English and foreign composers, singers and instrumentalists. This lecture will consider the people, buildings, liturgy and repertoires of the Chapels Royal. The Church of King Charles the Martyr is near The Pantiles, in Tunbridge Wells. There is no entrance charge for the lecture.

O praise God in his holiness: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him in his noble acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him in the sound of the trumpet: praise him upon the lute and harp. Praise him in the cymbals and dances: praise him upon the strings and pipe. Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals: praise him upon the loud cymbals. Let everything that hath breath: praise the Lord. (Psalm 150).

News from Cuxton school

Dear Friends of our school,

An extremely busy start to the new term. Our Foundation stage children, all sixty, have settled well. They enjoy each other's company and are mostly confident young people. The rest of the school have settled well into their new classes and many have made new friends. The broad balanced and creative curriculum that we are providing has meant the children have been fully engaged in their learning.

Years 1 and 2 have been thinking about Dinosaurs. Some fantastic writing, dinosaur addition, sewing and textile work and science work related to reptiles has been taking place. Years 3 and 4 have been learning about fossils, rocks, volcanoes and natural disasters. Year 5 and 6 have been focussing on Gallery Rebels, with work around Banksy and Munch, 'The Scream'. Children have had lively debates about graffiti and whether Banksy should do as he does, painting without permission. Some fantastic art work has taken place along with some great poetry writing.

All classes have performed to their parents during our Harvest Celebrations. Children have shared Harvest poems, RAPS, songs and art work. 'I can see cherries,' 'Autumn' and the children's favourite 'Cauliflowers fluffy' were performed! This year we have collected goods for the Homeless Appeal in Medway.

Shortly we will be holding our annual Environment Day when children come dressed for a day's gardening and spend time digging, weeding, clearing and planting. These days have helped children over the last couple of years take more care of their environment and understand a little about a plant/ bulb's needs and to be able to name parts of a plant. We will be pleased to accept any donations of plants for our day on Friday 24th October.

Apart from school events such as the above, we have been carrying out teaching and learning observations across all year groups to ensure a good standard of education is being provided. This has included looking at children's work and teachers' planning. Over the next month we will be conducting staff performance interviews and pupil progress meetings.

The weather has changed and the schools' heating is now on! Sadly the rain has meant wet playtimes and on occasion we have had blustery days that somehow across the land make all children rather lively and skittish! We have already been thinking about snow in that, in December, we are taking the year 3 and 4 children to Maidstone to a pantomime as part of their topic work. Let's hope the 'white stuff' does not land around the 16th!

Take care, keep safe and well, Sandra Jones, Head teacher.



Max's Tail Piece

Well, Autumn seems to have come very suddenly. It was quite warm last Saturday morning and we sat in the garden to read the papers. We had Lolly for the day because her family were working long hours and dogs really shouldn't be left alone. Lolly is much younger than I am and Master had forgotten what it is to have a dog demanding attention all the time – continually bringing a stick or a ball to be thrown for her. We did both have fun winding our leads round his legs he took us to church. Anyway, as I said, the day started warm and dry, continuing the tradition of one of the driest Septembers ever. Then, in the afternoon, it rained and rained and became freezing cold – literally. One parishioner said he had had to scrape the ice off his windscreen before coming to church on the Sunday morning. Master says it is lucky that our new thermometer is calibrated in Centigrade so that he doesn't know just how cold he is and can sit around in shorts still. The mornings and evenings are darker now too and we only go up the woods early on if there is a good moon and it's getting muddy. Maybe we should just stay in the warm! Max, the Rectory Spaniel.