

Services at St John the Baptist Halling & the Jubilee Hall Upper Halling		
2 nd September Trinity 13	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	Exodus 12 ²¹⁻²⁷ Matthew 4 ²³⁻⁵²⁰
	 11.00 Holy Communion president and preacher Bishop James	Deuteronomy 4 ¹⁻⁹ p182 James 1 ¹⁷⁻²⁷ p1213 Mark 7 ¹⁻²³ p101
9 th September Trinity 14	11.00 Holy Communion	Isaiah 35 ⁴⁻⁷ p719 James 2 ¹⁻¹⁷ p1214 Mark 7 ²⁴⁻³⁷ p1010
	5.30 Evening Prayer Jubilee Hall	Exodus 14 ⁵⁻³¹ p71 Matthew 6 ¹⁻¹⁸ p970
16 th September Trinity 15	11.00 Holy Communion & Stop! Look! Listen!	Isaiah 50 ^{4-9a} p737 James 3 ¹⁻¹² p1214 Mark 8 ²⁷⁻³⁸ p1012
23 rd September Trinity 16	11.00 Holy Communion	Jeremiah 11 ¹⁸⁻²⁰ p770 James 3 ^{13-4^{8a}} p1215 Mark 9 ³⁰⁻³⁷ p1013
30 th September Trinity 17 Back to Church Sunday	11.00 Holy Communion	Numbers 11 ⁴⁻²⁹ p147 James 5 ¹³⁻²⁰ p1216 Mark 9 ³⁸⁻⁵⁰ p1014
7 th October Trinity 18 Harvest Festival & Dedication Festival	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	Joshua 3 ⁷⁻¹⁷ p218 Matthew 10 ¹⁻²² p975
	11.00 Holy Communion	Genesis 2 ¹⁸⁻²⁴ p5 Hebrews 1 ¹⁻⁴ p1201 Hebrews 2 ⁵⁻¹² p1202 Mark 10 ²⁻¹⁶ p1014
Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxton		
2 nd September Trinity 13	9.30 Family Communion	Deuteronomy 4 ¹⁻⁹ p182 Mark 7 ¹⁻²³ p1010
9 th September Trinity 14	9.30 Holy Communion	Isaiah 35 ⁴⁻⁷ p719 James 2 ¹⁻¹⁷ p1214 Mark 7 ²⁴⁻³⁷ p1010
16 th September Trinity 15	8.00 Holy Communion	Epistle & Gospel BCP Trinity 15
	9.30 Holy Communion	Isaiah 50 ^{4-9a} p737 James 3 ¹⁻¹² p1214 Mark 8 ²⁷⁻³⁸ p1012
23 rd September Trinity 16	9.30 Holy Communion	Jeremiah 11 ¹⁸⁻²⁰ p770 James 3 ^{13-4^{8a}} p1215 Mark 9 ³⁰⁻³⁷ p1013
St Michael's Weekend with exhibition in hall and church tours Saturday afternoon from 3.00	29 th September Michaelmas 30 th September	11.00 Holy Communion Preacher Canon Alan Vousden, followed by lunch in hall.
	Trinity 17 Back to Church Sunday	9.30 Holy Communion
7 th October Trinity 18 Harvest Festival & Dedication Festival	9.30 Family Communion	Genesis 2 ¹⁸⁻²⁴ p5 Hebrews 1 ¹⁻⁴ p1201 Hebrews 2 ⁵⁻¹² p1202 Mark 10 ²⁻¹⁶ p1014
	6.30 Harvest Praise followed by Harvest Supper in Church Hall.	Joel 2 ²¹⁻²⁷ p913 I Timothy 6 ⁶⁻¹⁰ p1194 Matthew 6 ²⁵⁻³³ p971

Holy Communion Wednesdays at St Michael's		Holy Communion Thursdays at St John's	
5 th September	I Corinthians 3 vv 1-9 Luke 4 vv 38-44	6 th September	I Corinthians 3 vv 18-23 Luke 5 vv 1-11
12 th September	I Corinthians 7 vv 25-31 Luke 6 vv 20-26	13 th September	I Corinthians 8 vv 1-13 Luke 6 vv 27-38
19 th September	I Corinthians 12 v12 – 13 v13 Luke 7 vv 31-35	20 th September	I Corinthians 15 vv 1-11 Luke 7 vv 36-50
26 th September Ember Day (Wilson Carlile)	Proverbs 30 vv 5-9 Luke 9 vv 1-6	27 th September	Ecclesiastes 1 vv 1-11 Luke 9 vv 7-9

There is an **After School Club** at St John's on Thursdays at 3.45. **Saints Alive** (formerly Sunday School) meets in the Church Hall, Cuxton at 9.30 on 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays of the month in term time.

There is a parish lunch to which all are invited every first Wednesday at 12.00 in the Church Hall.

If you are prepared to *gift aid* your monetary contributions to the Church, please use one of the envelopes provided. Contact Jack Payne to *gift aid* all your donations.

Copy Date October Magazine: 14th September 8.30 am Rectory.



Events

There's been a lot going on in 2012 what with the Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics and the Para-Olympics, the 350th anniversary of the Book of Common Prayer and an Englishman winning the Tour de France. We've been no slouches in the parish either and you will have read up the accounts in this magazine and maybe have enjoined participating in some of the things we have been doing locally to do our bit for the national celebrations or to do our own special things in the parish.

On 21st July we held our Olymfunpics (I think it was called) in the grounds of Cuxton Social Club. This was a joint enterprise of the Anglican Parish of Cuxton and Halling and the United Reformed Church, largely planned and organised by our young people and partly funded by a grant from the Diocese of Rochester. The Army Cadets from Snodland had a big input which was very much appreciated. There were races for all age groups. Yours truly came last in the adults' race. The medals were made of chocolate. So they had to be eaten up swiftly in the hot sun. There were fun races, tombola, stalls, music and a barbecue. The afternoon finished with various tugs of war – the most notable being the one in which the nursery school children beat the army cadets. Admittedly there were about 30 pulling on one end of the rope and seven on the other! It seemed to be agreed that we should do something like it together again – maybe a fun run to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association – a cause dear to a number of hearts locally.

The same evening at St John's we enjoyed a concert given by the Marlowe Singers and the Alma Junior Saxophone Quartet and the Alma Saxophone Quartet from Armenia. We knew we were in for a treat from the Marlowe Singers who

have sung for us before but we were astonished by the performance of the saxophonists. They not only played the sort of music you might think lends it self to the saxophone, but also pieces by Bach, Mozart and Tchaikovsky. Halling was one stop on their ten day tour of Kent and we were very privileged to be one of the venues at which they played. Armenia was the first country to adopt Christianity as the national religion and it has suffered a very troubled history until quite recently. For both reasons we were delighted to meet these Armenian musicians and congratulations, Norman, on overcoming all the difficulties of obtaining visas and sufficient funding.

A special thank you to those who supported both events, particularly those involved in organisation and catering. One delighted but exhausted contributor wondered how we managed to have them both on the same day. The answer was that both of them were difficult to plan as they had to fit in with the many commitments people had and 21st July just turned out to be the only practical date in both cases.

We have continued to be grateful for contributions towards the cost of cutting the grass in Cuxton Churchyard and Halling Burial Ground from individuals and from the two parish councils. These are still needed, please, to cover the cost of the regular professional cuts (cheques payable to Cuxton & Halling PCC, as all cheques to the church should be for whatever purpose). We are also grateful to those who maintain their own family and other graves on a regular basis. We are sorry that some people leave litter, carry out acts of vandalism and even steal from churchyards and cemeteries. I guess the people who do such things don't read this magazine, but, if you know the culprits, you know what to do. Medway Council cut the grass regularly in St John's Churchyard and this year have had a good go at ivy on the walls and some of the ever

spreading undergrowth. We still need them to tackle the trees which they indicated they would do when funds are available. It would be nice to see the church from the pub and vice versa.

In both churches bands of people clean and tidy the buildings, polish the brass, arrange flowers etc., on a regular basis. Well done and well done all who contribute regularly with music, ringing, printing and distributing the magazine and in all the jobs which need doing if we are to function. There have been special efforts in all burial areas by individuals and working parties to catch up on some of those jobs which don't come under the routine maintenance we contract for but which accumulate as walls become covered with ivy, suckers spring up around trees, bushes grow, undergrowth spreads and litter so quickly piles up. Congratulations to all our workers. Their efforts are not unappreciated by visitors to our churches and bereaved families.

Looking ahead, we have Bishop James Langstaff coming to preside and preach at our 11.00 Holy Communion at Halling on 2nd September. We are very much looking forward to his coming and there will be a buffet lunch served in the south aisle afterwards. I am sure it would help with the catering if you could advise our church ladies if you intend to come. [The Family Communion at St Michael's at 9.30 will be somewhat shorter than it sometimes is, making it possible for those who wish to do so to attend both services.]

The 8th September sees the annual Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride. Visit as many churches as you can. Sponsorship divided equally between FKC and this parish. See me if you would like to take part or if you can act as a steward in either church. It's much nicer for the visitors when churches are manned. Even if you cannot take part, please sponsor someone who can.

Many of you remember Canon Alan Vousden, my predecessor as Rector here. Alan is our preacher at St Michael's on Saturday 29th September at 11.00, our Patronal Festival. Please come and

meet him. After the service, there will be lunch in the church hall. Also over the whole weekend, there will be an exhibition in the hall. I have agreed to conduct church tours from 3.00 that Saturday afternoon as part of the *Time and Tide* project. I am willing to take adults up St Michael's tower at their own risk, but, be warned, it's ladders all the way and some of our plumper parishioners might get stuck in the doorway onto the balcony! On the other hand you might be asked to disentangle the rope for the flag.

The 30th of September is Back to Church Sunday. Please make a special point of inviting people to church this Sunday or, if you don't normally come to church, and would like to give it a try, well put this date in your diary. There will be invitation cards for your use in church. Support the local and national event and the people you hope might come back to church (or come for the first time) with your prayers.

The following Sunday (7th October) will be Harvest Festival, with a Harvest Supper in the church hall to follow the evening service at St Michael's. Again this year there will be an opportunity to contribute to *Poverty and Hope* the 1% appeal. Leaflets explain how the money is used to help people for whom austerity is not so much an inconvenience as a matter of life and death.

On 13th October, we are holding a quiz night for church funds in the church hall at 7.30. In this eventful year, all the rounds have a 2012 theme. Individuals and teams of 6-8 are welcome. £6.00 includes ploughman's. Bring your own drink.

On 17th October at 7.30 we are going to Cliffe for the Confirmation of Andy Morris and Iris Crew from our parish. Please remember them in your prayers.

If anyone else is considering Confirmation I anticipate that there will be a Confirmation at Cuxton September 2013.
Roger.

After the Flood Noah found two snakes left behind in the ark, unwilling to disembark. "What's the problem?" he asked. They answered, "You told us to go forth and multiply, but we're adders."

Christian Aid

A Division of The British Council of Churches



Christian Aid

Our parish's walkers raised £300.50 in the annual sponsored walk on 23rd June. Thank you walkers and sponsors. (Total for all walkers £1176.50). The next Christian Aid event is a quiz in Frindsbury Parish Hall at 7.30 pm on 15th September.

John Bell Comes to Surrey

On October 27th of this year, there is a rare opportunity to listen to and meet the inspirational speaker John Bell, at Gatton Park, Reigate, when he will be speaking on “10 Things They Never Told Me about Jesus” and “The Spirituality of the Psalms”.

John is a hymn writer, author and occasional broadcaster on national radio and television. You may have heard him on Radio 4's “Thought for the Day”. He has written many hymns some of which you may be familiar with - “Christ's is the world in which we move”, “Jesus Christ is waiting” and “Will you come and follow me”. As well as being known for his music, he is much in demand as a speaker on matters spiritual and biblical, and we are very pleased to have been able to book him for this day.

John Bell is a member of the Iona Community, based in Glasgow. He lectures, preaches and conducts seminars across the denominations in Europe, North America, Australasia, and Southern Africa. He, and the work he shares with his colleagues, has been honoured by the Royal School of Church Music, the Hymn Society in the US & Canada, and the University of Glasgow, the first and second of which bestowed on him the status of Fellowship, the third a Doctorate.

Bookings for the day can be made by contacting Kirsty Anderson on 07511 109937 or by emailing gattonencounters@gmail.com. Further information can be found on www.gattonencounters.co.uk.

GattonEncounters is a series of one day events organised by the Merstham and Gatton Team Ministry.

Forthcoming Attractions 2012

September 2nd: 11.00 am Bishop James presides and preaches at St John's – followed by buffet lunch.
September 29th(Michaelmas): 11.00 am HC at St Michael's preacher Canon Alan Vousden - followed by lunch in church hall, church tour @ 3.00
30th September Back to Church Sunday 9.30 & 11.00
October 7th Harvest Festival: 6.30 St Michael's Evening Service and Harvest Supper.
October 13th: 7.30 Quiz in Church Hall.
October 27th: 2.00 Sale of Work Halling Church.
December 7th: WI District Carol Service at St Michael's.
December 8th: Christmas Minimarket Church Hall 10.00.

St Michael's Draw: £20 Shirley Crundwell, £10 John Hills, £5 Jo. Martin. I'm pleased to be able to report the number at present participating has reached SEVENTY!!! More subscribers welcome. Jeanne Harris.

St John's Draw: £% each to Mrs Swatton (6), Mrs Rogers (164), Mrs Farrow (25) & Mrs Fallows (184) – drawn by Mrs Hubbard.



Eve Appeal

This years sponsored Bluebell Walk on 28th April made £1,528 for the Eve Appeal, which supports research into gynaecological cancers at University College, London, in memory of Greta Lawry. This was a remarkable result considering the weather. Thanks to everybody who supported this year's event.

Apologies for my mistake in the wording of this notice in the August magazine. Correcting the wording has enabled me to update the figure. Well done everyone who took part. RIK.

Babies

by Iris Crew

To look into a baby's face,
And see a beautiful smile,
Is like a christening gown made
of lace,
Soft, white and beguile.

Babies are the wonder of the
world,
On which we live and thrive,
Taken for granted most of the
time.
Just grateful for being alive.

Let's thank God for his creation,
The wonderment of
proclamation,
We must not quarrel, fight or
make war,
We must learn to love each other
more.

From the Registers

Baptisms:

25th July

Amber Louise Stone
George William Krucyk
Harry Stuart Krucyk

High Street
High Street
High Street

Wedding:

14th July

Andrew Stephen Nash & Rachel Kathryn Hall

Halling

Funerals:

26th July

Hilda Burchfield (87)

Bush Road

27th July

Sybil Bonneywell

formerly of Halling

Consecration:

Some of you may remember Mgr Philip Egan who attended our Wednesday morning Communion a couple of years ago. Philip is to be consecrated as the next Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth on 24th September.

You may also remember that another clerical visitor to our parish, Rev'd Michael Iprgrave, was consecrated Anglican Bishop of Woolwich on 21st March this year.

Please remember both men and all our bishops and clergy in your prayers.



Halling WI

It was rather a shame that we were thin on the ground for our July meeting as we had a return visit, after about thirty years, of Mr Chris Wade, with his wonderful slides of the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, and land in and around that part of America. Ann Heaseman acted as secretary for the evening as Ann Hayward was "cruising" around Ireland. We had an invitation to Ham Hill and Snodland's 95th birthday celebrations, a "posh frock" affair. Betty and I are going, taking Lily Hesketh with us as Lily belonged to that Institute before Halling were formed. We are going to have a stall at the Halling Fun Day, to sell cakes, crafts and plants. Mary Fennemore thanked the committee for the lovely party we had all enjoyed in June and everyone agreed what a lovely Jubilee tea party we all enjoyed in Ann and Gemma Graves' garden, despite the inclement weather. Chris Wade then showed us and told us about his trip to the New World, not a part of the world I have ever fancied to visit, but after seeing

his wonderful slides, I began to wish I was younger and could go and see these wonderful, unbelievable places. I thanked him as I had done many years ago when his subject was "Ghosts of Kent" all about Pluckley. Chris then judged our competitions. It must have been my night as I won both. My Bottlebrush, posh name Callistemon, was first in the Flower of the Month, and for the letter F, yes we had Fossils, a Few Fans but my smelly Fish, a mackerel in fact won the day. Afterwards I took it home, took out it's innards, and popped it in the microwave. Then I couldn't resist it I ate half of it before I turned in, and I didn't need any Gaviscon.

August brings us to letter G, not quite so easy. Must put our thinking caps on. Our speaker cannot come for this month but I expect we shall have a nice social, friendly evening of some sort, perhaps scrabble, beetle drive, or even SNAP. Come and join us, at least you will have a laugh. Phyllis.

Boson Jokes

- 1) Scientists sent half a dozen cyclists clockwise around the Olympic Velodrome at maximum speed and six anticlockwise. When the inevitable crash eventually came, there were bike parts hitherto unknown to Science.
- 2) The Higgs boson walked into church and the priest asked him what he was doing there? "Without me," came the reply, "You can't have mass."

Nature Notes July 2012

I like watching flowing water whether it is a tiny stream a river or the magnificence of the sea. My choice of poem is from "The Brook" by Alfred Lord Tennyson

I wind about and in and out,
With here a blossom sailing,
And here and there a lusty
trout,
And here and there a grayling.

And here and there a foamy
flake

Upon me as I travel
With many a silvery
waterbreak

Above the golden gravel.

I slip, I slide, I gloom, and I
glance,
Among my skimming
swallows;
I make the netted sunbeam
dance
Against my sandy shallows.

I murmur under moon and
stars
In brambly wildernesses
I linger by my shingly bars,
I loiter round my cresses.

And out again I curve and flow
To join the brimming river
For men may come and men
may go,
But I go on for ever.

The first day of the month is bright and rather blustery as I walk along the road to church. The verges are adorned with mallow flowers which are a purplish pink. When I come home rain is falling but it does not last long. The afternoon becomes overcast and quite windy. The 2nd begins bright and blustery but grey clouds march across the sky from the west and the air becomes damp. There are a few glimpses of the sun but they are soon hidden by more cloud. The afternoon remains grey and rain falls in the evening. More unsettled weather is forecast. The following day is damp and overcast. I watch a beautiful jay pecking seed from the edge of the patio wall. It stops from time to time to survey the garden then resumes its feeding before flying away across the railway embankment. On the grass, just outside the window, a snail makes its "stately" journey. Beads of water lie in the leaves of the snowberry plant. The day remains dull and damp. The 5th is a warm, sunny day. I walk to the village then return through Six-acre Wood where enchanter's nightshade blooms on the woodland floor. In the afternoon, I drive through the country lanes of Lower Bush, up to Cobham and to "the Nook" to fetch Murphy. The banks, as I enter the narrow road to the kennels, are beautiful with bedstraws and deep blue scabious. The evening remains clear and bright. In the afternoon of 6th when the sun is shining brightly, I watch six young great tits congregating on the feeders. They are partial to the fat balls. Heavy rain falls during the night of 7th and on the early morning of 8th but it brightens up later. However it is not long before rain is falling again. The 9th is

another grey day and it feels as though Summer is passing us by. Grey clouds and cool westerly winds greet the morning of 10th. Birds, including a jay, pay a fleeting visit to the garden. Later in the morning I drive to the Leisure Centre where I walk by the river where the tide is low. I am rewarded with the sight of beautiful wild flowers adorning the banks; golden and white bedstraw, common mallow, marshmallow, viper's bugloss, evening primrose, bird's foot trefoil, marjoram, daisy, white campion, black medick, common centaury, yellow crucifers, wild mignonette, white clover, goat's rue, sweet pea, St Johns wort, wild thyme, scabious, knapweed, yarrow, ragwort, hawk weed and scarlet pimpernel. A black headed gull struts across the mud flats. Sunshine and showers continue on 11th. I walk from Brookland Lakes to Leybourne Lakes and need to take shelter under a willow tree as heavy rain falls. The river is clear; I watch a coot with six chicks gliding on the sparkling water. Along the route to the lake, the Halling and Snodland by-passes, white melilot blooms in profusion. Along the river banks buddleia, willowherb, nettles, meadowsweet, and Himalayan balsam grow tall. The grasslands at Leybourne Lakes are bright with flowers: vetch, ox eye daisies, birds foot trefoil, hogweed, various umbellifers, pink and white clover and hawkweed. Canada and Greylag geese congregate on the grassy banks. South westerly winds drive billowing clouds of grey and white across the sky and the sun shines brightly. On the late afternoon of 12th, I am amazed to see three handsome jays in the garden. They peck at the seed on the grass and seed on the edge of

the patio wall. Rain falls in the evening. The 13th is another day of grey skies and blustery winds. In the garden I listen to chattering magpies. Rain falls all day on 14th. Rain falls on 16th when I walk along Pilgrims Road with Murphy. Mallow, privet, white campion and red dead nettle bloom along the verges. It is quite warm despite the wind. During these past days, no butterflies have come into the garden. At last, on 17th, the sun shines beaming down from a blue sky but with some billowing grey clouds drifting across in westerly winds but no rain falls. I walk with Murphy along the river path at the leisure centre and where the banks are bedecked with beautiful wild flowers. Gulls fly overhead and across the sparkling river. Afternoon sunshine is very warm and very welcome. A small white butterfly hovers over the garden flowers. On 18th, I watch birds that come into the garden to feed—two jays, two collared doves, a wood pigeon and a young magpie. The 19th is a day of warm sunshine when I walk round the lake at Bluewater. Wild flowers fill the banks with glorious colour and the lake sparkles. The next day two white pigeons come to the garden. One of them displays black tail feathers. After a sunny day on 21st, the evening air is balmy, such a contrast to what we have experienced lately. On 22nd we enjoy a real summer's day. The 23rd is a lovely summer's day with clear blue skies. We walk along Pilgrim's Road. Wild flowers: mallow, privet, umbellifers and hawkweed bedeck the

verges. We do not stay out too long because of the heat. I feed the birds in the morning and the afternoon. The white pigeons are quite tame and are near me as I water the flowers which are looking beautiful. The evening air becomes pleasantly cool as a light breeze whispers in the sycamores. The next day is also hot. The 26th is a beautiful day without the humidity because of an easterly wind. I walk with Murphy round the lake at Bluewater. White umbellifers mingle with clumps of white and lilac coloured goat's rue. Bird's foot trefoil, ragwort and hawkweed add their golden petals to the scene. The skies, from which shines a golden sun, are a beautiful blue. The water sparkles in the sunlight. On 27th, the air becomes humid after early morning rain. As we drive to Northfleet I am aware of buddleia blooming along the roadside verges. It is cooler the next day but still pleasantly warm. There is no birdsong which is typical of July. Showers fall during the morning of 29th. Young great tits come to the garden to feed. We walk round the lake at Bluewater the next day when blue skies are brushed with billowing white and grey cloud. Golden sunshine beams down on us. Flowers bloom among grasses now the colour of straw. Hazels have developed fruit and limes bear their winged fruits. The last day of the month is grey and damp with periods of drizzle. Will August bring us some Summer weather? Elizabeth Summers.



8 PILGRIMS MAKE THEIR WAY TO ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

On Mary Sumner day, 10th July, 9 “pilgrims” met at St Michael’s. They were to take part in a diocesan “prayer pilgrimage”* to Rochester cathedral (by car). At St Michael’s they conducted the “Home Church” part of the service. They then proceeded to St Francis’s Strood. There they picked up one more pilgrim, but accidentally set off the church’s alarm system! After it had been deactivated 9 of us conducted the “Second Church” part of the service. The nine “pilgrims” then set off for St Nicholas’s church, Strood (the one in the High Street). There we picked up another 3 “pilgrims” and conducted the “Third Church” part of the service. Afterwards we assembled on the green behind the church for a group photo or most of us did! We suddenly noticed that Mary and Peggy were missing. One of the St Nicholas’s “pilgrims” had accidentally locked them in the church. They were quickly released from their ordeal and joined in the photo shoot. The 12 “pilgrims” then set off for the cathedral. Before the special evening service laid on for MU “pilgrims” throughout the diocese, they had the opportunity to view the Silver jubilee portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, as a young woman and a portrait of her as she is now made out of photos sent in by her subjects. They then joined MU members from all over the diocese for the service at the cathedral. The whole pilgrimage had been devised by a member of the clergy staff there. * “Prayer pilgrimage” included hymns and readings from the bible. Of course there were no mishaps in the cathedral! One of our 9 was a man. You can guess who that was. He’s not an MU member, but does a great deal to assist his wife, Shirley. I saw one other man at the cathedral, apart from the three men, who conducted the service. He was wearing a dog collar.

A St Michael’s MU “pilgrim”.

CUXTON COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL

Dear Friends of our School,

It has been some time since I have written as we have had so much going on in school. Our Year 2 children completed their SATs tasks and staff carried out final assessments. I am extremely pleased with the achievements of our Year 2 children. They have made very good progress and the vast majority are moving to the Junior school as a 'good' level 2 or in some cases 'level 3'.

The Year 1 phonics check was interesting! Twenty 'real' words, and twenty 'pseudo' words, and the children had to achieve at least 32 out of 40. I feel the government may make changes to the content of the check and also the administration of it. Our Year 2 children have now completed a series of visits to the Junior School and are generally confident, excited and happy. Our current FS and Year 1 children have also visited their new classes, three times now, and our new intake have visited too. In September, hopefully everyone will feel confident about returning to school and happy in their new class environment.

Staff spent many hours/days writing children's academic reports, and we have received some lovely comments from both parents and children.

Our Jubilee celebrations were a great success: bunting, iced biscuits, sandwiches, cakes and crisps. We sat outside at 'dressed' tables and the sun shone! We waved flags, sang the National Anthem and Rule Britannia.

Having cancelled sports day three times due to the weather, we finally managed to go out one morning. Unfortunately parents did not attend. However the children had a fantastic time and so did we! Mrs Andrews worked hard to arrange all the events which were Olympic themed, and ranged from synchronised swimming to equestrian and hurdles. Fourteen events in total and just as we finished it rained! Each child took a special medal home and I am pleased to say Team GB won! Mrs Martin has very kindly and cleverly spent a huge amount of time compiling a CD of these events for a small fee, and she has done an amazing job.

The Friends of Cuxton school worked extremely hard to organise a great Summer fete. Stalls included bottle tombola, Olympic tombola, face painting, hook a duck, guess the celebrity, raffle and many more. There were dancing performances and a magic show, also a barbecue and refreshments. The weather was generally kind, and I am pleased that the FCS raised £2000 with your support, for both schools. They do such a fantastic job - our thanks to them all.

I will write again in September, so until then enjoy a good Summer break with hopefully a bit of sunshine!

Sandra Jones, Headteacher.



Max's Tail Piece

No walk yesterday. I wonder if I shall get one today? Yesterday morning he went for an early run. He says I could run with him if I promised to stay with him, but I can't do that. There are too many interesting things to sniff out and the temptations are irresistible. Then later on, he said, he was too busy and it was too hot to take me out. Well too hot makes a nice change from too wet! I don't think his conscience will allow me to go two days without a walk whatever the weather or the attractions of parish work.

Saw Lolly again Wednesday at the barbecue in Pilgrims Road. That was a wonderful occasion. You should have seen all the people and all the food in a beautiful garden with beautiful views over the water. Master didn't see how much I ate but he drew his own conclusions from the fact that I didn't have any appetite for tea when we got home. There was only one wasp this year. So there is something to be said for a cool Summer. I know Master and all the people who went are very grateful for the hard work of our hosts. Lolly had never been there before and she had a great time as did the children. She nearly missed it altogether because her driver turned right 1/3 mile after Halling Church instead of Cuxton and they went to Holborough instead of North Halling. People should follow Master's directions more carefully!

Max, the Rectory Spaniel.