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Services at Michael and All Angels Cuxton		
July 6 th Trinity 7	9.30 Holy Communion & Holy Baptism	Zechariah 9 vv 9-12 p955 Matthew 11 vv 16-19 p976 Matthew 11 vv 25-30 p977
July 13 th Trinity 8	9.30 Holy Communion & Holy Baptism	Isaiah 55 vv 10-13 p742 Romans 8 vv 1-11 p1134 Matthew 13 vv 1-23 p978
July 20 th Trinity 9	8.00 Holy Communion	Acts 4 vv 1-22 p1095 Mark 6 vv 30-56 p1009
	9.30 Holy Communion	Isaiah 44 vv 6-8 p729 Romans 8 vv 12-25 p1134 Matthew 13 vv 24-43 p979
July 27 th Trinity 10	9.30 Holy Communion	1 Kings 3 vv 5-12 p338 Romans 8 vv 26-39 p1135 Matthew 13 vv 31-52 p980
	2.00 Holy Baptism	
August 3 rd Trinity 11	9.30 Holy Communion	Isaiah 55 vv 1-5 p742 Matthew 14 vv 13-21 p981
Services at St John the Baptist Halling & the Jubilee Hall Upper Halling		
June 29 th St Peter & St Paul Preacher: Rev'd Andrew Daunton-Fear	11.00 United Parish Eucharist	Zechariah 4 vv 1-14 p952 Acts 12 vv 1-11 p1106 Matthew 16 vv 13-19 p983
July 6 th Trinity 7	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	2 Samuel 2 v1 – 3v1 p305 Luke 18 v31 – 19 v10 p1053
	11.00 Holy Communion	Zechariah 9 vv 9-12 p955 Romans 7 vv 15-25 p1134 Matthew 11 vv 16-19 p976 Matthew 11 vv 25-30 p977
July 13 th Trinity 8	11.00 Holy Communion	Isaiah 55 vv 10-13 p742 Romans 8 vv 1-11 p1134 Matthew 13 vv 1-23 p978
	5.30 Evening Prayer Jubilee Hall	2 Samuel 7 vv 18-29 p311 Luke 19 v41 – 20 v8 p1054
July 20 th Trinity 9	11.00 Holy Communion	Isaiah 44 vv 6-8 p729 Romans 8 vv 12-25 p1134 Matthew 13 vv 24-43 p979
July 27 th Trinity 10	11.00 Holy Communion	1 Kings 3 vv 5-12 p338 Romans 8 vv 26-39 p1135 Matthew 13 vv 31-52 p980
August 3 rd Trinity 11	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	Acts 13 vv 1-13 p1107 John 6 vv 24-35 p1070
	11.00 Holy Communion	Isaiah 55 vv 1-5 p742 Romans 9 vv 1-5 p1135 Matthew 14 vv 13-21 p981

Copy Date August Magazine 11th July 8.30 am Rectory.

On Thursday afternoons we have a **Mother & Toddler** service at Halling at 2.00 and at Cuxton every Wednesday also at 2.00. **Sunday School** is at Cuxton Church Hall at 9.30 (not first Sundays or school holidays). **After School Club**, Thursdays @ St John's.

roger@cuxtonandhalling.org.uk <http://www.cuxtonandhalling.org.uk>

Foundations21 is amazing. You have to go on to the website to see for yourself www.foundations21.org.uk. It is an incredible resource if you want to go know about the Christian faith, whether you are a complete beginner or a long-standing believer, who already knows all that there is to know. Log on today.



From the Rector

I chose this picture of a little boy on the beach for our July magazine because I thought it celebrated the spirit of the holidays. As it happens, I am writing this letter on a beautiful, bright, but cold, evening in May. The sinking sun is casting long shadows across the lawn and lighting the candles on my horse chestnut trees. I have just had the joyful experience of conducting a wedding practice for next Saturday and I am wondering whether to go for a run first thing tomorrow morning or to go for a walk with Max. Life is good and there is much for which to thank God.

On the other hand, I am very conscious that this issue of the magazine seems to be filling up with problem pages. We are invited this month to consider asthma, dementia, homelessness and the consequences of crime. Illness, deprivation and wrongdoing are hardly things to celebrate. Yet St Paul tells us to be thankful in everything. I suppose we can be thankful that people are doing something about all these problems. Clever scientists are researching treatments and cures for these diseases. People are caring for the sufferers now – professionals like doctors and nurses and care home workers, families and friends, voluntary organisations and charities. People do care about the homeless and the unemployed, prisoners and other offenders. Every human being is made in the image of God and there are people who do care about other people no matter how desperate their plight, no matter how far they have sunk, no matter what wrong they have done. Such caring is following the example of Jesus.

And there is also the opportunity for us to do something to help. That is something else to be thankful for. Now, of course, we may feel overwhelmed. There are so many good causes which deserve our support. We receive so many requests for help and we have to be sensible. We cannot help them all and it responsible stewardship of our time and resources to know when we ought to say “no”. But it is also a wonderful privilege and opportunity when we are in a position to say “yes” and to do something to help other people. It is wonderful when people are kind to us, but it also more blessed to give than to receive.

I hear a lot about whether the Church can survive – some gloomy talk, depressed and depressing, some optimistic. But the Church is not here for its own sake. It would not matter whether or not the Church survived

if the Church only existed for itself. The Church exists to the glory of God. It exists in order that its members should attain to the glory God has prepared for them. It exists in order to work for the day when the kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of our God and His Christ. In other words, the Church exists to make this world a better place, to make the world what God made it to be. When God made the world, He looked at it and saw that it was very good. What messes the world up is human sin, but Jesus is a “full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world.” Jesus has dealt with sin. It is the Church’s job to apply the self-sacrificial love of Jesus to every human situation, to overcome every evil by the power of love.

That is what we are here for in our Church in Cuxton and Halling. It is the reason we support missions and charities with our prayers and our money and our time and our effort. It is why we put so much into other “good causes” and try to care for other people in their needs – whether members of our congregation or not – even though we find it such a struggle to pay our own bills and to sustain ourselves as a going concern.

In the early days of steam railways, once someone had developed a practical steam locomotive, the next question was efficiency. Some engines were so heavy in proportion to the power they produced that they could hardly struggle along the track themselves, let alone pull loaded wagons or passenger carriages. There would be no point in having a church like those early locomotives, using nearly all its energy just to keep going itself, without anything left over for useful work.

We really ought not be struggling. There have been churches in Cuxton and Haling for more than 1,000 years. There are far more people in the combined parishes than there have ever been. There are 100 times as many people living in Cuxton now as there were 250 years ago. The figures for Halling cannot be dissimilar. We have plenty of resources at our disposal – at God’s disposal – to sustain His Church and to do His work in the world. In a steam locomotive, the energy in coal heats the water, which causes steam to expand into the cylinders, and cranks and gears transmit this power to the wheels. In the Church, God supplies the power to expand the cylinders and we are the cranks and gears through whom this power makes the Church go. All we need is the lubrication of a generous spirit.

Roger.

This year's **Parish Barbecue** is on 5th July in the Rectory Grounds from 6.30 pm. Price (£6.00 £3.00 children). Live music from the Big Peninsula Band - big band sounds, jazz etc. Entry includes barbecue meal & pudding (veggie alternatives). Bring your own drinks and seating if required. Tickets from 01634 727424.

Medway Asthma Self-Help (MASH) is a local charity that is looking for a treasurer-trustee to manage its accounts.

Duties would include using Quicken 2002 deluxe accounting system, managing the pay roll, preparing financial statements and annual accounts, providing advice for funding bids and running a petty cash account.

You would be asked to attend an evening meeting every six weeks and to prepare reports for the same.

MASH has been helping the people of Medway for over 10 years now and offers its **free services to anybody.**

If you are interested please call Judith Pender on 01634 377474 or Bridget Nightingale on 01634 868709.

Medway Asthma Self-Help

Medway Asthma Self Help (M.A.S.H.) is a resource for asthma sufferers and their families, providing information and advice to those who need it, including health professionals.

MASH was formed by a group of asthma sufferers & professionals who wanted to improve the provision of asthma care in the community. If you need to talk to people who know and understand asthma then get in touch.

Our doors are open to everyone, whoever you are-and all our services are free.

M.A.S.H. works with Medway PCT GP's, hospitals and Asthma UK to raise awareness and knowledge of asthma for the people of Medway

Access to specialist respiratory nurse...

Appointments may include:-

- Information about asthma
- Help using inhalers
- Advice on treatment
- Asthma Allergy Testing
- Self management plan development
- Lung function tests

Following this you will be given a letter for your GP or Practice Nurse about the assessment which may recommend changes in treatment.

Or simply drop in and talk with people who have experience of asthma

Asthma Allergy Testing

If you knew what triggered your asthma you could then take steps to avoid those triggers and enjoy a better quality of life.

M.A.S.H. has a clinic to help asthma sufferers identify what particular allergens may trigger an attack.

A simple skin prick test and assessment carried out by our **specialist respiratory nurses**, could make all the difference and

help you manage your asthma, rather than your asthma manage you.

Ring M.A.S.H. to book an appointment
01634-855844

131, Watling Street, Gillingham, Mondays 9.00 – noon, Wednesdays 5.00 – 8.00pm, Fridays 2.00-5.00pm

St John's Church Draw: £25 each to Mrs Bourne (110) & Mrs Head (20), £10 to Mrs Homewood (36) – drawn by Mrs Hayward. Anyone interested in joining the draw, please contact Betty Head 240889.

Church Hall Draw: £5 to Eileen Knight, drawn by Dave Maxwell. Anyone interested in joining the draw, please contact Buffy Maisey 727126.

The Problems of Dementia

Dementia has been defined as “a decline in mental ability which affects memory, thinking, problem-solving, concentration and perception. Dementia occurs as a result of the death of brain cells or damage in parts of the brain that deal with our thought processes.” The most common and best known cause is Alzheimer’s Disease, but there are several other causes of dementia.

Dementia mainly affects older people, but it can strike at any age. Even children may be affected. Dementia might happen to any of us or to a member of our family. We all know people with dementia. It can be frightening and distressing for sufferers and those who care for them. Friends and neighbours may be anxious and want to help if they can. Families may not be sure where to turn for help. There is little research into the causes and treatment of dementia in comparison with other common diseases.

If we are not prepared to talk about dementia, we may be ill prepared when it happens to someone we love or to ourselves. As a society, we will not care properly for these people who really need our love if theirs is a forgotten illness and people in homes are treated as out of sight and out of mind. Therefore 6th-12th July has been designated Alzheimer’s Awareness Week. Christine Bostock (Dementia Ministry Adviser with Church in Society) will be conducting a seminar at **Cuxton Church Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 8th July**. Everybody is welcome and you will be specially welcome if you want to know more about dementia or if you have insights to contribute from your own experience.

Emmaus – An Alternative to Homelessness

Emmaus is a constructive way of helping the homeless unemployed. Emmaus communities offer a secure home with companionship and mutual support. Residents work in return for their accommodation. The slogan is *Give people a bed and a reason to get out of it*. Residents of Emmaus communities get a breathing space to get back on their feet and start again with a job and a home of their own.

Much of the work done by Emmaus residents is recycling. So Emmaus is green in that it reduces landfill and it also recycles basic commodities like furniture cheap or free to those who need them. A win win situation.

There may very soon be a Medway Emmaus to help deal with the very real problem of homelessness in the Medway Towns. If you want to know more (or to offer support) log on to www.emmaus.org.uk, e mail emmausmedway@gmail.com, or write to PO Box 533, Rochester ME1 9AW.

Background to a New Initiative - Free on the Inside

Number in prison

U.K	88,981	Burundi	7,969
Germany has	78,581	Kenya	47,036
Lebanon	5,971	South Africa	166,267
Kuwait	3,500	USA	2,258,983

50% of UK prisoners have a literacy level less than an 11 year old

1 in 7 UK prisoners has a mental disorder

50% of crime is drug related

70% of all people entering prison have a history of drug abuse

62% of drug users will re-offend within one year of release

86% using Class A drugs

Apparently, about 1 in 13 of the UK population go to prison at some stage in their lives!

Prisons in the UK

Local or Remand (Able to hold all Categories)

Cat. D open

Cat. C closed

Cat. B closed - usually long term trainers

Cat .A closed - Dispersal the most serious

Young Offenders

Female prisons

Local to us:

Rochester: Young Offenders plus young persons secure unit.

Maidstone: Cat. C trainer male

Sheppey Cluster: Elmley Local, Swaleside Cat. B trainer, Standford Hill Cat D open.

The big problem obviously is breaking the cycle. Crime a habit, or even an addiction. Criminals tend to associate with criminals. Once embarked upon, the norms of life change. Guilt, Fear, Honesty, Integrity, Suffering, Work, Love, Commitment. Etc; Even the prison experience can ease or aid the crime pathway.

Home Office identified Pathways

Accommodation / Family / Employment / Health / Community

Everything now has to slot into these to show they are working towards address offending behaviour. Faith communities have a unique contribution to make and this is recognised.

Four big aids to the Prison through the Chapel

1. Volunteers - one to one - leading groups - Gospel/Pentecostal

2. The Alpha Course

3. The Fourth Day Movement (Cursillo)

4. Specialist Christian Programmes addressing relationships and substance abuse

Prisoners in closed conditions often respond to a straightforward spiritual approach. This is not so obvious in open conditions. So the same problem appears, as release looms there is a return to old ways.

What to do

Recognise this is a problem for us all.

Identify the causes of crime.

Plan to address the causes.

R. I. P.

A New Initiative

A Charity Called Free on the Inside www.foti.org.uk

What is it? Who is it? What we do?

The Fourth Day Movement is an intensive course normally offered to prisoners in prisons. It can have a very dramatic effect in helping prisoners to break out of the cycle of deprivation and crime which sometimes goes back to childhood, Neglected or abused children only too often become criminals themselves. Free on the Inside hope to run some of these weekends outside prisons for people who have offended or might offend, who need help to break out of the cycle, or who want to help others to do so. The first such weekend outside a prison will be at the Arethusa Centre 28th August 7.30 pm – 31st August 5.00 pm and is for men only over the age of 18. If you would like to know more because you would like to take part or know someone who might be helped by such a weekend, write to PO Box 171, Gravesend, DA12 2WN or log on to the website.

Looking Ahead

Victorian Tea Party at the Rectory on 9th August.

Cheese & Wine Evening on 29th August at 73, Charles Drive.

Coffee Morning at 15H Foxglove Row, Vicarage Road on 20th August from 10.00

There will be a **Quiz** for Christian Aid in the Church Hall, Cuxton, on 6th September at 7.30 pm..

News from Cuxton Community Infant School

Dear Friends of our school,

I am afraid I failed over the Easter break to email our Newsletter to Roger, having sat at home for a good hour and a half typing, I saved and tried to send it only to be told 'cannot find server'. The computer was almost out the window and then I was told that I could always drive it to Cuxton!! Bring back post and handwritten letters!!!

Our biggest news is that Ofsted visited and thought....."This is a good school where pupils achieve well and feel very safe and happy. It has some outstanding features, notably the way it cares for and nurtures its pupils so that they grow in confidence and self-esteem. Parents value greatly the school's welcoming ethos and the fact that teachers know every child personally. Senior leaders and governors have high aspirations for the pupils' academic and personal development." I am so pleased with this result, it has confirmed our judgements of the children's progress, and the quality of teaching and learning and also the care we give the children.

We enjoyed class assemblies at the end of last term, where the children informed us about the weather in Antarctica and Brazil. We listened to children saying poems, singing songs and playing musical instruments and we were also entertained with a carnival dance.

We had an excellent book week where the focus was poetry and poet John Rice came into school and entertained both children and parents with his imaginative work. Poetry has been a huge focus for us this year and at the end of this letter you will be able to read some of the children's work. Each month we hope to include some of the children's work. We are all extremely impressed with the quality of the work the children are producing,

Our year 2 children have now started their visits to the junior school in preparation for September. Later in the Summer term we will be welcoming the younger folk into school who will be joining us in September. We value our transition work, as do parents, as it helps children settle quickly in a new environment.

The FCS held a successful Barn dance and Craft Fayre, raising monies for both schools. It was great to see so many different crafts and the children seemed to have fun in the 'making room'. They are holding a Summer Fayre on 5th July, entrance via the Junior school.

This next term, following the Whitsun break, will be a busy one for us in school, with a Sports morning, Fathers day lunch, Fathers day shop, Enterprise week, seaside workshop, school trip and Music Celebration assembly. We will also be holding our annual Leavers assembly and lunch for year 2 parents. Teachers will obviously be busy preparing for all these events, continuing to teach the curriculum, assessing, writing children's reports and we will be planning for the organisation of the school in September.

Lastly we congratulate several of our Cuxton boys for being recognised as skilled footballers- Alfie G, Ben W, Jak A, Harvey W, Joshua E and Luke C. Well done to them all, such an achievement!

I look forward to sharing with you details of all our events next time. In the meantime, take care,

Sandra Jones

Head teacher, Cuxton Community Infant School.

Cuxton Community Infant School - Poems for enjoying by Year 2.

The River, by Rachel

I looked in the river and I saw myself.
I looked in the river and it told me
"Be careful with me-"
"I don't want to be polluted" swished the river.
I looked in the river and I saw myself.
"Don't leave me, I need someone to look after
me" cried the river.
I looked in the river and I saw nothing.

The Woods by Harvey W

The woods are wet
The woods are dark
The woods are no place
Where you should be
The woods are the place
For US!

The River by Naomi

A river goes smoothly and
carefully
all the way to the gentle sea.
It travels through the busy
city
Smoothly through the
beautiful countryside
and meets the fish in the
sea.

The Wood by Zach

The woods are dark
The woods are cold
The woods are calm
The woods are lonely
The woods are beautiful
The woods are big
The woods are creepy
The woods are scary
The woods are mighty.

The River by Ellie

I am bunged up with lots of
rubbish.
I have a nasty throat
because people throw
rubbish in me.
Soon I will die with all this
rubbish in me.
What fell from your hand? A
chocolate wrapper

Being Accurate

In the April magazine I wrote an article regarding problems in the system for taking children into care and putting them up for adoption. I mentioned, as a fact, that government had offered financial incentives to local authorities to find children to meet the demand for babies to adopt and that some people believed that this had led to councils taking children from parents, even though the parents concerned could have provided a good home with a little support. Since I wrote the article, government has several times denied that there ever were any financial incentives to local authorities to take children for adoption. Naturally I was concerned that I might have misled you. So here is something I received from John Hemming MP.

A council has admitted receiving Government money under a controversial "adoption target" scheme that rewards the removal of children from their parents. Hammersmith and Fulham council, in west London, was paid £500,000 as a reward for placing more than 100 children for adoption in three years. The council is the first to acknowledge publicly a payout under the target scheme. It said that its social workers had "pulled out all the stops" and "cut down on the amount of bureaucracy" to boost the numbers.

It is fair to note that these 100 children were already in care. The point is that they acknowledge (on their website) the existence of the incentive scheme which ministers seemed to deny and then abolished in April this year.

Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride

Saturday 13th September.

Sponsor Forms From Rector.

Michaelmas 2008 (29th September)

Our 6.30 pm Eucharist will be followed at 7.30 pm by a concert by Mantissa Opera - presented by Mr Simon Tatnall. Admission is free, but a collection will be taken for Church funds. Many of you know Simon from his performances at the Jubilee Hall and with Snodland Choral.

March for the Children of Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe -just another African disaster? Each of us can make a real difference by helping to give a child in Zimbabwe hope for the future. At the same time you can register your concern and solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe by joining the March for Zimbabwe's children on the 19th July, 2008. It doesn't matter how far you can walk, be it 100 metres or 26 miles, simply register on the website, download a sponsor form or set up your own fundraising page on www.justgiving.com/justchildren and you can make a difference. If you don't have access to the internet then contact your local vicar and they can register you.

Why not walk as a church and have a picnic together on the way? Churches from all over Rochester Diocese will make Saturday 19th July a day when we make a difference by walking to Rochester Cathedral where a special service of solidarity and prayer for the children of Zimbabwe will be held at 16:30. The service will be a celebration of Christian solidarity and support for the people of Zimbabwe with wonderful music and a real Zimbabwean feel.

Don't let it be just another African disaster. Even if you can't make the walk, please join us at the Cathedral at 4.30 pm, and together we can help to make a difference. If you can't do anything then please just show your support with a donation through www.justgiving.com/justchildren

A service of solidarity and praise for the children of Zimbabwe

Rochester Cathedral

Saturday 19th July 4:30pm

A special service of solidarity and praise for the children of Zimbabwe will be held in Rochester Cathedral at 16:30 on Saturday 19th July. Sponsored walkers from all over Rochester Diocese will converge on the Cathedral for the service. If you can't make the walk please come to the service anyway. The service will be a way that we can all show that we care for the terrible plight of the children of Zimbabwe, the forgotten victims of the continued devastation of that country.

The service will be a joyful celebration of solidarity and love for the children of Zimbabwe. It will have a real African feel: great singing and dancing. Our own children will send their messages of love and support for children in Zimbabwe by carrying banners that they have designed and made in their church groups. The best three banners will receive a prize of £50 each for their church youth group. A collection will raise funds for Just Children Foundation UK, a charity which provides care and education and Christian love for many children in Zimbabwe.

Nature Notes May 2008

Heavy showers fell on the first day of the month in between sessions of sunshine with southerly winds blowing. The afternoon remained rain free despite some ominous grey clouds. I walked to the village and along the way I saw wayfaring tree flowers and hawthorn and apple blossom. On the 2nd I watched a pair of small white butterflies hovering over the grass in the garden and heard the songs of a chaffinch and a blackbird. The 3rd was a beautiful sunny day when I took Murphy for a walk by the river. Carpets of ground ivy and blue speedwell flowered along the grassy paths bordered by cow parsley. May blossom was beginning to adorn the hawthorns. Murphy chased some rabbits. The 4th was very humid when we took Murphy to Hope Hill where in the woodland; the air was redolent with the heady perfume of bluebells. Celandines, ramsons, herb robert and yellow archangel were also in bloom.

Small veined white, brimstone and orange tip butterflies hovered across the garden the next day.

The 6th was another very warm day when we walked by the rippling river. Easterly winds whipped up white horses on the water and the newly burst aspens quivered. The grassy banks were full of flowers-ox eye daisies, buttercups, daisies, speedwell, forget-me-nots, red deadnettle; birds foot trefoil, wild mignonette, knapweed, vetch, viper's bugloss, black medick, and hoary Alison while cowslips had faded. May blossom was like snow on the hawthorns. A sea of cow parsley adorned the paths. The following afternoon I went to the library via Six acre Wood., then returned through part of Mays Wood where cow parsley, stitchwort and bluebells looked so beautiful, and back across the fields full of golden buttercups.

On May 10th, Bill drove members of The Cuxton Countryside Group to Northwood Hill RSPB Nature Reserve. The sun broke through misty skies to give a very warm day. On our way we

passed fields of oilseed rape flowers and hedgerows of May blossom. On our arrival we were given information about the area then Ian took the lead. Red campion adorned the parking area. As we walked I heard the cuckoo's song for the first time this year and the air was full of birdsong. We were told that a red footed falcon had been in the area but we did not see it. We made our way to a viewing point from where we gazed across to where sheep and cows grazed and a swan was seen in high dudgeon with a Canada goose. May blossom filled the air with its perfume, brambles grew in profusion and carpets of ground ivy and blue speedwell bloomed. A heron nested up in a tree and a white egret flew overhead. Rooks circled and cawed and a marsh harrier flew above us. Frothy cow parsley, vetch, buttercups and white deadnettle bloomed. We heard the beautiful songs of nightingales in the cherry orchard. I heard warblers among the reeds of a stream. I saw holly blue, peacock and orange tip butterflies. It became very hot but our walk was most enjoyable. On the 13th I watched a dragonfly hovering over the pond.

Rain fell for most of the day on the 15th refreshing the ground and weighing down the lilac flowers some of which were beginning to fade. It was not a day for walking. In the evening when north east winds continued to drive heavy rain clouds across the sky, I watched a beautiful jay as it found, on the edge of the patio, nuts and seed. It was joined by a collared dove and then a robin. The next day when northeast winds continued to blow I saw carpets of yellow rattle blooming on the grassy banks of the river path. As we drove to Hope Hill on the 18th I watched a kestrel hovering overhead on the Halling by-pass.

The 20th was sunny but chilly as I went with a friend to Wild Wood near Herne Bay. The fresh green of trees along the way was beautiful. We saw beautiful creatures in their natural settings. The highlight of the day for me was watching three badgers feeding. The 21st was a lovely day with golden sunshine and blue skies and easterly winds which blew white horses on the blue river. We walked along the river path where the banks were full of flowers especially a sea of ox eye daisies. Among the other flowers I saw field mallow, a single scabious, black medick, lucerne and a single poppy. Shelduck and gulls glided on the water and an h heron flew overhead. It was so beautiful as it spread its wings in flight. The east wind was strong again as we sat by the river where white horses were being whipped up as the tide flowed. The next day at Hope Hill we walked in a field where the grass was long and lush and where golden buttercups bloomed. Heavy rain fell on the 26th and the light was reminiscent of November. The 28th was grey and humid, rain fell in the afternoon and quite a strong wind blew. Winds of previous days had blown small twigs and leaves which carpeted the ground. A jay flew backwards and forwards to the garden to feed on the peanuts. On the 31st I woke to the song of a cuckoo. It was a very warm day when the sun shone from hazy skies. Clouds eventually gathered and the early afternoon was quite overcast. No rain fell then it brightened and the sun shone again. I took Murphy to the river where the path was clear. The tide was low, exposing the mudflats. The banks along the path were full of beautiful wild flowers and the air was perfumed particularly with the scent of white clover, then as we walked by the bridge the scent of elderflower filled the air.

Elizabeth Summers

Loveliest of Trees* *A.E Housman

*Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the
bough,
And stands about the woodland
ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.*

*Now, of my threescore years and
ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a
score,
It only leaves me fifty more,*

*And since to look at things in
bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with
snow.*



Dickens' Country Protection Society

The Society is concerned that significant development has taken place at Cliffe on the Continental Site without planning permission. This appears to be a deliberate attempt to circumvent the system and treat the public with contempt.

Thanks to everyone who supported our Barn Dance at Buckland Farm, Cliffe. A good time was had by all.

From the Registers

Baptism:

1st June

Emmie Beatrice Knott

Chatham

Wedding:

24th May

Timothy Stuart Clayton & Marnie Dawn Slater

Halling

Funerals:

23rd May

Jayne Ellen Mapp (47)

Howlsmere Close

3rd June

Ronald Akehurst (68)

Nine Acres Road

9th June

baby Annabel Hedges

Brickfield Cottages

Halling Ringers

Three of our girls walked the 26 mile moon walk in London again this year, raising £400 for Cancer Relief. Well done.

I am sorry to say that Julia has had to give up as tower captain because of other commitments.

We are looking forward to joining the Cuxton ringers on their outing to Hereford and to having a stall at the Halling Fun Day.
Peter Silver.



CUXTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

In June we celebrated our 63rd Birthday, and decided to have a Kentish Theme for the proceedings.

On arrival, everyone was offered a glass of apple juice, and sat down to a Ploughman's Supper at tables decorated with greenery and the Kent Invicta Logo. We had several visitors from other WIs and the proceedings got off to good start. Dorothy welcomed guests and read out cards from Kings Hill and Snodland WIs, but as usual business was kept to a minimum. After having apple pie and cream for dessert, and endeavouring to complete a cryptic quiz on Kent places, Dorothy introduced the entertainment for the evening. This was the Wealden Ramblers, two very nice gentlemen who sang folk songs about Kent, hop-picking, railways, Dr Syn, Chatham Navy Days etc. Bob played guitar, also mouth organ and mandolin, and Roger played accordion. Two fine musicians. And we all joined in the choruses (song sheets being provided). There was a lot of foot-tapping going on and everyone was in good voice!

The two men took a welcome break, and tea, coffee and Birthday cake was served. The cake had been made by our member Joan Willmott, and she had put the Invicta emblem on it in icing,

The cake was cut by Doris Riggall, our oldest member, whom we were so pleased to see there.

While everyone was enjoying cake and coffee, Dorothy drew the names for the two Bursaries, £100 and £200, which will enable two members to have an educational course of their choosing. After some more songs from the Ramblers, it was time to go home. The Committee finished clearing up, and we were pleased to get some compliments from guests. It was a really great evening and for once, everything seemed to go smoothly. Our entry for the Kent Show competition was on display. The main idea was thought up by Maureen Lauder our Art rep, and contributions made by all the inter-meeting groups. It looks very colourful and let's hope it impresses the judges.

The Walking Group walked all around the Great Buckland area and Dode Church on a beautiful, sunny day, starting at Holly Hill car park. We walked for about 2.1/4 hours and had lunch at the Neville Bull at Birling, ready for a welcome sit-down and something to eat!

Next meeting: Thursday 3rd July The History of Pressed Glass 7.30pm.

Ann Harris.

Christian Aid



A Division of The British Council of Churches

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2008

A big thank you to everybody who donated and collected money for Christian Aid this year. It has been a great effort by all with a total of £1851 being raised which is only £6 down on last year. WELL DONE!!
Steve Brown



Halling WI

Resolution meeting, May again. This sends a shiver down most W.I. members' spines, but at Halling we are well known for "chewing over" the resolutions properly. As usual, our meeting started with Jerusalem and the minutes of the April meeting. Then with all the birthdays this month almost a bouquet of roses were given out. With all of the correspondence and forthcoming events it's a wonder how we manage to fit everything in. A garden trail at Harvel, a concert at Aylesford, a visit to Kew gardens, Patchwork at Halling and strawberries and poetry at Ditton, Where else can you find such variety? June sees our 41st birthday party to which we can invite guests, a really good get together. We propose to have a stall at the Halling Fun Day with cakes, cards, and books. Plenty of cakes, please girls. June also sees our District Conference when we find out what the other W.I.'s in the District have been up to, this year Ryarsh are the hostesses.

Now, the highlight of the evening RESOLUTIONS. Mary Fennemore, ably assisted by Ann Seagar, tackled the first one. Should severely mentally impaired people be put in ordinary prisons if they commit a crime? Simple enough, you might think, but when the powers that be have closed most of the mental institutions where else can they be put? We voted unanimously for this one, but couldn't see what the answer could be. The second resolution "Should the E.E.C. be asked to ban bottom trawling?" Now it was my turn, the last time I had

heard of bottom trawling was over 50 years ago when I was at school, Yet another go at our fishermen. Fishing has been a way of life for many people for many years all over the world probably since the beginning of time. This resolution was put forward by Buckinghamshire federation who haven't even got a coast line let alone fishermen, except perhaps a few weekend rod and liners. It was pointed out to us recently at a County meeting that Kent ports don't have any bottom trawlers anymore, and because of fishing quotas 75% of the fish caught these days have to be thrown back into the sea anyway. We discussed it but weren't sure how to vote. The majority voted against it, but when some of us attend the National Federation Annual meeting at Liverpool in June, we shall wonder if we have discussed the same resolutions, but they have been sorted for another year.

After a very welcomed cup of tea it was Ann Hayward's time. Not only did Ann win the Flower of the Month with a lovely big, very fragile looking red poppy, she also won the competition, something beginning with A with a jar of black ANTS. Ann said she had a job to find them. Ann you can have as many jars of ANTS as you like from my lawn, and mine are RED, Ann also provided us with our social time. A sheet of paper covered with pictures. How many things beginning with S, no prizes but it passed half an hour away and was light relief from mental health and bottom trawling. Next month more light relief, it's the party. HOORAH. Phyllis C.

Post Office Card Account (POCA2)

The Post Office Card Account is under threat. The Government wishes to choose a successor. Apparently the new system might be incompatible with the present system and, in any case, the Government does not wish to support the present system because of cost. However, 4,000,000 people receive pensions of benefits via this system. The post office is the only "cash point" in both Halling and Cuxton and the Department of Work and Pensions is once again saying that it is soon going to stop paying by weekly cheques sent out by post. Please go to your post office to fill out a petition card ASAP. MBC.

Bluebell Wood Charity Walk Saturday 26th April 08 Upper Halling.

I would like to thank all the walkers and walker sponsors, all those who walked and donated on the day, and those who couldn't walk but sent a donation. The Eve Appeal has now been sent over £4,000 from us, with a little more to follow later. About 100 walkers enjoyed a lovely morning that day. Thank you all once again. Patrick J Lawry. 01634 240892.

Getting Married In Cuxton & Halling

At present, in order to be get married in a parish church, you need either to live in the parish or to be on the electoral roll of the church concerned. From the 1st October this year, however, in addition to the above, anyone with a qualifying connection with the parish will be able to marry in the parish church. The qualifying connections are given on the next page. You might be asked to prove them, if there is any doubt.

A person has a Qualifying Connection with a parish if:

that person:

o was baptized in the parish. (This does not apply where the baptism formed part of a combined service of baptism or confirmation); or

o had his or her confirmation entered in a church register book of a church or chapel in the parish; or

o has at any time had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or

o has at any time habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months;

or

a Parent of that person has at any time during that person's lifetime:

o had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or

o habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months;

or

a Parent or Grandparent of that person was married in the parish.



Mutual Incomprehension

By Max, the Rectory Spaniel.

My seventh birthday falls next Saturday. It occurs to me that there are two main problems in my relationship with Master. The first is that he doesn't understand what I want and why and want it. The second is that his behaviour is totally inexplicable to me.

Let me give you an example of the second, first. The other day he struggled up from the village with several trays of plants, which he seemed very pleased about, because someone had kindly given them to him. I was chased off when I tried to investigate them, but, at least from a distance, I couldn't see the point of them. There was nothing edible there.

Anyway he left them outside in the trays for a few days and didn't do anything to them except water them. After about a week, however, he dug up all the tulips out of the pots and troughs along the front wall. Personally, I can't see why you humans rave about flowers, but I realise you do. So that was probably why he had the tulips in the first place, but now they were dead. The flowers were finished. So did he throw them away? No, he carefully saved, the dirty bulb things from under the ground and went and buried them all in his flowerbeds. It took him ages. I couldn't see the point. I would have liked to have dug them up to see what all the fuss was about, but I was not allowed to.

Next thing, he takes all the bedding plants out of the seed trays, plants them in the pots and troughs, and waters them. He carries on watering them every day. After a couple of days, the slugs find them and tuck in. Now, this is what I don't understand. Why does Master take all this trouble to feed the slugs? Surely he could just put honey or beer or something out for them. So why take all the trouble to plant slug food? I don't think he even likes slugs. He doesn't take slugs for walks. I've never seen him cuddle a slug. He doesn't let slugs sit on his lap. I think they're horrible things. Sometimes they get in my fur and they're horrid and slimy and Master has to get them out for me. So I don't understand why he has to feed them. In my opinion, it only encourages them.

It is quite interesting scientifically, however. I noticed that they ate the marigolds first and then went on to the petunias. I wonder whether they'll start on the other flowers when they've eaten them all up? I expect so. These molluscs seems to eat pretty well anything. I've seen snails eating the notices on the church notice board, and what's a slug if it isn't a homeless snail? Maybe, I'll write a scientific paper on my observations. Professor Max, expert in molluscology! It has quite a ring, doesn't it?

So Master does all these strange, unreasonable things in the garden, but then he fails to appreciate the perfectly rational things I want to do. When we are out for our walks, he has no patience at all when I want to stop and sniff. He has no appreciation whatever of the wonderful smells beside the footpaths. No sooner do I jerk back on the lead or pull him over to the side, than he's pulling me back on the path and making me

walk on. Yet, when I try to hurry along, pulling with all my might, he sticks stolidly to human walking pace and holds me back. Just occasionally, he'll stop to sniff something himself, but when I turn and look, it's some boring flower – a honeysuckle or a rose. He's not a bit interested in the scents of rabbits or squirrels and I get the impression that he rather dislikes the scent of fox. He certainly gives me a good brushing when I've been rolling in it! So we walk for miles through the country and it's all wasted on him. I hear him telling people about the view and the things he's seen, but he hardly ever mentions the smells – unless they are something really boring. (He likes the scent of privet flowers in other people's gardens, but then he always cuts our hedge before it is untidy enough to flower. Humans!)

Well I've had seven years to train him and I've made up my mind that I'll just have to accept his funny little ways. On balance, he's worth it. I can't get my own food because I can't use a tin opener. I can't take myself for a walk because I can't reach the door handle. I don't know how to switch on the central heating in the winter or to open the windows in the summer. And I wouldn't get to see my friend the postman so often if Master didn't keep writing letters which need answers. Which brings me to another point about human behaviour and its peculiarities. Why won't the postman come through the gate when I'm off my lead and alone in the garden?

Max.