

Services September 2003			
September 3 rd Trinity 13	9.30 Holy Communion Cuxton 11.00 Holy Communion Halling	Jeremiah 15 vv 15-21 p774 Romans 12 vv 9-21 p1139 Matthew 16 vv 21-28 p984	
September 10 th Trinity 14	9.30 Holy Communion Cuxton 11.00 Holy Communion Halling	Ezekiel 33 vv 7-11 p864 Romans 13 vv 8-14 p1140 Matthew 18 vv 15-20 p985	
September 17 th Trinity 15	9.30 Holy Communion Cuxton 11.00 Holy Communion Halling	Genesis 50 vv 15-21 p57 Romans 14 vv 1-12 p1140 Matthew 18 vv 21-35 p985	
September 24 th Trinity 16	9.30 Holy Communion Cuxton 11.00 Holy Communion Halling	Jonah 3 v10 – 4 v11 p928 Philippians 1 vv 21-30 p1178 Matthew 20 vv 1-16 p988	
Holy Communion Cuxton Wednesdays 9.30		Holy Communion Halling Thursdays 9.30	
6 th September	Job 31 vv 13-40 Mark 7 vv 24-37	7 th September	Job 32 vv 1-22 Mark 8 vv 1-19
13 th September	Job 40 vv 1-24 Mark 9 vv 14-29	14 th September	Job 41 vv 1-34 Mark 9 vv 30-37
20 th September	Amos 3 vv 1-15 Mark 10 vv 32-34	21 st September	II Corinthians 4 vv 1-6
27 th September Ember Day	Amos 4 vv 1-13 Mark 10 vv 35-45	St Matthew	Matthew 9 vv 9-13
		28 th September	Amos 5 vv 1-17 Mark 10 vv 46-52

Copy Date October Magazine: 8th September 8.30 am Rectory

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Dates

10th September Bring & Share Lunch for Church Mission Society 12.00
Church Hall

There will be a video presentation of our link mission partners and their work.

1st October Harvest Barbecue 12.00
Church Hall

21st October Quiz for Church Funds 7.30
Church Hall

For Your Holiday Reading

How About "Military Humour" by Major Laugh or "Broken Windows" by Eva Brick? Or "Fall From a Cliff" by Eileen Dover?

Service Life

The Sergeant-Major growled at the young soldier: "I didn't see you at camouflage training this morning."
"Thank you very much, sir."

A famous Admiral and an equally famous General were fishing together when a sudden storm hit. When it died down both renowned warriors were struggling helplessly in the water. The Admiral floundered his way back to the boat and pulled himself painfully in. Then he fished out the General, using an oar. Catching his breath, he puffed: "Please don't say a word about this to anyone. If the Navy found out I can't swim I'd be disgraced." "Don't worry," the general said. "Your secret is safe. I'd hate to have my men find out I can't walk on water."

What of the Future?

Many of you know that my official retirement date is 30th November next year, my seventieth birthday. I don't want to retire, but it looks as if I shall have to. So what happens then? It's still quite a long way and I cannot tell you with absolute certainty what will happen, but, contrary to the fears of many of us, it looks probable that I shall be replaced and that Cuxton & Halling will continue as a single independent parish. Rather than my being throw on the scrapheap, the Church may have other uses for me, but probably not here.

Everybody who lives in Cuxton & Halling and/or worships in either of these two churches has rights and responsibilities, mostly discharged through your churchwardens & PCC representative. So it will be especially important to elect the best people at next year's annual meetings in April. Roger.



From the Rector

Words come easily to me; some might say too easily. As readers of this magazine know, I have no problem in filling page after page. Some people even think

that my sermons are too long! There is so much to think about, so much to communicate. Life is just so interesting. I probably write a larger proportion of this magazine than I should and contributions from others are always welcome, such as the interesting piece supplied by Keith Hodges on the Harley Memorial in Cuxton Church.

Last month, the magazine was quite long and, while printing, the machine made a horrible noise and ceased operating. I had to finish it on my computer, which was a slow and expensive process. I was fearful that it might be too expensive to repair or replace, but, thankfully, it turned out to be a mere paper jam deep in the bowels of the duplicator and a skilled amateur surgeon performed a successful operation which, if you are reading this on paper, evidently restored it to full health. If the machine had had to be replaced at a cost greater than any profits we make on the magazine could ever cover, I felt that we ought to have tried to raise the money, because communicating the message to as many people as

possible is so important. Keeping in touch keeps us together as a community.

Words are important, not only for imparting information and sharing ideas, but also because putting things into words straightens out your own thinking. The best way to learn a subject is to try to teach it to someone else.

Words are powerful. They can console. They can encourage. Words can inspire. They can also deceive or tempt, or insult. I am sure you can think of examples of the tremendous power of words to do good or ill.

“The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” The Word of God is the most powerful word of all. Creation sprang into being at God's Word. It is God's Word which accomplishes God's purposes. God makes Himself known to us in His Word the Bible. Jesus is the Word of God in human flesh. Read His Word in the Bible. Experience His Word in prayer, in Christian fellowship and in the Sacraments. Roger.

FRESH EXPRESSIONS

Our stall at the Big Lunch raised £164. We gave a donation of £20 to the Parish Council for hire of the space. The Parish Council had chosen the charity “Help the aged” to donate profits to, including cash taken at the gate. It was harder work than usual, as we had fewer helpers than we had hoped for and were running 3 events:-Children' reading quiz, Adults' quiz about royalty and a silent auction of a hand-made knitted blanket. I was pleasantly surprised by the reading ability of the children. There were a great many more attractions generally than usual at the event. Unfortunately, rain came on at about 3.30pm, so we reduced our prices. Buffy.

St John's Draw: 16 Mr s Head, 68 Mr S Mitchell, 102 Mrs V Shaw

Quotations

“Addressing the existential crisis in the West, the Church must show the absurdity of believing life to be meaningless, relationships without objective basis and the universe without purpose or direction. It must have a message of hope in the face of widespread anxiety. The way is long and hard but it must be travelled.” Monsignor Michael Nazir-Ali, former Bishop of Rochester.

“The present life of man upon earth, O king, seems to me, in comparison with that time which is unknown to us, like to the swift flight of a sparrow through the house wherein you sit at supper in winter, with your ealdormen and thegns, while the fire blazes in the midst, and the hall is warmed, but the wintry storms of rain or snow are raging abroad. The sparrow, flying in at one door and immediately out at another, whilst he is within, is safe from the wintry tempest; but after a short space of fair weather, he immediately vanishes out of your sight, passing from winter into winter again. So this life of man appears for a little while, but of what is to follow or what went before we know nothing at all. If, therefore, this new doctrine tells us something more certain, it seems justly to deserve to be followed.” King Edwin’s counsellor on Christian doctrine.

Hidden History – the Lady Harley Memorial

Perhaps one of the most striking artefacts in Cuxton’s history is also one of the hardest to find and appreciate. Hidden away on the south-western wall of the Lady Chapel in our church (and not accessible to the public) is the Lady Harley memorial. Commissioned by Sir Robert Harley in remembrance of his late first wife Ann, the marble installation is a richly-coloured classical wall monument and one that is (rather perversely) now completely obscured by the church organ. It deserves so much better and needs some repair and restoration, although the work undertaken on it in 1723 by Lord Edward Harley (the famous parliamentarian and son of Sir Robert and his third wife) has lasted well.

The Harley family is of ancient lineage (with one source suggesting that it pre-dates the Norman Conquest) and by 1221 were in possession of the Shropshire manor from which they took their name. The property subsequently passed out of the family through an heiress, but by that time a family branch had established itself at Brampton Bryan, ten miles south west of Ludlow. Situated in the extreme north of Herefordshire, Brampton Bryan lay close to the borders with Radnorshire and Shropshire.

From the fourteenth century the Harleys played a leading part in those two county communities. The first member of the family to make a place in national life was Sir Robert Harley (1579-1656), who became Master of the Mint under Charles I and M.P. for Radnor Boroughs in 1604, for Herefordshire in 1624, 1626 and 1640 and for Evesham in 1628.

On 13th. Feb. 1602, Sir Robert married Anne Barrett. Born in 1583, she was the daughter of Sir Charles Barrett of Belhus, Aveley, Essex and Christian (*nee Mildmay*) Barrett and the sister of Sir Edward Barrett. When Anne Barrett-Harley's father died, her mother married Sir John Leveson on 9th June, 1586.

Ann was thus the step-daughter of Sir John Leveson, then owner and resident of Whorne’s Place, thus establishing the link between the Herefordshire-based Harley dynasty and Cuxton.

The match probably arose as a result of Harley’s close connection with the Shropshire branch of the Leveson family, for the brother of Sir John Leveson, (Sir Richard Leveson of Lilleshall Lodge, Shropshire) was his first cousin. Although marriages within the aristocracy in those days were often merely arrangements driven by politics and property, it seems that there was genuine love between the young Robert Harley and his equally youthful wife.

Sadly, their marriage was cut short after just less than two years – Lady Anne Harley and her newborn baby son Thomas both died in childbirth on 1st. December 1603.

It seems possible that the couple were staying with Sir John Leveson at Whorne’s Place at the time, as



records show that Sir Robert was latterly acting on behalf of at least two Kentish Lords (Sir Henry Crispe of Quex House, Birchington and Thomas Crayford, the son of Sir William Crayford of Great Mongeham) making representations for them in the Houses of Parliament.

What is certain is that Anne and her child were laid to rest at St. Michael and All Angels Church, with Sir Robert Harley instigating the remarkable monument to her memory that still exists today.

The text of the main plaque on the memorial leaves us in no doubt as to the extent of Sir Robert's grief.

*"HERE DEATH HATH SPORTED, TYRANT-LIKE
IN BLOOD,
IN TAKINGE LIFE FROM YOUTH AND
WOMANHOOD,
ACTINGE THE DOOME OF HIS INFORCED
DUTY,
REGARDLES OF MODESTY OR BEAUTY,
BUT I AM MUCH IN LOSS OF SO GREAT BLIS,
THOUGH NOT REPAIRED YET COMFORTED IN
THIS,
THAT DEATH IN HIS PROUD CONQUEST HATH
NO JOTT,
OF THIS UNTIMELY SPOILE FOULEN TO HIS
LOTT,*

*EARTH HATH POSSESSION OF HER EARTHLY PARTE,
WICH SHE INCLOSETH IN A MOTHER'S HEARTE,
HER SOUL IN HEAVEN, HER MEMORY ALIVE,
AND THAT WHICH EARTH DETAINES NOW SHALL REVIVE,
AND IN DESPITE OF ALL DEVIDINGE DEATH,
MEETINGE THE REST SHALL DRAW A JOYFULL BREATH"*

The plaque below reads:

*LET THIS INFORM PROSTERITY THAT HERE LYETH ANN DAUGHTER TO CHARLES BARRET
OF BELHOUSE IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, ESQR. WHICH ANN WAS MARIED TO SIR ROBERT
HARLEY, KNIGHT OF THE BATH THE 13th FEBRUARY 1602 AND DECEASED THE FIRST OF
DECEMBER 1603 BY WHOM HE HAD ISSUE A SON NAMED THOMAS WHICH LIES HERE ALSO
BURIED IN MEMORY OF WHOM HER SORROWFUL HUSBAND HATH CAUSED THIS MONUMENT
TO BE ERECTED AS THE LAST OFFICE OF HIS LOVE
"LINQVENDA TELLVS ET DOMUS ET PLACENS VXOR"*

The last line translates from the Latin as "Leaving Earth and home with a pleasant wife".

There is also a statement: "This monument was repaired at the charge of Edward, Lord Harley, 1723".

It is recorded that on August 27th of that year, Lord Edward Harley rode out to Cuxton "through very straight (narrow) lanes" to inspect the monument. When he reached the village, it is said that some poor

women of the place strewed mint upon the road out of their aprons (a practice that seems as unlikely as it is bizarre, at least by modern standards).

In terms of the location of the monument, Edward Hasted (in his 1797 “*History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent*: Volume 3) tells us that it was to be found “*in the chancel, within the rails of the south wall*”. Occupying that position today is a stained-glass window, of a plainer and seemingly later design than the two magnificent windows in the south-east and eastern chancel walls.

This suggests that the Harley monument may have been moved to its current position as part of the church restoration works of 1868, which saw the building of the “new” south aisle and restoration of the Lady Chapel, where the memorial now resides.

This proved to be somewhat unfortunate. In 1881, the church organ was duly installed in the Lady Chapel, thus completely obscuring the view of the Lady Harley memorial. If the memorial had been left where it was, it would have been so much better. Why the church officials decided to place the organ in the Lady Chapel really is a mystery. It would have seemed logical to place it in the newly-enlarged nave.

Ironically, it is conceivable that the Lady Harley memorial could well have suffered a much worse fate as a result of the religious beliefs of its creator. Sir Robert Harley was a committed Puritan, supported in his beliefs by his third wife, the splendidly-named Brilliana (daughter of Sir Edward Conway, then a Secretary of State). In April 1843 (against the febrile background of the English Civil War), Sir Robert was placed in charge of the Committee for the Demolition of Monuments of Superstition and Idolatry, which went on to preside over the destruction of a great deal of religious art and architecture. Fortunately, it seems that the Harley monument evaded the fervour of puritan scrutiny.

In terms of the photograph you see here, I had to make it from a composite of about 20 individual images that I made, something necessitated by the close proximity of the church organ to the monument. Whilst the final result doesn’t really do it justice, it nevertheless gives a good overall impression of the Lady Harley memorial - one that has not been seen for over 140 years.

Keith Hodges, June 2023

PERCY PIGEON’S PERCEPTIONS

Good day to you all. I hope you are all well and enjoying summer even with its unsettled weather. Such sad news about the Cuxton playgroup Mayday closing. We enjoyed listening to the excited laughter of your littl’uns especially when they were outdoors. The group at the Primary School - Beehive - will however be open in September.

We have recently discovered the micro-brewery at Court Farm, Halling. Coffee and cakes outside make it especially good for us avians, although you don’t often leave many crumbs!

Of course we pigeons perform a good service to the environment by eating your carbohydrate waste. It also keeps farmers happy by keeping us off their crops. This is a veiled request for you to put out more of your crusts and crumbs for the avians. Here is an acrostic with my message. The first letter of each answer will give you my message! Coo coo

My first name
___ Meadow, Halling
Hawks are pigeons’ _____
Our crazy ___ tree
Young pigeons
Follows Lent

We have these, not fur
Not difficult
Of horses

The month of Christmas

A joining word
My surnameyou’ll need to persevere with this clue
What guides birds - born with it
Another name for birds
Bird treats along with seeds
The pesky rodents with bushy tails

FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES
RIDE & STRIDE
Saturday 9 September 2023
10.00 am to 6.00 pm
CYCLE OR WALK AROUND KENT CHURCHES
SPONSORSHIP MONEY RAISED
WILL BE DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN
THE FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES AND THE CHURCH OR
CHAPEL OF YOUR CHOICE
Sponsorship Forms available from Rector

(Last year's event raised £124,565 for the whole county.)

Medway Foodbank and Poverty & Hope Appeal

October 1st is Harvest Festival and we shall be receiving tinned and packeted food (well within date, please, and preferably not baked beans or tinned soup) for the Foodbank.

We shall also be collecting for the annual Poverty and Hope Appeal. There will be envelopes in church for cash donations. You can also donate online and find out much more about the projects supported at Poverty and Hope Appeal - Diocese of Rochester (anglican.org) The bank these days charges high fees to charities for cashing cheques. So these are no longer the preferred option for giving, but you can write a cheque payable to Rochester DBF, writing Poverty & Hope on the back and putting it one of the P&H envelopes.

“For four decades, The Poverty and Hope Appeal has allowed us to play our part in tackling the causes and effects of poverty in different parts of the world. In 2022, through the generosity of churches and individuals, over £23,000 was raised for the Appeal's chosen projects. Thank you!

This year will continue to support:

- people living in the slums and prisons of Brazil
- children's education in rural Myanmar
- left behind minorities in Bangladesh

To these, we are adding exciting new initiatives: irrigation and bee-rearing pilot schemes in Tanzania and Zimbabwe and links via Amos Trust with several grass-roots organisations promoting reconciliation and hope in the Bethlehem area.

Every gift you make will go to these initiatives relieving poverty and the fear that stalks it.

Church Mission Society Lunch

10th September 12.00

Meet in the church hall after Sunday services for a bring and share lunch. We will wait for everyone from Halling. If you are able, please bring some food to share. If not, come anyway. There is always plenty. There will be a collection for our link mission partners in SE Asia and a video presentation of them & their work.

Alpha Course

We're thinking about setting up an Alpha Course in the parish. Alpha is a very well presented course on the basics of Christianity. It is good for people just dipping their toe in the water, so to speak; it is good for mature Christians; it is good for those in between. There are 11 sessions of about 1 ½ hrs each. We would share a meal, watch a video presentation of some aspect of the faith and then have time to discuss it in the group. If you might be interested, could you let me know, please? The sessions will be in the church hall at 12.00 till 1.30 on either Tuesdays or Fridays, depending which most people prefer. You can find out more on <https://alpha.org>

Confirmation

If anyone is interested in being confirmed, please let me know. There will be a preparation course. The commitment is actually the same as Baptism. So, if you have been baptized and are prepared to affirm the promises made for you at your christening, there is no reason why you should not be confirmed and every reason why you should. Confirmation candidates might well profit by attending the Alpha Course, but it is not necessary to do so. Given that I shall probably be leaving at the end of next year, if you'd like me to prepare you for confirmation, don't leave it too long. It's something I'd love to do for you. Candidates are not usually admitted younger than twelve, but there is no upper age limit.

Book Aid and Christian Books Worldwide

We take it for granted that books are freely available to us in libraries and book shops and circulating among friends. This includes bibles and Christian literature in general. If we don't read the Bible, we have no-one to blame but ourselves! And the same goes for other books too. The word is very precious, but we don't always appreciate it..

In many parts of the world. However, books are expensive or hard to come by. Even bibles may not be available in local languages. In some places, people face persecution if they share, read or even possess Christian literature.

Organisations like Book Aid and Christian Books Worldwide collect bibles and other Christian literature which, for whatever reason, are no longer required in this country and ship them to places where they are very much in demand. If you have any such books to donate, you could ask our own church book stall or me and we could pass them on.

The Bible Society <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/> translates the Bible into the languages of the world, distributes them in the places where they are needed and encourages people to read and study God's Word. Those of you with long memories may remember that when Romania was freed from Communism and people were allowed to practise their religion openly, we sent a consignment of bibles in the Romanian language to a church there.

Book Aid and Christian Books Worldwide receive appreciative responses from the recipients of the books they send. This one I was shown from Namibia. I thought that I could learn from the insights which this pastor had derived both from his reading and from his experience of living the Christian life.

Here are some lessons that I have learned:

- One must try to see God's overall purpose in all things.
- The way of wisdom lies in accepting God's providence, not in kicking against it.
- If we are not careful, we can be [so] busy complaining about our circumstances that in the end we have no eye to see what God is doing in our lives.
- The fear of God which is the beginning of wisdom is actually wisdom to right living in all given circumstances.
- When there is a vital fear of God in the believer's heart there is an adverse reaction [to] and hatred of evil and sin.
- The presence of the Lord with us is more important than knowing what God's purpose for us is.
- I must be careful lest I misunderstand God's ways because of prejudice against the instrument he uses.
- In our foolish ignorance, it is very easy to murmur against God when times are hard.
- Finally, how long God keeps us in his school of afflictions is his business—not ours.

Tommy's Talking Points

We've had another outing with our friends. At first, it looked a bit unpromising. Weather forecasts had been for a wet day. This changed to sunshine and showers and the people decided to go ahead. The day dawned fair here in Cuxton and we had our early morning excursion around the woods – necessary if we are to sit in a car for any length of time. We then enjoyed some garden time with Lolly who had come over with her family for a visit.

We were just getting ready to set off when the telephone rang. Our friends were stuck in a traffic jam and the rain where they were was torrential. We said we would leave it half an hour and meet them a bit later than first planned. We hadn't gone far when we too were in traffic jams and torrential rain. We arrived, however, only ten minutes late, though the rain was hammering down and as soon as we stopped the windows steamed up and Master couldn't see what was what. Master's friends managed to attract our attention and, though the car park attendant thought we were mad, we commenced our walk – four miles described in the guide as *Royal Passion at Hever*. The attendant laughed at Master's insistence that the rain would stop, but it very soon did and, anyway, it wasn't cold.

I got on much better with Enzo, the Italian Water Dog, this time. We had a lot of time off our leads and a good deal of running around sniffing this novel landscape. We didn't have to go through any fields with livestock in them, but we did see alpacas and horses. The alpacas looked particularly cute in their shelter. Otherwise, it was woods and fields and we didn't get lost once, which must be a first.

We stopped for lunch where there were some picnic tables, but nobody else picnicking, though Enzo did bark at another walker.

After lunch, I remembered that spaniels are supposed to be water dogs and Enzo and I had great fun in some muddy ponds. Then it was home – again without getting lost, which is quite amazing really with Master navigating.

So a good time was had by all. We have plans for more such walks in the future. The next one is in Surrey again. So we are sure to get lost driving there and back if not on the walk itself.

Life here continues much as usual with an outing every morning and usually another in the afternoon or evening. The weather has been unpredictable. When there were some very hot days in June, Master thought that this summer was going to turn out like the last one, when he rather surprised himself. He doesn't really feel the cold. In fact, the guy who came to service our boiler this spring remarked on how little it had been used since the last service. Master does feel the heat normally, but 40 degrees, it turned out, had no terrors for him. He thinks it was because it was a dry heat and he was able to get out in the open air. He suffers in over heated houses and churches – though the latter are in short supply. We do spend a lot of time out of doors unless it is either absolutely freezing or actually raining or both and I didn't find that I suffered from the heat so long as there was plenty of water and shade when I needed it.

The heat and the accompanying drought didn't last long. Temperatures dropped and it seemed to rain every day. Some days it rained hard all day, but, generally speaking, that seldom happens. Lots of days we didn't get wet at all or, if there was rain, it was of the soft refreshing variety we sing about at Harvest. One day, we were caught out in a particularly powerful thunderstorm which began after we set out and came to an end when our run did. As I'm writing, we're enjoying a few warm dry days, but we're warned it won't last.

At least the grass is green again. Master is enjoying seasonal fruit. Our rhubarb is always a bit disappointing, but we were given some more. You can eat cooking apples after the rain in July, which Master has been doing with custard or ice cream. Then he was given some really delicious plums. You do have to be a bit careful with fresh produce, however. I saw him today removing an ant and a spider from a bowl of blackberries before he ate them. He reckons that insects are probably less harmful than insecticide!