

Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxton		
29 <sup>th</sup> July Trinity 8	9.30 Holy Communion	II Kings 4 <sup>42-44</sup> p372 Ephesians 3 <sup>14-21</sup> p1175 John 6 <sup>1-21</sup> p1069
5 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 9	9.30 Family Communion	Exodus 16 <sup>2-15</sup> p74 Ephesians 4 <sup>1-16</sup> p1175 John 6 <sup>24-35</sup> p1070
12 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 10	9.30 Holy Communion	I Kings 19 <sup>3-8</sup> p361 Ephesians 4 <sup>25-52</sup> p1176 John 6 <sup>35-51</sup> p1070
19 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 11	8.00 Holy Communion	Epistle & Gospel BCP
	9.30 Holy Communion	Proverbs 9 <sup>1-6</sup> p642 Ephesians 5 <sup>15-20</sup> p1176 John 6 <sup>51-58</sup> p1071 BCP Exhortation for Friday's Service
24 <sup>th</sup> August St Bartholomew & 350 <sup>th</sup> anniversary BCP	7.30pm Holy Communion Followed by refreshments in church hall	Epistle & Gospel BCP S Bartholomew
26 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 12	9.30 Holy Communion	Joshua 24 <sup>1-18</sup> p240 Ephesians 6 <sup>10-20</sup> p1177 John 6 <sup>56-69</sup> p1071
2 <sup>nd</sup> September Trinity 13	9.30 Family Communion (Bishop is at Halling.)	Deuteronomy 4 <sup>1-9</sup> p182 Mark 7 <sup>1-23</sup> p1010
Services at St John the Baptist Halling & the Jubilee Hall Upper Halling		
29 <sup>th</sup> July Trinity 8	11.00 Holy Communion & Holy Baptism	II Kings 4 <sup>42-44</sup> p372 Ephesians 3 <sup>14-21</sup> p1175 John 6 <sup>1-21</sup> p1069
5 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 9	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	Job 28 <sup>1-28</sup> p529 Luke 12 <sup>13-21</sup> p1045
	11.00 Holy Communion	Exodus 16 <sup>2-15</sup> p74 Ephesians 4 <sup>1-16</sup> p1175 John 6 <sup>24-35</sup> p1070
12 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 10	11.00 Holy Communion	I Kings 19 <sup>3-8</sup> p361 Ephesians 4 <sup>25-52</sup> p1176 John 6 <sup>35-51</sup> p1070
	5.30 Evening Prayer Jubilee Hall	Job 39 <sup>1-40</sup> p539 Hebrews 12 <sup>1-17</sup> p1210
19 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 11	11.00 Stop! Look! Listen!, Holy Communion & Holy Baptism	Proverbs 9 <sup>1-6</sup> p642 Ephesians 5 <sup>15-20</sup> p1176 John 6 <sup>51-58</sup> p1071
26 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 12	11.00 Holy Communion	Joshua 24 <sup>1-18</sup> p240 Ephesians 6 <sup>10-20</sup> p1177 John 6 <sup>56-69</sup> p1071
2 <sup>nd</sup> September Trinity 13	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	Exodus 12 <sup>21-27</sup> Matthew 4 <sup>23-52</sup>
	11.00 Holy Communion president and preacher Bishop James. Followed by buffet lunch in south aisle.	Deuteronomy 4 <sup>1-9</sup> p182 James 1 <sup>17-27</sup> p1213 Mark 7 <sup>1-23</sup> p101(unless Bishop decides otherwise)

Holy Communion at St Michael's Wednesdays @ 9.30		Holy Communion at St John's Thursdays @ 9.30	
August 1st	Jeremiah 15 vv 10-21 Matthew 13 vv 44-46	August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jeremiah 18 vv 1-6 Matthew 13 vv 47-53
August 8th	Jeremiah 31 vv 1-7 Matthew 15 vv 21-28	August 9 <sup>th</sup>	Jeremiah 31 vv 31-34 Matthew 16 vv 13-23
August 15 <sup>th</sup> The Blessed Virgin Mary	Galatians 4 vv 4-7 Luke 1 vv 46-55	August 16th	Ezekiel 12 vv 1-12 Matthew 18 vv 21 - 19 v1
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ezekiel 34 vv 1-11 Matthew 20 vv 1-16	August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Ezekiel 36 vv 23-28 Matthew 22 vv 1-14
August 29 <sup>th</sup>	II Thessalonians 3 vv 6-13 Matthew 23 vv 27-32	August 30 <sup>th</sup>	I Corinthians 1 vv 1-9 Matthew 24 vv 42-51

**Don't Miss 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BCP service 24<sup>th</sup> August Cuxton 7.30pm.**

**Thursday's Children** for pre-school children takes place at St John's at 2.00. 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month in term time. **St Michael's Angels** meet at Cuxton Church at 2.00 as announced for a short service for pre-school children, followed by refreshments and toys in the Church Hall.

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.

**Copy Date** September Magazine: 10<sup>th</sup> August 8.30 am Rectory.

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### The Commercialisation of Charity

I don't know about you, but it seems to me that charities are becoming much more commercialised than they used to be. The big charities have far more professional managements and they employ professional fundraisers who are often more aggressive on the streets (chuggers) than the people who used to rattle tins hopefully and to sell flags from trays. We get phone calls from charities and mail shots of glossy brochures with pictures to tear our heart strings. Very often they suggest how much we should give – what £10 or £20 or £100 would buy in aid of the cause. I feel particularly aggrieved if I make a one off donation to what I think is a good cause, only to be postally bombarded with the charity's literature for years afterwards. I sometimes wonder if the value of my donation is entirely eaten up in the cost of the literature they subsequently send me. Indeed I try to avoid giving my address if I send a one off donation. It isn't all a bad thing, however. You may need a professional management to run a charity efficiently. Amateurs trying to run a charity in their spare time may waste its money because they can't keep their eye on the ball or because they haven't got the necessary accountancy or management skills. Charities do have to find ways of making people aware of need and of how they are trying to meet need. Otherwise supporters and potential supporters wouldn't know and wouldn't give. It is also important to be realistic about the value of money. Those of us who can remember saving threepenny pieces (3d is just over 1p) for missionary work are apt to think that £1 is a reasonable contribution and that £5 is a lot. We should really be thinking what £5 will buy in the Coop and wondering whether it is really so much to give to a cause which we believe to be important. It is also true that it costs a charity much the same to process a £1 donation as it does £10 or £100. In fact, it might cost more than £1 to process a £1 donation, especially if they send a receipt or a thank you. Generally, it is much more effective to give £10 to one charity

than it is to give £1 each to ten separate charities – or to send £12 annually to a charity rather than £1 per month.

At one level, you can understand a charity valuing a £10,000 donation from a multimillion pound corporation more than it values £100 given by a parish church or £1 given by a pensioner. They can do so much more good with £10,000! But then we recall the story of the widow's mite.

And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called *unto him* his disciples and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all *they* did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, *even* all her living. (Mark 12 vv 41-44).

Charity is love. The word *charity* has been corrupted in phrases such as *cold as charity* to imply a duty done more or less reluctantly, more or less patronisingly, by the prosperous to the less well off, just as the word *love* has been corrupted to mean little more than the plot of a Barbara Cartland novel. *Charitas* is the Latin translation of the New Testament Greek *αγαπη* (*agape*), usually translated into English as *love* and sometimes as *charity*. God is love or charity. So to love is to be Godlike. Love is the giving of self as Jesus did on the cross. So the poor widow was divine because she offered all that she had. It did the widow far more good to offer two mites than it did the wealthy to *cast in of their abundance*. In that sense her contribution was more valuable. But it was also of much greater worth because what the world really needs is not that some wealthy people give of their abundance to ameliorate some of its needs but that human beings in general should offer their whole selves in loving service to God and to one another, which would meet all our needs. Roger.

St. Michael's Draw - drawn by Mrs. Ann Saunders: £20 Mrs. Jeanne Harris, £5 each Mrs. Janice Cheesmer & Mr. Dennis Hills.



#### Eve Appeal

This years sponsored Bluebell Walk on 28<sup>th</sup> April made £1,444 for the Eve Appeal, which supports research into gynaecological cancers at University College, London, in memory of Eve Lawry. This was a remarkable result considering the weather. Thanks to everybody who supported this year's event.



#### Halling WI

It was a sad start to our 45<sup>th</sup> party remembering Eileen Buss, a founder member who had just passed away.

Eileen had been on our W.I. committee all of the 45yrs and had been an active member until quite recently when she became ill.

Life has to go on and we had a party to celebrate. This year, our tables were arranged individually instead of our usual "bean feast" style. We had members from nearly all the other WIs in the district, and our County Chairman, Sheila Miles was able to attend. It is good that even with her busy schedule, Sheila could still find time for us

locals. After the meal we were entertained by the singers who call themselves "Front room" (I think they originally started by rehearsing in somebody's front room). They are an excellent singing group. They sing songs that we know and like and that we can join in with. Gareth Malone would be proud of them. Once again, a great time was had by all, and thankyou's must go to all who helped in any way to make it so enjoyable.

Next event to look forward to, a Jubilee Tea party in Ann and Jemma Graves garden on Saturday 6th July at 2.30pm. Please, please, please let it be fine. I am sure we shall enjoy ourselves whatever the weather. Phyllis.

#### Halling Bell Ringers

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June, we went with Cuxton Bell Ringers on their Summer trip. The weather was very windy, but we had a good time, ringing and sightseeing at five village and town churches in Sussex. We thank Cuxton Ringers for a lovely day out. Thank you, Peter Silver.

#### News of the Cho Family – Our Mission Partners in the Philippines.



(17<sup>th</sup> June) Dear Roger,

Greetings from the Philippines! We've been here for 3 weeks. We didn't have internet access for a while and used neighbours' wifi if and when it was working. We have now our own internet and re-connected to the world. We arrived in Manila safely after two weeks in Korea. Few days off to visit the place we went for our honeymoon and the rest we were busy meeting few more potential supporters, family and friends.

We're slowly getting used to the weather (very hot and humid), strange animals especially rooster starting waking people up from the middle of night until dawn and dogs are barking and fighting at every night. Mosquitoes love us a lot so many bump on legs and arms. Paul started teaching last week. He was warmly welcomed by the student and faculty members. All his belongs he used when he was here one year ago were remained as same as when he left. I could see he was missed by all so much and, for them, he did not leave them but he was just on leave. Hayoung started his new school last Wednesday. He's facing a big challenge to learn two more language, Chinese and Tagalog but he seems very happy as usual.

We will keep you posted. Please send our love to all at St Michael & All Angels Cuxton W St John The Baptist Halling.  
Best wishes, Caritas (Paul & Hayoung).

## From the Registers

### Funerals:

26<sup>th</sup> June

John Henry Sutton (84)

Snodland

28<sup>th</sup> June

Eileen Buss (81)

Vicarage Road

6<sup>th</sup> July

Gladys Roisel Bourne (95) formerly of Meadow Crescent

### Forthcoming Attractions 2012

August 8<sup>th</sup> 12.00: Barbecue 95, Pilgrims Rd, North Halling.

August 24<sup>th</sup> (St Bartholomew's Day): 7.30pm BCP Celebration HC at St Michael's to mark 350th anniversary BCP.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>: 11.00 am Bishop James presides and preaches at St John's – followed by buffet lunch.

September 29<sup>th</sup>(Michaelmas): 11.00 am HC at St Michael's preacher Canon Alan Vousden - followed by lunch in church hall, church tour @ 3.00

30<sup>th</sup> September Back to Church Sunday 9.30 & 11.00

October 7<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival: 6.30 St Michael's Evening Service and Harvest Supper.

October 13<sup>th</sup>: 7.30 Quiz in Church Hall.

October 27<sup>th</sup>: 2.00 Sale of Work Halling Church.

December 7<sup>th</sup>: WI District Carol Service at St Michael's.

December 8<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Minimarket Church Hall 10.00.

### Extract From Rochester PBS Newsletter

(We're intending to sing the service to the much loved traditional setting by John Merbecke. If you would like the music in advance by e mail, please e mail me at [roger@cuxtonandhalling.org](mailto:roger@cuxtonandhalling.org). If you are musical, you might like to practise it at home in advance! You can also find the sermon on our parish webpage under Teaching <http://www.cuxtonandhalling.org.uk>)

### **ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CUXTON**

St Michael & All Angels Cuxton will be marking the 350th anniversary with a BCP celebration of Holy Communion at 7.30 pm on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> August, St Bartholomew's Day. It was on that day 350 years ago that every parish church in England had to start using the new Book of Common Prayer as directed by the Act of Uniformity issued by King Charles II.

St John's Draw: £5 each to Mr Head (98), Mrs Burr (11), Mr Mitchell (68) & Mrs Rogers (164) – drawn by Joyce Heighes.

### **Nature Notes June 2012**

From "Baby Tortoise" by D H Lawrence:

You know what it is to be born alone,  
Baby tortoise!

The first day to heave your feet little by little from  
The shell,  
Not yet awake,  
And remain lapsed on earth,  
Not quite alive.

A tiny, fragile, half- animate bean.

To open your tiny beak mouth that looks as if it would  
Never open  
Like some iron door;  
To lift the upper hawk beak from the lower base  
And reach your skinny neck  
And take your first bite at some dim bit of herbage,  
Alone, small insect,  
Tiny bright eye,  
Slow one.

The first day of the month is rather grey but with sunny intervals. I walk Murphy round the lake at Bluewater and beneath skies of grey, billowing clouds but no rain falls. The flowers are beautiful and all the trees are now in full leaf. A coot scampers across the water as we approach. It remains grey throughout the day but it remains warm. The next day, a jay visits the garden and three young great tits sample the nuts. The 3<sup>rd</sup> celebrates the Diamond Jubilee of our Queen

Elizabeth II. It is grey and chilly reminiscent of her coronation in 1953 which I remember vividly. Cold weather has been forecast for the rest of the week. The 5<sup>th</sup> brings a strong westerly wind and skies are grey. The Queen attends a service in St Paul's Cathedral and a most moving part is to watch Her Majesty walk up the nave alone for Prince Philip is in hospital. The 6<sup>th</sup> is a day of sunshine and showers when I walk with Murphy at Bluewater. The sun

breaks through as we walk the grassy paths and drink in the beauty of the wild flowers and the sun feels warm. The next day, the garden is washed with rain and the ivy and lilac leaves shine. On 8<sup>th</sup> I awake to a damp, grey morning when strong winds blow and more rain falls. I walk along the road where the verges are adorned with mallow, alexanders, white campion, yellow crucifers and elderflowers. The branches of the trees sway backwards and forwards. When I return home I see a raven in the garden. The following days are grey with strong wind and rain, not a day for a country walk. It is difficult to believe we are only two weeks away from the longest day. The 12<sup>th</sup> is very wet. The traffic drives spray into the air covering the windscreens. A miracle occurs on 13<sup>th</sup>, the sun shines! It lifts my spirits. The sky is blue brushed with white clouds drifting across from the west. In the afternoon I walk along the top path of Six-acre Wood where herb robert blooms among the undergrowth of the woodland floor. I pick elderflowers to make elderflower cordial. Their creamy flowers emit their special perfume. The evening is bright and I listen to the melodious song of a blackbird. The next day, young tits experiment with the squirrel proof nut feeder and they are successful. The 16<sup>th</sup> is a very blustery day with grey, billowing clouds marching across the sky from the south west. The sun shines brightly in the afternoon with blue skies and feathery clouds. The evening brings more grey clouds and even stronger winds. On 19<sup>th</sup> the sun shines from a blue sky brushed with white clouds. At mid-day, we drive down to Kent College near Canterbury for a cricket cup final played by 11 year olds. David has organised this. Later in the afternoon, I walk along a country lane then take a narrow descending path. I hear bird song and as I enter a field, I see Canterbury Cathedral in the valley. I

hear blackbirds' songs and the calls of chiff chaffs and see a variety of wild flowers: wayfaring tree, herb Robert, shepherd's purse, nipplewort, wood avens, honeysuckle, bramble, wild roses, elderflower, pink and white clover, ox eye daisies, umbel lifers, meadowsweet, vetch, meadow vetchling, buttercups, poppies, dock, dandelions and scentless mayweed. It is the first day that I experience summer. The 20<sup>th</sup> is a warm sunny day. Along the main road the verges are bright with purple mallow, yellow crucifers and cream coloured privet. The evening is beautiful and the air is full of birdsong. Sadly, bad weather is forecast. The longest day is not summery and ends in rain, while 22<sup>nd</sup> has an Autumn feel to it. The 23<sup>rd</sup> is bright and breezy as I walk with Murphy at Bluewater where the flowers are beautiful: vetch, lucerne, ox eye daisies, buttercups, clover, hawkweed yarrow, goat's rue ,birds foot trefoil. Billowing ,grey clouds drift across the sky from the west , but no rain falls. The lake sparkles in the sun's light and ripples in the wind. On the evening of 24<sup>th</sup>, salmon pink clouds brush the sky. The 26<sup>th</sup> is a beautiful, warm summer's day with golden sunshine beaming down from a blue sky. We drive to Herne and Wild Wood where we walk round the paths to see wolves basking in the sun, newly born pole cats, owls, fallow deer, lynx and two harvest mice plus a variety of birds. On 28<sup>th</sup> we drive to Rodmersham for a cricket match. A variety of wild flowers bedeck the roadside verges and the edges of the field. I hear a chiff chaff's call. The skies are brushed with white and grey clouds. The final day of the month is sunny and warm as we walk round the lake at Bluewater. A refreshing breeze blows from the west. Summer hasn't graced us with her presence but I have enjoyed nature's beauty. Elizabeth Summers.

### Cuxton Bell Ringers & Facebook Entries

On Saturday 7th July a group of ringers from Cuxton visited the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in East London. The foundry is Britain's oldest manufacturing company, having been established in 1570 and in business continuously ever since. Both Big Ben and the Liberty Bell were cast at Whitechapel. For more information about this, and to keep up with all the ringers activities, follow us on Facebook. Just search for 'Bell-ringing at St Michael and All Angels Cuxton' and Like our page. See also St John's Church on <http://www.facebook.com/StJohnTheBaptistHalling>

### Recipe for Bible Cake

NOTE: References are to passages in the Authorized Version.

- |    |  |    |                       |
|----|--|----|-----------------------|
| 1  | 8 oz Judges 5, xxv last clause             | 11 | 1 tsp Amos 4, v       |
| 2  | 8 oz Jeremiah 6, xx                        | 12 | 3 tbsps Judges 4, xix |
| 3  | 1 tbs. I Samuel 14, xxv                    |    |                       |
| 4  | Jeremiah 17, xi                            |    |                       |
| 5  | 8 oz I Samuel 30, xii                      |    |                       |
| 6  | 8 oz Nahum 3, xii chopped                  |    |                       |
| 7  | 2 oz Numbers 17, viii blanched and chopped |    |                       |
| 8  | 1 lb I Kings 4, xxii                       |    |                       |
| 9  | season to taste with II Chronicles 9, ix   |    |                       |
| 10 | a pinch of Leviticus 2, xiii               |    |                       |

Pre-heat the oven to Gas 3 325F/170C

Beat Nos .1 ,2 and 3 to a cream. Add 4, one at a time, still beating, then 5, 6 and 7, and beat again. Add 8, 9, 10 and 11, having previously mixed them, and lastly add 12. Bake for 1 hr. 30 minutes.



### Cuxton WI

With this continuous rain the reports all seem to have slid into one at least that's my excuse. So, here is a brief resume of the past months. In May we held our usual meeting followed by the AGM. all washed down with a glass of wine and delicious cheese. We heard of the resolution for this years WI AGM and voted for this which was "for the need for more midwives". Seems straight forward enough but as Phyllis told us this month it was far more complicated than you realise. Our own meeting started with the by-laws being read to the room as this is the time when members are able to put forward any new laws they would like or adjust others. There were no changes this year. We understand that 19834 new WI members countrywide have joined this year, A lot of these are from the cites and the London areas in particular. This is also the time when we appoint our committee for the coming year and we were lucky as we now have a full committee of 12 members with 3 new people volunteering to serve this year. Our finances - always a concern - are

sound and Pat continues as our President so we are ready for another year despite the weather!

Our July meeting started well with the speaker Mr Gillman giving us a fascinating history of music and musical instruments that had been played in the great English houses since the 14 Century. He showed slides and also we heard pieces of music played by the instruments of the time. He based his talk around Knole House in Sevenoaks. As several members are going to see *As You Like It* soon perhaps we shall hear similar music being played. Apart from all the usual business everyone seems to be enjoying a surfeit of strawberry and cream teas both in our WI and other organisations. They are good fund raisers, good company and a lovely way to spend a summer afternoon.

Next month we meet on Thursday August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the church hall at 7 30pm when we shall hear all about the history of the handkerchief. Our usual little competition will be - A Handkerchief. See if you can find one in amongst the tissues ! Sheila.

### Weather Report

It appears that the summers of 1812 and 1912 were much like this one. So it is suggested that you make a note to book your 2112 holiday somewhere like the Sahara!

### Halling Historical Society

The next meeting will be held in the Jubilee Hall, Upper Halling on Thursday August 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Visitors are always welcome. Mr R Legear will be speaking on *Underground Kent*.

### Churches Together in Medway

Are looking for a part time administrator to assist the chairman with mailings, advertising, newsletters, etc.. This is a voluntary post requiring someone who is computer literate for about ½ per week at a mutually convenient location to be arranged with the chairman. If you think you could help or would just like to know more, please ring Peter Friday on 01622 758106 or e mail [peter.Friday@homecall.co.uk](mailto:peter.Friday@homecall.co.uk)

### Humour

A Christian was in the Roman arena awaiting his fate. The lion was let loose and, to everybody's amazement, it knelt down, put its paws together and closed its eyes. "A miracle!" they all shouted. "Actually," said the lion, "I'm just saying grace."

I understand there's a bit of a crisis at Westminster Magistrates Court. The court reporter on the John Terry case has run out of asterisks!

6 cyclists were set to race anticlockwise round the Olympic Velodrome at maximum velocity. 6 cyclists were set to race clockwise at maximum velocity. In the resulting collision, observers were able to recognise bike parts never before seen by scientists.

The Queen's Jubilee concert featured Sir Cliff Richard and Sir Elton John - knights of the turntable, unlike King Arthur's knights of the round table.

### The Integrity of the Church

Two issues seem to threaten the integrity of the Church of England and the Anglican Communion – that world-wide family of churches which are in fellowship with the see of Canterbury. These issues are the ordination of women as bishops and the recognition of homosexual relationships as legitimate and even blessed. What the two issues have in common is that their opponents claim that they are contrary to the plain meaning of Scripture, as understood by God's Church for 2,000 years, that they divide us from other much larger Churches, which do not intend to deviate from the faith once delivered to the saints, and that they undermine our mission to a world which desperately needs the eternal, simple Good News of God in Jesus Christ; whereas supporters, both of women's ordination and of the blessing of gay relationships, claim that these are authentic developments of the faith once delivered to the saints in the light of modern knowledge, that we have to be true to our insights as Anglicans rather than to look over our shoulders for the approval of Rome and Orthodoxy, and that our unwillingness to modernise and embrace equality and diversity in the realm of gender and sexuality makes our whole message incomprehensible to twenty first century people. It has to be said, of course, that these are not the first issues to threaten to divide the Church and we are all sadly aware that God's Church is already fractured into a multiplicity of denominations: Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican and myriad kinds of Protestant.

In this context I have been asked in what circumstances I would leave the Church of England. I am not sure that I can answer that question hypothetically. The rest of this piece will be devoted to the integrity of the Church of God. The Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic. She is the Body of Christ and the Bride of Christ. The Church is the Temple of the Holy Spirit. She is the family of God, the people of God, a royal priesthood. I am not sure that it would be possible to remain a Christian if one left the Church altogether. I rather think that it would not. To leave one Church and to found another would be a remarkable thing to do. The founder of a new denomination has either identified a very serious error or failure in the existing Churches, or else he is astonishingly arrogant. To leave one Church and to join another already existing Church would raise all sorts of questions about one's true beliefs and one's relationships with one's fellow Christians both in the new fellowship and in the old one. What honest reasons could one give for making such a change?

On the other hand, there are things which could put one's membership of a particular Church under serious strain. It might be hard to belong to a Church if you thought its teaching on matters of doctrine or ethics was at fault or if you felt that your Church generally did not live up to its preaching. It might be hard to belong to a Church whose public worship generally left you feeling bored or embarrassed, rather than inspired and empowered. It might be hard to belong to a Church if you found it hard to get on with the other people in it, the ministers or the people in the pews. At what point do you decide that it is so difficult for you to remain within a given Church that you should change to another one? After all, the fault might as easily lie in you as it might in other members of the fellowship. Bear in mind that you aren't going to find a perfect Church on earth and, if you did, you would only spoil it by joining it.

So I try to approach the question in what circumstances would I leave the Church of England from the point of view of the essential integrity of the Church. The Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic. The Church is the Body of Christ. There is only one Christ. So there can only be one Church. Christ is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit in the eternal unity of the Blessed Holy Trinity. Christ is in us. The Father is in us. The Holy Spirit is in us. We then, through His grace, are one with God. We are one with Him in Baptism. We are one with Him in Holy Communion. We are one with Him in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. It follows that, if we are one with God, we are one with each other. We are members of the same Body, the Body of Christ.

God is love and the eternal relationship of the three persons of the Holy Trinity is love. Infinite, eternal love overflows to create us, to sustain us and to enfold us. The love of God invites us to respond by becoming people of love. We are invited to love God. If we love God, then we must love one another, both because we are ourselves filled with the love of God and because other people are loved by the God Whom we seek as our life-long partner, indeed as our eternal soul mate. We fall short of this vision as individuals and as churches, but to fall short is to sin.

We believe in the *holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting*. In the heavenly Kingdom, we are risen, we live for ever. We enjoy an eternal communion of love with God and with all God's people. This is so because our sins are forgiven. Sins are our failure to love. Sin is what divides us from God and from one another. We believe in the *holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting* because We believe in the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of the Father, Who made the World; the Spirit of Jesus, Who was made one with us, died on the cross, rose again from the dead and will come again to take us home to Himself.

Our life in the Church on earth ought to be a foretaste of the life of Heaven and a demonstration to the world of what God's purposes are on earth. Our worship on earth participates in the worship of heaven. Our prayers are heard in Heaven. Our fellowship, our friendship as Christians on earth is an aspect of the communion of saints. Holy Communion is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. The Holy Scriptures bear witness to the Eternal Word. The life of the Church on earth reflects the life of the angels and archangels and all the company of Heaven. The fellowship of the Church sustains us as Christians and, because we are part of that fellowship, we sustain the Church. The fellowship of the Church so reflects the Light of Heaven that she bears witness of God to the world. A supposedly Christian nation which imagined that you could be a Christian without going to Church begat millions of feeble Christians, a weak Church and a post Christian generation which knows little of God or of what it means to be truly human. The Church cannot do without Christians and neither can we do without the Church. It would be verging on the blasphemous to claim that God cannot do without us, but I do believe that His plan for the salvation of the world includes us and that the Church of which we are members exists in order to show the world the love of God. Whatever difficulties and discouragements there are in belonging to the Church, it is vital for us to persevere for our own sake, for God's sake and for the world's sake. Roger.



#### Max's Tail Piece – Lots of Lolly

We've been seeing a lot of Lolly lately, Master's niece's new puppy. We're great friends. They've even got pictures of us kissing. Ugh! We had a lovely walk one Sunday afternoon with the children. Master was going to show his great niece and nephew the cows in the field behind Cuxton Church, but we couldn't see them. It's amazing that twelve creatures as big as cows can disappear in one fairly small field, but they can. Of course I could have tracked them down, but I'm not allowed to. Lolly, however, was most interested in the horses. Well, I've seen horses before. Later on, after demonstrating the echo in Dean Valley, Master tried to convince the children that some small white woolly animals in a distant field were cows, but little Liam insisted that they were sheep. We did then see a solitary animal on a distant hillside which might have been a cow and Liam thought was a bull and really it might have been a horse, because it was too far away to tell. Master says he has never seen a horse in that particular field, but, then he'd never seen a deer in his garden until I pointed one out to him just as it was getting dark one evening last week. Disaster struck when Liam got in among the stinging nettles. Human beings do make such a fuss. However, the tears were eventually dried and we'd all had a good walk.

Then Lolly turned up for the parish barbecue. I couldn't help noticing that she is allowed off her lead a lot more than I am. Master says that is because she doesn't run away and comes when she's called. I wonder which is better – to be controlled because you have an independent spirit or to be free because you're too docile to do anything bad? One thing in my favour, I'm not so greedy as Lolly. She eats up any food she can find, including my dinners, whereas I fastidiously separate the egg yolks from the white when my breakfast is poached or boiled!

We met her again after church one Sunday when Denise picked up some bits and pieces at the Rectory, Lolly having spent the time of the service being a good girl in the vestry, where I usually stay. I wonder how it would have been if we'd been left in there alone together. Of course Denise forgot some of the things she'd come for and they came back unexpectedly on the Monday. Master was sitting in his garden without his glasses on. Seeing a sleek black apparition, he grabbed me by the leg (the only part of me he could reach) and told me to sit still. He thought Lolly was a cat! What an insult. Maybe more to report in September. Max, the Rectory Spaniel.