

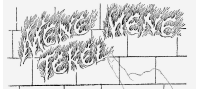


Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxton		
27 <sup>th</sup> July Trinity 6	9.30 Holy Communion	I Kings 3 vv 1-15 p338 Romans 8 vv 26-39 p1135 Matthew 13 vv 31-52 p980
3 <sup>rd</sup> August Trinity 7 	9.30 Family Communion & Holy Baptism	I Kings 10 vv 1-13 p 348 Acts 13 vv 1-13 p1107 John 6 vv 24-35 p1070
	<b>6.30 Evensong to Mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Great War (preacher the Archdeacon).</b>	Isaiah 55 vv 1-5 p742 Matthew 14 vv 13-21 p981
10 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 8 (S Laurence)	9.30 Holy Communion & Holy Baptism	I Kings 19 vv 1-18 p361 Romans 10 vv 5-15 p1137 Matthew 14 vv 22-33 p981
17 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 9	8.00 Holy Communion	Epistle & Gospel BCP Trinity 9
	9.30 Holy Communion	Isaiah 56 vv 1-8 p742 Romans 11 vv 1-36 p1137 Matthew 15 vv 21-28 p982
24 <sup>th</sup> August S Bartholomew	9.30 Holy Communion	Isaiah 43 vv 8-13 p728 Acts 5 vv 12-16 p1097 I Corinthians 4 vv 9-15 p1146 Luke 22 vv 24-30 p1058
31 <sup>st</sup> August Trinity 11	9.30 Holy Communion	Jeremiah 15 vv 15-21 p774 Romans 12 vv 1-21 p1139 Matthew 16 vv 21-28 p985
7 <sup>th</sup> September Trinity 12	9.30 Family Communion	Ezekiel 33 vv 7-11 p864 Romans 13 vv 8-14 p1140 Matthew 18 vv 15-20 p985
Services at St John the Baptist Halling & the Jubilee Hall Upper Halling		
27 <sup>th</sup> July Trinity 6 	<b>11.00 Holy Communion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Great War Bishop of Tonbridge presiding &amp; preaching.</b>	I Kings 3 vv 1-15 p338 Romans 8 vv 26-39 p1135 Matthew 13 vv 31-33 & 44-52 p980
3 <sup>rd</sup> August Trinity 7	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	I Kings 10 vv 1-13 p 348 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
10 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 8 (S Laurence)	11.00 Holy Communion	I Kings 19 vv 1-18 p361 Romans 10 vv 5-15 p1137 Matthew 14 vv 22-33 p981
	5.30 Evening Prayer Jubilee Hall	(Psalm 11) Isaiah 43 vv 1-7 p728 II Corinthians 9 vv 6-10 p1163
17 <sup>th</sup> August Trinity 9	11.00 Stop! Look! Listen! & Holy Communion	Isaiah 56 vv 1-8 p742 Romans 11 vv 1-10 p1137 Matthew 15 vv 21-28 p982
24 <sup>th</sup> August S Bartholomew	11.00 Holy Communion & Holy Baptism	Isaiah 43 vv 8-13 p728 Acts 5 vv 12-16 p1097 I Corinthians 4 vv 9-15 p1146 Luke 22 vv 24-30 p1058
31 <sup>st</sup> August Trinity 11	11.00 Holy Communion	Jeremiah 15 vv 15-21 p774 Romans 12 vv 1-21 p1139 Matthew 16 vv 21-28 p985
7 <sup>th</sup> September Trinity 12	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	Ezekiel 12 vv 21 – 13 v16 p839 Mark 7 vv 24-37 p1010
	11.00 Holy Communion	Ezekiel 33 vv 7-11 p864 Romans 13 vv 8-14 p1140 Matthew 18 vv 15-20 p985

Copy Date September Magazine August 8<sup>th</sup> 8.30 Rectory

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http://www.cuxtonandhalling.org.uk

Wednesday Holy Communion 9.30 St Michael's		Thursday Holy Communion 9.30 St John's	
6 <sup>th</sup> August The Transfiguration	Daniel 7 vv 9-14 II Peter 1 vv 16-19 Luke 9 vv 28-36	7 <sup>th</sup> August	Jeremiah 31 vv 31-34 Matthew 16 vv 13-23
13 <sup>th</sup> August	Ezekiel 9 vv 1-22 Matthew 15 vv 15-20	14 <sup>th</sup> August	Ezekiel 12 vv 1-12 Matthew 18 v21 – 19 v1
20 <sup>th</sup> August	Ezekiel 34 vv 1-11 Matthew 20 vv 1-16	21 <sup>st</sup> August	Ezekiel 36 vv 23-28 Matthew 22 vv 1-14
27 <sup>th</sup> August	II Thessalonians 3 vv 6-18 Matthew 23 vv 27-32	28 <sup>th</sup> August	I Corinthians 1 vv 1-9 Matthew 24 vv 42-51



### “Is God Past His Sell-By Date?”

Several of us were unable to attend this event at Halling Baptist Church because it coincided with our PCC meeting. We were, however, pleased to be able to pray for its success and to learn after the meeting that it had gone very well. Sadly, the intended speaker, Dr John Blanchard, had been unable to attend after all owing to ill health, but, by God's grace, his place was amply filled by Pastor Barry Young. Those present received a free copy of Dr Blanchard's book, “Is God Past His Sell-By Date?” The meeting was well attended, with many Christians coming from a wide area to hear Pastor Young, but the great hope (and what we were mainly praying for) was that there would be many non-Christians in the audience, some of whom would be so touched by the pastor's message and the Holy Spirit that they would put their faith in God through Jesus Christ. This is what we were mainly praying for. Only God truly knows how our prayers are being answered.

At least one person in our congregation at St John's thought that the title was very odd. We Christians very much know from our own experience that God is not in any sense past His sell-by date, that God cannot be past His sell-by date. It looks like a strange question, but, sadly, there are many millions of people who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ, who have false ideas about God, or who believe that there is no God, or who believe that faith is outdated or only for children and for immature adults. It is for them that we are praying and it was part of the Church's outreach to these “lost sheep” that Halling Baptist Church put on this evening.

But why bother? “We live in a multicultural and secular society. Religion has no place in the public realm of government, business, law, education, health and social services (the big

things of life), and faith is a matter of personal choice, a matter for the individual, the family or the community - whether or not to believe in God, and, if we do believe in God, what God we choose to believe in. Surely it is none of my business what religion you belong to, if any, and none of your business that I am a Christian.” “So why do Christians attempt to share the faith? Why do Christians attempt to bear witness to our neighbours and support evangelisation and mission in this country and overseas? What does it matter what people believe about God so long as they are good citizens? Indeed, looking at the atrocities which have been committed in the name of religion, might we not be better off without any religious faith at all?”

I'm now going to give you twelve reasons why the last whole paragraph is false and why Christians have no option but to share their knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and their faith in Him.

I) It is to the glory of God that people know Him, love Him and worship Him. The whole of creation proclaims the glory of God, but only human beings (made in His image, for whom Christ died) can love Him as His children.

II) The Christian faith is true.

III) The only way to make sense of life, the universe and everything is that the created acknowledge their Creator.

IV) The Christian story in which God the Son (Jesus) becomes one of us (the Son of Man) puts everything else into perspective.

V) Those who know God (and only they) have eternal life. This means:

VI) Christians live their life on earth in the light of Christ and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. In prayer we find the resources we need to live. In the Bible we discover how we ought to live. In the fellowship of the Church and in our personal experience of God here on earth, we enjoy a foretaste of Heaven.

VII) We who know God and Jesus Christ Whom He has sent shall spend eternity in the unalloyed Presence of God, filled with love and joy, and untouched by any manifestation of evil.

VIII) This world would be a much happier place if only people obeyed the Maker's instructions and lived in accordance with His perfect law of love.

IX) He Who created the universe created us. He Who established the Laws of Science (such as Gravity and Relativity), also gave us ethics and the moral law (such as the Ten Commandments). Just as we should be stupid to ignore the Laws of Science (say by bungy jumping without a bungy or parachute jumping without a parachute), a course of action which would lead to our destruction, so we are foolish to ignore God's ethical requirements of us. We shall all be judged in accordance with what we have done with our lives on earth and the wages of sin is death.

X) By God's standards (perfect love), we shall all fall short and therefore deserve condemnation at the Last Judgment. It is only through faith in Jesus Christ that our sins can be forgiven. It is only in Christ that we can be made righteous. It is in Christ alone that there is no condemnation. All that is required of us is faith and repentance. Faith

and repentance are themselves the gift of God. This is the Good News for the whole world with which Christians are entrusted. The beginning of successful evangelism, therefore, is prayer.

XI) The Church actually is the Body of people who believe in Jesus Christ. The more believers, the stronger the Church. The stronger the Church, the more good she can do in the world – worshipping God, building up her own members into the full stature of Christ, proclaiming the Gospel at home and abroad, looking after the vulnerable, turning the world upside down. The more members we have, offering their lives as a living sacrifice to God, dedicating their time, their talents and their money in His service, the more good we can do in the world.

(I'm not one of those who worries unduly about the survival of the Church. God is our guarantor. His Church will not merely survive but triumph over sin, the world and the devil. If the Church in a particular locality fails to survive because the people who live there are unwilling to dedicate their lives wholeheartedly to God, that locality does not deserve a Church and it will probably need to repent before it can expect God in His mercy graciously to rebuild His Church in that town or village or else the kingdom will be taken away from those who did not deserve it and given to those who do!)

XII) Jesus told us to share the faith and to spread the Good News. There can be no better reason than that! Roger.

*All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.*

#### Apology and Clarification.

I was asked why last month's magazine had a picture on the cover of a vulture and the caption "Eagle". I'm afraid the answer is that I don't know. I thought it was a good picture and I scanned it in from an old bible – including the caption. The biblical verse it illustrates (Deuteronomy 14<sup>12</sup>) lists some of the flying creatures which the Israelites were not allowed to eat. The list includes the eagle, the vulture and the bat. It was pointed out to me that these are now all protected species. So we still cannot eat them, but for a different reason! On the other hand, as I first (but perhaps fancifully) suspected, the Hebrew word translated "eagle" (נֶשֶׁר) here might actually mean "vulture" and maybe the illustrator was making that point! I imagine we shall have to wait until we join him in heaven if we want to ask him. This month's cover is the writing on the wall (Daniel 5). Take heed. Roger.

## From the Registers

### Baptisms:

22<sup>nd</sup> June

6th July

6<sup>th</sup> July

Luke David Penney

Preeti Louise Chatwell

Jack Oliver Fern

Barn Meadow

Bush Road

Howlsmere Close

## Great War Vigil

There is to be a Vigil at Westminster Abbey on Monday 4th August from 10pm to 11pm – the hour leading to the moment when the ultimatum expired and war began. Our Cathedral will be holding its own Vigil at the same time; this will be attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent and civic leaders; the Cathedral would be delighted to welcome people from our parishes as well.

## Dates For Your Diary

27th July: 11.00 First World War  
Commemoration

Service Halling

3rd August: 6.30 First World War

Commemoration Service Cuxton

10th August: St Laurence Day Celebration 4.30 in  
the Jubilee Hall

13th August: 12.00 Barbecue for Church Funds at  
Chris & Jenny Beaney's House – 95, Pilgrims  
Road, North Halling

20<sup>th</sup> August Teddy Bear's Picnic 2.00: Cuxton  
Rectory.

20th September: 7.30 Christian Aid Quiz, All  
Saints Frindsbury

5th October: 6.30 Harvest Praise & Harvest  
Supper

St Michael's and Church Hall

25th October: 7.30 Quiz for Parish Funds Church  
Hall

2nd November: All Souls Services Cuxton 9.30 &  
Halling 11.00

30th November: 6.30 Evensong @ St Michael's  
followed by an open invitation to rector's 60th  
birthday celebrations in church hall.

## St Laurence Day (10th August)

There have been two churches in Upper Halling dedicated to St Laurence – the old mediaeval pilgrim's chapel, now converted into cottages, and an iron building which used to stand roughly where the Jubilee Hall is now. As St Laurence's Day falls on a Sunday, we thought we would celebrate this heritage at our tea (4.30) and Evening Prayer (5.30) in the Jubilee Hall. If you would like to speak about St Laurence Church or if you have any photographs or artefacts of either building that you would be prepared to show on that occasion, please let us know. Also if you would like to choose a hymn for this occasion, please tell me. Any other ideas? We are eager for your suggestions in order to make this occasion really special.

**August Barbecue**

**Malia**

**North Halling**

**Wednesday 13th August**

**Noon**

**BBQ in aid of church funds at Jenny and Chris Beaney's House,**

**95, Pilgrims Road.**



## Teddy Bears' Picnic

This is for all children (accompanied please by parent or carer) at 2.00 on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August in the Rectory Grounds. No charge. No need to bring anything except a teddy bear. Just come along. A good time for all is guaranteed.

### Halling Bell Ringers

We thank the ringers from all parts of England who rang for our Sunday morning service on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Also we thank the Cuxton ringers for organising the Outring to Surrey on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Very enjoyable.

It was sad news to hear of the passing of John (Jack) Bishop of Snodland ringers who also rang with us from time to time. RIP Jack.

Peter Silver.

### Cuxton Schools

Dear Friends of our Schools,

It is some time since I have written as we have been so extremely busy at the Cuxton schools. This is an update on some of the things we have been doing.

Arts Week - A tremendous success with each class contributing to an art gallery in school. Monet's water lilies and Van Gogh's sunflowers featured, as did sketches, sewing, collage and sculptures.

Father's Day Lunch - Dads came in over a seven day period to have lunch with their child/children, and children enjoyed 'showing off' their lunchtime routines to new dads.

Global Week - Each class studied a country and shared what they had investigated at the end of the week. There were dancing, cooking, making of musical instruments and head-wear; and we learned of kings and queens, cultural events and other famous people. There were also mini World Cup football games on the top field!

The FCS continue to work tirelessly behind the scenes raising money for both schools. They organised the Father's Day shop and more recently the Junior school disco. Sadly, due to increasing family commitments and ill health there will not be a Summer fete this year. The FCS will be looking for additional members from September. We thank them for all their support and dedication to the schools in raising much needed additional funds.

Transition - The children have had three visits to their new classes in preparation for September. These visits help to familiarise the children with their new classroom, location of toilets, coat pegs etc, and of course they meet their new teacher and teaching assistant. Come September children generally arrive at school confidently ready for a new start.

The new intake of children for Cuxton have also had three visits to their new classes and to meet staff. In September for three weeks the children will be part time, whilst teachers and teaching assistants conduct home visits or meet new parents in school. This enables staff informally to discuss the children's pre-school experiences and their development.

Children in years 5 and 6 have enjoyed an activity week focusing on Science, DT, an Ancient Greek Olympic day, a trip to Howletts animal part, and an indoor overnight stay at a farm. Children in years 3 and 4 are hoping to sponsor a puppy for the Guide Dogs for the Blind charity for one year. Following a talk from a representative from the charity they held a cake sale to raise funds.

Staff from both schools continue to work extremely hard. It is always a hectic time of year with academic reports to write on each child, and thinking about preparation for September whilst planning for sports day, school trips, end of year productions and leavers' assemblies.

I wish you all a good Summer and I am sure there will lots of news next time.

Yours sincerely, Sandra Jones, Head teacher,  
Cuxton Community Infant & Junior Schools



### Bluebell Walk.

The annual bluebell walk for the Eve Appeal for gynaecological cancer research at University College London took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> May this year. The sum raised this year was £550. Well done everybody who took part.

St John's Draw: £5 each to Mrs Head (20), Miss Thorne (24), Mrs Chidwick (26) & Mrs Burren (55) – drawn by Mrs Mattingly.

St Michael's Draw: (May) Dennis Hills, Ann Saunders, Tom Cosford all at £10, (June) James McDonald, Dorothy Taylor, Jane Joyce all at £10 – both months drawn by Mrs Saunders.



### Cuxton WI

We had an enjoyable summer evening. After the usual business session we settled down for a dabble. We are already thinking about anniversaries as next year the WI movement is 100 years old and our own WI will be 70. We are arranging a small sub committee to think about these events particularly our own day when we hope to celebrate in some style. The WI movement AGM will be held at the Albert Hall and then relayed to cinemas around the country, so a good chance for people to go and see what we are all about and then they might like to join us.

The Wisdom Hospice had sent a message of thanks for our donation in memory of Sylvia which amounted to approx £140 . We heard of various event taking place around our area and our own arrangements which include our annual Strawberry Cream tea kindly arranged by Dorothy. A trip to a London show, home

economics days, a fashion show, an invitation to the Church remembrance service etc for the WWI and several more things were on the cards.

Pat had been to the WI AGM at Leeds -- the city not the castle! She had enjoyed the speakers who had all been interesting - Andrew Motion, George McGovern and Bill Turnbull. Unfortunately the weather had been very wet and there was no food etc available in the hall.

After this we dabbled - not like the ducks - but everybody attempting to make a small decorative box. June - whom we were all pleased to see back with us again after her recent spell in hospital - guided our efforts. So the evening ended on that happy note amid lots of laughter at our craft efforts.

Next, month if you would like to join us, we are going to learn all about our daily pint of milk.

Sheila.

### Continuity and Relevance

Our commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War at Halling at 11.00 am on July 27<sup>th</sup> will be a service of Holy Communion, conducted in accordance with the rite in Common Worship 2,000. This is what we normally do on a Sunday morning at 11.00 at Halling. The Lord's people gather for the Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day. The commemoration at Cuxton is on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6.30 pm and the service is Evensong. We do not often have Evensong on Sundays these days. Sadly there was a lack of support. When we do have Evensong, however, we usually use the rite found in the Book of Common Prayer 1662. It occurred to me that, on this occasion, we shall actually be using the same form of words as people would have been using in 1914. Not only that, but the prayer book I use most days at Cuxton is almost certainly the book Canon Toone used all those years ago. It predates the Great War, in the state prayers praying for King Edward and Queen Alexandra – which I have to remember to change. Do we value continuity with the way our forebears in the faith worshipped or do we risk becoming irrelevant if we fail to change in a changing world? Personally I really love the traditional forms of worship and believe that we shall lose a lot if they are ever forgotten. I also value very highly the insights into worship and the materials provided in the twentieth and twenty first (not to mention the eighteenth and nineteenth) centuries and I think we should be foolish not to make use of them. (What I really dislike personally is pernickety compromise, a service which is allegedly BCP or Common Worship, but which the officiating minister tweaks in accordance with his opinion of the mental capacity of the worshippers!) We have endless debates about what our existing members like or what potential converts might like. Would it not, however, be more useful to consider what God would like? Jesus tells us that what matters to God is not so much the outward form as that we worship in spirit and in truth. We cannot do that unless we are in love and charity with our neighbours. Roger. (In 1914, the first Sunday in August was 2<sup>nd</sup> – Trinity 8. The readings were II Chronicles 1 & Matthew 17<sup>14-27</sup>. The psalms were 12, 13 & 14. We're using the Common Worship readings.)

Magazine Delivery  
Can You Help Please?

There is a vacancy coming up for magazine delivery in Pilgrims Way Cuxton. Could you possibly undertake to do this round, please? The magazine provides news for the parish and raises substantial funds. It is also an important part of our outreach and, I hope, an entertaining and thought-provoking read. I always encourage deliverers and subscribers to spread the word and increase our circulation by interesting their neighbours. They don't have to be next door neighbours. We have subscribers as far away as Australia.

If no-one else comes forward, I shall have to take on this round, which has two bad consequences. Sometimes in the past I got moaned at for doing jobs that are not really mine and therefore being unavailable for the jobs I am supposed to do. Also I'm too shy to ask for the money. So the magazine is much less profitable where I deliver it. Roger.

**Nature Notes June 2014**

This poem is from the RSPB "If There's No Room for Nature."

There will be no evening starling chatter,  
Nor swifts left to soar  
There will be no hedgehogs nestled in your garden,  
No woodlands to explore.

Spring will pass without a bluebell,  
And June without a bee.  
Butterflies will flounder without a flower,  
And the birds without a tree.

If there's no home for nature,  
The wonders on our doorstep will disappear.  
There will be no place to play,  
No meadows. No moorlands. No wilderness. No  
adventure.

If there's no home for nature,  
There will be no nature.

This is food for thought.

In the morning of 1<sup>st</sup>, a chaffinch sings as it perches on the roof of the bungalow. In the afternoon, a chiff chaff sings over on the embankment. In the evening I listen to the melodious song of a blackbird. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is a bright day after overnight rain. Murphy and I walk the grassy paths at Bluewater. The morning of 3<sup>rd</sup> is grey and rain falls steadily for a while. In the afternoon, the clouds disperse to reveal warm sunshine beaming down from a blue sky brushed with white cloud. I sit in the garden for a while listening to the chiff chaff's call and a chaffinch's song. A brimstone butterfly hovers across the garden. Lemon balm has grown quite tall and beneath it a clump of buttercups bloom. Bees are collecting nectar from the bramble flowers. A light south west wind blows. Dog roses peep out from among the ivy. The next day a jay then a jackdaw come to investigate the garden. In the evening salmon pink clouds drift across the sky which becomes very pale, and grey clouds form mountainous banks in the east. On 7<sup>th</sup> which is sunny and warm, I watch Canada geese in flight and listen to a chiff chaff as it sings its heart out from the branches of the holly tree. There is now a beautiful array of wild flowers bordering the grassy paths at Bluewater where I walk with Murphy. Vetch, sainfoin, lucerne and ox eye daisies are resplendent in pink and purple and white. Goats rue, knapweed, and meadow cranesbill join the throng.

The air is very humid. In the afternoon of 10<sup>th</sup>, when a westerly wind causes the trees to sway backwards and forwards, I watch birds flying overhead then see a tortoiseshell butterfly hovering over the grass. A chiff chaff calls lustily through the day. The 12<sup>th</sup> is a very hot day with westerly breezes driving white clouds across the sky. In the early morning, birdsong fills the air. On the lake at Bluewater, a grebe and her chicks glide across the water followed shortly by a coot. On 14<sup>th</sup>, I visit the beautiful surroundings of Aylesford Friary. Two grey days follow. The 17<sup>th</sup> is beautiful but north winds keep temperatures down. We drive to Rodmersham for a school cricket cup final. I listen to the chattering of sparrows in the hedgerows and watch tall elders swaying in the strong breeze. The skies are blue and flecked with white cloud. When we walk round the lake at Bluewater on 19<sup>th</sup>, the wealth of flowers has increased; vetch, sainfoin, ox eye daisies, black medick, bird's foot trefoil, pink and white clover, dove's foot cranesbill, knapweed, lime flowers, mouse ear, goats rue, ragwort, marjoram and hemp agrimony. Rain falls in the evening. We reach the longest day on 21<sup>st</sup> and it is beautiful. The morning of 24<sup>th</sup> is filled with warm sunshine when we drive to Wye for another cup final cricket match. In the afternoon dark clouds build up in the sky and rain eventually falls. Fortunately it clears and the match

continues. On 26<sup>th</sup> I drive to Cobham to fetch Murphy from "The Nook" The sun shines brightly with a westerly breeze. Pale blue scabious brighten the verges bordering the lane and they look very beautiful. Dark clouds drift across from the west and eventually rain falls. The next day is sunny and warm as I walk round the lake at Bluewater with Murphy The flowers are so beautiful; sainfoin, vetch, ox eye daisies, ragwort, goats rue, clover, hawkweed, bird's foot trefoil, knapweed, buttercups, daisies, black medick and bristly ox tongue. Hazel nuts hang on

strong twigs. They have a while to go before they are ripe, if the squirrels get at them first. Later, in the garden, I find cinnabar moth caterpillars on a ragwort plant. They are stripping the leaves. The 28<sup>th</sup> is a showery day. On the last day of the month and in the morning three jays come to the garden. They have been regular visitors. In the early afternoon dark clouds drift across the sky from the west but no rain falls. The evening remains dry but there is a chilly wind. Elizabeth Summers.

### Keep Cuxton & Halling Clean

On Thursday mornings the streets and roads of Cuxton and Halling are disgusting. Foxes and other wildlife (plus the odd human vandal) tear into the rubbish sacks and scatter the contents. Ugh! All this filth in our streets is not only unsightly. It attracts vermin and potentially spreads disease. Moreover it sometimes blocks pavements or makes them slippery. It also makes a lot of work for our excellent road sweepers in Cuxton and Halling and for some very public spirited private citizens who tidy up the mess and put it in their own dustbins to go out the next week.

And it is all so unnecessary because there are two things we can do which would eradicate the problem. First of all, the dustman never come before 7.00 am and often much later than that. It is not necessary to put your refuse out overnight unless you are a late sleeper. Foxes are far less likely to be about in the day time. Moreover, why do the foxes break into the bags? It is to find things they can eat and the ripped open bags do indeed offer a cornucopia of organic matter. However, this should not be the case. Nobody ought to be throwing food away. If you are, you need to think about what you are buying, how you are storing it and portion sizes. Other biodegradable waste (peelings etc.) could well go on your compost heap or in the brown bin or the kitchen refuse box which the council provided. There should be nothing edible (even by foxes) in your black sacks. So if we keep our black sacks for non-biodegradable refuse and don't put them out till the morning, the problem is solved. Roger.

### Rubbish Joke

Dustman to housewife, "Where's ye bin?". Housewife to dustman, "I've bin in all day." Dustman to housewife, "No, where's your wheelie bin?" Housewife to dustman, "I've wheelie bin in all day."

### Halling Historical Society

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August at 7.30 pm in the Jubilee Hall, Upper Halling. The speaker will be Mr Robinson and his subject is The Plague City and the Plague Village. Visitors and new members always welcome.

### Living Dangerously

A few weeks ago I was cutting my front hedge when a man very kindly offered me a high vis jacket to put on. As he meant well, it was probably ungracious on my part that my first thought was – *The day I have to wear a high vis jacket to cut a hedge is the last day I even think about cutting a hedge.* My second thought, however, was what a dangerous life I lead, at least by modern standards. That very morning I had got out of bed without first obtaining a getting up licence from the council. (Not necessary yet, but give them time.) I then put both feet on my bedroom carpet without carrying out a risk assessment and went to the bathroom without donning protective clothing (or indeed any clothing at all). Next I took Max for a walk in the country and, although the sun was already shining and I was wearing only shorts and a singlet, I bothered with neither sun block nor a broad-brimmed hat. As it was my day off, I then said Morning Prayer in my garden rather than in church – totally disregarding the fact that the secular authorities might regard public displays of Christianity as inappropriate in our multi-cultural society. For breakfast, I had an egg, not fruit, with white toast, not wholemeal, and butter rather than margarine. In my tea, I had whole milk, not skimmed, and sugar, not artificial sweetener. I took no supplements or pills. I then ran the huge risk of sitting in the sun for a further hour to read the morning paper. And so to the perilous business of cutting the hedge. A high vis jacket wouldn't save me, however. The risk comes from the council. On the one hand, they send letters threatening to prosecute me if I allow my trees to overhang and obstruct the footpath. On the other hand, they put a tree preservation order on my garden, threatening to prosecute me if I cut back my trees! Having cut the hedge, I considered going into town on my bike, but, as I would never wear a cycle helmet, I thought it really would be too much to risk in one day after the dangers I had already encountered before lunch. Roger.





### Max's Tail Piece

Two good walks to tell you about this month. 21<sup>st</sup> June was the annual walk for Christian Aid. First of all, we had to get to Meopham Green. We walked the footpaths as far as Warren House, but then we stuck to the roads. Master thought there might be a shorter and possibly more pleasant route through the woods and fields, but he wasn't sure and didn't want to risk getting lost or finding our way blocked by nettles or whatever. (Nettles matter more to men in shorts than they do to dogs with thick skin covered in fur.) It was, however, very nice walking the quiet lanes with all the wild flowers in the hedgerows. At Luddesdowne, a kind lady offered us a lift. Master was glad we had turned it down when he saw her taking the wrong route. Later it transpired that she knew where she was going and had decided to go a longer way round where the roads were wider. She might well have been right as our road was in fact blocked when several vehicles going in opposite directions were unable to pass. She would, however, have been all right if she had been on foot like us. We arrived late at Meopham Green. Master is getting too old to walk fast. Either that, or it is farther than he thought. We met the rest of the party there, including the nice lady with the car, who had been able to reassure the others that we were on our way. Unusually, I was the only dog on the walk this year.

And so to Trottiscliffe via Hodsoll Street. There were some steep hills, narrow lanes and cool footpaths. I was allowed plenty of time off my lead safely. We saw lots of horses. The countryside was beautiful. There was a whole lot of young people out doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme walk. We kept seeing them and some of them did not seem too sure where they were. The countryside very often doesn't look much like the map. There was also a mysterious pool of water at a high level. It seemed too high for a spring and too big for a dew pond. How did it get there? Prosaically someone suggested that an underground pipe had fractured. But it's been there a long time and hasn't been repaired. So presumably it is a natural phenomenon. There were lots of horses. Hodsoll Street had a very attractive looking public house, but we carried on to Trottiscliffe Country Park where the humans had a picnic. It was an extremely hot day and Master and I were both glad that he had brought half a gallon of water, an empty milk container being the only empty bottle he had been able to find that morning, having forgotten to save the squash bottles. We returned to Meopham via Happy Valley seeing all the shacks being converted into luxury homes and meeting the Duke of Edinburgh boys and girls again. I ran on ahead where I was allowed, but needed helping over the stiles. A sign of age? No, I've never seen the need to jump over a stile if I can get Master to lift me. From Meopham we accepted a lift from the kind lady back to Cuxton. Master is getting old.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> June we undertook the next phase of our North Downs Way walk with Master's friend, Mark – Charing to Wye. We took the train to Charing. We didn't see Mark on the train and Master wondered what we should do if we didn't find him. Happily, he was in another carriage. We walked through the village where we had had lunch last time and up on to the NDW. It was a very pleasant walk to Boughton Lees. It was interesting to see that the church there is dedicated to St Christopher, like Master's old church at Ramsgate – a fairly unusual dedication – and the vicar is Rev'd Ravi Holy, a good name for a vicar. The human beings were in need of a pub by this time. Despite their both being short-sighted, they managed to spot the *Flying Horse* across the village green. Whilst Master went in for drinks, I uncharacteristically barked outside. This proved to be a good move as the barmaid kindly sent out a bowl of water and some dog biscuits. We received directions back on to the NDW. We also heard a good story. The local bus is the 666. A driver with a sense of humour had added a demon to the destination board. People without a sense of humour had complained and it had been taken down.

And so to Wye. Only we finished up in Chilham. The NDW bifurcates just east of Boughton Lees. We took the correct fork, lost the path and found ourselves on the wrong one. The countryside doesn't always look like the map. I didn't care, however. A steep ascent through some woods, where apparently pilgrims used to be ambushed and robbed, brought us to the top of the downs. There were no liars in wait that day. It did unexpectedly come on to rain quite hard. We stopped for a while, sheltering under the trees, while Mark and Master had a theological discussion. Jesus said that it was a narrow way that leads to life and few find it. On the other hand, it is a broad way which leads to destruction and there are many who go that way. Master said that people only find the narrow way which leads to life by the grace of God, but how many receive that grace? On the one hand, God does not desire the death of a sinner. On the other hand there must be justice if life is to make sense at all. (When Jesus Himself was asked how many would be saved, He just told His disciples to get on with it!) The rain obviously wasn't going to stop and was dripping through the trees. So Mark put on his coat. Master never carries one on the assumption that if the weather is reasonably warm it is better to get wet than to be burdened with heavy garments. When Master complained that his boots leaked, Master was unkind enough to laugh, though his own feet looked like he had been in the bath when he finally took off his trainers when we got home. Chilham was just as good as Wye – maybe better. It had a pub which welcomed dogs (even wet ones) and served good food. Chilham also has a station with connections to Cuxton. Max.