

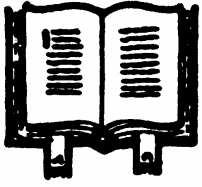
Services at St Michael and All Angels Cuxton		
Sunday 1 st October Trinity 16 Harvest & Dedication Festival	9.30 Holy Communion	Genesis 28 vv 10-19 p30 John 10 vv 22-29 p1077
	6.30 Evening Worship	Joel 2 vv 21-27 p913 Matthew 6 vv 25-34 p971
Sunday 8 th October Trinity 17	9.30 Holy Communion	Genesis 2 vv 18-24 p5 Hebrews 1 vv 1-4 p1201 Hebrews 2 vv 5-12 p1202 Mark 10 vv 1-16 p1014
Sunday 15 th October Trinity 18	9.30 Holy Communion	Amos 5 vv 6-15 p920 Hebrews 4 vv 12-16 p1203 Mark 10 vv 17-31 p1014
Sunday 22 nd October Trinity 19	9.30 Holy Communion	Isaiah 53 vv 1-12 p740 Hebrews 5 vv 1-10 p1204 Mark 10 vv 35-45 p1015
Sunday 29 th October Last After Trinity Bible Sunday	9.30 United Parish Eucharist & Blythswood Presentation	Colossians 3 vv 12-17 p1184 Luke 4 vv 14-30 p1031
Thursday 2 nd November All Souls	7.30 pm Holy Communion	1 Peter 1 vv 3-9 p1217 John 5 vv 19-25 p1069
Sunday 5 th November 4 th Before Advent	9.30 Holy Communion	Deuteronomy 6 vv 1-9 p185 Mark 12 vv 28-34 p1018
Sunday 12 th November 3 rd Before Advent Remembrance Sunday	10.50 Holy Communion Rev'd Stuart Aitken	Hebrews 9 vv 24-28 p1207 Mark 1 vv 14-20 p1002
Services at St John the Baptist Halling & the Jubilee Hall Upper Halling		
Sunday 1 st October Trinity 16 Harvest & Dedication Festival	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	James 5 vv 13-20 p1216 Mark 9 vv 38-50 p1014
	11.00 Holy Communion	Genesis 28 vv 10-19 p30 1 Peter 2 vv 1-10 p1218 John 10 vv 22-29 p1077
Sunday 8 th October Trinity 17	11.00 Holy Communion & Holy Baptism	Genesis 2 vv 18-24 p5 Hebrews 1 vv 1-4 p1201 Hebrews 2 vv 5-12 p1202 Mark 10 vv 1-16 p1014
	5.30 Evening Prayer Jubilee Hall	Joshua 3 vv 7-17 p218 Matthew 10 vv 1-22 p975
Sunday 15 th October Trinity 18	11.00 Stop! Look! Listen!	Amos 5 vv 6-15 p920 Hebrews 4 vv 12-16 p1203 Mark 10 vv 17-31 p1014
Sunday 22 nd October Trinity 19	11.00 Holy Communion	Isaiah 53 vv 1-12 p740 Hebrews 5 vv 1-10 p1204 Mark 10 vv 35-45 p1015
Thursday 2 nd November All Souls	9.30 Holy Communion	1 Peter 1 vv 3-9 p1217 John 5 vv 19-25 p1069
Sunday 5 th November All Saints Sunday	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall 4 th Before Advent	Hebrews 9 vv 11-14 p1207 Mark 12 vv 28-34 p1018
	11.00 Holy Communion	Isaiah 25 vv 6-9 p708 Revelation 21 vv 1-6 p1249 John 11 vv 32-44 p1078
Sunday 12 th November 3 rd Before Advent Remembrance Sunday	10.50 Holy Communion	Jonah 3 vv 1-10 p928 Hebrews 9 vv 24-28 p1207 Mark 1 vv 14-20 p1002

Copy Date November Magazine 13th October 8.30 am Rectory.

On Thursday afternoons we have a **Mother & Toddler** service at Halling at 2.00 and at Cuxton on the last Wednesday of the month at 10.45. **Sunday School** is at Cuxton Church Hall at 9.30 (not first Sundays). **After School Club**, Thursdays @ St John's from 27th April.

QUIZ: Church Hall 7.30 14th October. All welcome. Bookings 717134.

<http://hometown.aol.co.uk/rogerknight/myhomepage/newsletter.html> & <http://hometown.aol.co.uk/RogerKnight/index.htm>



Right and Wrong

I don't know about you, but I feel that we are living in a topsy turvy world in which ordinary people are more and more restricted in their

daily lives, more and more under surveillance and more and more likely to find themselves at odds with the Law, while "traditional" criminals – violent and dishonest people - are more and more likely to get away with it. There are plenty of reasons for this.

Back in the 1970s there were some spectacular examples of police corruption and miscarriages of justice. Society responded by improving dramatically the rights of suspects. This has probably saved some innocent people from being convicted, but it has also loaded the police down with paper work and made it harder to convict the guilty.

Moreover, the creation of a Welfare State, with its vision of cradle to the grave care, has put the state in the position of a parent or nanny to its citizens. The state sees itself as responsible for looking after us. So, like children, we have to be watched, admonished and, if necessary, punished – all for our own good.

I think the real problem, however, is our society's loss of confidence that there are moral absolutes – standards to which everybody ought to conform because their conscience tells them they must, standards which should be enforced by society simply because they are right – in the absolute sense of that word. It may seem hard to believe now, but, even 50 years ago, the basic idea underlying the British constitution was that the Queen reigned under God, assisted by ministers, parliament, the courts and all those other people *put in authority under her* - policemen, parents, teachers, the military etc. The underlying theory was that all these people were responsible to God for the well-being of the people under them and to ensure that God's Law (broadly as revealed in the Bible) was adhered to. It would be in the best interest of the individual and of the nation if we all behaved in accordance with the Bible.

Church and family were the cement and the building blocks of such a society and the community was the family writ large. Children could roam the streets, their parents secure in the knowledge that other adults were looking out for them and would admonish or protect them as required. In such a society it was accepted that it was your right to defend yourself and your property, and, perhaps, your duty to defend other people. Vandalism, theft, threatening behaviour were morally wrong and the whole community had a role in stamping them out.

This is still the theory – our written constitution insofar as we have one. In practice, however, we are an increasingly secular state. The Government claims an overall moral neutrality at the core and promotes multiculturalism at the periphery.

There have always been difficulties about the concept of the state as one family with an agreed set of values. How do we decide what is right in an absolute sense? How do we deal with people who dissent? Those who are overconfident that their blueprint for society has the seal of divine approval are only too likely to treat anyone who disagrees as an enemy of God and therefore as undeserving of mercy.

As long ago as the eighteenth century, some people in Britain were losing confidence that our laws could be simply derived from the Bible. The English Civil War was in many ways a religious war and people recoiled from the barbarities practised in the Name of God by people who were sure that only their interpretation of the Bible was correct. Philosophers attempted to devise ethical systems which could command universal assent without any commitment to religious belief. They failed in that no ethical system has yet achieved universal agreement.

The arrival of large numbers of immigrants with unfamiliar cultures and faiths also undermined the idea that we could get a consensus – that all rational people of good will could agree to a particular version of morality.

People came to believe that there are no moral absolutes. There are no universally valid values. There is no such thing as justice in the abstract. Cynics would go so far as to say that values, morals and laws are framed by those with power and money in order to maintain the *status quo* and to keep the poor in their place.

In a recent letter to the *Times*, one correspondent illustrated the situation perfectly. He had been working in a children's home and was trying to persuade one of the inmates that it was wrong to steal bicycles. The managers told him that he could not tell the boy that it was wrong to steal. "We must not try to impose our middle class standards on these children". He could, however, warn the boy that he would get into trouble if he was caught stealing.

This, to me, is extremely sinister. Our society will not give an individual the sort of reason that would impress upon his conscience how he ought to live. Instead it can only threaten dire consequences for the individual who displeases those in power. No such thing as right, only might. This is not only tyranny, but ineffective tyranny at that. If your conscience does not tell you that stealing is wrong, why not steal if you think you will not be caught or punished?

My inspiration for this article was a paper produced by Government suggesting that schools should no longer teach children right from wrong, but only that they should feel secure in their own beliefs – scary when some young people are secure in the belief that the West is evil and ought to be destroyed by suicide bombers.

It is this kind of moral insecurity which holds back the authorities from taking action against female circumcision, forced marriage and some kinds of child abuse. *It is their culture. Who are we white middleclass westerners to say they are wrong?*

Conversely, of course, the very same social workers will threaten to remove a child from a caring, middle class home if the discipline practised is a little more robust than is now considered "appropriate."

Parking wardens and other council officials fiddle the rules to their own benefit and the benefit of the Council. Conscience does not trouble them and the courts are an expensive and feeble recourse for those who feel they have been wronged in this way.

Human rights legislation seems sometimes to defy common sense. A male employee can demand to wear a ponytail at work if the female staff are allowed to do so yet the Government is continually finding new ways to keep tabs on us and even to imprison us and take away basic rights to privacy, freedom of expression and freedom to associate with others, without the need to bring evidence of wrong-doing on our part before a court.

From about 1960 onwards we went through 40 years of dismantling the old moral certainties. Having created an anarchic society, Government is now rushing around finding new ways to control us. Fixed penalty notices enable bureaucrats to fine us for trivial offences (of which we may or may not be guilty) without the trouble of taking us before a court. Having lost the ability to deal effectively with genuine wrong-doing, our Government now tries to tie up every citizen in red tape so that we have no freedom of action at all.

I feel most sorry for today's young people. ASBOs allow various officers and officials to control the behaviour of people who may not have been convicted of any crime. In some parts of the country, teenagers standing about in groups can be ordered to disperse. Under 16s can also be sent home if out on the street after 9.00. They do not have to be doing anything wrong. It only takes the opinion of a police officer or council warden that they might be going to do something. If they refuse to go home, they are arrested and their DNA is filed on the police computer. Technically they do not have a criminal record but they are now *known to the police* and may find themselves questioned if there are any acts of criminality in the area.

What has brought about this shocking state of affairs is that;

1. We no longer teach children right from wrong.
2. Adults are vulnerable to assault charges if they interfere with jobs causing mayhem on the streets.
3. The police are very slow to deal with the kind of crime too many young people commit quite openly.

The result is that we are now afraid of young people and all teenagers – the decent majority as well as the jobs – are treated as suspect. We do not deal with the minority who are real villains. So, instead, we have the Government’s so-called Respect Agenda, which effectively treats all young people as potential troublemakers – to be continually overseen by the authorities and moved on at the barest hint of high spirited behaviour. Respect, however, is not the same thing as fear and Government will not create a society at ease with itself by alienating whole groups of people.

Respect begins with self-respect. Young people (and older people) cannot be bullied

into conformity. They need to be taught their own worth as people, to recognise that other people have worth too and that therefore there is such a thing as right and such a thing as wrong. It is a matter of self respect to do what is right, to respect the rights of others. If we respect ourselves, we feel ashamed when we know we have done wrong. A person with a sense of self respect does not need to be under surveillance. He can wear his hoodie with pride! Punishment ought not to be something which is hanging over everyone because any one of us might at any time step out of line. Punishment should be a last resort when education has failed.

What we need is to recover a sense of moral values and to impart that to the coming generations. There is no other way to a society at ease with itself.

And I do not believe that this can be done independently of religion.

Roger.

Author Unknown

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, “Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.”

Very quietly, the doctor said, “I don’t know.”

”You don’t know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?”

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side of which came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, “Did you notice my dog? He’s never been in this room before. He didn’t know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing ... I know my Master is there, and that is enough.”

Thanks

We wish to thank everyone who sent us good wishes by phone, with beautiful flowers and cards to celebrate our Ruby Wedding on August 13th when we renewed our Marriage Vows in church. We had a very enjoyable day.

David and Elizabeth Summers

Joyce and Ken Law would like to thank Roger, the Choir, Bellringers, Organist and Peter for the Reaffirmation of Vows Service on their Golden Wedding – a very special start to a lovely day.

In Memoriam

Readers will be sorry to learn of the death of Rita Harold (née Obee) formerly of Halling. Mrs Harold died on the 27th of August. May she rest in peace.

From The Registers

Baptisms:

13 th August	Anya Mary-ann Hughes	Rochester Road, Halling
27 th August	Harry Benjamin Warnes	Erith
27 th August	Jake William Warnes	Erith
27 th August	Declan Myles Glyn Crook Snodland	
3 rd September	Aidan Joe Saltmarsh	High Street

Weddings

19 th August	David Abbott & Jane Dean	Halling
19 th August	Martyn Court & Rachel McCarthy	Cuxton
2 nd September	Anthony Marrs & Joanne Ingram	Cuxton
3 rd September	Steven Mitchell & Katherine Ryan	Cuxton

Funerals:

29 th August	Hazel Donald	Wood Street
30 th August	Myrtle Elsie (Mick) Smith (84)	Vicarage Close
5 th September	Maureen Lavinia Claxton (66)	Hollycroft
6 th September	Lila Ada (Pat) Murray (88)	Lordswood

Halling Ringers

David Irwin is the new captain of Halling ringers since July 16th. I have retired after 39 years on and off due to old age and ill health. Poor old soul! Good luck for the future, Dave. Peter Silver.

St John's Church Draw: £25 each to Mrs Fuller (78) & Miss L Thorne (24), £10 to Mrs Burr (10) – drawn by Mrs Ballard.

Looking To The Future

Quiz For Parish Funds: 14th October, 7.30 Church Hall. Enquiries etc to Rector.

Christmas Coffee Morning: December 10th Church Hall.

Soirée: December 10th Church Hall.

Harvest Festival

Harvest Holy Communion services will be on 1st October at 9.30 at Cuxton and 11.00 at Halling. Harvest Praise is at 6.30 at Cuxton followed by the Harvest Supper in the Church Hall. Please bring non-perishable gifts for Harvest – tins, jars etc – as these are much more useful in helping those in need. We shall have envelopes for Poverty and Hope throughout October. These are our opportunity to support people (mainly overseas) who really are in great need. The origin of Poverty and Hope was the appeal for the wealthy to give 1% of their income to the poor.

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

Phil Shorthouse will be speaking to us at the United Parish Eucharist at 9.30 at St Michael's on 29th October. Shoeboxes need to be ready the 10th November. Please pick up a leaflet from church to see what the contents should be.

Church Diaries: Every year we obtain a supply of diaries. In addition to the obvious, they contain information about our church etc. They are paid for by local businesses advertising in them. We thank our advertisers. The pound you pay is profit for the church and you gain a handy diary or a suitable present for a friend.



Halling WI

August has been a very busy month for Halling W.I, our monthly meeting, ploughman's lunch and hosting the District Public Affairs and International evening.

Our monthly meeting was well attended and after Jerusalem Mary Fennemore presented SIX birthday girls with their roses, (made up for July when we didn't have any birthdays) Minutes were read and signed. The correspondence included a couple of petitions for us to sign, one to keep rural Post Offices open (It is felt that so many people still rely on the Post Office for so many things), two, Government help for dairy farmers (They get a raw deal with regards milk prices). Our speaker for the evening was Toni Mount who enlightened us on the struggle the Victorian Women Doctors had to follow their vocation. Elizabeth Garret Anderson, being the most well known English lady who with great determination, against all odds got there in the end. Well she was a great friend of Florence Nightingale. Toni judged our competitions. Flower of the Month was won by Evelyn Low with a very big Fuchsia, and the competition G for Goat (we didn't have any Goats) was won by me with over twenty pairs of knitted Gloves of all sizes that I have knitted for the Blythwood Christmas boxes. They will keep a lot of Serbian hands warm this winter. Yes it is Box time again. Make someone happy; fill a box for Blythwood, They must be collected by Nov 10th this year.

Our Ploughman's lunch which is held in Mrs Vi Head's garden (Thank you Vi) is always much enjoyed and once again the weather was fine for us. Thanks must go to Betty Head for organizing the meal ably assisted by Evelyn, Eileen Buss and Sylvia. The Bring and Buy is always welcome as Evelyn brings along such an array of produce from her garden and kitchen, which the ladies love to purchase. Two members from our link institute Bleangate

Churchyards: We are keeping up with the maintenance this year, despite Halling Parish Council's withdrawal from maintaining the Burial Ground. Thanks to all those who have given money towards the cutting of Cuxton churchyard and Halling Burial Ground. Please do not put borders or chippings round graves or burials of ashes. It is against the rules and, if everyone did it, detrimental to the appearance of the churchyard.

were able to join us for the lunch. Mary thanked everyone who helped to make it such an enjoyable occasion.

Our last event was our District P.A. and I meeting held on the 29th August at the Jubilee Hall. Seventy members from six institutes in the District attended. They were asked to bring a candle for Blythwood. They bought boxes of candles. I ended up with five carrier bags full, Thank you girls; you are so generous. Our first speaker was Mr Ian Young, an estate agent and auctioneer, he talked about the lighter side of auctioneering, and if time had permitted would have had a lot more questions. After our light supper (thank you to Betty, Eileen and Evelyn for getting it ready) we had our second speaker, Mrs Phil Young, who talked about and showed us her slides of Jordan, a place she is passionate about, especially the rose red city of Petra. It is hard to believe that most of these ancient huge buildings were carved out of the rock face, and was only discovered a few years ago. Phil had made a couple of Jordanian "lamps" to burn while she did her talk, brown paper bags half filled with sand with a nightlight inside, and she didn't burn the Jubilee Hall down. The evening was different as neither of the speakers is a "professional". It was a very sociable evening and Phil was warmly thanked by Sheila Miles our District Secretary. Thanks must also go to Iris Relf from Larkfield W.I. for organizing the raffle.

September, O dear it will soon be Christmas. Our speaker will be Mr Peter Sherman, his subject "All for your delight", the mind boggles as to what he will talk about. The competition letter is H for House, Honey, Horses, or Hay and there are a lot more. Put your thinking caps on. You ladies out there are all invited to come and spend the evening with us, third Tuesday in the month at the Jubilee Hall, Upper Halling 7.30pm.

Phyllis C.

Nature Notes August 2006

On the first day of the month, north west winds blew quite strongly driving billowing white and grey clouds across the sky. While at Addington, I noticed that some leaves on a horse chestnut tree had turned yellow. On the 3rd chilly winds continued to blow, making it feel like autumn. We went to Trosley Country Park where I found enchanter's nightshade flowers. It was warmer the following day with some sunshine. In the morning, I walked through Six acre Wood where I saw red berries on arum lily plants and a clump of herb robert flowers. I skirted the field, which had been prepared for new crops then continued up into Mays Wood and down to Church Fields. Mallow, field bellflower and red deadnettle bloomed and leaves on hawthorns and elders were becoming autumnal. Elderberries were ripening. The sun shone warmly in the afternoon when we went to Camer Park where I noticed orange rowanberries. The next day, I watched a holly blue butterfly hovering over our back doorstep. It was such a beautiful shade of blue. In the afternoon I discovered a wood pigeon caught in the netting over the pond. It had become so entangled that I had to cut it free. It was badly damaged so I contacted the R.S.P.C.A and it was collected during the evening.

The 8th was warm and sunny with clear blue skies in the early morning. Later in the afternoon, I walked along Bush Road then along the alley where blackberries were ripening. Along Purty's Shaw, rosebay willow herb had faded but ragwort still bloomed among the straw coloured grasses. St John's wort bloomed in Six-acre Field that I climbed to the wood where I saw large fungi.

By the 12th, there was a complete change in the weather for the day was very autumnal with blustery north winds and prolonged heavy showers. At one point, while at Addington, we had to shelter from a very heavy shower, which drove across the paddock. Heavy rain fell on the morning of the 13th bringing much needed moisture for the parched ground. Winds blew leaves and twigs across the grass of the cricket pitch at Addington. The 15th was beautiful with warm sunshine and gentle breezes. I walked with a friend through the churchyard then through Six acre Wood and eventually to Mays Wood. We looked across Dean Valley and drank in the silence and the beauty around us. A canopy of trees across the path made the area quite dark. We returned across the fields

where mallow bloomed and haws were turning red. Several days of sunshine and showers followed.

On the 21st, which was warm, sunny and showery, we took Murphy to the Brookland lakes at Snodland, where the water reflected the colours of grey clouds and blue skies and where coots and a brown-feathered cygnet glided. The banks were filled with straw-coloured grasses and fading great willow herb and hemp agrimony, while along the way, common fleabane and bristly ox tongue bloomed. I found hedge cranesbill, yarrow, ragwort and bright red bittersweet berries. Blackberries were ripening and privet berries were green. Thistles bloomed and burdock leaves were yellow. Bright red hips and haws hung on their twigs and elder berries had ripened. As we walked, we experienced a heavy shower. Old man's beard straddled hedges and green acorns hung from oak stems. Thistles bloomed and brown teasels' heads stood like sentinels. I found agrimony, pink clover and a clump of yellow tansy flowers as we returned to the car. The following day I watched an emperor dragonfly hovering over the pond.

While at West Malling Country Park on the 23rd, I watched swallows skimming across the grass. Murphy was very interested in them. Light northwesterly winds blew on the 27th. At Addington, while David was watching cricket, I walked along a path leading to heath land where I found a few pink campion flowers, yarrow, ragwort and evening primrose flowers. Dragonflies hovered over ripe blackberries, hips and haws. I took the woodland path where, in the spring, I'd beheld beautiful bluebells. Hips and haws were ripening, bunches of ash seeds hung from slender stems and green acorns were to be seen on the oak trees. Fungi grew along the grassy paths and more dragonflies hovered over ripe hips. A fox disappeared into the undergrowth. On my return across the heath, I found tiny scarlet pimpernel flowers. On the 29th, which was sunny and warm, I walked with a friend across the fields, through Mays Wood, down into Dean Valley and up into North Wood where tree felling was taking place. Autumn tints were to be seen among the trees. I found a variety of flowers including vervain, toadflax, poppies, cut leaved cranesbill and wild clematis. We experienced two heavy showers when we needed to take shelter for a while. The month ended on a pleasantly warm note.

Elizabeth

Summers

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX OPENING: We will not be holding a coffee morning this year but there are plenty of boxes out there to be opened so I would be grateful if box holders could bring them up to church or drop them in to me (at 204, Bush Road) before Monday 16th October. The money will then be counted during that week. If anyone would like me to collect their box from their home instead, please give me a ring on 727424. Julia Wells.

Bible Lands Society



As readers will know from last month's magazine, we are now sponsoring the education of five year old Deema Ismaeel in Jerusalem. Deema is a Moslem girl from a poor Palestinian family and, of course, education is a key element in enabling her to make a good life for herself and her future family when she grows up. We hope soon to send Deema a letter and photographs of our Teddy Bear's Picnic and other activities at Thursday's Children and our After School Club.

Deema's sponsorship is organised by the Bible Lands Society who do many other good things in the Middle East. If you would like to hear more about their work, a speaker, Robert Jones, will be speaking to the Mothers' Union in the Church Hall at 10.45 on Wednesday 15th November. Non-members will be very welcome if they wish to hear what Robert has to say.

[Some people have asked me why we are sponsoring a Moslem child, especially in the light of the threat of Islamic Terrorism. I would make three points in answer:

- The majority of Moslems are not terrorists and it is absolutely wrong to treat the innocent the same way as the guilty.
- Pragmatically, the only long term victory over terrorism will not be by force of arms but by befriending people of all races and religions and learning to live together under the banners of justice and mercy.
- We are Christians! Jesus Christ said, *Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.* (Matthew 5 v44). We are children of God Who gives the blessings of rain and sun to good and bad alike.

The Power of Prayer

Many years ago a sea captain trawled from one of Britain's north-western ports. He was an extremely skilled fisherman from a long line of men in the same trade. There were, however, problems. He had had to take out a large loan to purchase his vessel. He had a house to pay for and a family to support. The fishing industry was going through one of its periods of decline. Each catch seemed poorer than the last. Outgoing money was not recouped by profits. It came to the point where unless his next voyage was profitable, he would go under.

The captain had never been a religious man, but now he prayed for a catch sufficiently large to pay his bills and save his home and family. He set out into the North of Atlantic in the face of forecasts of dangerous storms. About an hour after his prayer, he began to hear an insistent voice inside himself dictating a particular bearing and course. Looking at his charts, he saw that this course would lead to an area of sea where few fish had ever been caught. He tried to ignore the voice, but it would not go away. Remembering his prayer, he directed his sceptical crew to follow that bearing. The sea was getting rougher, but they cast the nets into the sea. Again and again they cast the nets, each time finding them full of fish. They filled the holds to the point where any more might have sunk them. It was the biggest catch ever recorded for that kind of trawler and other boats later attempting to fish that same area caught little or nothing.

A Message From Max The Rectory Spaniel: It's been a busy Summer! I've hardly had time to set paw to word processor – and anyway Master has been hogging the magazine. There is so much he wants to share about the Christian faith! We've had a lot of christenings and weddings this year. And Master wants to encourage this trend. It is right that at the most significant times of our lives we ask God's blessing, just as we ask for His help when things are desperate. Master wants me to add, however, that it would be good to see you all every Sunday. You would be better for worshipping regularly and the Church would be better for your presence!