

Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxton		
7 th October Trinity 18 Harvest Festival & Dedication Festival	9.30 Family Communion	Genesis 2 ¹⁸⁻²⁴ p5 Hebrews 1 ¹⁻⁴ p1201 Hebrews 2 ⁵⁻¹² p1202 Mark 10 ²⁻¹⁶ p1014
	6.30 Harvest Praise	Joel 2 ²¹⁻²⁷ p913 I Timothy 6 ⁶⁻¹⁰ p1194 Matthew 6 ²⁵⁻³³ p971
14 th October Trinity 19	9.30 Holy Communion & Holy Baptism	Amos 5 vv 6-15 p920 Hebrews 4 vv 12-16 p1203 Mark 10 vv 17-31 p1014
21 st October Trinity 20	8.00 Holy Communion	Epistle & Gospel BCP Trinity 20
	9.30 Holy Communion	Isaiah 53 vv 4-12 p740 Hebrew 5 vv 1-10 p1204 Mark 10 vv 35-45 p1015
28 th October S Simon & S Jude Bible Sunday	9.30 Holy Communion	Isaiah 28 vv 14-16 p711 Ephesians 2 vv 19—22 p1174 John 15 vv 17-27 p1083
4 th November 4 th Before Advent Shoebboxes for Blythwood Care	9.30 Family Communion	Deuteronomy 6 vv 1-9 p185 Hebrews 9 vv 11-14 p1207 Mark 12 vv 28-34 p1018
11 th November 3 rd Before Advent Remembrance Sunday	9.30 Holy Communion & Parade	Jonah 3 vv 1-10 p928 Mark 1 vv 14-20 p1002
Services at St John the Baptist Halling and the Jubilee Hall Upper Halling		
7 th October Trinity 18 Harvest Festival & Dedication Festival	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	Joshua 3 ⁷⁻¹⁷ p218 Matthew 10 ¹⁻²² p975
	11.00 Holy Communion	Genesis 2 ¹⁸⁻²⁴ p5 Hebrews 1 ¹⁻⁴ p1201 Hebrews 2 ⁵⁻¹² p1202 Mark 10 ²⁻¹⁶ p1014
14 th October Trinity 19	11.00 Holy Communion	Amos 5 vv 6-15 p920 Hebrews 4 vv 12-16 p1203 Mark 10 vv 17-31 p1014
	5.30 Evening Prayer Jubilee Hall	Joshua 5 v13 – 6 v20 p219 Matthew 11 vv 20-30 p976
21 st October Trinity 20	11.00 Stop! Look Listen & Holy Communion	Isaiah 53 vv 4-12 p740 Hebrew 5 vv 1-10 p1204 Mark 10 vv 35-45 p1015
28 th October S Simon & S Jude Bible Sunday	11.00 Holy Communion	Isaiah 28 vv 14-16 p711 Ephesians 2 vv 19—22 p1174 John 15 vv 17-27 p1083
4 th November 4 th Before Advent Shoebboxes for Blythwood Care	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	Revelation 7 vv 9-17 p1238 Matthew 5 vv 1-12 p968
	11.00 Holy Communion	Deuteronomy 6 vv 1-9 p185 Hebrews 9 vv 11-14 p1207 Mark 12 vv 28-34 p1018
11 th November 3 rd Before Advent Remembrance Sunday	10.50 Holy Communion & Parade	Jonah 3 vv 1-10 p928 Hebrews 9 vv 24-28 Mark 1 vv 14-20 p1002
	5.30 Evening Prayer Jubilee Hall	Isaiah 10 v33 – 11 v9 p696 John 14 vv 1-29 p1082

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

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 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays of the month in term time.

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. Contact Jack Payne to *gift aid* all your donations.

Copy Date November Magazine: 12th October 8.30 am Rectory.

9.30 Holy Communion at St Michael's on Wednesdays		9.30 Holy Communion at St John's on Thursdays	
3 rd October	Job 9 vv 1-16 Luke 9 vv 57-end	4 th October	Job 19 vv 21-27 Luke 10 vv 1-12
10 th October S Paulinus	Galatians 2 vv 1-14 Luke 11 vv 1-4	11 th October	Galatians 3 vv 1-5 Luke 11 vv 5-13
17 th October	Galatians 5 vv 18-end Luke 11 vv 42-46	18 th October	II Timothy 4 vv 5-17 Luke 10 vv 1-9
24 th October	Ephesians 3 vv 2-12 Luke 12 vv 49-53	25 th October	Ephesians 3 vv 14-end Luke 12 vv 49-53
31 st October	Ephesians 6 vv 1-9 Luke 13 vv 22-30	1 st November	Revelation 21 vv 1-6 John 11 vv 32-44

All Souls Services when we remember the faithful departed will be held on Friday 2nd November at 9.30 am at Halling and at 7.30 pm at Cuxton.



Why I'm an Anglican

In this year when we celebrate the 350th anniversary of the BCP, it might be worth thinking about what is special about the Church of England. The fact that we don't often do so is one of the things we have to celebrate. The Church of England is a relatively modest Church. We have never claimed to be the one true Church, only a part of it. We've never thought that members of other Christian churches were damned.

I sometimes surprise myself when I realise how evangelical I really am. When I really come to think about any issue that matters I rediscover time and time again that I am a Bible-believing Christian. I'm sorry, but that's what I am and, to be honest, I can't really see how it is possible for people to claim to be Christians and yet not to accept the authority of the Bible or to respect the teaching of the Church. If we don't accept that God reveals Himself objectively and outside our own heads, we are in danger either of making up our own religion or of implicitly claiming that God makes Himself known to us personally and to the people who share our ideas in a way that He does not make Himself known to other cultures and other ages.

And the Church of England scores really highly on the Bible. The 1662 Prayer Book and Common Worship are highly biblical documents. By and large in the Church of England we don't have written tests of faith. The words of our prayers are what we believe and that is why it is

so important than in our public worship we use those forms of words which are authorised or permitted for use in the Church of England. Of the two books, I love the language of the BCP. It is one of the classics of English literature and there is a very good case to be made for worshipping in language which is as worthy as possible of the One Whom we are worshipping. On the other hand, Common Worship has a flexibility which very often makes it more appropriate as an expression of authentic worship for a modern congregation. I personally am open to the merits of both.

As good Protestants, we Anglicans do not require anyone to believe anything which cannot be proved from Scripture. This is where we differ from the Roman Catholics who believe that sometimes God does lead His Church to define things that were not defined when the final *Amen* was written to the New Testament. Councils of the Church, Synods, etc., we believe, cannot define doctrine or compel conscience. Thus one of our weaknesses is actually our great strength. It looks bad that we can't come to an agreement on issues like women bishops or homosexuality but the reason we can't is that we respect the consciences of those who can't agree. We don't want to excommunicate anyone and we respect the right of all our members to say, *On my prayerful reading of Scripture I am sorry but I cannot accept what the majority has decided.*

I am sorry to say that the Church of England's hands have not always been clean in the matter of

persecuting other Christians, but persecutions in England have usually been tied up with politics. The Church of England (though not of course the Anglican Church in other countries) has always been closely connected with the English Crown, with government and parliament. In the time of Queen Elizabeth I Roman Catholics were believed to be supporting the claims of King Philip of Spain to the English throne. In the time of the Stuart Kings, non-conformist Protestants were connected with movements which wished to overthrow the established order.

Church of England missionaries and chaplains to ex-patriot communities founded Churches like ours, Anglican Churches, throughout the world and these have not become established Churches like the Church of England. They thrive in countries where the government is secular like the United States or the culture is predominantly Roman Catholic such as much of South America and Europe or Hindu, Moslem or Buddhist as in much of Asia.

Whatever the formal relationship between Church and state, however, it makes no sense at all to me to think that the state can be neutral in terms of religion or moral philosophy. There is no such thing as neutrality – only truth or falsehood. Our values have to come from somewhere (unless we just make them up). As a Christian, I believe that all our values come from God. The moral law is God's Law. Individuals would be happier if they lived by the Ten Commandments. The country would be better governed if it were governed on Christian principles. That is what I unashamedly preach. It is how I unashamedly vote. I am perfectly happy to pray that all those in authority in this land under our Queen *may truly and indifferently minister justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue.* This does not, however, mean that I would countenance the persecution of people who hold a different view or that I would exclude them from our decision-making bodies including parliament. To do so would, in my opinion, be contrary to God's perfect Law of Love. We can all learn from one another and I am liberal enough to believe that the

Truth will ultimately prevail through honest dialogue.

I acknowledge that one very strong reason for my being an Anglican is that I was brought up in the Church of England and loyalty is important. I have, however, shared fellowship with Roman Catholics and with Baptists, Congregationalists (as they were then), Pentecostals and Free Evangelicals. I've told you why I am not a Roman Catholic. I wouldn't want to belong to a Church which requires its members to believe anything that cannot be proved from Scripture. But why Church of England rather than one of these other Protestant Churches? I must admit it's partly a question of taste. I'm more comfortable when things are done *decently and in order*, rather than more informally in a *charismatic or happy clappy* framework. Much more importantly, I am concerned that these non-conformist churches undervalue the Church as a spiritual entity. I do believe in *one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church* and I do so because I believe it is what the Bible teaches. I feel that non-conformist Protestants overemphasise the individual and the local congregation at the expense of a sense of mutual belonging to *the whole state of Christ's Church militant here in earth.* Our belonging to the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church is, I feel, bound up with our having the three-fold ministry of bishops, priests and deacons in common with most other Christians throughout the world. I also believe very strongly that as Holy Communion is the service Jesus gave His Church, it should normally be what we do when we come together for worship every Lord's Day. Since Baptism is the Christian initiation rite, the Sacrament in which we become members of God's Church, I also believe that Christian families ought to have their babies baptised as soon as possible.

So, in conclusion, what I believe that the Church of England and worldwide Anglicanism have going for them is that we include the insights of both Catholicism and Protestantism within a framework of rationality and tolerance. Let me apologise for any unAnglican immodesty. Roger.

Joke

Concerned to find his young bride in tears, Horace asked her what was the matter? "I'm homesick," she replied. "But this is your home, now dearest Cynthia," he tried to reassure her. "I know, Horace," she said, "and I'm already sick of it!"

Two Sides of One Coin – Worship & Mission

James Torrance: “Worship is the gift of participating through the Spirit in the incarnate Son’s communion with the Father.

The mission of the Church is the gift of participating through the Holy Spirit in the Son’s mission from the Father to the world.”

1893 And All That

I’ve been given some bound copies of the Halling Parish Magazines for 1893. The vicar was the Reverend George Plumptre Howes who is commemorated by the stained glass window behind the font. It is very interesting to see what has changed since those days and what remains the same.

One remarkable fact is that the magazine in 1893 was the same price as a pint of beer 3 ½ d. The vicar says the magazine was much better value. Our magazine is 1/10th the price of a pint and it’s still better value. It’s a different kind of magazine, however. Whereas our magazine is mostly local news and comment, there was only a little local material in the 1893 magazines and the rest consisted of a nationally produced Christian magazine called *Home Words*. This included serials, poetry, scientific information, medical and household hints, religious education, comments on issues such as temperance and notes for would be faithful members of the Church. Apparently you should always wash all over every day and sleep with your windows open. A rather tongue in cheek column on *how not to help the vicar* suggests making yourself disagreeable to newcomers to the church and not telling him you are ill until you are better and then complaining that he didn’t visit you. There is a children’s bible quiz and the offer of prizes to anyone who can answer all the questions. Unless children in those days were very well informed, I suspect the prize money was safe. I can’t answer most of the questions. Here’s a sample. How would you get on?

1) In which four epistles of St Paul are there no quotations?

2) For which Church only of those he wrote to does he not give thanks? (I know this one!)

5) Show by examples that God counts a sin ours which we do by other hands.

£500 was available nationally for the prizes and the local vicar was supposed to mark the papers. I shouldn’t be surprised if the prize money were still unclaimed.

One nice story was about how girls from the Girls Friendly Society in the country had made items for a sale of work to pay for girls working in factories in industrial towns to have a country holiday.

Some of the local news was familiar. There had been vandalism in the cemetery and there was not enough money to pay for certain necessary equipment – including ropes to lower coffins into graves. The cemetery was to be locked and would be visitors had to obtain the key from a particular address. Money was needed for a new organ. The vicar was a bit miffed that he wasn’t elected chairman of the board of guardians. He thought he suffered from anti-clergy prejudice, which was unfair because he’d worked hard to help the poor of Halling. (Maybe the ratepayers didn’t want a chairman who was too generous to the poor with the parish’s money!) It was very sad to see one month that half of those buried were under one year old and only one person had lived to be over 90. There was evidently a lively social life in the village, however. There were active sports team and there is an account of a football match in Halling being played for the first time under artificial lights, which must have been pretty unusual in 1893. The cement company donated a tank for use as a swimming pool (which continued until well into living memory) apparently following the tragic death of a young man swimming where it wasn’t safe to swim.

It is always interesting to see how differently people used to live in the past and how differently they live in other parts of the world today. Some things look better. Some things were obviously much worse. People at other times and in other cultures have different opportunities and face different challenges, but essentially our human needs don’t change and, whatever the circumstances of our lives, they can only be met in Christ. Roger.

St Michael’s Draw: £20.00 John Bogg, £10.00 Neil Jones, £5.00 Shirley Houlan.

St John’s Draw: £25 to Mr Hills (104), £10 each to Mrs Swatton (6) & Mrs Crow (29) – drawn by Mrs Hesketh.

If you would like to join one of these draws, please contact Jeanne Harris or Betty Head.

Autumn Craft Sale
St John's Church Saturday 27th October 2.00 onwards.

Knitted goods including children's jumpers, cardigans, socks, etc. and, much else to please you. Also refreshments. Come and see what we've made and maybe make some early Christmas purchases.

2012 Parish Quiz

On 13th October, we are holding a quiz night for church funds in Cuxton Church Hall at 7.30. In this eventful year, all the rounds have a 2012 theme. Individuals and teams of 6-8 are welcome. £6.00 includes ploughman's. Please bring your own drink. Please inform rector if you are intending to come (01634 717134, roger@cuxtonandhalling.org.uk).

Forthcoming Attractions 2012

September 29th(Michaelmas): 11.00 am HC at St Michael's preacher Canon Alan Vousden - followed by lunch in church hall, church tour @ 3.00
30th September Back to Church Sunday 9.30 & 11.00
October 7th Harvest Festival: 6.30 St Michael's Evening Service and Harvest Supper.
October 13th: 7.30 Quiz in Church Hall.
October 27th: 2.00 Sale of Work Halling Church.
December 7th: WI District Carol Service at St Michael's.
December 8th: Christmas Minimarket Church Hall 10.00.

Halling Historical Society

The next meeting will be held at the Jubilee Hall Upper Halling on Thursday 18th October at 7.30 pm. Visitors are welcome.

The speaker will be Imogen Corrigan and the subject "The Signs of the Times – Sins and Symbols in Mediaeval Art and Buildings."



Something to Look Forward To

We welcome the new Dean of Rochester – the Very Reverend Mark Beach – to preach at our 9.30 and 11.00 services on 25th November – the Feast of Christ the King.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX OPENING

Astonishingly, it is already time for us to open our Children's Society boxes and count up the amount that has been saved up over the past year. The date this year is Tuesday 9th October, starting at 9.30 am. Please bring your boxes to church on a Sunday morning or drop them in at 204, Bush Road. Alternatively, I am quite happy to collect your box from you at home as they do tend to get quite heavy. If you could give me a call on 727424 I can arrange this. Thank you. Julia Wells.

Thanks

Halling Brownies and Guides would like to thank St John the Baptist church for allowing us to use the church when our normal meeting place was out of action. Thank you so much from Sarah (Brown Owl), Haylea (Tawny Owl), Maggie (Snowy Owl), Trudy (Barn Owl) and all the girls.



CUXTON WI

This month it was our Produce Show and the hall looked very attractive with all the goods on display. But before that we had not only birthdays but three Golden Wedding anniversaries to celebrate - Marian and Eric, Joyce and Peter and Maureen

and Des. Congratulations to them all. While Phyllis got on with the judging of the entries in the show we settled down to business. How dreary it was! We had received a huge pack of information from headquarters concerning really quite minor changes to the WI but wrapped up in

pages and pages of waffle. Luckily Pat and Dorothy are going to a clarification meeting in Oct, so we might understand it all in the end! We then moved on to more interesting things like our Christmas Party arrangements and the WI Carol service which is to be held in Cuxton Church this year. Everything next year will concern 95 as it is the 95th Anniversary of the WI in West Kent and there will be huge celebrations at the Aylesford Priory. They are looking for inspiring women and I would think that after these wonderful Olympics both able and Para that we should have no difficulty in that area. The various reps then gave their reports on their clubs activities - quite a lot of which seem to involve eating activities as well.

After tea it was time for Phyllis to give her verdict on our produce efforts, As usual she was kind, caustic and funny. It is always a joy to have her along to a meeting. Pam won the trophy for the best bloom in show with a beautiful deep red rose. Joan and Maureen shared the overall winners trophy and will each keep it for a year before the next show in 2014. We presented Phyllis with a lovely floral arrangement in thanks for all her help and Pat thanked the participants and especially Chris who had done all the arranging etc. on her very first show. Sheila.

From the Registers

Baptisms:

12 th August	Liam Daniel Parker	Snodland
19 th August	Maisie-Rose Ellie Kagan	Snodland
19 th August	Keaten Jonathan Alan Groombridge	Maximillian Drive
19 th August	Kemsley Jonathan Kenny Groombridge	
19 th August	Kenley Jonathan Groombridge	
19 th August	Kirsty Marie Groombridge	
19 th August	Jonathan Andrew Groombridge	

Wedding:

8 th September	Christopher John Galea & Lorraine Olivia Newby	Cuxton
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Funeral:

11 th September	Norman Davies	William Road
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Nature Notes August 2012

This month received its present name from the Emperor Augustus and was selected not as being his natal month, but because in it his greatest good fortune happened to him. As July contained 31 days, and August only 30, it was thought necessary to add another day to the latter month, in order that Augustus might not be in any respect inferior to Julius. Enc Brit

“There is no breeze upon the fern,
No ripple on the lake,
Upon the eyrie nods the erne,
The deer has sought the brake.
The small birds will not sing aloud

The springing trout lies still,
So darkly looms yon thunder cloud,
That swathes as with a purple shroud
Benledi’s distant hill.”
Sir Walter Scott.

The morning of the first day of the month is grey as I walk round the lake at Bluewater with Murphy. Hemp agrimony joins the wealth of flowers in bloom along the grassy banks. Dark grey clouds drift across the sky from the west and eventually, at mid-day, some light rain falls. The afternoon brings sunshine beaming from clear blue skies. The next day, which is bright

and breezy, I notice the lilac leaves which have darkened from their Spring freshness. In the afternoon, I walk to the village when the skies are brushed with clouds of white and grey. I return up the steep path of Six-acre Wood where I see hedge woundwort plants revealing their seed heads. No other flowers are in bloom but ivy and brambles

cover the woodland floor. There is no birdsong. The evening skies become clear. The 4th is a warm day with plenty of sunshine and westerly winds. I feed the birds. David has bought a squirrel proof fat ball feeder and I watch great tits working on how to obtain the food. They soon learn. The 5th is a bright day when the air is full of the scent of buddleia. The morning of 6th is beautiful with warm sunshine and westerly breezes. Dark clouds threaten, however, but no rain falls as I walk round the lake at Bluewater with Murphy where wild flowers bloom among the straw-coloured grasses. More clouds gather as the day progresses and by mid-afternoon there are showers of rain and rumbles of thunder. A heavy shower falls in the early evening. I watch a squirrel gorging on seed, great tits feeding on the nuts and pigeons feasting on seed on the edge of the patio wall. While the heavy rain falls, the trees sway backwards and forwards in the wind and the wet leaves glisten as brightness returns. The 7th is grey and cool feeling like the early days of Autumn, but the 8th, after a cloudy start, becomes very humid in the bright sunshine. The 9th is a beautiful warm Summer's day and the evening remains warm enough to sit in the garden. There have not been many evenings like this. The 10th is a hot day with beautiful blue skies and golden sunshine. I walk with Murphy round the mirror-smooth lake at Bluewater where water lilies bloom. Yarrow, pink and white, bird's foot trefoil, vetch, viper's bugloss, knapweed, various umbellifers, clover, goat's rue, St John's wort and ragwort bloom along the paths and down the banks. Meadow brown butterflies hover among the grasses. The afternoon becomes very hot then the evening is pleasantly warm. Further warm days follow. The 14th is another bright day but there is, now, no birdsong for the birds are hidden away as they renew their feathers. A great tit has nested in the flowering currant bush in the front garden. David has been watching the adult birds flying to and fro. The afternoon becomes very warm. I pick flowering grasses from the garden to bring into the house. White butterflies hover over the flowers and I see two holly blue butterflies near the ivy. The 14th, which is a very humid day, I go with a friend to Rochester Cathedral to see the pictures of the Queen made up of people's photographs and this is very effective. Afterwards, we go into the gardens where a variety of beautiful trees grow. The next day, while at Bluewater, I notice signs of Autumn in the trees. Temperatures are rising again on the 17th and reach 30 degrees the next day. Early grey clouds the next day bring no rain as Murphy and I walk round the lake at Bluewater. The clouds eventually disperse in the afternoon to reveal blue skies and golden sunshine.

Temperatures are lower than the previous day but it is pleasantly warm for walking. Purple loosestrife blooms along the banks of the lake which ripples in the breeze. Bristly ox tongue, hawkweed, yarrow, umbellifers, clover and viper's bugloss with lucerne and goat's rue bloom. I see in the grass along the path a tiny clump of common centaury and I hear a green woodpecker's call. The next day, green finches, chaffinches, collared doves, a robin, dunnocks and a magpie come to the garden to feed. On 22nd, a robin is chattering in the woodland on the embankment. The sun shines and fresh westerly winds blow. The next day, gatekeeper butterflies hover over the grass in the front garden. On 24th, the morning skies are brushed with high cloud, through which beams pale sunshine. Murphy and I walk round the lake at Bluewater. Ripples form in the fresh westerly wind. I notice hazel leaves beginning to look autumnal as nuts ripen. Grasses have become straw coloured and the sanfoin flowers have faded. Bristly ox tongue, hawkweed, bird's foot trefoil and ragwort present their golden petals to the sky. Clover, viper's bugloss and yarrow bloom. The sun eventually shines brightly. The afternoon brings some showers and grey skies persist into the evening. There are periods of drizzle during the morning of 25th when the skies remain grey. In the afternoon, however, the sun shines from a sky where billowing clouds both white and grey march across from the west. The wind is quite strong causing sycamores to bend and bow. There are some ripe blackberries in the garden. Showers fall in the evening. The following day the sun eventually shines after early morning greyness. On the grass in the back garden, I see the tiniest of snails bearing its pretty shell, as it makes its journey amongst the blades of grass. I smell Autumn in the air the next day. Wild clematis straddling some hedges emits a beautiful perfume, while some of the flowers are already converting into old man's beard. Heavy rain falls in the afternoon of 29th. Then the evening becomes dry but skies are cloudy with just a hint of stars and a misty moon. North east winds bring heavy showers on 30th when we walk beneath grey skies round the lake at Bluewater. We manage to escape heavy rain. Strong winds blow in the afternoon, rain falls heralding Autumn. The final day of the month is beautiful with blue skies, feathery white clouds and golden sunshine. However, north easterly winds bring an Autumnal feel to the air. I feed the birds in the early morning when there is a definite chill in the atmosphere. Later in the morning, I drive to Addington when the warmth of the sun is beginning to break through. August has managed to bring us a touch of Summer. Elizabeth Summers .



Halling WI

I wondered what our August meeting of Halling W.I. would turn out to be, shall I go or not, knowing full well our speaker had let us down once again. Perhaps bingo, beetle drive, or a quiz of some sort. I decided to go, to at least meet up with my friends, was I glad that I did. When I arrived at the Jubilee Hall, Ann and Jemma Graves had been busy, it looked a bit like a bakery. Ann had made a big seedy loaf and a big bowl of dough was proving on the table. We sang Jerusalem, had the minutes and the correspondence, not a great deal this month except a copy of the new constitution, (not much difference from the old constitution, another way for the N.F.W.I. to spend money, in my opinion). On the money front we are managing to keep our heads above water and Betty had arranged to have our annual ploughman's lunch on 1st September, which was another successful and sociable event. Thank you Betty.

Then----the fun started. We rearranged ourselves to the bakery end of the hall and Ann proceeded to cut up her loaf for all of us to share. She then started to re-knead the dough and divided it into small dollops so that we each had a roll size piece. Jemma, meanwhile was pummelling away at another piece of dough, made it thin like a pancake, promptly poked it all over with her finger and drizzled olive oil all over it, and covered it in little bits of rosemary, yes she was

making Ciabatta (I think that is what you call Italian bread).

"Now" Ann said "all make yourselves a bread roll, any shape you like". We ended up with plaits, cottages, and coburg rolls. June Court just made a round one. I wasn't happy with that, so I quickly made her a little J for June, (just so she would know which one was hers when it came out of the oven). While they were cooking, Ann's daughter Pieta, who doesn't come to W.I., but makes bread as a hobby had made so many varieties of loaves for us to try and to buy, chilli, cheese, honey, nuts, fruit and LAVENDER bread, all so very nice, Lily loved it. By this time the place did smell like a bakery and our rolls were brilliant. It certainly inspired me to make a couple of granary loaves the next day, but new bread isn't good for you. You eat too much.

Ann's daughter judged our competitions, and dare I say it Ann Hayward's golliwog won the first for something beginning with the letter G, and Ann Heaseman won the Flower of the Month with a lovely sun flower, they are still my favourite flower. They lift the spirit. Thank you Ann and Jemma for a lovely evening. I am sure it was enjoyed by all.

This month, H for Horse is the competition letter. Once again our speaker can't make it. I think we are all going to have a game with cup cakes, should be another happy evening, it is amazing what some of our girls get up to. Phyllis.



Blythswood 2012

We shall again be collecting shoe boxes for Blythswood Care to distribute to needy people in Eastern Europe and elsewhere. There will be cards in church suggesting what to put in the shoe boxes, but generally speaking it is small toys, pens, pencils, soap, flannels, maybe small item of clothing like hat or scarf, that sort of thing. No food. Boxes shouldn't be wrapped because they need to be opened for customs inspection. (You can wrap lid and box separately if you like). Decide whether box is for an adult, teenager or child. It costs Blythswood about £2.50 for each box they send. So it helps if you are in a position to tape appropriate coins to the lid. Our main collection will be at services on 4th November.

Cuxton Community Infant School News

Dear friends of our school,

We all had a good summer break and the children and staff have returned looking refreshed and ready for the busy year ahead. We have had 48 Foundation stage children join us and we wish them and their families a happy three years with us. Sadly we said goodbye at the end of the Summer term to 52 fantastic year 2 children who transferred to the Junior school. They performed such a wonderful leaving assembly for us and their parents joined us for a super buffet lunch. We ended the academic year with this and some lovely activities including an Olympic

sports day. These can be seen on our website. Now we have 140 children in school, all busy, happy and working hard.

We have some exciting events planned this year and before Christmas. These are some of the activities taking place:

Harvest assemblies- once again this year we will be collecting for Caring Hands homeless appeal,

A foundation stage fayre

Open afternoons for parents of children due to start school next year

A maths week and puzzle workshop day

An environment day

A morning on how we teach reading for parents.

A visit to St Michaels Church

A Diwali workshop day

Parents evenings

Christmas.

Our topics for this term are myself, my classroom, Cuxton and in the dark. Children will be learning through these topics as well as concentrating on reading, writing, speaking and listening and numeracy work and specific ICT skills.

We will keep you updated on our school activities.

Best wishes, Sandra Jones, Head teacher.

November 29th???



What shall we be doing on November 29th? Well, we don't exactly know, but we shall be doing something in the Church Hall Cuxton that evening. Why shall we be doing something on November 29th? Because we haven't done a great deal this year to support our link mission partners in the

Philippines – Paul and Charitas Cho and their young son Heung. Of course we have been praying for them and some of us have read their newsletters, but it would be good to know more about them and their work and the Philippines, and of course we need to raise funds to support them.

So we are having a Filipino evening in the Church Hall on 29th November. At the time of writing I can't tell you precisely what form it will take, but it is likely to include Filipino food and a film or two. So it sounds good. Maybe some of you could come in appropriate dress? Watch this space!

Soap Springs Eternal

By Max the Rectory Spaniel.



Master likes that quotation because he had a children's book with a very funny story in it with that title at a time when Master was too young to know that it really should be *Hope springs eternal*. Anyway we'll come to that later.

One of the nice things about our new treasurer being Lolly's mistress is that Lolly comes to see us whenever there is church financial business to transact. So it was that we had a lovely long walk a couple of Fridays ago. Now Lolly has a much better reputation than I have for walking off the lead. She keeps reasonably close to whomever is walking her and even comes back as soon as she is called. She obviously has not yet learned about canine selective deafness. You know. He shouts, "Max! Max! Come in at once" and I really can't hear him. But if he shouts, "Dinner, Max!" there I am right next to him. Of course I soon get wise to it if he tries shouting "Dinner, Max!" when dinner isn't ready! I'm not as daft as he thinks I am, nor as deaf. I generally know where he is even if he can't find me.

Anyway this walk was a bit of a moment of truth for all of us. For one thing I found out that our new treasurer is a bit nervous of cows – not as bad as the ladies we found *cowering* at the gate, scared to walk past them, even when Master offered to walk with them, but wary nonetheless. It seems that since they put up those *Beware of the cows* notices for the first time this year both at Cuxton and Halling, that the cattle are living up to their reputation. Just think *Oxo* or *Bovril* if you're worried. Master didn't tell the ladies sheltering behind the fence that he had actually seen one of the heifers jump over it! He's a bit naughty like that, thinking it's often better not to tell people who might worry unnecessarily about things that are really nothing to worry about!

I proved true to form once we were in the woods and off our leads in that I hung back and refused to continue until he came back for me. I discovered as a puppy how mad that makes him. So I do it all the time. Lolly and her mistress felt very superior to the naughty dog and the man who couldn't train him. However we walked (me on my lead) to Upper Halling and then over the Cam to Halling Cemetery, Our treasurer had never seen one of the localities for whose maintenance she has now to write the cheques. She was pleased to see how lovely it looks.

We then went past St John's Church (where there are too many trees in the churchyard, one dead specimen of which ripped our nice St George's flag on its horrible thorns, and, even if you had been able to see the church clock, it wasn't working because the CERN experiments with the large hadron collider had interrupted this universe's gravitational field, though the clock is now working despite Professor Higgs and his boson) down to the river, where there were some more cows, and back through the cement works into Pilgrims Road. Here it transpired that little Miss Perfect can't be trusted even on her lead on a road without a footpath because she won't walk nicely, keeping into the edge or even the hedge. So we had to stop every time a car passed and Master got impatient again. So we doubled up through the woods once more and were let off our leads. Now my conduct was perfect. We were going home. So I stuck with the programme. Not so Lolly, however, she now kept stopping in front of her mistress, threatening to trip her up on the narrow paths.

Still a good time was had by all – human and canine. Let's have some more.

And so to the soap story – also known as *the ultimate detergent*. Last Monday, on Master's day off, he took me for a nice long walk up the woods, intending, when we got home, to leave me indoors while he went shopping. In the woods, however, I found the most disgusting something in which to roll. Master doesn't understand why I like to do this and I'm not going to tell him. He doesn't like it, however, and he made me wait in the garden when we eventually got home. Then it was bath time. He soaked me with water and soap, rubbing it into my coat, removing every trace of what I had so lovingly rolled in, and then rinse after rinse. Lucky it wasn't a cold day.

Still he now didn't feel able to leave me alone indoors as I would probably just curl up and shiver and make the furniture wet. So he took me shopping with him, thinking to keep me moving and out in the warm sun until I was dry. This was OK as far as the paper shop and when he went into the Coop. I had my fun when he came to untie me outside the Coop. It was then, still wet and a little bit soapy, that I was able literally to give him the slip. I slipped right through his fingers and into the Coop – embarrassing for Master, but great fun for me. I've always thought I should have liked to have been one of those Springers that search buildings for drugs or explosives, not that I found any in Cuxton Coop, which is probably just as well. Still *Soap springs eternal*.

I don't know what I'll have to write about next month (if I'm allowed a spot at all) but I know they've got plenty planned with special things at St Michael's 29th/30th September and Back to Church Sunday in Cuxton and Halling – with Harvest Festival the following week. Harvest Festival includes a harvest supper and that usually means some meat left over. Also the quiz on 13th October will include a ploughman's. And then there might be food for the fireworks display and whatever happens on 29th November. It's all looking good.

Max, the Rectory Spaniel.