

Services at St John the Baptist Halling & the Jubilee Hall Upper Halling		
6th October Trinity 19, Dedication & Harvest Festival	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	Nehemiah 5 vv 1-13 p489 John 9 vv 1-41 p1075
	11.00 Holy Communion & Holy Baptism Donations of tinned, dried & packeted goods gladly received.	Habakkuk 1 vv 1-4 p940 Habakkuk 2 vv 1-4 p941 II Timothy 1 vv 1-14 p1195 Luke 17 vv 5-10 p1051
	6.30 Harvest Praise Jubilee Hall (before Harvest Supper)	Deuteronomy 26 vv 1-11 p203 Philippians 4 vv 4-9 p1181
October 13 <sup>th</sup> Trinity 20	11.00 Holy Communion	II Kings 5 vv 1-15 p 372 II Timothy 2 vv 8-15 p1196 Luke 17 vv 11-19 p1051
	5.30 Evening Prayer Jubilee Hall	Nehemiah 6 vv 1-16 p489 John 15 vv 12-27 p1083
October 20 <sup>th</sup> Trinity 21	11.00 Holy Communion & Stop! Look! Listen!	Genesis 32 vv 22-31 p36 II Timothy 3 v14 – 4 v5 p1197 Luke 18 vv 1-8 p1052
October 27 <sup>th</sup> Last Sunday after Trinity Bible Sunday	11.00 Holy Communion	Jeremiah 14 vv 7-22 p772 II Timothy 4 vv 6-18 p1197 Luke 18 vv 9-14 p1052
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November All Souls	11.00 Holy Communion	Lamentations 3 vv 17-33 p826 John 5 vv 19-25 p1069
3 <sup>rd</sup> November 4 <sup>th</sup> Before Advent	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	Lamentations 3 vv 22-33 p826 John 11 vv 32-44 p1078
	11.00 Holy Communion Donations of shoeboxes for Blythwood Care gratefully received.	Isaiah 1 vv 10-20 p686 II Thessalonians 1 vv 1-12 p1189 Luke 19 vv 1-10 p1053
Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxton		
6th October Trinity 19, Dedication & Harvest Festival	9.30 Family Communion Donations of tinned, dried & packeted goods gladly received.	Habakkuk 1 vv 1-4 p940 Habakkuk 2 vv 1-4 p941 Luke 17 vv 5-10 p1051
October 13 <sup>th</sup> Trinity 20	9.30 Holy Communion & Holy Baptism	II Kings 5 vv 1-15 p 372 II Timothy 2 vv 8-15 p1196 Luke 17 vv 11-19 p1051
October 20 <sup>th</sup> Trinity 21	8.00 Holy Communion	Epistle & Gospel Trinity 21 BCP
	9.30 Holy Communion	Genesis 32 vv 22-31 p36 II Timothy 3 v14 – 4 v5 p1197 Luke 18 vv 1-8 p1052
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9.30 Holy Communion Wednesdays at St Michael's		9.30 Holy Communion Thursdays at St John's	
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Nehemiah 2 vv 1-8 Luke 9 vv 57-62	3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-12 Luke 10 vv 1-12
9 <sup>th</sup> October St Denys	Jonah 4 Luke 11 vv 1-4	10 <sup>th</sup> October S Paulinus	Malachi 3 v13 – 4 v2 Luke 11 vv 5-13
16 <sup>th</sup> October Nicholas Ridley & Hugh Latimer	Romans 2 vv 1-11 Luke 11 vv 42-46	17 <sup>th</sup> October Ignatius	Romans 3 vv 21-30 Luke 11 vv 47-54
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Romans 6 vv 12-18 Luke 12 vv 39-48	24 <sup>th</sup> October	Romans 6 vv 19-23 Luke 12 vv 49-53
30 <sup>th</sup> October	Romans 8 vv 26-30 Luke 13 vv 22-30	31 <sup>st</sup> October Martin Luther	Romans 8 vv 31-39 Luke 13 vv 31-35

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> is St Luke's Day: Holy Communion 7.30 am at St Michael's. Monday 28<sup>th</sup> is Ss Simon & Jude. Nothing planned yet.

**Copy Date November Magazine: 11<sup>th</sup> October 8.30 am Rectory.**



### Harvest Time

It is very tempting to describe this as the best time of year. The harvest is gathered in. The leaves are changing. Shorter, sharper days turn our thoughts towards Christmas and yet the sun in the day time is still hot and there is plenty of time for outdoor activities. I will, however, resist the temptation so to describe Autumn because it seems to me that every season can be described as the best time of year. They all have something to offer. I'm out in the woods and countryside nearly every day and every time I go out they are different. Obviously the vegetation varies with the seasons. Bare twigs give way to buds. Buds burst into green leaves. As the year progresses, green leaves turn to orange or gold and then drop off to leave the branches bare once more. Different flowers appear in their seasons and in the latter part of the year there are berries and nuts in the hedgerows and crops ripening in the fields. The wildlife changes its behaviour from Winter to Spring, from Summer to Autumn. Sometimes the woods seem full of squirrels. There are always foxes about and occasionally one sees a badger. Some birds are always to be seen around our gardens and countryside. Others are migrants. The birdsong changes with the seasons – the sound of the cuckoo being the most obvious. Then there are the insects – such as butterflies and dragonflies – and the fungi, the myriad species so wrongly described as *lower forms of life* but without which none of the more spectacular creatures could survive. In their seasons, snow, ice, frost, mist, fog, bright sunshine, torrential rain, cloud formations, cloud shadows, showers and rainbows transform the landscape from month to month and even from hour to hour. Because it is not only the annual rhythm of the earth's progression around the sun that makes each trip into the countryside unique in its own special way. Our planet's daily spinning

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life, but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

on its axis means that the light is different every hour, every minute in fact. Things look different depending on the angle of the sun – higher at noonday than in the morning and evening, lower in the sky all day in Winter than in Summer. The very air feels different depending on the time of day. Make sure you view next year's bluebells on the North Downs Way above Halling in the afternoon with the sun behind you as you walk back towards Cuxton. They are so much better than when you see them in the morning or as you are walking up the hill. Then there are the moon and the stars – the phases of the moon, the stars sometimes shining brightly, sometimes barely or not at all visible. Some nights are as bright as day with a gold or silver moon; others as black as pitch.

Coming back to Harvest, it is a celebration of God the Creator and in that I do rejoice. We thank God for His wonderful works in creation. When we thank we bless. We bless God. We bless His gifts for which we are thankful. We bless ourselves. It will be part of our celebration of Harvest – along with singing God's praises, reading His Word together, sharing the Sacrament together, rejoicing in the fellowship together, joining together in common prayer and common worship – that we will dedicate what God has given us to His glory and for the benefit of other people by supporting the *Poverty and Hope* appeal and by bringing tinned, dried and packeted goods to share with other people who may need them more than we do.

Thanking God for His creation moves us to praise and praise moves us to worship. Worship moves us to appreciate all the other things He has done for us in sending Jesus to be born in the manger, to die upon the Cross and to send the Holy Spirit so that all who believe in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Roger.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Outbreak of the Great War.

This is August next year. Have you any information about any of the people commemorated on our WWI war memorials? If so, please let me know. There will be a special commemoration next year. Roger. These are the Halling names. Cuxton's names appear in the September issue.

Harvey Adam  
Harry Adams  
Frederick Baker  
Frederick Barnden  
John Barnden  
James Beaney  
Gerald Blackman  
Walter Blackman  
Herbert Botting  
William Botting  
Edwin Brown  
Frederick Brown  
Leonard Brown  
William Brown  
Alfred Chandler  
Horace Chittenden  
Frederick Chittenden  
Thomas Chittenden  
Rupert Hill  
William Cramp  
Walter Crowhurst  
Henley Edwards

Jack Edwards  
Walter Edwards  
Sidney Eves  
James Featherstone  
Violet Fissenden  
Walter Gooding MM  
Thomas Harris VC MM  
Alfred Hart  
Bert Hart  
Henry Hart  
George Hawkes  
Harry Higgins  
Edwin Hollands  
Albert Jessup  
Ernest Jessup  
Thomas Jones  
Walter Jones  
William Kemsley  
Albert Knott  
George Langley  
James Leigh  
Frederick Llowarch

Ernest Martin  
Leonard Mayatt  
Ernest Middleton  
Bertie Packman  
Sidney Payne  
Frederick Pearl  
Frederick Pooley  
Arthur Robinson  
Alfred Smeeth  
Herbert Smith  
Alfred Sparrow  
Frederick Sparrow  
Henry Sparrow  
Ralph Startup  
Edward Stevens  
Ernest Stokes  
George Streatfield  
Joseph Taylor  
Edwin Turner  
Frank Wheeler  
Stewart White  
Roland Woolmer.

## **19<sup>th</sup> October**

### **Quiz in Support of Parish Funds £7.00.**

**7.30 pm in the Church Hall Cuxton**

### **including Ploughman's**

**(please bring own drink)**

**Both: Teams of 6-8 or come as an individual and join a team.**  
**For Either or Both: Book with Rector (contact details inside cover).**

### Forthcoming Attractions.

6<sup>th</sup> October: 6.30 Harvest Praise & Harvest Supper Jubilee Hall.

19<sup>th</sup> October 7.30 pm: Quiz in Support of Parish Funds Church Hall.

30<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 pm: Ukulele Concert Church Hall.

14<sup>th</sup> December 10.00: Christmas Coffee Morning & Minimarket

6<sup>th</sup> January 2014: 9.30 am Epiphany Service at St Michael's followed by brunch in church hall.

### Bluebell Walk

You will be pleased to know that this year's total is now up to £1,044. The extra is due to a website organised by Donna Blackman who first thought of the walk idea.

<http://www.justgiving.com/lawrybluebell>

You can still donate towards this year's appeal. The Eve Appeal supports the gynaecological cancers research programme at University College, London.

### **COMPUTER PROBLEMS?**

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07716573397

### Michaelmas, Back to Church Sunday & Confirmation

29<sup>th</sup> September is of course Michaelmas and our Patronal Festival at Cuxton. Being the last Sunday in September, it is also Back to Church Sunday. Maybe you have drifted away from the Church and would like to come back. Maybe you've never tried Church, but are curious. Back to Church Sunday is for you. Just turn up at any of our services and you will be made welcome. The Family Service at 9.30 at Cuxton includes a Baptism. We shall celebrate our normal weekly service of Holy Communion at 11.00 at Halling. At 6.30 pm at St Michael's the Bishop of Rochester will preside at our Patronal Festival Eucharist and Confirmation. This will be followed by refreshments in the church hall. You are welcome to any or all of these services, just as you are welcome every Sunday and weekday. Or maybe you are a regular worshipper in the parish and have someone in mind you would especially like to invite for BTCS? There will be special invitation cards you can use. And please pray for the people you could invite and for God to reveal whom He is calling so that you can respond.

If you read this too late for 29<sup>th</sup> September, how about making Harvest Festival your own personal *Back to Church Sunday*?

Please also pray for Bishop James and for our confirmation candidates: Zac Daunt- Jones, Alexander Fenton-Scott, Francesca Fenton-Scott, Jane Joyce and Amy Isaac.

### Harvest Festival

We celebrate with morning services on 6<sup>th</sup> October at 8.00 at the Jubilee Hall, at 9.30 at St Michael's and at 11.00 at St John's. At 6.30 pm there will be Harvest Praise in the Jubilee Hall followed by the Harvest Supper. Harvest gifts of non-perishable food items will be received at any of the above services. The churches will be beautifully decorated as usual for Harvest and there will be a presentation by Saints Alive! at St Michael's at 9.30. Please join us in celebrating Harvest.

It has been suggested that from the New Year we will have a regular collection in church of items for the Medway Foodbank to distribute to those in need of them.

Desperate About Debt? Call Christians Against Poverty 0800 328 0006 <https://capuk.org>

Also contact this website for more information about Christians Against Poverty and how you can help.

### All Souls Day

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> November each year, the Church commemorates the Festival of All Souls. It is a day specially set aside to remember the faithful departed. In the words of the Creed, we believe in *the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of the body*.

In other words, we believe that we can trust God for those whom we love but see no longer. Death is not the end, but a new beginning, a new phase of existence. Our love for them and their love for us continues within the love of God. The things we have done wrong on earth can be forgiven if we ask God in Christ. Our personality, our soul, is not extinguished by death, but finds its fulfilment in God's love. These are the kinds of thoughts to remember when we think about our loved ones who have died.

In this parish, we remember by name on All Souls Day all those whose names are in the Books of Remembrance, those whose funerals we have arranged in the last year and any other individuals we are asked to commemorate.

The All Souls services this year are on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 9.30 am at St Michael & All Angels' Church Cuxton and at 11.00 am at St John the Baptist's Church Halling. At both services we remember all those whose funerals we have taken in this last year and people from the parish we have heard about. If you or other members of your family or friends would like to be present at either service, you would be most welcome. If there are other names you would like remembered, please give them in writing to the Rector.



### Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

We shall be collecting shoeboxes with gifts for overseas from 3<sup>rd</sup> November until the middle of November. Leaflets will be available in church, listing suitable items you might like to put in your boxes.



### Halling WI

As our September meeting was supposed to be an open meeting, for once we didn't sing Jerusalem, even though we only had one visitor. We waited until 7-30 just in case any one else turned up, but they didn't so we went ahead. Our speaker-demonstrator for the evening was Anita, didn't know her surname. She had come from Fenwick's store in Tunbridge Wells to demonstrate and advertise Clarin's makeup. Her model was Ann Graves' daughter Petita. She started to paint, (she had a brush or two), plaster, call it what you will, different potions out of bottles and tubes on to Petita's face passing them round to the members to try them on their hands. She explained what they were supposed to be doing to your skin. She put them on. She wiped them off. It was all very serious. "This one," she said, was to get rid of wrinkles. Petita hadn't got any wrinkles that I could see, and I said "Who you need is my sister, she has more wrinkles than face" which caused a laugh all round. Even Anita joined in. On went another layer. I just couldn't resist it and said "She looked a bit poorly." "Oh

she hasn't got the blusher on yet," and out come what we used to call rouge. After that was applied Petita looked a little better although she didn't really need any makeup in my opinion. Her natural look was lovely. We were all given a couple of samples to have a go at home and we had had an interesting entertaining demonstration, but I expect you would have to re-mortgage your house to buy all of the lotions and potions, and you would need at least half an hour at least to apply it all. After our tea, Anita judged our competitions for us. Sylvia Mitchell won the F of the M with a Fuchsia, which are doing very well this year, and Ann Graves won the competition something beginning with Q, a jar of Quince jelly it was. Quite surprising what turned up for this Quite difficult letter. Next month it is easy peasy, R for Rabbit.

It is going to be a surprise meeting in October. So come and see. You never know what will come up, but we will know that subscriptions are going up next year, not good news. This may be the straw that breaks the camel's back for Halling W.I. after all these years. Phyllis

[Does anyone know the hymn parodied in this little verse?

Little dabs of powder, little dabs of paint,  
Make a girl's complexion really what it ain't.]

### Collage

You will have noticed the new board at the back of St Michael's church, on which we have started to mount a collage of church members and events. It has two purposes:-

1. Recognition
2. Outreach – showing how active we are at church events and in the community

We would like to include as many people as possible. So, if you are not represented as yet, please supply suitable photos (not more than 3 people per photo) or ask Jenny or Buffy to arrange a photo shoot.

It is in memory of Thelma Partridge, who loved photography and was purchased from her legacy.

### CHRISTIAN YOUTH CLUB

The Fresh expressions of church group is planning to start a youth club for young people aged 10-15. Planning is in its early stages, but we hope to get it off the ground by October. We hope there will be indoor and outdoor games, followed by a "God spot" of prayer, singing and talks etc. There might be occasional outings. Naturally we require help with this, on a rota basis and the first meeting will be a discussion between helpers and those interested in joining to decide exactly what form the club should take. The youngsters would not necessarily be committed to the Christian faith, but must be prepared to learn about it as part of the club sessions. If you could offer 2 hours a fortnight or a month (probably on a Friday early evening) to help with this enterprise or if your children would like to join, please contact Buffy (01634 727 126 or [elizabeth@rabhutch.demon.co.uk](mailto:elizabeth@rabhutch.demon.co.uk)) or Roger (details in magazine).

## From the Registers

### Baptisms:

11 <sup>th</sup> August	Joshua Leonard Richard Huntley	Sundridge Hill
11 <sup>th</sup> August	Miller Jake Whyman	Strood
11 <sup>th</sup> August	Felicity Lillie Downey	High Street
11 <sup>th</sup> August	Oscar-James Reggie Open	Snodland
12 <sup>th</sup> August	Mark Ian Graves	Sturry
17 <sup>th</sup> August	Blake Logan Graves	Twydall
18 <sup>th</sup> August	Hollie Ellen Morris	Strood
18 <sup>th</sup> August	Lacey-Grace Lee	Strood

### Funeral:

10 <sup>th</sup> September	Mervyn Gerald Trevor Taylor (86)	Wood Street
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Parishioners will also be sorry to hear of the death of Jacqueline Evans (73), formerly of Charles Drive.

### Mervyn Taylor RIP

Although Mervyn seldom attended services, he was a great supporter of St Michael's Church in addition to his activities in the wider community, notably in leading the Gardening Section of the Social Club for many years and helping older people in the village. Mervyn regularly gave lifts to people coming to church and was an active member of the church-cleaning squad and the inventor of the special duster which reaches the dust that ordinary dusters can't reach. He will be much missed.

### On Christenings, Weddings and Funerals

It is good to see that we have had far more christenings than funerals this month – as indeed we do most months, though I'd like a few more weddings. This is, however, partly due to the availability of humanist funerals instead of Christian ceremonies, just as for many years there have been civil marriages as an alternative to church weddings. Civil marriages now take place in many attractive locations as well as the traditional registrar's office. In one way, this is a good thing. I don't feel comfortable taking services in which people say things they really believe to be untrue. If you really don't believe in God, you are better not taking your wedding vows in His Name or being buried with expressions of *the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life*.

However, the Church will not turn you away. Some people who don't come regularly to Church but who would like to ask for God's blessing on their marriage or who believe that prayers should be said at their funeral, perhaps no longer realise that the Church is here for them too. Don't assume you can't have a Christian wedding or funeral because you wouldn't describe yourself as religious. *Religious* has become a dirty word. (I'm not even sure what it means to most people anymore.) God believes in you and He won't turn you away if you come to Him even with the tiniest little bit of faith in Him. So, if you would like a Christian wedding or funeral or if you believe that your children ought to be baptised, don't let anyone put you off approaching me. Roger.

### A New Way to Share the Christmas Story

Astonishing as it may seem, recent surveys show that 36% 5-7 year olds don't know Whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas and 72% don't know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. 51% adults say that the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas and fewer than 12% actually know the whole Christmas story.

This year a new Advent Calendar is being mass marketed – the Real Advent Calendar – [www.realadvent.co.uk/shop](http://www.realadvent.co.uk/shop). From 7<sup>th</sup> October these will be available in Tesco's. As well as a daily chocolate throughout Advent, there is also a brief instalment of the Christmas story. The rrp is £3.99. For each one sold, the store will make a donation to the Children's Society. The chocolate is Fairtrade. How about giving a Real Advent Calendar to a child you know in the lead up to Christmas this year?

St Michael's Draw: Luke Cosford , Jack Payne, Jeanne Harris £10 each, Dorothy Taylor and Ruth Jones £5 each.  
St John's Draw: £25 to Mrs Swatton (6) & £10 each to Mrs Hayward (80) & Mrs Botten (160) – drawn by Mrs Hesketh.  
Please contact Jeanne Harris if you would like to join the draw for St Michael's and Betty Head if you would like to join the draw for St John's.

### The Church Barbecue and the Licensing Act

Readers will be aware that for many years we have hosted an annual barbecue in the Rectory grounds around mid-Summer. We've had good food, good music and good company and usually good weather. A lot of people have enjoyed these events and they have been a good fund-raiser for the Church. I don't remember there ever being any trouble at these rather refined occasions. Then in 2010 Medway Council told us that we could not go ahead that year. A member of the public whose name they will not divulge (which often means someone himself working in local government) had drawn attention to the fact that we were technically in breach of the Licensing Act. The problem seems to have been that the singer's name appeared in the same size font as the word *barbecue* on the posters. You and I both know that one can walk through the centre of Rochester, Chatham or Gillingham any night of the week and see dozens of much more serious breaches of the Licensing Act, notably the selling of alcohol to people who are already drunk to the point of antisocial and criminal misbehaviour and the council doesn't seem at all interested in taking action against them. So I am left wondering why they picked on us for such a minor breach? Anyway, in 2010 we moved the barbecue to premises which were licensed for entertainment and since then we have held the barbecue without live music but back in my garden. They have been pleasant evenings but not so good as what we used to do and fewer people have come and less money has been raised. I had thought we might be saved by a change in the law. Realising how ridiculous Labour's Licensing Act was in some respects, the Lib Dem and Conservative coalition set out to amend it and it is now legal once again to have music at events where fewer than 200 people are expected. So I thought we would be OK. But, not so, due to what surely must be an oversight, it is still only legal to have music at an event for fewer than 200 people if the premises concerned has a licence to sell alcohol – which seems bizarre to me, as people are generally more likely to behave irresponsibly if they have been drinking than if they have not. We're not running a pub. So we still can't have music at our barbecue! What I'm asking you is, first of all, if you agree with me that the Licensing Act needs further amendment, to write to your MP and tell him so, and, secondly, to ask you whether you think it is worth continuing with our evening barbecues at the Rectory so long as the existing legislation remains in force? (There is no question of my applying for a licence for something which ought not in a free country to require one.) Roger.

### More Than Just Names

We've learnt a little bit more about some of the people commemorated on Cuxton's Great War Memorial. Oscar Pye has the rare distinction of being mentioned on the memorials of two villages – Cuxton and Cobham. Of course members of the Pye family have long lived and farmed in both villages. I've had a discussion with William Simmonds' grandson and we are seeing what we can find out. Frederick Pooley's widow Elsie married Ted Allcorn whom many of you will remember as playing the organ at the chapel and ringing the bells at St Michael's. The wooden cross which originally marked Frederick Sudds' grave *in some corner of a foreign field*, is now in the bell tower of St Michael's, having been replaced by a stone in France. George Cogger joined the Navy before the war and died (presumably from an illness contracted whilst on service) in hospital in Edinburgh where he is buried. Apparently there were photographs of all these men in the tower until they became too faded to keep. Wouldn't it be wonderful if someone still had prints in good condition or even the negatives? Please pass on any more information that will help us to understand better who these brave men were.

As a young cyclist I was very moved by a window in Lower Halstow church. It was installed in the early 1920's by the then vicar, the Rev'd Edward Olive. Showing Christ coming to a soldier in the trenches, it follows a design by the vicar's nephew by marriage, Brigadier Roland Bradford, the youngest brigadier in the British army in World War I. Bradford had intended to distribute the picture to his men at Christmas 1917, a plan cut short by his death at the hands of a sniper on the front. Viewing inside the church is now only possible on Saturday afternoons in Summer. Other times it can viewed during normal services. RIK. (When I was a youngster, churches were always open!)

Quotation: St Catherine of Siena: "All the way to heaven is heaven, because Jesus said, "I am the way."

### Nature Notes August 2013

From *Dover Beach* by Matthew Arnold.

The sea is calm tonight.  
The tide is full, the moon lies fair  
Upon the straights;-on the French coast the light  
Gleams and is gone; the cliffs of England stand,  
Glimmering and vast, out in the tranquil bay.  
Come to the window, sweet is the night air!  
Only, from the long line of spray  
Where the sea meets the moon-blanch'd land,  
Listen! You hear the grating roar  
Of pebbles which the waves draw back, and fling,  
At their return, up the high strand,  
Begin, and cease, and then again begin,  
With tremulous cadence slow, and bring  
The eternal note of sadness in.....

Ah, love, let us be true  
To one another! For the world which seems  
To lie before us like a land of dreams,  
So various so beautiful, so new,  
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light  
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;  
And we are here as on a darkling plain  
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,  
Where ignorant armies clash by night.

On the first of the month skies are a clear blue from which beams golden sunshine. It becomes the hottest day of the year so far. We drive to Bluewater where we walk in an empty covered car park which shelters Murphy from the heat. It remains very hot well into the evening. The early morning of the next day is rather grey but the sun soon shines to give a cooler day than yesterday. A beautiful fritillary butterfly sucks nectar from the buddleia. There is a thunder storm during the night. The 3<sup>rd</sup> is a beautiful day with blue skies across which drift billowing white clouds. Warm sunshine beams down upon the earth. I walk through Six-acre Wood to the village. There are no flowers only green foliage now rather dull in colour. The afternoon remains sunny with westerly breezes. Evening primrose flowers bloom in the front garden and the lavender is covered in bees, creatures which now need special care. On 5<sup>th</sup> it is dry, warm and rather overcast as I walk round the lake with Murphy. The flowers hide among the straw coloured grasses:- yarrow, viper's bugloss, ragwort, hawkweed, pink clover. Sainfoin has finished flowering but now knapweed blooms in small clumps. The 6<sup>th</sup> is a sunny day with beautiful white clouds drifting across the sky. I feed the birds. A wood pigeon sees off a feral pigeon as it tries to peck at the seed then collared doves join the throng. A squirrel investigates the nuts. The 7<sup>th</sup> is another sunny day when westerly winds blow. We walk round the lake again. Yarrow, viper's bugloss, bird's foot trefoil, pink clover, lucerne, and ragwort bloom among the straw coloured grasses where meadow brown butterflies hover. The next afternoon, I watch butterflies hover across the garden:- small white, fritillary and a holly blue. Rain falls in the early morning 9<sup>th</sup>, bringing refreshment to the garden. I hear a green woodpecker's call. The sunny weather continues. In the garden on 13<sup>th</sup> I observe a greenfinch on the feeders the first this year which I've

seen. On 14<sup>th</sup> darkness has fallen soon after 9.00pm. The next day also sunny, I watch a blackbird as it forages by the pond, then great tits coming to the feeders. Dunnocks peck seed from the grassy floor. A golden sun lights up the sycamores on the embankment in the evening. Two grey days follow. On 18<sup>th</sup> I sit very still as a collared dove comes near to me as it pecks seed from the patio wall. I remain motionless while taking in its movements. Eventually it flies up onto the roof. The 19<sup>th</sup> is a sunny day with billowing clouds drifting across from the west. At Bluewater the area where we park, displays a hedge comprising maple, dogwood, hawthorn apple and blackthorn. Apples, sloes, hips and haws grow in this space of about ten yards. I walk round the lake with Murphy. Hazelnuts and acorns are filling out. A crested grebe glides on the water. In the evening a bright moon high in the sky brightens the heavens. The birds are silent at this time of the year as they renew their plumage but I do hear some bird calls on the afternoon of 20<sup>th</sup>. A dragon fly darts across the garden. On 22<sup>nd</sup> I make a special visit to Bluewater to meet the team responsible for the landscaping and wildlife of the area. Rain is falling but this does not deter me for I am wearing my dog walking gear. I walk for two and a half hours viewing the six lakes, formal garden areas, wild flower areas vegetable patches, tiny trees being propagated and reed beds. No food from the eating areas or rain water is wasted. Compost is formed for the garden areas. I am given so much interesting information, plus a large marrow from the vegetable garden. Along the way I see a mallard with her ducklings, a toad along the path which could have been mistaken for a stone, swans, a warbler, cormorants and wood pigeons. A peregrine falcon has been seen on one of the cliff faces. A variety of wild flowers are in bloom by the lakes' edges. So much hard work occurs at Bluewater. The



Ecologist Phil Bolton taught me a great deal and I have bought yet another book. I enjoyed the visit immensely and am grateful for the time which was given to me. It is in fact a conservation area. When I go to the lake with Murphy on 24<sup>th</sup> I see starlings on the path ahead of me. We used to have starlings come to the garden but they haven't come for many years. In the afternoon I walk along Pilgrims Road and it is raining. When I return it is sheeting down. Rivers of rain are rushing along the gutters and in the road itself the traffic is creating large sprays of water which I just manage to avoid. The 26<sup>th</sup> is a beautiful, warm day with blue skies and golden sunshine. Wisps of cloud drift across the blue of the heavens. At Bluewater flowers are fading among the tall, straw-

covered grasses. Bristly ox tongue is predominant. Common blue butterflies and meadow browns hover over the paths of dry grass. A heron stands silently and still among the reeds on the edge of the lake. On 27<sup>th</sup> darkness has fallen by 7.30pm. The 29<sup>th</sup> is another glorious day when I walk round the lake at Bluewater with Murphy. A warm breeze drives white, billowing clouds across the sky. A few trees are showing early signs of Autumn. Acorns and hazel nuts are ripening. The evening skies become salmon pink in the setting sun. The next day I observe a silver ground carpet moth as it settles on the door of a kitchen cupboard. Beautiful, clear blue skies and golden sunshine adorn the 31<sup>st</sup> when fresh breezes blow. Elizabeth Summers.

#### A TRUE SAGA OF A CUP OF TEA by Phyllis Chidwick.

It all started on Friday 29th August early in the morning with a little knock on my back door. It was Rob Low. He had brought me a big bowl of green figs, a tradition that his late wife, Evelyn used to do at this time of the year because she knew that I loved them. After Rob went home, I started to prepare and cut up a huge bowl of crinkly chips, and defrosted a couple of pounds of sausages as my elder granddaughter, Kathryn, was coming to lunch with three of my five great grand children, Louisa, a quiet little girl of six, Abigail the inventor, four years old, never backward in coming forward, and Ewan the terrible, aged two, a lovely little boy. Lunch all cooked and ready to serve, in comes my younger granddaughter Annabel with my other two great grand children, Tyler the boisterous, almost five, and laughing Lola, just six months, she laughs like a drain. I wasn't expecting them. "Come on" I said "I've got enough for you all, but I don't know where you are all going to sit." "On the floor" pipes up Kathryn, "A picnic on the carpet! (I'm not house proud). One by one the plates came out empty, except for ketchup stains. Louisa came out to me in the kitchen, "Please can I have some more chips old Nan?" "Oh dear Louisa," I said, "I told you I wouldn't cook enough chips". After raspberries and ice cream, off the four went and ran about in my garden like bats out of hell. They love all of my little paths. After a while they all had a watering can, watering everything in sight. "Where are you getting the water from Louisa?" I said. "Out of the water butt," she said. At this point I had visions of fifty gallons of water on my back lawn as I was sure one of them would forget to turn the tap off. No disasters, however, and it wasn't long before Annabel was off with her two, and it was a little quieter. Kathryn said, "I'll make you a cup of tea Nan before I go home." The cup of tea was a long time coming, and a little baby voice in a language I didn't understand, but his mum did, said, "I have put the tea bags in the bin, Mummy." Ewan. At long last I got my cup of tea, and it wasn't long before goodbyes were said and all was quiet again, a lovely day was had by all, including me.

Now this is the outcome of this story. Saturday morning, five fifteen, I was aching all over and desperate for a cup of tea. So I got up and put the kettle on. For some reason the little blue light wouldn't come on but the kettle was working O.K., but it took a long time to boil. I picked the kettle up and thought, oh dear Kathryn always fills the kettle to the brim even for one cup of tea. I put a tea bag in my mug and started to pour the water on. What a surprise I had! The "water" was as dark as tar. Memories of my mum came flooding back, as she was the only person I knew who made the tea in the kettle. I thought I had better sort this out and started to empty the kettle in the sink. Plop, plop, plop, plop, as I tipped it out. Not only did two dead tea bags drop out but ten, very cooked GREEN FIGS, which Ewan had put in the "bin". I had the biggest laugh I have had in a long while. How did he know how to open the kettle lid? Does anybody want to borrow my two year old little great grandson for a day or two? I am sure his mum will be only too willing to let you have him, but she would soon want him back because he is a lovely little boy and can make lovely tea, but you never know what he will do next!

#### A Recipe For Obese Children

A recent report broadcast on Radio 4 lamented that modern children never play out of doors and are therefore becoming dangerously obese. So here is a recipe for childhood obesity. First redesign all your roads for fast moving motor traffic and never mind about pedestrians, cyclists and bus passengers. Insist that children are taken to and met from school by busy parents who haven't time to walk. Next warn parents that all adults are potential paedophiles. Set homework from a young age. Warn parents of the dangers of the great outdoors. Sunshine gives you cancer. Get wet or chilly and you might catch your death of cold. Fog gets on your chest. Ice slides and snowball fights present a health and safety risk. Indeed, in the event of even a little snow, everything should be closed down and nobody ought to go out of doors unless it is really necessary and they take with them a blanket, a shovel and a flask of hot soup. Install in children's bedrooms computers with games consuls sufficiently stimulating to stave off boredom, but not so taxing as to demand any real mental or physical effort. Always give in to your children's demands to eat what they want when they want. You will shortly have as many obese children as you could possibly desire.



### Cuxton WI

It was members night in September and June had rallied her troops very well and so the usual committee enjoyed an evening free of duties. We had all the business first and then birthday cards were given out and dates of district meetings etc told to all members. We received the unwelcome news that subs would be going up in the new year but it only works out at just under £3 per meeting and where else could you get such a good evening with interesting speakers and demonstrations, a chat and a good cuppa to enjoy with your friends? And so put that way it's not too much to pay. After that good cup we all settled down to watch Val Ryan do four lovely floral arrangements. So much to

admire in these people who just pick up a bunch of leaves and flowers and in no time at all have them looking absolutely beautiful - it would take me hours and then the result would be nowhere near as lovely. After the raffle, where several lucky people won the arrangements, it was time for home. A very happy evening and it is a chance for members to see what is involved when you come on to the committee.

Come and join us on Thursday October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 30 pm at the Church Hall when we shall be hearing about "The Hall Houses of Southfleet" which could bring on an outing or two.

Sheila 716139



### CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX OPENING

We will be opening the Children's Society boxes this year on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October from 9 am onwards at 204, Bush Road, Cuxton. If you could drop your box in to me before then or give it to me at Church, I would be very grateful. Alternatively, I can collect your box from you at home if this is easier for you. Please give me a ring on

727424 to arrange this. Thank you. Julia Wells.

### Take Care With the Internet.

The other evening I had the idea of looking to see if anyone had posted any photographs of the buses that used to run around Margate when, as a child, I had my seaside holidays at Cliftonville. It is not only interesting to see pictures of the buses, but, sometimes, if they were taken when the vehicles in question were in service, there are good pictures of the locality in the days when all those places were still thriving holiday resorts with literally thousands of happy holiday makers on the sands, the attractions were all up and running, there was no air of decay, the illuminations were as good as Blackpool, dogs were allowed on the beach and there was very little traffic on the roads. From about 1960, the double-deckers were mostly AEC Regents, except the open top coastal service which was run with converted Guy Arabs. Before 1960, most of the services were run with Guy double-deckers. The operating consortium was the East Kent Road Car Company. So it seemed logical to Google "East Kent Guys". Well I did get some bus pictures, but you might have been surprised by some of the other sites which came up! I certainly was. So watch out whilst googling! Roger.

### Halling Historical Society

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm in the Jubilee Hall, Upper Halling. The speaker will be Mrs D Baldwin and the subject Foots Cray Place – the History of a Lost Mansion. New members and visitors are welcome.

### News From Our Mission Partners in Manila



Paul Cho had noticed that many of his students for ministry were having trouble reading. They couldn't afford glasses. So our mission partners are helping with that. Paul and Charitas also cared for an elderly American missionary who had served for 34 years in the Philippines. When he became seriously ill with cancer there was no-one else to look after him and Paul and Charitas supported him until they were privileged to be present at his death when he went to the Lord he loved. Paul has been travelling to potential students' homes with their entrance examinations because the students cannot afford to travel to Manila. Thank God, there are more people coming forward this year than last for ministry training. Charitas is still working with special needs children and is sorting out the IT at the seminary where Paul is teaching Research and Writing, Early Church and Christian Ethics. He is also running a martial arts course! We are asked to pray for Hayoung in his new school, for the health of all the family and for strength especially for Charitas when she feels homesick.

Hymn Writers 9  
Augustus Montague Toplady  
1740 – 1778

*For the Lord God is an everlasting rock – the Rock of ages.*  
*Isaiah 26:4 (Amplified Bible)*

Born in Farnham to a British army major, who never saw his son because he became sick during military action, and to a mother of strong character and deep piety, Augustus Toplady was placed in Westminster School whence such outstanding hymn writers as Charles Wesley, William Cowper and John Dryden had graduated. Augustus had a deep sense of appreciation and love for his mother, who planned his education carefully and wisely. The family later moved to Ireland and he attended Trinity College, Dublin, graduating in 1760.

At the age of sixteen Toplady went to a religious meeting in a barn where the lay preacher “could hardly spell his name”, but the message given on that day awakened the student’s striving for knowledge and the truth about religion. He was converted but three years passed before in his own mind he clearly saw the great goodness of God. As a curate, he was taking a walk one afternoon when a severe thunderstorm blew up. He found an opening in a huge rock of granite, ran into it and watched the storm from shelter (although historians tend to indicate doubt about this). However, thoughts of Jesus as a sheltering rock took hold of him and worked on his mind. Slowly the words of “Rock of Ages” began to formulate and his great hymn of faith was created. This best-known of Toplady’s hymns has been the focus of enormous comfort and strength to people caught in the storms of life. People choose it to be sung when there is a need to feel support in sad times. General J E B Stuart of the Confederate army during the American Civil War was mortally wounded and in military hospital in Richmond. He called on his minister to have Rock of Ages sung to him as a source of comfort as he lay in his bed.

Toplady was a contemporary of John Wesley, and for many years they were publicly unpleasant to each other because Toplady, a confirmed Calvinist, was intolerant of Wesley’s Arminian views. However, in the year Rock of Ages was written, Augustus brought out a collection of hymns and psalms by numerous writers and, despite his bitter controversy with John Wesley, he included in his book a large number of Wesley’s hymns.

Augustus Toplady wrote a number of hymns but only a few are commonly sung today maybe because the poetry of them seems a little too archaic for today’s taste. Three of the most sung excluding Rock of Ages are “A Debtor to Mercy, Alone”, “Object of My First Desire” and “Deathless Principle, Arise”. He was only thirty-eight when he died. As Augustus lay dying he exclaimed, ‘I enjoy heaven already in my soul. My prayers are all converted into praises. It is said of him that his end was jubilant and triumphant.

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood, from Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.*

JGB.

**STAMPS - Please bring your used (and even unused) stamps into us. We are still collecting them –they are appreciated and for a good cause!! JGB**

Max’s Tail Piece



The last issue of *Halling View* was the one hundredth and, to mark the event, the first issue was re-printed and distributed with it. Twenty five years ago, Master was bemoaning his poor performance in the 1988 Thanet Marathon. He wondered if he was getting too old for running and pointed out that marathon running is like Christianity – either done wholeheartedly or not done well at all! Well, he’s still running (stumbling really) round Cuxton and Halling and he’s still practising the Christian religion. Old ladies on Zimmer frames very often overtake him in both pursuits. He’s also still writing for *Halling View*. Actually he has done a number of marathons since 1988 and done better times than that (5 hours) but never anything very remarkable. Master never was an athlete! I wonder if he could run a marathon now. He stopped applying for the London Marathon (one of the few left) when they introduced a question about ethnicity. Awkward so and so insists that the only race which should matter on that day is the one from Blackheath to St James Park. He says that we respect Mo Farah because he can run faster than most people, not because he counts towards some quota of ethnic minority athletes. Master won’t tell the keepers of the General Synod register

of ethnicities either what race he belongs to. St Paul says that all Christians are the same, whatever their ethnicity, gender or social class!

Anyway, it just goes to show how long he has been here – since 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1987 in fact. Back in the Summer he found himself baptizing children whose grandparents he had married. He said it made him feel old, but also very happy and fulfilled. Master loves his life here as your Rector. Looking back over 26 years, there are so many things he has shared in, so many friendships. He would like to do more in both villages, but really he is trying to do the work of two men. We shan't, however, see Cuxton and Halling each have its own minister again unless many more of you support the Church regularly and generously.

The Rectory has been Master's family home all these years where he has shared both happy and sad times not only with his current family and friends, but also with those whom he loves, but sees no longer. It is good to think of all the friendships over the years. Bobby came here as not much more than a puppy and lived here all his life, till he was almost 15. Many people still remember him. I was only six weeks old when I arrived and now I am twelve. I've made plenty of friends in the parish and had lots of good times walking with Master in the surrounding countryside. There were all those happy years when Master's mother lived with us. We have a beautiful big garden and a lovely house. Master is richly blessed and he hopes to be with you for many years yet.

Master likes it when he sees the church full for a wedding or a christening or even a funeral and there are people there whose own weddings and christenings he has taken over the years – to see the same people again and again at the most important times in their lives and the lives of their friends. He is glad that they want to mark these significant events in the Church, looking to God for His blessing and strength in their lives, but he is a little disappointed that so many people who want to be Christians do not see that they should come to Church every Sunday to participate in the fellowship, to hear the Word and to share in the Sacrament. Even the hurt he has felt when there have been quarrels in the Church and the wider community reflects his love for the place. Rather naively, he thinks that the parish should be one big, happy family and can't understand it when people are horrid. He's still shocked that some of his opponents in the parish have been able to use their positions in local government to harm him (and also the Church and his neighbours). When Master came to Cuxton he thought that England was a free country, a democracy under the law, with incorruptible public servants. He knows different now!

So he still plods along, what he calls running or, more honestly, jogging three or four times a week. I don't know that he needs to, however. Taking me for walks ought to be enough exercise for him. A few weeks ago, we did some more of the North Downs Way. It was another very hot day – though not quite so hot as last time. We took the train to Bearsted where we met our friend and walked up the road to Thurnham. Then we set off up a very steep hill to Thurnham Castle. There's not much castle to see, but the views are incredible. While the humans were enjoying the view, I went off exploring and started following a lady photographer. I did him a favour really. Coming to get me, he found the boards with all the information about the castle on them. We then headed east in the footsteps of the pilgrims. The path was very much up and down, in and out of fields and woods. In fact I think the pilgrims generally took the lower, flatter road. There were stupendous views all the way and some beautiful white cattle with enormous horns on some pasture we had to pass through. I got so far ahead he put me on my lead for his own peace of mind. A drink at the *Dirty Habit* at Hollingbourne (which Master says used to have the much nicer name of the *Pilgrims Rest*) and a slightly less interesting, but also less strenuous, walk along various tracks to Lenham. There had been talk of Charing but that was too far. So lunch in the grounds of a hotel and then train home. We hope to manage one more walk this year if the weather is not too bad.

I've also watched him stretching and bending to hang out the washing, performing isotonic whole body exercises pushing the mower, developing his abs and pecs using a Dutch hoe and twisting and reaching with his old-fashioned long-handled scythe which had one of its rare outings this year. He also says he intends to carry on riding his bike so long as he's fit enough unless they make cycle helmets compulsory. So I think really he still gets enough exercise despite what he wrote 25 years ago about being past it! Max.