

St John the Baptist Halling & the Jubilee Hall Upper Halling		
October 5 th Trinity 20 Harvest Festival	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	Proverbs 2 vv 1-11 p636 Mark 10 vv 2-16 p1014
	11.00 Holy Communion	Isaiah 5 vv 1-7 p689 Philippians 3 vv 4b-14 p1180 Matthew 21 vv 33-46 p990
October 12 th Trinity 21	11.00 Holy Communion	Isaiah 25 vv 1-9 p708 Philippians 4 vv 1-9 p1180 Matthew 22 vv 1-14 p990
	5.30 Evensong Jubilee Hall	Proverbs 3 vv 1-18 p637 1 John 3 vv 1-15 p1226
October 19 th Trinity 22	11.00 Stop! Look! Listen!	Isaiah 45 vv 1-7 p731 1 Thessalonians 1 vv 1-10 p1186 Matthew 22 vv 15-22 p990
October 26 th Last Sunday after Trinity, Dedication Festival, Bible Sunday.	11.00 Holy Communion	Leviticus 19 vv 1&2 p121 Leviticus 19 vv 15-18 p122 1 Thessalonians 2 vv 1-8 p1186 Matthew 22 vv 34-46 p991
November 2 nd All Saints Sunday (including commemoration of faithful departed)	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	1 John 3 vv 1-3 p1226 Matthew 5 vv 1-12 p968
	11.00 Holy Communion	Revelation 7 vv 9-17 p1238 Matthew 5 vv 1-12 p968
St Michael & All Angels Cuxton		
October 5 th Trinity 20 Harvest Festival	9.30 Family Communion & Holy Baptism	Isaiah 5 vv 1-7 p689 Philippians 3 vv 4b-14 p1180 Matthew 21 vv 33-46 p990
	6.30 Harvest Evensong followed by Harvest Supper in Church Hall	Deuteronomy 28 vv 1-14 p205 Luke 12 vv 16-30 p1045
October 12 th Trinity 21	9.30 Holy Communion	Isaiah 25 vv 1-9 p708 Philippians 4 vv 1-9 p1180 Matthew 22 vv 1-14 p990
October 19 th Trinity 22	8.00 Holy Communion	Proverbs 4 vv 1-18 p638 Mark 10 vv 35-45 p1015
	9.30 Holy Communion	Isaiah 45 vv 1-7 p731 1 Thessalonians 1 vv 1-10 p1186 Matthew 22 vv 15-22 p990
October 26 th Last Sunday after Trinity, Dedication Festival, Bible Sunday.	9.30 Holy Communion	Leviticus 19 vv 1&2 p121 Leviticus 19 vv 15-18 p122 1 Thessalonians 2 vv 1-8 p1186 Matthew 22 vv 34-46 p991
November 2 nd All Saints Sunday (including commemoration of faithful departed)	9.30 Family Communion	1 John 3 vv 1-3 p1226 Matthew 5 vv 1-12 p968

Please note that Shoeboxes for Blythswood will be received at the services on 2nd November. There has been a request for notice of the readings at weekday services so that worshippers can read them in advance. So here they are for Wednesdays & Thursdays 9.30 HC.

Wednesday 1 st	Job 9 vv 1-16, Luke 9 v57-end	Thursday 2 nd	Job 19 vv 21-27, Luke 10 vv 1-12
Wednesday 8 th	Galatians 2 vv 1-14, Luke 11 vv 1-4	Thursday 9 th	Galatians 3 vv 1-5, Luke 11 vv 5-13
Wednesday 15 th	Galatians 5 vv 18-end, Luke 11 vv 42-46	Thursday 16 th	Ephesians 1 vv 1-10, Luke 11 vv 47-end
Wednesday 22 nd	Ephesians 2 vv 3-12, Luke 12 vv 49-53	Thursday 23 rd	Ephesians 3 vv 14-end, Luke 12 vv 49-53
Wednesday 29 th	Ephesians 6 vv 1-9, Luke 13 vv 22-30	Thursday 30 th	Ephesians 6 vv 10-20, Luke 13 vv 31-end

On Thursday afternoons we have a **Mother & Toddler** service at Halling at 2.00 and at Cuxton every Wednesday also at 2.00. **Sunday School** is at Cuxton Church Hall at 9.30 (not first Sundays or school holidays). **After School Club**, Thursdays @ St John's.

Harvest Festival (October 5th 2008)

This will be celebrated at St Michael's at 9.30 & St John's at 11.00 at our Parish Communion. (There is also Holy Communion at 8.00 at the Jubilee Hall.) We are also celebrating a Harvest Evensong at 6.30 at St Michael's, followed by the Harvest Supper in the Church Hall. All are welcome. If you would like to bring harvest gifts for any of these services, please bring tinned and packeted goods for distribution to families and individuals in need. We shall also have the opportunity from Harvest to Christmas to donate money in the Poverty and Hope Envelopes, which will also be the beneficiary of any profits from the Harvest Supper.

Quotations

William Temple (Archbishop of Canterbury during World War II) wrote: *People are always saying that conduct is supremely important, and that because prayer helps it, therefore prayer is good. That is true as far as it goes; still truer is that worship is of supreme importance and conduct tests it.*

The Chief Rabbi: *Suppose, for example, that I give someone £100. Either he is entitled to it, or he is not. If he is, then my act is a form of justice. If he is not, it is an act of charity. In English a gesture of charity cannot be an act of justice, nor can an act of justice be described as charity. Righteousness (Heb tzedakah, צדקה) is therefore an unusual term because it means both. God is righteous and God's people are called to be righteous too.*¹

From the Registers

Baptisms:

30th August
7th September

Isabella Jane Pelling
Emily Rose & Evelyn Jean Open

The Glebe
Snodland

Funeral:

22nd August

Arthur Ernest Thompson (92)

Pilgrims Road.

Arthur Thompson (Skip)

Mabel and family thank all who attended Arthur's funeral service on August 22nd. We would also thank those who sent letters and cards of sympathy and donations in Arthur's memory. We felt strength and comfort from knowing that we were in the prayers and thoughts of so many at this sad time for us.

Mabel Thompson.

Arthur Ernest Thompson RIP

Parishioners were sorry to learn of the death of Arthur (Skip) Thompson, who had lived in North Halling for over sixty years and had done so much in the community. Skip was responsible for restarting the Cuxton Scout Group after the Second World War, acting at various times as troop leader and GSL. When the time came for him to hand in his leader's warrant, he continued as a committee member and treasurer. Skip was very much the inspiration behind the building of the present scout hall in Bush Road and his contribution to scouting is recognised in the grant of two silver acorn awards. Arthur Thompson was also a faithful worshipper at St Michael's and served both on PCC and as a churchwarden. Many people knew him too from the many years when he was the "man from the Pru", visiting numerous homes in Halling, not only to collect their insurance money, but also for a chat and practical help where needed. Our sympathy is extended to Mabel and all the family at this time.

Reverend Christine Haydon RIP

Many of us were also saddened to hear of the death of Christine Haydon, whose funeral was held at East Malling on 4th September. Christine formerly lived in Cuxton, where she taught in the school and played an active part in the Church, assisting with the youth and with marriage preparation. Subsequently, Christine went on to teach at other schools, left the village and went on to be ordained, serving at Snodland and Aylesford and most recently East Malling churches. She will be sadly missed and our sympathy goes out to her family.

¹ This comes from Jonathan Sacks *The Dignity of Difference* a book I strongly recommend, obtainable from the library.



1
O all ye
Works
of the
Lord,
bless ye

the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

2 O ye Angels of the
Lord, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

3 O ye Heavens,
bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

4 O ye Waters that
be above the Firmament,
bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

5 O all ye Powers of
the Lord, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

6 O ye Sun and
Moon, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

7 O ye Stars of
Heaven, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

8 O ye Showers and
Dew, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

9 O ye Winds of
God, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

10 O ye Fire and
Heat, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

11 O ye Winter and
Summer, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

12 O ye Dews and
Frosts, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

13 O ye Frost and
Cold, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

14 O ye Ice and
Snow, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

15 O ye Nights and
Days, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

16 O ye Light and
Darkness, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

17 O ye Lightnings
and Clouds, bless ye the
Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

Benedicite, Omnia Opera

18 O let the Earth
bless the Lord :
yea, let it praise him, and
magnify him for ever.

19 O ye Mountains
and Hills, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

20 O all ye Green
Things upon the Earth, bless
ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

21 O ye Wells, bless
ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

22 O ye Seas and
Floods, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

23 O ye Whales, and
all that move in the Waters,
bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

24 O all ye Fowls of
the Air, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

25 O all ye Beasts
and Cattle, bless ye the Lord
:
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

26 O ye Children of
Men, bless ye the Lord :

praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

27 O let Israel bless
the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

28 O ye Priests of the
Lord, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

29 O ye Servants of
the Lord, bless ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

30 O ye Spirits and
Souls of the Righteous, bless
ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

31 O ye holy and
humble Men of heart, bless
ye the Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever.

32 O Ananias, Azarias
and Misael, bless ye the
Lord :
praise him, and magnify him
for ever. The Song of the
Three Holy Children 35-66

Glory be to the Father, and
to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is
now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Singing the Benedicite is one of the pleasures we forwent when we stopped celebrating choral Mattins. It is a great hymn of creation, calling on the whole created order to worship Him Who is above all worship. (In case you are wondering, Ananias, Azarias and Misael are the three young men who were miraculously saved when King Nebuchadnezzar threw them into a burning, fiery furnace because they refused to worship his golden image. That is the original context of the canticle.)

October is the month in which this parish normally celebrates Harvest Festival. It is an Autumn month. The leaves on the trees are changing colour. The hedgerows, woods and

orchards are laden with the berries, nuts and fruits which will see us and the animals through the Winter. You might observe shooting stars in the night sky. In short, it is very much a time to wonder at the magnificence of Creation.

But, what are our emotions when we look at the marvels of the earth and skies? Primitive humanity worshipped the sun and the planets, the stars and even trees, springs and rocks. They treated nature as though she were divine and made gods of the things which God had made. The people who gave us the Bible had a deeper insight. It is God Who made everything. Nothing else is divine or worthy of worship. As made in His image, we are *the crown of all creation*. We

praise God for creation. The whole creation praises God. As *the crown of all creation*, we are its stewards. It is there for our use, but it is not there for us to exploit to the point of destruction. It is there for the use of the whole human race, which means that those who have plenty have a moral obligation to share with those who do not have enough.

Sometimes I fear, that we have not entirely left behind us the pagan worship of nature. Millions of people still believe in astrology, the curious notion that the stars influence and predict our destiny. "Deep green" environmentalists come very close sometimes to referring to the earth or Gaia or nature as a goddess. *Mother Nature* is a phrase which trips easily off the tongues of most people. There are animal rights campaigners who appear to see no essential distinction between human beings and animals that would justify us, in certain circumstances and with proper respect for non-human life, in killing animals or carrying out experiments on them. The way some people react to the proposed cutting down of trees suggests that trees mean more to them than what trees actually are. As Christians, we wonder at nature and we respect nature. We rightly recoil from destroying its wonders, complexities and beauties or causing pain to sentient beings. We cannot, however, worship nature. We can only worship God and, because we worship God, we can have a proper perspective on what we may do with the universe He has made.

While primitive humanity worshipped nature as though she were personal and divine, modernity tended to see the universe as a machine. It just exists. We cannot say why the universe exists. Life came into being through the blind reactions of the chemicals which happened to distil out of the stars. Once existent, life evolved by a combination of chance and the amoral survival of the fittest into the millions of organisms on the earth (and maybe on other planets) today.

Nature Notes August 2008

The first day of the month brought bright sunshine and blue skies embellished by billowing white clouds. In the evening I picked blackberries from the garden. On the afternoon of the 3rd, and beneath grey skies, I walked with Murphy along the lane at Addington where white dead nettle, herb robert, pink campion, enchanter's nightshade and nipplewort bloomed. I observed holly with its shiny leaves reflecting the light. Rain was falling

Nothing then has any intrinsic meaning or purpose. The Universe just is. Things just are. *Man is the measure of all things*. Such an attitude both alienates us from the world we live in and invites us to exploit it ruthlessly. The only reason for conservation is to protect what we hope to exploit in the future. It is chilling to think of the world in this way and such an attitude ultimately strips human beings of their intrinsic worth. If we too are here by chance, the end product of millions of years of random evolution, we, no less than all the plants and animals, have no real significance in the great scheme of things, just cogs in the machine. We are born. We die. Between those two events, we struggle to make the best of life and put off dying as long as possible. No wonder we live in such a pathetic society in which people put sport and shopping before public worship and get their kicks from alcohol and other drugs rather than from being filled with the Spirit of God, which is their heritage as human beings if only they would believe. No wonder we have so little self respect or moral seriousness. No wonder we treat other human beings with such contempt.

Universe as machine is a useful model for scientific investigation. In many ways, the universe does behave like a gigantic machine and scientific advance depends on observing and recognising its mechanisms. Such scientific research has brought tremendous benefits. *Universe as machine* is, however, only a fraction of the reality. *Universe as machine* is a tiny part of *Universe as Creation*, which is what the Universe really is. It is only when we acknowledge that the entire Universe is a product of the outpouring of the love of God that we can apprehend what the world is really about and what our place is in it.

It is in worship that we find ourselves.

Roger.

as we drove home and it fell steadily during the evening. On the 5th it felt quite autumnal as rain fell but by the afternoon, however, the skies brightened enabling me to walk along the river path with Murphy where the flower banks were beginning to look rather tired. The water was high with grasses just emerging above the water level. Pied wagtails were vocal as they strutted ahead of us.

On the night of the 6th there had been quite a fierce storm but the air on the 7th was still humid. More rain fell during the day. The following day I watched a mistlethrush in the garden. A squirrel was upside down in the lilac tree as it scoffed the peanuts from the feeder.

Clear blue skies greeted the early morning of the 9th and the sun shone brightly and with warmth. I walked across Church Fields where I saw ripe hips and elderberries along with mallow, thistles, dandelions and ragwort. Before I reached the field I observed a bee busy on a single ivy flower. The others were still in bud. I walked through Mays Wood where the paths were dappled with sunlight but all was still, not a sound of a bird. Later I gazed across Dean Valley where the golden fields were bathed in glorious sunshine. I continued down to Purty's Shaw then climbed a steep woodland path to Six-acre Wood. I had seen a fox running in the field by Purty's Shaw. Hips had ripened and bittersweet was in flower in the churchyard. By mid morning grey clouds were drifting across from the west and the afternoon became dull and wet. We took Murphy to Camer Park on the 11th where for a while the sun shone brightly before dark clouds rolled across the sky. Heavy rain had fallen during the night of the 11th and it continued into the next morning before the clouds were dispersed by the strong westerly wind. When the sun was shining again, I sat in the garden drinking in the sun's warmth and watching billowing grey clouds marching across the azure sky. and the trees bowing and bending in the strong wind. Each time it looked as though the clouds would fill the sky and bring more rain, they parted, allowing the sun's rays to beam down on the garden. The feeder in the lilac swung backwards and forwards giving the great tit perched there quite a ride. With strong winds blowing the next day, it felt quite autumnal. We

walked by the river which was low thus revealing a wide expanse of mud flats which glistened in the sunlight and seaweed lay against the wall. Pied wagtails strutted ahead of us. The morning of the 15th was particularly beautiful when we took Murphy to Camer Park where the grass was a deep green for it had benefited from the rain. The next day I watched a dragonfly weaving gracefully backwards and forwards across the garden. Rain fell early on the morning of the 17th but the sun was shining brightly again in the afternoon when I took Murphy along the lane at Addington where herb Robert peeped from the grasses. By the stream at the edge of the cricket field great willow herb bloomed. The following evening I watched a squirrel hanging upside down in the lilac as it gorged on the peanuts.

Some flowers continued to bloom along the grassy banks by the river on the 20th but the green freshness of earlier in the year had long gone. On the grey morning of the 22nd, when the grass was wet from overnight rain, David pointed out tiny spiders in large webs which had been woven amongst the heather's stems and cotoneaster twigs. They are some of nature's wonders. On the afternoon of the 23rd I sat very still in the garden and watched great tits, a robin and a collared dove feeding from the bird table. I could hear the pecking of two great tits as they fed in the lilac branches.

From the 24th to the 29th we experienced overcast days with no sign of the sun then on the 30th we were rewarded with a beautiful warm, sunny day. I watched a dragonfly hovering over the pond and great tits and a young collared dove feeding on the nuts and seeds. On the final day of the month, I was fortunate to have a spell of sunshine when I walked Murphy by the river..

Elizabeth Summers.

The Storm by Edward Shanks

We wake to hear the storm come
down,
Sudden on roof and pane;
The thunders loud and the hasty
wind
Hurries the beating rain.

The rain slackens, the wind blows
gently,
The gust grows gently and stills,
And the thunder, like a breaking
stick,
Stumbles about the hills.

The crops still hang on leaf and
thorn,
The downs stand up more green;
The sun comes out again in
power
And the sky is washed and clean.

Church Hall Draw: £5 to Buffy Maisey, drawn by Maureen Holt.

St John's Draw: £25 each to Mrs Cheeseman (134) & Mrs Cheeseman (136), £10 to Mrs Yates (149) – drawn by Mrs Brown.

Totals: Our unregistered walkers to Rochester Cathedral on 19th July raised £113 for the **Children of Zimbabwe** and the Summer events for **Andrew Dauntton-Feare** raised in excess of £325. Thanks for everyone's support. We raised an incredible £500 in our sponsored walk for **Christian Aid** (to add to £400 raised by other walkers. We raised a further £300 at our **Christian Aid Supper**. Well done, everybody!



There will be a **Quiz for Church Funds** on October 18th at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall. £6 includes supper. Quizmaster Darryl Palmer.



Dickens' Country Protection Society

THAMES PORT. The redevelopment of Shell Haven on the north side of the river has been given the go ahead and we are now likely to see the loss of some of the marshes to the river as mitigation measures for the new development. The Society has opposed the inundation of the marshes and is disappointed that the development is to take place.

So You Like Animals, Do You?



Someone (or some people) is (are) still putting food in the rectory garden, presumably for the wild life. This is dangerous to Max, my dog and, if you really cared about animals, you would not do it. Feed the wildlife in your own garden if you want to, but please do not trespass on mine.

If anyone has any information about who is doing this, I shall be glad to take whatever action is appropriate (including prosecution) against the culprit.

Roger.

News from Cuxton Community Infant School

Dear friends of our school,

We hope you had a good holiday and managed to find some sun! Now in school we wonder whether we will have to put the heating on earlier this year. We have now been back almost a week and the children have settled into their new classes. The Foundation stage children are coming into school very happily and I feel this is largely due to the numerous visits they have throughout the year with the playgroups and also during the summer term when they visit what is to be their new class. We have also welcomed several new children to our school who have moved into the village and wish them and their families a very happy and successful time with us.

Over the holiday Mr Thomas, our caretaker has been working very hard in the grounds. The quiet sensory area has been re-vamped and is looking lovely and Mr Thomas has created a small garden area at the front of the school, which is fairly temporary as building work is pending. The gardening club are busy planting up new pots and planters and the Foundation stage children hope to fill some new raised beds with vegetables and herbs.

We have decided this year for our Harvest to support 'Caring hands' who are an outreach project in Medway. They have a drop in and day centre and would like us to provide donations of non-perishable goods. Our Harvest Festival will be on the 10th October. We hope to, during the remainder of the year, support Blythswood with their survival bucket appeal.

This term in school the children will be thinking about the following topics- myself, senses and growing, famous people like Helen Keller and Florence Nightingale, Hindu ceremonies and beliefs, and being healthy, hygienic and safe. This is obviously aside from the Numeracy, literacy and Ict work that will be covered. In assemblies we will be thinking about new beginnings including The Creation, babies' needs, Moses, and a recipe for a happy school and beginning the school year.

The five o' club continue to come into school on a Wednesday and you are most welcome to come for lunch on this day too providing you let us know before hand. We would love to see you. Alternatively if you are able to give some time to school by coming in and helping or talking with the children about your work or the past please contact the office.

Wishing you a very happy month, take care, Sandra Jones, Headteacher.



CUXTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We have had three speakers since my last report. One on the subject of Puppets, (at short notice due to a cancellation), one rather uninspiring talk with slides on the History of the Red Pillar Box, and this month, a very informative talk with slides, of the work of the Kent Air Ambulance Trust. There were varied items for sale at the end of the meeting. A very worthwhile cause to support.

All the inter-meeting groups have been meeting as usual, and some members, mainly from the Poetry group, are rehearsing for the Variety Show at Aylesford in October. We are having problems with music as our pianist is unwell, so may have to resort to a recording. Hope it will be alright on the night!!



HALLING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Halling W.I. had almost a full complement of members at our August meeting, Sandra being the exception. She was off doing her water sports somewhere in the midlands. We will have to get her on the cover of W.I. Life. We had five birthday girls this month, all names beginning with J. It made up for July when we didn't have any birthdays at all. Minutes were dealt with and correspondence sorted. The Thursford Christmas Concert outing, organised by the County has had to be cancelled. The coach company messed up with the tickets, but names were taken for the District Concert to be held at Aylesford and Ecdes W. I. in October. Betty Head will host a Coffee Morning on Sept 3rd for W. I. funds, and the Sept craft meeting will be held on the same day at Jean Mattingtey's house, after lunch.

Our speaker for the evening was Mr Dennis Wooster, a gardener by trade, whose hobby is "Walking Sticks" We discovered that Dennis was born in Upper Halling so I wouldn't be surprised if some of his sticks originated in the woods around here. Dennis had brought a goodly number of his walking sticks that he had made for us to see and he explained to us how he chooses the various wood he uses, holly, hawthorn, hazel, any thing

Cuxton has arranged a District outing to Kew Gardens on the 10th September, and let's hope the weather improves for that day. The Walkers have been along the river at Yalding and had lunch at Teapot Island. The weather was glorious and we ate outside. Last month we walked around Ranscombe Farm and ended with a superb lunch provided by Sheila Underdown, (our leader) and we were all happy to make a donation to The Woodland Trust. Although a bit windy and overcast, we bravely ate in Sheila's garden and had a very enjoyable time.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 2nd October - AGM

At the AGM we are having a "Boasting" evening whereby members bring any items of craft, artwork, poems, pottery which they have done at home. If time, there will be a Quiz.

Ann Harris

really so long as it was fairly straight, but it has to be seasoned in bundles in his shed for quite a few months. He told us how he was commissioned to make a staff (a bit like a shepherd's crook for the Bishops of Rochester and Tonbridge when they went on a pilgrimage. He had some lovely carved handles to show us, especially a red setter and a pheasant. He uses quite simple tools for his carvings, very sharp. I was surprised he still had all of his fingers. he said he had had a few near misses. I have known Dennis since he was a young boy. So it was my pleasure to thank him on behalf of all of us and was quite touched when he remembered my mum and dad, but then he used to leave his bike at our house when he had to catch the bus to school. Reason, the family lived a good few miles out of the village at Wouldham. After tea Dennis judged our competitions. L for Lion this month, we didn't have any Lions, but a few Lanterns and Ladles, Pat Glover won this month with a pretty little green Lantern. I won the Flower of the Month with my almost black sunflower. It should have been called a Moon flower as it is very unusual and far from sunny. September is going to be an open meeting when everybody is welcome. Mr Bob Ogley will talk about "The Spirit of Invicta".

Phyllis Chidwick.

Halling Historical Society

October 16th: Dr Quinian – History & Development of Fruit Farming. 7.30 pm Jubilee Hall.



November 2nd
All Saints Sunday

The 2nd November is a Sunday this year and we shall hold our annual commemoration of the faithful departed by name at the 9.30 am service at Cuxton and the 11.00 am service at Halling. We remember by name all those whose funerals we have taken in the previous year and those whose names are in our books of remembrance. Relatives and friends of the departed are especially welcome.



We shall also be collecting the shoe boxes people have filled for the Blythwood Appeal. Leaflets available in church advise what to put into them. This is the last Sunday for bringing boxes and they will be formally received at this service. Please, however, do not feel that you have to bring a shoebox. This is entirely optional!

Roger.

together@Bognor



During the week of 19-22 January 2009 the Diocese will meet together once more at Butlins in Bognor. We will be moving forward from what we've experienced in the past at both Bognor and Detling.

During our time together we will be thinking about what it means to be one people, with one purpose and one passion, and we've got some world class speakers to help us.

Alongside the keynote speakers, there will be a comprehensive programme of seminars and workshops, plus opportunities for different styles of worship, time to visit the well-stocked marketplace, and space to network with other delegates. The full conference programme will be available in due course. If you would like any further information, please email us on together@rochester.anglican.org or ask your rector.

The cost is £288 per person, but there will be grants available if this is too much.

Hire the Church Hall for Your Children's Party.

The Church Hall, Rochester Road, Cuxton, is ideal for children's parties with good kitchen and other facilities. Rates are highly competitive and bookings may be made with Malcolm Curnow 01634 719585.

(The hall is not let for teenage parties.)

And Finally

Clergy are sometimes asked to give advice about prayer. Well, it is perfectly simple. Take time each day to commune with God. Tell Him your troubles. Confess your sins. Don't forget to be thankful for all the good things He gives you. Ask for His blessing on other people. Enjoy worship and praise. Use prayers that other people have written if you find them helpful. Talk to God in your own words. Listen. Let the Holy Spirit speak for you. Also, remember that God is with you every minute of the day and you can always, at anytime, share with Him your thoughts, your perplexities or anxieties, your hopes, your reasons to be happy, anything you might be sorry or ashamed about, absolutely anything that may be on your mind. And meet with other Christians for Sunday services and on other occasions to pray together because Jesus promised to be present whenever even two or three are gathered in His Name.

Prayer helps us to cope with life. I often think how terrible it must be for those of no faith at all when they have to face up to really serious issues. Parents who bring up their children without teaching them to pray are cruelly depriving them of the greatest resource they need for living their lives. Prayer makes us better people and it is certainly right to pray for God's Blessing on what we attempt to achieve in His Name, whether as individuals or as a Church.

Prayer is so good for us that there is the danger that we may pray selfishly, not merely that we might ask God for what we want, rather than for what He wants, but that we might pray simply because it is so good for us. Temple says, *Prayer is good. That is true as far as it goes; still truer is that worship is of supreme importance and conduct tests it.* In the Romans reading, Paul has a great deal to say about Christian conduct, but I am sure that the key words are *let love be without dissimulation and continuing instant in prayer.* It is our relationship with God, our communion with Him which determines our relationship with other people

and, therefore, our conduct. This relationship is worship and it is what Jesus is talking about in the Gospel when He speaks about how we may lose or find our lives.

The only person we ought to worship is God. The only place I can think of in Christian writing where it is ever said to be appropriate to worship anything other than God is in the Prayer Book marriage service (and the Puritans objected to that and it got left out when the Prayer Book was eventually revised in C20). We may not worship angels or holy people. We may only worship God. To worship is to offer your whole life. To offer your life to anything less than God is to waste it. To fail to offer your life to God is to waste it, because if you are not living for God, you are living for something else and God is the only worth living for.

In the Prayer Book marriage service, the groom says to the bride, *With this ring I thee wed, with my body I thee worship*. Surely the new service means the same, *all that I am I give you. Self-offering = true love = worship*. But we can only say this in the context of a Christian marriage, because, as Christians, we know that our human relationships are *within the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit*, (new service) and we make these commitments in His name (old service).

We become what we worship.