

Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxton		
Sunday 4 th October Harvest & Dedication	9.30 Family Communion	1 Peter 2 vv 1-10 p1218 John 10 vv 22-29 p1077
Sunday 11 th October Trinity 18	9.30 Holy Communion	Amos 5 vv 6-15 p920 Hebrews 4 vv 12-16 p1203 Mark 10 vv 17-31 p1014
Sunday 18 th October St Luke	8.00 Holy Communion	Acts 16 vv 6-12 p1111 Luke 10 vv 1-9 p1041
	9.30 Holy Communion	Isaiah 35 vv 3-6 p719 2 Timothy 4 vv 5-17 p1197 Luke 10 vv 1-9 p1041
Sunday 25 th October Bible Sunday	9.30 Holy Communion	Jeremiah 31 vv 7-9 p791 Hebrews 7 vv 23-28 p1205 Mark 10 vv 46-52 p1015
Sunday 1 st November All Saints	9.30 Family Communion Please bring shoeboxes for Blythswood Appeal	Isaiah 25 vv 6-9 p708 Revelation 21 vv 1-7 p1249 John 11 vv 32-44 p1078
Monday 2 nd November All Souls	7.30 pm Holy Communion	1 Peter 1 vv 3-9 p1217 John 6 vv 37-40 p1070
Sunday 8 th November 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 & the Jubilee Hall Upper Halling		
Sunday 4 th October Harvest & Dedication	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall (Trinity 17)	Genesis 2 vv 18-24 p5 Mark 10 vv 2-16 p1014
	11.00 Holy Communion & Thanksgiving	Genesis 28 vv 11-18 p30 1 Peter 2 vv 1-10 p1218 John 10 vv 22-29 p1077
	6. 30 Harvest Praise	Joel 2 vv 21-27 p913 1 Timothy 6 vv 6-10 p1194
Sunday 11 th October Trinity 18	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
Sunday 18 th October St Luke	11.00 Stop! Look! Listen! & Holy Communion	Isaiah 35 vv 3-6 p719 2 Timothy 4 vv 5-17 p1197 Luke 10 vv 1-9 p1041
Sunday 25 th October Bible Sunday	11.00 Holy Communion & Holy Baptism	Jeremiah 31 vv 7-9 p791 Hebrews 7 vv 23-28 p1205 Mark 10 vv 46-52 p1015
Sunday 1 st November All Saints	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	Revelation 21 vv 1-7 p1249 John 11 vv 32-44 p1078
	11.00 Holy Communion Please bring shoeboxes for Blythswood Appeal	Isaiah 25 vv 6-9 p708 Revelation 21 vv 1-7 p1249 John 11 vv 32-44 p1078
Monday 2 nd November All Souls	9.30 Holy Communion	Romans 5 vv 5-11 p1132 John 5 vv 19-25 p1069
Sunday 8 th November Remembrance Sunday	10.50 Holy Communion & Parade	Jonah 3 vv 1-10 p928 Hebrews 9 vv 24-28 p1207 Mark 1 vv 14-20 p1002
	5.30 Evening Prayer Jubilee Hall	Isaiah 10 v33 – 11 v9 p696 John 14 vv 23-29 p1082

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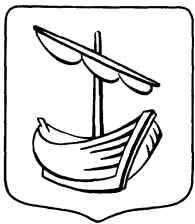
On Thursday afternoons we have a **Mother & Toddler** service at Halling at 2.00 and at Cuxton every Wednesday also at 2.00. **Saints Alive!** (formerly Sunday School) is at Cuxton Church Hall at 9.30 (not first Sundays or school holidays). **After School Club**, Thursdays @ St John's.
Copy Date November Magazine: 9th October 8.30 am Rectory.

Wednesday Communion at St Michael's 9.30 am		Thursday Communion at St John's 9.30 am	
30 th September	Nehemiah 2 vv 1-8 Luke 9 vv 57 - end	1 st October	Nehemiah 8 vv 1-12 Luke 10 vv 1-12
7 th October	Jonah 4 Luke 11 vv 1-4	8 th October	Malachi 3 v 13 – 4 v 2a Luke 11 vv 5-13
14 th October	Romans 2 vv 1-11 Luke 11 vv 42-46	15 th October	Romans 3 vv 21-30 Luke 11 vv 47-end
21 st October	Romans 6 vv 12-16 Luke 12 vv 39-48	22 nd October	Romans 6 vv 19-end Luke 12 vv 49-53
28 th October Ss Simon and Jude	Isaiah 28 vv 14-16 Ephesians 2 vv 19-end John 15 vv 17-end	29 th October	Romans 8 vv 31 – end Luke 13 vv 31 - end

Forthcoming Attractions

4th October 6.30: Harvest Praise & Harvest Supper
St John's
17th October 7.30: Murder Mystery Church Hall
28th November 7.30: Quiz Church Hall

11th December 7.30: Christmas Music St John's?
12th December 10.00: Christmas Coffee Morning
Church Hall.



From the Rector

This year has seen the deaths of the last two known veterans of the First World War in Britain. There is to be a memorial service in October to commemorate the sacrifices made by that generation. The last two First World War veterans in Britain were Henry Allingham and Harry Patch. In their final years, we learned to love and respect them both, though, like so many men who have experienced the horrors of war, they were reluctant to speak of their experiences and it was not until extreme old age, when they realised that they were the only ones left who could tell the story on behalf of a whole generation, that they spoke out. It seems almost unimaginable to us that so many millions of men endured so much. There were not only the appalling deaths due to enemy action, numbered in hundreds of thousands over just a few days, but also the sheer dreadfulness of life in the trenches with the lice and the rats, the mud and pools of water deep enough to drown in. It is deeply humbling that so many volunteered and that so many more accepted conscription without question. Not so many years ago, we all knew veterans of the First World War. By and large, they were ordinary men, decent men, who discovered in themselves astonishing depths of courage and resilience and found themselves caught up in hideous brutality, fighting in a cause they believed to be just. The prime minister has recently reminded us that, while nothing like the vile Nazi Reich which followed it, the German government of the time was a militaristic regime which threatened world peace and security. Given the circumstances of the time, conflict was inevitable and, that being so, victory had to be won. No-one, however, could have foreseen at what cost. It is also deeply humbling that both Henry Allingham and Harry Patch wanted at the end to honour the German soldiers who fought against them and they were both firmly committed to the cause of peace.

The First World War shaped the century to come. It brought together the social classes. Men who fought together were all the same under the uniform. There was less deference to authority. There was a deeper realisation that it was in everybody's interest to ensure that even the poorest people were well fed, educated, properly housed and able to receive the health care they needed. Both world wars accelerated medical progress and technological advance. A generation of parents grew old without their sons. A generation of women lost their sweethearts and found a new role in the work place. The First World War destroyed the facile optimism of the late Victorian period that everything was bound effortlessly to get better as technology solved our practical problems and education taught people to cooperate one with another instead of fight. When the horrors finally sank into the public consciousness, there was a loss of confidence in the politicians, generals, bishops and other senior figures, who seemed to have eagerly committed the nation to war without any awareness of the human cost. We are where we are today because of the bravery and strength of millions of men like Henry Allingham and Harry Patch. We remember them and we honour them.

Roger.

How "Right On" Are You?

Take this simple test to see how far you measure up to the challenges of the modern world.

Questions

- 1) You are an employer with two applicants for one job. One is male and one is female. Do you:
 - a) Employ the man because he won't be asking for maternity leave?
 - b) Employ the woman because you can probably get away with paying her less?
 - c) Choose the woman because it would be sexist to choose the man?
 - d) Choose the man because it would be patronising to choose the woman just because she was a woman?
- 2) You are an off duty police officer and you see a small child fall into a pond. Do you:
 - a) Jump in and save the child?
 - b) Go and look for a boat?
 - c) Throw the child a rope?
 - d) Call for back up?
- 3) You are the headmaster of a school. For which of the following reasons should you cancel sports day?
 - a) It is too dangerous to let children run around in the sun.
 - b) If it is cloudy, it might be going to rain.
 - c) If it rained yesterday, the grass might be slippery.
 - d) Paedophiles might take photographs of the children.
- 4) You are the headmistress of a school. For which of the following reasons should the swimming pool be closed?
 - a) The water is a bit too cold.
 - b) The water is a bit too hot.
 - c) There are a few leaves floating on the surface.
 - d) The swimming pool should be closed permanently because conditions will never be just right.
- 5) You are a security guard at an airport and two coach loads of passengers turn up. One coach is the WI outing to the bulb fields of Holland. The other is the Al Qaeda trip to the training camps of Pakistan. Which coach should you search for weapons?
 - a) The Al Qaeda trip to Pakistan.
 - b) The WI trip to the bulb fields.
 - c) Neither of them.
 - d) Both of them.
- 6) You have organised a concert in a local hall. Just before the doors open, you notice that one out of the three light bulbs in the foyer has failed. You have a spare bulb and a step ladder, but no scaffolding tower. Do you:
 - a) Open up and advise the audience to take extra care?
 - b) Use the step ladder and put in a new bulb?
 - c) Cancel the performance and refund the ticket money?
 - d) Cancel the performance and keep the ticket money?
- 7) You are the human resources manager and it is your responsibility to ensure that your company's workforce has the correct ethnic balance. A job applicant has a Jamaican mother and a Nigerian father. Would he count towards your quota of
 - a) Africans
 - b) West Indians?
 - c) Both West Indians and Africans?
 - d) Neither West Indians nor Africans?

Answers

- 1) Deduct five points from your score if you chose answer a or b. Score minus 1 if you chose c or d. (There is no right answer to this question.)
- 2) Deduct five points if you chose answer a. Answers b and c score +1. Answer d gains you 10 points.
- 3) All these are good reasons for cancelling sports day. Add 3 points to your score for every answer you ticked. Sports days should be avoided as far as possible because children may be upset if they don't win. Add a further 20 points if you realised that

headmasters should now be referred to as head teachers.

4) Score three points for ticking any of answers a, b or c. Score 20 points for answer d. Deduct 5 points if you protested that the head teacher was referred to as the head mistress. This terminology was necessary to counter the gender imbalance in the last question.

5) Deduct five points from your score if you chose answer a or b. To search one coach, but not the other, would indicate unacceptable stereotyping. Score +5 points for answer c. Score +10 for answer d and a further +10 if there are long queues and people are in danger of missing their flights.

6) Deduct five points if you answered a or b. Take 10 points for answer c if you are a private individual or a voluntary organisation. You can't afford to be sued! Take 20 points for answer d if you are working for the government, the council or a major corporation. You can afford better lawyers than most members of the public and it isn't your money you're wasting anyway!

7) Everyone scores 0. There is no correct answer to this question.

Scoring

The maximum score is 110 and can only be achieved by bureaucrats in the so-called public service. 100 or more is a good score for any aspiring bureaucrat.

The lowest score is -25. If you scored in this region, you are probably fun-loving and a useful member of society. Expect to be fined or imprisoned in the very near future.

Any score above 50 qualifies you to sit on a governing body or health and safety committee. A score above 75 entitles you to a job at the HQ of any charity or voluntary organisation.

Prayer Chain

A prayer chain has been set up in our two churches with the aim of offering support to Roger's own ministry of prayer. Any villager with something to celebrate or someone for whom prayer is requested, maybe for themselves in trouble or in joy may ring me on 01634 727126 or e-mail me on elizabeth@rabhutch.demon.co.uk. The request will be listened to in confidence and passed on to the 4 members of the prayer group. We have now supported in prayer several villagers and would be pleased to receive further requests. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians, ch.4,v.6.

A murder mystery party, Sat. 17th October at 7:30pm.
St. Michael's Players proudly present a play in two Acts:

"Murder"

By Helen Bradshaw

Watch Act one and then sit back and enjoy a meal. In teams, decide who is the villain. Watch Act two, when all is revealed. Small prize for the winning team

Tickets limited – first come, first served, available from Sept 1st from Shirley and Peter 724997, Julia and Matthew 727424 **SOLD OUT**



Dickens' Country Protection Society.

The Society has taken note that when the power failed at the Dartford River Crossing and the barriers were out of action allowing the traffic to flow freely, there was no congestion. The implication is that there is no need for another Thames crossing lower down the river (east of Gravesend), because congestion at Dartford could be easily solved by abandoning toll collection (as government has repeatedly promised to do).

Christian Aid

A Division of The British Council of Churches



Christian Aid Meeting 14th October 7.30 Cliffe Road Methodist Church, Strood.

The evening is called "Poverty Over: Transforming Lives". The evening includes: getting to know you, Christian Aid in a nutshell; what is "Poverty Over"; countdown to Copenhagen; and ideas for Christmas. All welcome.



Halling WI & Church

August! What a month! Why does everyone decide to double up on social activities' after all it is considered to be the "holiday" month? We started the month with a Cheese and Wine evening to make a few bob to help with the work of our link mission partner in Indonesia. Not a very good attendance, but those who did come had a very enjoyable evening. We talked; the wine flowed freely, but as we were all driving, we knew our limits. It would hardly have been fitting to be inebriated coming out of the Rectory, and we did make a little money. Thank you Eileen and Roger.

I decided to have a break in the outback of rural Norfolk. So I missed Chris and Jenny Beaney's barbeque. I understand a good time was had by all and the Church benefited by a few hundred quid. It will help to fill our very deep financial hole, or help to pay the gas bills. Thank you Chris and Jenny.

Week beginning 17th August. Will we have time to go to bed? A Coffee morning on the 18th, once again for our link missionary's work (these are annual activities, we as a church have each summer in aid of C.M.S). Twenty or so bodies squeezed themselves into my pocket size back garden. Now I don't profess to be any good at making coffee. So I was ably assisted by Betty Head and Heather Broom who acted as chief coffee maker and "washer upper" respectively. We chatted, (N.B. I said chatted, not gossiped). My tortoise, George stayed safely in his greenhouse home. He is not usually shy, but twenty pairs of legs and one dog

was a bit much for him. I was quite pleased with the outcome of the morning. Thank you all who came.

On the evening of the 18th it was W.I. day. We had almost a full house, and Margaret was in the chair. We sang Jerusalem with gusto and Ann read the minutes. Future events: "Supper and Sonnets" at Snodland in October, and the County Federation is calling for volunteers to help in any emergency should they occur. We decided we were all getting too old, but we would do all we could should the disaster happen. Margaret then reminded us of the Fun Weekend, as many cakes as we could muster for the W.I. stall on Sunday. No chance of a rest this week. She then introduced our speaker for the evening, Mr Laurie Manser. He had been a gardener all of his working life, working on big estates, with Orangeries, orchards and walled gardens, not forgetting at one place 27 greenhouses. His first wages was 10/6p. Most of his life he had sight in only one eye, but very recently a surgeon had restored his sight. That is progress. Now he has had to learn to "walk" again and now sees twice as many weeds. Laurie judged our competitions, My stem of *Thalicttrum* won the flower of the month, I bought this plant over twenty years ago for 80p from the "cripple shelf" at Notcutts. It only sends up two stems each year but is like a purple cloud up my garden path. The competition, a garden ornament, was won by Ann Graves with her skinny, tinny, tall moggy. In fact there were many cats, perhaps they are supposed to keep off the live felines from the garden. It doesn't work in mine.

The next day saw our annual Ploughman's Lunch. This year a new venue, Karen Thorn's garden. We

were blessed with lovely weather, lovely company and lovely food, Thank you Karen and Betty, a good job well done.

Thursday and Friday, some of our ovens were red hot, cakes and scones by the dozen ready for the weekends events. Saturday was our Church Open Afternoon, all connected to the Fun weekend. The church girls served afternoon tea and scones. Roger bravely clambered up the tower umpteen times to show visitors the view from the top. Once again the church benefited from the takings, not a huge amount, but it will help to pay the bills.

August is the month when Halling W.I. entertain the other Institutes in the District. We welcomed as our speaker for the evening, a young lady Joanne Everson. Joanne is in charge of the Alpine Garden at Kew. She had recently returned from a plant finding mission to China, but had come to talk about her trip to Bhutan, a country which very few

people visit. She called her talk "Mud Mountains and Plants". Her slides and description of the country, mostly 5000 metres above sea level were truly amazing. She suffered altitude sickness and was laced with a concoction of soup made from Trout and Garlic, she said she was made to drink pints of the stuff, but it made her better, she is a vegetarian and doesn't eat fish, poor girl. You really felt as if you were up these very steep shale covered mountains, and out of little nooks and crannies the most amazing plants, blue poppies just a few inches high, one plant as big as a traffic cone covered in cream coloured cabbage like leaves, protecting a weird looking flower close against its stem with an unpronounceable name. I could only think of "All things bright and beautiful" and "He gave us eyes to see them" What a wonderful world we are privileged to live in! All the ladies went home on a high and us organizers were thinking thank goodness August is nearly over. Bring on September. Phyllis.



Please bring shoeboxes for Blythwood Appeal to services on 1st November. Leaflets explaining what to do are available in Church.

St John's Draw: £25 each to Mrs Chidwick (30) & Miss Wells (111), £10 to Mr Head (2) – drawn by Mrs Garland.

Thanksgiving, Baptism & Confirmation

Lately we have had a couple of requests for services of Thanksgiving after the Birth of a Child. I have been asked what this is and how it differs from Baptism. Baptism is incorporation into the people of God. When you are baptised (christened) you become a member of God's Church with all the privileges and responsibilities that brings. Those who come to be christened need faith. They need to repent of their sins. In Baptism they are born again into eternal life.

A service of Thanksgiving gives thanks to God for a safe delivery and a new human life born into the world. It has something of the sense of the old *Churching* service. We pray for God's blessing on the child and on his or her family. Thanksgiving is a very good thing to do, but it is not the same thing as Baptism and should not be seen as an alternative to Baptism. You can have both Baptism and Thanksgiving either at the same service or on separate occasions. If you are not yet ready to make the commitment of Baptism, you might nevertheless want to give thanks and to pray for God's blessing on your baby, but I hope that eventually the child would come to faith and want to be baptised. Thanksgiving does not require such a strong commitment as Baptism, but commitment is surely what life and love are all about.

Confirmation is when the bishop prays for the baptised person to receive the Holy Spirit and lays his hand on the candidate in a sacramental rite. It makes sense for adult converts to Christianity to be baptised and confirmed at the same service and to receive Communion for the first time, the fellowship meal of the people of God. We want to baptise babies because we want them to be incorporated into the people of God. We want them to become members of God's Church. We want them to be born again into eternal life. Their godparents are their sureties and must therefore be baptised (i.e. members of the Church) themselves. If you were baptised as a baby, confirmation is your opportunity to take this on yourself. A couple of people have expressed interest in confirmation in the near future. Please let me know if you would like to join them. Roger.

From the Registers

Thanksgivings:

23rd August	Alyssa Samantha Psaila	Twydall
23 rd August	Georgia Grace Maisey	Orpington

Baptisms:

16 th August	Ferne May Elizabeth Marrs	Strood
23 rd August	Georgia Grace Maisey	Orpington
30 th August	Reece William Eaglestone	Carroll Close

Wedding Blessing:

5th September	Andrew & Miu Sze Li Ballantyne	Halling
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Funeral:

4th September	Michael Edward Beaney (70)	Snodland
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Mr. Edward S. Gowers (Ted)

"It has always been my ambition to set down the history of Halling."

"In writing this book I have tried to show the history of the ordinary villagers as well as the Lords and Gentry."

These two extracts from 'Across the Low Meadow' sum up Ted's life long interest. Ted, who died recently, had lived and worked in Halling all his life. He was brought up in the Five Bells (his father was the landlord). He attended the local school, for a time sang in the choir at St. John's, and after war service worked for a firm in Upper Halling. (His experiences in the Second World War have been well documented by the Kent Messenger and the War and Peace Show). What is remarkable about Ted is his phenomenal knowledge of local history, particular of Halling's history. His considerable collection of books and documents, obtained by many, many hours traipsing around Kent visiting book shops and local sales, was used not only to pass on information to families seeking family ancestry but also by local authorities and historians seeking information on matters such as land tenure, rights of ways, etc. He taught himself to read Latin and Anglo-Saxon to translate some of the documents. For the past few years he devoted himself to the care of Irene, his wife of nearly 60 years. However, he was always ready to talk to visitors about his abiding and compelling interest. My lasting memory of Ted was his generosity in sharing his knowledge, garnered over many years, with whoever sought his advice.

M. Acott

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX OPENING

I would be grateful if anyone with a Children's Society box could let me have it in time for this year's box opening, which will be held on Tuesday 20th October at 204, Bush Road, Cuxton, between 10 am and 12 pm. If you are free at that time and would like to help with the counting, please let me know. Light refreshments will, of course, be provided. I am happy to collect boxes from anyone who finds it difficult to bring their box to church or deliver it to me - just ring 727424. Julia Wells



Cuxton WI

Our September meeting was well attended with 40 ladies present. This was "Members Night" when the meeting is run by a committee made up on members of the W.I. who are not at present involved in the committee work. We managed to have a committee of 6 which was a bit short of the normal amount of committee members but thankfully it all seemed to run quite smoothly. Ann Saunders was President for the night and her previous experience in this post was greatly appreciated together with June acting as co-ordinator.

Nature Notes August 2009

The first day of the month was grey with rain eventually falling in the evening. I watch a young blackbird grappling with a worm which it pulls from between two stones on the patio. Great tits and blue tits feed on the nuts throughout the day. The 2nd is a warm, sunny day with a pleasant westerly breeze. I go to the river with Murphy in the afternoon. The grassy banks at the end of the path are adorned with the deep pink of marjoram. Mallow, viper's bugloss and toadflax are also in that area. The river is low, exposing a wide expanse of mudflats and billowing clouds drift across the blue sky. On the 3rd, when I'm sitting in the garden, I watch a small white butterfly and a large dragonfly hover across the grass and pond. A gatekeeper, with folded wings rests on the stones. After two grey days the 5th is hot and humid. As I sit in the early morning sunshine of the 6th, I watch a robin pecking seed on the grass. A flock of calling gulls fly overhead. A tiny ant runs across the page of my book. Later in the morning I take Murphy to the river where we walk along the path. The tall grasses, mingled with wild flowers, are straw coloured. The water is low and gulls forage on the mudflats. The sun shines with warmth and the air is extremely humid. I sit in the garden in the latter part of the afternoon when the skies become rather overcast. As I am reading, a beautiful comma butterfly alights on the pages of my book. I sit very still as I feel the privilege of the visit of such a beautiful creature. On the 7th I watch, in the morning, three calling gulls flying high in the sky. The next day, while in the garden reading, a small spider crawls along the arm of the bench seat where I am reading. In the afternoon of the 9th when the heat is not so fierce, Murphy and I sit in the shade by the river. I pick blackberries from the garden on the 10th. The 11th is very hot so I take Murphy to the river in the evening. The water sparkles in the sun's golden light. So many gulls forage on the mudflats where tiny streams meander and where gulls' footprints have left their patterns. Wild flowers adorn the straw coloured grassy banks. The sun is soon dipping below the tree line as we

Reps reports were given by various ladies of the members committee and some had to cover more than one report on this occasion. Lots of enjoyable events have taken place in August including the walking groups' annual London walk which sounded like a very happy event and included getting slightly lost and having to walk quickly back to the restaurant where they were due to lunch. After tea, our speaker was Mrs. Marian Martin who was extremely entertaining with her repertoire of humorous verse. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all and greeted with lots of laughter. Pat

return home. On the 13th, a friend and I walk across Church Fields through part of Mays Wood and down into Dean Valley. We make our way along the road to the copse leading to the field and Purty's Shaw then to Six-acre Field where we find gall thistle amongst the low foliage. Throughout the walk we see a wealth of wild flowers, berries on the boughs and butterflies hovering over plants and grasses. The sun shines gloriously from a blue sky. In the morning Murphy has his river walk. We experience several days of very hot weather then on the 20th, while by the river with Murphy, I am aware of signs of autumn for some of the trees are beginning to display golden colours. A brisk west wind brings cooler temperatures the next day. The early skies are bright and I watch large mountains of cloud build up from the west. When I go out into the garden on 22nd I see a pile of feathers beneath the bird table. A collared dove has been killed, probably by a sparrow hawk. The next day Murphy and I walk by the river. Tiny mauve vervain flowers are blooming on the grassy banks. A cormorant balances on a buoy and a pied wagtail scuttles along the path ahead of us. I notice that lime trees' leaves are turning yellow, early signs of autumn. We experience several blustery days with billowing clouds scudding across the sky. On the 27th, while by the river I notice sea asters in bloom as they grow in the mud by the wall. I drive to Addington on 28th. Along the lane small elms and hawthorns are looking very autumnal while around the edge of the cricket field silver birch leaves are golden. The 29th is bright with clear blue skies. Murphy and I walk round the ponds near the river. I see ripe hips and haws and hawthorns displaying their autumn colours. Yellow crucifers and a few mallow flowers bloom and black berries hang on dogwood twigs. Gulls fly over the water and brown teasels stand like statues. The thistles now bear downy seed heads which soon will be born aloft by autumn winds. Ripe blackberries and elderberries await the birds while golden lichen adorns hawthorn branches. The early morning of 31st is grey yet warm then later the

cloud disperses and this sun beams down warmly from a blue sky. I spend time in the garden while birds come to feed, and a comma and small white butterflies hover over the flowers. I watch a single fluffy seed head float

by on the southerly breeze. In the evening rooks fly back to roost, the breeze drops and the evening is calm. Another month closes. **Elizabeth Summers.**

"The Seas"

by Stella Gibbons

When I awoke in the night I heard the trees sighing
A gentle sound came into the room where I was lying,
And in the depths of a drowsy mind it seemed to me
That all the moonlit countryside was astir, like a sea,
With mile upon mile of sweet leaves tossing and crying
In time to the chime of another sea replying.

In the silence and sorrowing hush of the summer night,
While stars and a setting moon made a spirit-light,
I lay and listened an hour to the singing seas-
One song charmed from the garden limes and a breeze,
And the other coming up from that hidden sea
Whose waves break and fall in the depths of me.