

Diocesan Council for Health & Healing

Healing Service

God of Surprises

**Saturday 13 September 2008
at Rochester Cathedral**

Starting at 6.00 p.m. (doors open 5.30pm)

Speaker: Revd Dr Nick Read

Priest-in-charge Holy Trinity, Beckenham
and member of the Council for Health & Healing
speaking on

the Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

(John 5: 1-18)

‘Do you want to get well?’

*Including a time of worship with the
opportunity for prayer and the laying on
of hands*

Visit our website at

www.healing-rochester.org.uk

St John's Draw: £5 each to Mr Head (2), Mrs Thorne (3), Mrs Acott (48), Mr G Mitchell (68) & Mr S Mitchell (70) – drawn by Mrs Acott.

Church Hall Draw: £40 to Doris Curnow drawn by Gill Bogg.

Services at St John the Baptist Halling & the Jubilee Hall Upper Halling		
September 7 th Trinity 16	8.00 Holy Communion Jubilee Hall	Ezekiel 12 vv 21 - 13 v16 p839 Mark 7 vv 24-37 p1010
	11.00 Holy Communion	Ezekiel 33 vv 7-11 p864 Romans 13 vv 8-14 p1140 Matthew 18 vv 15-20 p985
September 14 th Holy Cross Day	11.00 Holy Communion	Numbers 21 vv 4-9 p158 Philippians 2 vv 6-11 p1179 John 3 vv 13-17 p1066
	5.30 Evensong	Isaiah 63 vv 1-16 p749 1 Corinthians 1 vv 18-25 p1144
September 21 st St Matthew	11.00 Stop! Look! Listen! & Holy Baptism. RIK.	Proverbs 3 vv 13-18 p637 Matthew 9 vv 9-13 p973
September 28 th Trinity 19	11.00 Holy Communion	Ezekiel 18 vv 1-4 p845 Ezekiel 18 vv 25- 32 p846 Philippians 2 vv 1-13 p1179 Matthew 21 vv 23-32 p989
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
Services at St Michael & All Angels Cuxton		
September 7 th Trinity 16	9.30 Family Communion	Romans 13 vv 8-14 p1140 Matthew 18 vv 15-20 p985
September 14 th Holy Cross Day	9.30 Holy Communion	Numbers 21 vv 4-9 p158 Philippians 2 vv 6-11 p1179 John 3 vv 13-17 p1066
September 21 st St Matthew	8.00 Holy Communion	Ecclesiastes 5 vv 4-12 p671 Matthew 19 vv 16-30 p987
	9.30 Holy Communion & Holy Baptism	Proverbs 3 vv 13-18 p637 2 Corinthians 4 vv 1-6 p1160 Matthew 9 vv 9-13 p973
September 28 th Trinity 19	9.30 Holy Communion	Ezekiel 18 vv 1-4 p845 Ezekiel 18 vv 25- 32 p846 Philippians 2 vv 1-13 p1179 Matthew 21 vv 23-32 p989
September 29 th Michaelmas	6.30 pm Holy Communion (followed by concert)	Revelation 12 vv 7-12 p1242 John 1 vv 47-51 p1064
October 5 th Trinity 20 Harvest Festival	9.30 Family Communion	Isaiah 5 vv 1-7 p689 Philippians 3 vv 4b-14 p1180 Matthew 21 vv 33-46 p990
	6.30 Harvest Evensong	Deuteronomy 28 vv 1-14 p205 Luke 12 vv 16-30 p1045

Michaelmas 2008 (29th September)

Our 6.30 pm Eucharist will be followed at 7.30 pm by a concert by Mantissa Opera – presented by Mr Simon Tatnall. Admission is free, but a collection will be taken for Church funds. Refreshments during interval.



There will be a **Quiz for Christian Aid** in the Church Hall, Cuxton, on 6th September at 7.30 pm. £6 includes supper. Quizmaster the Rector.

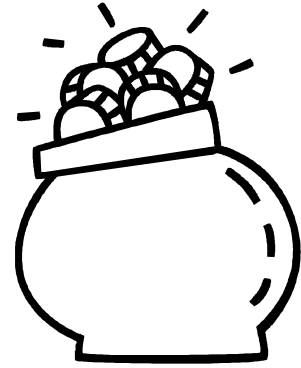


There will be a **Quiz for Church Funds** on October 18th at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall. £6 includes supper. Quizmaster Darryl Palmer.

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

A Boot Fair in the Church Hall

Are you looking for china treasures, knickknacks, a collection of jugs, a new outfit, some holiday reading, a new dining table or would just like to support the lifeboat stall, then come along to our sale at the Church Hall Cuxton on Saturday 13th September, 10.00 - 1.30. All profits will go to our much straitened church funds. So your support will be much appreciated.



Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride

13th September is also the day of the Friends of Kent Churches sponsored cycle ride (or walk). The idea is to visit as many churches as you feel able to, being sponsored for each one or for an overall sum.

Alternatively, we are looking for people to man the churches for the day, marking people's sponsor forms and offering them orange squash and a word of encouragement. You can also be sponsored for this.

Sponsor forms from the Rector 717134.



From the Rector

Scales are an appropriate cover for Michaelmas because Michael the Archangel is often thought of as the one who weighs souls. These are

the scales of justice. They represent the Last Judgment. One day we shall all stand before the Judgment Seat of God and give account to Him for how we have lived our lives, what we have done with the talents and the opportunities He has given us. This is described traditionally, if luridly, in the third of the three creeds¹ to which our Church subscribes: *At whose coming² all men shall rise again with their bodies: and shall give account for their own works. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting: and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.*

I find that there are two commonly held attitudes to judgment. On the one hand people always seem to be complaining that criminals get off too lightly. There is no proper punishment. The villains effectively get away with it and their

victims suffer a second time because the justice system fails to obtain justice for them. On the other hand, people tend to assume that God is far too nice to punish anyone and that, if there is life after death, everyone (or at least we and all our friends) will certainly go to Heaven.

So we would complain if there were no justice and all the bad people got away with it eternally, yet we find it hard to believe that God really is a just judge, prepared to punish wrongdoers. Either there is no justice and the victims of evil receive no redress or there is judgment and sinners can expect eternal damnation.

How can God take seriously the demands of justice and avoid the prospect of eternally punishing the wicked? I appeal to you not to answer too quickly or glibly. It is a very real problem. If God is not just, there is no justice and we face the appalling prospect of living eternally in an unjust cosmos. But if God is just, sinners are in very serious trouble. And actually, of course, all human beings are sinners when judged by the standards of perfect justice. The answer, God's answer, is the Cross of Jesus, but it is not a glib answer; it is what it cost God both to remain just and to save sinners. Roger.

¹ The Athanasian Creed or Quicunque Vult

² Christ's Second Coming

Thinking Ahead

We mustn't forget that two of our churchwardens indicated at the last annual meeting that they will not be prepared to stand for office again next year. They are Mary Acott and Peter Crundwell. The parish is very grateful for the many years of devoted service we have received from both of them.

We must, however, be seriously considering who will take their places. The office of churchwarden is very important, with responsibilities for supporting the rector, representing the people, caring for our buildings and generally supporting and advancing the work of the parish church. There have been churchwardens in English parishes for centuries and I do not know what we should do without them. There are many jobs that would just not get done or be done badly by people already overstretched with other jobs and lacking the proper authority. I wonder too what might be the legal implications if a parish failed in its duty to fulfil its quota of churchwardens.

So we should be thinking and praying about who might take on these vital responsibilities next year. This is not something that can be allowed to slide because nobody is sufficiently interested or prepared to commit.

Churchwardens must be at least 21 years of age, actual communicants of the Church of England and have their names entered on the electoral role of the parish in question. Nominations must be received before the Vestry Meeting (which will probably be held next April.) So please consider whether it might be you or whether there is someone whom you would consider it right to nominate.

RIK.

Also

We shall be due to host a Confirmation Service at St Michael's next year. Confirmation asks the same commitment as Baptism i.e. faith in God, repentance for your sins and the intention to live a Christian life. If you were baptised when you were too young, to say these things for yourself, Confirmation is your opportunity to do so. If you were baptised as an adult, the Church of England still hopes that you will be confirmed. The service entails the laying on the bishop's hand with prayer for the grace you need to live a fully Christian life and it opens the way to full communicant membership of the Church.

If you have been baptised and take your baptism seriously, there is no reason why you should not be confirmed. If you are an adult convert to the Christian faith, it would make sense to be baptised and confirmed at the same service. Candidates for confirmation will normally be at least twelve years old. Some are much older. Before the Confirmation, there will be a course of classes about the Christian faith. These are open to those who just want to know more, as well as to those who have definitely decided to be confirmed. If you want to know more, please ask me.

Roger.

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. Here are some of the uses to which the money will be put.

The projects supported by the Poverty and Hope appeal this year take us through the stages of life, from infancy to old age. From babies being delivered safely in Bangladesh to older women learning something new in Tajikistan, we are working to bring hope and new life for many. Your support for this appeal declares your hope that there remains good news for the poor. St Paul wrote, 'Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.' Let us hope joyfully, give generously and pray continually for the work the appeal supports in developing countries. tBrian Tonbridge.

Music for children in Bethlehem

Orphaned children growing up in the SOS Children's Village, in Bethlehem, need help to overcome the trauma of bereavement.

Music therapy could play a key role in these children's recovery, helping them with emotional problems, learning difficulties and communication. The McCabe Educational Trust, with donations from the diocese, will help to train and employ a music therapist for the SOS Children's Village. The therapist will work with local social workers, teachers and psychologists to care for the children.

Breaking down barriers

'I used to break-dance and it was all about me. Now I have purpose. I dance to help others and I dance for God.' CMS partner Youth Life has created the perfect dance mix for turning despair on its head and giving hope to youth in central Asia. Former addicts are building relationships through break-dance clubs. Healing the wounds of brokenness and addiction means addressing the root causes – breakdown of family relationships, rejection, low self-esteem and alienation from society's **will bring hope to people in**

communities around the world

Training nurses in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has an acute shortage of nurses. Most people live in rural areas where healthcare is inadequate. People often travel more than 40km to the nearest health centre. The Church of Bangladesh (CoB) runs a vital healthcare programme, serving some of the poorest people, irrespective of religion, caste or gender. Donations to last year's Poverty and Hope appeal enabled USPG to help CoB train several nurses at the Christian mission hospitals at Rajshahi and Bhullobpur.

USPG/Leah Gordon

Learning something new in Tajikistan

Istamjon and other women like her in Tajikistan struggled to feed their families after the collapse of the USSR and five years of civil war. But now she and her friends describe themselves as 'old ladies [who are] like small children who have just learned something new!' With the help of Christian Aid partner Mehrengez they have taken courses in health, hygiene and financial management, equipping them to live more comfortably for longer.

Christian Aid/Amanda Farrant

Kent and the Wider World

Kent and the Wider World is a project of Commonwork Land Trust and works to raise awareness of global issues and the links

between people in Kent and Medway with those in the wider world. It also aims to empower people to take action for a world

that is more socially just and environmentally sustainable. Kent and the Wider World provides resources and continuing professional development for teachers and youth workers, and active participatory workshops for young people.

Farmers preserve forests in Haiti

Haiti has lost 98 per cent of its original forest cover. Farmers, who can no longer make a living from their animals and crops, resort to cutting down trees to sell as fuel. Dairy farmer Paul Albert explains, 'If we don't find a way to generate income... more poor farmers will end up cutting down trees.' Christian Aid partner Veterimed helps farmers set up and run dairies to process and market their milk. 'It's definitely an advantage to be involved in this project,' Paul says. 'It will allow us to invest in other things.'

Christian Aid/Amanda Farrant

Stopping bullets in Guatemala

The streets of Guatemala City are rife with drugs, gangs and guns. When the bullets are flying overhead in the city's most notorious slums, it might seem hard to grasp how stilt-walking could help stop the shooting but the buoyant youngsters of arts collective Caja Lúdica make the link crystal clear. Street children, gang members and disadvantaged young people learn carnival skills, music and dance with Caja Lúdica, gaining the self-worth and confidence needed to work for peace.

From the Registers

Baptisms:

13 th July	Sarah Louise Brown	Strood
13 th July	Cody Louise Hart	Station Road
20 th July	Louise Hales	Gillingham
20 th July	Abigail Mary Eede	Gillingham
9 th August	Flynn Vaughan-Pollard	Snodland
10 th August	Charlie John Flint	Stake Lane

Wedding:

2 nd August	Nigel Paul Howard & Sarah Louise Brown	Halling
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Funerals:

14 th July	David Frederick Eiffert (68)	
21 st July	Osmand Geoffrey Goodger (84)	Meadow Crescent
22 nd July	Alfred James Croft (95)	Low Meadow
25 th July	Eileen Alice Burton (74)	Rochester Road Cuxton
8 th August	Evelyn Dorothy Metherell (85)	Rochester
15 th August	Jane Lillian Wallace (90)	Vicarage Road

From Sheila Munton

Can I take this opportunity, through the church magazine, to thank everyone who has been praying and thinking of me during my treatment for leukaemia? I shall be going in to King's College Hospital for a bone marrow transplant soon, and then, hopefully, on the road to recovery. Sheila Munton.

From Peter Silver

I thank everyone who gave me a surprise 70th birthday at the Jubilee Hall before Evensong on July 13th. Mary, Phyllis (for the cake), Thelma, Sue and the girls from bell-ringing. Three score years and ten. Oh dear! Peter Silver.

Nature Notes July 2008

On the first day of the month the temperatures were 82F and the sun beamed down from a clear azure sky. The next day, which was bright, I watched great tits, blue tits and a robin feeding from the variety of food on the bird table. A wren hopped around the pond. Then a jay flew swiftly to the table, picking up a piece of bread. It was a delight to watch the activity. Later, in the afternoon, while walking Murphy along the river path, I watched black headed gulls scuttling across the mud flats, a pigeon which took Murphy's attention, pied wagtails and two beautiful gold finches.

The 6th was a blustery day, rather like autumn for there was sunshine, showers and billowing grey clouds. Great tits, a house sparrow and a robin came to the bird table, while collared doves fed from the edge of the patio wall. A pair of blackbirds was interested in the contents on the

edge of the pond. Heavy rain fell during the morning of the 7th, then again in the late afternoon and early evening. At lunchtime we watched a family of great tits enjoying the fat balls and the nuts and at the same time a young bird was still asking to be fed by its mother and we watched her oblige. When the sun shone in the afternoon, I took Murphy to the river where the wind was quite strong and the water was high and wavelets were breaking against the wall. Black clouds rolled across the sky and I could see that the Maidstone area was dark with rain but just a few drops fell where we were. It rained all day on the 9th and it was decidedly chilly. The sun shone beautifully the next day when I watched two house sparrows feeding at the bird table. I haven't seen these birds in the garden for quite a long time. We went to Addington on the 13th and, while David was watching Cricket, I walked with Murphy along the lane, where I saw young fruits

on a horse chestnut tree, the leaves of which were brown with some form of disease I presume. On the 17th, while by the river, I watched a gull gliding gracefully beneath the bridges and weaving its way between the tall pillars. Here was a beautiful creation of Nature linked to man's austere creation.

The 20th was bright with plenty of sunshine but with ominous grey clouds from time to time. In the afternoon I walked up the path to Church Fields which had been cut for hay. Flowers bloomed beneath the hedgerows where green hips and elderberries and reddening haws could be seen. I continued into Mays Wood which was quite gloomy because of the arching trees but there were windows of sunshine. As I approached Dean Valley, I stopped to admire an ancient beech tree with its thick trunk and spreading roots, which were like large toes splayed across the earth. The fields in the valley displayed a wealth of wild flowers and tall grasses while the wind sighed through the trees. North Wood was quite dark until I reached the coppiced areas where new foliage had sprung up. As I eventually gazed across the golden fields of Bush Valley, I drank in the beauty around me and the silence with not even a sound of a bird. I climbed up the other side of Dean Valley, skirted the field where pigeons foraged and returned through Six Acre Wood and the churchyard. I had seen 52 species of wild flowers, meadow brown butterflies and watched the shadows of clouds marching across the fields. On the 21st I heard greenfinches calling from the conifer tree. When darkness had fallen the next day a frog presented itself by the front door.

On the 23rd I visited, with friends, Scotney Castle and the gardens where wild and cultivated flowers grow together. I particularly was aware of the meadowsweet flowers which filled the air with their perfume. After visiting Dover Castle the next day, we walked along Samphire Hoe where I observed plenty of flowers especially rest harrow. I heard a meadow pipit's song and watched meadow brown butterflies hovering over the flowers. I observed a tiny snail and a six spot ladybird. The next day Jean and I walked in Ham Street Woods with Bramble her black Labrador. We saw many wild flowers including thistles which must have been about ten feet tall and ragwort flowers weren't far behind. We saw meadow brown butterflies, a small tortoise shell and two peacock butterflies. The morning had been rather overcast but the sun shone gloriously in the afternoon. On the evening of the 27th I watched a collared dove balancing on a dish on the feeder and pecking first at the seed then at the nuts. After days of very hot weather the 29th was pleasantly cool for there had been a storm the previous night.

On the evening of the 30th I went to Ranscombe Nature Reserve for a bat walk, my first experience. Before the light faded, I observed plenty of wild flowers along the banks. As we crossed the fields I heard a woodpecker's call then we saw fallow deer bounding across a golden field. I watched pipistrelle bats flying out of trees and heard their calls on people's bat boxes I had made a voyage of discovery. I took Murphy for an early walk along by the river on the 31st which became extremely hot and humid.

Elizabeth Summers.

How Happy is the Little Stone Emily Dickinson

How happy is the little stone
That rambles in the road alone,
And doesn't care about careers,
And exigencies never fears;
Whose coat of elemental brown
A passing universe put on;
And independent in the sun.
Associates or glows alone,
Fulfilling absolute decree
In casual simplicity.

Food for Thought

Jesus seeks not privileged passengers to populate the ark of salvation, but a committed crew of co-workers ready to cast the net of God's emerging Kingdom far and wide – Ian Wallis in "Theology".

News from Cuxton Community Infant School

The end of term was an extremely busy one for us all, and now in the second week of the holiday, I am able to reflect on some of the events with some time and consideration.

The Foundation stage children were joined by Beehive and Mayday playgroups during the morning of the 11th July for a Pirate day. Many came dressed as Pirates, and our school children had made hats and patches. There were a variety of activities outside to meet about ninety children's needs including, 'walk the plank', making a boat, painting, sand and water play, hunting for buried treasure, sieving for sequins, musical instruments (kitchen utensils) pin the parrot on the pirate, and very large ice mounds with glitter imbedded in them in water! As you can imagine many adults were needed and a lot of fun was had by all!

Our new entrants had their last visit to school and their parents met the School Nurse, the Educational Welfare officer and the folk who have been running the FCS, or Friends of Cuxton School, PTA and the Manager of the Buzz Club. These folk talked about their role as extended agencies supporting the school and how they can also be of great support to parents. The Children had a lovely time once again and I am sure will start with us in September in a happy and confident way, knowing that they have met their new teacher and teaching assistant, seen where the toilets are, know their new class and have met some friends.

We ended the last full week of term with a singing celebration assembly, to celebrate the voices work we have undertaken for the last two years. This involved each class demonstrating their skills in singing, some children singing solos confidently and the audience seeing how from the younger to older children skills in pulse, rhythm, pitch matching, singing in parts etc have been developed. Even the staff sang at the end! We have seen how this work has given even the quieter children confidence, has developed respect in that everyone's voice is different and that children have had to listen. Children have also learned to read simple notation, which I am particularly proud of.

The whole school, and many valued helpers, visited St Mary's Bay as an end to the seaside topic that has been covered in classes. The weather was great as it was not too hot and the beach conditions again were brilliant as we were able to spread ourselves over two huge areas. Children were involved in sports, sandcastle making, and of course paddling which was the highlight for many and I have to say they were all very good and sensible. I think adults were probably more tired and wet at the end of the day through patrolling up and down the beach and by the sea, holding hands of children who wanted to paddle and jump! Lunch is normally the highlight, but not one child mentioned it until we all had to move because the tide started to come in, and at the end of the day about 103 children returned on two coaches, many had fallen asleep, but woke up in time to eat an ice-cream on the way home.

The Year 2 Leavers assembly and buffet lunch is always nerve wracking for me, even more so than the Christmas play, and of course its tinged with a little sadness but also admiration for our children who have spent their 3 years with us and have to move to the junior school. Their parents were invited to a special assembly and the children entertained us with their thoughts on what they were looking forward to and memories of times at the Infant school. They said poems and ended with a high school musical dance which was fantastic and of course they had an encore! They each then received a certificate and some words were said about each child and their achievements and personality which I feel is so important- to give each child the recognition they deserve. This event was followed by a buffet picnic lunch on the top field for all the children, staff and parents and it is always a pleasurable experience, but would not be possible without the cook and the helpers! We will miss our year 2 children but wish them the very best in their future school career.

Over the holiday the school will be cleaned thoroughly and polished for the new term. Steve our caretaker will be busy outside in the grounds to the rear of the school and we will be in at times preparing for the new term ahead and then September will be upon us! I hope you and your families have a good holiday and most of all that you all take care. I will write once we are back at school with details of future events and any news!

Sandra Jones, Headteacher, Cuxton Community Infants.



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.)

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.



Halling WI

Halling W.I. were well and truly oiled at our July meeting. Margaret Sutherland was in the chair as vice president, (I haven't found out yet what her vices are) After our usual start but with the absence of the birthday roses, none of our gang were born in July, our meeting got under way. Minutes and correspondence were dealt with and in the absence of our treasure who was probably doing the highland fling somewhere north of the border, Ann Hayward, secretary, informed us that we had made a goodly profit at the Halling fun day. Our speaker for the evening was Barbara Stevens from Downe, her subject, Olive Oil. Who would have thought that the little green hard "plum" would have made such an interesting subject? Barbara told us that through her husband's contacts in Italy (He imports large pieces of machinery from Italy which break up very hard concrete) she met up with a lovely Italian family who produce olive oil. She explained, yes they do shake the trees like the old lady does in the Bertolli advert, but the first fruits only produce inferior quality oil; it is the picked olives that make the best oil, and that is like gold dust, shady characters in Italy will even steal it if they get the chance. After her talk,

Barbara emptied some of the oil she had brought with her into a dish and produced some lovely new bread for any of us to try, I love the stuff and to my bones it is like W.D.40. I thanked Barbara from all of us, asking the members to guess what I use some of my olive oil for. George, my tortoise is always cleaned up with olive oil; when he first wakes up after hibernation. It makes his shell shine, and is probably why he has lived so long. After refreshments, Barbara judged our competitions, something beginning with E, Doris Hooper's elastic was the winner, but we had a large variety of things from envelopes to elephants. Flower of the Month was won by Ann Graves but I can't remember with what, I have an idea it was a coloured Arum lily what has got a very posh name beginning with Z. To finish off the evening I read the report of the recent Liverpool conference sent by our link delegate, and added a few bits of my own as I did attend that meeting.

Our next meeting will be of interest to a lot of our members as we all use one at sometime or other, Walking Sticks, I wonder how many Mr. Wooster has got? Come and see you will be most welcome. Phyllis C.

St Lawrence's Day – 10th August

We celebrated St Lawrence's Day at the Jubilee Hall on Sunday afternoon, 10th August, with a tea followed by Evening Praise. Almost 50 people were there, including some older people who remembered when the site of the Jubilee Hall was St Lawrence's Chapel. Some brought photographs and mementos of the old chapel and old St Lawrence's Church. There was one lady present who had played the organ for services and the Sunday School. We had a good sing with several well known hymns and helped the Rainbows and Brownies in the rendering of Kum Ba Yah. It was an occasion much appreciated by everyone and event worth repeating next year.

MJA.

MJA and her colleagues are to be thanked for the wonderful tea they provided. The question had been asked as to why St Lawrence Chapel closed in 1971 when it was evidently an important part of the community. The answer appears to be "Health & Safety". There was only one entrance and that right next to the stove which heated the building. As the other end of the building had been damaged by a land mine during the War, it was not possible to add another door.

RIK

The Day before 10th August

In fact we had two teas that weekend. 9th saw the Victorian Tea Party in the Church Hall. This ought to have been in the Rectory Garden, but it rained! The tea was, as usual, excellent and most of the people present had dressed appropriately in Victorian Costume. We raised over £120 for Andrew Daunton-Feare, our mission partner.

And Two More Teas

August also saw our teddy bear's picnics at Cuxton and Halling. Both were attended by around 60 people, mostly children and their parents or child minders. Good times were had by all and don't forget that every Wednesday at 2.00 at Cuxton and every Thursday at 2.00 at Halling, we hold our pre-school children's services with fun and games following.

Yum, yum!

In the beginning God covered the earth with broccoli, cauliflower and spinach, with green, yellow and red vegetables of all kinds so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives.

Then using God's bountiful gifts, Satan created Dairy Ice Cream and Magnums. And Satan said, 'You want hot fudge with that?' And Man said, 'Yes!'

And Woman said, 'I'll have one too with chocolate chips'. And lo they gained 10 pounds.

And God created the healthy yoghurt that woman might keep the figure that man found so fair.

And Satan brought forth white flour from the wheat and sugar from the cane and combined them. And Woman went from size 12 to size 14.

So God said, 'Try my fresh green salad'. And Satan presented Blue Cheese dressing and garlic croutons on the side. And Man and Woman unfastened their belts following the repast.

God then said 'I have sent you healthy vegetables and olive oil in which to cook them!'

And Satan brought forth deep fried coconut king prawns, butter-dipped lobster chunks and chicken fried steak, so big it needed its own platter, and Man's cholesterol went through the roof.

Then God brought forth the potato; naturally low in fat and brimming with potassium and good nutrition.

Then Satan peeled off the healthy skin and sliced the starchy centre into chips and deep-fried them in animal fats adding copious quantities of salt. And Man put on more pounds. God then brought forth running shoes so that his Children might lose those extra pounds.

And Satan came forth with a cable TV with remote control so Man would not have to toil changing the channels. And Man and Woman laughed and cried before the flickering light and started wearing stretch jogging suits.

Then God gave lean beef so that Man might consume fewer calories and still satisfy his appetite.

And Satan created McDonalds and the 99p double cheeseburger. Then Satan said 'You want fries with that?' and Man replied, 'Yes, and super size 'em!'. And Satan said, 'It is good.' And Man and Woman went into cardiac arrest.

God sighed.....and created quadruple by-pass surgery.

And then.....Satan chuckled and created the National Health Service.

I was having trouble with my computer. So I called Eric, the 11 year old next door, whose bedroom looks like Mission Control and asked him to come over. Eric clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem. As he was walking away, I called after him, 'So, what was wrong?' He replied, 'It was an ID ten T error.' I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless inquired, 'An, ID ten T error? What's that? In case I need to fix it again.' Eric grinned.... 'Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before?' 'No,' I replied. 'Write it down,' he said, 'and I think you'll figure it out.' So I wrote down: I D 1 0 T. I used to like Eric.



More From Max On Molluscs

I'm still watching those pesky slugs and snails. They really thrive in this weather and I've managed three further observations. One is that, if Master is really quick and picks a strawberry the very moment it turns red, he can sometimes beat the slugs. I noticed, the other day, a snail eating bread put out for the birds – a somewhat convoluted food chain, methinks. Finally, I've spotted that slugs only eat the French marigolds, not the English ones. Perhaps this is revenge for the way French people eat their cousins – *les escargots*. Master says that it probably

politically incorrect even to think that might be so!

Max.