

Parish and Community

The Link



St Mildreds Road

Westgate Bay Avenue

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St Mildreds Road



**September
2012**

**The Magazine of
St Saviour's Parish Church**

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST SAVIOUR WESTGATE ON SEA**

www.stsaviourswestgate.co.uk

PARISH IN INTEREGGNUM

For Baptism, Wedding or Funeral

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The Rev'd Susan Wing

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A Letter from The Rev'd Gill Lurie Honorary Assistant Priest

I write this in between the Olympic and Paralympic Games. I have watched in awe as the competitors strove and sweated through their events. I have shared the tears of joy and the tears of defeat. I have learned about dancing horses in dressage and strange terms in judo. And I know that during the Paralympics, I will cry even more as the disabled competitors overcome their various problems and never give up.

The sheer dedication and hard work of all the athletes is something at which I can only be awestruck. Training at 5 am seven days of the week for years on end – and doing a day's work or school or uni on top of that. Wow! And for the disabled athletes, they have to overcome loads of other hurdles first before they can even think about starting their day's training. I saw a TV programme the other day – The Best of Men – about the German refugee doctor who came to Stoke Mandeville Hospital to work with the disabled troops. There isn't space here to tell the whole story, but it was a most inspiring account of a man who refused to let others give up because of their disability. His work there eventually led to the founding of the Stoke Mandeville Games – remember those, you who are my age?! – and from there, the Paralympic Games.

But what gave me equal wonder and delight was to see the armies of Games volunteers who appeared. People who gave their time and their effort to work, unpaid, just to help others enjoy their Olympic experience. People who cleaned loos, swept floors, picked up litter – and never stopped smiling as they interacted with the public. (I don't know what they did as they cleaned filthy loos and emptied stinking rubbish bins, but I suspect the smiles may have slipped a little!) I read of one lady who had come from Australia to help, simply because she wanted to be part of the experience!!

Also the troops and police who stepped in to help at the last minute, giving up precious family holidays and rest time in order to serve the public – and again, with unfailing cheerfulness and courtesy.

Oh, wouldn't it be wonderful if this friendliness, helpfulness, courtesy and 'can do' spirit could continue. What a difference it would make to our lives and the lives of all around us. And you know, it CAN continue – it only takes each one of us to determine to embrace those qualities. It needn't be something that was just switched on for the Games – it is actually our natural God-given nature to be decent people!!

The media are already doing their best to depress us, and we haven't even had part two of the Olympic experience yet! I know life is tough for many, I know there is much to worry us and people are finding it hard to make ends meet. But just a smile goes a long way to brighten someone's life, so can we at least make a start there?

Revd Gill Lurie

FROM THE REGISTERS

For those Baptised

“Shine as a light in the world, to the Glory of God the Father” ,

Sunday 19th August Reuben and Eden Trigwell-Perry, Charlie Posnett

Sunday 26th August Eesson Stanley, Autumn Julie Jones

For those joined in Holy Matrimony

“God our Father, pour out your blessing on all joined in Holy Matrimony; that they may be joined in mutual love and companionship, in holiness and commitment to each other”

Friday 17th August Jennifer Rebecca Lowe and Drew Kilburn-Long

Saturday 18th August Sarah Osborne and Andrew Moxon

Saturday 25th August Sarah Barber and Andrew Brodrick

The Sick

“Lord, grant your healing presence to all who suffer in body, mind or spirit”

Please pray for - Anne Harrell, Jenny, Jean Pearson, Tina, Phyll,

Joan Howard-Field, Marie Evans, Mary, Shirley Johnson, Maureen,

Jeffery, Julie, Doreen Ranson, Evelyn

The Departed

“Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word”

We give thanks for the life of those who now rest in eternal peace, and pray for their families and friends

Esther , daughter of Thelma Franks & mother of Lily aged 6

For those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

“Dear God, we thank you for the rest in Christ they now enjoy, and thank you for giving them to us” Patricia May Chambers

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

As work on the West Wall and window progresses, the difference the repairs are making is striking. The wedding this Saturday was blessed by streams of bright sunlight shining through the church. We are hoping that the work will finally be completed at the beginning of September.

On Saturday, October 13th at 10.30am – 12 noon we are arranging an “Open Morning” to celebrate and give thanks for the completion of the restoration work. This will be an opportunity for the congregation and community to come together to admire the lovely St. Saviour’s church and for the PCC to say “thank you” to all for the generosity and support which has been given and greatly appreciated. Light refreshments will be provided by the PCC.

Following our meeting with the Diocesan Local Ministries Officer, Rev’d. Peter Ingram on August 4th, when we were pleased to see so many of the congregation present, the PCC met again on the 21st August to complete the Parish Profile in the light of Revd. Peter Ingram’s report. The PCC unanimously agreed the final draft which has now been sent to Peter who will consider it and report back to us. Progress is being made slowly.

This year we have decided to have a Harvest Lunch at 12.30pm on Saturday, September 29th, instead of a Supper. We hope that many of you will be able to come. It will be in the Church this year (not at the school) and the cost of a two course lunch with drinks will be £5 per person payable in advance.

Our Harvest Festival Service will be on Sunday, October 7th at 10.30am. Our harvest gifts of non-perishable packets and tins, with small packets of sweets and biscuits for the local homes, will be welcome as usual and will be given to Porchlight, a local charity for the homeless. Provision will be made for those who deliver individual gifts to people they know would appreciate them. If possible could gifts be brought to church on Friday, 5th October between 12noon – 1pm or on Saturday, 6th October between 9.30am – 10.30am. If these times are not convenient, please bring gifts with you to church on Sunday, 7th October.

Would the church decorating group kindly note that we will be meeting on Saturday, 6th October from 9.30am – 10.30am to decorate the church for Harvest Festival. Children welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

I feel I must mention how grateful we are to all the visiting retired clergy who are so committed to helping us whenever they can. Thanks to Gill and Susan who we are pleased to see are recovering well and will come back on the rota as soon as possible. Thanks to you all for continuing to help us and support St. Saviour's during the interregnum.

With love and thanks, Brenda

A Message from The Rev'd Susan Wing

Thank You to everyone for your great support, prayers and love during my time with my wrist in plaster. Your collective and individual kindnesses have been great for my moral and of a practical help in managing during this time. Hopefully I am out of plaster on 10 September.

God Bless Susan

Minster Road Bible Study Group. We reconvene on Thursday 13 September at 7 p.m. The location is Susan Wing's house. If you wish to join and there is always space for more then please speak to Susan. First candidates for study are the prophets Elijah and Elisha.

OPEN MORNING SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER 10.30AM TO 12NOON

All welcome to come and see the completed restoration work on the West Wall and Window. Refreshments available and enjoy other displays

The Church cleaning contingent is now down to three people, due to illness etc. With the work on the West Wall, the Church is starting to look a little dusty despite the care the builders are taking to keep the dust down. Shirley, Lorna and I meet on the first and third Friday of the month, and other times if really necessary. We feel we are fighting a losing battle and it would be lovely if at least two other people could spare time to join us.

Thank-you Ann Clark. 01843 831159 or clark.ann39@gmail.com

"Our Coffee Party for The Friends of St. Saviours in our garden raised £125 We were lucky with the weather and a good number of people attended. Our thanks go to people who came early to help us get ready, those who served the tea and coffee and manned the Bring and Buy stall and the many who could not attend but sent donations of money and items for Bring and Buy. We enjoyed it very much Ann and Alan"

News from Ladies Circle

As the weather was not very promising, we decided this year to go on an outing closer to home. After some deliberation it was decided that Quex Park would be interesting to visit.

The day turned out to be overcast, so the gardens were first, just in case!, with the house and museum coming afterwards.

All in all it was generally agreed that we had had a very pleasant day with **NO** rain.

Thank you Lord,

Carol Daniell , St Saviour's Ladies Circle

An article from The Rev'd Pat Westbrook

The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof. After the rain and storms of what seems for ever and the disasters of floods and landslides we had a mini heat wave just as the school holidays began. The season of Lammas began on 1st August when the Saxon and Celtic Church celebrated the beginning of the corn harvest and acknowledged the importance of every day tasks giving thanks for their skills of agricultural workers and the fruits of their efforts support the welfare of the community.

August 1 is **Lammas Day** (Anglo-Saxon *hlaf-mass*, "loaf-mass"), is the first harvest festival of the year, when it was customary to bring to church a loaf made from the new crop. The loaf was blessed, and in Anglo-Saxon England, tenants were bound to present freshly harvested wheat to their landlords on or before the first day of August.

The Celtic Christians celebrated this festival from sunset August 1 until sunset August 2 signifying the dwindling of the evening light after the summer solstice. The festival for both Saxons and Celts Lammas celebrates the harvesting of the grain.

The grain dies so that the people might live. Remember the verse in John's Gospel 'unless a grain of wheat dies....' reminding us of Jesus' death and resurrection. All this leads to the sacrament of Holy Communion, bread is blessed, to become the body of Christ and is eaten to nourish the faithful.

In the Celtic Christian tradition, reaping the corn was as much a matter for blessing as any other activity of the farming year.

In all their dealings with nature the Celtic Christians and their successors were aware of the awe and respect in which we should hold the material universe of God's creation, and the tools with which to create it.

When the corn is gathered in, the seasons have moved into Autumn. It is time for the harvest of the hedges and orchards; the blackberries, apples and other garden fruits and finally the collecting and storing of nuts, principally hazel nuts. When the trees that bore them grew by a stream, our Celtic foremothers and fathers recognised the symbolism of wisdom contained in their kernels..

Harvest and thanks giving for all God's gifts to us is also a festival of regrets and farewells, of gathering and preserving. It is a time of reflection to think of the things you meant to do this summer or this year that are not coming to fruition.

It may be a time of farewell, time to ask: What is passing from your life? What is over? Say good-bye to it.

What have you harvested this year? What seeds have you planted that are sprouting? What special memories will go into your reminiscence bank?

As you turn the summer's fruit into jams, jellies and chutneys for winter, think about the fruits that you have gathered and how you can hold onto them, new friendships and interests. How can you keep them sweet in the store of your memory?

We depend on the God of life, may we cherish the precious earth;
the earth of the God of life, the earth of the Christ of love,
the earth of the Spirit Holy.

God bless to us the sky that is above us, the earth that is beneath us, your image deep with in us, the day that lies before, evermore and evermore.*

With many blessings for the Autumn.

Patricia Westbrook, Priest

* Prayer Rhythms for Busy People - Ray Simpson

Thank you for this article in place of the school as it is Summer holidays for staff and pupils

From the Treasurer

JULY 2012 Monthly Financial Review

In July **RECEIPTS** amounted to £47,872.

Fees received amounted to £1,333. A £12,000 grant was received from the Friends of Kent Churches and £30,230 was received from the sale of our two endowment funds, both of these amounts being required towards payment of the Contractor's invoices for the West Wall repairs.

We made **PAYMENTS** of £24,831.

£300 was the amount of fees assigned to the Diocese. We paid the Architect's fee of £600 and the Contractor's invoices amounting to £19,363.

This resulted in an operating **SURPLUS** of £23,041.

WEST WALL REPAIR FUND (DESIGNATED FUND)

Donations of £13,436 were received during the month bringing the total to £42,755.

FLOWER FUND (DESIGNATED FUND)

The Flower fund now stands at £502.

Brenda Carter (Hon. Treasurer)

The Best of Men

Recently, I watched a TV drama called 'The Best of Men'. I referred to it in my magazine 'letter' for September's Link, but it made such an impression on me, I wanted to share my thoughts further. A TV critic had described it as 'the best drama on TV this year', and although such recommendations rarely match my Grumpy Old Woman views, I watched 'just in case'.

I was riveted from start to finish of the 90 minute programme! A doctor, who had been forbidden to work in Germany for 7 years because he was a Jew, arrived in England and was assigned to work at Stoke Mandeville Hospital – the specialist hospital for disabled people. What he found there horrified him. The patients were drugged and left to do nothing, until eventually they developed infections and/or pneumonia through inactivity and died. No one cared. The nurses were bored and the patients had given up on life. But this doctor knew that in those damaged bodies were active minds and even if some limbs were damaged or missing, they had others which worked perfectly – or would, if they were taught how.

He instituted a new regime. No drugs, except where really necessary, and regular exercise. At first, they were just learning to catch a ball. Gradually they learned archery, javelin, and other sports. He was ridiculed and opposed by other staff, he had to bully the management in order to get equipment, but he wouldn't give up. He was a doctor and he believed that he could improve these patients lives.

As the patients became stronger, he organised the Stoke Mandeville Games, where they competed, first against each other, and then other hospitals were encouraged to send competitors. Other countries across the world heard what was going on, and they wanted to send teams too, and the Stoke Mandeville Games went international. From the stubbornness and dedication of this one man, the Paralympic Games were developed, and what a success and boon they have been to so many.

But he didn't do this initially in order to found an international games movement. He did it because he couldn't bear to see people left to rot, simply because they were disabled. He knew that given the right stimulus, they could achieve in their own way as much – or even more – than able-bodied people could. The patients responded and their lives took on a new meaning and purpose.

It was such an inspiring programme! He was such an inspiring man! And yet the world very nearly lost him in the madness that was Nazi Germany, because of his faith. He showed that what is necessary for full life is to be believed in, to be encouraged and to keep trying, even against all the odds.

If you missed the programme, do look out for a repeat!

Gillian Lurie

OVER 55?
THE WESTGATE COMMUNITY CENTRE OVER 55's
MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 2pm
AT
THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
LYMINGTON ROAD
BINGO , QUIZ's , BEETLE DRIVES, DARTS
And other activities
LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
PHONE 833956 FOR MORE INFORMATION

FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES
RIDE AND STRIDE
SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 10AM—6PM

Volunteers required to sit in church on that day to greet visitors

Due to the Paralympics The Neve Family will Ride the following week in agreement with the Organisers.

Sponsorship would be most welcome.

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday Services

8am Said Eucharist Book of Common Prayer

10.30am Sung Eucharist

10.30am First Sunday in month - FAMILY SERVICE

Weekday Service

Friday 11am Holy Communion (Said)

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

1st Westgate Rainbows Fridays 4.15 to 5.15pm

8th Westgate Brownies Fridays 5.30 to 7pm

Both held at the Community Centre, Westgate.

HI KENT! For all your hearing needs

A new service! Your local clinic is held at

Westgate Library, Minster Road on the Fourth Wednesday of every month

2.30 to 3.30pm .

For details speak to Mrs Jean Glover

Whilst you are welcome to take and enjoy a copy of “The Link”, donations towards the cost of printing would be appreciated.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

St Saviour's Ladies Circle

Meets in **church** 2 to 4pm

The third Wednesday in the month

Bellringers Practise every Thursday 7.30 to 9pm.

The Westgate Heritage Centre

WINTER PROGRAMME

On the first Saturday of each month 10.30am to 12.30pm

There is a Talk at 11am

Saturday 1st September 2012 "Roxburgh Road"- one of Westgate's earliest and most interesting roads.

Saturday 6th October 2012 Winter Season Launch

"**Westgate ...a remarkable town. It** is there in Thanet, but in many respects it is not OF Thanet"

Mothers Union St Saviour's Westgate Branch

Church Cleaning

11.45am On the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 8th September Friends of Kent Churches Ride & Stride

Saturday 29th September 12.30pm Harvest lunch in church

Sunday 7th October Harvest Festival Family Service

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL CHORISTERS

A DATE FOR YOUR 2013 DIARIES

The last minute cancellation of the Choristers' Concert last December due to the sickness of Dr David Flood, Cathedral Organist and Master of the Choristers, was a very great disappointment. However, David promised to bring the Choristers back to St Saviours when their very busy diary allowed.

We are pleased to say that the Concert is now arranged for Saturday July 6th 2013 in the evening. A date next March was offered but this would have fallen within Lent and we thought that a Summer's evening would be a much more suitable occasion, with the church looking at its best, and with the long Summer evenings.

Further details much nearer the time.

Ann and Alan Clark