

Parish and Community

The Link

St Mildreds Road



Westgate Bay Avenue

Westgate Bay Avenue



St Mildreds Road

**May
2020**

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

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

www.stsaviourswestgate.org.uk



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The Revd David Chance



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Churchwarden Emeritus

Dr D Crouch

**WELCOME TO
THE SEAMARSH GROUP**

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Dear friends,

This strange time may be leaving us all feeling a bit disorientated because we've never experienced anything quite like it before. If so, we're in good company because the bewildered disciples of Jesus who had witnessed his death were struggling to come to terms with strange and unexpected reports and glimpses of him following his resurrection. I think it's important to allow ourselves to try to sense something of their confusion in these weeks after Easter when we're probably feeling confused ourselves because, if we're not careful, much of our faith seems to be located in far-off times and places. It becomes very much more 'real' when we allow ourselves to imagine the doubts and uncomfortable feelings of those unsettled people, trying to make some sense of it all.

St Mark's (the earliest) Gospel finishes with a description of three women coming to anoint Jesus' body and meeting an angel (in the original ending) with the words 'so they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid'. Well, wouldn't you be? At this time, especially, when the usual rituals of saying farewell to people we love have been stopped, we can catch something of their horror when they couldn't even perform the customary anointing of his body. So many people are finding now that there is a deep sense of unreality about death because they simply can't grieve in the ways we usually do. It is a strange and profoundly upsetting additional trauma, in addition to the pain and loss of bereavement.

But- if we stay for a moment with those frightened and confused women, instead of rushing on to the 'happy ending' we know comes later, it may help us to recognise that God doesn't expect us somehow, just because we have faith, to find all this straightforward. Jesus' resurrection appearances- to Mary, in the garden when she can't recognise him through her tears, to the disciples all hiding behind locked doors because they felt their world had collapsed and everything they'd believed in had been shattered, to Thomas who just couldn't trust the others' word for it and to Peter, who'd denied knowing him in his hour of need- all these and more were Jesus' reaching out to help and support his friends in their grief. He had told them that this would happen but they couldn't take it in and now he didn't scold them for not believing him but just, time and time again, kept reiterating the message that he would, from now on, be with them in a new way.

Do we believe this? If we find it difficult to discern God's presence with us during these lock-down times, let's try to imagine ourselves as part of that first group of his friends, feeling insecure behind locked doors. Just as he came to them, he will come to us and share his Peace, because he loves us and understands our fears. Our faith does not require us to behave in a super-human way, pretending to be brave when we feel anxious. Our God loves us so much that he comes to us in whatever state we find ourselves to reassure us that we are precious and that he has gone ahead of us to prepare our home in heaven. Let's keep a look out for signs of his presence with us, often (as with the first disciples) at times when we least expect and let's try to trust his promise to us, as to them, 'I am with you always, to the end of time'.

Mother Karen



FROM THE REGISTERS

For those Baptised

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

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”

The Sick

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

Phyll, Doreen , Beryl , Joyce, Bailey, Joan, Ken, Thelma, Melanie, Stephen, Pearl, Andrew, Claire, Julia, Jim

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

Rose Austen, Bob Jemmett

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”

Diane

World War 2 Roll of Honour for this month

Victor Jones 8th May 1944 Douglas Bushell 13th May 1941

Sidney Bax 16th May 1940 Percy Lanchberry 19th May 1944

Albert Sinclair 27th May 1940

The Crib and Figures at St Saviour's Church are in need of renewal.

Mother Karen thought that it would be very fitting if donations were given towards new Crib Figures in memory of The Revd Stanley Evans who served the Parish for 30 years. This would ensure Stanley would be remembered at Christmas tide.

The Crib Service has fond memories of Stanley and was a Service that Stanley loved, particularly seeing the children singing Away in a Manger around the Crib.



The Revd Stanley Evans receiving the Crib made by residents of Summerlands Care Home

Christian Aid Week

The dates of this year's Christian Aid Week are Sunday 10th May to Saturday 16th May. Unfortunately, due to the current Coronavirus restrictions, it is not possible to make cash collections either in church or door-to-door and so no collection envelopes are being provided.

Please see the Christian Aid Website for more information and fundraising ideas: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/about-us/christian-aid-week/coronavirus-guidance>

There is a separate page for online Christian Aid Week donations: https://donate.christianaid.org.uk/Donate/Step/1?ApproachCode=A034745&_ga=2.156465010.853990646.1587483404-1025689703.1586960768

Glance back over April

This month has been so different to anything most of us can remember that it's difficult to do it justice with a 'glance' so this is more of a lingering look back! I suppose, for me, the most dramatic change has been the stillness and calm which has accompanied the lack of movement and reminds me of the 'Great Silence' of monastic life. This, in turn takes me back to my country childhood, back in the days when shops were closed and buses didn't run on Sundays and Bank Holidays and I seemed to spend most of my time reading.

Our thanks must go to Mr Alan Clark for flying the flag in Westgate to celebrate Easter and again on St Georges Day.

We are the lucky ones, then- those of us who are able to make the most of this time in our homes- but there's such a contrast between our lives and what's going on 'outside'. Our front-line workers in every field are the lifelines all communities depend on and it's great to see them being acknowledged. There is so much quiet heroism going on that it's humbling as well as encouraging to see the human spirit lifted to this level of altruism.

So- what are we to make of it all? Many folk are now questioning the idea of 'getting back to normal' because, for those particularly who haven't experienced a quieter, calmer world, this is an eye-opener. Maybe we can appreciate all the good and resolve to make that the 'new normal'. It will take a huge effort to involve us all in it actively someday- inspired by those who've held the 'front line' for us this month.



Service for NHS Hearing Aid users There will be a weekly Hi Kent Clinic held at Westgate Surgery -every Monday 2-3pm - for hearing aid batteries, tubes and free advice. **SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Donations of food needed for the Storehouse Foodbank, based at Birchington Baptist Church. Please support our local foodbank by sending donations of money to the PCC Treasurer who will forward the money directly to the Storehouse. Please contact the Treasurer at neve389@btinternet.com for details

Thank you.

Donations Toiletries and Babies nappies for Oasis

Whilst you are welcome to take and enjoy a copy of "The Link", donations towards the cost of printing would be appreciated,. **PRINTING IS**

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The deadline for JUNE 2020 "The Link" is
SUNDAY 31st MAY 2020

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for some help with cleaning our lovely church. Are you able to join us on the first Friday each month for just one hour between 9.00 and 10.00. None of the jobs are over strenuous and we would appreciate any help that you may be able to give us. It is a happy hour spent looking after God's house. Please speak to me if you might be able to help. Thank you. Christine Bolger



Wildlife in Westgate.

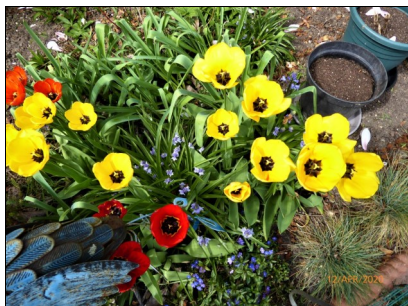
Our house backs on to railway in Westgate and in normal times, trains are going up and down several times an hour. In these strange days, we seem to have one early in the morning towards London and one back again in the evening. In between, there is just the sound of the birds.

This year, we have had so many goldfinches that I had to learn the collective noun - a charm of goldfinch. What an appropriate name for these lovely little birds. Our bird feeder has 4 perches, and often there is a queue of birds waiting politely in the apple tree for a perch to become vacant. We have never had so many for so long in the 20 years we've lived here.

But yesterday brought the absolute pinnacle of delight, when from my bedroom window, we saw a vixen and her FOUR little cubs playing in the garden. They were dashing in and out of the shrubs, and play fighting on the lawn. Every so often they would go and check in with mum, before racing off again into the bushes. We watched them for a long time. In the evening, they came back to entertain us while we ate our dinner, but didn't stay as long.

What will visit us next, we wonder?

Gill and Jean



Y A M O S L S A I N T A Y Y B
 J F E M E R A L D W I Y W O Q
 J A D T T E Y L O D V E D A Y
 D M D J C I L Y S T N A L P V
 R Y S F D M S I E L O P Y A M
 F A U Z R A P I Z L W L I L Y
 N D N N J T Q N V A L K N A B
 X I S Q A T F P J O B A W R G
 G L H M M H Q F J A H E V I N
 C O I K E I F Y R A M H T C I
 T H N Z S A M O S S O L B H C
 N F E V J S K D D R L G J A N
 G R W O B N I A R E H R H S A
 P H I L I P J I B U Q M M F D
 D E U O H C H R I S T I A N D

Aid
 Bank
 Blossom
 Christian
 Dancing
 Elizabeth
 Emerald
 Holiday

James
 Lily
 Mary
 Matthias
 May
 Maypole
 Philip
 Plants

Rainbow
 Saint
 Sunshine
 Valley
 VE Day
 Visit

		4		3	5			2
	2	3			4			1
		9			6	4		
1	3			2			5	9
	5		6		3		7	
4	6			9			8	3
		6	3			9		
3			7			5	4	
2			8	4		3		



Flower for the month of May is Lily of the Valley



Emerald is the gemstone for the month of May

May is named after the Greek goddess Maia.

Maypole dancing takes place on May Day—1st May, this involves a group of people each having a coloured ribbon and weaving it.

2nd May 1611 the Authorized Version of the Bible (King James Version) was first published and became the standard English Language Bible.

6th May 1054 Roger Bannister was the first man to run a mile in under 4 minutes.

Friday 8th May –1945 Victory in Europe Day.

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL



ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL



Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre

There is very little to report from the Heritage Centre, as we have been unable to hold any meetings or coffee mornings, because of the closure of the church and the requirement for social distancing, the results of the Corvid 19 pandemic. However, there is work going on in the background via technology. The Committee continues to hold meetings each month, albeit through exchanges of copious emails, which are then ably and quickly collated by Mrs Nightingale. I said in the last Link that, having been elected to the Committee at the AGM, she would be an asset to the Committee and I was definitely right!

Obviously we are unable to make any definite plans for the future, as no one knows what is going to happen, but as soon as it is possible to resume meetings we will do so, making sure that all safety precautions are carried out. We have talks already prepared.

Our chairman and our newsletter editor are already discussing the **2021 Heritage Centre calendar** so that it will be ready for sale in July. As 2021 is an important year in the history of Westgate because it marks the 150th anniversary of the opening of the train station in April 1871, it is hoped that the pictures on the calendar will reflect that.

As I have a bit of time on my hands, I am writing a booklet on the origins of the Westbrook Estate and Sally Whitworth would like to do an illustrated talk on that subject. In 1997 I spent five days at the Royal Maudsley Hospital Trust Archives' Office researching the relevant material. It was fascinating, although I was only able to scratch the surface, because there was so much of it and it was but a part of what I needed for my thesis. I would like to make use of that research, whilst I have the opportunity and I hope that others may then be encouraged to look further into it.

Let us hope that we have some definite news next month, when we would have been commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Thanet evacuation and the Battle of Britain and joining in the national celebrations for the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

The Heritage Centre Committee sends its best wishes to everyone and may you Keep Safe!

Dr Dawn Crouch

Friendly Friday:-

I thought that I would take the opportunity to send my best wishes to you all, via the Link. We are living in a very challenging time indeed, and our happy times at Friendly Friday seem such a long time ago. During our last two weeks at Friendly Friday, it was so nice to see everybody enjoying themselves creating "Pancake People" and "Shamrock People", in respect of Shrove Tuesday and St. Patrick's Day! BUT..... I am using my time productively at the moment, to create many new, exciting crafts for the group to make, when the Friendly Friday Club re-opens! Take care, keep safe, ☺
With love Valerie.

Pictures of an Easter Garden





Treasurer's Report (General fund)

Statement for the month of March 2020 and April 2020

March		April	
Income	£2770	Income	£2425
Expenses	<u>£3672</u>	Expenses	<u>£3786</u>
Deficit	£902	Deficit	£1361

Deficit for year to date... £3471

Total assets at	1 January 2020	£80633
Total assets at	30 April 2020	£77162

The ongoing finances of the church are significantly affected by the current restrictions and the deficit will continue to increase due to our reduced income. If you wish to maintain your regular giving, which would be most welcome, please contact me via the email address below for further details.

The Storehouse (Foodbank) is also adversely affected by the collection of groceries being suspended. To overcome the difficulties, the Storehouse will accept monetary donations and the church will continue to act as a focal point for receiving such donations. For simplicity, it is preferred that all donations be made through internet banking. Again please contact me via the email address below for further details.

G R Neve
Hon Treasurer
Email: neve389@btinternet.com



The first Rose of Summer which also has a beautiful scent.

Photo from Gill and Jean

Winifred Rose Austen (née Jordan) 1927-2020

Once again, it is my sad privilege to write a tribute to one of the longest and most supportive members of St Saviour's church family. Mrs Winifred Rose Austen, known to everyone as Rose, died on Monday 20th April, less than a month before her 93rd birthday, in hospital in Southampton, where she had recently been living with her daughter, Maureen.

Rose's wartime story was one of those we intended to use in the Heritage Centre's commemorative event, if it had been held in June this year. It is recorded in the books written in 2005 and 2010 when she first told it to me.

Her family was living in Selborne Road in Margate in 1939. She remembered well, in late May 1940, seeing from the cliffs overlooking Margate harbour the arrival of the troops evacuated from Dunkirk. One of her uncles was among them. She was not evacuated. Her father was in essential war work and he and her mother decided that the family should stay together. Rose was just twelve years old and a pupil at Lausanne Girls' School in Margate. She told me, "My education ended that day in June when the schools were evacuated". Those children who stayed behind were unable to go to school, as all state schools were closed. By the time they were re-opened in 1941, on a part time basis, Rose had reached school-leaving age. I had the impression that she regretted what she regarded as her lost education, but it did not seem to have held her back.

On 12th May 1941 the family had a very narrow escape. Three bombs were dropped on Selborne Road and one landed in their garden. She, with her mother and sister, was buried in the dug-out (the Anderson shelter) frantic with worry about their father who was still in the house. However, he was safe and they were saved from harm, because Rose's mother had hung a blanket over the shelter doorway and the shrapnel, which had actually penetrated the heavy wooden door of the shelter, had embedded itself in it.

In September 1949 Rose married Margate-born Randolph Austen (always known as Rand). He had served with the King's Royal Rifles in North Africa, Egypt, Italy and Greece and was preparing to go to the Far East in August 1945 when the war in Japan ended. Instead he was deployed with the army of occupation in Germany until he was demobbed in 1947.

There was a terrible shortage of housing in the post war years and it was not until the early 1950s that the Government lifted building regulations. Many new houses were built in Westgate on the south side of the town and Rose and Rand moved into one in Guildford Avenue, which became their home for many years and where they brought up their family.

Both were pillars of St Saviour's Church. Rose served on the Parochial Church Council and was a member of the Committee of the Friends of St Saviour's for many years. She was one of the most active members of the Mothers' Union, running a stall with her best friend Mrs Sheila Brace at fetes and bazaars, helping with cooking for the Harvest Suppers at the former Church Hall, arranging flowers in the Forester window in the south aisle at Christmas and other festivals of the church and helping out in many ways. Wherever and whenever help was needed, Rose was there.

Rose was well known and well-loved by generations of Brownies, for she was Tawny Owl and then **Brown Owl** of the Westgate Brownies for twenty-six years, taking them on camping holidays and other outings, preparing them for their badges and generally caring for them, for that was Rose. She was a lovely, caring, gentle lady with a great sense of humour. We all loved her.

She loved St Saviour's and she loved Westgate and was an enthusiastic "volunteer" on Wednesday mornings for the Heritage Centre. Despite her age she was not a token. She played her part admirably - in the early days of the Heritage Centre, she was one of those who provided tea and cakes. In later years, before she moved, we tried to stop her carrying the tea pot, which was too heavy for her - "Health and Safety", Insurance etc. Rose didn't much care for Health and Safety and she would often slip off to do the washing up, without us noticing. Fortunately she came to no harm and just sitting around was an anathema to her. She was a wonderful example of how to welcome people too - there was always a warm smile and a willingness to chat to strangers and make them feel included.

Rose and Rand celebrated their special days at St Saviour's surrounded by their many friends. I have little doubt that they celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1999, but I was away and so have no record of it, but I remember well their Emerald Wedding in 2004. By that time they were making the Friday morning Eucharist their main service, as there was no bus from the Linksfield area on Sundays. Usually nine or ten would have been considered a good congregation for a weekday Eucharist. That morning there were twenty of us there. Fr John Richardson gave them a special blessing as they knelt together at the altar in the side chapel. Afterwards we celebrated with sparkling wine and cake! Five years later we were to celebrate their Diamond Wedding and on that occasion there were seventeen of us in the congregation. That shows just how much they were loved and respected by all of us.

When Rand died, Rose obviously missed him very much. Gradually her health deteriorated. She had a bad fall. Eventually she moved from Guildford Avenue to live with her daughter in Garlinge and for a little while she found it easier to worship at nearby Garlinge Methodist Church, where she found friendship, but she and Maureen or she and her son, Brian, often visited the Heritage Centre.

Friends and family celebrated her 90th birthday in 2017.

For family reasons it was later decided that she and Maureen would move to Southampton to be near to her granddaughter and her twin great-granddaughters. We missed her very much, although they still kept in touch. Gradually her health deteriorated further and she moved into a residential home. Then she had to be taken to hospital, where she had a stroke from which she did not recover, but died a few days later. Rose was very special to all of us who knew and loved her - this is a tribute from Christine, Valda and Graham and others of her friends, as much as from me.

We believe that she is now with her beloved Rand upon another shore and in a brighter light. We pray that they may "rest in peace and rise in glory".

Dawn Crouch Churchwarden Emeritus and former Chairman of the Friends of St Saviour's



Photos of Rose and Rand Austen

Celebrating many functions with
friends from St Saviour's Church



Brown Owl's farewell



AFTER more than a quarter of a century with the Westgate Brownies, Brown Owl Rose Austen has called it a day.

Rose (65) joined the group as a voluntary helper 26 years ago, only expecting to stay for a short time. But she was soon asked to go into uniform.

She became a Tawny Owl and when the former Brown Owl left she was promoted.

Rose says she has always liked working

with the children and shall miss being Brown Owl.

She said: "I enjoy working with a mixed bunch of children. I've been on a good many pack holidays with them. There are different skills you can teach them and you can help them work towards their badges."

"I shall miss it. I still want to keep in touch with them."

Brownies past and present paid tribute to Rose and the young Brownies are now getting used to their new Brown Owl Jackie Jenkins.

But they have not seen the last of Rose as she will be continuing with the group as a helper.

Brown Owl Rose Austen is pictured saying goodbye to the Westgate Brownies.
TW897/11



Rose's Mum outside the Anderson shelter in Selbourne Rd



CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Bellringers Practice every Thursday 7.30 to 9pm.

Bible Study Group meet Thursday at 7pm, details & inquiries ring

Susan 836430 .

The Westgate Heritage Centre

OPEN on the First Saturday of the month 10am to 12 noon at 10.30am TALK

Refreshments available.

Church Cleaning 9am to 10am on the 1st Friday of the month.

The Friends of St Saviour's Church - Annual Membership Fee only £2

New members welcome. Join the Friends of St Saviour's church Subscription only £2 per year . All monies raised go towards the upkeep of the church and grounds. Membership forms at the back of the church or ring

Christine Attwood Tel 833314 email cattwood2002@yahoo.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL

FURTHER NOTICE

St Saviour's Church has a Hearing Loop System



Large print Hymn Books and Pew Sheets are available.

Gluten Free wafers are also available please see Sidespersons or Churchwardens

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday Services

8am Said Eucharist Book of Common Prayer

10.30am Sung Eucharist

10.30am First Sunday of the month FAMILY COMMUNION

ALL CHURCH SERVICES ARE SUSPENDED

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

1st Westgate Rainbows

Fridays 4.15 to 5.15pm

8th Westgate Brownies & Guides Fridays 5.30 to 7pm

Brownies for ages 7 to 10 years Guides for 10 to 16 years

Both held at the Community Centre, Westgate.

JOIN THE ADVENTURE....

Come along and try 1st Westgate-On-Sea
Scout Group for Boys and Girls

Where: The Billabong,
St. Crispins Road
Westgate-On-Sea CT8 8EB

When: Beavers: Tuesday 5:15pm—6:30pm
Cubs: Tuesday 6:45pm—8:15pm
Scouts: Thursday 7:00pm—9:00pm

Ages: Beavers: 5 3/4—8 years
Cubs: 8—10 1/2 years
Scouts: 10 1/2—14 years

Contact: 1st Westgate-On-Sea Scout Group
Email: 1stwestgatescoutgroup@gmail.com

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



Caring for an elderly relative or neighbour?

Do you need a break... or do they?

Respite care for the elderly available at...

Yoakley House

Drapers Close, Margate

Kent CT9 4AH

For details or to arrange a visit:

Tel: 01843 223652

Email: admin@yoakleycare.co.uk

www.yoakleycare.co.uk