

Parish and Community

The Link

St Mildreds Road



Westgate Bay Avenue

Westgate Bay Avenue



St Mildreds Road

**November
2020**

The Magazine of
St Saviour's Parish Church

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

www.stsaviourswestgate.org.uk



Priest in Charge Mother Karen Gooding Tel 216357

Honorary Assistant Priests

The Revd Susan Wing



Churchwardens

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

Mrs Christine Joiner email chrissyjoiner@hotmail.co.uk

Churchwarden Emeritus

Dr D Crouch

**WELCOME TO
THE SEAMARSH GROUP**

PCC Secretary Mrs Christine Attwood

St Saviour's Church of England Junior School

Elm Grove, Westgate

Telephone 01843 831707

Headteacher Mr N Bonell

Editor "The Link" valdaneve@hotmail.co.uk

“For now, we’re sorry that, following a positive coronavirus test, we’re not currently able to open our church for private prayer.

Services will continue to be streamed from church.

Links are available on our website and Facebook”

All Saints and All Souls at St Saviour's Church November 1st 2020



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it

The Gospel of John Prologue

Dear friends,

These resonant words are more readily associated with Christmas than the season of Remembrance, but seem to me to be what we need to remember most during this second period of national lockdown. Being confined to our homes in Spring, while the world is gently and beautifully warming and coming to life all around us is one experience- in this season of darkness and cold, it is quite another.

Our remembrance, both over the festivals of All Saints (Hallowe'en) All Souls (Commemoration of the Faithful Departed) and Remembrance Sunday, usually takes place within a context of awareness of the joyful build-up to the Christmas festivities just around the corner. This year will be so different for very many people, with the hope of being together over the festive period and all that it means, now very much in question.

The Christian hope of light shining in the darkness is no illusion and so we need, during this period, to actively look out for signs of hope- big or small, reminding us of God's presence during our troubles. Sometimes just a shaft of unexpected brilliant winter sunlight or the sound of a child's voice in the street can be enough to lift our spirits. If we can attune our senses to become aware of these small mercies, we will hear messages of hope from our loving Father whose love for us is deeper than anything we will ever know, and who holds our souls through life and death.

May I encourage you to light a candle to help you pray, especially as darkness falls again each evening? This simple and powerful symbol has sustained many through bleak and difficult times of their lives. The ancient prayer of the Church which accompanies it may help you to remember that throughout the world, in this and every age, Christians have prayed through the darkness, confident of the coming Light.

***As we come to the setting of the sun and see the evening light,
lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray,
and of your great mercy, defend us from all perils and dangers of this night.
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit; keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me under the shadow of your wings”***

from the Daily Office *Evening Prayer* and *Night Prayer*.



My brothers, my sisters, may God's peace be with you, Mother Karen



St Saviour's Church, Westgate

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

8th NOVEMBER

9am HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER BOOK

10.30am

SUNG EUCHARIST

FOR REMEMBRANCE

**The Services will be live
streamed**

**See The Church Website for
the links**

St Saviour's Church, Westgate



CHURCH IS NOT OPEN FOR SERVICES ON A SUNDAY AT 9am (Holy Communion Prayer Book) and 10.30am due to Lockdown.

SUNDAY SERVICES at 9am & 10.30am are live – streamed from church.

You can join us online by accessing the church website (www.stsaviourswestgate.org.uk) & obtaining the link on the Visiting Page shown below the service information.

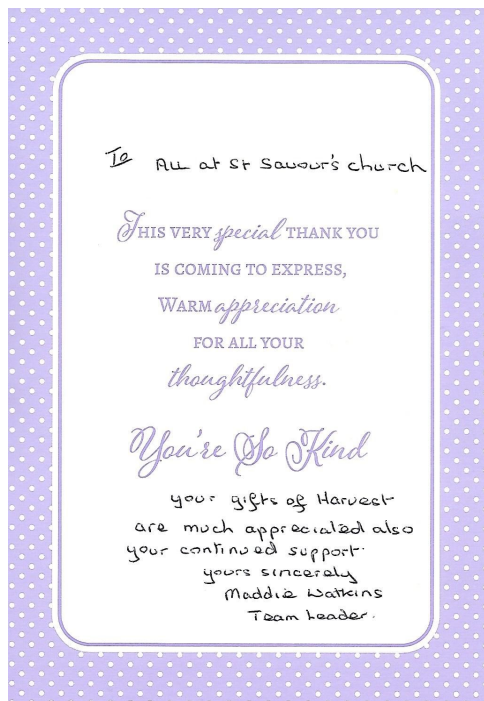
Glance back over October

October in church has been a time of warmth, friendliness and laughter. The month began with Harvest Festival which exceeded everyone's expectations (thank you very much, Kathleen, Joy and Lucy) in the floral colour, beauty and abundance and overflowed with generosity in supporting Birchington Foodbank (The Storehouse). We enjoyed spectacular piano and organ music and vibrant art and crafts from adults and children on display all weekend and the celebrations included, for the first time this year, a St Francis Pet Blessing service on his Feast Day, 4th October.

On three Saturday mornings in October, our intrepid team of gardeners, organised by Graham, have worked energetically in the church garden- it is now ready for winter and many people have got to know one another better while working! In church, we have continued to live-stream our services and delighted to welcome children as well as adults to lead our worship as Servers and Readers. Lesley and Graham continue to support us musically with skill and devotion, and Aidan with his technical wizardry.

Our Church Wardens re-affirmed their commitment to serve the church in our morning worship on 18th October. Their commitment, dedication and energy, together with that of so many St Saviour's folk, make our church what it is- a caring, connected community. We are indebted to all who, behind the scenes, ensure that the wheels keep turning and those who, despite the cold, continue to open the doors every day to share God's love with the people of Westgate!

Mother Karen



A note of thanks from the
STOREHOUSE FOODBANK,
Birchington

Harvest Festival October 2020



Art work from
St Saviour's School
By Year 3 pupils



Arts and Crafts from
Westgate Art & Craft Group



Arts & Craft work completed on Friendly Fridays



Harvest photos courtesy of Joy & Caroline

St Francis Day Pet Service October 2020



Photo courtesy of Graham Cooper

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, Joan, Anne & John, Vanessa and our dear friend Dawn

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

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”

Mary

World War 2 Roll of Honour for this month

Robert Duff 7th November 1944 Geoffrey Maxton 11th November 1942

George Lynas 13th November 1944 Ernest Hole 14th November 1943

Church grounds tidy up – Autumn 2020

On 17 October a hardy band of 13 volunteers and two juniors armed with shears, hedge cutters and secateurs, tackled the annual job of cutting back the shrubbery along the west and north sides of the grounds. The weather was good, the camaraderie was very much appreciated, all the shrubbery was trimmed back and the actual ground cleared of weeds and debris along Ivanhoe Road. All achieved with a bar of chocolate provided by Valda.

The next week we again assembled to tackle clearing the weeds etc along Westgate Bay Avenue. A huge amount of ivy was cleared and thanks to Ann Clark we were sustained with a cup of coffee. By popular consent, it was agreed that we would meet again for a third Saturday to complete the job. Usually the third Saturday is a reserve should bad weather prevent working on either of the first two.

So once more on 31 October we descended on the grounds along Westgate Bay Avenue. Again the weather was kind, mild but breezy. Thanks to Ann Clark for providing coffee from Fredericks and Valda for the chocolate bars. Just as we were clearing away, the rain started and very quickly became heavy, driven by the strong wind. However a lot of ground was cleared and our time available was complete.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the grounds tidy and welcoming. The reward is definitely in the magnificent end result.

On the following Monday Top Branch Tree Services came to cut back the shrubbery along St Mildred's Road and alongside the cinema on the south side. My thanks to them for completing the work of making the grounds look tidy, and clearing away the pile of spoil created by our volunteers in the previous weekends.



***Friendly Friday Corner-:**

As I write, I hope that you are all keeping warm and well, as we slowly move into Winter! It has been a very productive month at Friendly Friday, and I am delighted to say that we have been joined by some more folk! It is a real pleasure to have them with us. Our activities this month have been mainly focused on colouring, painting, and "stained glass" window making, but we are looking forward to making some Christmas crafts in the coming weeks. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves at the Friendly Friday meeting on the 2nd. October, as we helped Mother Karen to prepare for the Open Saturday at St. Saviour's Church, on the 3rd. October. We arranged childrens' crafts, paintings, and Friendly Friday exhibits. Work completed by the children at St. Saviour's School, was made into a display. A very enjoyable morning was had by all!

I am always looking out for different activities for us to complete at Friendly Friday, and have recently chanced on the idea of working with air drying clay. The clay dries out by itself, and moulds can be used to make terracotta leaves, flowers, animals, fruit etc. It promises to be good fun!

Once again, please feel free to pop into St Saviour's Church any Friday morning between 10.30-noon. You will be assured of a very "Friendly" welcome! Love Valerie.



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. Donations also accepted for Oasis and Porchlight. Please contact the Treasurer at neve389@btinternet.com for details

Thank you.

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

The deadline for DECEMBER 2020 “The Link” is
SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2020



Treasurer's Report (General fund)

Statement for the month of September and October 2020

September		October	
Income	£3547	Income	£6308
Expenses	<u>£3350</u>	Expenses	<u>£5143</u>
Surplus	£197	Surplus	£1165

Deficit for year to date (31 October).....£2767

Total assets at	1 January 2020	£80633
Total assets at	31 October 2020	£77866

As we re-enter a period of COVID-19 restrictions, the funding needs of the Storehouse (Foodbank), Oasis and Porchlight will again rise as donations of goods are not possible. However, the Storehouse, Oasis and Porchlight 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 but cheques made out to *St Saviour's PCC Westgate-on-Sea* are acceptable. Please contact me via the email address below for further details on how/where to send your donation.

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



From the Parochial Church Council Minutes (PCC).....

Meeting 7/9/20 and 26/9/20.

Minutes approved 12/10/20

Meeting 7/9/20

Matters arising. Plans for Vestry area and proposed extension. There is a need to move forward in mission and engage with the community to avoid the possibility of the church closing. An updated plan from the architect was discussed. Whilst recognising the benefits of the plan, concern was expressed in raising the funds for the project, believed to be in the region of £250k. It was suggested that regular summer concerts could be held in 2021. The PCC agreed to hold a meeting with all parishioners early in 2021 to discuss fundraising. Church grounds and gates. A working party would be arranged to tidy up the grounds on 17 and 24 October. This to be followed by Top Branch Tree Services attending on 2 November to trim the south side shrubbery and clear away all cuttings etc. Work on renovating the gates had begun. Church cleaning. The PCC agreed to engage a professional cleaner for 1 ½ hours per week.

Worship and Mission. Flowers. Buckets would be left outside church for donations of flowers/greenery. Harvest Festival weekend. Plan to have an open afternoon on 3 October with displays by the Westgate Arts and Craft Group and St Saviours School. Harvest Festival would be celebrated on 4 October followed by a pet blessing service in the afternoon. All Saints and All Souls day would be commemorated on 1 November. School services. Due to the pandemic, no harvest service would be held in church. However it was hoped that it might be possible to hold a series of weekday carol concerts in church. Thanks were expressed to all volunteers who had helped to keep the church open for two hours daily Monday to Saturday. Consideration to the opening beyond September to be discussed at the next meeting.

Treasurer's report. Statement for the month of August was discussed and approved. Sound system. Despite the attendance of our regular sound engineer, problems remained which were largely overcome by Aidan. However it was clear that the front speakers were incompatible with recorded music. It was agreed to look into the cost of replacements and discuss at the next PCC meeting. Roof repairs. It was reported that there were difficulties in obtaining further estimates. The PCC considered the estimates previously provided and agreed to submit the estimate from WW Martin Ltd to the Insurers. The Diocesan Care of Churches Officer had confirmed that a faculty was not required for the repair work.

Churchwarden's report. The risk assessment for opening the church was reviewed. It was agreed that hymn books would not be introduced, but the words for the hymns sung by the St Martin's Singers would be emailed out with the links for the streamed services. Pew sheets now available and to be left on pews before service and taken away by users.

Communion at the 10.30am service to continue to be distributed at the Chancel steps. Movement of worshippers to and from church to be controlled by the churchwardens. Insurer's risk assessment. The report required a lightning protection test by 10 November 2020. Discussion concentrated on the best time of year for the test to be done. Guidance to be checked.

AOB. None.

Meeting 26/9/20 (held immediately after the annual meetings)

Report from Church Electoral Officer. One application received after the annual revision of the Roll had taken place. All approved admitting Aidan McQueen to the Electoral Roll.

Proposal to co-opt Aidan McQueen to the PCC. The proposal was accepted unanimously after which Aidan was welcomed to the meeting.

Appointment of Officers.

Lay Vice Chair. Mr Staziker was reappointed

PCC Secretary. Mrs Glover did not wish to stand. Mrs Attwood was appointed.

PCC Treasurer/Gift Aid Secretary. Mr Neve was reappointed

Electoral Roll Officer. Mrs Neve was reappointed

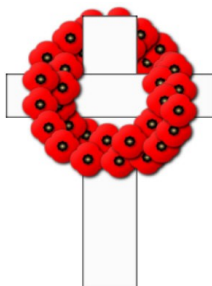
Standing Committee. Mother Karen, Mrs Attwood, Mrs Joiner, Mr Staziker, Mr Neve and Mr Clark were appointed.

Church opening. It was agreed to continue daily opening of church from 10.30am – 12noon. Use of overhead heaters in the social area were sanctioned by the PCC.

Donations in memory of the Late Revd Stanley Evans. The PCC was unanimously in favour of purchasing new crib figures carved in the Holy Land. It was agreed that an order be placed with Zuluf Store and Factory for as many figures as funds allowed.

Roof repairs. Currently awaiting contact from the Insurer's Loss Adjuster. In meantime a formal resolution to proceed with the works was compiled by the PCC for submission with the application to the Diocese

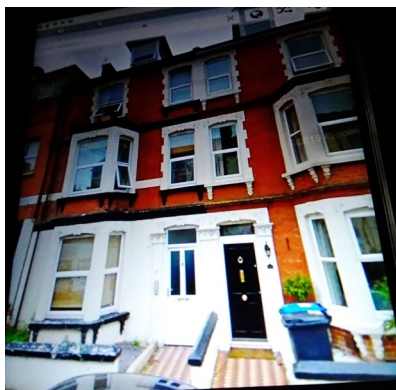
AOB. Thanks were given to Mr and Mrs Joiner for sanitising the building after Sunday worship. Notice given of the change of time of attendance by the church cleaner.



An unexpected outcome!! - :

A few months ago, I wrote an article in the Link telling of my family's annual summer holidays at "Sonia Guest House", Hatfeild Road, Westbrook, Margate. Mrs Brown was the landlady, and we had enjoyed wonderful holidays at her Guest House in the 1960's. Just for general interest, I posted a photograph of Mrs. Brown's business card, on one of my Facebook groups: "Garlinge/Westbrook Nostalgia". I am sure that you can well imagine my delight when, after only a few minutes, I was contacted by the son and youngest daughter of Mrs. Brown! They had seen my photograph of the business card, and were thrilled. They told me that their mother would love to have a chat with me on the telephone, and thus, that very same evening, I telephoned Mrs. Brown, 51 years after we had last seen each other! It was really lovely to exchange memories. We had always believed that Mrs. Brown had left the area after closing her Guest House, but to my amazement, after living in other areas, she retired to Thanet, and indeed is living in the locality quite nearby! We are planning to meet in the not too distant future! Mrs. Brown was astounded that the business card had survived all of this time, so I think that it must go back to its rightful owner, and I plan to put it in a small frame, and return it to her!

My holiday adventures had turned full circle! Love Valerie





WESTGATE-ON-SEA HERITAGE CENTRE



- Calendar 2021 -

TRAINS, BOATS, PLANES, CARS, HORSES AND FLOATS
A LOOK AT TRANSPORT THROUGH THE DECADES
AROUND THE TOWN

Westgate on Sea Heritage Centre. Our 2021 calendar is now on sale. The theme this year is transport which ties in with the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Westgate on Sea Railway Station on the 12th April 1871. There are pictures of Trains, Boats, Planes, Cars, Horses and Floats around the town from 1871 onwards.

The price is £5 plus £1.50 postage. Please send a cheque, made payable to the Westgate on Sea Heritage Centre to

Westgate on Sea Heritage Centre, Town Hall Buildings,
31 St Mildreds Road Westgate on Sea CT8 8RE

The calendar is **NOT** on sale at various outlets – St Saviour's Church, Monday – Saturday 10am – 12noon. Julia's Café, Town Council Offices **due to lockdown**

AVAILABLE BY POST ONLY DURING LOCKDOWN

The War Memorial Chapel celebrates its Centenary on 16th November 2020

Tuesday, 16th November 1920 is a very important date in the history of St Saviour's Church for it was on that date – 100 years ago this month – that the Bishop of Dover dedicated the War Memorial Chapel in the Church. The new Chapel (replacing the former Lady Chapel) had been erected at the end of the Great War 1914-18 as a memorial to the men of Westgate who had fallen in that war. The dedication ceremony took place at 6.00pm with seats reserved for the relatives and friends of the fallen men. A special invitation to attend the ceremony was also extended to ex-servicemen and representatives of the Ambulance Corps, the Fire Brigade, members of the Parish Council, and members of the Special Constables. Representatives of the Comrades of the Great War also were invited and attended the ceremony. A report on the ceremony printed in *The Isle of Thanet Gazette* described the Chapel as: “the work of Messrs Morris & Co, of George Street, Hanover Square, London. It consisted of an artistic oak altar with a curtain of blue and gold surmounted by oak carving. A beautiful tablet of brass and oak and bears the names of 77 Westgate men who fell in the war.”

The *Gazette* also reported that the Bishop and Clergy proceeded from the Vicarage (then on the corner of Ivanhoe Road and Westgate Bay Avenue) led by Boy Scouts and Girl Guides and entered the Church by the West door.

During the ceremony, the names of the 77 men commemorated on the tablet were read out and a number of wreaths were laid in the chapel.

The following morning, celebration of Holy Communion took place at the new Altar when many of the relatives of the departed were present.

Subsequent to the dedication ceremony and the unveiling of the tablet, a number of memorials in memory of individual men were given to the Church to go into the Chapel. These include:

- the altar cross in memory of Alfred Tyler;
- the *prie dieu* in memory of Francis Laver;
- the chandelier in memory of Christopher Moor;
- the stained-glass window in memory of Ronald Morgan;
- the stained-glass window in memory of Leonard Rogers; and
- the wooden plaque in memory of Lewis Jones.

In later years, a brass tablet listing the names of those men who fell in the Second World War was added as were the Rolls of Honour listing the names of those men who had served their country during the Great War. Those important Rolls of Honour were discovered hidden behind the organ by Dr Dawn Crouch earlier this century. They were promptly framed and duly affixed to the wall below the brass-and-oak tablet listing those who fell in the Great War.

Early in 1917, four War Shrines (sometimes referred to as Street Shrines) had been erected in different parts of Westgate each listing the names of the Westgate men from that part of the town who were serving their King and Country. At the end of the war, there was an attempt to maintain these War Shrines but they had served their purpose and, despite the best endeavours of the Revd Pendock Banks (the Vicar of St Saviour's Church), it would seem that the new tablet in St Saviour's Church was regarded as a suitable replacement for the War Shrines. It was around this time that the townsfolk agreed that a recreation ground in Lymington Road should serve as the town's war memorial. However, within three years, it was decided that the town should have a war memorial cross which would serve as a focus for remembrance services each Armistice Day anniversary and so the War Memorial on Sea Road was erected.

The War Memorial Chapel has a very special place in both Westgate's history and the history of the church. It is largely due to the endeavours of Dr Dawn Crouch over the last three decades that the Chapel is now regarded as such a special place. When Dawn was Churchwarden she made a special study of all the war memorials in the Chapel and her interest in them has not abated over the years. It is thanks to Dawn's endeavours that the Chapel is as important today as it was when it was dedicated 100 years ago by the Bishop of Dover.

James Brazier

The brass plaque on the wall to the right of the Altar recording the dedication of the Chapel by the Bishop of Dover on 16th November 1920





The War Memorial Chapel showing the brass-and-oak tablet with the Rolls of Honour below. On the Altar are the Altar Candles alight with a display of decorated WWI artillery shellcases either side of the Altar Cross – photo taken 2nd November 2019

Many grateful thanks to Mr James Brazier for this article and photographs.

James researched the material and wrote this article on behalf of Dr Dawn Crouch who is at present unwell and in St Michael's Nursing Home.

Dr Dawn Crouch has always faithfully written for The Link magazine and was preparing to write an article on the Centenary of the Memorial Chapel, St Saviour's Church until taken poorly . James was asked by Dawn to write the article which he has read to Dawn and it pleased her greatly.

Work on the Church Gates done by Colin Osborne & Alan CXlark



BEFORE

MEN AT WORK



AFTER

IT HAS TAKEN OVER

**30 HOURS OF WORK-
WITH AT LEAST 15**

**ATTENDANCE TO HAVE
THE GATES BACK TO THE
CURRENT CONDITION**



The finished gates in Westgate Bay Avenue



News from St Saviour's Church of England School

We have had an interesting start to the new academic year at St. Saviour's! We welcomed full cohorts of children back to school after a six-month break. Though we continued to run a key worker school from the initial lockdown through Easter and Whitsun and welcomed most Year 6 children back for the final term, the school has not been full since March.

The first thing we noticed was how excited most children were to be back at school. I know children love the summer holiday and time off in general but children were very happy to see their friends and get back to a routine. There was a palpable sense of joy on the playground during the first few weeks.

Alongside this joy was the sense of shock that children were again being asked to focus on written tasks and listen to teaching. I am acutely aware that many parents were having to juggle working from home with parenting and attempting home learning. Unsurprisingly, many children spent more time using digital devices and looking at screens. My own children watched a lot of Netflix! This has left many children unaccustomed to listening for long periods. Children, to varying extents, got out of the habit of formal learning.

This brings me to the other outcome of lockdown we have noticed. The extent to which children have fallen behind varies enormously and does not always conform to social stereotypes. St. Saviour's provided extensive online, remote learning. All classes were provided with a hugely detailed weekly maths and English Powerpoint presentation (usually containing 40-80 slides) along with a daily activity in English and maths and a topic activity. Some children completed every single piece of work set. Many children dipped into the remote learning, lots of parents were very creative and found brilliant activities for their children to do. Some families were unable or unwilling to engage with any semi-formal learning. Some parents did not have the time to support their children, some did not have the skills or the digital equipment to engage. Our Deputy Headteacher, John Arnold, very diligently hand-delivered paper copies of all work set to families who needed it.

Therefore, some children continued to make progress during the course of lockdown. Key worker children, in many cases, actually went to school more than usual as they attended each day and during Easter and Whitsun. However, a significant group of children in each year group have fallen behind national expected levels.

What St. Saviour's is now in the process of doing, having already assessed children's post-lockdown attainment, is to put small group or individual tutoring in place to try and fill some gaps. Thankfully, the government has provided significant funding to do this work.

Though the task facing us is mammoth, a huge positive that has become even more apparent is that our parents and carers are firmly behind the school. Just before the summer break, an extremely supportive parent told us that she was willing to come with some colleagues and help deep clean the school. A range of parents also brought in cakes for staff when we opened for key worker children in the holidays. The kindness shown by our community often left me speechless (which is pretty rare!).

Nick Bonell (Headteacher)



The 1st Westgate Rainbows have been chosen as one of the Coop Local Community Fund Groups until October 2021.

We would be grateful for anyone with a Coop card to select us as their cause.

THANK YOU.

A N D R E W O M H Z Q Y F M U
 D O V E G B T R L I L Y C W V
 M S W L T C E P S E R K S I M
 U K Q Q E C N A R B M E M E R
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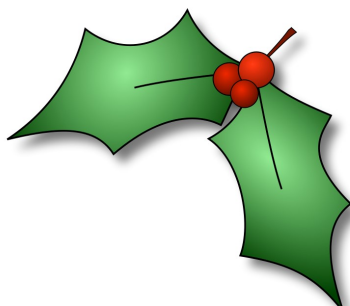
Andrew
 Armed
 Armistice
 Bonfire
 Candle
 Cenotaph
 Chapel
 Dove

Fireworks
 Fog
 Forces
 Lily
 Memorial
 November
 Poppy
 Remembrance

Respect
 Saints
 Silence
 Souls
 Veterans
 Wreath

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LOOK OUT FOR CHURCH
REOPENING FOR
CHRISTMAS SERVICES!
.... 6th DECEMBER ???



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS Seasonal messages will appear in the December edition of “The Link” . Messages can be sent or emailed to Valda no later than

SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER. Donations for sending greetings this way to be given to Graham Neve, Treasurer. ALL DONATIONS ARE FOR CHURCH FUNDS.



Ingatestone Hall-an Essex treasure!

Ingatestone Hall is a Grade 1 listed 16th century Manor House in Essex, and lies just outside the village of Ingatestone, off the A12 between Brentwood and Chelmsford. The Hall is located 35 miles from Central London. Ingatestone Hall is open to the public on selected afternoons between Easter and September. The Hall was built by Sir William Petre (Secretary of State to four Tudor monarchs), and his descendants (the Barons Petre), live in the house to this day.

Construction started on the house in 1539, and was completed in 1556. The Hall was built soon after the dissolution of the monasteries. In June 1541, a royal visitor, Queen Elizabeth the First, spent several nights at Ingatestone Hall on her Royal progress, where she held court. The Petre family gave her a lavish welcome, and decorated the house!

In 1564, Lady Katherine Grey was transferred from the Tower of London, (where she had been imprisoned by Elizabeth I) into the charge of Sir William Petre, and for two years, she was in his custody, and resided at Ingatestone Hall. She was sent to Essex to escape the Plague. Katherine was the younger sister of Lady Jane Grey, and the grand-daughter of Henry VIII's younger sister, Mary.

The Petre family remained loyal to the Roman Catholic Church, after the English Reformation had turned the Kingdom of England into a Protestant country. The Petres worshipped in secret, holding clandestine Catholic Masses in the private family Chapel at Ingatestone Hall.

Sir William Petre's son, John, the first Baron Petre, befriended the composer, William Byrd (1543-1623). A Catholic himself, Byrd supported the family's worship by composing a comprehensive repertory of choral music, to be sung in the private Chapel at Ingatestone. The compositions included "Gradualia", which were two sets of motets, and three Mass settings. These works, first heard at Ingatestone Hall, are now considered to be some of the finest examples of Tudor music.

During the Second World War, the girls from Wanstead School used the Hall. After the war, due to its size, the days of keeping a house of this size fully staffed, were now past. In the 1950's, the North Wing was let to Essex County Council for use by the Record Offices until the end of the 1970's.

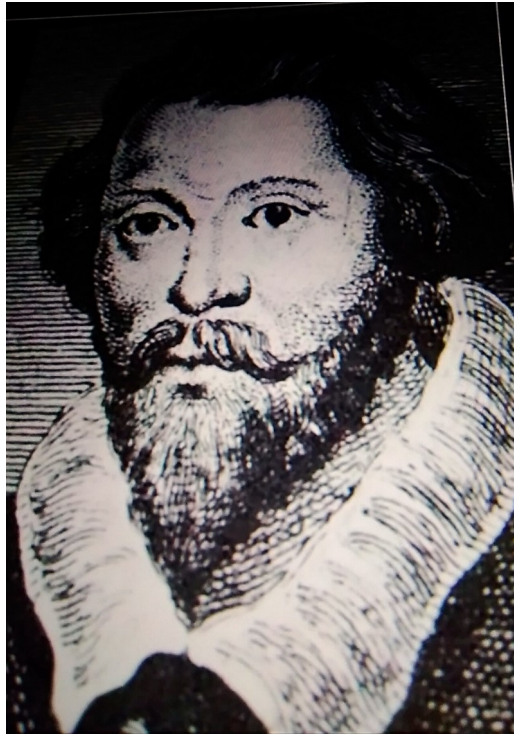
Ingatestone Hall still has a pleasant look of Elizabethan days about it, and visitors comment on its friendly, welcoming atmosphere, as the Hall remains primarily a private family residence. Visitors are able to visit the Summer Parlour, the dining hall, the Old kitchen, the principal bedroom, the gallery lined with 40 portraits of successive generations of the Petre family, and finally, the two secret Priests' hiding places concealed within the thickness of the walls. The orchards that almost entirely covered the grounds in Tudor times have virtually disappeared, but a few features from these days remain - the high boundary wall and the walled garden where summer picnics were enjoyed, the Stew pond, and an avenue of ancient Lime trees.

I would like to end my article by recounting my own experience of a visit to Ingatestone Hall:-

My first visit to the Hall would have been around 1967, when my father drove us from Romford to Ingatestone (in the little Austin!), one Saturday afternoon. My father had finished work at lunchtime, and had collected some pastries, rolls etc from our local baker, including a box of "fancies". These cakes were viewed by my sister and I with much delight! I can remember that during the journey to Ingatestone, I was deciding which "fancy" I would choose first! We enjoyed visiting the house, and then moved on into the grounds to eat our picnic. A Golden Labrador miraculously appeared, shared our picnic with us including the "fancies", and was happy for my sister and I to play with him! We thought that he probably belonged to the Hall, as he was free to wander. More than 30 years later, I took my four sons to Ingatestone Hall for a visit, which they thoroughly enjoyed, and I told them about the "visiting" dog! A few days later, I put pen to paper and wrote to John, 18th and present Baron Petre (Lord Lieutenant of Essex 2002-2017), writing that we had enjoyed our visit to the Hall, and recalling the Golden Labrador that I had played with in 1967. Within a few days, I received a charming, handwritten letter in ink from Baron Petre, who said that he was thrilled that we had enjoyed our recent visit, and was totally amazed and delighted that I could remember the friendly dog! He wrote that it was indeed one of the two Labradors, that his late father had owned at the time! With love from Valerie

*The gentleman in the picture is the composer, William Byrd.





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

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

SEE NOTICES FOR SERVICES

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....

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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



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