

Parish and Community

The Link

St Mildreds Road



Westgate Bay Avenue

Westgate Bay Avenue



St Mildreds Road

**January
2021**

**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

**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

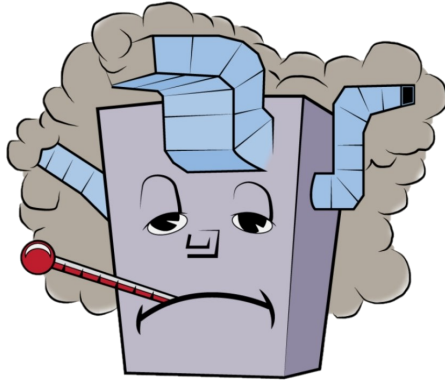
Editor "The Link" valdaneve@hotmail.co.uk

'We are very sad that during Lockdown, we need to keep our church closed to keep everyone safe. Services will continue to be live-streamed from church on You Tube on Sundays at 10.30. A link for these can be found on our website, Facebook page or via cattwood2002@yahoo.co.uk'



THANK YOU to
Emma's Florist for
donating the
beautiful
Christmas Tree
and the St Lucy
Crown frame and
Candles.





WHEN THE CHURCH IS OPEN

**PLEASE COME TO CHURCH WRAPPED UP WARM AS THE CHURCH
BOILER HAS FAILED SO HEATING IS LIMITED. A WARM WELCOME
AWAITS.**



Pastoral Letter January 2021

“The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness can not overcome it”

The Gospel of Saint John 1: 5

The light continues to shine through the dark and confusing days of a winter Lock-down but how can we see it? Even the sun seems to have taken a holiday for the New Year! More restrictions stretch ahead of us for maybe weeks- so, where is God in all this?

Christians have always stubbornly persisted in the belief that God stays with us during our periods of darkness and, indeed, may be especially close to us at these times. Many of us have experienced times in our lives when we've felt that we're at our wits end and it is then that we may be able to glimpse something Go(o)d which is 'beyond us' and beckons us on past the grim reality of the present.

We believe that this hope is planted deep in us by our loving Creator Father so that through it we, in St Paul's words, 'would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him- though indeed he is not far from each one of us; for in him we live and move and have our being' (Acts 17:27).

God's people have always found this challenging which is why he sent his Son to live as one of us, demonstrating what God is like, by his life and death. The mystery of Jesus' birth in very humble circumstances indicated the way in which God goes about revealing himself- quietly and in places where we wouldn't expect to go looking for him.

So, however challenging these next weeks are, we can be sure of one thing- that God wants us to draw close to him and allow him to lighten our darkness because he cares for us more than we will ever know until we meet him face to face.

Mother Karen



A gift of The Nativity given to

Mother Karen by The Westgate Art and

Craft Group

FROM THE REGISTERS

For those Baptised

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

Sunday 13th December Ava and Esrah

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”

Anne and John, Phyll, Doreen, Beryl, Joyce, Joan, Vanessa, Winifred, Lucy

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”

Thomas Herbert Hoadley

World War 2 Roll of Honour for this month

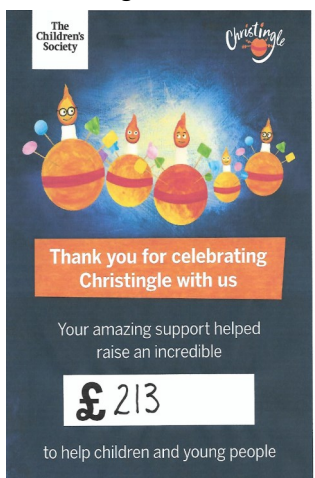
Benjamin Jefcoate 9th January 1943

Wilfred Smith 28th January 1942



Oranges and the pieces needed to make Christingles were taken and given out to the wider community after the Christingle Service.

THANK YOU to Theresa and Dan of Montys the Greengrocer, Birchington for donating the oranges for the Christingles



Glance back over December

What you see when you glance back depends very much on where you are. Standing on the verge of another lockdown, the joy and beauty of our Christmas in church shines all the more brightly. By God's grace, we were able to celebrate fully the mystery and wonder of Christ's birth. Each Sunday in church was a time of delight as all ages responded with enthusiasm and open-heartedness. St Nicholas, St Lucy and Christingle helped us to remember those in need while we enjoyed the traditional readings and carols and generously supported Oasis, Porchlight and The Children's Society.

On Christmas Eve, we were thrilled to welcome our own real 'Holy Family' to lead us gently through our candlelit Crib service. The Innkeeper and Innkeeper's wife managed to find somewhere for the Holy Family to stay long enough for 'Baby Jesus' to be born, despite the fact that, as we know, inns could not open in Tier 4! Shepherds, young and older, and a dear little squirmly lamb came to visit them. The carved olive wood figures from Bethlehem were placed into the Crib in memory of Fr Stanley, and on our way home, we all gazed into the dark stable by candlelight.

On Christmas Day we celebrated a candlelit Eucharist with Carols. Throughout December we have been very pleased to enjoy the carols from St Martin's in the Field, as well as Graham and Lesley when they have been able to be with us. My thanks to Kathleen for the magnificent Advent wreath and for decorating the tree, to Valerie for her magnificent scarecrow figures of Mary and Joseph outside the church, to Valda and Graham for the Christingle display and to the Wardens for keeping us safe. Mother Karen



Crib Service 24th December 2020



The new CRIB FIGURES Dedicated at Christmas in Father Stanley's Memory





Figures of the Shepherds with their flock





The arrival of the three Wise Men



When I was asked to make this tribute to Dawn ,as one of her many friends, I felt very daunted by the prospect. Such a long and full life is impossible to give a complete account of within the time constraints of this morning's service.

Each of you present here this morning, whether physically or 'virtually' or as one of the 'great crowd of witnesses' who have cheered Dawn on throughout her life, each of you will have your own special memories of her

I hope that when we are allowed to meet freely again next year we can come together to share and celebrate. For today I offer you three glimpses of Dawn, three occasions that I was privileged to share with her.

A few moments ago we were listening to 'Silent Night' .

Dawn, I hope you will forgive me for jumping the gun and thinking of Christmas when Advent is only half way through.....but Christmas was such a special time for you. And memories of it played an important part in your life.

It is a sunny June morning in 2012 and Dawn and I are on the hi speed train to London. She has asked me to accompany her to Green Park where the memorial to the 55,573 aircrew of Bomber Command are, at last, to be properly and publicly honoured and commemorated. Among them is Dawn's only sibling, her brother Flight Sgt Kenneth Crouch, shot down and killed over Holland in March 1942.

As we journey towards our destination Dawn tells me about the Christmas morning in 1941 in St Mary's church Chilham when as an eleven year old newly confirmed Christian, she was overjoyed to kneel beside her beloved brother to receive her first communion.

Ken had managed to get a 48 hour pass from his RAF base in Lincolnshire.

When she waved him goodbye on Chilham station on Boxing Day ,it was to be the last time she would see him.

It had taken more than 50 years for Dawn to fully accept Ken's death. She had clung to the tiniest hope that he might have escaped from the wreckage of his bomber and been spirited away by the Dutch resistance....Perhaps, she persuaded herself, he had lost his memory? Perhaps some day he would come home to her?

It was only in the 1990s that she screwed up her courage to face the truth. She went to Holland and found the site of the crashed bomber. Here she met the local family who had faithfully tended the graves of the crew. Only one man had escaped. Her beloved Ken had not survived.

When she returned home she gave her wholehearted support to the campaign to make a proper memorial to Ken and his comrades.

So, here we were in Green Park, and as we listened to the RAF band , joined in the prayers, and witnessed her majesty the Queen unveil the monument where Ken's name was inscribed, at last Dawn was able finally to lay him to rest

Perhaps it was this experience of grief which enabled her to offer others real comfort, and to ensure that those who gave their lives in both world wars (and since) were not just forgotten names on the memorials of Westgate, but real flesh and blood men who deserved to be honoured and remembered.

Another day to remember was also in June 2012.

Dawn had responded to an article in the Church Times asking for a 200 word story about a well loved book of common prayer. Ken had given her a copy in 1937. She was well versed in its contents, having learned by heart all the collects as a young child. (She could still remember and pray them to her dying day)!

When Ken died the little book became Dawn's most precious possession. She sent an account of that last Christmas and her story was one of those selected for a display in St. Paul's Cathedral to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the BCP.

Dawn asked me if I would accompany her to London again? (I was beginning to feel like a lady in waiting to a VIP!)

We were met by the Precentor who took us to see the prayer books arranged in a large glass case. There, amidst rather grander copies than hers, Dawn's tiny copy was displayed with her story. There were contributions from Prince Charles, a couple of archbishops, Terry Waite, distinguished poets and writers and, much to Dawn's delight one from PD James!

The precentor told us that Prince Charles had been especially moved by Dawn's story.

We were then invited to sit in reserved seats in the choir for choral evensong, it was a perfect ending to the day.

My third treat was yet to come. In 2014 Dawn received an invitation to a garden party at Buckingham Palace...would I go with her? I didn't need to be asked twice! What a lovely afternoon in the delightful palace gardens, dressed in our best and mingling with hundreds of others. The ladies bedecked in summery splendour topped by wonderful hats, and commonwealth visitors in colourful national attire. We were treated to a delicious dainty afternoon tea eaten with the strains of the military band playing across the lawn, while the Queen and other members of the royal family walked among us, pausing to talk to some of the guests.

I think this honour and her later appointment as the first Freeman of Westgate on Sea, were given in recognition of all her work in this community. From her PHD on the early history of Westgate to the founding of the Heritage Centre here in St Saviours church, her great gift of bringing to life the stories of the everyday folk who built Westgate, preserving the best of the past whilst living firmly in the present, a teacher extraordinary, church warden, a champion of 'Churches Together'. For her work as school governor.

(Graham and Valda will talk more of this)

For all she accomplished with such a lightness of touch ...though this often concealed a gritty determination,

Last but not least, we come to celebrate Dawns very deep Christian faith in The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus, which provided the framework for all she was and did.

The Holy Eucharist which sustained her. The prayer life which inspired and comforted her.

Dawn, your two beloved god children, Sandra in Australia, Joseph in America, send their love. As Joseph wrote in a recent letter, which arrived on the very morning you died...

' You are a wonderfully kind person and I am thankful to know you. I sincerely appreciate all the things we have shared over the last 40 years. You will always be 'Auntie Dawn ' to me. My love to you always, Joe. x

And here, closer to home, though prevented by covid restrictions from being in church this morning, Ruth and Douglas who you have loved like a grandmother and of whom you were so proud, both honour you.

And we who have been so blessed by your friendship. Each of us will treasure our memories of you.

Dawn, May you rest in heavenly peace and rise in glory, Amen.

Tribute from Diana Davies a very close and dear friend of Dawn

Normally, I'm not comfortable speaking in public but this is something Dawn encouraged me to do. I first met Dawn, when she was my history teacher at Dane Court Grammar School – little did I know then, what a true friend she would become later on in life. Our paths crossed again, when Graham and I started attending St Saviour's Church.

Dawn saw Ruth and Douglas grow up from babies to adults. Regrettably neither can be here today as they are isolating due to positive COVID cases at school. Dawn was a determined and independent lady, with a great wealth of knowledge. From one teacher to another, both Ruth and Douglas agree, that she was a true teacher at heart and those 'typical' characteristics of this role shone through. Dawn was keen to educate and share knowledge, she wanted to ensure that everyone who wished to know had access to all she knew.

Graham got to know Dawn further when he became a member of the PCC in the year 2000. Dawn was churchwarden at the time and her knowledge of churchmanship was immediately evident. She was a driving force within the church, freely sharing her knowledge and experience. In 2004, when repairs to the church tower were needed, Dawn managed the project including applying for grants. The PCC were grateful to Dawn taking on this considerable task. Graham also worked alongside Dawn during her time as a foundation governor at St Saviours School, which Dawn continued until she was 70. During this time, Dawn took an active role in the development of the current school building which replaced the old school on the former site. Dawn considered this to be one of her greatest achievements, revelling in the research needed to comply with planning permissions and objections.

Her passion for Westgate and its history culminated in the creation of the Westgate Heritage Centre. It became Dawn's life but was never a chore. Dawn had an unrivalled energy and enthusiasm for researching and collating the wealth of information that is now available.

As part of this, Dawn encouraged the younger generations to take an interest in history, which Doug is particularly grateful for. Dawn nurtured Doug's initial intrigue and helped to shape his love of the subject which she herself held so dear. Throughout his sixth form studies and time at university, he would meet with Dawn to go through essays and discuss topics at length. Unsurprisingly, Dawn was not afraid to tell him when she disagreed with his arguments, especially when it came to discussing the Second World War and the Blitz Spirit. How could you argue with someone who had lived through it?! That, said, Dawn would always listen intently to another point of view before giving her well evidenced response using her fingertip knowledge. To show his appreciation for Dawn's support, Doug gifted Dawn a commemorative stone within the footsteps project at the University of Kent. We took Dawn to visit this, which was something she was very proud of and now there will always be a part of Dawn at the University of Kent. When Doug graduated from the University of Kent himself, he was delighted to invite Dawn, who always kept her hat ready for the occasion! A memorable part of the day, was when queueing to go in to the cathedral and Dawn was becoming tired of standing. We asked a member of staff for a chair – and a wheelchair was provided! Dawn did sit in it but told us firmly, "This is the first and the last time you will see me in one of these – do not tell anyone". Sorry Dawn! Doug was truly honoured to have Dawn at his graduation and it will always be the dearest memory he holds of Dawn.

More recently, Dawn and I went shopping together each month. Sometimes we would cross paths with the daughters of Dawn's close friend Eileen Ikoku, Rosemary and the young Eileen, as she used to say. Dawn often spoke fondly of her godson, Joseph, son of the young Eileen. A highlight for Dawn was his last visit from America, along with his wife and young family, where the children were fascinated with Dawn's balcony.

Last year, we had the pleasure of meeting Sandra, Dawn's goddaughter from Australia. We all spent a very enjoyable day together and since then Dawn would share news from Sandra and her family with me.

In latter years, Dawn's phone calls to us became a regular feature and we would all enjoy discussing our day or week with her. In return, Dawn would keep us informed of the beauty of the bay and sea and the weather which she could watch from her window and balcony. In addition, Dawn would send us regular emails to check in with each of us, in which we discussed education and current affairs and in more recent times, helped her to arrange her green grocery order from Monty's. Dawn was a passionate believer in supporting local business and ensuring local high streets were kept alive.

Dawn had a great many friends and was always appreciative of each and everyone one of them for what they did, from phone calls to cooking and visits in person. As a family we looked forward to sharing the Midnight Service at Christmas with Dawn, which she attended until she was 88. This always meant a lot to her as she had told me that she was confirmed at Christmas and her brother Ken had taken communion with her at this time.

Over the time we have all known Dawn, she has gifted us with a wealth of knowledge as well as becoming a valued friend. Whilst we will all miss her presence, she has left a lasting impression which we must endeavour to ensure is shared with generations to come.

Tribute from Valda, Graham, Ruth and Douglas Neve



Dawn on a visit to the University of Kent to see her commemorative stone on the Crab and Winkle Line.

Friendly Friday Corner-:

May I begin by wishing each and every one of you, a very healthy and happy New Year, 2021.

The 1st day of December saw Brian and I wrapping the Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus figures in plastic, to transport them to the church! Together with Mother Karen and Aidan, we arranged the Holy Family in the corner of the Churchyard, and they looked very comfortable. Aidan's amazing Santa Claus was placed just behind the figures, and we laid baby Jesus in a delightful crib, superbly made by Mother Karen! The making of the Holy Family has been my most ambitious project to date, but one which I thoroughly enjoyed completing! During December at home, I made felt gift bag tree decorations in the shape of Santa's boots, and paper snowflakes to adorn our Christmas tree!

Keep safe! Lots of 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 FEBRUARY 2021 “The Link” is
SUNDAY 31st JANUARY 2021



'If you would like a flower arrangement in church in memory of a loved one, we can supply this at any time..Donations from £10.'

Dear Mother Karen, Christine, Graham and everyone at St Saviour's Parish Church

We wanted to send you some festive cheer electronically! Thank you so much to everyone at St Saviour's Parish Church for your donation of £276.55 towards Porchlight's work.

To give you a sense of the tangible impact of £276.55; it could cover the cost of a fantastic 55 calls to our 24-hour helpline from people in crisis or 11 welcome packs to people moving into our supported accommodation. This is truly life transforming and is needed now more than ever and we can't thank you enough for your support.

Nationwide concerns of rising unemployment, rising evictions and the impact on people's mental health are all issues that are likely to result in an increased demand for Porchlight's services. We are currently looking at how we can gear up to support this predicted increase in demands of calls to our Helpline and pressure on our resources. However, we also appreciate that we are not alone and know that our supporters have also had their own challenges, both financially, physically and mentally which makes your support even more valued.

2020 has presented challenge after challenge for everyone but on a positive note we are so grateful for your amazing £276.55 donation towards our work. Your support is so vital at this time, thank you.

Although Christmas will look a little different this year, we hope all of you can still enjoy some time to rest, eat well and have fun with family.

With very best wishes for the New Year.

From Sophie and all the staff and clients at Porchlight.



News from St Saviour's Church of England School Christmas is now in sight at St. Saviour's but our final week of school is a little different this year. We have not held a Christmas fair or nativity play and there will be no carol service at St. Saviour's Church. We have a year group out of school, due to a case of Covid 19 and are desperately hoping we do not have any more cases and ruin Christmas for self-isolating families.

With a vaccine roll-out in process, I sincerely hope we are at the beginning of the end of this crisis. Our children have had an extremely disrupted year and the effort to make-up lost time feels like 'two steps forward, one step back'. We have arranged lots of extra-tuition for different groups of children, we have also taken on extra staff and extended existing staff hours in order to help children catch-up. Additional funding from the government has been very useful in paying for some of these extra staff. However, the efforts of staff are still being hampered by high absence rates, due to cases within families and us having to periodically send whole year groups home.

As a headteacher, I am usually insisting on full attendance; I feel hypocritical in sending children home. At the same time, I feel a huge sense of responsibility for putting families and staff at risk. Current evidence suggests that primary school children do not become seriously ill with the coronavirus. However, I am fully aware that, if children pick up the virus at school then transmit it to their families, serious consequences follow. I am also very conscious that I am potentially putting staff in harm's way. I am sure all public-facing workers such as police officers, medical and care staff, drivers and shop workers feel the same way. I note that the profession with the highest death rate during the first wave of the pandemic was security guard – a thankless job at the best of times.

The simple pleasures of working with young children have got us through this term. When children approach me on the playground to tell me jokes or show me a dance or sing me a song, I have to concede there are worse ways to earn a living. Though they are in the midst of a bizarre episode of history, children are simply living their lives.

Our staff team is looking forward to the end of this pandemic so we can focus completely on the learning and welfare of our children. I am truly looking forward to visiting St. Saviour's Church and filling that beautiful building with the voices of children.

Nick Bonell, Headteacher

Treasurer's Report (General fund)

Statement for the month of December 2020

Unfortunately it is not yet possible to complete a statement for this month as details of bank interest are currently awaited. However early indications are that the month will end with a deficit of around £500.

Total assets at	1 January 2020	£80633
Total assets at	30 November 2020	£78777

Deficit for year to date (30 November).....£1856 plus December £500?

As the period of COVID-19 restrictions continues, the funding needs of the Storehouse (Foodbank), Oasis and Porchlight will also continue as donations of goods are not possible. However, the Storehouse, Porchlight and Oasis 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 are 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.

Total monies collected in year ended 31 December 2020 are :-

Storehouse (Foodbank) £1770

Oasis £406.90

Porchlight Dec 2020 £286.55 plus Jan 2020 £259.50

Children's Society £213

G R Neve

Hon Treasurer

Email: neve389@btinternet.com

Arthur Mee - a postscript--:

Last month, Christine and I were thrilled to receive an email from a lovely lady called Carolyn, who had spent some time with us here at St Saviour's, during the summer of 2018. Carolyn returned to her home in the U. S. A, but enjoyed reading the "Link" online. As you may remember, I wrote an article in the "Link" a few months back, concerning the work of Arthur Mee. Carolyn read my article, and this is what she wrote - :

"Arthur Mee lived in my village, and built a beautiful Arts and Crafts home there called Eynsford Hill (the house is still standing and is located in Crockenhill Lane, Eynsford, Dartford). He was a close friend of George Bernard Shaw, who often visited, and gave the name of Eynsford-Hill as a surname to one of the families in Pygmalion".

(My Fair Lady).

Carolyn's information has prompted me to do some research on Arthur Mee's former home!

Eynsford Hill House was built in 1913 by the author, Arthur Mee. It is a Grade II listed house, and Arthur Mee spared no expense after searching for many years to find the perfect location in which to build a house. He wanted a location that was a near enough distance to his office in Piccadilly. It is also where he would entertain his friend, George Bernard Shaw, who named a family in Pygmalion, Eynsford - Hill, in tribute.

The library is an exceptional room where Arthur Mee wrote over 200 books, his most famous being " The Children's Encyclopaedia", and "The King's England series (Essex, Kent etc).

Arthur Mee had a childhood delight in secrets and puzzles! In the library, a secret drink's cabinet would be revealed if you moved your finger down the spines of one row of books! However, Arthur Mee was a teetotaler, himself.

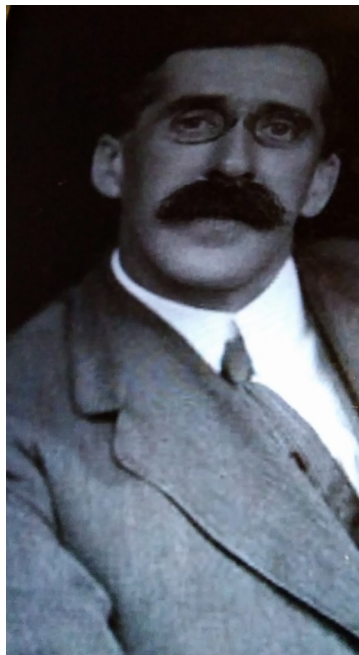
The development from the design of Eynsford Hill. to the finished building, was depicted in later editions of "The Children's Encyclopaedia". Arthur Mee's works for children suggest that his interest was in trying to encourage the raising of a generation of patriotic and decent citizens. Arthur Mee believed that children could understand complex subjects if they were clearly explained.

The property remains almost unaltered from the day that it was built, although it has been well maintained. However, the kitchen is modern and the two bathrooms are thought to date from the 1930's, both being stunning examples of Art Deco installations of the era. The pink wash basins, parquet flooring and mosaic tiles, all testify to his love of Art Deco.

Future owners of the house were forever finding new curiosities! Arthur Mee incorporated many interesting artefacts during the build, such as Roman tiles with dog's paws ingrained in them! There is also a time capsule dating from 1913 buried near the front door to give future generations an idea of early 20th century life.

The attached photos show Arthur Mee, and Eynsford Hill House.

Best wishes, Valerie



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

Christian	January	Resolutions
Circumcision	Jesus	Star
Cold	Men	Unity
Conversion	Myrrh	Wind
Crown	Naming	Winter
Epiphany	New	Wise
Frankincense	Paul	Year
Gold	Prayer	

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



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.

The history of Ladybird books from its beginnings until 1998 - :

I am really looking forward to sharing books with my new grandson, Hugo! It was something that I always did with my own children, and I still have most of the books. Reading to babies is so important, as the roots of the language are developing in a baby's mind, even before he can talk. It also teaches a baby about communication, and builds listening, memory, and vocabulary skills. My sons enjoyed reading the Ladybird books very much, and were fortunate to have been given many titles. Here is the story of Ladybird - :

The Company traces its origins back to 1867 when Henry Wills opened a bookshop in Loughborough, Leicestershire. Within ten years, he had expanded to printing and publishing guidebooks and street directions. In 1904, he was joined by William Hepworth, and the Company traded as Wills & Hepworth. By August 1914, Wills & Hepworth published their first children's books, featuring the Ladybird logo.

The Ladybird books which we have come to know, were published under several headings:

"Well-loved tales", such as 'Rapunzel'

"People at work", such as 'The Policeman'

"Historical figures", such as 'Sir Walter Raleigh'

"Natural History", such as Pond and River birds.

"Ladybird Achievements books", such as 'Flight'

"How it works", 'The Computer'.

In 1964, the Company's "Key Words Reading Scheme" was launched, and was heavily used by British Primary Schools, using a reduced vocabulary to help children learn to read. The series contained three series of 12 books, in small, hardback books. The contents of the scheme was of a "stereotyped" model of British family life:- the children at play (Peter and Jane) ; the mother portrayed as a housewife, and Dad was the breadwinner. During the 1990's, many schools sold off their stock of the "Key Reading Scheme" at fetes, bazaars, etc, for very little money. I bought many of these books in this way, and the illustrations in the books were first class. They were of the highest artistic standard, including the work of John Berry. John Berry, an artist and illustrator, illustrated 35 Ladybird Books between 1961 and 1978. As well as working on the "Key Words Reading Scheme", Berry illustrated books from the "People at Work" series (Policeman, Fireman, Postman). John Berry's work is important, as the series forms an almost complete record of British Industry, as it was at the time. (Berry is also famed for his idea of the iconic Esso tiger adverts!)

The hardback Ladybird Book measured four-and-a-half by seven inches (11.5 cm by 18 cm). The book was able to be printed quite economically,

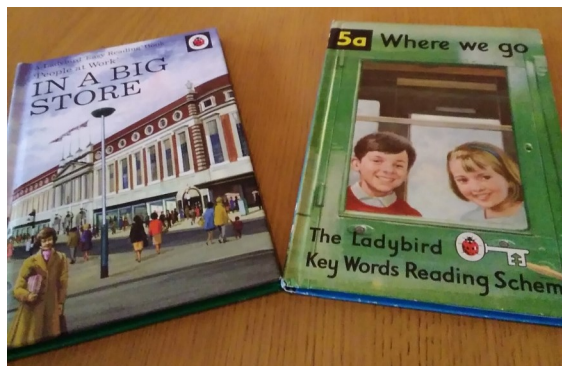
thus keeping the price down for almost thirty years (two shillings and sixpence - 12.5 p).

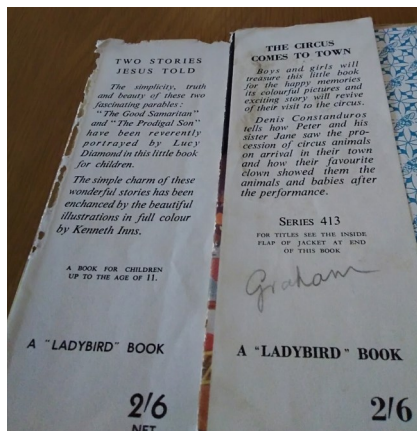
One of the most noteworthy books by Ladybird was entitled 'The Computer'. At the time, nobody had a computer at home, or had ever worked with one. Along came a Ladybird book! In 1971, David Carey Jr produced a simple, clear and highly readable book called 'The Computer'. It was used as a manual by adults and children alike and employers often encouraged their workforce to read it, as it was so highly written! The last section of the book has a very interesting heading..... "This year, next year,..... sometime....."!

Ladybird Books remained an independent company for much of its life. It became part of the Pearson Group in 1972, and was fully merged into its Penguin Books subsidiary in 1998. The Ladybird offices and printing factory in Loughborough closed the same year. It is encouraging to know that much of Ladybird's archive of historic artwork, was transferred to public collections.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading about one of our British institutions!

Lots of love, Valerie.





THANK YOU to Aidan, Steve and Graham for taking down the outside Christmas lights and Santa despite the drizzle rain and mud - great team work!

The Christmas tree in church is a VERY HAPPY TREE and looks as good as the day that it came into church.

The water reservoir was completely empty so has been refilled.



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

9am Holy Communion Prayer Book

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....

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