

Parish and Community

The Link

St Mildreds Road



Westgate Bay Avenue

Westgate Bay Avenue



St Mildreds Road

**March
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**

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St Saviour's Church of England Junior School

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Telephone 01843 831707

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St Saviour's Church, Westgate

PANTRY IN THE PORCH

HELP YOURSELF

Available from the PORCH entrance in
WESTGATE BAY AVENUE

10.30am to 3pm

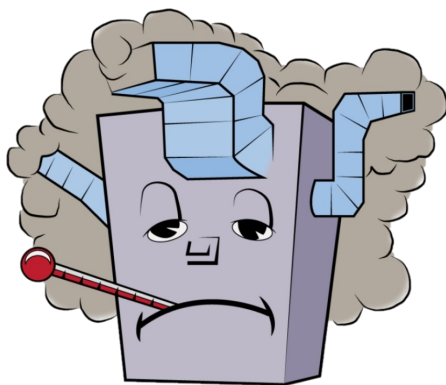
MONDAY TO SATURDAY



ONE PERSON AT A TIME IN THE
PORCH.

REMEMBER SOCIAL DISTANCING.

'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'



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.



Dear friends,

Rounding a corner into March, there is hope in the air with longer days and more sunshine as well as Spring flowers and birds beginning to nest. Lent- the period of the year in which, traditionally, the Church focusses on the last weeks of Jesus' life, is a time when many also prepare for baptism and confirmation. Our confirmation candidates have been exceptionally patient as their preparation began eighteen months ago but hopefully, by the time the confirmation service arrives, you will all feel that much has been gained through this period of enforced waiting and that this very special occasion means all the more to you.

However, Easter is a time for us all to renew our commitment, symbolically, through the tradition of making the sign of the cross with holy water on Easter Day which reminds us of our baptism. We also light the 'new fire'- an ornate Pascal candle which is renewed each Easter to invite us to reflect on the great gift of new life which raised Jesus from the dead and promises to raise us all when our time comes. However, the coming of the light is not a one-off event, but signifies the Holy Spirit living in all Christian believers. Through this Spirit, we can participate in the life of Jesus on earth as well as in heaven.

We are planning to gather in church once more on Easter Day as this is a Great Festival and celebration of hope. We have a renewed sound system which will greatly enhance the experience of listening to music and I hope that our Flower Team will be springing into action nearer the time to fill the church with flowers. Candles, sweet smelling flowers and glorious music- what joy to anticipate! as we reflect on the recurring beauty of God's promises to lead his people through times of trial into places of blessing and refreshment.

May God keep you strong in hope as you await in faith the outpouring of his abundant blessings on all his people.

Mother Karen



Photos of St Saviour's Church in the snow February 2021 by Sydney Hodder



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”

Anne and John, Phyll, Doreen, Beryl, Joyce, Vanessa, Maureen, Janice, Shirley

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

Joan

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”

World War 2 Roll of Honour for this month

Michael Savage 19th March 1945

Stuart Smith 21st March 1945

Percy Price 27th March 1943

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 the APRIL 2021 “The Link” is
SUNDAY 28th MARCH 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.'

Glance back over February

Glancing back over February is dominated by extremes of weather! Having celebrated Candlemas bravely in church with the still-glorious tree and decorations as well as our beautiful new Crib figures, we retreated to the Vicarage to continue live-streaming services for the remainder of the month. PCC has met on Zoom and made good progress with the business of keeping church running during a pandemic and we are in good heart as we look forward to opening again for worship on Easter Day.

It has been heartening to see the enthusiasm for offering the Pantry in the Porch as a way of supporting those suffering from food poverty in our community. We are continuing to make plans to extend this to include good quality clothes as well, so donations will be welcome at the Vicarage over the coming weeks. Please continue to leave gifts of food in the porch during opening hours; 10.30- 3pm Monday to Saturday and gifts of flowers for decorating the church for Easter would be welcome on Holy Saturday (April 3rd). Most importantly- please spread the word that we shall be open again at the beginning of April! Mother Karen





Snow February 2021

St Saviour's Church heating project

The annual maintenance check of the gas boiler last October, identified that it was unsafe and due to age (around 30 years old) repairs were no longer viable. The failure of the gas boiler, and the drive by the Church of England to become carbon neutral by 2030, has led to a rethink in terms of the type of heating system to be deployed in St Saviour's as the use of gas is no longer regarded as environmentally friendly. The PCC have been looking at the alternatives available such as electric boilers, air/ground source heat pumps, underfloor heating and infra-red heaters. Research informed the PCC that electric boilers were expensive to install and the running costs were high. Air/ground source heat pumps had a high capital cost of installation and were not particularly effective in a large building. Underfloor heating is normally only recommended for a church that is in daily use. The view of the PCC was to move away from the existing 'wet' system of radiators and look towards electric infra-red heaters. Churches that have already converted to electric heating have been researched and their comments regarding effectiveness will be used to inform decisions on the most appropriate form of heating for St Saviour's.

The PCC are required to follow the guidance issued by the Church Buildings Council in January 2020. This sets out very clearly how to choose the right heating system in 8 progressive steps. The first three steps are to,

Evaluate current situation. In other words consider any special features in the building, survey the congregation and other stakeholders.

Define needs and resources. Consider the current and planned use of the building and what is needed to heat the different areas within the building, Side Aisles, Nave, Chancel, Sanctuary, Social area, Inner Porch, Vestries, Toilet and Bell ringing chamber. Research grants available.

Consult experts. The PCC is currently engaging with a heating consultant specialising in infra-red heaters.

The PCC are keen to take account of the views of the congregation and other stakeholders. A short questionnaire follows this article. Comments are welcomed which can be sent via email to,

office@stsaviourswestgate.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from as many people as possible.

Survey regarding proposals for heating St Saviour's Church

The gas boiler providing heating via radiators in the nave and pipes along the north and south walls has reached the end of its life and is irreparable. The Church of England aim to become carbon neutral by 2030, and it is incumbent on the PCC to consider eco-friendly replacement heating. Options such as 'air-source heat pumps', 'ground source heat pumps' and underfloor heating have been considered and rejected as potential solutions on the grounds of costs of installation and poor heating efficiency.

The PCC wish to consult with the congregation and other stakeholders on ideas to provide a new source of electric heating, and collate views to feed into their planning. Generally speaking, any new heater will warm the object rather than the air which inevitably rises to the roof apex. It will be very helpful if everyone can give their views on the questions below.

Do you think heaters purposefully designed with safety in mind, fixed under pews will provide adequate warmth and comfort?

We have infra-red heaters serving the north aisle and social area at the west end of the church. Do you think more infra-red heaters for the nave and south aisle will provide adequate warmth and comfort?

Would it be preferable to install heaters that did not create a red glow/light?

Far infra-red heaters are available which like infra-red heaters heat objects (people etc) rather than the air space. These are available in a similar design to the existing heaters but do not emit the red glow. Do you think these will be more suitable?

Far infra-red heaters can also be made in the form of panels. These can be fixed to the roof rafters and colour matched to them, which will provide heat for the north and south aisle pews. Do you think these will blend in with the surround without being unsightly?

Do you think heaters should be installed only where the church is used or throughout the internal area?

Do you think removal of redundant radiators/pipework should be considered?

Any other thoughts/suggestions?

If you or someone you know, have any experience in selecting and/or installing eco friendly heaters we would be pleased to hear from you.

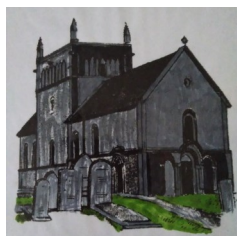
🍪🍪🍪🍪🍪 FRIENDLY FRIDAY CORNER 🍪🍪🍪🍪🍪

Spring is just around the corner! The days are getting longer, and the ground is getting warmer. Some of the daffodils are flowering! March is certainly a month of new beginnings!

In my craft room, I have been working on "new beginnings", too, in the form of up-cycling or "creative reuse". I am always very keen to transform unwanted by-products into new articles. I write monthly reviews for a British cosmetics company, and receive many containers, jars etc, as sample products. This month, I have added some of my pottery animals and fruit to the jars, in the form of accessories, to create some attractive, little trinket boxes; so easy to do, but very effective. I was so pleased with the results, that I have displayed the trinket boxes on shelves in my lounge!

I have also been completing some of the colouring sheets that we have been using at "Friendly Friday". This is so enjoyable to do, and provides a much needed break in the course of the day!

Love Valerie 🧑🍳🧑🍳



The Friends of St Saviour's Church

Unfortunately, due to the various lockdowns since last March, The Friends have not been able to hold any events, including our annual general meeting for 2020 and annual January coffee morning. However, the Committee was able to meet last October to adopt the trustees annual report and accounts, enabling the annual return to be sent to the Charity Commission by the deadline of the end of October. Subscriptions for 2021 are now due and remain at £2 per person but we hope those renewing will include a generous donation in their cheque. Please get in touch with our Secretary (Christine Attwood) by email to renew your membership:

cattwood2002@yahoo.co.uk

Members from 2020 without an email address will be contacted individually.

Thank you.



World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer (now known as the World Day of Prayer – WDP) is an ecumenical event held annually on the first Friday in March.

Each year the service is written by women in a particular country, giving us glimpses of life there and prayer requests. This year's service (Build on a Strong Foundation) has been written by the women of Vanuatu – an archipelago of 80 islands in the South Pacific, 2000 miles east of Australia. Lots of information about Vanuatu can be found on the WDP Website:

<https://www.wwdp.org.uk>

Sadly, as far as I know at the time of writing this article, there will not be the usual morning and evening services locally. Some will be held elsewhere in England and, from the website, it looks possible to join those online. Unfortunately, the link giving details of these virtual services only seems to work when you click on it from the Website: <https://www.wwdp.org.uk>

Collections at the annual WDP Services are virtually the only source of income for the National Committee of World Day of Prayer for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (registered charity number 233242) and so they are encouraging individual donations:

By cheque, made payable to WDP and sent to WDP, Commercial Road,
Tunbridge Wells TN1 2RR

By online donation via: <https://www.wwdp.org.uk> - minimum donation £10

By TEXT message from mobile phones. TEXT 2021WDP 5 to 70085 to donate £5. *Any amount can be donated up to £40 just add the sum after 2021WDP and your text will cost the amount plus one standard rate message.*

Christine Attwood

St Saviour's Member of the Margate WDP Committee, which includes Westgate-on-Sea and Birchington

Treasurer's Report

Statement for the month of February 2021

February 2021

Income £1706

Expenses £6682

Deficit £5176 (Extra ordinary repairs to lightning protection and internal sound system)

Total assets at 1 January 2021 £103340

Total assets at 28 February 2021 £97638

Deficit for year to date.....£5702

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.

G R Neve

Hon Treasurer

Email: neve389@btinternet.com





A CAT CALLED FAITH- the London Church Cat! - - - - :

I was thrilled that so many of our readers enjoyed my recent article on " Able Sea-cat Simon of HMS Amethyst". I am pleased to tell you that I have another true story of a brave cat for you this month! Our story is about Faith, the London Church Cat. Like Simon, Faith was also awarded a medal. Hers was a silver medal in recognition of her courage during the Blitz in London, during the Second World War.

In 1936, a small tabby cat crept inside St Augustine's and St Faith's Church, Watling Street, in the City of London. The church was very close to St Paul's Cathedral. Once inside the church, the verger, Thomas Evans, found her. Not wishing to lock her inside the church, he put her back outside. He did this about two or three times, but she managed to slip past him, and spend the night curled up inside the church! The rector of St Augustine's and St Faith's Church was called Father Henry Ross, and he lived in the rectory that was attached to the church. The following morning, Father Henry and his verger were sitting beside a warm fire, talking, when the little tabby cat appeared! Father Henry noticed how thin she was, and fetched her some cream.. The verger arranged for his wife to bring a box in for the cat to sleep in, along with some bowls, and it was decided that she would stay in the rectory until anybody made enquiries about her. The verger put a notice in the church bulletin the next week. Nobody came to claim the little cat, so Father Henry decided that she could stay and become a church cat! He called her Faith. Faith soon settled in, and very soon was exploring the building. Just like Simon in our other article, she was catching mice! She soon became healthy looking, and attended all of the church services, sitting at Father Henry's feet! Sometimes, she sat in the front pew. Faith became greatly loved by the Parishioners. This same way of life continued for four years for Faith.

However, in August of 1940, it was noticed that Faith was looking slightly plump! One morning, she did not jump up onto Father Henry's bed to demand her breakfast as she normally did. Father Henry went to investigate. There, in her basket, lay Faith with a tiny, little kitten! He was a black and white Tom kitten. The Parishioners were thrilled with the new arrival, and on the following Sunday, the choir boys sang "All things bright and beautiful", to welcome the tiny kitten. The Parishioners decided on the name "Panda" for the kitten, as his colouring was similar to Chi-Chi, the well-known panda at London Zoo.

On the 6th September 1940, Faith was seen carrying her kitten down to the basement which was dusty, and very unwelcoming. Father Henry brought Panda back to his basket, but could sense that Faith was concerned about something. Faith did not attend any services that day, but had taken Panda back to the basement hideout. The rector spoke to some of the ladies of the church, and they suggested that Faith might feel that Panda was in some sort of danger.

They took Faith's basket down to the basement, and cleared the area for her to be more comfortable. Faith settled contentedly into the basket with her kitten.

On the following night, the 7th. September, there was a heavy air raid on the city with more than 400 people losing their lives. Father Henry's church was very poorly attended the next day. Two days later, Father Henry had to go to Westminster on business, and it was when he was returning that evening, that the air raid sirens started. He spent the night in a shelter, and in the morning, the radio news was grim. There had been a further heavy loss of life, and a vast number of buildings had been destroyed including eight churches. Father Henry cycled straight to Watling Street, and was shocked to see that his church had been reduced to a mess of twisted wreckage, and flames were still coming from the timbers. The tower was still standing. A fireman approached Father Henry and asked if there was anybody in church the evening before. Father Henry answered that it was his two cats, nobody else. The fireman replied that nothing could have lived through the destruction. He was very sympathetic about Faith and Panda, but continued with his work. Father Henry just knew that Faith and Panda were still down there. As soon as the firemen turned their backs, he began to scramble over the debris, and started to call "Faith!" as loudly as he could. Suddenly, he heard a faint meow, and he began to move timbers and rubble. There both cats were, quite unharmed, and just a little dirty! Father Henry cried tears of relief, and carried the two cats to a safer area in the vestry of the tower. Very soon after this, the roof collapsed, completely covering the area where the cats had been.

Father Henry and the two cats stayed with the verger and his wife for the time being, and each day, he took the cats with him to the church, while he worked to make the tower habitable again. Services finally resumed on 1st. November. Faith returned to church, and would lay at Father Henry's feet as he preached. Father Henry wrote a poem to Faith's bravery, and he framed and hung it, along with Faith's photograph, on the Chapel wall. Faith's story soon spread, but it took five years before it came to the notice of Maria Dickin, founder of the PDSA, and the Dickin Medal.

In 1946, Rosalind, the verger's wife, read a story in the newspaper about a dog called Beauty, who together with her handler, had been responsible for finding and saving 60 pets that would otherwise have died in bombed buildings. For her courage and bravery, Beauty had been awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal. Mrs Evans felt that Faith's actions should merit a medal, too, and she wrote to the PDSA, but didn't tell Father Henry!

Mrs Evans was thrilled to receive an answer back, that Mrs. Dickin had been so impressed with Faith's bravery, that she felt that she deserved a medal. However, Faith could not be awarded the Dickin Medal, because she was a "civilian" cat, and was not with the armed forces on civil defence. But, there would be a special silver medal made for Faith, and she, Mrs. Dickin, would come along to present it herself! Mrs. Evans then told a delighted Father Henry!

Mrs. Evans took the ceremony a step further by secretly writing to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, at Lambeth Palace. She felt that as Faith was a church cat, and lived in the church that was in one of the Archbishop's parishes, he might come along. He agreed to come!

On 12th October 1945 at 11 am, on a sunny day, two black limousines arrived at St Augustine's and St. Faith's. Out of one car stepped the Archbishop of Canterbury, and from the other, stepped Maria Dickin, (75 years old). A short service was conducted in which the Archbishop held Faith whilst Mrs. Dickin read the citation, and hung the medal around Faith's neck. A buffet lunch followed, and Faith enjoyed a special plate of fish!

The newspapers carried Faith's story with photographs the next day. A visiting American visited the church soon after, and saw the inscription to Faith in the church. He was so impressed and told the story to the local Humane Society in New York, when he returned home. Faith's story appeared in the New York papers, and she received a second silver medal!

Three years later, on 28th September 1948, Faith passed peacefully away in her sleep, at the age of 14 years. Father Henry was devastated. He arranged a service in the church for Faith the next day. The church was full, and it was a moving service including organist and choir boys. The boys led the procession into the Churchyard, followed by the verger carrying the tiny box carrying Faith. Father Henry said a blessing, and the box was placed in a little grave.

Accounts of the little cat's story reached the rest of Britain, the U. S. A, South Africa and Australia. Father Henry was offered another cat by the Parishioners, but he declined. Instead, he often took his book to sit by Faith's grave on a sunny afternoon.

Panda, Faith's son, enjoyed a very happy life, too. When he grew up, Panda became the handsome and much-loved cat at a residential nursing home in Herne Hill, S. E. London.

A few years later, strangely enough, it was Father Henry who conducted the burial service for Simon, the Amethyst cat, at the PDSA Animal Cemetery in Ilford, Essex. Quite soon after that, Father Henry retired, and he took Faith's medals with him. The church of St Augustine's and St Faith's was closed, but now forms part of the St. Paul's Cathedral Choir School. Faith's little grave lies beneath the playground where the children enjoy their breaktime.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading Faith's story as much as I have enjoyed researching it. Just like Simon must have given comfort to the young boys in the ship's hospital, likewise Faith must have been a comforting and reassuring presence to all of the folk who attended the church. As soon as we are able, Brian and I plan to visit this area in London to remember Faith.

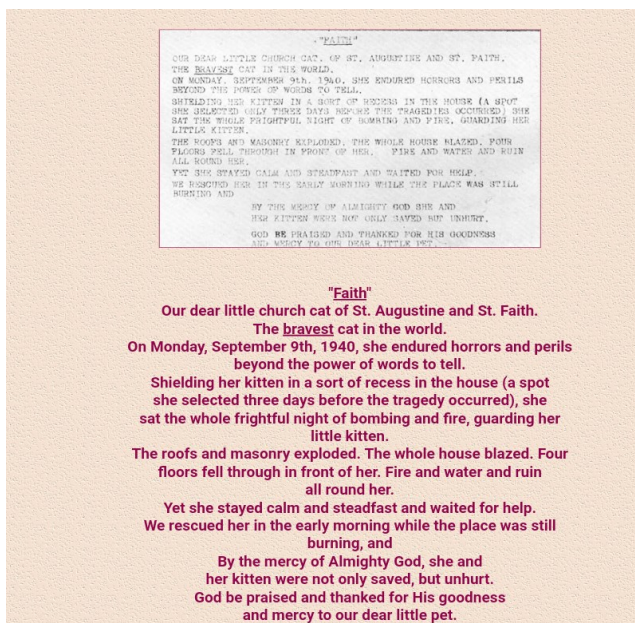
There is an audio book available on YouTube, uploaded by St. Paul's Cathedral, telling Faith's story. Children can hear a story of a very special cat who lived in wartime London.

It is called "Faith the Cat audio book", and is written by Ewen Moore, and illustrated by Monika Wasik. I look forward to listening to it with my grandsons when they are a little older!

Attached photographs:-

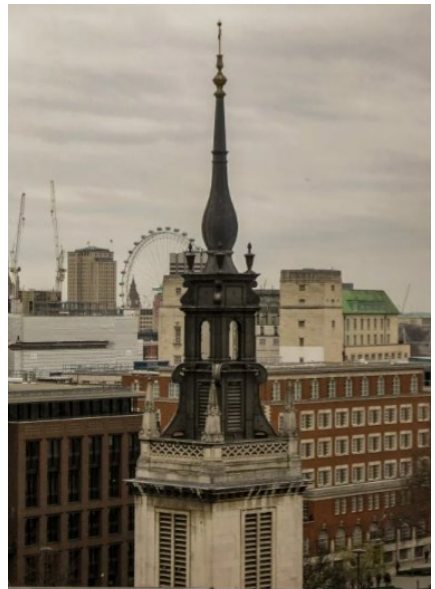
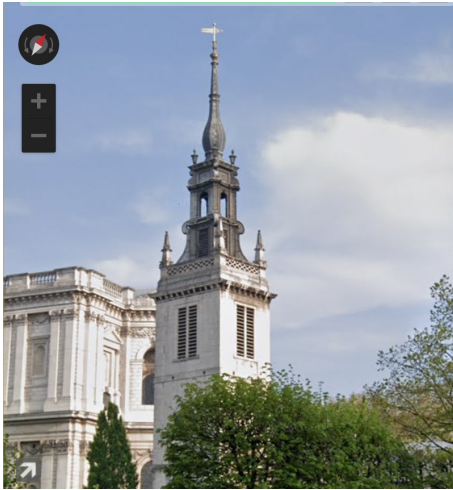
1. Faith, (herself)
2. Poem by Father Henry.
3. Faith's citation from the PDSA.
4. St. Augustine's and St. Faith's Church Tower, today.
5. St. Augustine's and St. Faith's Church Tower today, in near proximity to St. Paul's Cathedral.
- 6 and 7. Present day - the Tower incorporated into the Cathedral School.

Lots of love, Valerie



Her citation read:

From the P.D.S.A. to Faith of St. Augustine's, Watling Street,
E.C.
For steadfast courage in the Battle of London, September 9th,
1940.



St Augustine's church tower has been incorporated into St Paul's Cathedral School



Current photo of the site

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

Meeting 23/11/20 and 30/11/20.

Minutes approved 8/02/21 (virtual meeting)

Virtual meeting 23/11/21

Matters arising. An NHS Test and Trace poster incorporating a QR code had been obtained and displayed on the north entrance door.

Safeguarding. Reminded that attending families need to be informed that services are being live streamed and that there are areas available out of camera shot if required.

Worship and Mission. New speakers. It was reported that the List B application to the Diocese had been submitted and passed to their consultant to review. **Services in December.** There were no plans to reopen the church for private prayer due to the high incidence of coronavirus. An inflatable Santa and solar lights were to be placed in the corner of the church grounds together with a homemade nativity scene. Toy service in aid of Oasis Domestic Abuse Service on 6 December and retelling of the story of St Nicholas. Service to mark St Lucy's Day on 13 December incorporating two baptisms and a talk from Porchlight. School services to be confirmed. Crib service at 3pm on 24 December and usual services at Midnight and Christmas Day. **Our Kitchen.** The idea of creating a base for this in Westgate-on-Sea and using St Saviour's Church was discussed. It was confirmed that the food club is only available to registered members and that there were sufficient volunteers to operate scheme in Westgate-on-Sea. PCC to consider matter in time for meeting next week.

Any Other Business. Church heating. A pack containing relevant papers had been delivered to members during the preceding week. This consisted of quotations, a report of a discussion with a member of Bekesbourne church where electric heating had been recently installed and other background reports. It was explained that the current thinking was to heat people rather than the space and to move away from 'wet' systems such as gas fired boilers which are not environmentally friendly. Further documents to be circulated.

Virtual meeting 30/11/20

Worship and Mission. New speakers. Nothing further to report. **Services in December.** Agreed not to reopen the church for private prayer or Friendly Friday as Thanet was in Tier 3 of Covid restrictions. School services to be discussed with school. The funeral arrangements of the Late Dawn Crouch were briefly discussed.

Our Kitchen. It was explained to Westgate Town Councillor David Donaldson and the leader of Our Kitchen, Sharon Goodyer that current guidance did not permit starting this project whilst in tier 3. Sharon said she would consider an alternative temporary, venue which would demonstrate the need and assist with applications

for grant funding. Both Sharon and David offered to help with grant applications for the proposed community room extension. **Risk assessment.** Latest template completed on 25 November. Additional stickers to be fixed as reminders about being socially distant. Wardens to tighten existing controls as worshippers left the building.

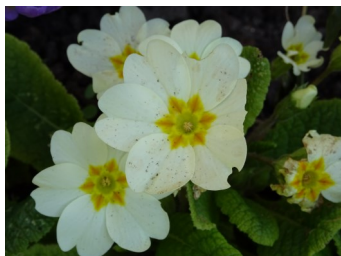
Treasurer's report. Statement of account for the previous two months had been previously circulated and were accepted without comment. Gas account changed from monthly fixed direct debit to payment by bill. This stopped the accumulation of credit on the account. The boiler service contract had been cancelled and a small refund was anticipated. **Insurance claim/roof repairs.** The PCC approved the use of Colman Contractors to undertake the works following acceptance of their estimate by the insurers. The List B application for the works has been approved by Archdeacon Jo Kelly-Moore.

Church heating. The documents circulated after the last meeting were fully discussed and a small group formed to take the project forward. Concern was expressed at the lack of heating in the winter months for the elderly. Various solutions were put forward including asking worshippers to bring blankets and hot water bottles and for seating to be available close to the overhead radiant heaters. The lack of heating is to be highlighted in the December issue of The Link and the regular emails sent to all church members.

Churchwarden's report. Lightning protection System. Clarification of the quotation by PTSG was being pursued. The premium for the building insurance was to increase by £24 per month from 25 December 2020.

Correspondence. Notice received from the Bishop's office to renew authorisation of laity to assist in administering Holy Communion. As the use of the Communion Cup is currently suspended, it was agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting.

Any Other Business. New crib figures. These were in the post. The existing figures would be placed in the stable for 20 December and replaced with the new ones after they have been blessed at the Crib service. **Carols on 20 December.** The Revd Andrew Way had agreed to use his public address system in the church grounds to play carols and invite people to go into church to listen to a rolling programme of carols and readings. **St Mildred's Road entrance.** Plans to ease the opening of the gate were in hand.



DONATE COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS

DONATE YOUR OLD LAPTOP OR COMPUTER FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN



Enable children learning from home to have remote access.

We need working laptops and PCs with their power cables.

All laptops and PCs will be wiped to factory settings.

Please let us know if you have a PC or laptop to donate

Admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk

01843 836182

78 St. Mildreds Rd, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RF



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

Clocks

Daffodil

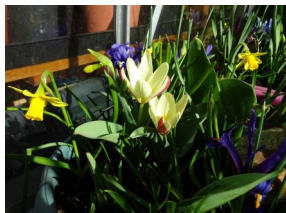
David

Days

Forty

Forward

Hour



Leek

Lent

March

Mary

Mothering

Night

One

Pantry



Patrick

Porch

Saint

Shamrock

Spring

Sunday

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



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.



FURTHER LINKS OF THE FAMILY OF PRINCE AND PRINCESS CHRISTIAN OF SCHLESWIG - HOLSTEIN, WITH WESTGATE - ON - SEA:-

Last month, I wrote an article in the Link about Prince Christian Victor of Schleswig - Holstein (son of Princess Helena of Great Britain, and Prince Christian of Schleswig - Holstein, and a grandson of Queen Victoria), regarding his association with Westgate-on - Sea. This month, my article is about Prince Christian Victor's younger sister, HRH Princess Helena Victoria of Schleswig - Holstein, and her links with Westgate - on - Sea. Once again, I am extremely grateful that I can refer to the work of the late Dr Dawn Crouch, for authenticity, regarding Westgate's part in the story.

Princess Helena Victoria was born on 3rd May. 1870 at Frogmore House, Windsor, to Princess Helena of Great Britain and Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein (also known as TRH Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig - Holstein). She was the third of four children: Prince Christian Victor (1867), Prince Albert John (1869), Princess Helena Victoria (1870),and Princess Marie Louise (1872). Princess Helena Victoria was baptised in the private Chapel at Windsor Castle on 20th June. 1870, counting Queen Victoria as one of her Godparents. She spent most her childhood at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, as her father was the ranger of the Park.

Helena and Christian brought their children up very simply. Christian was a kind and caring father, who enjoyed the company of his children. The children were taught to take care of their rooms. Their father taught them German, and they were taught French by their governesses. A tutor came to Cumberland Lodge twice a week to teach them literature and history. The tutor was the poet F. W. Bourdillon, who was very impressed by the boys' intelligence, and the general, mutual affection between the family.

For the whole of September 1881, their Royal Highnesses, the Princesses Helena Victoria and Marie Louise, stayed at "Goodwin House" , no. 7 Sea Road, Westgate-on Sea. It was a very attractive property, with a Mrs. Sweeting as a trusted landlady. Also staying at "Goodwin House" during that period were the Earl and Countess of Ellesmere, and their family. The two princesses attended church during their stay, and a pew was put aside for them at the temporary iron church in Cedric Road. The Royal Princesses attended on 25th. September. 1881 for Harvest Festival. The iron church could hold 350 people, but there was not adequate space for all who wished to attend. A committee had been set up to oversee the building of a permanent church, and a building fund had been launched. The two Princesses promised that they would provide their support for the building fund for a new permanent church, which became St. Saviour's. Princess Helena Victoria and Princess Marie Louise kept to their word, and attended a Grand Bazaar to boost funds

there, and other dignitaries. The two royal girls donated articles of their own needlework, for the stall of Mrs. Lyne, the wife of the soon - to - be vicar of St. Saviour's.

Princess Helena (Princess Christian), made regular visits abroad during the late summer and early autumn each year, and she generally took the two Princesses with her. She made sure that they took advantage of the ample opportunities to visit family, concerts and the opera.

In July. 1891, Princess Helena Victoria's younger sister, Princess Marie Louise married Prince Aribert of Anhalt. Princess Helena Victoria must have looked on with a sense of envy at seeing her younger sister become a bride. She was increasingly becoming a devoted companion to her parents. But, her mother did feel that her clever, hardworking, friendly and kindhearted daughter, would make any Prince a good, steady wife. For a time, it seemed that there was a possibility that she might become betrothed to her cousin, Prince Albert (Eddy) of Wales (second in succession to the throne after his father Edward, Prince of Wales), or to his younger brother George. However, this was not to be. After Eddy died in January. 1892, his younger brother, George, became engaged to Princess May of Teck, and they married in July 1893. At the wedding of George and May, created Duke and Duchess of York, Princess Helena Victoria was one of the bridesmaids. It must have been very awkward for her to assume such a role, when it had at one time seemed possible that she might have been bride at the wedding instead.

I have been fortunate in obtaining a copy of The Strand Magazine, which was a monthly British magazine composed of short fiction and general interest articles. It began in 1891, and my copy is dated 1895. There is an article to be found in my copy which was written by a journalist called Mary Spencer-Warren, and she had been invited by Princess Helena-Victoria's parents, TRH Prince and Princess Christian, to visit their home at Cumberland Lodge, to describe the house and to take photographs. Here are a few observations that Mary Spencer-Warren made:

"The Princess Victoria (Helena Victoria), is no stranger to the public, for she is the able and willing coadjutor of the Princess Christian (Princess Helena), in all her beneficent work; and where the mother goes, so does the daughter, as a general rule"

"Both the sons are soldiers, one of them having seen much active service in India. When I was down at the Lodge, one son was at home, but only for a short period".

"The youngest daughter was married to Prince Aribert of Anhalt, some time ago"

Mary the journalist actually encounters Princess Helena Victoria occupying her sitting room. She writes: " Just now, the Princess is occupying it, but knowing that I am anxious to take a photograph, she very kindly tells me that I am at liberty to do so"

After her death on 22nd. January. 1901, Queen Victoria left an imposing London House in her will to Princess Helena Victoria's parents, Prince and Princess Christian. The house, "Schomberg House", stood at 78 Pall Mall, London. Princess Helena Victoria and her mother paid it regular visits to see how it was taking shape, as a team of workmen came to make it habitable. Now that Princess Christian, aided by her daughter Princess Helena Victoria, had a home in London, she was able to devote additional time to charities in the city.

On 20th August. 1904, Princess Helena Victoria and her mother sailed from Southampton to South Africa. They visited the battlefield from the war in The Transvaal. But, their visit had a purpose: to visit Prince Christian Victor's grave in Pretoria on 26th. September (son of one, brother of the other). The party arrived home on 29th October, which was the 4th anniversary of Prince Christian's death. Despite it being the first evening home, Princess Helena Victoria and her mother paid a visit to the Nursing Home at Windsor, in memory of Prince Christian Victor.

Prince Christian died on the 28th October. 1917. The Princesses Helena Victoria and Marie Louise, and King George V were chief mourners. His wife, Princess Christian, did not attend, but spent the day quietly at "Schomberg House". She had requested that no flowers should be sent, in order that unnecessary expense at a time of war, might be avoided.

During the month of July 1918, Princess Helena (Princess Christian), and Princesses Helena Victoria and Marie Louise, were staying at Cumberland Lodge. { Princess Marie Louise, after a failed marriage, settled down with her unmarried sister, Helena Victoria, with whom she spent the last long years of her life in perfect contentment]. Queen Mary and her Household were staying at Windsor Castle for the month of July, and Sunday lunch at the castle between the two families was an established ritual. At about 1 pm on Sunday 21st. July. 1918, Princess Christian and her two daughters arrived at the castle, but the King and Queen did not appear. When they finally appeared, the King's face was drained of all colour, and they both looked so grave and distressed. The group gathered there, were fearful that it was bad news about the war. King George V had to break the news to them that the Russian Royal Family, relatives of the British Royal Family, had been assassinated. All were shaken by the terrible news.

Princess Christian (Princess Helena of Great Britain), passed away on 9th June. 1923. Along with their uncle, the Duke of Connaught, Princess Helena Victoria and Princess Marie Louise, walked immediately behind the coffin. Their aunts, Princesses Louise and Beatrice, following them as chief mourners. Within a few hours of his aunt's death, King George V had taken care to assure the bereaved daughters that "Schomberg House" would now be theirs to live in for the rest of their days. Emily Lock, Princess Christian's Lady-in-Waiting wrote:

" Princess Helena (Victoria) is so brave, for she has been her mother's close companion for so many years, and it is a terrible sorrow and loss to her".

Princess Helena Victoria never married. She followed her mother's example in working for various charitable organisations, such as the YMCA, and the YWCA, and Princess Christian's Nursing Home at Windsor. She and her sister, Princess Marie Louise, were enthusiastic patrons of music at "Schomberg House", their London residence. After war damage to the house in 1949, the sisters moved to FitzMaurice House, Berkeley Square.

Although Princess Helena Victoria had borne a German title, her upbringing and domicile were entirely English. After the Second World War, and in ill health and using a wheelchair, one of Princess Helena Victoria's last major appearances was at the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip on 20th. November. 1947.

Princess Helena Victoria died on the 13th March 1948 at FitzMaurice Place, Berkeley Square, and was buried at Frogmore, Windsor Great Park, at the age of 77. She was the same age at which her mother, Princess Helena had also died.

As we sit in our lovely church of St. Saviour's, we can feel immense gratitude for the dedication of the fundraising committee who achieved so much in the 1880's in succeeding to have the church built. There was also a contribution by a 12 year old girl, Princess Helena Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, who donated her own articles of needlework at the Grand Bazaar in 1882, as she had indeed pledged the year before.

I do hope that you have enjoyed reading my article as much as I have enjoyed researching the material. A young princess who stayed at "Goodwin", Sea Road, Westgate, in the early autumn of 1881, could possibly have become the consort of King George V. From a world history point of view, Princess Helena Victoria was present when King George V broke the news of the tragedy surrounding the Tsar and his family.

With much love, Valerie.

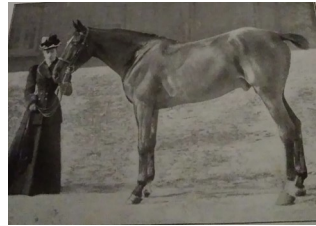


Princess Marie Louise, c.1912



Princess Helena Victoria, c.1920





The photographs shown include the following:

1. Small photo of Princess Helena Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, showing her timeline.
2. Princess Helena Victoria as a bridesmaid at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of York, 1893.
3. Princess Helena Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein around the time of her brother's death (1900).
- 4/5. " Goodwin," 7 Sea Road, Westgate-On-Sea. It has now been converted to flats.
6. Princess Helena Victoria's sitting room at Cumberland Lodge. Cumberland Lodge is now occupied by a charitable foundation.
7. Princess Helena Victoria and her favourite horse.
8. Princess Helena Victoria in 1920.
9. Princess Marie Louise in 1912.

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