

Parish and Community

The Link

St Mildreds Road



Westgate Bay Avenue

Westgate Bay Avenue



St Mildreds Road

**February
2022**

The Magazine of
St Saviour's Parish Church

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST SAVIOUR WESTGATE ON SEA

Website www.stsaviourswestgate.org.uk

Email office@stsaviourswestgate.org.uk



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Honorary Assistant Priests



The Revd Susan Wing

The Revd Canon Gary Colville



Churchwardens

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

Mr Andy Jemmett email andyjemmett@aol.com

WELCOME TO THE SEAMARSH GROUP

PCC Secretary Mrs Christine Attwood

St Saviour's Church of England Junior School

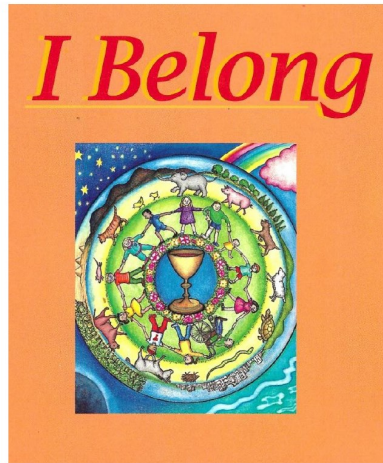
Elm Grove, Westgate

Telephone 01843 831707

Headteacher Mr N Bonell

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

**CRAFTS,
MUSIC,
SINGING**



2pm to 3.30pm

Refreshments at 3pm



Dear friends,

As we become aware of the steadily lengthening days and the small but significant signs of new life in our gardens, there is usually a sense of hope at this time of year. Despite many grey days, we have seen the sun enough to know it's still there- and sometimes even felt a little of its warmth!

During the quiet of late winter, the Church moves subtly from the contemplation and wonder of the birth of Jesus and the events of his infancy to come face to face with the struggle and drama of the final years of his life. Candlemas, celebrated in church on the Sunday closest to 2nd February, provides us with a pivotal moment to 'turn' as it were and refocus our attention. The anger and jealousy of King Herod and the slaughter of the Innocents of Bethlehem prefigure much of the rage and fury which accompanied Jesus' ministry, but first we follow him from his baptism through the temptations in the wilderness during the six weeks of Lent which will be marked in church this year with a simple meal and reflections entitled, *Not By Bread Alone* each Wednesday lunchtime.

During the month of February, please consider joining this 'mini-pilgrimage' beginning on Ash Wednesday (March 2nd) as we reframe our Church life together in the light of much of the experience of the past two years.

Each year brings something fresh and new and this year we shall also share our thoughts through a special Church Gathering on Saturday 12th March (the 3rd anniversary of my licensing at St Saviour's) which will give us plenty of opportunity to chat with people we have barely met for a few months because of social distancing! It will conclude with our Annual Meeting. Look out for posters- and please keep the morning free to join in finding out together how God is leading us forward at the beginning of this new Church year.

Mother Karen



St Saviour's Church

Heating Appeal

The earliest form of heating in this church was through coal fires and coal fired boiler. This was replaced with a gas fired heating boiler, being a much cleaner and efficient form of heating.

Following, the failure of the gas boiler after 30 years service, it is again time to consider replacing the means of heating with a cleaner and more environmentally friendly method.

Over the past two years we have been researching the best alternative form of heating leading us towards being carbon neutral. We have selected infrared heating panels, which including the cost of installation is approximately £80,000.

We need your help to raise the money to enable us to take this forward.

This is an appeal for donations, to keep St Saviour's Church as a jewel in the centre of the Westgate-on-Sea Community. **PLEASE HELP.**

Cheques can be made payable to St Saviour's PCC Westgate-on-Sea and posted to; The Vicarage, Thanet Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8PB. If you wish to make a payment by online banking, please contact office@stsaviourswestgate.org.uk for details.

*Thank
you*



Treasurer's Report

Statement for the month of December 2021

December 2021

Income	£12672
Expenses	<u>£13531</u>
Deficit	£859

Total assets at	1 January 2021	£103340
Total assets at	31 December 2021	£97498

Deficit for year end.....£5842

Following the failure of the heating gas boiler in October 2019, there has been no cost of heating during 2021. I anticipate this to be at least £4000 per annum, wherefore the deficit would be nearer £10,000. Why not become a Friend of St Saviour's (£5 membership) and thereby contribute to the upkeep of this grade II listed building.

The Covid pandemic has impacted on our means to raise funds, none more so than necessitating the cancellation of our Christmas Fair. Fortunately the raffle could still take place and raised £675 through ticket sales. Expenses including printing and licence fee amounted to £240.

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

HELP

Does anybody know where used postage stamps can be donated ?

If so please see Joy Palmer.



**THE FRIENDS OF ST SAVIOUR'S
CHURCH, WESTGATE
INVITE YOU TO A
COFFEE MORNING
SATURDAY 12th FEBRUARY**

10.30am to 12noon

Small Charge for **Refreshments** **Raffle**

ALL WELCOME – ADMISSION FREE

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR IF YOU ARE NOT
A FRIEND OF ST SAVIOUR'S JOIN NOW ONLY £5
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

You do not need to worship in St Saviour's Church to become a Friend

St Saviour's Church, Westgate



**CHURCH IS OPEN FOR SERVICES ON SUNDAY
AT 9am (Holy Communion Prayer Book) 2nd, 4th &
5th SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH**

and Sung Eucharist at 10.30am every Sunday.

**SUNDAY SERVICES at 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.**

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, Janice, Michele, Gill, Jean, Ann, Terry, Derrick, Peter

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”

Len ,

Joan

World War 2 Roll of Honour

13th February 1942 Francis Shrimpton

18th February 1944 Sidney Cook

St Saviour's Church, Westgate



CHURCH GATHERING

SATURDAY 12th MARCH

10am for 10.30am REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

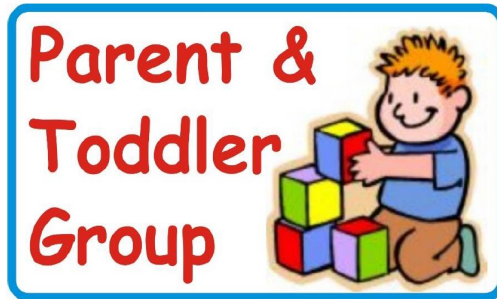
CONCLUDING with THE ANNUAL
MEETING

COME & DISCOVER TOGETHER HOW GOD IS LEADING US
FORWARD



St Saviour's Church, Westgate

CARER & TODDLER GROUP

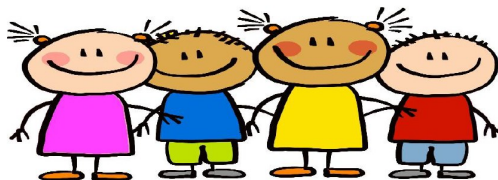


**Meets MONDAY
MORNINGS**

10.30am to 12 noon

For pre-school children & carers

**Have fun in the garden or inside if
wet**



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 MARCH 2022 “The Link” is
SUNDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2022



'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 January

Like tiny shoots appearing in our gardens, there have been new beginnings in church this New Year. Christians Together in Westgate have gathered to pray for unity (last January everything had to be done on the internet). Sharing coffee, cake, biscuits and a good bowl of soup to celebrate being together again has been a small but significant way to engage with the traumas and challenges the pandemic has left in its wake.

We have welcomed the *Looking Ahead* community to join us, initially on Mondays with the Toddlers and as we begin to open again for prayer and for more activities during the week. Many people have commented favourably on the lovely service and beautiful tables at the back of church. We look forward to getting to know staff and students from the Looking Ahead community as the weeks go by.

Sunday by Sunday we are continuing to worship despite the freezing temperatures and it has been a special joy to see the lovely Crib in its place of honour to focus our prayers throughout January. Mother Karen

ALL ARE WELCOME to come and join the Looking Ahead Community for refreshments - Tea, coffee, cake and soup for a small charge Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 2pm.



St Saviour's Church, Westgate

FLOWER ARRANGING with LUCY

Meets IN CHURCH 11am to 1pm

**“Come along to enjoy arranging
flowers in our beautiful & peaceful
church”.**

SATURDAY 12th FEBRUARY

**Garden flowers (bring any from your
own garden) Oasis & trays provided.**



**Arrangements
can be taken
home or left
for decoration
in Church**



If anyone has any packets of seeds left over from last year they do not want, or if anyone has collected seeds from home grown plants that they do not want, please could they pass them onto the Verger or place them in the Church's Seed Swap Box?

The Seed Swap Box has recently been refurbished and is ready to accept seed donations for this growing season.

Feel free to donate seeds AND collect seeds to grow.



Sunday 23rd January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service



CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL The church Electoral Roll is to be revised after 13th February. Electoral Roll Application Forms can be obtained from Valda Electoral Roll Officer, and returned to her by this date in order to get the Roll written and displayed in the legal requirements. New members are welcome provided they meet the requirements. Any forms returned after 13th February will be presented to the PCC & then added if they meet the correct criteria at the relevant time.

Valda Neve (Hon. Electoral Officer)

MARGATE!

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This month, I have the oldest postcard in my collection to show you. It was posted in Margate in September. 1904, thus just over 117 years ago. The stamp bears the portrait of the aging King Edward VII, who had ascended the throne three years prior in 1901, at the age of 60, on the death of his mother Queen Victoria. He would reign for another six years. The time recorded on the postcard is 9.45 pm, which emphasises the frequency of the Royal Mail delivery at this time. As usual, I have tried to "read between the lines" (!), and I feel that the writer is a lady. She writes in a good hand, and is using ink, which she has to keep re-filling! She is writing to a Miss. E. Taylor, who lives at 18, Park Road, Regents Park, London, and advises her that they are coming home on Tuesday. The weather has been "most lovely", and she writes that "aunty has been here a fortnight". She apologises for not answering Miss Taylor's last letter, as she had been out so much! People at this time tended to keep up a correspondence with friends and family members whilst holidaying. She ends her postcard, "trusting all are well". We do not know where she has spent her holiday, but the Nayland Rock Hotel was up and running by 1904, so this could certainly be a possibility. I have tried to compile an "itinerary" for her, and I list the possibilities, below! :

1. The Oval Bandstand, Cliftonville. In 1897, an ornate wrought-iron structure complete with landscaped amphitheatre, with capacity for 2,000 deckchairs, was constructed. Visitors could sit to listen to military bands and watch concerts.

2. Strolling to enjoy the maximum benefit of fresh, sea air!

3. A visit to Dane Park, which had opened in 1897, and had green open spaces, a lake and a decorative fountain.

4. The Sands at Margate-Families on holiday in Edwardian Margate appeared to spend more time relaxing on the Sands than present day visitors. However, the Edwardian holidaymaker didn't dress for comfort or convenience! Thick heavy clothing was the order of the day, with headgear to match! Nobody bathed directly from the beach, but would use bathing machines. No description of seaside holidays in Edwardian times would be complete without a reference to the donkeys on the beach. Margate is actually recorded as being the first seaside resort to make donkey rides a familiar seaside pastime.

5. The Croquet Lawns at Cliftonville might have appealed to our writer. The Lawns were situated in front of the then High Cliffe Hall and Salisbury House Hotels. Today, the premises are occupied by the Wishing Tower Residential Home, Eastern Esplanade.



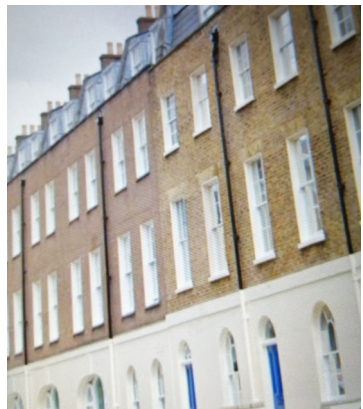
6.. During the summer of 1904, Gold's Pierrots entertained holidaymakers on the Sands.

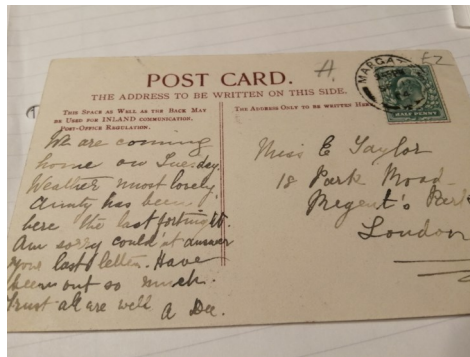
7. Whilst researching events that were happening at this time, I discovered that the famous dug-out canoe, the Tilikum, had arrived at Margate Harbour on 2nd. September. 1904, having completed a 40,000 mile journey, starting in Victoria, British Columbia, from where she left on 21st. May. 1901. Her captain, John C. Voss, had travelled to Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and St. Helena, before arriving in England. Could it be that our writer had chosen this period in which to holiday, in order to see the arrival of the Tilikum?!

The addressee of the postcard was Miss. E. Taylor, as previously mentioned. Her address was very fashionable, and I was able to locate it on Google maps. I believe that 18, Park Road, formed part of a terrace of townhouses. However, possibly due to extensive bomb damage during the Blitz around the Regents Park area, it is no longer there. Number 18 Park Road, is now a Co-op store!

I hope that you have enjoyed another visit to a by-gone Margate, as much as I have enjoyed writing it!

Love Valerie





1904. Pierrots on the Marine Sands during the summer of 1904.



Tilikum at Margate with Captain John Voss standing at the bows





WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2022



**FRIDAY 4 MARCH**

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE

- 10.30am, St John's  
Church, Margate

- 7.00pm, St Thomas'  
Church, Minnis Bay

**I know the plans I have for you**

365 days a year · Informed Prayer · Prayerful Action · 2022-23  
· Ecumenical · Global · Women-led · 365 days a year  
4-7 · Prayerful Action · Prayer Movement · Ecumenical  
· Women-led · 365 days a year · Women-led · Prayer  
[wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk) · Ecumenical · Global · Registered Charity Number





THE VERY FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE PDSA DICKIN MEDAL-CARRIER PIGEON WINKIE, NUMBER NEHU 40 NSL.

~~~~~

WINKIE was a carrier pigeon, and she was the very first recipient of the PDSA Dickin Medal!

Winkie was serving during the Second World War with the RAF carrying important messages. On 23rd February. 1942, Winkie was on board a British Bristol Beaufort aircraft when it crashed into the North Sea. It had been on a mission to Norway, but had been badly damaged by enemy fire.

The crew struggled in the freezing waters, but suddenly remembered that they had one piece of vital equipment available to them... Winkie! As they had not had the time to radio an accurate position before crashing, Winkie was their only chance. Despite being covered in oil, the crew released her from the downed Beaufort Bomber, and the little pigeon made the 120 mile journey back to base to raise the alarm. Her owner, George Ross discovered the exhausted pigeon, and alerted the RAF airbase in Fife. A search and rescue mission was launched, and using the time difference from the the plane crashing to the arrival of Winkie in the loft, and taking into account the wind direction and the inhibition to her flight speed, due to oil on her feathers, the RAF were able to approximate where the plane crashed. Within 15 minutes, the crew's position had been located, and a rescue vessel was launched.

The crew were all rescued, and later held a dinner for Winkie, who basked in her cage as she was toasted by the officers!

On 2nd.December .1943, Winkie was awarded the Dickin Medal. She received her medal from Maria Dickin. The citation read "for delivering a message under exceptional difficulties, and so contributing to the rescue of an air crew while serving with the RAF in February 1942".

All the crew were saved thanks to this little bird's determination!

Love Valerie.



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

Candelabra

Candle

Candlemas

Chinese

Christ

Coffee

Cupid

February



Groundhog

Lion

Morning

New

Presentation

Quinquagesima

Red

Rose



Septuagesima

Sexagesima

Snowdrop

Temple

Valentines

Year

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



The 1st Westgate Rainbows have been chosen as one of the Coop Local Community Fund Groups until October 2022.

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

THANK YOU.



SS PRINCESS ALICE - PADDLE STEAMER

3RD.SEPTEMBER.1878.

This month, I am going to be writing an article on another shipping disaster, that of the sinking of SS Princess Alice on the River Thames on 3rd. September. 1878. My late father was a Thames worker, and he often spoke of the disaster. Between 600 and 700 people died, and it is still the greatest loss of life of any British inland waterway shipping accident. No passenger list or head count was made, so the exact figure of those who died, has never been known. By a strange coincidence at the time of writing, the 2022 Titanic Exhibition is taking place at Surrey Quays, London, SE 16, at a distance of only 8 miles away from the area on the Thames where the disaster happened, at Gallions Reach. Gallions Reach is a stretch of the River Thames between Woolwich and Thames mead.

The tragedy, now largely forgotten, dominated newspaper headlines, and led to changes in the shipping industry.

The Princess Alice was a paddle steamer, named after Queen Victoria's third child, and was owned by the London Steamboat Co. The ship carried passengers as an excursion steamer, with a stopping service from London Bridge, downstream to Sheerness, Kent, and back again. Five years before the disaster, in 1873, the ship carried Naser al-Din Shah, the Shah of Persia up the Thames to Greenwich, and became known to locals as "The Shah's boat". Princess Alice was a vessel of only 158 tons. Yet, at London Bridge on the day of the collision, she was a revered ship. She had originally been licenced to carry fewer than 500 passengers, but for the smooth water service on the River Thames, she had a certificate enabling her to carry 936 passengers. The events on the 3rd. September. 1878, were to prove that both in construction and capacity, the ship was totally unsuited for such heavy and intensive human cargo.

By contrast, the other ship that was involved in the collision, the Bywell Castle, was an 890 ton steam collier (vessel carrying coal). Princess Alice was less than a third of her weight.

Let us look now at how the tragic events unfolded on that day: on the morning of the disaster, the weather was bright, and the passengers were excited as the pleasure steamer, SS Princess Alice set off from London, and headed out to catch the end of the summer sun and the fresh sea air of Sheerness. The day trip was fairly inexpensive. Tickets were approximately two shillings (10p), depending on which stop passengers travelled to. The passengers on board were upper working class or lower middle class families. Nine hundred boarded the Princess Alice, and as they did,

the ship sank lower in the water, under the burden of the happy day trippers. It was a wonderful day, and both adults and children had enjoyed their day at the then famous Rosherville Pleasure Gardens in Northfleet, the promenade at Sheerness, or wandering around the popular resort of Gravesend.

In the early evening, the Princess Alice was homeward bound from Sheerness, and the 900 passengers were tired but contented. It had been a lovely escape for the day, from the noise and smell of 19th century London. On deck, the ship's band played and people enjoyed the singing. There was no room for dancing. Many passengers decided to retreat below to the saloons, but the crowds were dense, with some standing in the alleyways. At 6pm, the Princess Alice called at Gravesend in Kent, and then she began her last twenty-mile journey back to London Bridge. There were people along the shore at Gravesend, who waved her farewell.

The River Thames winds unceasingly between Gravesend and London Bridge. The very biggest bend of all is called Gallions Reach. On this evening, the tide was running at the ebb, and to compete with its force, the Princess Alice hugged the bank of the Thames. She continued down the Reach, off the City of London Gasworks at Beckton, and was in sight of North Woolwich Pier. Then, disaster struck. Alfred Merryman, a chef working on the ship, was standing on the deck near the saloon door, when he saw a huge collier (a coal - carrying ship), bearing down on the smaller vessel. The collier was the Bywell Castle, which was bound for the Tyne in the North of England. She looked enormous as she stood high in the water without her cargo of coal. At first, the day trippers did not sense any danger. They were trusting of their surroundings. Some of them even waved to shadowy forms, high up on the Bywell Castle. They couldn't see the horror or apprehension on the faces of the sailors on the Bywell Castle. Still, the band played on, and the singing continued, which is an all too familiar occurrence in tragic British maritime disasters.

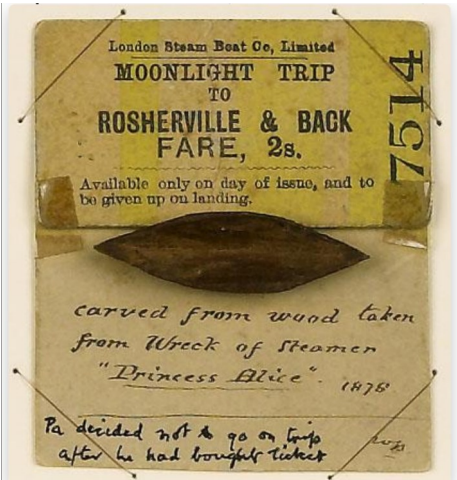
Then, it happened.

The Bywell Castle hovered over the starboard bow of the Princess Alice. She sliced the Princess Alice in two with a terrible crash, with the sharp edge of her great steel bow. The panic which ensued was dreadful. Water gushed in, filling every void in its path. The forward part of the ship sank heavily. The back part lifted slowly and stood upright, and then was gone. Passengers on deck tumbled into the water, but those below deck were trapped. The crew of the Bywell Castle threw down planks of wood, lifebuoy and even chicken coops for people to cling to. But, the heavy Victorian clothes of those in the water, dragged them down. Also, many could not swim. Over 700 carefree day trippers had died within 5 minutes. The main cause of death was the pollution along that part of the river. The area here was an outlet for toxic waste, and the men, women and children thrashing about in the water, breathed in lungfuls of untreated toxic waste.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, the sewage system at Beckton went through a major overhaul. Steam launches replaced rowing boats in the Marine Police Force, and the Royal Albert Dock which opened in 1880, helped to separate heavy goods traffic from smaller boats, which helped to avoid future tragedies.

The area around the scene of the disaster is now Gallions Reach Retail Park. Brian and I would frequently shop here when we lived London and often made a point of visiting the area near the bend in the river, where the disaster struck.

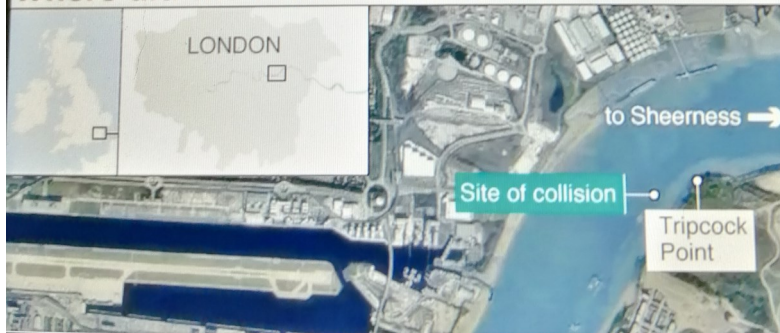
Love Valerie





A memorial at Woolwich Cemetery, by the burial site of the unidentified dead, was paid for by donations from more than 23,000 people

Where did the Princess Alice sink?





Where did the Princess Alice sink?



WESTGATE ON A JANUARY DAY





CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Toddler & Carer Group meets Monday mornings 10.30am to 12 noon

I Belong Group meets on the 1st Saturday of each month 2pm to 3.30pm. All ages of families welcome.

Bellringers Practice every Thursday 7.30 to 9pm.

Bible Study Group meet Thursday at 7pm, details & inquiries ring Susan 836430 .

The Westgate Heritage Centre

Meets on the 1st Saturday of each month 10am to 12noon. A talk is usually given at these sessions. **Until MARCH 2022 meetings will be at CHRIST-CHURCH URC due to heating problems.**

Refreshments are available. See the website for further details.

The Friends of St Saviour's Church - Annual Membership Fee only £5

New members welcome. Join the Friends of St Saviour's church Subscription only £5 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

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 on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month and also on the 5th Sunday of a month where applicable.

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



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