

Parish and Community

The Link

St Mildreds Road



Westgate Bay Avenue

Westgate Bay Avenue



St Mildreds Road

**September
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



Priest in Charge Mother Karen Gooding Tel 216357

Honorary Assistant Priests

The Revd Susan Wing

The Revd Barbara Way



Churchwarden

Mr John Barnfather email barnfather.john@yahoo.co.uk

Mobile 07887247543

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

Dear friends,

Since moving to Westgate, my favourite parts of the day have usually been the early morning and evening walks on the beach with Toast. Sometimes I chat with other dog walkers or families with young children but even if we exchange the briefest of greetings, I'm struck by how happy people are. I've lost count of the number of times I've heard "aren't we lucky to live (or be) here ?" over the past three years!

I hope that's true in plenty of other places, but I suspect they might be a minority. Often, people aren't aware of being content even if they might look back on former times and consider that, retrospectively, they were blessed- by the loving presence of a parent, children or spouse, for example. It seems to me that holidays (which, after all, used to be called 'holydays') are given to us especially for this purpose- not so much for simply resting tired bodies and minds but refreshing our souls by 'counting our blessings'.

A little known Christian theologian of the 14th century, Meister Eckhart, gave us this encouragement to help with our prayer-life,

"If the only prayer you say in your entire life is THANK YOU it will be enough".

Mother Karen

Glance back over August

August has been a quiet month in which we have maintained the rhythm of opening on Fridays for crafts and gardening, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays for children's play until the last week when the doors have been open each day for Westgate Art and Crafts Exhibition and Heritage Centre displays, attracting a considerable number of people. A happy 'buzz' of young and old enjoying being in our church together is a welcome reminder of our vocation to be here as a sign of God's love for the whole community now and for years to come. Mother Karen



St Saviour's Church, Westgate

Harvest FISH & CHIP Supper

(Pie, Chicken or Sausage
available)

24th SEPTEMBER at 5pm

In Church

Tickets £10 includes wine, Pimms, tea/coffee & a choice of Apple pie or Cherry tart with cream or custard. Concluding with harvest sing/song.



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*



St Saviour's Church

New heating system

St Saviour's Church

Heating Fund

We are seeking to raise £80,000 to fund the new heating system for St Saviour's Church. This is a very important project and we are grateful for any contribution you can make.

Any amount, no matter how small, will help us reach our target. Please contact the church office for more information.

Thank you for your support.

St Saviour's Church

Heating Fund

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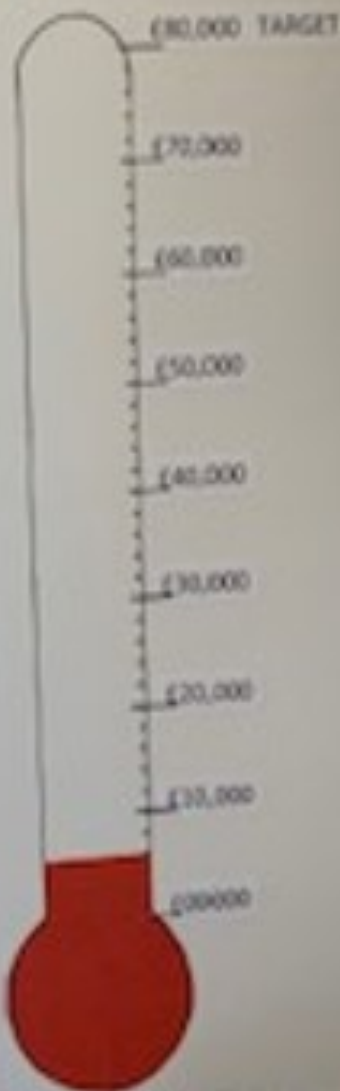
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Thank you



Treasurer's Report

Statement for the month of July 2022

July 2022

Income	£5337
Expenses	<u>£4867</u>
Surplus	£470

Total assets at	31 July 2022	£98382
Total assets at	1 January 2022	£97498
Surplus for year.....	£884	

The above surplus arises because funds received towards the heating appeal are included in the income. By deducting the sum raised to date (see below) less expenditure on fees £2516, the adjusted position is,

Adjusted deficit for year.....£4082

New heating system (update)

We continue to raise funds towards the new heating system for our church following the failure of the existing gas boiler. Following a meeting with our Architect and heating Consultant in May, a four point phased plan is being drawn up. Firstly install a gas boiler which is capable of conversion to BioLPG. Secondly enhance the existing system to increase efficiency. Thirdly install pew heaters in the Chancel and finally convert the gas boiler to BioLPG. Plans of the position of pews, radiators, pipework and electric heaters have been provided to our heating consultant, from which it is anticipated proposals for heating the church will be developed. We do not know at this stage what the overall cost is likely to be but a best guess would still be in the region of £80k. Some generous donations have been received along with concert takings giving a total of £7482 (at 31 July 2022) which is a good start but still a long long way to go.

Please help us to reach our target of £80k. Donations can be by cheque made payable to St Saviour's PCC Westgate-on-Sea and sent to, The Vicarage, Thanet Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8PB. By direct payment to our bank, (please email office@stsaviourswestgate.org.uk for details). Cash can be deposited inside church when open. Thank you.

G R Neve

Hon Treasurer

Email: neve389@btinternet.com

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”

Sunday 21st August Freya

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”

David, Gill, Phyll, Sally, Tracey

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

Tony, Joan Martin

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”

Cicerly

World War 2 Roll of Honour

Robert Terry 13th September 1944



FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES

RIDE AND STRIDE

Saturday 10 September 2022

10.00 am to 6.00 pm

CYCLE OR WALK AROUND KENT CHURCHES

***SPONSORSHIP MONEY RAISED
WILL BE DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN
THE FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES AND THE
CHURCH OR CHAPEL OF YOUR CHOICE***

**More information and Sponsorship Forms available to
download from:**

www.kentrideandstride.co.uk or your Local Organiser

All enquiries: Rosemary Dymond email:

kent.rs.countyorg@gmail.com

"Ride & Stride...Please Support This Charity That Helps Our Splendid Historic Churches And Chapels Remain With Us! Please Consider A Day Out Of Fitness And Fun Supporting The History Of Our County Contained In The Churches And Chapels Of Kent." Nigel Wheeler, Chairman, Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride event

Melanie & Steve and Valda Graham will be striding .

See Valda for sponsorship forms SPONSORSHIP WELCOME.

Prayer Partnership

I am writing to all my brothers and sisters in Christ today, to ask if they would be willing to join together, in using one of the most powerful tools Jesus gave us, and that is prayer. In the past this church has used Prayer partnership as a tool in which we can support each other, by the use of prayer. Jesus says "I tell you that, if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by your father in Heaven" Mathew 18: 19-20

We often pray for the wider community, our families and friends, but sometimes we all need someone to pray for us. Using this in church is one way that our family in Christ is not forgotten, it connects each one of us and binds us together as a united Christian family.

Galatians 6:2 tells us, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.

Praying for one another is a powerful way for us to bear one another's burdens. Taking another's hand and praying for them is a powerful blessing you can give another person.

By praying for another it can remove our isolation, it builds relationships, and brings us together as a family.

Intercessory prayer is a never-ending opportunity to join God in His work while, at the same time, a chance to be transformed both in the heart, and spirit and allow us to grow as a family in Christ.

I hope that you will hold this idea in your hearts, and feel able to join in. I will hopefully discuss how this works during our Sunday morning worship.

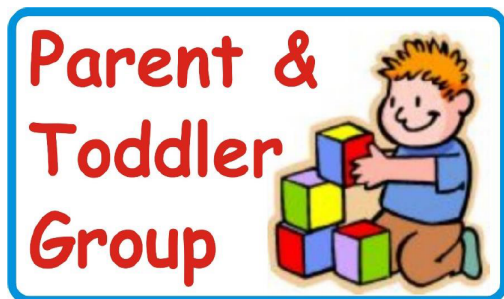
In God's Love

Debbie



St Saviour's Church, Westgate

TODDLER TIME

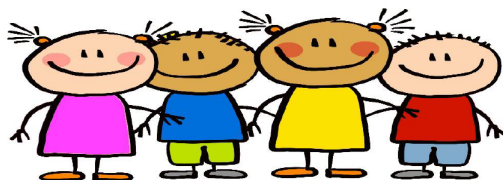


**Meets MONDAY
MORNINGS** (Term time only)

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,. Many thanks to all who donate.

**The deadline for the OCTOBER 2022 “The Link” is
SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 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.'



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As usual, it has been a lovely, happy month at Friendly Friday! We have welcomed lots of visitors to the church during the Friday mornings, and they have often enjoyed a welcome cup of tea or coffee with the members. We bade farewell to our two lady Italian teachers, and they showed their appreciation of their time here with us, by bringing a most delicious apple pie to the church for us! We really enjoyed the pie and it was very much appreciated!

The ladies have been working very hard with their colouring, and we have now started using a Louis Wain ( the cat artist who spent some years residing in Westgate) colouring book! The illustrations in the book are black and white, and we just have to colour them in.

On our last Friday this month, our lovely verger, Steve, arranged our craft tables in the Memorial Chapel, due to the wonderful art exhibition that was taking place in the church. We were very comfortable there, and our churchwarden, John, kindly acted as a waiter (complete with cloth over his arm!!!), and took all of our refreshment orders. Thank you, John! My thanks, as always, to Cath, for her sterling work in taking care of our refreshments!

Next week, we will be making air - drying clay fridge magnets!

We are open every Friday from 10 am until 12 noon!! Please come along! You will be assured of a very friendly welcome, and there will always be somebody to talk to! We are a lovely, friendly little group.

Love Valerie (Co-ordinator of Friendly Friday at St. Saviour's Church, Westgate-on-Sea x

### **News from The Friends of St Saviour's Church**

The Sponsored Walk raised the sum of £433 which was wonderful.

The Strawberry Tea raised a total of £322.50. This includes £28.50 which was donated by Jean from the sale of her jigsaws . Thankyou Jean for this donation and special thanks also to Mrs Joy Palmer for coordinating such a lovely afternoon.

The Friends would like to invite you all to a Harvest Fish and Chip ( Pie, Chicken or Sausage available) Supper on 24th September at 5pm to be held in the Church. (this is instead of the intended barn dance). This is a ticketed event and the price £10 includes wine, Pimms, tea / Coffee and a choice of apple pie or cherry tart with cream or custard. . The evening will conclude with harvest singsong.

Debbie Smith



Friends

Sponsored Walk

May 2022

**The Three Amigos— Confirmation Candidates - Melissa, Melanie & Andy**



## CANDLES MADE BY VALERIE

These candles are made from candles that have originally been used during Services at St Saviour's

Please feel free to choose a candle, and leave a donation. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO ST SAVIOUR'S HEATING FUND

THANK YOU. A CHOICE OF CANDLES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE TABLE AT THE BACK OF CHURCH .





FOUR POSTCARDS!



~~~~~

Our first postcard today has been used as a means of conveying a quick message between one businessman to another. It was posted in Margate on the 26th. August. 1937, catching the 6.15 am post. Indeed the message stamp on the card from the Post Office reads " Post early in the day"! Postcard mail was very frequent. The text reads:

"Watford Casuals & C

Dear Sir,

Regret delay in sending our affiliation form but have now seen to this. Yours faithfully, W. G. Knight."

The recipient of the postcard was one Mr. A. L. S. Hobbs, of 379, Whippendell Road, Watford, Herts.

The 1 penny stamp bears the portrait of King Edward VIII. Edward VIII postage stamps were issued in the United Kingdom during the 20 January-10 December 1936 reign of King Edward VIII. The one penny red, such as our stamp, was issued on 14 September 1936. After Edward's abdication, there was the usual delay in designing and distributing the stamps of George VI. Thus, the Edward VIII stamps remained on sale for months. That, and the large numbers saved by the public, have kept their collector value very low. Thus, my stamp will not give me any rewards!

This postcard shows the location as being "Westonville". "Westonville" was the subject of a debate which lasted several years: Westbrook or Westonville?! There was much correspondence received for both sides of the argument. The council had already given the Bethlem and Bridewell Hospitals permission to call their estate, The Westbrook Estate, West Margate. Finally Westbrook was adopted as the official name.

I have chosen our second postcard by way of its charm! It was postmarked Margate, 16th September. 1949, just four years after the ending of the Second World War. King George VI is now on the throne. The writer appears to be a young school-boy named Andrew, and he writes in a nice hand. Andrew is writing to a Miss Judith Craigie, who could be his sister, a cousin or a friend. He writes:

"Dear Judith,

How are you getting on? I went on the Miniature Railway. I have played cricket with the slot machines. I hope you are well and happy. Love from Andrew"

Andrew addresses Judith's card to Oxford High School, 3, Bardwell Road, Oxford. It would appear that the Autumn term has just commenced. Andrew's postcard shows scenes of Birchington, but it seems that he has visited Dreamland in Margate. He hopes that Judith is getting along well. It is unclear whether Andrew is holidaying at Margate or Birchington or is enjoying a day excursion, or that maybe he is also a boarder at a school in the area. However, the date that the postcard was sent was a Friday, so it would seem that he was there for pleasure. Oxford High School was founded over 140 years ago, as an independent girls' school. It is part of the Girls' Day School Trust, and is a leading school in the country, today. It was founded under the patronage of Princess Louise, fourth daughter of Queen Victoria, who was a passionate supporter of Women's rights and education. The school had a Boarding House between 1903-1977, and it could well be that 3, Bardwell Road, was the Boarding House. I will attach a photo of how it stands today.

Our third postcard leaves one in a melancholy mood, I feel. It was postmarked "Broadstairs", on the 1st July. 1908. King Edward VII's reign would last another two years. The writer appears to be a young woman who is convalescing. The postcard reads:

"St. Peter's Convalescent Home, Broadstairs.

Dear Aunty,

arrived quite safely, having a nice time, feel awfully tired today though. Much love to all, your loving niece, Grace (?)"

The recipient was a Mrs. Goodall, of 89 Church Street, Staines. It is a short message, but the writing does appear to be laboured at the end. It is a divided back postcard introduced in 1902, allowing the message to be written on the same side as the address. The view on the back depicts a winter view of Broadstairs in the 'time of Dickens'.

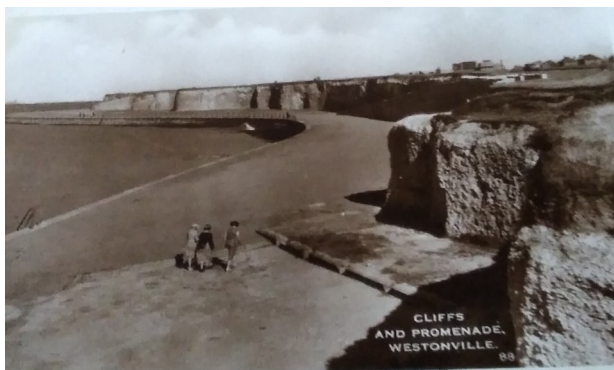
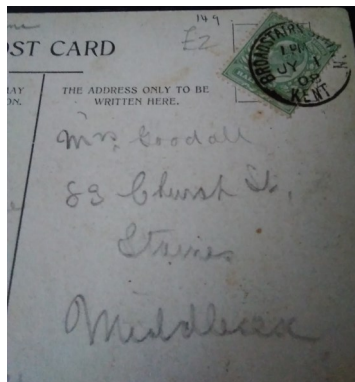
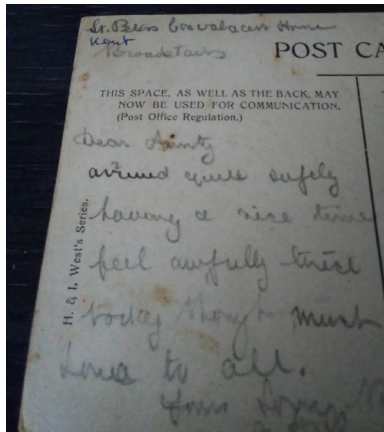
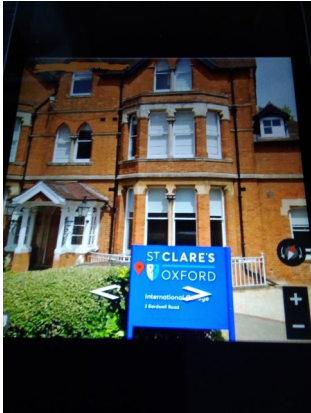
I have done a little research and discovered that by 1907, St. Peter's Orphanage and Convalescent Home, Broadstairs, housed 80 girls who eventually found situations in domestic service. The Convalescent Home housed 24 women over the age of 14. Presumably, this is where our young lady was staying. The site of the Orphanage and Convalescent Home on Lanthorne Road, Broadstairs is long demolished, and is now occupied by modern housing.

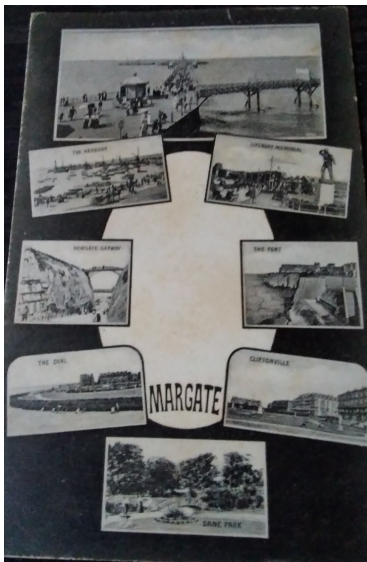
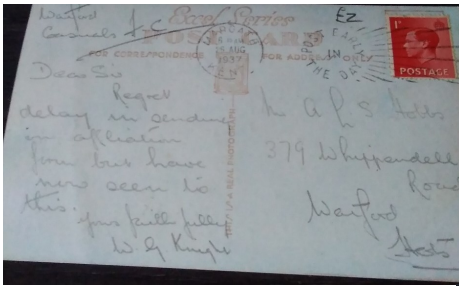
Our last postcard reminds me of an Edwardian text message, or a WhatsApp message! It was posted from Margate at 11.15 am on the 18th September. 1906, with the author's intention of reaching Wandsworth, that very evening! The postcard reads:

"We shall catch the 10.17 am tomorrow, due at Victoria at 12.5 pm, so shall be in at about 1.15. Will you please tell Mrs. Emery". We can only hope that the postcard was received in time for a certain C. D. Thornton Esq. to pass on the message!

I hope that you have enjoyed this article.

Love Valerie.





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

Meeting 29/06/22

Minutes approved at a meeting held on 10/8/22

Welcome. John Barnfather was formally welcomed to the meeting following his admission to the office of churchwarden.

Matters arising. Safeguarding. Mrs Bolger and Mrs Smith were confirmed as the parish lead for safeguarding adults and safeguarding children respectively. Church security during weekday activities. Safeguarding concerns were expressed relating to Toddler Time, Bible Study meetings and Looking Ahead on Friday afternoons. It was agreed that the church iron gates would be locked during Toddler Time and Bible Study meetings and a rota drawn up for 'Shepherds' to cover Friday afternoons. Shepherds to complete relevant safeguarding training modules. Church brass to be put away when not required for services. The adult safeguarding policy statement was signed and the policy statement for safeguarding children to be considered at the next meeting. Heating update. It was reported that the Diocesan Care of Churches officer had decided that no permission or faculty was needed to replace the existing gas boiler which meant work can now go ahead. An expected invoice from the heating consultant for travelling expenses had been received (£188).

Electoral Roll update. A report from the Electoral Roll officer was presented seeking approval to admit Debbie Barnfather and John Barnfather and delete Ruth Neve, Douglas Neve, the late John Bartlett and the late Doreen Shufflebotham. The total names on the Roll was now 74.

Elections. Mr Jemmett was formally elected to the PCC following the end of his term of office as churchwarden. Mrs Smith was co-opted to serve on the PCC until the next annual parochial church meeting. Mr Barnfather and Mrs Attwood were appointed to the Standing Committee.

Reports. **Verger.** Noticeboard Westgate Bay Ave. Agreed costs be obtained for both repair options for PCC to consider. Belfry Stairs. Further contact with the Diocesan Care of Churches officer to be made. Website. The unexpected invoice for £300 was met by a generous offer from a PCC member. Latches for west doors. Discussion deferred to next meeting when costs known. Deanery **Synod/Seammarsh.**

The need to be realistic about the proposed reduction in Thanet clergy was stressed. Although the parish Share was being paid in full, the weekly deficit in income was around £186 so it was important to retain a high church identity and continue working with others in the community e.g. Looking Ahead and Westgate-on-Sea Town Council. **Treasurer.** It was reported that that although the statement for May showed a surplus to date, it was due to donations for the heating appeal. Running costs were in fact exceeding income.

Teams. Three teams were to be set up to ensure all areas of church life were covered during the forthcoming interregnum. 1) Communication, Care and Maintenance of the church building, 2) Hospitality and Mission, 3) Prayer and Pastoral Care. There was discussion on suggestions for starting a Sunday School, Gift Day on 23 July, removing the Perspex screen above the hymn book cupboard, installing boxes for donations and raising public awareness of the need to support the parish church. Decisions on all items deferred to a future meeting.

If you receive cards and letters through the post, could you save the stamps and bring them along to St Saviour's church? St Saviour's will then send them to the RNIB who will recycle them into much-needed funds for their services.

You can also support the RNIB by donating disused or foreign money. If you have any surplus foreign currency from overseas trips, or any unusable old British currency hiding at the back of the drawer, we'd love to receive it! Please hand in any donations to our Church Wardens, If you receive cards and letters through the post, could you save the stamps and bring them along to St Saviour's church? St Saviour's will then send them to the RNIB who will recycle them into much-needed funds for their services.

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Organathon

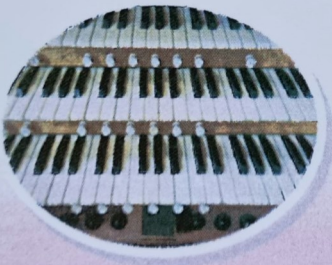
St John's Church

Victoria Road, Margate CT9 1LN



Saturday 17th September 10am to 10pm

David Lammler (with Lizzie his Guide Dog)
celebrates 30 years as our Church Organist.
Together with Guest Organists playing non-stop.
Sponsor the organists and donate to request music,
proceeds will be split between **St John's Church**
& Guide Dogs for the Blind



Refreshments available all Day

Book afternoon tea

(1pm, 2.30pm or 4pm).

Book fish and chip supper at 7pm

Sponsor forms & further information available

in Church, the Centre Office, St John's Church Facebook,

Tel 01843-224957 or 07718354886.

Admission Free

Pam's September Recipe.

Gluten Free Lemon Shortbreads

Makes approximately 16

Ingredients

300g gluten free plain flour

200g butter

200g icing sugar

2 lemons zested and 2 tablespoons juice

150 g lemon curd

Method

1. Line a 20x20 cm tin with parchment
 2. Blitz the flour, butter, 1/2 the icing sugar and Lemon zest until the mixture looks sandy.
 3. Add the lemon juice and blitz until the dough starts coming together.
 4. Heat oven to 170c or 150c fan
 5. Press 1/2 the dough into the base of tin using your fingertips, ensuring an even layer.
 6. Spread the lemon curd over the dough leaving 1/2 cm border around edge.
 7. Roll remaining dough into small balls, press into flat discs. Arrange over the curd until covered.
- Bake 35 to 40 mins until shortbread is pale and slightly golden around the edges.
- Leave to cool completely in the tin.

Topping for the Shortbread

1. Sieve 100g icing sugar
2. Add lemon juice and drizzle over the top

Lemon Curd

2 lemons, zest and juice

100 g castor sugar

50g butter

2 eggs beaten

Method

Put zest, juice, sugar and butter into a heatproof bowl over simmering water.

Stir occasionally until the butter has melted. Using a small whisk or fork, add the eggs, gently whisking the mixture, over heat, until it is thickened like custard.

Pour the cooked curd through a sieve into a jug to remove the zest. Pour into a sterilised clean jar.



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

Beginnings

Bike

Churches

Crops

Cross

Education

Friends

Harvest



Holy

Kent

Matthew

Michaelmas

New

Ride

School

September



Sponsorship

Stride

Sunday

University

Walk

Wedding

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



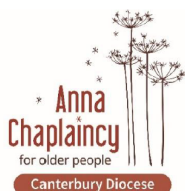
WESTGATE-ON-SEA HERITAGE CENTRE



- Calendar 2023 -

*A COLOURFUL LOOK AT
WESTGATE-ON-SEA THROUGH THE DECADES*

The calendar is on sale at our Saturday talk days, at the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council offices in Station Road & from Christine Attwood in St saviour's Church. PRICE £5



Skills for Volunteering with Older People

**Free training from Anna Chaplaincy in Kent
for church volunteers in Thanet, Autumn 2022**

Who should attend? Volunteers from all denominations involved in volunteering with their church among older people are welcome to take part. This might include visiting frail or isolated older people in their own homes, volunteering in care homes, or supporting a group for older people.

Dates

Session 1: 10.00 – 12.00 Thursday 13 October

Session 2: 10.00 – 12.00 Thursday 20 October

Session 3: 10.00 – 12.00 Thursday 10 November

Venue: At St Christopher's, Princess Margaret Avenue, Newington CT12 6LG

What topics will be covered?

Session 1, 13 October – Ageing Well

Understanding changes that come in the fourth age which may limit life and ways church volunteers can enable continued participation in family, church and community life. Older age spirituality and active listening skills.

Session 2, 20 October – Living Well with Dementia

Identifying how we as church volunteers can enable people with a diagnosis of dementia and their carers to live a full and meaningful life, through offering social and spiritual support.

Session 3, 10 November – reviewing and developing my role with older people

Thinking through considerations for volunteering safely and effectively with older people, and skills and qualities and getting more involved at your church.

Who will deliver the training? The training will be delivered by Julia Burton-Jones, Anna Chaplaincy lead for Kent, and Judith Andrews, Anna Chaplain in Thanet. Local organisations working with older people will contribute.

How can I book a place? The course is free of charge, but you need to book a space if you want to take part. For information, or to book a place, email Judith on judith.andrews68@btinternet.com.

LONELINESS

I believe loneliness has become more common over many years in our country.

Communication technology was predicted to change that by connecting us more to people we know but in some ways it has made it worse and Covid has exacerbated it. This may sound a depressing or unfair view to take but my reasoning is this: we have mobile phones which give us instant access to each other, computers which can send messages and pictures and videos across the world in seconds, TV which brings us massively detailed news and endless entertainment from anywhere in the world on hundreds of channels etc. During lockdowns for Covid we have become more reliant on these technologies and for two years have become more reluctant to go out, travel on holiday, visit theatres or cinemas, eat in restaurants etc. In spite of all these electronic “communications” we can still find ourselves alone in a house or a flat wishing we had someone to talk to, even if only for an hour. The truth is that whilst most of us have these technologies there are many who don't. We who have them have become more busy than ever keeping up with all our emails, texts, phone calls, social media contacts, Facebook friends, updating our phones and computers etc. There is less time than ever to think about people who might be in need. There is a part of society where there isn't enough money to purchase the required equipment to engage in this high-tech life most of us lead. It is all these people can do to get a poorly paid job or two or three was “to pay the rent and when they can't pay the rent they face eviction. Then they need the technology they can't afford. Many elderly people do not have internet and many are limited in their ability to get out of the house or flat.

In the days before all this technology and online deliveries we had to go to shops for food and could chat with other shoppers and shopkeepers. Before TV, entertainment was “live” in village halls, churches, and theatres and pubs. All these things involved more human contact and thankfully still do except for TV which keeps us in our homes away from people. Putting all this simply, surveys have shown that loneliness has increased in spite of, or perhaps as a result of, all this frantic communication.

Loneliness causes depression. You can play music or have the TV on all day watching people on a screen or make a few phone calls. You can look out of the window to see people passing by, read a book or just sit and think. Thinking often leads to past memories which can be sad as well as happy.

There may be nobody to give you a smile or a hug or to spend an hour chatting about life or your problems or your worries.

I think there is a great need for friendship and company, particularly for those who live alone or who cannot get out regardless of age. Churches can and do help by having simple social activities such as coffee, tea and biscuits. We can pray for people who are lonely, and I'm sure God wants us to do that, but reaching out and making contact with those known to us and sharing our time and our homes for tea or coffee can make a huge difference. Some will need transport to go anywhere but nearly all of us have cars so that can be provided for those who need it. How about a drive out into the country?

I hope this short piece may cause us all, including me, to reflect on those in our lives who might be experiencing daily loneliness and that God may show us ways to help.

Written by and permission given to print by David Langford (A personal friend of Hilary Abrahams)



CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Toddler Time Group meets Monday mornings 10.30am to 12 noon Term time only.

Bellringers Practice every Thursday 7.30 to 9pm.

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

Susan 836430 .

Care of Church Building & Communication Team meet on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 11am.

The Hospitality & Mission group meet at 11am on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

The Prayer & Pastoral Team meet on the 4th Saturday of the month.

The Westgate Heritage Centre

Meets on the 1st Saturday of each month 10am to 12noon. A talk is usually given at these sessions. Until further notice 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

Debbie Tel: 01843 446584 / 07896508399 email: drdebbie08@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 24th September 5pm in Church Harvest Supper

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 Church-wardens

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