

Parish and Community

The Link

St Mildreds Road



Westgate Bay Avenue

Westgate Bay Avenue



St Mildreds Road

**December
2023**

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



Parish in Interregnum

Honorary Assistant Priests

The Revd Susan Wing

The Revd Barbara Way

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Churchwardens

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WELCOME TO THE SEAMARSH GROUP

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The Parish Letter

Guess what? December is here again!!

The seasons of Advent and Christmas this year have so many sadnesses and fears as well as seasonal joy that it is hard to write about usual Christmassy things. I have tried here to put some thoughts going through my mind – rather mixed up still – of how we can have faith through all these strange and difficult times. For what they are worth, I offer them to you perhaps to assist your thoughts move onward.

Dark nights, cold and wet – possibly snow ...
Colds, coughs, and other nasties waiting in the wings
Wars, storms from climate change – all continue onward
The last Sunday in November thought of Christ the King!

Advent calendars, Advent rings, Advent candles – why?
Advent gives us prelude to new birth, plus an end-time warning.
Angels give news of Jesus' birth to shepherd and to sage
Now Death warning – family refugees – hope still dawning

Advent symbols mark time passing, shown across the circle of the world
Light shining in darkness – hope to prisoner, refugee, victim of a war
Hope eternal offered, call to unselfish acts through honesty and prayer.
The holy birth of Christ, the call to come to him through his open door

For Christmas offers the Advent Hope and Angelic Heavenly Joy
A snowdrop in a concrete gap, deep peace underlying stormy waves.
Baby in a manger, intense joy, sadness intermingled, but Love
Came down at Christmas, and still gives Hope – the one who Saves!!

God bless you this Advent and this Christmas and give you the joy of this time that offers hope even when it seems there is little hope to be had. I have recently read somewhere, and I have forgotten where, something along the lines that Hope is being able to see that there are still possibilities ahead that are good.

– Barbara Way





Welcome to the Revd Jeffrey Foulger as Priest in Charge of St Saviour's and the Wantsum Benefice

Licensing Service Sunday 10th December at 2.30pm at St Mary the Virgin Church, Minster. ALL WELCOME.

Services in December

Our Sunday worship during December will be quite varied this year. Please see the posters in this edition of The Link for more details.

Our traditional toy service returns on the first Sunday of the month at 10.30am and we are invited to bring new toys (unwrapped please) or gift vouchers for Oasis Domestic Abuse Service (see separate list). We will be joined by a speaker from Oasis telling us about their work, our puppets and by children and staff from St Saviour's School for the blessing of their travelling cribs.

We hope many of you will join in the carol singing organized by Christians Together that afternoon (3rd) at 4.30pm outside Christ Church United Reformed Church.

Morning Services on the next two Sundays follow our usual pattern with Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at 9.00am on the 10th and a Sung Eucharist on the 10th and 17th at 10.30am.

There is a special service on Sunday 10th at 2.30pm in St Mary the Virgin, Minster when the Revd Jef Foulger will be licensed as Priest-in-Charge of St Saviour's and the churches in the Wantsum Benefice (Minster, Monkton, St Nicholas-at-Wade and Chislet). Members of St Saviour's Church Family have been asked to take part in the service and we hope as many of you as possible will attend to support and meet Jef.

All our Christmas Eve services will be held in St Saviour's. At the time of writing, the services are:

9.00am - Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am - service to be decided but likely to be a lay-led Service of the Word or a service of lessons and carols

3.00pm - Crib Service with Christingles and children from St Saviour's School returning their travelling cribs

11.30pm - First Communion of Christmas

On Christmas Day there is a Family Communion with Carols at 10.30am

As there are 5 Sundays this month, there will be a service according to the Book of Common Prayer on the 31st December at 9.00am. However, it will be Morning Prayer led by Alan Clark and not Holy Communion. Please note there will be no service at 10.30am in St Saviour's. Instead we have been invited to celebrate Holy Communion with Wantsum Benefice at 10.30am in St Mary the Virgin Minster. As travelling to Minster by public transport is unlikely to be easy, there are some car lifts available. Please let Andy or I know if you would like a lift or can provide one or more.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe Christmas, Christine Attwood, Churchwarden

J W Foulger BA (Hons) *ACII

We are pleased to announce that the Revd Jeffrey Foulger has been appointed Priest in Charge of St Saviour's Westgate and Priest in Charge of the Wantsum Group of churches. After a career in Finance Jef was ordained in 2017 and was previously Associate Vicar at St John the Baptist Church Beckenham. He lives in Herne Bay.

In taking up this appointment on a part-time basis Jef will work with the PCCs and ministry teams of St Saviour's and the Wantsum Churches and with the vicar and PCC of Birchington to develop a plan for ongoing ministry across the Seamarsh Group.

The Licensing Service will take place on Sunday 10th December at 2.30pm at the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Minster. All are warmly invited to attend.

Please note that Minster has been chosen as the venue because it is the largest of the 5 churches. *ACII stands for Associateship of the Chartered Insurance Institute

St Saviour's Church, Westgate

FAMILY SERVICE

SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER

At 10.30am

With donations of new toys or gift
vouchers for

OASIS DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE
& BLESSING of the TRAVELLING CRIBS
for ST SAVIOUR'S SCHOOL



Christmas Gifts Wish List 2023

Thank you for making a difference to the families staying with us this Christmas. We have accommodation in East Kent for up to 18 women and 30 children at any one time.

Amazon Wish List for East Kent <https://amzn.eu/9qyEC7f>

Gift ideas for Children & Young People

Books – for 2 to 4 year olds. The Works or Waterstones gift vouchers.

Crafts – make your own felt sets for children, activity books, stickers. Gift vouchers for The Works or Hobbycraft.

Games – Board games, Bingo, packs of cards ie. Uno, Snap, Top Trumps.

Dolls, super heroes, cars, tea sets, play food.

Role play, dress up.

Pyjamas for 2 year old boys, 3 year old girls, 4 year old boys, 7 year old boys.

Gift ideas for Adults

Air Fryer or Slow Cooker

Foldable storage box

Craft kits

Books – Bestselling fiction & Cookbooks

Vouchers from Argos, Primark, ASDA, Tesco, Sainsbury's so that residents can purchase their own clothing and household items for moving out of refuge.

Christmas biscuits, mince pies, cake

Please no candles or alcohol
Christmas presents should be new and unwrapped

St Saviour's Church, Westgate

GADZUKES CHRISTMAS

CONCERT

SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER

At 2.30pm

**Tickets £7 with
refreshments**

Tickets on sale 07986508399



St Saviour's Church, Westgate

**CRIB SERVICE with
CHRISTINGLES**

SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER

AT 3pm

**With St Saviour's School
Returning their CRIBS**



ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH, WESTGATE

SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS EVE

**FIRST COMMUNION OF
CHRISTMAS AT 11.30pm**



MONDAY 25th DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS DAY

**FAMILY COMMUNION with
CAROLS at 10.30am**

FROM THE REGISTERS

For those Baptised

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

Sunday 26th November Jake

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”

Liz & Peter Rowe, Andrew W, Mother Karen, Marjorie M, Heidi,,Kevin, Valerie L, Genevieve O, Charlie, Louise

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”

Father Stanley, Sheila Brace, Carole B, Joanna

World War 2 Roll of Honour for this month

Frederick Clark 1st December 1943 Edwin Tyrie 11th December 1941

Bernard Setterfield 23rd December 1944



You are warmly invited
to a joint service of

Holy Communion

with the congregations of
St. Saviour's, Westgate
St. Nicholas, St. Nicholas at Wade
St. Mary the Virgin, Chislet
St. Mary Magdalene, Monkton
St. Mary the Virgin, Minster

Sunday 31st December

at 10.30am

at the Parish Church
of St. Mary the Virgin, Minster



HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Please make it a happier Christmas this year for us and all mankind.
There must be more to it than skittles and beer.
If we could only find a way to remember the dear Saviour's birth –
As He would wish to see.
Instead of us feasting while half the world starves –
It's up to you and me.



Instead of the parties, the presents and wine – the brightest Christmas tree!
Shall we pay a visit to someone alone?
And take him (or her) home for tea.
Or maybe the money we usually waste on gaudy gifts from town
Could be redirected to people in need through no fault of their own.

Let nations that always find money for war please call a truce this year.
And use their resources to improve the lives of those who live in fear.
If we make an effort to spread more goodwill,
It's quite a certain bet that we could make this Happy Christmas time,
His happiest birthday yet.

By Dorothy

All Souls Service 2023



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 JANUARY 2024 “The Link” is
SUNDAY 31st DECEMBER 2023

Hi Kent Hearing Aid Clinic

Westgate Council Office

(Opposite the Cinema)

December 14th

All at 10.30 – 11.30

Batteries, tubes and advice



“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.”

Artwork from St Saviour's Church of England School for Remembrance



News from St Saviour's Church of England School

The end of November is fast approaching and hints of Christmas are beginning to appear around school. Classes are making their Christmas bunting, which gets hung in our hall each year. Individual music students are practising the songs they will perform at the church carol concert in the final week of term. Miss Anderson has been teaching the whole school carols since half term. Our caretaker, Mr Jordan has been searching the shipping container for the Christmas tree and its decorations.

I have had conversations with many parents since September about financial worries. An increasing number of our families are struggling to make ends meet. I find that, in general, most families are reluctant to accept help and tend to say things like, 'Give the help to someone else, I know people who are worse off than me.' We refer more and more families to food banks. In some cases, foodbanks are the only thing preventing some children from going hungry. Some politicians may claim that children are going hungry because parents cannot cook or manage their finances. I do not doubt there are some who cannot budget or cook but it does not explain the rising wave of struggling families. Working people experiencing financial hardship at the very same time as a period of sustained high inflation seems a huge coincidence – have hundreds of families suddenly stopped being able to cook or manage money?

For families experiencing hardship, Christmas compounds existing anxieties. Children are already talking about what they have on their Christmas lists. Christmas is a time of increased consumption, we all eat and drink a little more than usual. I know that, in previous years, families have gone into debt in order to treat their children. The government have responded by getting schools to issue vouchers for children in receipt of free school meals. These vouchers are very welcome and are keeping some families afloat. However, there are a larger group of families who do not receive benefits and work full time but are in very low-wage jobs. St. Saviour's has been given a small number of vouchers by various community organisations and we have distributed them to families who have missed out on government vouchers. We were incredibly grateful for the colossal amount of food donated by the school community during Harvest Festival. Mr Arnold and Mrs Theobald-Grainger delivered this food to the Birchington food bank.

At St. Saviour's we try to focus on the spiritual aspects of Christmas. During collective worship, I will be talking about Jesus' birth and the legacy of kindness he left. Children will be encouraged to implement our Christian values, particularly Thankfulness and Community. I do not expect children to stop getting excited about presents and chocolate (and nor should they) but I hope that they can at least briefly reflect on why we are still celebrating Jesus' birth, over two thousand years later.

Nick Bonell, Headteacher

St Saviour's Church, Westgate

TODDLER TIME



Meets

MONDAY MORNINGS

(Term time only)

9.30am to 11.45am

**For pre-school children
and carers**



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

Advent
 Candle
 Carol
 Christingle
 Christmas
 Crib
 December
 Gaddzukes



Hope
 Jesus
 Joseph
 Joy
 Love
 Mary
 Mince
 Oasis



Peace
 Pie
 Pudding
 Star
 Star
 Toys
 Wreath

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

December Services

Our usual pattern of worship will continue throughout December with a special family service on Sunday 3rd December at 10.30am when we will have Claire Fenley from Oasis Domestic Abuse Service with us to tell us about their work. We often refer to this as our “toy Service” and invite donations of new toys or monetary contributions. There is a list elsewhere in the Link giving details of suitable toys and gift vouchers to donate. We will also be welcoming representatives of St Saviour’s School to that service as they come for their travelling cribs to be blessed.

The cribs will be returned during our Crib Service with Christingles on Christmas Eve at 3pm.

Other services for Christmas include those for St Saviour’s School, the first Communion of Christmas on Christmas Eve at 11.30pm and a Family Communion with Carols on Christmas Day at 10.30am.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

As yet another Christmas draws near in my life, so many seem to have passed by. I can recall some in my adult life being a mixture of good, bad and best forgotten about! My fondest memories are from my childhood, when one possesses a certain amount of innocence!

Waking up to find a big sock (my Dad's, washed hopefully!) which contained an orange, some sweets, maybe a little toy car or a cowboy/Indian figure – and nuts too!

Getting up, scraping lines on the inside of the window with my fingernail where ice had formed, before dashing downstairs to see if Santa had eaten the mince pie Mum had left out for him on the kitchen table, and drunk whatever liquid had been left out in a glass!

No doubt Dad was busy lighting a fire with bits of paper and wood before adding coal. Mum would be boiling up some tea and cutting bread to toast. My elder sister would be buzzing around – perhaps helping Mum as she was 7 years older than me!

Christmas gifts under the tree, which twinkled with coloured lights would not be opened until the open fire was roaring away warming the room with its red glow, & warm tea was poured.

I confess that I don't remember being taken to church as my parents were not that way inclined. But I did take part in some nativity plays at the Convent school I attended. The one that stands out was when I was dressed as a Knight Crusader! Quite why the Nuns (teachers) wanted a Crusader at the birth of Jesus I don't know, as the first Crusade didn't happen until 1096! – perhaps they were looking at the bigger Christian picture. Unfortunately (or fortunately) I don't have a picture of me as this Knight! But my mother made a tabard which was white with a red cross on the front. Also I was equipped with a home-made cardboard helmet – sword & shield! - & this outfit was used on many occasions after the nativity play!

Now in the mature stages of my life & with the loss of many close relatives & friends I have found some solace in the atmosphere of St Saviour's Church & appreciate the friendship shown by the Seamarsh Group.

So as the festive season approaches I object to the TV advertisements depicting tables overflowing with food (which we don't really need) considering the state of the world! But I wish everybody reading this A Happy & Peaceful Christmas be it a frugal or lavish affair.

(Poached eggs & beans on toast for me!)

Also thank you to Valda for printing my scribbles in the "Link". It's been fun & fortunately I have received several compliments concerning the articles!

And so into the New Year with renewed vigour & enthusiasm, brass polish at the ready!!

Peace among us all,

Your "Scribe", Stephen (The Bruce) Chapman, (Steve 3)



Puppets join the Family Service



THE PSALMS

The book of The Psalms is the hymn book and prayer book of the Bible. Composed by different authors over a long period of time, these hymns and prayers were collected and used by the people of Israel in their worship, and eventually this collection was included in their scriptures.

These religious poems are of many kinds: there are hymns of praise and worship of God; prayers for help, protection and salvation; pleas for forgiveness; songs of thanksgiving for God's blessings and petitions for the punishment of enemies. These prayers are both personal and national, some portray the most intimate feelings of one person, while others represent the needs and feelings of all the people of God.

The Psalms were used by Jesus, quoted by the writers of the New Testament, and became the treasured book of worship of the Christian Church from its beginning.



(Above – St Albans Abbey: Psalms manuscript from 1100 AD).

They are wonderful writings and if, like me you find the bible a little daunting (where do I start reading... or, what does it all mean) the Psalms might be a more user-friendly starting point? It was for me.

The 150 Psalms are grouped into five collections, or books:

Psalms 1—41
Psalms 42—72
Psalms 73—89
Psalms 90—106
Psalms 107—150

What is truly amazing about the Psalms is firstly they apply as much to today as they did when they were first written down thousands of years ago, and secondly there really is a Psalm for every occasion, however you are feeling. From despair, to joy and celebration. The Psalms has it all... and so much more.

I'll finish by mentioning my opening line (above) again..." The book of The Psalms is the hymn book..." Yes, hymns. We can also sing the Psalms! Perhaps you would be willing to sing a Psalm with me one Sunday morning?

I've love to know your thoughts and if you would like more help with Psalms, I have some very helpful information regarding Psalms from the Bible Society, I would be happy to share.

Take care and God bless.

Steve
Verger

News from 1st Westgate Rainbows

We ended last term with a visit to Ramsgate Lifeboat Station. Two representatives from the RNLI came to Westgate and gave a very interesting talk to the girls on the Lifeboat and Water Safety previously.

On our visit to the Lifeboat Station we met some of the crew and their families and we went aboard the lifeboat. The crew also showed us the radar and radio systems and gave us a tour of the Station seeing all of the members kit.

A voluntary donation was given to the Ramsgate Lifeboat as a Thank You from the Rainbows for the voluntary work done by the RNLI.



Microwave Sticky Ginger Cake

Ingredients

115g SR flour	1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
3 tsp's ground ginger	1 tsp ground cinnamon
80g butter - cubed	45g black treacle
45g golden syrup	80ml milk
2 medium eggs	Vegetable oil for greasing

Topping

115 g icing sugar	3 balls stem ginger diced
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Method 1. Oil a 22 cm silicone loaf mould, line with non-stick baking paper, or use a non-stick loaf liner (available at Aldi and other supermarkets)

2. Put the flour, bicarbonate of soda and spices in a large microwaveable bowl, mix well.

3. In a separate, medium microwaveable bowl, add the butter, sugar, treacle and syrup. Cook uncovered for 2 minutes (1000W), or 2 minutes 30 seconds (800W).

Stir after 1 minute 30 seconds.

4. Stir the milk into the treacle mixture, then add the eggs and whisk until well combined.

5. Make a well in the centre of the flour mixture, then slowly pour the treacle into the flour, whisking to form a smooth batter.

6. Pour the batter into the prepared mould and place in the centre of the microwave.

Cook on HIGH for 4 minutes (1000W) 5 minutes (800W) or until the cake is well risen. It should be firm to the touch - a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin for at least 30 minutes.

7. Turn the cake out onto a board, peel off the lining paper and leave to cool.

Topping

Sift the icing sugar into a bowl and stir in enough cold water to make a fairly thick, smooth icing (around 4/5 teaspoons).

Drizzle over the cake then sprinkle with the ginger pieces. Leave to stand for 30 minutes.

Will keep well for 3/4 days wrapped in foil.



St Saviour's Church, Westgate

Epiphany Family Service

Sunday 7th January 2024

At 10.30am

ALL AGES WELCOME



Changes to Canterbury Cathedral's Precincts Pass

Some members of our congregation recently found out that the Precincts Pass enabling free access to the Cathedral and grounds has been discontinued so many of us need to purchase its replacement, known as the Cathedral Pass. This costs £6 and is valid for five years. No discounts are available but children under 17 are not required to hold a ☐ pass and can visit free of charge with a Cathedral Pass-holding adult.

Please note no Pass or Visitor Ticket is necessary to attend services of worship in the Cathedral.

The new Pass can be held by anyone who;

Works in the old city of Canterbury ☐

Lives within 4 miles of Bell Harry tower, including ☐ within The Precincts ☐

Is a member of the Cathedral Congregation ☐

Is immediate family of a Cathedral staff member ☐

Is a Cathedral Volunteer ☐

Is a member of any church in the diocese (on the ☐ parish electoral roll or equivalent) ☐

If you are a Friend of Canterbury Cathedral, please see the last paragraph of this article. Otherwise please apply for a Pass online at www.canterbury-cathedral.org or call 01227 762862.

By signing up to the Cathedral's Pass holder mailing list, you will also be kept up to date with all the latest information on services, events and activities at the Cathedral, often before general release.

If you would prefer not to purchase a Cathedral Pass, a ticket can be purchased on the day of your visit at the Cathedral's Visitor Centre. The standard visitor ticket is valid for 12 months, meaning you can re-visit the Cathedral as often as you want during that time at no extra cost.

Canterbury Cathedral can also be supported via Friends of Canterbury Cathedral membership. This is available to anyone, regardless of location, and offers free visitor entry, a range of free or discounted events, and discounts in the Cathedral Shop and Lodge for an annual membership fee. To become a Friend, please visit <https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/get-involved/become-a-friend/>

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Toddler Time Group meets Monday mornings 9.30am to 11.45am. **TERM TIME ONLY.**

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 1st SATURDAY of each month at Christchurch URC 10am to 12noon . Refreshments available. See 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

Church Cleaning 10am to 12 noon on the third Tuesday each month.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 9th December at 2.30pm Gaddzukes Christmas Concert –tickets £7

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

Service of the Word once a month when advertised.

Family Service for all ages the 1st Sunday of each month at 10.30am.

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