

Parish and Community

The Link

St Mildreds Road



Westgate Bay Avenue

Westgate Bay Avenue



St Mildreds Road

**August
2026**

**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 Barbara Way



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St Saviour's Church of England Junior School

Elm Grove, Westgate

Telephone 01843 831707

Headteacher

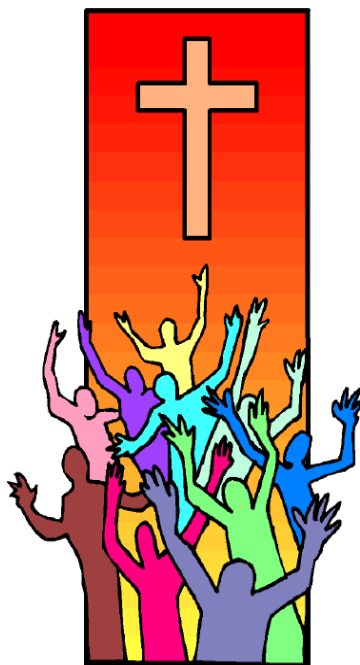
Editor "The Link" valdaneve@hotmail.co.uk

St Saviour's Church, Westgate

FAMILY SERVICE

SUNDAY 2nd AUGUST

AT 10.30am – 11.15am



ALL ARE WELCOME

Hello everyone,

I wonder if we ever take the time to think about how our faith and that of our nation was shaped and sustained. So many ordinary, unknown or barely known people of faith who through their love of Jesus and constancy in faith have enabled the faith to be strengthened and developed. Many of these heroes were surely women, of no account except to be wives and mothers. Yet their influence on their children made a real difference.

One such lesser known lady is Susanna Wesley – the mother of those 2 men, John and Charles. Susanna was born in 1669, the 25th and last of the children of a Dissenting Minister from the established church. At 12 she left her father's church and joined the Church of England. She married Samuel Wesley, an Anglican Minister, in 1688. They had 19 children of whom only 10 survived infancy. Despite not having a scholarly upbringing, Susanna was recognised by the Methodist Church as a writer, theologian and teacher. She ran her household, the small farm attached to the rectory, home schooled her children from the age of 5 in Latin and Greek and classical studies (traditional in the England of her day). Most of all she gave them an example of prayer (2 hours every day), understanding of the Bible and an example of living in the Lord.

There was never much money available and her husband was sometimes absent for a considerable time. She wrote to her absent husband during his time away in London: "I am a woman, but I am also the mistress of a large family. And though the superior charge of souls contained in it lies with you, yet in your long absence I cannot but look upon every soul you leave under my charge as a talent committed to me under trust. I am not a man nor a minister, yet as a mother and mistress I felt obliged to do more than I had yet done."

She decided to form a Sunday School for her children and the education in faith of others. She also kitchen services at home initially for her children and servants. Others became interested and joined them and there might be up to 200 people at her home services whilst the Parish church was almost empty. What a gift of communication of the faith she must have had. Strong stuff and so she cared individually for her children, She set an example of Christian living which influenced both John and Charles to set in motion an evangelical movement that became the Methodist Church. Susanna is known as the Mother of Methodism. It is said that without the methodist movement, England could have descended into revolution, following and joining their French counterparts.

What might we take from this woman who so loved her God and followed his gentle rule, despite being faced with trials and tribulations Firstly the priority of prayer. She prayed for about 2 hours a day. She would put some apron like tent over her head when she needed to prayer. The children understood that mother was not to be disturbed in her time of communing with God. Secondly her biblical attention, educating her children and others. Susannah didn't just love Christ but she lived him.

Susanna died on 23 July 1742, aged 73, some 7 years after her husband. Already John and Charles were setting up places of worship, addressing the need for the return to scripture and setting in motion the Methodist movement which, today, recognises Susanna as the Mother of Methodism. What a legacy to leave, poor but founded in faith, loving her Lord, walking the extra mile to share that faith and cope with all the responsibilities that fell to her lot. On her shoulders faith grew, was being reformed and influenced a nation beyond any understanding.

God Bless **Susan**

Can you help with cakes and biscuits for the Scripture Union Holiday Club?

Cakes and biscuits for the Café/Tiddlers parent/carers can be dropped off at Kearns Hall (Grenham Bay Avenue, Birchington) from 3rd to 7th August. Donations of homemade cakes are particularly appreciated.

Monthly Number Draw

The winner of the draw after the 10.30am service on Sunday 5th July was the Revd Susan Wing. The next draw takes place on Sunday 2nd August after the service that morning.

Summer Fayre

Thank you to everyone who supported our fayre on 25th July, making it such a happy occasion. We were blessed with a lovely summer's day and a hard-working team behind the scenes. As the magazine went to press, the event had raised £1587.06 for church funds.

Services in August

Sunday 2nd All Age Service (lay led and with members of the Scripture Union Beach Mission) at 10.30am followed by refreshments and the monthly number draw for August

Sunday 9th Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at 9.00am

Sung Eucharist with banns x 2 at 10.30am followed by refreshments

Sunday 16th Café Church at 10.30am

Holy Baptism of Bertie at 12.30pm

Sunday 23rd Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at 9.00am

Sung Eucharist with banns at 10.30am followed by refreshments

Sunday 30th Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at 9.00am

Summer Songs of Praise at 10.30am followed by refreshments

Summer Songs of Praise – Sunday 30th August 10.30am

Sorry, not the TV programme. However, if you'd like to suggest a favourite hymn for our main morning service on the last Sunday in August, please add it to the list in church by 9th August.

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”

Wednesday 22nd July Kaylie and Adrian

The Sick

“Lord, grant your healing presence to all who suffer in body, mind or spirit”

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”

World War 2 Roll of Honour for this month

Tom Appleby 26th August 1941

A Warm Welcome from Your New Head teacher

Dear Residents and Neighbours,

As we look ahead to the new academic year, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself as the incoming Head teacher at St Saviour's C of E Junior School. It is an absolute privilege to step into this role, and I am incredibly excited to become an active part of our vibrant parish community.

Before looking to the future, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Nick Bonell for his years of dedicated service and leadership. Nick leaves behind a wonderful legacy and a school environment where children truly thrive, and I wish him the absolute best as he returns to his passion in the classroom at his new school. I am immensely grateful for the smooth transition and the warm welcome he has already extended to me.

To give you a little background, I come to St Saviour's with extensive experience in primary school leadership, having previously served as a Deputy Head teacher in North Kent. My professional passion has always been rooted in teaching, learning, and curriculum design—creating an inspiring, rich educational journey where every child can flourish. On a personal note, my husband and I are parents to a young daughter, so I am very much living the beautiful chaos of the toddler years first-hand!

Looking ahead, my goal is to build upon the school's excellent foundations, fostering an environment of academic enthusiasm, kindness, and strong community links. A school is at its best when it sits right at the heart of its parish. I am eager to work closely with the parish council, diocese, local residents, and families to ensure St Saviour's remains a place we can all be proud of.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the school gates, upcoming community events, or around the school grounds soon. Please do come and say hello if you are passing by!

Warmest wishes,

Toniann Braniff

Incoming Head teacher, St Saviour's C of E Junior School

St Saviour's Church, Westgate

FRIDAY "POP IN"

Pop in for a cup of tea/coffee & a
biscuit or two & a chat

In St Saviour's Church between
10.30am & 12noon every Friday.

Meet friends & make new ones, you
will be very WELCOME.



Coffee & Chat

Whilst you are welcome to take and enjoy a copy of “The Link”, donations towards the cost of printing would be appreciated,. **THANK YOU**

The deadline for SEPTEMBER 2026 “The Link” is
SUNDAY 30th AUGUST 2026

Hi Kent Hearing Aid Clinic

Westgate Council Office (Opposite the Cinema)

Every **SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH 10.30am to 11.30am.** 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.

Blooming Westgate



ART

A vibrant display of artwork by local students & children from St Saviour's, Ursuline & Piggybank Nursery inspired by wildflowers, pollinators and the natural world.

EXHIBITION

18th July 2026 (12noon - 4pm)

Picnic in the Park Event
Westgate Community Centre

25th July 2026 (11am - 2pm)

Summer Fayre
St Saviour's Parish Church

1st - 9th August 2026

Westgate Galleria & Studio
29 Station Road

11th - 21st August 2026

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council
78 St Mildreds Road

22nd - 31st August 2026

(excluding Sunday Mornings)

Art Exhibition
St Saviour's Parish Church



Westgate Art and Craft Group Annual Exhibition to be held in St Saviour's Church.

Dates: Saturday 22nd to Monday 31st August

Times: 10am-4pm daily (except Sundays and Friday 1pm-4pm)

Free entry, everyone is welcome to come along to view and maybe purchase items produced by the group. Members will be on hand to talk to visitors about the group if anyone is interested in joining us.



Report on the Parochial Church Council (PCC) Meeting held on 28th April

As this was the first meeting after elections were held on the previous Sunday, officers and committee members were elected/appointed for the 2026/2027 year. Christine Bolger was re-elected as Lay Chair, Christine Attwood was re-appointed PCC Secretary, Valda Neve was re-appointed Church Electoral Roll Officer, the Revd Jef Foulger, Christine Attwood, Christine Bolger, Chris Joiner and Steve Short were appointed as members of the legally required standing committee, Christine Bolger was appointed to continue as the Parish Adult Safeguarding Officer

and Debbie Smith was re-appointed to continue as the Parish Child Safeguarding Officer. The following were re-appointed to continue as sidesmen: Debbie Barnfather, Anne Bartlett, Julie Burrows, Diana Carter, Ron Hodges, Elaine Howe, Joy Palmer, Irene Simpson, Alan Turner and Sue Turner. Membership of the PCC's Eco Fabric Committee was confirmed as Christine Attwood, Martin Dixon-Sandwell, Ron Hodges, Brian Lamb, Steve Short and Alan Turner. Sadly, the vacancy for PCC Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary continued.

Reports were given on the planned installation of WIFI, church finance, items being considered by the Eco Fabric Committee, events being planned by the Fundraising Committee, and applications for membership of the Church Electoral Roll.

A copy of the minutes of this meeting can be found in the folder at the back of the church.

The next meeting of the PCC is on 22nd September 2026.

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

Art
August
Baptism
Bell
Cakes
Craft
Draw
Exhibition



Gladioli
Monthly
Number
Plums
Praise
Refreshments
Relax
Ringers



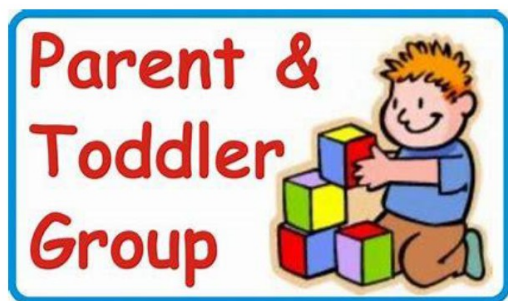
Scripture
Songs
Union
Visitors
Wedding
Westgate

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

As you may be aware INEQE Safeguarding Group have been commissioned to conduct Independent Safeguarding Audits of the Church of England to make sure dioceses and cathedrals are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected. As part of the audit process for Canterbury, INEQE hope to engage with parishioners and members of the parish community through an online survey which will act as a mechanism through which individuals can comment on any matters relevant to the Audit's focus. The survey is both anonymous (we are not seeking to identify you) and confidential (you will not be identified). We would therefore ask you to be open and honest with your responses. The survey results are received directly by INEQE's Audit Team and not by the Church of England. The survey is now live and will close at 11.30 pm on Wednesday 2nd of September 2026. To access the survey relevant to you please visit: <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/canterbury/>

St Saviour's Church, Westgate

TODDLER TIME



Meets

MONDAY MORNINGS

(Term time only)

9.15am to 11.30am

**For pre-school children
and carers**



STINGS, WINGS, BEATS AND OSCILLATION

So it was a lovely sunny morning as I set off on my 750 Honda to Brands Hatch. After I passed the village of New Ash Green I would ride down several country lanes passing fields and woodland before joining the road that lead to the paddock entrance. It's an enjoyable ride as the road twists & turns with a few nice straights to blow any lurking cobwebs out of the bikes exhaust!

But then I was confronted with a large wasp which was on my visor. There we were face to face, eyeball to eyeball. Buzz off you black & yellow bounder! I tilted my head to make the wind blow mr wasp away. It was gone – but it had gone into the top of my jacket & I could now feel the pin pricks stabbing me just below my neck. The wasp had stung me several times, it felt quite painful.

I arrived at the paddock gate where the ticket office (shed!) was located. I had been coming here since I was a boy on a bicycle back in the summer of 1967 so it was a familiar face that greeted me. I can't actually remember the man's name but I told him about my encounter with Mr wasp. He could see the rather raw red patch where the wasp had done his dastardly deed. He said I should go to the First Aid post (Hut) which was situated near the main grandstand.

Normally I would meander round the paddock to look at the various cars or bikes taking part in the days races but today I walked straight over to the medical hut. I was given some sort of cream to put on the sting patch, this did help to reduce the pain so I was able to return to the paddock & enjoy the racing activity later on.

What happened to Mr Wasp? I have no idea!

Some 40 odd years later my inner bookworm has been reading fascinating facts about flying insects & birds. For example most birds can control the speed of their wing movements, their brain sends signals to their wings to move up or down, fast or slow depending on their needs.

Flying insects such as wasps, bees, gnats, mosquito, midges etc can't do that as the speed of their wing beats are so fast. They use oscillatory muscles that vibrate, they have their own on/off switch that turns on their oscillating engine. Switch on & their wings beat flat out, maximum speed, peddle to the metal, giving it the full beans! In other words, super fast!

The numbers seem unbelievable, but I assume the writers of the books know the facts, for example – a tiny midge beats it's wings 62, 760 times a minute the high pitch whine that a gnat produces is caused by the speed of their wing beats, up to a thousand times per second! The rasping buzz of a wasp, the deeper more industrious bumbling of a bee. It's all down to the wing beats & no doubt their wings must ache after they have been out on the buzz.

Most of us have probably experienced the effects of a wasp sting or gnat bite (that is annoyingly itchy) but steer clear of mosquito bites, mosquitos kill over a million people every year worldwide. I don't mean they confront a human armed with sword & shield or a gun!

But their bite can spread diseases such as malaria & yellow fever. Also avoid the African Honey Bee as it's sting can be fatal. There are a few small birds whose wing beats are extremely fast, the Humming sound of a Humming bird is caused by its speedy wings. It can hover by a flower while it slurps on the nectar, it can hover on its side or even upside down! But dragonflies operate their wings like a bird sending separate signals to their wings (up or down).

The image this month is of a dragonfly that lived 300 million years ago! You wouldn't want it landing on your cheese roll at the picnic table as its body was 17inches (45cm) long with a wing span of 29 inches (75cm)!

Meanwhile Sid the chip stealing seagull flaps his wings to line up for a dive – swoop - & I felt a bash on my head & saw my cap(hat) being taken aloft by Sid! This actually happened along Westbrook Sea Front, fortunately Sid dropped my cap onto the ground rather than the sea so I was able to retrieve it. So now in this hot weather I think I will oscillate my way over to the fridge for a nice cold glass of cream soda, Cheers! Your Scribe, Stephen (the Bruce)



Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Ride and Stride 2026

This year's Ride and Stride will be place on

Saturday 12th September 2026 10am – 6pm

Last year the Ride and Stride raised in excess of £152,000. Every year the Friends of Kent Churches gives grants to churches to help pay for repairs to the fabric. So it is a worthwhile event, as well as giving you the chance to meet others connected with churches while enjoying the Kent countryside and coast.

The list of participating churches and the sponsor forms should be available in July. Please contact me if you wish to know more. It would be good to see more people from St. Saviour's riding or striding and raising money through sponsorship. Half the money raised through your efforts comes back to St. Saviour's.

St. Saviour's aims to be open to visiting cyclists and walkers between 10am and 6pm and we need volunteers to 'church sit', preferably in pairs. Seeing an open church door, a friendly face and a toilet helps the day along. As I no longer ride or stride – I did it for many years – I intend to sit in the church all day to welcome everybody. However, I can not do this alone and need someone to sit with me. Please let me know if you are able to be on the hourly rota for this.

I look forward to hearing from you, either for sponsor forms or to go on the rota of church sitters. Contact me by email or phone.

José Gibbs 01843 834767 gibbszzz@btinternet.com





1st WESTGATE RAINBOWS

For Girls aged 4 to 7 years

Meets Fridays in term time

4.15 to 5.15pm

Westgate Community Centre

APPLY HERE : <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

Any queries: westgaterainbows@outlook.com



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/>

Diocese of Canterbury

Guidance on the Distribution of Holy Communion

March 2025

The normal practice for the distribution of the bread and wine of Holy Communion in the Church of England has, since the reformation, been for both bread and wine to be consumed by each communicant and for wine to be distributed from a common cup.

From time to time there have been situations in which advice or instruction has been given to suspend the use of the common cup in a health emergency and following public health advice. Two examples of this this century have been the outbreak of “Swine ‘Flu” in the 2000s and, more significantly, the COVID-19 pandemic in the early 2020s. Many churches across the Diocese of Canterbury have not resumed the normal practice of distributing Holy Communion after the pandemic.

Since 2022 there have been no restrictions on the use of the common cup and on communion in both kinds. The House of Bishops’ COVID-19 Recovery Group’s advice states that

*Holy Communion should be administered in both kinds unless there is a clear and objective reason why there would be a significant risk in doing so, such as local public health warnings relating to coronavirus levels in your area. It is important that no pressure is placed on members of the congregation to receive the sacrament if they feel unable to do so. **Because of ongoing potential risks to health, an individual communicant may choose to receive only in the form of bread even if consecrated wine is being distributed.***

Therefore, normal practice should now be considered to be for Holy Communion to be distributed in both kinds (bread and wine) and that the common cup be used. Incumbents and Parochial Church Councils of churches where the common cup has not been reintroduced are encouraged to consider its reintroduction and that the normative practice of the Church of England be resumed across the Diocese. The use of individual glasses or cups for individual communicants remains unlawful.

Public health and good hygiene remain important. Therefore

- Those who feel unable to receive the common cup may receive Holy Communion in one kind (bread) only.
- Individual communicants may not dip the bread into the wine (intinction) themselves.
- Care should continue to be taken by those presiding at Holy Communion to maintain high levels of hygiene, including hand washing.
- Those who show symptoms of illness should take steps to minimise their contact with others, including at Holy Communion.
- In cases of particular need, individual communicants may request the minister to dip the bread in the wine (intinction) before giving it to the communicant. **However, this is the exception rather than the norm.**
- PCCs may continue to make local arrangements for how any greeting is organised at the Peace in services of Holy Communion.

+Rose Dover

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Toddler Time Group meets Monday mornings 9.15am to 11.30am. **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 As announced.

Friday Pop In 10.30am to 12 noon

St Saviour's Church has a Hearing Loop System

Large print Hymn Books 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 .

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