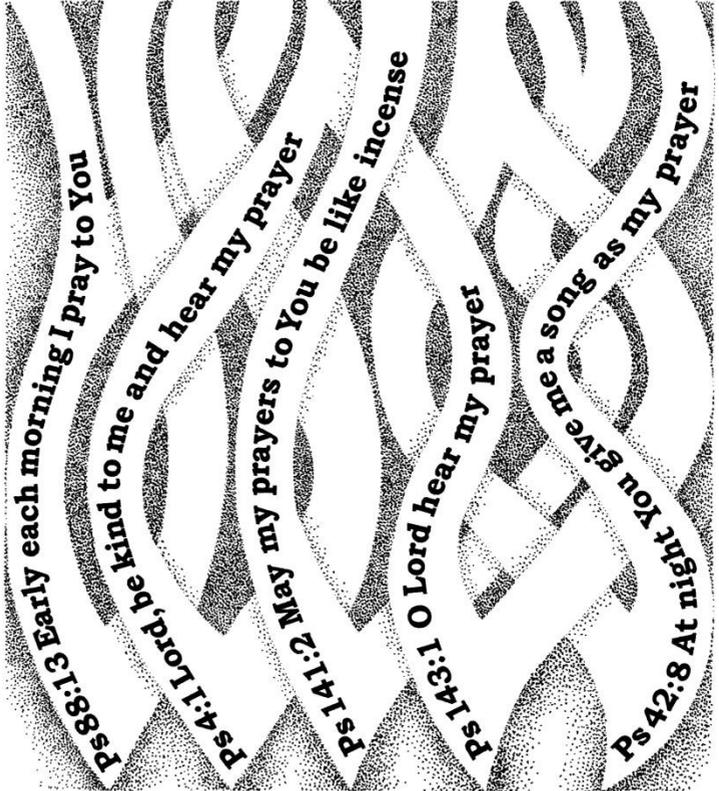


# FOCUS MAGAZINE



March  
2019



ST MARY THE VIRGIN, DOVER

with AYCLIFFE CHURCH CENTRE and

ST MARTIN OF TOURS, GUSTON

40p

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## RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear friends,

Lent begins on March 6<sup>th</sup> but, this year, my challenge to you is this:

**Don't give something up for Lent; *take* something up.**

The idea of giving something up comes from the link between the forty days of Lent and Christ's forty-day fast in the wilderness. In the desert, Jesus faces his fears and emerges determined to fulfil his calling. From now on, he seeks and expresses his unity with God, and he invites us to seek it, too.

Lent, then, is really about following Christ's path towards an intimate union with God:

It's true, we cannot reach Christ's fortieth day;  
Yet to go part of that religious way  
Is better than to rest:  
We cannot reach our Saviour's purities;  
Yet are we bid, *Be holy even as he.*  
In both let's do our best.

(George Herbert: from *Lent*, 1633)

Going without something for a while in order to focus on something more important can be useful. But pointless unless it results in permanently changed priorities. So, this year, I invite you to take up an ancient practice which will help you do just that. A practice which acts like a conduit to God. A practice in which God's consciousness begins to adjust and shape your consciousness. It is called ***Lectio Divina*** – or 'sacred reading'.

Step 1: Dust off that old Bible and put a bookmark at the start of St Mark's Gospel.

- Step 2: Find a quiet place and time in your day. Turn off your mobile phone.
- Step 3: Read a very short section of the Gospel (maybe three verses or so) slowly, and aloud.
- Step 4: Pause for a moment of silence and then do it again. Be attentive to any words or phrases which particularly strike you.
- Step 5: Allow your reason, imagination and memory to make connections between those words or phrases and your present situation.
- Step 6: Sit with your thoughts and feelings and then shape them into a simple prayer.
- Step 7: Do it each day if you can, but always come back to it if you miss a day.

*Lectio Divina* is surprisingly simple, but surprisingly powerful. Joyce Rupp beautifully encapsulates what it can be during Lent:

The cosmos dreams in me  
while I wait in stillness,  
ready to lean a little further  
into the heart of the Holy.

I, a little blip of life,  
a wisp of unassuming love,  
a quickly passing breeze,  
come once more into Lent.

No need to sign me  
with the black bleeding ash  
of palms, fried and baked.  
I know my humus place.

This Lent I will sail  
on the graced wings of desire,  
yearning to go deeper  
to the place where  
I am one in the One.

Oh, may I go there soon,  
in the same breath  
that takes me to the stars  
when the cosmos dreams in me.

(Joyce Rupp: *Lent 2001*)

May your Lent be a joyful voyage of discovery.

All good wishes,

Revd Dr John Walker

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## PARISH REGISTERS



## DEATHS

16th January Dorothy Byrne

28th January Heather Towers



## WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

*Those on our prayer list who are ill, in hospital or at home, or who are housebound In order that we better care for one another, please would you let Angie Stupple know if there is someone who is in hospital or housebound and who would appreciate a visit.*

## WORSHIP AND PRAYER DIARY FOR MARCH 2019

Fri 1 10.30am Women's World Day of  
Prayer service in the parish centre.  
Refreshments from 9.45am.

Sat 2 6.00pm Evening Prayer  
8.30pm Morning Prayer

### SUN 3 Sunday before Lent

9.30am Holy Communion at Aycliffe

10.45am SUNG EUCHARIST

Mon 4 7.00pm Ignite-D

Tue 5 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Wed 6 10.00am Holy Communion (CW)

1.30pm Tot's Praise

3.00pm Herald Memorial Service

Fri 8 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Sat 9 8.30am Morning Prayer

10.00-2.00 Community Cafe

9.30pm Evening Prayer at St Edmund's Chapel

### SUN 10 First Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.45am SUNG EUCHARIST, with Baptism of  
Mariam, Taiwo & Kehinde Ibrahim

Mon 11 7.00pm Ignite-D

Tue 12 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Wed 13 10.00am Holy Communion (CW)

1.30pm Tot's Praise

Thur 14 2.30pm Mothers' Union meeting in  
Parish Centre

Fri	15	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
Sat	16	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		3.00pm	Wedding of Phillip Bassett & Kylie Holmes, with Baptism
		9.30pm	Evening Prayer at St Edmund's Chapel

**SUN 17 Second Sunday of Lent**

		9.30am	Holy Communion at Aycliffe
		10.45am	SUNG EUCHARIST
Mon	18	7.00pm	Ignite-D
Tue	19	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
Wed	20	10.00am	Holy Communion (CW)
		1.30pm	Tot's Praise
Fri	22	6.00pm	Evening prayer
Sat	23	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		9.30pm	Evening Prayer at St Edmund's Chapel

**SUN 24 Third Sunday of Lent**

		8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.45am	SUNG EUCHARIST
Mon	25	7.00pm	Ignite-D
Tue	26	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
Wed	27	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		1.30pm	Tot's Praise
Fri	29	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
Sat	30	8.30am	Morning Prayer
		9.30pm	Evening Prayer at St Edmund's Chapel

**SUN 31 Mothering Sunday**

		10.45am	SUNG EUCHARIST
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## **JOHN'S SABBATICAL LEAVE**

I have been in the Dover Town Benefice for almost 4 years, and I have been in ordained ministry for 31 years. I have never had study leave before. So I'm going to be on Sabbatical Leave from 26<sup>th</sup> Feb to 26<sup>th</sup> May. My focus will be on Listening. Listening to God, and listening to people.

My intention is to explore the way in which the practice of contemplative prayer and reflective listening is connected with spiritual formation and effective ministry.

Being the Rector of the newly formed Dover Town Team, and Area Dean for a lot of the time, has been frenetically busy and often focused on organisation and quick-fix problem-solving. But I've discovered that when I've given time to really listen to God and people, and explore what's going on behind the scenes, well, that's when the most fruitful decisions have been made.

So I'm going to spend these three months in meditation, study, prayer, writing and walking. I will also be completing a foundation course in Counselling. And I will be considering how the pattern of my own future ministry might be able to shift away from administration towards a more pastoral and prayerful practice.

Please pray for me!

Revd Dr John Walker

## OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCH

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January, St Mary's PCC decided to explore the possibility of developing the interior of our church. We haven't decided *definitely* to do anything. Just to explore what the possibilities might be.

Why are we interested in exploring this? Well, the world around us is changing. Communities are fragmenting; individuals are more isolated; people no longer gather as they once did; faith in God is much rarer, and commitment to God can no longer be taken for granted; the Church is no longer thought relevant to personal aspiration, relationships, community, finance, politics or even spirituality. This has resulted in church attendance declining and the average worshipping age rising with each generation, causing many church worshipping communities to struggle in their Christian witness.

So what can we do? We can realise that we've got lots to offer our town and the people around us. We can celebrate and build on our strengths. We can be more deliberate about making them known. We can raise the profile of our church.

One possibility is that we could consider redesigning the layout of our church to help us meet the needs of our congregation and the wider community. A more comfortable, flexible space could enable us to:

- Host concerts, building on our tradition of being a centre for excellence in music
- Offer lectures and talks, engaging with an increasing appetite for life-long learning
- Hire out a space for day conferences and training events
- Have flexibility for different kinds of services or celebrations

- Accommodate art, photography, historical or charitable exhibitions
- Be of more use to community groups in our town
- Become a learning centre for local schools, supporting their RE programmes

All these offer the potential not only of raising our profile in the town and building significant partnerships with our surrounding communities, but also of generating income.

We could also start a *Friends of St Mary's Association*. which could work well in two ways. First, it could raise significant money for work for building maintenance and refurbishment. Second, through a programme of meals, concerts and lectures, it could foster links and build friendships with those of goodwill towards us in the wider community. Many people have made a new commitment of faith and become church members through such initiatives.

So what happens now? Over the next few months we'll apply for some funding to commission our architects to do a full survey of the church; to identify those aspects of our heritage that should always be preserved, and to present a feasibility study of those things which could be changed to our advantage.

What then? Well, if the PCC thinks that there is some mileage in the architect's suggestions, we will present them to an open meeting of the church congregation. We'll explore the options together. We'll discuss together the best way forward. And all the opinions we canvas will go to the PCC to make a final decision about what we might do.

As soon as we have our architect's reports we will let you know.

Revd Dr John Walker



## NEWS FROM GUSTON

Our Sunday school meeting in February came just after Candlemas and so naturally our activities centred on this theme. It was good to welcome two new members from the village, who came to join us, making three new members in the last few months.

Cardboard tubes were placed on the table, together with coloured papers, glue, scissors and cellotape, with the challenge to make a candle. Once the pillars of the candles were completed, the greater challenge was to create a credible looking flame. This was variously achieved by cutting out gold or silver patterned card and fixing the flame inside the rim of the tube or by stuffing the tube with newspaper, then fashioning a flame out of gold tissue paper and fixing it onto the hidden newspaper. Each candle that was created reflected the individual character of its maker and much chatter and discussion took place during the process, as to what might and might not work and what was the best way to tackle the task.

We took note of the many candles around the inside of the church and it was explained that at the service the previous week, all the new candles had been blessed, ready to take up duty during the coming year. At this service, Canon Christopher Dent pointed out that in times past, which included at least 900 years of the life of our little church, candles would have been the only form of light and participants in its services would no doubt have been thrilled to have benefited from the marvel of electric light. Now that we have that precious commodity, we in our turn, revert to using candles, because we somehow feel that it adds something to our worship - the altar becomes more prominent, standing out from the surrounding dimness, focussing our attention on the most holy part of the church, the altar candles reminding us that Jesus is the Light of the World.

We have a candle stand at the back of our church, where candles can be lit to remember a loved one or as an aid to the prayer process. Sometimes it is difficult to put a prayer into words. Lighting a candle and being still in God's presence, is a way of accessing prayer when words elude us. It becomes a spiritual communication with God and as such, brings us closer to Him. A candle in our home can act as an aid to reflection, when sitting quietly and without distraction, we can spend time with God, focussing our eyes on the flame and allowing God to reach us through the stillness.



**Every Friday at 8am, Guston Morning Prayer**

**Guston Services for March:**

Sunday 3 March 6pm Evensong

Sunday 10 March 10-11am Sunday School

Sunday 17 March 6pm Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 31 March 6pm Compline

**Guston Services for April:**

Sunday 7 April 6pm Evensong

Sunday 14 April 10-11am Sunday School

Sunday 21 April 6pm Holy Communion (BCP)

**Sun 7 Apr APCM after 6pm Evensong**

There is an Electoral Roll revision this year. If you would like your name to be included in the Roll for St Martin of Tours, Guston, please contact us via the website:

<http://www.gustonparishchurch.org.uk/>

We are holding a Quiz Night in The Chance Inn on Thursday 11 April at 7.30pm. £5 per person, including chips in the interval.

## NEWS FROM THE MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the month at 2.30 pm in the Parish Centre.



We had an interesting meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February, St Valentine's Day. We explored the legend behind St Valentine, who was a Saint and Bishop of Terni, Narnia and America in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Very little is reliably known about him and a possible two others by that name. It is known that St Valentine was arrested and beheaded when he refused to renounce his Christian beliefs. He was beheaded at the Flaminian Gate, north of Rome on February 14<sup>th</sup> 269. Since then he has been commemorated on that date in the Roman Catholic, Anglican Communion, Eastern Orthodox Church and Lutheranism. Many churches have been named after him, but no churches in England. Relics have been reportedly found in various European countries. Since the Middle Ages this date has been associated with a tradition of 'Courtly Love', as mentioned in the writings of Geoffrey Chaucer. It is believed that birds paired in mid February and was then associated with St Valentine. Valentine Cards were mentioned in Victorian times – Thomas Hardy wrote "Far From the Madding Crowd", where Bathsheba Everden sends an unsigned valentine card to Mr Boldwood as a joke, little realizing the tragic consequences it would lead to! Today St Valentine's Day is celebrated with fun and commercialism with cards, flowers, chocolates, gifts and romantic dinners. It does have a 'feel' good factor about it, even if the 'chap' living 1700 years ago, who possibly started it all, is now forgotten!

The next meeting will be on Thursday March 14th - speaker will be the Revd Sean Sheffield leading us on "Lenten and Easter Thoughts".

It would be lovely to encourage more people to come to our meetings, where you will find a very warm welcome.

**Dates to Remember:-**

**Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup>** – M.U. Corporate Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel at 10.00am

**Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup>** – M.U. meeting at 2.30pm in the small hall of the Parish Centre – the speaker will be the Revd Sean Sheffield, “Lenten and Easter Thoughts”.

**Monday March 18<sup>th</sup>** – ‘Wave of Prayer’ at 1.20pm. Venue to be arranged.

Looking forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Christine Lowe – Branch Leader (01304 214047)

## **JAMS, MARMALADES, PICKLES AND CHUTNEYS**

Made by Christine and her son Andrew (Lowe)

Although we did not do this last autumn 2018, I had various people ask if we will be doing this again and made requests for marmalade and jam.

We thought that we would possibly make the jams and marmalades throughout the year, and when October comes we would make the pickles and chutneys for Christmas and for presents, as we have done over the last few years.

Andrew and I would like to raise money this time for “Breast Cancer Research”. Quite a number of those in the congregation and friends, including myself have had Breast Cancer. As many of you will know that mine and Tony’s daughter Fiona and Andrew’s sister has just been diagnosed with an aggressive breast cancer at the young age of 37, with two small daughters of seven and five years.

Independently Andrew and I thought we would like to raise money for research into the disease, which hopefully will help those women now and in the future. Andrew’s colleagues, where he works, have supported this in the past for “Kelly” and are supporting our efforts, as we hope you will.

You can order these throughout the year :-

Strawberry Jam.....£2.00

Raspberry Jam.....£2.00

Blackcurrant Jam.....£2.00

Orange Marmalade.....£2.00

Lemon Marmalade.....£2.00

We do not take expenses and all the money raised will go to “Breast Cancer Research”.

Thank you from

Christine, Tony and Andrew Lowe

## **TODDLER ROCK BECOMES TOT'S PRAISE!**

Toddler Rock is undergoing a makeover! After 14 years with Toddler Rock (since it began in 2005) I decided it was time to step down from leading the group. We have been struggling to increase our number of families belonging to the group for a couple of years and when two of our most faithful members go to school in September the group would no longer be viable. I am very grateful to Moira, Brenda and Dorothy for their commitment and enthusiasm over the years.

So now Toddler Rock has a new leader and a new name. From Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March it will be called 'Tot's Praise' and Ruth Sheffield is leading the group assisted by Zelma Tingey. The frequency is changing from twice a month to weekly but term time only and the start time will change to 1.30pm. Moira and Brenda will continue helping twice a month and Ruth's mum and Una Mills are helping with refreshments on the other weeks. Sadly, we say goodbye and a huge thank you to Dorothy. Ruth and Zelma bring great energy and new ideas and I am sure that group will go from strength to strength under their leadership.

Trish Godfrey





## Answers on page 33

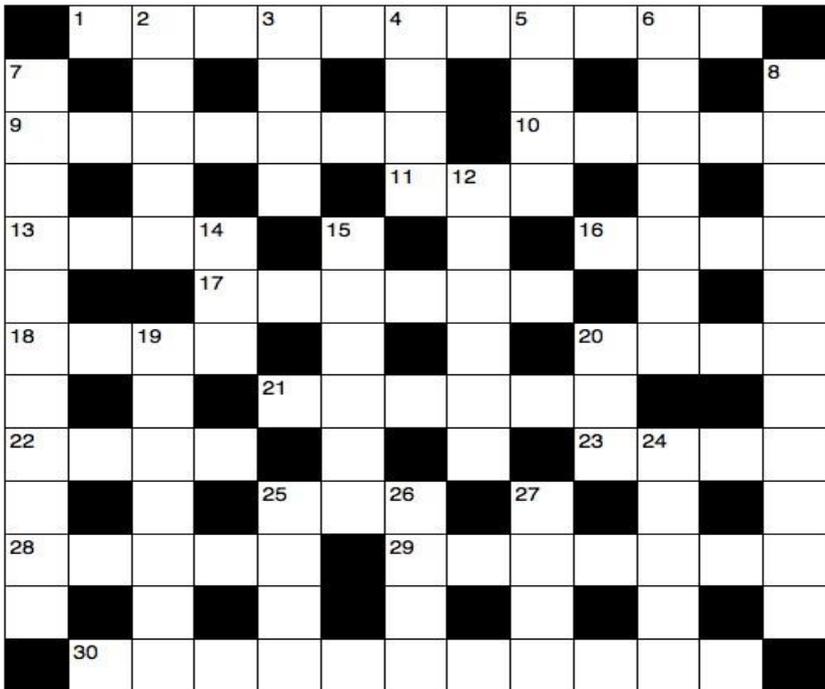
### Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
- 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
- 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
- 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
- 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

### Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
- 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
- 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)

- 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)  
 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)  
 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)  
 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)  
 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)  
 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)  
 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)  
 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)  
 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)



## **DOVER GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS**

Proposals for the redevelopment of Dover Grammar School for Boys, on the hill overlooking Astor Avenue, are to be revealed at an exhibition at the school on Tuesday, February 26 (3.30 pm-8 pm).

The exhibition, organised by Kier Construction Ltd, is designed to get the public's reaction to the proposed changes. Kier say it is the company appointed by the Department for Education for any work.

For years there have been complaints from teaching staff that the iconic building, reflecting some aspects of Dover Castle across the valley, is no longer fit for purpose because of need for repairs and overcrowding. Kent County Council, owners of the school building, has been considering the future but keeping quiet about the future.

The school building was officially opened in December 1931 seven years after the Astor Avenue site, near the top of Whinless Down, was selected. The hillside had to be terraced for the building and for the extensive playing fields.

One of the present ideas has been to demolish the building and re-build another on the site, yet another to provide additional classrooms on the playing fields. A more ambitious proposal is to build a completely new school building on one of the playing fields, possibly Leney's Field.

Thousands of Dover and Deal students have received their education in the present building with some expressing opposition to demolishing the property.

The "old boys" organisation, the Old Pharosians Association, even asked the local civic group, The Dover Society, about its views if action should be

taken to try to get the school building listed because of its architecture value which was designed, with its tower, to reflect aspects of Dover Castle. The Dover Society replied it was worth a try.

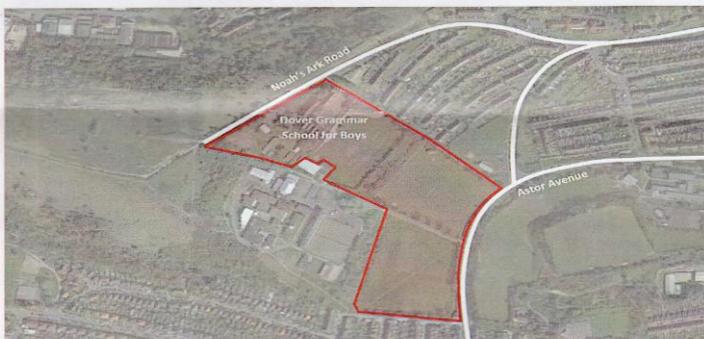
Terry Sutton



## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

### **Dover Grammar School for Boys**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
3.30pm to 8.00pm  
At Dover Grammar School for Boys**



**As a member of the local community you are invited to attend an exhibition to view initial proposals for the replacement of teaching facilities at Dover Grammar School for Boys. The information will be on display at an informal drop-in exhibition where you will have an opportunity to see and comment on what has been developed to date.**

## **ST MARY THE VIRGIN & AYCLIFFE CHURCH CENTRE PREPARATION OF NEW CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL 2019**

Every six years a new Church Electoral Roll has to be prepared for each parish. For the parish of St Mary the Virgin with Aycliffe Church Centre, Dover this will happen in early 2019 (the last new roll was prepared in 2013). All persons over the age of 16, including those who become 16 in the next twelve months, who are resident in the parish or who have habitually attended worship in the parish during the previous six months, are eligible to apply for enrolment on the new Electoral Roll.

As you will be seeing or hearing from the notices displayed in church at St Mary's and Aycliffe, and announcements in church the new Electoral Roll will be produced during the early months of this year and in readiness for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April. This means that you must fill in a new application form or you will not be included on the new Electoral Roll. Even if you feel yourself to be a new member of our Church Family please consider inclusion on the Electoral Roll.

If you wish to be entered on the new Electoral Roll you must complete an application form and return it to me by 10th March 2019 to enable me to produce and display the new roll, and submit it to the Diocese. You will find an application form with this copy of Focus, together with this letter.

If you regularly visit former members of the congregation who are no longer able to attend church perhaps you could advise me and possibly take application forms (to be found in a plastic sleeve at the back of the church or at Aycliffe) to those wishing to remain on the Roll.

To return completed forms:

- return them to me directly at 9 Marlborough Road, Dover CT17 9ND; or

- place them in the large green folder marked 'Electoral Roll Forms' on the cupboards opposite the notice boards at the rear of St Mary's, or via whoever is taking the service at Aycliffe.

MANY THANKS

Lindsay Powell-Williams

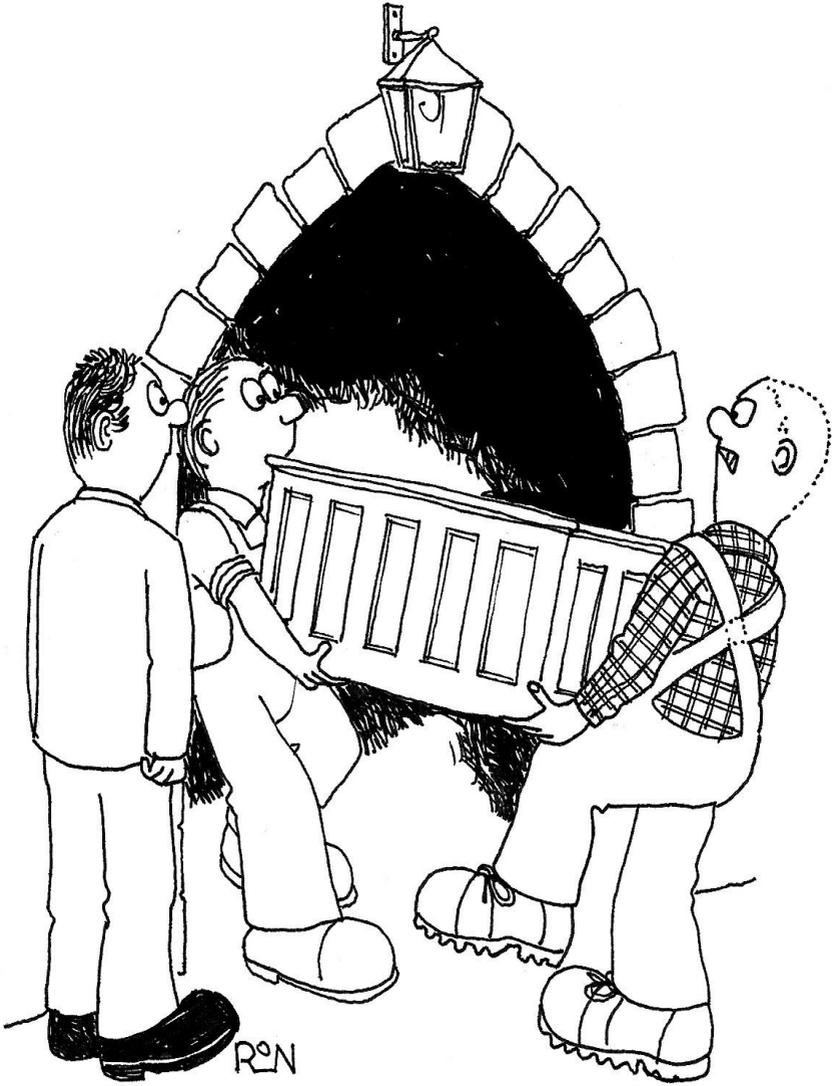
## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in the Parish Centre, Dover, on Sunday 28th April at 4.00pm.



## **PASTORAL CARE**

If you or someone you know would like a visit from our Pastoral Care team, please contact either our Pastoral Care Dover Town Co-Ordinator Angie Stupple on 07966056940 or St Mary's Pastoral Care Team Leader Gill Neal on 07721336956



*It was Lent, so they took it back*

## **WINTER NIGHT SHELTER**

For the third year running St Mary's has been part of Dover Night Shelter. I have had the privilege of being co-ordinator on your behalf.

In comparison to other shelters in East Kent, Dover has the least number of volunteers, no local authority funding and the highest number of guests. 24 guests have used the shelter for one night or more with 14 being the highest in a single night. Despite this we have had amazing results.

2 have transitioned to Residential Christian Rehabilitation

2 have reunited with family and are housed

1 has joined Emmaus

4 have been housed with the help of Porchlight

St Mary's is one of seven churches in our area to open their doors once a week for three months. We have a very solid group of volunteers who turn up every week to serve, cook and enjoy supper with our guests, stay overnight and show up at 6.00am to serve breakfast and clean the centre. For some their vital help maybe cooking a meal, or donating funds. I would like to thank every single one of them.

Most of the volunteers are not associated with St Mary's, I would like our congregation to consider being part of this rewarding mission.

Janet Haig

## **NEW BISHOP OF DOVER: Statement of Needs**

We have published our Statement of Needs, which will shape the process of appointing the next Bishop of Dover. The 12-page document outlines the characteristics the committee believes are important in our new bishop, as well as offering an introduction to the Diocese, our strategic direction and priorities. It says:

“The ministry of The Bishop of Dover is a unique one within The Church of England and needs someone with particular gifts and qualities who is secure in their episcopal vocation. There is something about this ministry which is lived out ‘on the edge.’ The geographical location is on the edge of the UK near to Calais and at a time of national uncertainty about Brexit, the diocese’s position as the front line for those seeking refuge in the UK will become even more crucial. It is lived out ‘on the edge’ in places like Sheppey and Thanet in terms of indices of multiple deprivation, or in the many rural areas where multi parish benefices need constant encouragement. As an episcopal ministry it is on the edge of The Archbishop of Canterbury’s ministry and often on the edge of The Cathedral. This person needs to be comfortable and energised moving from the centre to the edge and back again, sometimes in the same day and not always at their own choosing.”

Taken from ‘The Briefing’ a weekly update from the Diocese.

## **BISHOP OF DOVER**

The quest has begun to find a new Bishop of Dover, a post going back 483 years. And, for the first time in history, a woman could be appointed. The Right Reverend Trevor Wilmott, our bishop, retires in May but the search for his successor has already begun. Whoever is appointed faces a big job because the Bishop of Dover acts, throughout the diocese, as a “stand in” for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

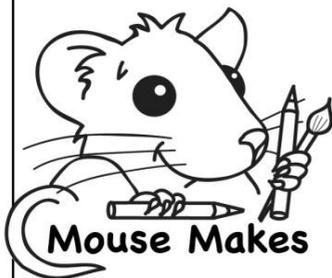
The diocese, with its centre at Canterbury, is home to around 950,000 people but only about two in every hundred attend regularly in any of the 334 Anglican churches (in 231 parishes) in the diocese which is split up into 15 deaneries of which Dover is one. Over the last five years church attendance in the diocese has fallen by ten per cent.

The new bishop will have a role in the area’s 103 church schools and Canterbury Christ Church University which is a Church of England foundation.

In the diocese, according to a Canterbury official, there are 142 paid clergy, 75 self-supporting (unpaid) ministers, 104 lay readers and 425 authorised lay ministers.

And those applying for the post of Bishop of Dover will be reminded that the diocese is the first port of call for refugees and other seeking sanctuary from the Continent.

Terry Sutton



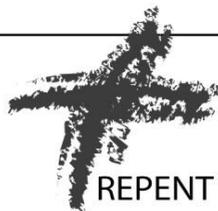
During Lent read through the Gospel of Luke and each day pray for God to help you become more like Jesus

Lent is the name given to the **40 days** before Easter and is a time to *pray*, to *read* the bible and to *turn* to God. The first day of Lent is **Ash Wednesday**, a day to *repent* and say *sorry* to God for the wrong things we have *said* or *thought* or *done*.

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

Can you find these words in the word search above?

LENT • ASH WEDNESDAY • FORTY DAYS  
 JESUS • WILDERNESS • TEMPTATION • PRAY • FAST  
 DENY • REPENT • SORRY • FORGIVE • GIVE • HELP  
 PREPARE • REFLECT • THINK • READ • SCRIPTURE  
 BIBLE • WORD • REMEMBER • WORSHIP • GOD



## **CHORAL EVENSONG**

On Sunday March 17th St Mary's Choir is being joined by Dover Community Youth choir to sing evensong at 4.00pm. This will be a lovely event. The music will include the anthem 'Were you there' by Whitbourne. This is the first time this anthem will have been sung at St Mary's. It is a very beautiful anthem. Other music will include the Rose Responses and the Mag and Nunc in A Flat by Harwood.

Please do come and join us to support all the singers, some will be coming from as far away as Chichester, Peterborough and Hertford. There will be refreshments in the hall afterwards.

Charles Spanner

## **HERALD MEMORIAL SERVICE**

This year's annual church service in memory of those who died on the Herald of Free Enterprise is to be held at a different time of the day, says the organisers, the Sailors Society.

The 32nd anniversary service at St Mary's Church, Dover is, as usual, on March 6 but will be held in the afternoon (3 pm) instead of the morning.

"The service will be followed with a reunion with tea/coffee and biscuits. Also following the service we hope to be able to cast flowers on the waters," says the Sailors Society which welcomes all to the service.

The Dover-based Townsend Thoresen roll-on roll-off car and passenger ferry Herald of Free Enterprise capsized shortly after departing Zeebrugge

on the evening of March 6 in 1987 resulting in the deaths of 193 passengers and crew. Many of the crew who died were from the Dover, Deal and Folkestone area.

## **DOVER SOUP KITCHEN**

Terry Sutton Volunteers who run Dover Soup Kitchen have once again thanked St Mary's Church for hosting the venture. In their annual report, published this month, Judith Shilling and Liz Waller say: "The good news towards the end of 2018 was that we had a response from Canterbury Diocese allowing us an extension to the faculty at St Mary's which would allow us to continue serving from there until May 2020."

They add that in the previous 12 months they had not received any complaints of ant-social behaviour from clients. The number of guests they serve each evening has been up and down "like a see-saw"-12 one night and 30 the next. That makes things difficult for the volunteers and clients. And there appears to be no reason for the fluctuations.

"Thanks as always to our wonderful volunteers and supporters", they conclude.

The soup kitchen comes under the umbrella of Christians Together in Dover which was holding its annual meeting on February 28th.

Terry Sutton

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

. **ACROSS:** 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

**DOWN:** 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

## ARTICLES FOR FOCUS

Please email any articles for the Focus to [nshilson@sky.com](mailto:nshilson@sky.com) or give handwritten ones to Natalie.

Natalie  
Editor

The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the editor.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

### St Mary the Virgin, Dover

<b>Team Rector</b>	Rev'd. Dr. John Walker, The Vicarage, Taswell St.	212012 07980 692813
<b>Asst. Curate</b>	Rev'd Sean Sheffield,	0771 0423432
<b>Reader</b>	Mrs Angie Stuppel	07966 056940
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mr Anthony Shilson, 18 Coombe Valley Rd	204162
	Mr Nigel Simmons, 28 Odo Road	205291
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	Mr Stephen Yarrow, 39 Whitfield Hill	07824 708657
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Mrs Barbara Stapleton, c/o Parish Office	07910123259
<b>Director of Music</b>	Mr Malcolm Munro	
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<b>Drama Group</b>	Mrs Jan Smith, 150 Lewisham Road	827952
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	Mrs Gill Neal	07721336956
<b>Men's Fellowship</b>		
<b>Tot's Praise</b>	Mrs Ruth Sheffield, St Andrew's Vicarage	07736243528
<b>Messy Church</b>		
<b>Parish Safeguarding</b>	Mrs Trish Simmons, 28 Odo Road	205291
<b>Co-ordinator</b>	Mrs Jan Smith, 150 Lewisham Road	827952
<b>Planned Giving</b>	Mrs Janet Paul, 111 Beauxfield, Whitfield	821329
<b>Bellringers</b>	Mrs Jean Easley, 30 Maxton Road	208370
<b>Christian Aid</b>		
<b>Parish Centre Hire</b>	Mrs Jill Sarjeant, Parish Office	213899
<b>Parish Centre Cleaner</b>	Mr Michael Finch	(c/o Parish Office)
<b>Aycliffe Church Centre</b>	Miss Nikki Goodfellow	07941 138384
	Rev'd Trish Godrey, 8 Longfield Road	206019

### St Martin of Tours, Guston

<b>Churchwarden/</b>	Mrs Glynis Farthing, 3 Church Farm Mews	
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	The Street, East Langdon	07714582130
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Mrs Margaret Saunders	01303862894



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