

# CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

## JULY & AUGUST 2022



### BUMPER SUMMER EDITION

- Pray for peace
- Join the MU Wave of Prayer
- If you're going on holiday buy something for the Christmas Fair
- Drop off some food for the Foodbank

**THIS MONTH** – more details will be found on our Sunday sheets

### JULY

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July St Thomas**  
**Third Sunday after Trinity**  
8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist  
(followed by refreshments)  
*We will be admitting three of our young people to communion during the service*

12noon & 1pm Holy Baptism

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July**  
10am Holy Communion

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July**  
9.30am Church Working Party – come and help keep the church tidy clean and fit for purpose

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Fourth Sunday after Trinity**  
8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments) with God's Gang

6pm Sea Sunday Evensong

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July**  
7.30pm Mothers Union We will be welcoming our speakers from AFIA - *Away from It All* - our local charity helping families to have short breaks. Leaflets are available from our MU table if you are interested.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July**  
10am Holy Communion

2pm First Steps service. If you are a family with pre-school children, please come and join in the fun.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July**  
11am Mother's Union International Wave of Prayer Day - meet at Church at 11.00 am followed by a shared lunch in the Choir Vestry. Please bring along a plate of food if you are able.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Fifth Sunday after Trinity**  
8am Holy Communion

**CELEBRATE & GIVE THANKS**

**SUNDAY 17th JULY**

**10am**

**Parish Eucharist**

*'One more step...'*



10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)  
**'One more step'** We will be celebrating the end of the school year and looking forward. We will also admit two young people to communion.

### **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

10am Holy Communion

7.45pm PCC meeting

### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

2pm Mustard Seed

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July**

#### **Sixth Sunday after Trinity**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July**

10am Holy Communion

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July

11am Pilgrim Group

### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July**

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

### **During July**

**MORNING PRAYER** will be said in church on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8.30am

You can join us on Zoom – see Church website for link. Check the Sunday Sheet for any changes.

**EVENING PRAYER** will be said on

Wednesdays at 5pm

### **WEDNESDAY MORNINGS Holy**

**Communion at 10am** continues through the month

## **AUGUST**

### **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August**

10am Holy Communion

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August**

#### **Eighth Sunday after Trinity**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August**

10am Holy Communion

2pm First Steps. Teddy Bears Picnic

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August**

From 9.30am Working morning



2.30pm Holy Matrimony

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August**

#### **Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

12noon and 1pm Holy Baptism

### **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August**

10am Holy Communion

3pm Mothers Union Tea@3

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August**

#### **Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August St Bartholomew**

10am Holy Communion

### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August**

11am Pilgrim Group

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

10am Holy Communion

### **During August**

#### **MORNING PRAYER & EVENING PRAYER**

will pause during August and resume on

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 5pm and Thursday

2<sup>nd</sup> September at 8.30am

**PILGRIM GROUP** pauses during August resuming on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September

### **WEDNESDAY MORNINGS Holy**

**Communion at 10am** continues through the month

### **SEPTEMBER Dates for the Diary**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Last Night of the Proms

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> MU Desert Island Discs

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Table Top sale

Is anyone up for RIDE&STRIDE on 10<sup>th</sup>?

## DON'T FORGET THE FOODBANK

During the Summer there will be many in our community who will be hungry, not least as children will be out of school and need feeding at home. Please remember the Gravesend Foodbank – **bags for donations are at the entrance of the church and church hall. You can also donate at Morrisons and Asda in the boxes by the exits.**



### Shopping list for most needed items - thank you!

- Tin sweetcorn
- Tin macaroni cheese
- Tin custard
- Small jars of instant coffee
- Microwaveable sponge puddings
- Ready made jelly
- Packets of instant couscous
- Packets of pasta and sauce

### Household and toiletries needed please - thank you!

- Washing up liquid
- Antibacterial spray and wipes
- Toilet cleaner
- Non-bio and bio laundry tablets

CHRIST CHURCH

# SEA SUNDAY



EVENSONG

6pm Sunday 10th July 2022

The image is a dark blue rectangular poster. At the top, the text "CHRIST CHURCH" is written in a white, all-caps, sans-serif font. Below this, the words "SEA SUNDAY" are written in a large, white, serif font. In the center is a white line-art illustration of an anchor with a leafy branch wrapped around its shank. At the bottom, the word "EVENSONG" is written in a white, all-caps, serif font, and below that, the text "6pm Sunday 10th July 2022" is written in a white, all-caps, sans-serif font.

## CROSSING THE BAR

Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea,  
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the  
boundless deep  
Turns again home.  
Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark;  
For tho' from out our bourne  
of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have cross'd the bar.

Tennyson

# JUBILEE WEEKEND at CHRIST CHURCH

See more on youtube [Christ Church celebrates the Platinum Jubilee! - YouTube](#)

## Service on the Big Screen (and a special visitor!)



We got off to a good start as the St Paul's service was relayed to the church. We sang the hymns, joined in the prayers and listened attentively to the Archbishop's sermon. We finished with a glass of something fizzy and a toast.

## The Big Sing – Captain Tom at the helm



An amazing musical treat with our scratch choir, Semiquavers, homegrown talent and some visitors. Watery connections were celebrated in song and prose. Well-known shanties were expertly matched with songs of love and battles. Even a song collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams in Gravesend.

The result was an amazing concert appreciated by audience and singers alike.



## And a street party (indoors)



### **A SUMMER POEM** (as read at the Big Sing)

#### **I Started Early – Took My Dog**

I started Early – Took my Dog –  
And visited the Sea –  
The Mermaids in the Basement  
Came out to look at me –

And Frigates – in the Upper Floor  
Extended Hempen Hands –  
Presuming Me to be a Mouse –  
Aground – upon the Sands –

But no Man moved Me – till the Tide  
Went past my simple Shoe –  
And past my Apron – and my Belt  
And past my Bodice – too –

And made as He would eat me up –  
As wholly as a Dew  
Upon a Dandelion's Sleeve –  
And then – I started – too –

And He – He followed – close behind –  
I felt His Silver Heel  
Upon my Ankle – Then My Shoes  
Would overflow with Pearl –

Until We met the Solid Town –  
No One He seemed to know –  
And bowing – with a Mighty look –  
At me – The Sea withdrew –

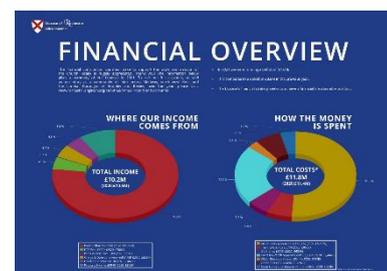
**Emily Dickinson**

## ROCHESTER DIOCESE Annual Report and Account 2021

The [Annual Report and Accounts for 2021](#) are now available, sharing the story of how we as a Diocesan family have worked through this tough year, *together*.

Despite the continued worry and uncertainty of 2021, local churches and others on the front line of ministry, supported by the Diocesan staff team, continued to step up to their respective callings without flinching. But there is still much to be thankful for. Our people. Their commitment. Their creativity.

[View the Annual Report and Accounts](#)



## MOTHERS UNION NEWS



### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm Speakers from AFIA



Away From It All (AFIA) is a Mothers' Union holiday scheme, primarily funded by our members, to give the opportunity of a break to those who may be experiencing stress or difficulties in their family life. On average, we help 2,500 people to have a holiday each year. Families are able to spend time together away from their stressful situations at home, engage in activities together and have fun. They often experience healing in their relationships by spending this quality time with each other.

### Wave of Prayer Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July

In our Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer Service we gather to give thanks for our Wave of Prayer links across the world in Toliara – Madagascar, Mbale – Uganda, Zaria and Ndokwa – Nigeria, Chhattisgarh – North India and Rochester United Kingdom. For the privilege of prayerful support that we both give and receive. Whether we pray alone, or together, in small or large groups, we can be assured that our Father in Heaven will hear us.



Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by Your Spirit, may be we united in prayer and worship and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name. Amen



**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

**CHRIST CHURCH MOTHERS' UNION**

Invite you, your family and friends

to

**T @ 3**

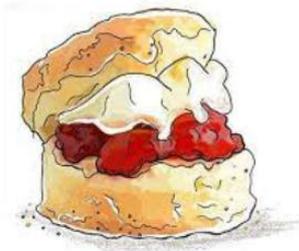


Raising funds for our own local projects  
and the  
Worldwide Summer of Hope appeal

On Wednesday 17th August 2022  
From 3.00 pm in Christ Church Hall  
and garden

Adults £3.00 Children £1.00  
(This includes your first drink and a cake)

Activities ~ Raffle ~  
Bring and Buy stall



# SUMMER FAIR returns

The sun was a shy visitor but it kept dry for a fun afternoon which raised over £1800

Thanks to Sheila and all who helped set up, sell, bake & make refreshments, clear up and so many more tasks. Footballs were kicked, teddy bears named, balloons were counted, a cake was weighed, prizes were raffled and a great time was had by all. And thanks to everyone who came to spend and enjoy themselves.



## PRAYER DIARY

	THE COMMUNITY	CHURCH
1	The Elderly	Those who use our hall
2	Those with poor mental health	Our preschool
3	The armed services	Our clergy
4	GPs and community health workers	Our Churchwardens and PCC
5	Schools and Nurseries	The children in our church God's Gang, First Steps and Christ Church Tots
6	Young people at university & college, or in work or apprenticeships	For vocations in the church, and those in training for ordained and lay ministry
7	The unemployed	Street Pastors
8	Our parliament and MP	Churches Together in Gravesend
9	The police	Our companion dioceses in Estonia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania
10	Social workers	Neighbouring Parishes
11	Children	Our lay ministers
12	Prisoners and prison staff	Prison chaplains
13	The victims of racism and discrimination	Christian Aid
14	Those who support people in the workplace	Our Bishops and Archdeacon
15	Our neighbours of other faiths	Those who are new in our church
16	Our local hospitals & chaplains	Christian Aid
17	All who work with young people School pastors	Baptism families
18	Those living with dementia	Our safeguarding team
19	Musicians and artists	Our organist, choir & Semiquavers
20	Family life	Our Mothers Union
21	Our councillors and council	Those who are persecuted for their faith
22	All involved in the production and distribution of food	Mustard Seed Those who are housebound
23	All who work on the river	Those preparing for marriage
24	Victims of domestic abuse	Those who care for our buildings
25	Those who care for green spaces	That we may be more aware of our impact on our planet
26	Those who are affected by modern day slavery	Our outreach to the community
27	Foodbanks and those who use them The homeless	Inclusive Church and all who work for inclusion and equality
28	Local businesses	The bereaved
29	Those fighting addictions	Uniformed organisations
30	Refugees and asylum seekers	Those who are housebound or isolated
31	Care Homes	Give thanks for our diversity

### FROM OUR REGISTERS:

#### Baptisms

19<sup>th</sup> June: George Badger, Oakley Johnson, Finn Davey

#### Weddings

25<sup>th</sup> June: Jacob Franklin and Sophie Watkins

#### Renewal of marriage vows

11<sup>th</sup> June David and Jo-Ann Walker

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



Tilly has rowed for 50km raising money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association – a feat that only took her 6.5 hours.

Alex has been celebrating his football training achievements with a recent award



**Can you spare a few hours on a Friday afternoon, a couple of times a month?**

Christ Church Tots are looking for help between 1pm and 3pm. Setting up the hall, welcoming families, making refreshments, clearing away afterwards. This is a vital part of our church's outreach to local families. Please speak to Jan Osborne if you can help.



### **Hearing God's Word: Interpreting and Applying the Bible**

A four-part course helping individuals gain confidence in reading understanding and applying the Bible message to their lives, will be offered in Gravesend beginning on 29<sup>th</sup> September at St George's Church over three Thursday evenings and a full day Saturday. A chance for the Gravesend Deanery churches to learn and work together. Please see the green leaflets at the back of church or talk to the Vicar if you are interested.



# Summer Film Night

Tuesday 16th August 7.30pm in the Church Hall

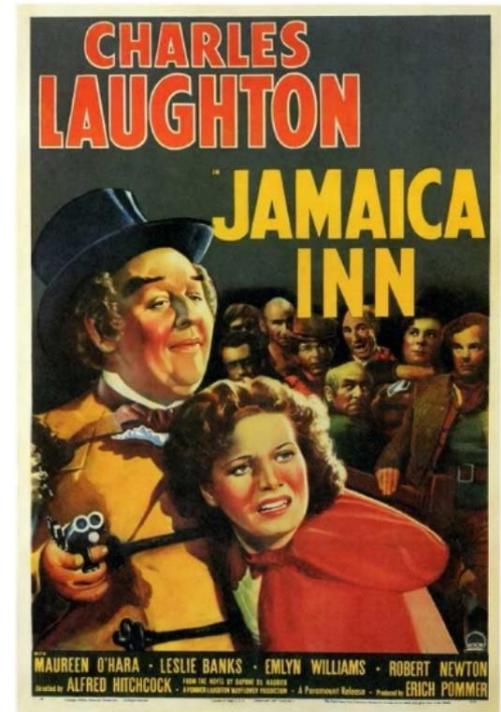
## *Jamaica Inn* (1939)

directed by Alfred Hitchcock

Starring Charles Laughton, Maureen O'Hara and Robert Newton

**A swashbuckling adventure with smugglers, wreckers, an orphan, a spy, a corrupt squire and a dodgy pub.**

Bring your own popcorn and drinks, and invite your friends.



## OPEN HOMES AND GARDENS

In aid of Christ Church funds

### GARDENS

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2.30pm Chris & Andy at 1 Farmcroft 2.30pm onwards

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July Lesley at 5 Northridge Road 2pm onwards

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July Veronica & Peter at 68 Pine Avenue 2pm to 6pm

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July Afternoon Tea at 16 Raphael Road with David & Martin 2.30pm

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August Morning coffee at 48 Windsor Road with Margot 10.30am



## St Thomas' Palace

3<sup>rd</sup> July is the Feast of St Thomas. Tradition calls St Thomas the Apostle of India, and there are many stories of how he travelled the Roman trade routes to preach in the coastal cities of South India and the northern kingdoms: Having spent time studying in India and now being in Gravesend with its Indian community and trading links there is something about St Thomas that I connect with – not least as I was ordained priest on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

One of those legends is retold in *The Golden Legend* a collection of saints' lives brought together in Italy in the thirteenth century by Jacobus de Voragine. (*The Golden Legend* was one of the most popular books of the Middle Ages. There is a Penguin Classics edition which is easily accessible especially if you are trying to understand some of the more obscure stories of the saints we find in renaissance art).

The legend tells how Thomas (the doubting one) came to India as a part of group of builders recruited to build a palace for King Gondoforus. The apostle drew up magnificent plans and received great treasure for the task. The king went on a journey looking forward to moving into his new a palace on his return. Thomas spent two years preaching and distributed the king's money to the poor. On his return the King was furious and threw Thomas into prison intending to flay him and burn him alive. Meanwhile the King's brother died – as the funeral was about to begin the young prince came to life and the mourners fled in terror. The prince said to his brother 'You must not harm the man of God. When the angels lead me in to paradise they showed me a wonderful palace. They told me "This is the palace that Thomas has built for your brother". "If only I could be a door keeper in such a place" the prince exclaimed. The angels returned the brother to life to tell the King the things he had seen and warn him that he might lose the palace if he if he proceeded with his plans for Thomas. The apostle was released from prison and told the King that such places can only be prepared through works of faith and charity. "Your riches may proceed you, but there is no way they can follow you".

In India today people often describe themselves as St Thomas Christians. We know there have been Christians in Kerala from very early in the Christian era. Many are attached to the ancient traditions that derive from their connections with Syrian merchants. One of the ancient prayers they use we sing as the hymn 'Strengthen for service Lord the hands that holy things have taken'.

Andrew

