

THE

CRAYFISHER

May 2020

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The magazine for the Parish of Cray Valley

No.60

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**Front Cover Picture: May Day, St Mary Cray courtesy of St Mary Cray
Action Group**

PARISH LETTER

Whilst public worship has been suspended and our buildings are closed the worship of our loving God continues and the Church continues to be alive and active.

Just as the Government message is simple and compelling, let us take this opportunity to look at the world around us more simply: the simple beauty of springtime, with trees bursting into blossom, is very apparent in the many open spaces near us which people are accessing for exercise and recreation, whilst observing proper social distancing; the simple peace of a world in which there is less traffic and less pollution; above all, the simple peace that is to be found in prayer, and in our eternal Hope, new every morning as we journey with God.

Pray for us, as we do for you, in these difficult days.

Thank you for the lovely photos we have been sent in so far, please see below;

Jessie x



Terry's Apple & Cinnamon Cake



Rev. Jane's Easter Garden



Harry's Chocolate Fudge Cake



Brenda's Easter Garden



George's Lemon Drizzle Cake



Terry's Garden Photo



Terry's Ginger Muffins



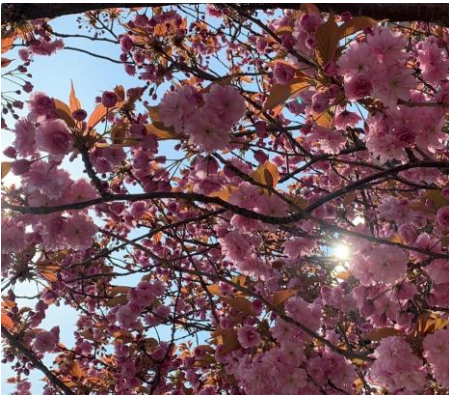
Katie's Easter Garden



Jamie's Garden Photo



Leila, Caitlin & Sienna's Double Chocolate Fudge Cake



Mother Jessie's Nature Photo



Baby robin in the garden by Jerry



Baby robin in the garden by Jerry

READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN MAY

	4TH FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Sun 4 th	Genesis 7 1 Peter 2. 19-end Gospel: John 10. 1-10
Sun 10 th	5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER Genesis 8. 1-19 1 Peter 2. 2-10 Gospel: John 14. 1-14
Sun 17 th	6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER Genesis 8. 20-9.17 1 Peter 3. 13-end Gospel: John 14. 15-21
Sun 24 th	7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER Ezekiel 36. 24-28 1 Peter 4. 12-14, 1 Peter 5. 6-11 Gospel: John 17. 1-11
Sun 31 st	PENTECOST Acts 2. 1-21 1 Corinthians 12. 3b-13 Gospel: John 20. 19-23

COLLECTS FOR EACH SUNDAY IN MAY

- Sun 3rd Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the
resurrection and the life;
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever: **Amen**
- Sun 10th Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us
the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before
us you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever: **Amen**
- Sun 17th God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may
raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever: **Amen**

Sun 24th O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our
Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever : **Amen**

Sun 31st God, who at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, now and for ever : **Amen**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT BOTH CHURCHES ARE CLOSED DUE TO
CORONAVIRUS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. WE ARE TRYING TO
PROVIDE MATERIAL SO PEOPLE CAN JOIN TOGETHER AND
WORSHIP AT 10AM ON SUNDAYS (OR WHEN CONVENIENT).
PLEASE CONTACT DANIELLE AT THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOU
ARE NOT RECEIVING THE WORSHIP MATERIAL.
ALL SOCIAL EVENTS TOO ARE ON HOLD.
WE WILL RESUME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

REGULAR SERVICES ACROSS THE PARISH

Even though we cannot join together in church at these times, we can still pray for our world, those in need and one another.

Items in **red** refer to **St Mary's**, **blue** to **St Andrew's**.

All services are open to everyone.

St Andrew's

Sundays 09:15

1st Sunday

Praise and Worship with Eucharist

Wednesday 12:00

Said Eucharist

Thursday 19:00

Said Eucharist

Friday 12:00

Healing & Wholeness with Said Eucharist and lunch

St Mary's

Sundays: 11.00

1st Sunday

Praise and Worship with Eucharist

2nd and 4th Sunday

Sung Eucharist

3rd Sunday

Informal Praise and Worship

5th Sunday

Family Holy Communion

Both churches

Saturdays

We cannot gather for Saturday social events at the moment, but how about phoning someone from church on a Saturday to see how they are? Your call may be the only one they have in a week.



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PLEASE NOTE

Sunday 26 April is our APCM but unfortunately due to the current Coronavirus situation, this has been put on hold for the time being. You will be informed when this is to take place. As always, please attend if possible. It is your chance to have a say in how your church is being managed.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE OF
THE CRAYFISHER IS TUESDAY 12 MAY. PLEASE HAVE
YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN BY THIS DATE – ANYTHING
RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE HELD OVER UNTIL
THE NEXT ISSUE

*Regular meetings of Rainbows are in St Andrew's church hall on Mondays
17:00-18:30 during term time. Brownies meet in*

St Andrew's church hall on Fridays 18:30-20:00 also during term time

THE CHURCH HALL AT ST ANDREW'S IS AVAILABLE
ON WEEKDAYS, WEEKENDS, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY
EVENINGS.

Please see page 20 for details of how to book either St Mary's or
St Andrew's hall

PARISH PRAYER GROUP

We cannot meet at Muriel's home but we are still praying for all in need especially at this time.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH OPEN HOUSE

St Mary's Church will be opening its doors again this year, details from Peter or Terry.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

For further details contact Tony Lathey 01689 872742

SOCIAL EVENTS

AT ST ANDREW'S AND ST MARY'S IN 2020

**PLEASE SEE NOTICE BOARDS AND LISTEN FOR NOTICES
TO GET THE FULL DETAILS**

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR MORE EVENTS TO COME

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
20 June	Cream Tea	St Andrew's
July TBC	BBQ	St Andrew's
18 July	Cream Tea	St Mary's
19 September	Quiz Night	St Andrew's
27 September	Salvation Army Concert	St Andrew's
17 October	Annual Dinner	St Andrew's
28 November	Christmas Fair	St Mary's

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL OF THE ABOVE SOCIAL EVENTS AND
OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE POSTPONED FOR THE TIME BEING.
YOU WILL BE INFORMED WHEN WE ARE ABLE TO RUN THEM.**

The above information is subject to change, so please check with the Parish Office and/or the church website for further updates.

TALL TOWERS: THE CHURCHES OF NEW ROMNEY, KENT

In an area with a flat landscape, a church tower can be a prominent landmark that is visible for miles. That certainly holds true of Romney Marsh in Kent. For example, if you stand on the coast at Greatstone with your back to the sea, your eye is drawn compellingly to ‘The Cathedral of the Marshes’ – I mean All Saints at Lydd. Then if you cross the miniature railway line to walk or drive inland to Lydd across the desolate but hauntingly atmospheric area of Dengemarsh you are awestruck by the majesty of the big grey stone tower. All Saints church dominates the quaint and sleepy village. At 199 feet it is the longest parish church in Kent. Its tower is one of the county’s tallest at 132 feet. Its origin traces back to the 5th century with Saxon and Roman features.

They evidently favoured solid, soaring stone towers in the Romney Marsh locality. St Mildred’s at Tenterden is 130 feet, 12th century, constructed in a locally quarried limestone ‘marble’ that sparkles in multi-colours. And then there’s the remarkable St Nicholas at New Romney [Photo]. It is made of Caen stone. It is hard to imagine that this 12th-century church once stood on the seafront but is now a mile inland. A mighty storm of 1287 silted up the port of Old Romney. Standing next to the church the Old School House of 1837 (nowadays the Town Museum) has a charming garden whose pavements include a nautical mosaic [Photo]. Romney was one of the old Cinque Ports. The other four were



Dover, Hastings, Hythe and Sandwich. The total comes to seven if you include the two 'Antient Towns' (no, that's not a spelling mistake!) Rye and Winchelsea.

Jerry Dowlen

UPDATE ON BURRSWOOD

As with other churches no further services are to be held at St Thomas' until the corona virus situation is cleared up. The Burrswood Estate has now been sold and discussions are ongoing with a local care home to take a lease on the main building by means of which it is hoped to be able to re-offer care and ministry at Burrswood. It is hoped that the Church of Christ the Healer will be able to re-open together with some of the ancillary activities and that God's work through the ministry of the church and outwards can continue. In the meantime, an on-line informal service, following the traditional pattern, will be available via Zoom at the usual time of 11.30 on Thursday mornings.

Malcolm Hubbard.

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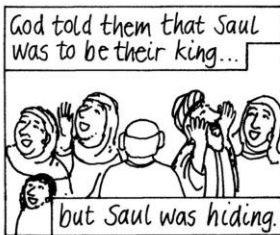
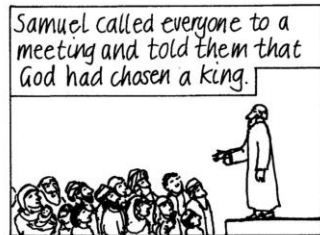
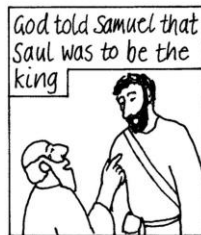
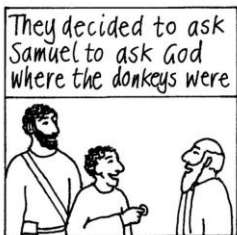
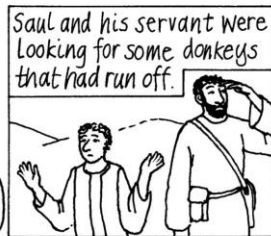
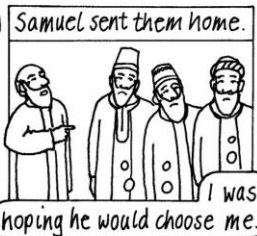
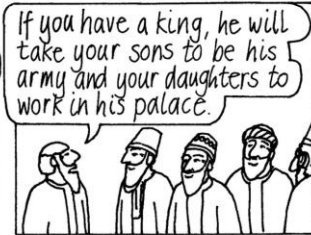
FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Samuel 8:1 - 10:1, 17-24

Samuel had been a good leader of Israel but he was now old. The leaders of the twelve tribes came to talk to him...



Florence Nightingale – the founder of modern nursing

Florence Nightingale was born 200 years ago, on 12th May 1820. Best known as the Lady with the Lamp who saved many lives in the hospitals of the Crimean War, she was also a social reformer, a statistician and the founder of modern nursing.

She was named after the Italian city of her birth, but the family moved back to England the following year, and she was brought up in Derbyshire. Here – and elsewhere – she had several experiences that she believed were calls from God to devote her life to the service of others.

She never married, but among her several close friends was Sidney Herbert, who became Secretary of War and helped to make her work in the Crimea possible. Some claim that she reduced the death rate in hospitals there from 42% to 2%. She introduced hand-washing and other hygiene improvements, but she never claimed personal credit for reducing the death rate.

Her work inspired nurses in the American Civil War, and in 1883 she became the first recipient of the Royal Red Cross. In 1907, she was the first woman to be awarded the Order of Merit. She died in 1910. Her image appeared on the reverse of £10 banknotes issued by the Bank of England from 1975 until 1994.

It is a fitting tribute to her that the emergency hospital just opened at the ExCel Centre in London is called the NHS Nightingale Hospital.

Courtesy of www.parishpump.co.uk

FROZEN II

This film is about Elsa, Anna, Kristof, Sven and the snowman Olaf. They are trying to find out the secret of the enchanted woods to save their home, Arundel.

They go on an adventure and meet a fiery lizard, rock giants, a funny air creature and a wild sea horse.

Elsa has to find the truth about her family to save the forest and her home.

My favourite character is Olaf the Snowman. He is very funny, and I watched one part four times because it made me laugh so much. I would recommend this film because it is very, very, funny and I love snow.

George Cooper, 7



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A MEMORY FROM DAYS GONE BY

The Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School magazine of 1965 recalled how a boy from the school* faced up cheerfully to the adversity in St Mary Cray and all throughout Britain in 1940.

Our school, I think, was the best in Kent
Before the Nazi bombers were sent:
They did their best to make it a wreck
But the A.A. gunners held it in check.
Our glass was blown from many a frame
But the masters, the teaching, the fun, is the same!

*This was the school at Crittall's Corner, a.k.a. 'The Glass House', currently Kemnal Technology College.

Jerry Dowlen

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MESSAGES OF HOPE

I've just finished reading 'Saying Yes to Life', the archbishop's Lent book by Ruth Valerio. At the end of the book Ruth gives lots of examples of Christians (a third of the world's population) who are caring for creation. How we care will vary but my hope is that we do act to care, not because the world is suffering but because it is our Christian calling (Genesis 1. 27-28). My message of hope is that our small acts do make a difference. It is easy to think they don't count but they do – because we are following God's invitation to care for creation. Hope means we carry on, even if we do not see the positive change we are making. Have a read of Romans 5. 1-5 and be encouraged.

Rev Jane Winter

Whilst these are extremely worrying and uncertain times, it is my hope and prayers that a vaccine will be found quickly. Maybe at the end of the "Crisis" we will be living in a much kinder and more thoughtful World. The things we have all taken for granted for so long could have much more value. Do we need to have our comfortable lifestyle stripped away to make us appreciate what a privileged way of life we enjoy?

It has certainly made me reflect on how fortunate we are to have enough food and home comforts every day.

I will try to live more mindfully going forward. Not to overindulge or waste resources.

Let's all be more thankful to God for the simple pleasures in life.

Hoping all my friends and family survive without too much stress and discomfort.

I joined in the applause for the NHS tonight (26 March) - tapped into my inner-child and banged a saucepan with a wooden spoon - a lot in my road joined in. It was very emotional, and I can recommend it as a stress buster.

God Bless

Rita McKay

In the January edition of The Crayfisher we had a quotation by Minnie Louise Haskins “Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown” and the reply was “Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God”. We didn’t know at the beginning of this year what troubled times we were about to face but these words have given me comfort and strength and not to be afraid. *Doreen Parsfield*

I was listening to the news a few days ago and it was mentioned that because of the very much reduced number of cars and lorries on our roads, the air pollution is also very much reduced. Is this virus sent to help nature recover from all the pollution we have been subjected to over the years? It makes me hopeful that people will take note of this and maybe not use their cars so much after the virus has disappeared, after all, they have managed quite well without their cars during the pandemic. *Brenda Smith*

Easter reminds us that hope must never be lost for as dark as the road may seem, there always lies light at the end of it. May all your prayers be fulfilled. I wish you and your loved ones the renewal of love, happiness, and life. Have a wonderful Easter! Romans 8:34: "Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."

Stella Matumo

STOP PRESS!

It has just been announced that the Rock Choir have cancelled their event with us on 21 June due to the Coronavirus outbreak.