

THE

CRAYFISHER

September 2021

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The magazine for the Parish of Cray Valley

No.76

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The editorial team reserve the right to edit, and condense
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Valley

***Front Cover Picture: Jersey Tiger Moth by Malcolm Hubbard
photographed on his way home from St Mary's on 1 August***

PARISH LETTER

Endings and Beginnings

If you ask many young people, this month ‘which school are you at’ or ‘where do you study’ the answer will not be as simple as it was last month. Many of our young people will have just left primary school and will be waiting to start secondary school, some have finished GCSEs and are waiting to begin their further education and others will be waiting to start their higher education at universities and colleges around the country. You may also find yourself chatting with young people who have recently graduated and are moving on to the rest of their lives.

These young people are living in between times. They have finished one thing, with all the joy, sadness and memories leaving brings, and are waiting to begin another, with all the excitement, anticipation and anxiety that herald a new start. As they wait, I’m sure, they will be encouraged to prepare themselves, as best they can, so when they start the new thing, they are as ready as they can be to make the best of new opportunities.

Young people are not the only ones who have to wait, as we mature, we can often find ourselves in between times. We find ourselves between homes and relationships, between jobs, working and retirement, between parenting our own children and becoming grandparents, between full lives and lives of more leisure. As we wait, I hope that we are encouraged to prepare, as best we can, for the next thing so that when it comes, we too can take advantage of the opportunities that arise.

The church has always existed in between times. From the moment Jesus' disciples watched him ascend to heaven we have been waiting for his return. Unlike young people waiting till September for a new start, we have no idea when Jesus will return and a new phase of life with God will begin. During the church's between times, we are encouraged to prepare for Jesus' return in the best way we can. We are encouraged to read and study God's word so we can live the way he wishes us to, we are encouraged to accept Jesus' love and forgiveness so we can share it with

others, and we are encouraged to welcome the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives so we can be guided and blessed all the time.

Waiting for the next 'thing' is never easy but we don't wait alone, God's plan is that we might prosper and live life in its fullness while we wait. Whatever you are waiting for I pray that when it comes you will be ready for it and take every opportunity offered you to flourish.

Jessie

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

This has been a tough year financially for us as a Parish and as individuals.

Just a reminder that it is quick and easy to set up a standing order. There is no minimum giving, all and any contributions are gratefully received.

Please see the bank details below.

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If you need any help, please contact Linda on 07815071165.

Parish Office

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Sign-up now and start raising money for St Mary's and St Andrew's Church

WELCOME BACK TO MIDWEEK EUCHARIST

I am pleased to invite you all back to our Wednesday Eucharist and Healing Service from September.

This service will start at 11.30am and alternate weekly between our two churches. The first service will be at St Andrew's on 1st September.

I hope to see many of you there as we begin to re-emerge and heal together.

Jessie

REGULAR SERVICE DATES

SUNDAYS

5th St Andrew's 10 a.m.

12th St Mary's 10 a.m.

19th St Andrew's 10 a.m.

26th St Mary's 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS

1st St Andrew's 11.30 a.m.

8th St Mary's 11.30 a.m.

15th St Andrew's 11.30 a.m.

22nd St Mary's 11.30 a.m.

29th St Andrew's 11.30 a.m.

READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Sun 5th 14th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Proverbs 22. 1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Gospel: Mark 7. 24-end

Sun 12th 15th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
EDUCATION SUNDAY.
Preacher Peter Rhodes, St. Mary's Primary School
Proverbs 1. 20-33
Gospel: Mark 8. 27-end

Sun 19th 16th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Proverbs 31. 10-end
Gospel: Mark 9. 30-37

Sun 26th 17th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Esther 7. 1-6, 9, 10; Esther 9.20-22
Gospel: Mark 9. 38-end

COLLECTS FOR SEPTEMBER

- Sun 5th Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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 12th God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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 19th O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, one God, now and for ever: Amen
- Sun 26th Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

We have organised the following parish events:

Rock Choir Concert

Friday 24th September, 6.30pm at St Andrew's Church.

Ilyrica Concert

Sunday 17th October, 3pm at St Mary's Church.

Parish Quiz

Saturday 23rd October (postponed from 4 September)

Dinner dance scheduled for 23 October is now postponed.

Details to be confirmed.



Funshine Club

Cray Valley Parish Toddler Group
Every Wednesday during term time

We meet in St Andrew's Church
Lower Road

Car parking in the church car park

£1.00 per adult, Children free

(Includes craft activity, tea/coffee, squash and biscuit)

Enquiries to Sarah Rideout
0794 1020724

Please check Funshine Facebook page for the latest updates.

www.rockchoir.com

ROCK CHOIR LIVE

POP ROCK AND CHART SINGING



Friday 24th September 2021
7pm (doors open at 6.30pm)



St Andrew's Church
Lower Road
Orpington
BR5 4AL

Tickets: £10, please email crayparish@outlook.com or call 07484 193 188
Refreshments included

Current advise is that face coverings should be worn, this may change with Government guidelines

The background is a teal color with a pattern of white musical notes and yellow circles of various sizes. A black rectangular border frames the central text.

Cray Valley Parish

Invites you to

Ilyrica Concert

**at St Mary's Church
Sunday 17th October, 3pm**

for an afternoon of music and relaxation

Refreshments included

CRAY VALLEY PARISH QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER 2021
(POSTPONED FROM 4 SEPTEMBER)

£10.00 PER PERSON

TEAMS OF 6

FISH 'N' CHIPS SUPPER

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

DOORS OPEN 7.00 P.M.

QUIZ STARTS 7.15 P.M.

RAFFLE

TICKETS AVAILABLE IN
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH



Cray Valley Parish Fish 'N' Chips Group



Come and join us for our Fish 'N' Chips Group every fourth Wednesday of the month, doors open 12.15, lunch at 1pm at St Mary's Church Centre after our Midweek Eucharist and Healing Service at 11.30am which alternates between St Andrew's and St Mary's churches.

Dates: Wednesday 22nd September
 Wednesday 27th October
 Wednesday 24th November
 Wednesday 22nd December

Price: £6.50 (Incl. Main Meal Fish and Chips with tea, coffee and cake or biscuits. To be paid for in advance)

Please speak to Malcolm, Tony or Rosemary to book a space.

All are welcome

FAREWELL

It is with deep regret and great sadness that I write to bid farewell to the congregations of Cray Valley. I was at St. Andrew's Church for fifty-one years – the last eleven as a lay minister - and had expected to see out my final years there. However, life as we all know, has a way of de-railing our plans and so it has done to me. More recently I have made good friends at St. Mary's and will miss everyone at both churches – please remember, I'm still at the end of the phone!

It has been a joy and a privilege to serve as a lay minister and I send my thanks for all the love and support I've been given.

I will continue to uphold you all in prayer: that God's blessing may rest on each and every one of you; I hope that you will pray for me as I step out in faith to an unknown future but knowing that God will be walking beside me.

*With my love,
Jill*

We are all very sad to see Jill leave St Andrew's after 51 happy years. We thank you, Jill, from the bottom of our hearts for your ministry over the years and wish you well in the future.

PARISH PRAYER GROUP

We were delighted to meet together in Muriel's home in May. We continue to pray for all in need and now we can meet in person to do so.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

For further details contact Tony Lathey 01689 872742

THE PARISH FISH'N'CHIPS LUNCH

The second Parish Fish'n'Chips Lunch met on 28th July 2021 and went very well. A total of twenty-one lots of Fish and Chips were needed although several went home to others who couldn't attend at the time of day all enjoyed their main meal with tea/coffee and biscuits to follow.

We hope that even more will also feel able to join us in our future meals, then next ones are Wednesday 25th August and Wednesday 22nd September, the Church Centre will be open after the service and lunch served at 13.00. Best Wishes and God Bless from Malcolm, Rosemary and Tony
For details of the lunches and /or bookings with £6:50 cash per person to:
Malcolm - 01689 601827 or Rosemary or Tony - 01689 872742

CRAY VALLEY MOTHERS' UNION.

The next Cray Valley Mothers' Union meeting will be Tuesday 7th September 2021 at the Church Centre at 14.30, subject to Covid-19 restrictions. Please attend if you can, we will be electing the Branch Officers and deciding future meeting places and programme, etc.

The Mary Sumner Day Service was held at Rochester Cathedral as part of the normal evensong on the 9th August. Farnborough Mothers' Union branch are holding Zoom meetings on the 1st Monday evening of the month at 7:30pm and actual meetings at St Nicholas's on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30pm, you are welcome to attend these if you are interested. Details from Jayne Calvert or from Tony Lathey. The Farnborough M.U, has raised a total of £280:00 for A.F.I.A (Away From It All Holidays) to date.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH OPEN HOUSE

St Mary's Church will not be opening its doors for Open House until further notice.

BROMLEY FOOD BANK

The Food Bank donations should be made directly to the food Bank until the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

Tony Lathey

Thank you to everyone, whoever you are, who brought the Zoom services into our homes over the past 18 or so months. We are not technically inclined and have no idea how you did it but appreciated all your efforts. Thanks again,

Rosemary, Tony, Debbie and Angela Lathey



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FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

St James the Least of All

The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

On the perils of taking a wedding

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

As with many of your ideas, your intentions are admirable; it is just that they don't work.

So, it was with the recent wedding in your church, where you allowed the happy but quite mad young couple to try and imitate the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. It was kind of them to want to celebrate Will and Kate's recent 10th wedding anniversary, but it did not seem to occur to anybody that your church, converted from a 1960s warehouse, is fractionally less impressive than Westminster Abbey. And I feel that a backdrop of a car park and canal make a poor substitute for the Houses of Parliament and the Thames. Finally, even 43 very enthusiastic young people can hardly pretend they are a congregation of several thousand.

However, I do applaud your decision to invite me to take it, in order to impart a degree of gravitas to the proceedings, though of course I would not presume to upstage the Archbishop of Canterbury. (Although were he to ask my advice on how to run the Anglican Church, I have several helpful suggestions to hand.) But even I struggled to keep things on a proper course when the bride, lacking a horse-drawn carriage, simply walked up the lane with her ancient pony. (Which then tried to bite me at the church door!)

Her arrival was greeted with music. I will pass no comment on this, as the Bible says we are to make a joyful noise, not necessarily music, unto the Lord. I am sure that drums and kazoos and guitars all have their place – somewhere or other.



It was a pity that the groom, unlike Prince William, had not thought to get to the church on time – or indeed, at all. It was fortunate that the bride’s mother found him in that pub nearby, or really, we would have struggled to complete the wedding.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

NEWS ITEMS FROM PARISH PUMP

Be careful with Covid, urges Bishop of London

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, has encouraged churches and individuals to continue to take precautions to protect the vulnerable from Covid-19.

“Many will welcome the possibilities now before us. However, this is a difficult point in the course of the pandemic. Despite vaccination rates, cases are up, hospital admissions are up and long covid remains an ongoing concern. Therefore, our approach needs to be cautious and careful.

“Taking personal responsibility means taking precautions to protect those more vulnerable than we consider ourselves to be. Local church leaders know their communities and their own circumstances, and we will support them making local decisions to keep themselves and their community safe.”

The Church of England’s investment and climate change

The Church of England’s National Investing Bodies (NIBs) recently updated General Synod on their progress against climate change measures agreed in July 2018.

The Church of England Pensions Board, Church Commissioners for England and CCLA, which collectively make up the NIBs, had agreed with Synod:

- to work with companies in which we are invested to meet our climate hurdles,
- to start to divest in 2020 from companies that are not taking seriously their responsibilities to assist with the transition to a low carbon economy;
- to ensure that by 2023 they have divested from fossil fuel companies that are not prepared to align with the goals of the Paris Agreement;
- and to seek and scale up investments in renewable energy and low carbon technology.

The NIBs in January 2020 committed to their investment portfolios being net zero no later than 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement. As asset owners and a fund manager with holdings across all aspects of the global economy, the NIBs' journeys to net zero are reliant on influencing change in the real economy and policy environment as a whole, rather than solely implementing carbon-saving measures themselves.

All in the month of SEPTEMBER

It was:

700 years ago, on 13th Sept 1321 that Dante Alighieri, Italian poet, died. Regarded as the most important poet of the Middle Ages. Best known for his *Divine Comedy*.

125 years ago, on 24th Sept 1896 that F Scott Fitzgerald, American novelist and short story writer, was born. Regarded as one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century. Best known for his novel *The Great Gatsby*.

100 years ago, on 8th Sept 1921 that Sir Harry Secombe was born. This Welsh comedian, actor, writer, singer and TV presenter was one of the stars of the 1950s radio series *The Goon Show*.

80 years ago, on 1st Sept 1941 that Nazi Germany ordered all Jews in Germany and its occupied territories to wear a yellow Star of David badge.

75 years ago, from 20th Sept – 5th Oct 1946 that the first Cannes Film Festival was held.

65 years ago, on 16th Sept 1956 that Play-Doh went on sale in the USA. It was originally sold as a wallpaper cleaning compound but was then relaunched as a modelling compound when the inventor's nephew discovered that nursery school children were using it to make Christmas ornaments.

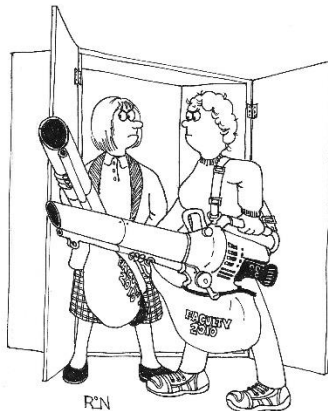
60 years ago, on 11th Sept 1961 that the World Wildlife Fund (now the World Wide Fund for Nature) was founded in Switzerland.

50 years ago, on 15th Sept 1971 that Greenpeace, the international environmental group, was founded in Vancouver.

30 years ago, on 6th Sept 1991 that the Russian city of Leningrad was renamed St Petersburg, restoring its original name.

25 years ago, on 27th Sept 1996, that the Taliban seized control of Kabul, Afghanistan, ousting President Burhanuddin Rabbani, and executing former President Mohammad Najibullah.

20 years ago, on 11th Sept 2001, that the 9/11 terrorist attack on the USA took place. 2,973 people were killed.



*Shifting the cobwebs in the North aisle
required a faculty*

FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT A PUZZLE

d	a	v	i	d	g	i	h	o	n	t	h	e
n	m	m	p	r	o	m	i	s	e	a	s	i
d	m	s	n	o	i	s	e	p	j	m	a	e
p	o	n	o	l	d	n	m	i	m	b	n	v
x	t	a	n	n	o	u	n	c	e	d	c	e
s	h	i	e	m	r	o	d	h	e	n	t	r
t	e	i	o	t	d	e	s	t	t	a	u	y
c	r	l	e	a	t	h	n	y	r	t	a	o
f	o	k	d	i	t	i	t	b	o	h	r	n
s	l	i	v	a	o	r	e	q	u	a	y	e
x	g	n	b	n	a	l	r	d	b	n	r	f
c	i	g	n	p	e	e	m	u	l	e	t	i
n	h	a	s	c	a	r	e	d	e	m	a	w

party	promise	David
trumpet	sanctuary	Gihon
everyone	Bathsheba	son
Adonijah	trouble	noise
king	mule	annointed
friends	mother	Solomon
invited	scared	celebrate
Nathan	announced	old

HALL FOR HIRE

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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Kings 1: 5-53

King David was now very old, but he had still not said which son would be king. Adonijah decided to make himself king.

Adonijah had a big party at Rogel Spring for all his friends, including Joab and Abiathar, to tell them he was the king. His brother Solomon and Nathan and Zadok were not invited.

Nathan told Solomon's mother

You must tell King David. If Adonijah is king, he will kill you and your son.



You promised our son Solomon would be king, but Adonijah says he is now king.



Nathan told David



He's having a big party to celebrate right now!

I will keep my promise! Solomon will be the next king. Zadok and Nathan, take him to Gihon Spring, anoint him and tell everyone!



So they went to Gihon with Solomon riding King David's own mule.



He was anointed king and a trumpet was blown.



Long live King Solomon!

At Adonijah's party they heard the noise.



What's going on?

David has just announced that your brother Solomon is now king.



Solomon was anointed and everyone is cheering.



Everyone ran away. Adonijah was so scared he ran to the sacred tent for sanctuary.



King Solomon sent for Adonijah.

If you don't cause me any trouble, I will not hurt you.



All items in 'For the Young and Young at Heart' are courtesy of www.parishpump.co.uk

GARDENING TIPS

Strawberry shown below in a 6inch pot is a runner from main strawberry plant. This was planted and left to root, then cut off from main plant. You should get better crops next year using this method.

Continue to sow seeds for salad

leaves. Thinly planted every couple of weeks should keep you amply stocked, providing you pick regularly. Rocket is shown above planted in a raised bed and watered from water butt in dry weather. No slug pellets were used.



Continue being watchful for slugs and snails. I pick 3 or 4 snails off runner beans every morning. Shingle placed round bottom of plants does deter them.

Happy gardening.

Rita McKay



THE THINGS THAT GROWN-UPS USED TO SAY

I sometimes ponder the things that grown-ups used to say. ‘Children should be seen and not heard.’ That was a regular favourite. My grandparents, some of my uncles and aunts and even some of my school teachers extolled good old-fashioned virtues of Victorian manners and propriety. Some say that standards have slipped nowadays. My experiences are mixed. From my observations many but not all modern-day parents expect their children to behave well in public. (But why has the horrible word ‘kids’ crept in everywhere? What’s wrong with the word ‘children’?).

‘Nobody’s looking at you,’ That was a sobering and usually necessary put-down from my parents or my teacher when I was getting above myself and I was showing off. I see that the American author Janet Malcolm died last month age 86. Shortly before her death she published a book of articles that she wrote for the New Yorker magazine. She titled the book ‘Nobody’s Looking at You’. Perhaps the modern-day ‘me generation’ would benefit from reading it!

‘Fine words butter no parsnips’. Did any adults actually say that to me, ever? It’s such a delightful phrase that I have to wish that they did! But I do know for certain that my Uncle Harry, a retired naval engineer (born 1900) gave me some splendid advice about marriage. ‘Ah,’ he said as I presented Nancy my fiancée. ‘From now on, young man, a twopenny bun will cost you fourpence!’

Jerry Dowlen

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF
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HAVE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN BY THIS DATE –
ANYTHING RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE HELD
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