

THE

# CRAYFISHER

November 2020

*£1:00*



The magazine for the Parish of Cray Valley

No.66

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**Front Cover Picture: Rainbow over Orpington by Evelyn Magee**

## PARISH LETTER



**Care for those you are praying for, pray for those you are caring for.**

During these difficult and trying times, we believe that now more than ever, presents an incredible opportunity for the Church worldwide, to unite in prayer so that our family, friends and neighbours will come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ for themselves. One of the Key themes for Thy Kingdom Come is prayer and care. As we are praying for those we love to come to know the hope and love of Christ we also are encouraging all to see how they can show God's love towards them. By caring for them. Here are 5 ideas on how we can care and love those we know, even when we are socially distanced:

1. Keep up contact. Make a phone call, send an email, letter or card saying that you are praying for them at this time.
2. Keep an eye out for the anniversaries of life events. Make that phone call to let people know you care.
3. Send a small gift or book purchased on-line, maybe insert life words etc.
4. Serve where you can in delivering groceries or medications.
5. Make sure the people you pray for know how much you value them by whatever means you can find.

*Jessie x*

## **READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER**

Sun 1<sup>st</sup>      **ALL SAINTS DAY – FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**

Revelation 7.9-end

1 John 3.1-3

GOSPEL Matthew 5.1-12

Sun 8<sup>th</sup>      **THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**

Wisdom of Solomon 6.12-16

Wisdom of Solomon 6.17-20

1 Thessalonians 4.13-end

GOSPEL Matthew 25.1-13

Sun 15<sup>th</sup>      **SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**

Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

GOSPEL Matthew 25.14-30

Sun 22<sup>nd</sup>      **CHRIST THE KING – SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT**

Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24

Ephesians 1.15-end

GOSPEL Matthew 25.31-end

Sun 29<sup>th</sup>      **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Isaiah 64.1-9

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

GOSPEL Mark 13.24-end

## **COLLECTS FOR SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER 2020**

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; 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 8<sup>th</sup> Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you. In the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

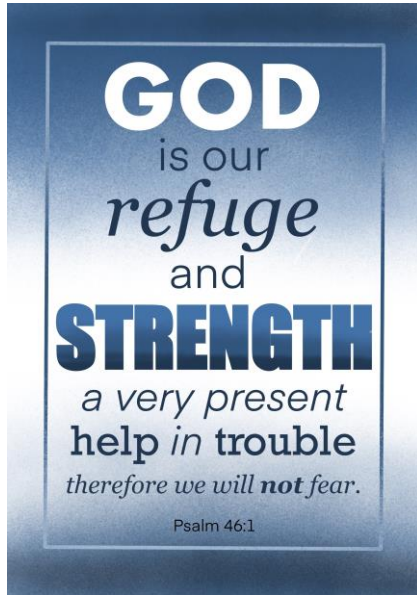
Sun 29<sup>th</sup>

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

### **SERVICES THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER**

Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	10 a.m. at St Mary's
Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 a.m. Midweek Eucharist at St Andrew's
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m. <b>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY</b>
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m. Midweek Eucharist at St Mary's
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m. at St Mary's
Tue 17 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m. Midweek Eucharist at St Andrew's
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10 a.m. at St Andrew's
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m. Midweek Eucharist at St Mary's
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m. at St Mary's

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE CRAYFISHER IS THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER. PLEASE HAVE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN BY THIS DATE – ANYTHING RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE HELD OVER UNTIL THE NEXT ISSUE**



*Courtesy of Parish Pump.co.uk*

## **DISPOSAL OF MASKS**

Something was pointed out to me a few days ago, so I thought I'd pass on the information. If you wear a disposable mask, before disposing of it in the bin, please remember to cut the elastic that goes around your ears. These masks end up in landfill sites and this is where the birds visit to search for food. If you cut the elastic, they don't get themselves tangled up in the masks. Thank you.

***Brenda Smith***



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## **PARISH PRAYER GROUP**

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

## **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**

**Regretfully, our planned Salvation Army Concert, Dinner and Dance and Christmas Fair will be postponed until further notice.**



## THE PREFAB MUSEUM

I see in the local news that the village of Otford in Kent is losing its last surviving prefab. The tearoom attached to the Hospice of Hope charity shop is a prefab that was relocated during the 1970s from its original site in Lewisham. Due to wear and tear it is now being replaced by a new building.

In the aftermath of World War Two many homeless families were placed in these fast-build shoe-box shape constructions. In October 1944 our local newspaper reported a bid by the Council to bring 100 temporary 'portal' houses to the Blacksmith's Lane area of St Mary Cray. The idea was catching on fast and a case was being made for the village of Downe also to be allocated a quota of the new prefabs.

The Prefab Museum is an on-line archive where you can learn about the history of prefabs and you can read the illustrated memoirs of families that lived in one. One posting refers to a prefab in Robin Way on the post-war St Paul's Cray estate. I would imagine that many of us knew families that lived in a prefab. Perhaps some of their children went to school

with us. The actor Michael Caine grew up in one, in Walworth, south London. The years 1944 to 1951 saw an estimated 155,000 prefabs built in Britain. They were intended to last for ten years but there were still a good many standing at the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It was reported in 2019 that an estate of prefabs in Catford, Kent was the last of its kind in all of Europe to be listed for demolition.



Prefabs in Catford, Kent  
before demolition in 2019

*Jerry Dowlen*



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## EVELYN'S BLANKET

Last month, Evelyn told us what she had been doing during lockdown and told us all about the blanket that she crocheted. She still has the blanket. If you are interested, and would like to own it, you can have it for a donation to the parish. Please make contact with Evelyn via The Crayfisher. Details for contacting us are on the inside of the front cover.



*Brenda Smith*

## FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Here are the answers to the crossword in last month's magazine.

### **Answers**

**ACROSS:** 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

**DOWN:** 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

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

© 2013 KrazyDad.com

**Why not have a try at this sudoku puzzle. The solution will appear next month.**

### **On the ferocity of the church's Bridge drive**

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Your suggestion that we should hold a sponsored hymn-singing bicycle ride through the village as a way of raising money was well-meant, but I am not wholly convinced it would suit our clientele here at St James the Least of All.



You may have musical bike rides, but we have Bridge drives, although socially distanced at the moment, of course. But even at two metres apart, our Bridge games are generally as amiable and peaceful as bear baiting. Half of those attending will see the afternoon as an opportunity to catch up on local gossip and to exchange knitting patterns, the game of cards being a minor hindrance to these other activities. The other half arrive primed for a battle to the death, reluctantly conceding that eye-gouging is not allowed. They will demand total silence – which is wholly ignored by those at the tables discovering what Mrs Trumpington confided to Lady Driver halfway through ‘Onward Christian Soldiers’ at last Sunday’s Mattins. The congregation is eternally grateful to Mrs Mitchell, who as a former mill worker is able to lip read.

Refreshments have been hit hard by Covid-19 of course, and the fact that everyone has to bring their own sandwich and drink has rather spoilt the fun. Usually half our players regard lunchtime as an opportunity to put jam on the cards, spill tea on the score cards and make sure that the other tables get the egg and cress sandwiches while they corner the boiled ham; the others usually see it as an unwelcome interruption to the serious business of slaughtering their opponents. It is so sad that Covid-19 has halted this merry comradery.

As for drawing the raffle, it is the adult equivalent of ringing the school bell at going-home time. Half the players will immediately dash off to relay newly mined seams of gossip throughout the village, leaving the others holding reproachful post-mortems with their partners over their bidding mistakes.

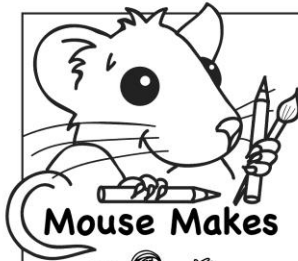
Reproaches are never too violent, however, since the chances are that they will all be meeting again the following afternoon round a socially distanced card table at another location, for yet another re-enactment of the slaughter at Agincourt. The only difference will be that the French and English were not entertained with tea and sandwiches at half time.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

### ADVENT MICE FOR YOU TO COLOUR





## REMEMBERING

How do you remember things?

In bible times God's people would remember what God had done for them by building monuments made of stones and by holding festivals and celebrations to give thanks to God.

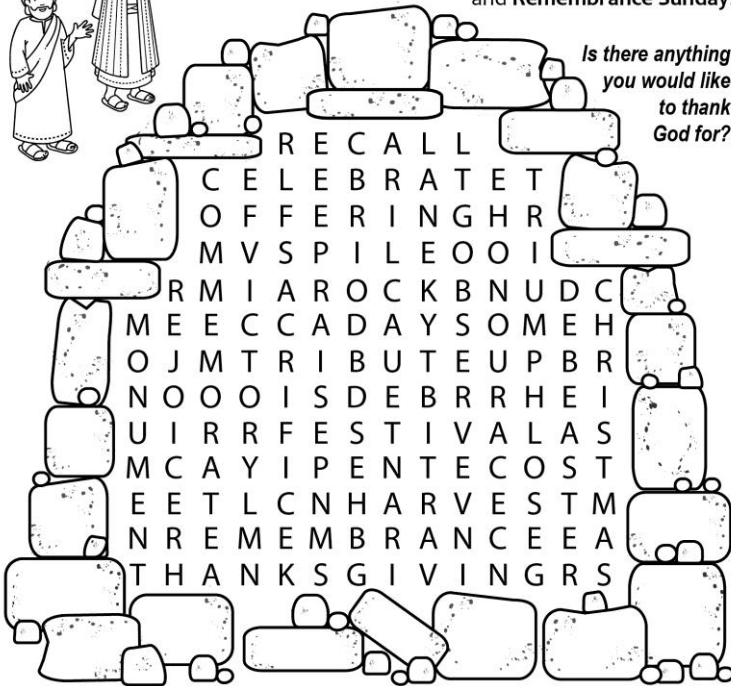


READ *Joshua 4:1-9* and *Exodus 12:1-14*

Today we too build monuments to remember and hold services of thanksgiving like **Harvest** and **Remembrance Sunday**.



*Is there anything you would like to thank God for?*



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## **POPPY APPEAL 2020**

**L**ook out for the Poppy Appeal again this year, but not so much via street collections. Instead, the Royal British Legion will focus on contactless donations, as a safer way forward during the pandemic.

One such method will be ‘point of sale donations’. This means that when you shop at your supermarket and reach the till or online, you may be invited to round up your total to the nearest pound to help the Poppy Appeal.

A spokesman for the Royal British Legion said: “The Poppy Appeal 2020 is very much still going ahead”, but that “the safety and wellbeing of our volunteers, staff and members is paramount.

This means that collectors who fall into the vulnerable category have been advised “not to take part in activity on behalf of the Poppy Appeal that would expose them to any additional risks while coronavirus is still present.”

And yet the need is still huge: “Members of the Armed Forces Community are suffering significant hardship as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak and we at the Royal British Legion will do everything we possibly can to support them.”

*For the Young and Young at Heart is courtesy of [www.parishpump.co.uk](http://www.parishpump.co.uk)*

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**We will be reviewing the  
situation in January 2021  
and hope we will be able to  
see you then**

Please come along and  
join in the fun.

## HALL FOR HIRE

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## WEDDING AT ST. MARY'S

Despite set-backs due to the pandemic, Tracey and James were finally married on 11th September at St Mary's Church on a beautifully sunny day.



We wish them and their family all the very best in their future together.'



Our congratulations go out to the newly-weds, James and Tracey.



## A SAFER HAVEN DURING WW2

In a quiet Kentish village, Crockham Hill, near Chartwell, we found a granite memorial stone remembering the disaster which killed most of the staff and children in Weald House used as a nursery school.

A V1 (doodle bug) on its way to London was shot down by an anti-aircraft gun battery stationed on the North Downs and crashed directly onto the nursery where the staff and children were sleeping, killing 8 staff and 22 children. Previously they had been evacuated from London to hopefully a safer location. I can only imagine the parents' horror and distress when they heard of the tragedy.



*Jackie Cook*

## THE FALL OF AUTUMN LEAVES

The leaves that dressed the trees through summer  
Are stripped away by autumn's hand,  
Once green, now red or yellow or copper,  
They float to earth and carpet the land.

There they lie all sad and brittle,  
Crunched underfoot like autumnal snow  
Or swirled into drifts that never settle,  
Soon to rot in the earth below.

But out of sight a miracle happens,  
As new life flows through those naked trees,  
Appearing as buds that turn into blossom,  
Before unveiling a new coat of leaves.

*Richard DJJ Bowdery (Croft Poetry Club)*



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## BODIAM CASTLE

Imagine that you'd like to make some home improvements but it would be lovely if someone else would pay for them! Why not write to Buckingham Palace and ask the Crown?

This is effectively the story of Bodiam Castle in east Sussex. Experts will tell you it isn't really a castle it's a fortified manor house. In 1385 Sir Edward Dalyngrigge wanted to build a family home whereupon he offered to add fortifications to double it up as defence for the realm. The port of Rye was silting up and could no longer operate as a naval defence base. King Richard II was persuaded that strategically an inland castle could help block the threat of French invasion. So a wide moat was added; also 'keyholes' for gunfire through the reinforced cannon-proof outer walls.



As things turned out, Bodiam was never tested in warfare or conflict: it remained primarily a grand residence. The open green courtyard of today was packed with the lord's apartments, servants' quarters, store-rooms and kitchens.

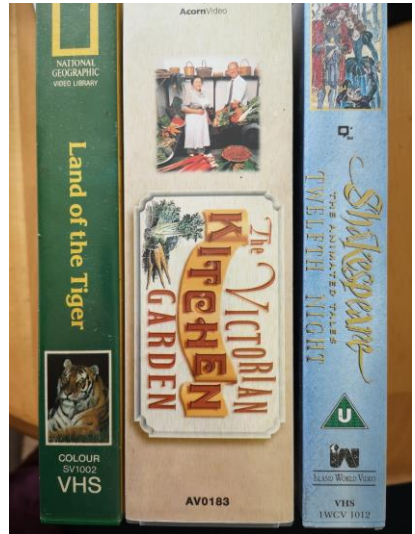
All in all, therefore, Bodiam Castle is something rare if not unique. In modern parlance it is an 'outsourced' strongpoint of national defence. How lucky we are that it survives today, and we can visit it (National Trust) after Lord Curzon generously restored it during the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century. Here is a description penned by Richard Humble in 1984:

'At one look it is everyone's dream of a medieval castle – compact, symmetrical, with towers and battlements of a stone which looks particularly beautiful in late afternoon or evening sunshine. Without the distraction of a bustling modern town on its doorstep, Bodiam seems timeless.'

*Jerry Dowlen*

## GIVEAWAYS

I have videos to give away as our machines are no more! A box full of geographical videos, Shakespeare plays, Simon Sharma The History of Britain, and others. Please contact Jackie Cook on 01689810451.



## LETTER FROM GEORGIA, PERHAPS!

Oh dear! Lockdown!!! What a pain it is!! We all have to obey the instructions, Stay Safe, Wash Hands, Wear Masks, etc, etc. But of course, we all do, so that we keep ourselves safe and our friends and families too. After all, staying at home is not so bad, all those boring tidying up jobs are getting done (aren't they?) and we have time to call or write to old friends from long ago. You know, the ones you promised to stay in touch with when you left work, or moved house, or the relations you forgot to look up the last time you visited your home town. All those tasks can make you feel good! So how many have YOU done???

Well, I expect like me, it all mounts up to one letter to an old colleague (and she never replied!), and a note – with a picture – to a niece – only to learn after posting it, she had moved to a different address!

But we humans are not the only ones affected by lockdown, what about our pets? My cat, Georgia, is completely baffled. If she could write I know this is what she would be saying.....



*Where has all the peace and quiet gone?? Why is the dreaded noisy machine being brought out more often to chase me out of my chair! And as for that noisy box sitting in the corner, it is never turned OFF!*

*Even on a good day when she goes into the garden, she disturbs me in the greenhouse house where I usually have my afternoon naps (it is lovely and warm), and is my retreat when she is fussing with brushes and the she is coming in and out with pots and clattering amongst the boxes, and I am forced to go out into the flower beds to get a rest. But of*

*course, it is worse indoors, Well, I must say I am completely bored with all this talk about ‘lockdown’ whatever that is. My human is always grumbling about it, reminding herself to ‘wash hands’, ‘take a mask’, ‘stay indoors’ – I can hear her muttering and banging doors regularly so I know she is bored too. I hope it all goes away very SOON because I need a rest from all the noise and disturbance. And I think also that’s why she NEVER GOES OUT!!! No peace and quiet longer! But of course, it is worse indoors, she is there now all the time, banging and crashing about, wool and papers everywhere. I used to like that because I could sleep in the wool bag, on the papers, getting them nicely crumpled (they’re good for scratching, nice sound!) but now she chases me away and I have to go back to my cushion. And even that, she gets out the noisy machine and always wants to brush it*

*I do hope this ‘lockdown’ thing goes away soon! I NEED A REST!*

Well, sadly, Georgia can’t write. But she can certainly get across her message!!!

***Evelyn Magee***

## SUNFLOWERS

I planted the seeds, food for all  
And watched the shoots grow up so tall  
Waited for the leaves to touch the sun  
Watering and hoping the slugs wouldn't come.  
Now eight feet tall the buds did spring  
A crowning glory, petals opening  
For bees and butterflies to lead  
To nectar and pollen for their feed.  
And as the circles of seeds did grow  
They fattened up as white as snow  
The Great Tits came and plucked their fare  
And squirrels climbed and gnawed them bare  
So now the sunflowers have no seeds  
But birds and beasts have winter feeds.

*Jackie Cook*

