



Parish Newsletter - Issue No.60

Saturday 5 November 2022

The churches of St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill, St David's, Lordswood,
and St William's, Walderslade

"The times they are a-changin'..."
sang Bob Dylan.

At this time of year we enjoy
the beautiful colours as autumn
gives way to winter — a sight to
behold in Blue Bell Hill,
Lordswood and Walderslade!

Over the past ten months, we
have watched many changes in
our world, such as the heart
breaking events unfolding in
Ukraine. Our thoughts and
prayers will be very much with
the soldiers and civilians on
both sides of the Ukraine/Russia
conflict especially at our
Remembrance Sunday service
on 13th November, when we
gather to remember those who
have been caught up in the
violence of war.

More change...: In the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland, we recently
said farewell to the longest
serving monarch in the history
of our nation and marked the
accession of King Charles III —
what changes will we see during
the reign of his Majesty? The
wording of the Book of
Common Prayer has now been
altered, a new Royal Cypher



published, and 50-pence coins bearing the King's image will be in circulation within weeks.

The times are indeed “a-changin’”. So, I leave you with these questions:

A change closer to home concerns the leadership of our Parish. Having said good-bye to Elaine in June, we are still waiting to recruit a new incumbent. As the Archdeacon Andy said the other day, these things take as long as they take...

- Do we like change?
- Can we learn from change?
- Are we ready for change?

I know what my answers are, do you?

Pat Long
(Church Warden)

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Sunday Worship in November

Sunday 6 November (3 Before Advent)

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| 10.00am | Morning Worship at St Alban's, Blue Hell Hill |
| 3.00pm | Service of Remembering and Reflection at St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill |

Sunday 13 November (Remembrance Sunday)

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| 10.00am | Morning Worship at St David's, Lordswood |
| 1.00pm | Holy Baptism at St David's, Lordswood |

Sunday 20 November (Christ the King)

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| 10.00am | Holy Communion at St William's, Walderslade with Rev. Rosemary Pritchard, Methodist Minister |
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Sunday 27 November (Advent Sunday)

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| 10.00am | Holy Communion at St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill |
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Where everybody knows
your name!

*Making your way in the world today
takes everything you've got.*

*Taking a break from all your worries, sure would help a lot.
Wouldn't you like to get away?*

*Sometimes you want to go, where everybody knows your name,
and they're always glad you came.*

*You want to be where you can see our troubles are all the same;
you want to be where everybody knows your name.*

Why do we go to Church? Is it to take a break from all our worries... where others are always glad we came... or a place where everybody knows our name...? We all need to feel safe, at home; to experience a place where we belong. The Christian community can be like that, but so too can families, good friends, and a fictional bar from a famous 1980's sit-com!

I have been reflecting on what it means to be 'Saints of God'. More to the point, I have been trying to fathom why the Apostle Paul get's so excited about the idea in his letters. For example, Paul writes:

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power

for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. (Ephesians 1.17-19)

What on earth are the 'riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints'?

The Bible has two particular takes on the word inheritance: 1) It refers to the land promised to God's people, Israel; and, 2) It is used to describe what the people mean to God. In one place, Moses prays, '...If now I have found favour in your sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your **inheritance**' (Exodus 34.19)

So, in some cases, the inheritance refers to something material: land and property. In other cases, it refers to something spiritual. God is the saints' inheritance and the saints are God's. In other words, we belong to God and God belongs to us.

It is this second sense in view in the letter to the Ephesians. The riches of Christ's glorious inheritance among the saints is God's living presence; connecting us with all of God's people past, present and future, from the days of Abraham to those who have died in the Lord more recently.

More than a place to take a break from all our worries, or somewhere we are glad we came, a church building isn't our spiritual home, the saints are our spiritual home. It is home because God is here, God dwells among us. We are not perfect people, but we ARE redeemed people. That was God's plan from the very beginning. God is our inheritance and eternal possession.

As one big family we also belong to each other; united in and through the broken body of Christ.

I think this is why the Apostle Paul gets so excited when writing about the Church. Being part of God's family should fire our imagination, inspire our prayers and energise our service. Who wouldn't want to be numbered among the saints, when among the saints is where we find the reality of God.

I'll drink to that... Cheers!

David K (Team Vicar)



Bible Focus and Prayer

3 Before Advent – 6 November

*Job 19:23-27a, Psalm 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-end &
Luke 20:1-5*

God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars
shall cease and poverty and pain
shall end, that earth may know
the peace of heaven through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Remembrance Sunday – 13 November

*Malachi 4:1-2a, Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 & Luke
21:5-19*

Heavenly Lord, you long for the
world's salvation: stir us from
apathy, restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope that
all creation will one day be
healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Christ the King – 20 November

*Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20, & Luke
23:33-43*

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. Amen.

Advent Sunday - 27 November

*Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7
Romans 15:4-13 & Matthew
3:1-12*

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as Judge and Saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen.

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In the community

St Alban's Fellowship meets on the third Monday of the month from 2pm at St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill. Next meeting, 21 November, with Tony Miles, speaking on Edith Cavell and her links with Maidstone. Cost: £3 for visitors, or annual membership for £20.

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In our prayers

We remember:

- the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and Russia
- His Majesty King Charles III and the Royal Family
- The Government and our new Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak
- Our Parish in this time of Vacancy

- Rochester Diocese, the churches of Rochester Deanery and our Bishops Jonathan and Simon
- the churches of the North Kent Methodist Circuit and all ministers and lay-staff
- those recently baptised and confirmed, especially Ted being baptised on Sunday 13 November
- for couples preparing for their wedding day
- those who are sick and in pain or distress
- the families of Terry Higgs, and of all those recently departed



Trinity prayers

Prayer is an essential part of parish life. We meet on the first Thursday of each month to seek God, listen and pray for our church and the local community. Next meeting at **7.30pm** on **1 December at 26 Mayford Road, Lordswood (ME5 8SZ)**.

If you have a concern about which you would like prayer, you are welcome to contact our Prayer Chain co-ordinator, Mary Horwell.

Mary 01634 308552 maryhorwell@blueyonder.co.uk

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On the Social side

Coffee & Chat at St David's on the second Friday of each month between 10.30am and 12pm. Next dates: 11 November & 9 December. On the latter day, we shall be joined by the choir from Swingate Primary School!

Tea at Three FOR ALL! We had a wonderful gathering in October at St William's. We hope to organise another Tea at Three again soon. Watch this space for more information in due course!

Cornerstone Coffee Shop is open Monday-Friday from 10am to 2pm and most Saturdays from 9am.

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Communication



Further information is available via weekly emails, our Newsletter, website and Facebook page. If you are unsure or want to get in touch, simply pick up the phone.

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Holy Trinity South Chatham (@southchatham) on Facebook
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HOLY TRINITY SOUTH CHATHAM

The churches of St Alban, St David and St William
serving the communities of Blue Bell Hill, Lords Wood and Walderslade.
A partnership between the Church of England and the Methodist Church

Registered Charity No. 1135416