

CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

September 2022

CALENDAR

Wednesday 31st August

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 4th September 12th Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

Including God's Gang

12 noon and 1pm Holy Baptism

Wednesday 7th September

10am Holy Communion

2pm First Steps

5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 8th September

11am Pilgrim Group

Saturday 10th September Ride and Stride Day

9.30am Working Group – come and give a hand

12.30pm Holy Matrimony

7.30pm Last Night of the Proms

Sunday 11th September 13th Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

12noon Holy Baptism

Tuesday 13th September

7.30pm Mothers Union Desert Island Discs

Wednesday 14th September Holy Cross Day

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 15th September

2.30-4pm Mustard Seed

Saturday 16th September

10am Table Top Sale

Sunday 18th September 14th after Trinity

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

Including God's Gang

12pm and 1pm Holy Baptism

Wednesday 21st September

10am Holy Communion St Matthew

5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 22nd September

11am Pilgrim Group

Saturday 24th September

4.30pm Holy Matrimony

Sunday 25th September 15th after Trinity

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

Wednesday 28th September

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

MORNING PRAYER will be said in church at 8.30am on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (check weekly sheet for any changes) not in the week beginning 26th September. You can join us in person or on line. Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82117921556>

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS Holy Communion at 10am continues through the month

WEDNESDAY 5pm Evening Prayer

GOSPEL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays 20th September, 18th October, 22nd November, 13th December at 7.45pm on Zoom
This month: Dives and Lazarus Luke 16.19-end
ZOOM LINK

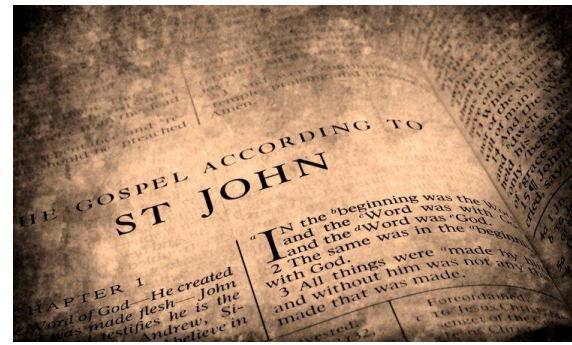
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87495884692>

We finish just before 9 with a service of night prayer.

If you would like the Bible text or a copy of Night Prayer please email
vicar@christchurchgravesend.com



PILGRIM GROUP restarts this month on Thursday 8th September at 11am. We will be looking at some new material based on John's Gospel. Seven incidents in the fourth gospel are called 'signs of glory'. Signs are pointers, indicators that we should look beyond what is in front of us and what we find there will evoke a response of faith as we discover who Jesus is for us today. On the 8th we will look at the Wedding in Cana (John 2) and on the 22nd the healing of the royal official's son (John 4). If you would like a copy of the study booklet please ask the Vicar.



Ride+Stride is on **Saturday 10th September** is anyone interested in taking part in this sponsored event walking or cycling between churches on a route of your choosing – raising money for our church and heritage projects? www.kentrideandstride.co.uk
Or sponsor Andy (riding) and Chris (striding).



Last Night of the Proms

10th September at 7.30. A chance to get all the action, all the songs, all the pomp on the big screen. Tickets are £10 for Fish and chips £6 for sausage and chips and £7.50 for veggie fingers and chips.



Call Angela on 07900430002 for tickets. Last date to book is 3rd Sept.

Welcoming Bishop Jonathan On **Saturday 24th September** the ministry of Bishop Jonathan will be inaugurated at the Cathedral at 2pm. We can send up to 5 people from the parish. If you would like to attend please let the Vicar know. If we have more than 5 people we will have a ballot!



TOGETHER MAGAZINE

The latest edition of the Diocese of Rochester's magazine is available on line.

issue-14-for-web38045739426.pdf (d3hgrrlg6yacptf.cloudfront.net)

IT'S YOUR CALLING at St John's Centre, Meopham 8 OCTOBER 2022, 9:15am -3:45 pm

It's Your Calling is aimed at those exploring where God may be calling them and the gifts that God has given us, as well as the Biblical understanding of vocation. The day gives an opportunity to meet others on a similar quest and to take time to think about where God could be calling. For more details email: vocations@rochester.anglican.org

COMING SOON:

Sunday 9th October Harvest Festival 8am 10am and 6pm Evensong
Sunday 16th October 4pm Deanery Confirmation at Christ Church

Life



Journey through earth, sea and sky from sunrise to sunset with a spectacular world themed son-et-lumiere

4TH - 8TH OCTOBER 2022

[BOOK TICKETS](#)

Experience the beauty of Planet Earth

Suitable for all ages, this stunning installation sees the inside of the Cathedral transformed into a visual journey to reflect upon life on today's planet in a single 24 hour period. Witness the sun, the oceans and the clouds, as you move throughout the building.

The show has been created by award winning artistic collaboration 'Luxmuralis', Peter Walker Sculptor and David Harper Composer. Luxmuralis previously brought the sell-out 'Space Voyage' to Rochester Cathedral in 2021.

The show will take place on the evenings of the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th October. Tickets are now on sale and advance booking is highly recommended. The previous lightshow by Luxmuralis sold out well in advance of the event.

The experience is suitable for visitors of all ages.



*refreshments available
over 20 varied tables*

10am-12noon

SATURDAY

17th SEPTEMBER

Registered charity: 1130741

. We will be having a tombola at the sale to raise funds for the church and would be happy to receive prizes for this. Also we will be having a cake and preserve table to pay for the oranges and sweets for Christingle, could you provide a cake, small cakes or jar of jam or other preserve for this. Please also come with your family and friends and buy.

In July our MU Wave of Prayer remembered the work of branches around the world particularly Madagascar, Uganda, Nigeria and North India.



A group from our branch went to evensong on Mary Sumner Day at Rochester Cathedral where we heard from the Rev'd Lilian Gauli, and her husband Bishop Given of Kondo, who were visiting the UK for the Lambeth Conference..

A huge thank you to those who helped with our **T@3** - those who baked or bought cakes, those who washed up, served drinks and cakes, helped with the raffle, those who donated raffle prizes and bring and buy items, cleared and tidied the hall etc.



We made £231 which is a wonderful result. The committee will look at how we will allocate this money at our next meeting.



It was really lovely to welcome Julia (previous president) and her daughter Victoria - looking forward to 11th October when Julia is our guest speaker at our monthly meeting when she will be telling us about her international treasurer role - please put this date in your diaries.

Saturday September 17th is the Church Table Top Sale and we have a MU stall selling items for £1. If you can donate anything that would be great. Once again, I will put a box on the MU table. Thank you.

Our meeting in September will be our Desert Island Discs evening. Tuesday 13th September at 7.30pm.

*A piece of music, a book, a luxury – who would take what?
Come and find out.*



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 on Fridays. 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 29th 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.



SANCTUARY

Gravesham Sanctuary is a local independent charity helping rough sleepers and those facing homelessness. We support our guest at our day centre, providing community, clothing, showering and laundry facilities, along with a wide range of support services including temporary overnight accommodation when available.

Since 2015, Gravesham Sanctuary have helped over 950 guests, prevented 5,500 sleeps on the street and provided 14,000 meals. By helping with accommodation and continued support, we have been able to help many of our guests find hope again and get back to living a life that we often take for granted.

How can you help – we are looking for volunteers to look after our guests that is; cooks, coordinators and general helpers. We are looking for people to pray for us and our guests.

To volunteer to join our teams, join our prayer team or just stay informed by signing up to our newsletter visit our website www.graveshamsanctuary.uk

SHOEBOXES AT THE READY!

It's that Blythswood time of year again. Now is the time to start collecting items for your shoeboxes. End of season sales and offers are a good way of making the pennies go further. Leaflets and delivery details will arrive soon. If you wish to download a checklist early the web site is

www.blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal/



Please help thank you *Veronica*

GARDENS

Thanks to everyone who opened their homes and gardens, who came and sat in other people's gardens, to those who baked, bought and ate cake. Despite the drought the gardens looked great – there was plenty to talk about and do – even a garden quiz at Peter and Veronica's which was won by Sylvia Walker. So far we have raised nearly £1200 for church running costs.



Welcome to the Lord's Table

It was good to welcome five young people into communion at services on 3rd and 17th July. Thanks to Sheila and Jasmine for guiding the group through their course. Please pray for them as they continue their journey of faith.



FROM THE REGISTERS:

Baptisms

3rd July

Charlotte Rose Ettridge

14th August

Sienna Lily Symons

Sawyer Blake Hessenthaler

Jasmine Whitaker

Olivia Whitaker

Funerals

5th July Jean England

10th August Maureen Fittill

DON'T FORGET THE FOODBANK

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
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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 PCC
5	Schools and Nurseries	The children in our church God's Gang, First Steps and Christ Church Tots
6	Young people preparing for 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 especially St Aidan, Holy Family
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

PAKISTAN APPEAL

There will be a bucket for donations for the DEC Pakistan appeal in church during September.



The Lambeth story

News is usually slow in July and August, the summer was often described as the 'silly season'. Journalists looked for content in stories disproportionate to their significance or drew conclusions where there were no conclusions to be drawn or just got things wrong.

For most people the Lambeth Conference, the ten-yearly meeting of Anglican bishops in August, will have been a smallish column somewhere inside their newspaper – after all there is little news when church decides to talk about sex. Others decided to make a meal of it and headlines dragged up stories and attitudes from a long time ago. Being the age of social media many felt this was a good moment to get in on what was simmering.

This is a shame because in some ways the Lambeth story is bigger than that because the bishops meeting in Canterbury had a more motivating agenda and offered significant support to churches which face challenges far greater than any the Church of England finds itself dealing with. The Bishops heard from many different situations: churches facing persecution, the greater impact of climate change, war, refugee crises and more. Some Bishops would have been returning to uncertain and dangerous conditions where their own lives were in danger.

For many relationships of support have been renewed - and encounters with our companion dioceses from Zimbabwe and Tanzania will have been important for our incoming Bishop, Jonathan. (There is a very positive story about support which has been given in the past when our companion dioceses have faced governmental corruption and persecution in Harare). It was also the opportunity for some groups in the diocese to renew those links, not least the Mothers Union who encountered Bishop Given from Kondoia at the Cathedral on Mary Summer Day.

Which makes it all the more lamentable when the impression is given that the greatest energy was spent attempting to push back the progress that has been made on attitudes to same sex marriage, identity and relationships. For the first time at a Lambeth Conference there were bishops present who were willing and able to speak openly about their own stories of same sex love, companionship and marriage. There was no final statement, resolution, or call on these issues. It was stated that at present there are different approaches in the Anglican Communion which should not be allowed to break the ties of unity. For some Bishops this was a sufficient summary of where things are up to, for others, sadly, this impaired communion was expressed in a refusal to share communion. The Lambeth Conference does not set policy for the churches which attend but the way issues are addressed will affect the way the church is perceived as people read their news.

Christ Church's commitment to inclusion was made very clear when I was appointed as Vicar, as was its longing for the time when we will be able to offer equality to all who seek the sacrament of marriage. At present the Church of England is on a journey of discernment called *Living in Love and Faith*. For many of us this will feel like a Holy Saturday period as we long for the light of Easter and the new possibilities of change. Like the disciples we may feel bruised and apprehensive because the timetable is unclear and old arguments have re-emerged that have hurt people, but our hopes are what we cling onto. In the meanwhile we are called to get on with the very real mission opportunities that God gives us – by offering an inclusive welcome in our church, by standing with those who feel excluded, anxious or forgotten in a time when there is so much trying to worry us in our world. St Paul wrote that Christians should be judged 'by their fruits' – the challenge for us will be how we cultivate love, joy and peace as we offer God's inclusive love to all.