

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF RAINHAM
PARISH MAGAZINE**



(St Thomas' Crib 2016)

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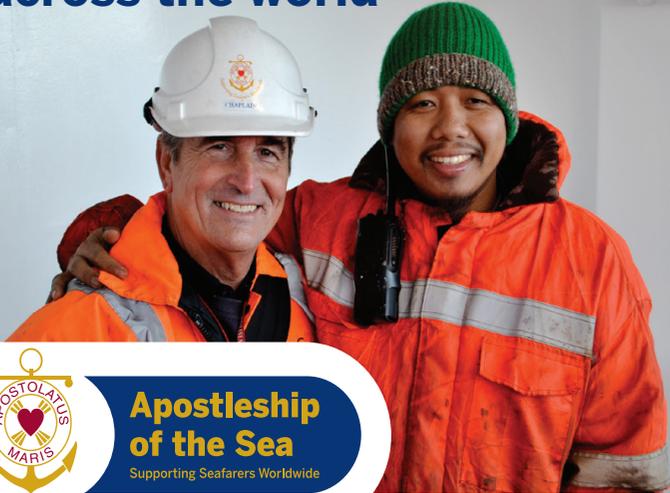
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Remembrance Sunday – 8 November 2020:

Reproduced below is the Order of Service that would have been used for our Remembrance Service.

The First World War was unlike previous wars due to its vast scale, the new technology employed and the unconscionable number of casualties. It was also unique in that it changed the way in which we remembered our war dead.

Since the start of the Great War, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission continues to maintain the cemeteries, burial plots and memorials that are a lasting tribute to those who died from Commonwealth countries.

Despite the perception that the cemeteries are of uniform design, there is an enormous variety of **CWGC** resting places worldwide. Like the men and women they commemorate, each has its own character and unique atmosphere, whether it is in the Namib Desert or the serried ranks of white gravestones at Etaples.

Tyne Cot Cemetery

Tyne Cot is the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world in terms of burials – containing the graves of almost 12,000 men. A high proportion, over 8,300 of these, are marked “A Soldier of the Great War, Known unto God”.

The cemetery takes its name from a barn which stood near the level crossing on the Passchendaele-Broodseinde Road. The barn, which had become the centre of five or six German blockhouses, or pill-boxes, was nicknamed ‘Tyne Cot’ or ‘Tyne Cottage’ by the men of the Northumberland Fusiliers.

‘There was not a sign of life of any sort. Not a tree, save for a few dead stumps which looked strange in the moonlight. Not a bird, not even a rat or a blade of grass. Nature was as dead as those whose bodies remained where they had fallen. Death was written large everywhere’

We will remember them





**Requiem Mass for
Remembrance Sunday
8 November 2020**

St Thomas of Canterbury Rainham Kent

Music – Be Still my soul

Entrance – Organ plays Abide with me, fast falls the eventide

All stand during the entrance procession when the Poppy Cross will be processed and placed on the Sanctuary underneath the Easter Candle. Because of Covid-19 we are not permitted to sing during this Mass. Hymn music will be played as appropriate during Mass.

Greeting and opening prayers by Fr Tom

The Gloria



A Reading from the book of Ecclesiastes - A Time for Everything

Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses. He sets the time for birth and the time for death, the time for planting and the time for pulling up, the time for killing and the time for healing, the time for tearing down and the time for building. He sets the time for sorrow and the time for joy, the time for mourning and the time for dancing, the time for making love and the time for not making love, the time for kissing and the time for not kissing.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever

1 The Lord is my shepherd,
There is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R**

3 You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil,
My cup is overflowing. **R**

2 He guides me along the right path;
He is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
With these you give me comfort. **R**

4 Surely goodness and kindness shall
follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R**

**In the Lord's own house shall I
dwell for ever and ever.**

A Reading from the first letter of St John



Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refuses to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely

everyone who entertains this hope must purify themselves, must try to be as pure as Christ.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb she said and I don't know where they have put him."

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first, he bent down and saw the linen clothes lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head, this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Homily

The Apostle's Creed

Bidding Prayers for Remembrance Sunday

**Let us ask our Mother Mary to pray for us as we say:
Hail Mary**

The Ode

They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
'We will remember them'



'We will remember them'

A period of silence and reflection

Music – Elgar’s Nimrod

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preface for the Dead

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God through Christ our Lord. In Him the hope of the blessed resurrection has dawned, that those saddened by the certainty of dying might be consoled by the promise of immortality to come. Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven. And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim.

Eucharist Prayer II – Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts

Fr Tom will now receive Communion by himself and following that, there is a period of silence and reflection.

Communion Antiphon

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will not die forever, alleluia.

Post Communion Prayer

The Kohima Epitaph



**When you go home tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrow we gave our today**



The Final Blessing

Communion of the faithful

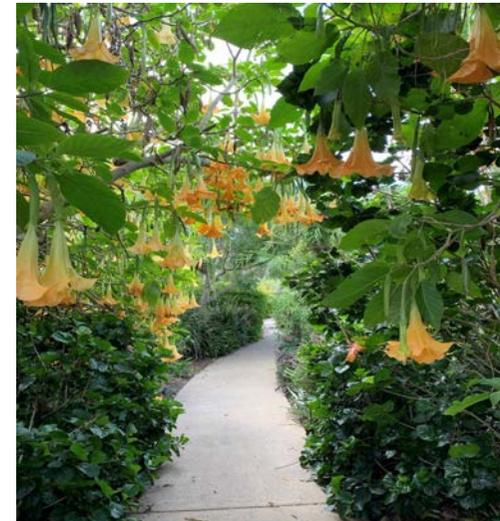
Music – Eternal Father, strong to save/O God my help in ages past

Living the Dream (Part 2 – Continued from the last magazine)

On March 26, some 20 days after the first Covid 19 case was diagnosed in New Zealand, the country went into Level 4 lockdown. This meant no swimming, surfing, fishing, bungee jumping and much to my disappointment no fish and chips! Local walking or cycling for exercise was allowed and the only driving permitted was for food shopping or medical services.

The isolated location of Matapouri means that few people apart from locals are here during winter. The three of us hunkered down for the next 7 weeks while in Level 4 amusing ourselves with jigsaws, knitting, reading and television. Tim, a solicitor returning permanently from the UK decided to serve his mandatory two-week self-isolation at his parents’ holiday house next door. He arrived on 20 March and we helped by picking up shopping either at the local Matapouri store or in Whangarei. Once his self-isolating period was over, we would assemble with him and another family for Friday night drinks on the driveway, observing 2 metres of social distancing, of course.

The house borders a park with flat even paths through a bush garden so recreational walking was fine.



I came to know the bushes and trees. The lemon tree full of huge lemons, the dinosaur tree (an Australian paperbark tree) which is spongy to touch and has layers of paper like sheets. Hibiscus in all colours and sizes bloom all year round. Scented camelias, flowering aloes, bottle brush bushes, palms and big, trumpet flowers.



My daily walk is 2 kilometres long and one seldom sees anyone there so social distancing is no problem. I walked most days as winter is milder here, cardigan weather. I took 21 days to walk a marathon and I reckon to have completed (very slowly) 6 marathons while I have been here.

Winter here means rain and lots of it. The storm we had on 18/19 July was no exception. It was at its peak between 11 pm to 2 am and the thunder so noisy and intense that no one slept. 10 inches of rain hammered down on the roof in that time in a 1 in 500-year event. As the rain fell, we could see that our house and the two others in the block were on an island. The road went underwater as the water continued rising until it was within 3 foot of the garage door. Luckily the rain stopped and over the next 2 days the stormwater swales took this vast volume of water away to the sea.

When New Zealand went into lockdown Geoff went into Whangarei to grocery shop. It was a 5-hour round trip by the time he had driven to the supermarket, queued up to get in as a maximum of 250 people were allowed in at any one time and then motored home. We quickly decided to shop online as we were able to get a priority delivery slot through Geoff's pensioners card.

New Zealand has recorded some 1,560 cases and 22 deaths from Covid 19 and on 9 June after many days of no new cases being confirmed New Zealand went to alert level 1. Schools opened and workers went back to work, cafes and bars re-opened so everything was more or less back to normal except air travel as the border remains closed to non-New Zealanders. The only cases that we are currently getting are from New Zealanders returning from overseas. All arrivals are taken to secure facilities for two weeks isolation. They are tested on the 3rd and 12th days for the virus.

Sunday 9 August was the 100th day free from community transmission of the virus. Two days later Auckland recorded a further outbreak of four cases and was put back into Level 3 with the rest of the country going to Level 2.

Since Easter I was able to hear Mass at St John Fisher Church in Bexley with Father Doug. Absolutely brilliant!! Thank you, Father Doug, readers and the technical team for beaming Mass into homes around the world. The Community Church re-opened after 9 weeks of lockdown and I returned for their services.

Thank you Jim, Arthur, Clifford and Alma for keeping in touch across all the miles.

Most of all thank you Geoff and Kirsty for your cooking, care, fun and loving kindness. Also the grandchildren and great-grandchildren here. After nearly 10 months I am leaving New Zealand, one of the safest places on Earth. I fly out on Thursday September 3 with Singapore Airlines.



What a fabulous place to live out lockdown.

Olga Higgins

Welcome home Olga, pleased to hear that you arrived home safely. I bet you never thought when you set out last year that you'd be away for so long!



Carols date back to mediaeval times



The Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square is a gift from the people of Oslo to the people of London (not England as is commonly thought) and dates from 1946. However, the City of Manchester has sent a tree to the City of Lille each year since 1918. Moneys for children to buy sweets and chocolates accompany this

Finally, according to the Holy Days and Fasting act of 1551 (which is still on the statute books) every British citizen is required by law to attend a Christian church service on Christmas Day. Failure to do so is against the law. This same act also requires that you shall not, under any circumstances travel to church in any kind of vehicle.

Editor's Note:

My thanks to Olga, Clifford and Florence for contributing to the magazine. What a trip of a life time you had Olga. Little did we know when you set off for your visit, I think it was in November, that you would be stuck on the other side of the world for so long. It does look beautiful though with all those exotic flowers and plants. New Zealand, as a whole, seemed to have managed this awful virus so much better than we have. Anyhow all of your friends are pleased to know you are now back in your own home and with luck and care things will eventually get better.

I would also like to thank Clifford, I was beginning to get desperate and then I received your Remembrance Day Service, which unfortunately had to be called off. Such a shame so many things are not happening this year. Clifford also sent in the obituary for Doorkins Magnificat the much-loved cat from Southwark Anglican Cathedral. She sounds quite a character! I couldn't get her picture to copy and I'm really not sure about copyright conditions on her other pictures but she was a rather splendid and mischievous tabby cat. As I have 2 cats myself I could identify with this one. I have a mischievous little black cat and an enormous tabby with a ruff round his neck. When things get you down it can be very therapeutic stroking a pet.

Life is never without excitement, we had our television aerial blow off the chimney last week, fortunately it didn't come off the roof and hit anyone! The week before the battery went in my car. These items have both now been replaced and I'm praying there won't be a third thing go wrong. The sound also went distorted on my computer but I'm still managing to use it!

If any of you have anything at all that I can use for the magazine please do send it to me or let me know.

At this time in previous years I will have been looking forward to our UCM Carol Concert. I'm sure many of us will miss the Medway Singers, who usually put on a fund-raising concert at St Augustine's Church, Parkwood. This covers both churches, St Thomas' and St Augustine's, and makes a nice start to Christmas as well as being a very good fund raiser for our charity.

I hope you all manage to have an enjoyable Christmas, in the circumstances, and hopefully the new year will bring better times for us all.

I can't finish my note without mentioning the loss of Deacon Alan Boxall, who did so much work in our Parish and also at Medway hospital. May he rest in peace. Please pray for Alan and for Josie and their family.

Please pray for all of those who are ill, for those with Corona Virus and for our hospital staff.

God bless you all

Alma

Alma Payne – Editor, Parish Magazine,
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Funerals:

08.10.2020	Andrew Ian Angus	13.10.2020	Gianfranco Sotgiu
19.10.2020	Joan Forbes	22.10.2020	Monica Swain
09.11.2020	Patricia Florence Winifred Williams (known as Pat)		
08.12.2020	Rev Deacon Alan Richard Boxall		

Anniversary List: (up to 2018 only)

02.10.2018	Mark Reilly	04.10.2017	Mary Cruttenden
08.10.2015	Mary O'Neill	24.10.2015	Michael Taylor
16.10.2016	Colette Carmel Wilson	29.10.2015	Thelma Brier
01.11.2016	Peggy Hitch	04.11.2015	Iris Barratt
09.11.2016	Stefan Nastaly	17.11.2016	Anthony Andrews
21.11.2018	Hannah Flynn	25.11.2015	Sheila Link
28.11.2016	Peter Peck	28.11.2016	Mary O'Toole
28.11.2017	Gillian Smith	28.11.2017	Bridie Curran
29.11.2017	Doreen Tromp	04.11.2015	Jacqueline Edgson
06.12.2016	Margaret Nugent	06.12.2016	Margaret Nicholson
10.12.2017	Denis Moley	11.12.2017	Thomas O'Neill
13.12.2015	John Rooney	17.12.2015	Catherine Donnelly
18.12.2018	Frank Doherty	19.12.2015	Margaret Hardy
19.12.2018	John Carrick	20.12.2015	Nigel Price
20.12.2015	Angela Purcell	20.12.2017	Denis Barrett
20.12.2017	Peter Kelly	22.12.2016	Deborah Fleming



**CHRIST is the MORNING STAR who, when the NIGHT of this
WORLD is past brings HIS SAINTS the promise of
The LIGHT OF LIFE and opens EVERLASTING DAY.
Venerable Bede (673 – 735)**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please watch the Newsletter or Parish Website for Mass times. I am not going to list any of them in case things change. It was also possible to see Mass from our church on You Tube last Sunday and also Alan's funeral Mass. Thank you to those involved, you did brilliantly!

Please observe social distancing while in the Church and on entering/exiting, wear a face covering, use the hand sanitizer and check in using one of our Track & Trace methods. Please do not socialize with anyone outside of your household or bubble whilst in the church.

Some Good Thoughts & Observations for 2020:

Despite the many problems experienced during 2019 – 2020, it would be good to reflect on some of the positive coping and helping strategies by many and new ways of so doing. As Clifford said in his last letter, most of this is unknown owing to the lack of meetings, church ceremonies and the inability of some to cope with modern technology. Therefore, if people put their thoughts and experiences down on paper and send it to Alma for publication, a lot more would be known which would be of help and benefit to all.

A few to remember as being very helpful:

- 1 Clifford's letters informing us of many things while Fr Tom was away and ever since.
- 2 The church choir under the guidance of Lindsay and Matthew, wonderful to hear and getting better all the time.
- 3 Those caring and looking after the terminally ill and sick both at home and in hospital
- 4 The work being done by Mike and helpers in the church. Also the UCM and SVP helping the needy in our community.
- 5 Those keeping in touch by phone with a bunch of people who are vulnerable or alone.
- 6 Fr Tom is now doing a Reflection for the community on Saturday or Sunday.

And many other things.

During the first lockdown, I started contacting family and friends at home and abroad regarding recitation of the Angelus. Lots are continuing to do so. Many of you will remember the painting by Jean-Francois Millet (now in the Musée D'Orsay, Paris) of two people stopping their work in the field to pray the Angelus. Of course, the Angelus bell rang in churches at 12 midday and 6pm and those on night work and in convents and monasteries said the prayer at 12 Midnight and 6am. In those days of course not many people had watches and the Angelus Bell was not only a call to prayer but also marked a guidance for activities throughout the day.

God Bless all

Florence Classey

Fr Tom also encourages to pray 'The Angelus' traditionally said in the morning, at midday and in the evening and celebrates the first joyful mystery of the annunciation. Also 'The Mysteries of the Rosary' are said on different days of the week:-

The Joyful Mysteries – Mondays & Saturdays, **The Luminous Mysteries** – Thursdays, **The Sorrowful Mysteries** – Tuesdays & Fridays, **The Glorious Mysteries** – Wednesday & Sundays.

THE ANGELUS

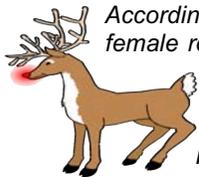
The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary;
And she conceived by the Holy Spirit, Hail Mary ...

Behold the handmaid of the Lord;
Be it done unto me according to your word. Hail Mary ...

The Word was made flesh;
And dwelt among us. Hail Mary ...

V Pray for us, O holy Mother of God
R That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, so that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may, by his Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of his Resurrection; through the name of Christ Our Lord.



According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December.

Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to every historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, every single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen had to be female.

We should've known. Only a woman would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost



Legend has it that St Boniface when preaching to recent converts to Christianity in the seventh century chopped down an oak tree which at that time was considered divine by the pagans. He found a little fir tree still standing amongst its roots and used this tree as a symbol of the miracle of Christ's resurrection.

Doorkins Magnificat – Obituary

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Written by The Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark

We had some goldfish, the kind that you won at the fair, brought home in a little plastic bag and which swam round a bowl until they swam no more. We had a white mouse called 'Snowy' which didn't survive very well. We did better with my sister's Cockatiel called 'Beauty' which was with us for a very long time. But because it developed a passionate hatred of my sister's boyfriend, who was to become her husband, when she left home to get married the bird didn't go with her. But we were never allowed a cat or a dog. The thought of the mess and disorder they would bring was too much for my mum to contemplate – after all, the mouse was in the shed, the fish in a bowl and the bird in a cage whereas a dog or a cat would be anywhere and everywhere.

I always enjoyed seeing other people's larger pets, dogs that would jump up you and cats that would dig sharp claws into you but I never committed to actually having one myself. So when Doorkins arrived at the Cathedral back in 2008 this was something of a novel experience for me.

I've written in this blog on a number of occasions about Doorkins Magnificat to give her her full name. I've told her story to a great many people and I've enjoyed doing that. Although she wasn't a cuddly cat I grew to love her, very quickly grew to love her. She had real character, she treated us with a measure of disdain, I respected her for that. She knew what we could give her and she grew to rely on it. From those first tentative steps into the building she made the church her own. She was never happy going into any other space – the sacristy wasn't for her – all that gossiping in there probably put her off. She preferred the holy spaces and every so often she would move to another place which became her favourite spot.

At one time it was the Harvard Chapel, secreting herself in a tight little space beneath George Pace's brutalist sedilia where there was a hot water pipe, then it was one of our stalls, then a seat in the Retrochoir, or the north transept, or spread eagled on one of the grates from which the hot air emerged into the Cathedral. She shrugged off the attention that others tried to give to her; she lashed out when she'd had enough and I couldn't blame her for that. Celebrity is costly!

She had an uncanny knack of knowing when something significant was happening or someone important was about. If the bishop was there she emerged to eyeball him, taunting him with her presence. A royal visitor might be treated to a little cat rubbing against their leg uncharacteristically seeking a stroke. The solemn moment of the Bidding Prayer at a posh memorial service would be broken into by a little cat wandering onto the tower space, sitting down, washing herself thoroughly, then getting up and walking off as though none of us were there.

It was my predecessor, Colin Slee, who named her and yes, it was a cheeky reference to his nemesis Richard Dawkins, but he spelt the name differently so we could perpetuate a myth that it was just a coincidence. Colin loved Doorkins and she knew it. So when she settled down beneath his coffin the night he lay in the Cathedral before his funeral our hearts were broken. Somehow she knew

***'Pussy cat, pussy cat, where have you been? I've been up to London to visit the Queen.
Pussy cat, pussy cat, what did you there? I frightened a little mouse under her chair.'***

It was Her Majesty of course who visited her. Doorkins was in her favourite place at that time, asleep on a cushion in the Chancellor's seat in the Consistory Court. The Queen looked, commented and moved on – Doorkins slept on.

Life was OK until 3 June 2017 when the Cathedral was at the epicentre of the terrorist attack on London Bridge and the Borough Market. The vergers had put Doorkins out that night as they did every night as they locked up the Cathedral. She enjoyed her nights out in the market, plenty of scraps, plenty of fun and she could sleep it all off during the day. But what she experienced that night changed everything. She was caught up in the lockdown of the area. We couldn't get to the Cathedral to rescue her, so she was left to her own devices. We contacted the Met Police and they looked out for her and fed her. But when we got back, opened the door, she ran in and wouldn't go out again. She had experienced the terror of that evening with everyone else in the Borough Market. After experiencing the kindness of humans she saw the evil that they can do. So she came back to the safety of the Cathedral and like Hannah before stayed in the holy place.

A book was written about her, lovely cards were produced, mouse mats sold, she was a celebrity.

But she was getting older and we knew that. Last year, one Saturday night, during a Diocesan spirituality day, she fell down the steps of the tower space in front of everyone. She needed a safer, softer environment and so she had to retire. One of the vergers offered her the comfort of his apartment as her retirement home and she has been there ever since.

Just a few days ago she suffered a stroke. We knew that the end was in sight and it came more rapidly than we had thought. So, on the evening of 30 September at 8.20pm she died in the arms of the verger who had made his home her home.

When we think about who we are as a cathedral we think about Doorkins, just arriving, gradually finding confidence to come in, and then stay, becoming part of the community. She found a place where she could be fed and loved. She found a safe

place where people accepted her and let her be who she was. And she made the place softer and gentler and more accessible for the thousands who arrived just to see if they could see her and get a picture they could take away with them.

Thank you, Doorkins and thank you, God, for giving us such companions out of your good creation.

Amen.



Weekly Offertory Collections:

We are aware that parishioners have expressed concern that they are unable to support the ongoing costs of the parish through their regular offertory collections at this time while the church is closed. If you wish to provide your regular support you can do so by setting up a Bankers Order or by donating to the church accounts by Bank Transfer. If you wish to do so please contact me by email on chrisiles311@gmail.com or by phone on 01634 373840 [please leave a message if the answer phone cuts in] and I will provide bank details. Alternatively make a single donation when the church is reopened.

Thank you for your concern
Take care and keep safe

Chris Iles

Parish Finance Chairman

UCM – Mary's Meals:

The UCM fund raising for Mary's Meals hasn't really got off the ground this year but I imagine that we will carry it over to next year in the hope that things will be better. If anyone wants to contribute please contact me or any UCM member.

Alma Payne – Secretary, UCM Rainham
Almapayne1@gmail.com
Tel: 01634 362896



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