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## CATHOLIC PARISH OF RAINHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



St. Thomas of Canterbury Church  
61 London Road, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 7RH

Parish Website [www.rcrainham.co.uk](http://www.rcrainham.co.uk)  
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Kent, ME8 0BG Telephone 01634 232972

Deacon Alan Boxall - 51 Hickory Dell, Hempstead, Gillingham,  
Kent, ME7 3SL Telephone 01634 360637

Deacon James Coleman - 248 Lower Twydall Lane,  
Gillingham, Kent ME8 6QP Telephone 01634 306558

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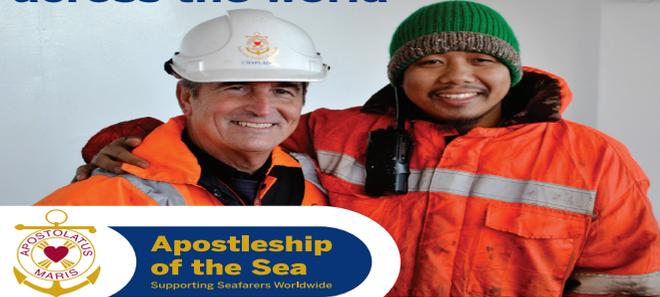
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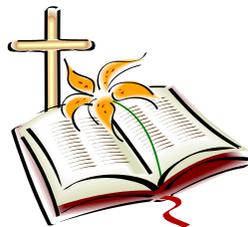
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**Take Care**

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After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning,  
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.  
And behold, there was a great earthquake;  
for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven,  
approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it.  
His appearance was like lightning  
and his clothing was white as snow.  
The guards were shaken with fear of him  
and became like dead men.  
Then the angel said to the women in reply,  
"Do not be afraid!  
I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified.  
He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.  
Come and see the place where he lay.  
Then go quickly and tell his disciples,  
'He has been raised from the dead,  
and he is going before you to Galilee;  
there you will see him.'  
Behold, I have told you."  
Then they went away quickly from the tomb,  
fearful yet overjoyed,  
and ran to announce this to his disciples.  
And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them.  
They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.  
Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid.  
Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee,  
and there they will see me."

**Luke 24: 13 – 35**



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Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales  
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????? QUIZ ??????  
St Patrick's Day Quiz

- 1 St Patrick was born in 347 A in the Roman settlement of Banna Venta Berniae, but in what modern country is that thought to be in?
- 2 According to legend, how did St Patrick drive the snakes from Ireland?
- 3 What spirit is used in Irish coffee?
- 4 What did St Patrick use to teach the Irish about The Holy Trinity?
- 5 Where in Ireland would you find the 'Book of Kells'?
- 6 Which former winner of the Eurovision song contest ran for Irish president in 1997?
- 7 In which year did the first St Patrick's Day parade take place in New York City?
- 8 St Patrick's Day is an official holiday in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, but on which Caribbean island is March 17 also celebrated as a holiday?
- 9 Born in Dublin in 1856 which Irish playwright has won both the Nobel Prize for literature and an Oscar?
- 10 In which Cathedral is St Patrick said to be buried?



**A 'Mad Day' in Nantes – a cautionary tale.**

At the end of January, I was staying with my friend in Rennes in Brittany. We had bought tickets for two concerts in Nantes that were taking place on the first day of a music festival in Nantes – over 70 miles away. The festival is called “La folle journée de Nantes” (Nantes’s Mad Day) and it lasts **5** days! There were 300 concerts/recitals in that period. Some took place in churches and chapels but the main location was a big “venue” with at least five auditoria of various sizes. I think that each hall hosted at least five concerts each day. There were 39 events in all on the first day alone ranging from medieval to jazz via orchestral, choral, chamber music .....

The weather was foul that day. We reached Nantes at lunchtime having had the wipers on all the way – as much for the spray from HGVs as for the rain. We parked in a park-and-ride multi-storey car park near the motorway and took the tram into the centre. We had a slow, delicious, somewhat Wagamamas style lunch in a restaurant run by an Irish couple. Our first concert was at 5pm and we had planned to spend the rest of the afternoon site seeing. But the rain only got heavier. We sheltered for a while in an interesting shop and then made a dash to the Cathedral of St Peter and Paul.



Christianity reached Nantes before 300AD but the first cathedral seems to have been founded (– or rebuilt?) by St Felix who became bishop after his wife entered a convent – in 6<sup>th</sup> C. It was eventually burned down in the 12<sup>th</sup> C. In 1434 they started building a huge and lofty Gothic cathedral. It was finally finished in 1891 – 457 years in the building. This makes it all the more tragic that it was severely damaged by allied bombing in 1944 and then by a huge fire in 1972. Since then it has been very

extensively restored. The result is that it looks brand new – especially inside. But it lacks the accumulations of art etc. that usually help to make cathedrals interesting. Its main charm is its

architectural beauty. Internally it is 335ft x 117ft and the vault of the nave is 114ft high. It dwarfs Rochester and perhaps more resembles Ely cathedral – except that it is nearly pure white.

From there we headed past the impressive castle of the dukes of Brittany. It now houses a large museum but we did not have time to visit it – especially as it is not free so you need time to justify the entrance fee.

Our first concert/recital at 5pm was by a group called Obsidienne who sing and play medieval instruments and music. It was delightful. A short break and then we moved to a different theatre in the complex for 7pm to listen to a well-known string quartet augmented by a distinguished accordionist – an interesting but very effective blend. There were so many people milling everywhere going to the various events or looking for food, loos etc.

Afterwards – some time after 8pm - I was expecting to head back to the car, especially as I needed to pack ready to catch my train back to Paris the next morning to get the Eurostar back to Ebbsfleet. But my friend wanted to eat before we left. We went to a cafeteria where there was a huge queue. Eventually we had a pleasant meal and it must have been 9.30pm when we left. Walk, tram, change tram. As we finally drew near the car park about 10.25pm a little voice in my head started making me worry that I knew that it was supposed to close at 10pm! I was so sure that we were leaving mid evening that the words of the lady that we had spoken to at the barrier on arriving had seemed to have no relevance to us. My friend had not even heard her. I hoped that I was wrong. I was right!

We were outside and the car was locked inside. Luckily, the rain had eased. There was an emergency number attached to the barrier grill. We phoned it. Reuniting people like us with our cars was clearly part of his duties – but he was already heading to the other side of the city. He reckoned it would be 30 minutes before he would get to us. So we stood there – under something that sheltered us from above but not from the wind. 20 minutes later another couple arrived in the same predicament. Eventually the

man arrived at about 11.20pm. He let us in – and out! We reached Rennes about 12.30 on a road that was largely both dry and empty.

Never leave your car in a multi-storey without checking what time it closes – even if you have no intention of returning late – and especially not when you have to catch a train 70 miles away the following morning.

PS I caught my train and Nantes is a city that looks well worth visiting on a fine day.

**Maryline Stevenson**

**Editor's Note:**

*Thank you everyone for your contributions to the magazine, please do keep them coming.*

*I hope you are all managing to keep warm in the awful weather we have been experiencing but at least, as I write this, the sun is shining and hopefully it is getting warmer. The bulbs are flowering and it will soon be summer.*

*Copy date for the next magazine is end of April.*

*I hope you all have a very happy and holy Easter.*

*Alma Payne*

**Editor – Parish Magazine**

**Tel: 01634 362896**

**e-mail: [almapayne1@gmail.com](mailto:almapayne1@gmail.com)**

Live simply, love generously, care deeply  
and speak kindly.

Grace is God reaching down,  
Faith is man reaching back



## **News from St Thomas' March 2018**

The snow has thawed and life is returning to normal! During the "beast from the east" our school closed from Tuesday lunch time and did not reopen until the following week! We hope that all the children enjoyed playing in the snow! Obviously the decision to close the school is never taken lightly and the safety of the children and staff is paramount. However, now that the school is reopened, we are all preparing for Easter. Rehearsals are underway in year 6 for the annual Stations of the Cross and in years 4 and 5 for the passion service. The infants are also preparing for Easter in their own way by hearing the Easter story through the Easter alphabet.

On 30<sup>th</sup> January, we had a visit from OFSTED. They performed a section 5 inspection which is a one day visit with only one inspector. We have only recently received the results and we are happy to say that we have maintained our good status which we are very pleased with. The full report should be on our school website soon should you wish to have a proper read but is also available on the OFSTED website.

The final Friday before the half term holidays, Mrs Tong and our GIFT team organised a cake sale to raise money for our chosen charity, the dogs trust. Many people contributed cakes to the sale and the children enjoyed buying and selling. Over £100 was raised. Thank you to all who helped.

We have been incredibly busy in the sporting department with three tournaments since half term! As usual, our children's behaviour, team spirit and attitude was exemplary at each tournament we attended and that makes us, as staff, so very proud to be seen with our children and makes it such a pleasure to bring them.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, Mrs Tong and Mr South brought year four children to a multi-skills tournament at the Howard school.

Multi-skills teaches the children, through a variety of games, the basic skills needed for sports and the importance of team work. Ours was one of eight schools who attended that day from the Medway area. They had to complete over 12 games and they scored lots of gold and silver awards. Mrs Tong and Mr South were very pleased with their achievements. Our super team were Caitlin, Hayden, Evie, Ben, Harry, Isobel, Ethan, Neo, Emma, Elliott and Pippa. Well done!

On 6<sup>th</sup> March, Mrs Tong and Mr Wilkins brought children from years 4, 5 and 6 to the Thames View cross country 1 mile race. Our team were a determined bunch helping us to achieve our best ever results with some highly placed. The team included Isobel, Ella, Caitlin, Bella, Alice, Chloe, Harry, Oliver, Reece, Nancy, Lexie, Ralph and Ellie.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, Mr South brought children from year 5 and 6 to the Anchorians tag rugby tournaments. In our section, we won 7/8 games and the game we lost we only missed winning by 1 try. Overall we were finally placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. A fantastic achievement! Mr South was delighted with the high level of play shown by all the participants. Well done to Edward, Ellie, Sofia, Alicia, Mackenzie, Reece, Harry and Elliot.

At this time, we ask for your prayers for the upcoming Easter holidays. We hope that all the children and staff have a restful and fun time during the break and that we all come back rested and ready for the new term. We also ask for your prayers for years 2 and 6 with the SATS tests which will be happening soon after we come back. We hope that they will all do their very best and be pleased with their results.

***Theresa Stanton***

Life always offers you a second  
chance - it's called tomorrow





**A Celebration of the Retirement of Deacon Alan**

On Sunday the 4 February Bishop Paul Mason joined us at St Thomas' to celebrate with a special Mass for the retirement of Deacon Alan Boxall after 28 years of devoted service to the Parish.

It was a lovely evening and after the service we all retired to the Parish Centre for refreshments, served by the UCM and provided by the parishioners who always respond so well to appeals for food.

Thank you Alan for all your hard work and thank you Josie for supporting Alan and for all the work that you do in the parish.



**From the Registers**

**Baptisms:**

- 28.01.2018 Eden Kate Tutty
- 28.01.2018 Sidney John Briffitt
- 25.02.2018 Georgia Rose Lempriere
- 03.03.2018 Cole John Tracey

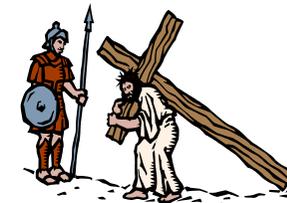
**Funerals:**

- 16.02.2018 Mary Anne Josephine McDowell
- 19.02.2018 June Ann Carle
- 19.02.2018 Stephen Robert Michael Plummer
- 02.03.2018 Ian Ashted Jenner
- 09.03.2018 Joan Elizabeth Cullen
- 15.03.2018 Maurice Edward James Springate



**Anniversary List:**

- |          |                    |          |                         |
|----------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| 03.03.15 | Mary Rachel Hanson | 08.03.14 | George Doyle            |
| 19.03.16 | Eileen Lewis       | 22.03.14 | Luigi Lovarini          |
| 23.03.13 | Wendy Worden       | 25.03.15 | Theresa Chapman         |
| 26.03.14 | Jean Finch         | 05.04.15 | Martyn Fisher (funeral) |
| 08.04.13 | Maria Holt         | 17.04.17 | Francis Parsons         |
| 23.04.17 | Amelia Farnham     | 24.04.16 | Mavis Lovibond          |
| 27.04.17 | Ellen Cooper       |          |                         |



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)**

## Could you be an Appropriate Adult?

*A day in the life of .....*

The role of the volunteer appropriate adult is to ensure that a young person aged 10 – 17 or a vulnerable adult, the detained person, understands their rights and entitlements while they are in custody (e.g. to obtain free legal advice) and that the police follow the procedures laid down in the **Police and Criminal Evidence Act** code of practice.

In Kent the **Young Lives Foundation (YLF)** are responsible for the training of Appropriate adults who act independently from the Police to ensure that all processes necessary are conducted fairly and properly whilst a young person or a vulnerable adult is detained in police custody. YLF Appropriate Adults are volunteers that are fully trained to ensure they can give the best support to the detained young person or vulnerable adult.

Appropriate adults are called to the police station as an important safeguard, providing independent support to detainees who are:

- aged under 18, or maybe mentally disordered or mentally vulnerable.
- you are not simply an observer. Your role is to assist the detainee to ensure that they understand what is happening at the police station during the interview and investigative stages.

In particular you should

- support, advise and assist the detainee
- ensure that the police act fairly and respect the rights of the detainee
- help communication between the detainee, the police and others

You are not there to provide the detainee with legal advice.

You must be present when:

- the custody officer informs the detainee of their rights and entitlements. If this is carried out before you arrive it must be repeated in your presence.
- when the detainee is cautioned. If the caution is given before you arrive it must be repeated in your presence.

In your role you also have a right to:

- be told why the detainee is being held
- inspect the written record of the detainee's period in detention (the custody record) at any time, and have a copy of that record.
- see a copy of the Notice of Rights and Entitlements.
- see a copy of the PACE Codes of Practice.

You must be present when the police interview the detainee. You should:

- ensure that the detainee understands the caution that is given by the police at the start of the interview.
- Intervene if you feel it is necessary to help the detainee communicate effectively with the police, or if you feel that the police questioning is confusing, repetitive or oppressive.
- ask for a break in the interview if you feel the detainee needs to rest or if you feel that they need legal advice or you want to talk to them in private.
- be present when the detainee is asked to agree and/or sign any documentation.

There are other areas that you may be required to be present whilst the Juvenile or Vulnerable adult are in police custody.

Being detained in police custody can be a difficult time for anyone, but for young people and those who are vulnerable the situation can be even more distressing. Being an Appropriate Adult is a challenging, satisfying and worthwhile role.

If you want to know more or would like to be an Appropriate Adult either talk to Clifford Mickleburgh (07803 727350) or contact the **Young Lives Foundation** on 01622 693459.

- *A vulnerable adult refers to a person over the age of 18 who is or may be suffering from mental ill-health, learning difficulty, physical disability, age or illness and who is or may be unable to protect him or her from harm or exploitation.*

**Clifford Mickleburgh**



**A prayer for the stressed**

*Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I cannot accept, and the wisdom to hide the bodies of those I had to kill today because they got on my nerve. And also, help me to be careful of the toes I step on today as they may be connected the feet I may have to kiss tomorrow.*

*Help me to always give 100% at work:*

*12% on Monday*

*23% on Tuesday*

*40% on Wednesday*

*20% on Thursday*

*and 5% on Friday*

*And help me to remember – when I'm having a bad day and it seems that people are trying to wind me up, it takes 42 muscles to frown and 28 to smile.*

What is on the other side of death?

A doctor was visiting a very ill man, who was also his next door neighbour. As he finally got up to go, the man said: "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; and on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining. As he opened the door, his young spaniel sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing ..... I know my Master is there and that is enough."

**To advertise in this magazine please ring**

**Alma Payne on 01634 362896**

**Or e-mail: [almapayne1@gmail.com](mailto:almapayne1@gmail.com)**

" The Last Word " In Jesus Christ God does not see us as a full stop, but the end of his sentence. **Olive**

## Books of the Bible

### SAMUEL

The first book of Samuel records the transition of Israel from the period of The Judges to the monarchy.

This change in Israel's national life revolves mainly around three men. Samuel (Last of the Judges) Saul (The first King of Israel and David).

The theme of this book; like that of other historical writings in the Old Testament, is that faithfulness to God brings success while disobedience brings disaster.

The Lord himself was regarded as the real King of Israel and under God's law the rights of all people, rich and poor alike, were to be maintained.

Taken from The Good News bible.

**Tony Roberts**

### Parish Quiz (all proceeds to the Organ Restoration Fund)

Please keep the date free for a Parish Quiz to be held at 7.30pm on Saturday 16 June 2018 in St Thomas' Parish Centre. Tickets will be on sale soon.



**John Payne**  
Tel: 01634 362896



On a Sunday morning after the 1030am Mass we serve coffee or tea and biscuits in the Parish Centre. Please come along and join us and you may make some new friends. It is a good way of getting to know your fellow parishioners. We are self-financing and all we ask for is donation towards the cost of supplies.

## QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1 St Patrick was born in 347 A in the Roman settlement of Banna Venta Berniae, but in what modern country is that thought to be in? **Either Scotland or Wales.**
- 2 According to legend, how did St Patrick drive the snakes from Ireland? **By banging a drum.**
- 3 What spirit is used in Irish Coffee? **Irish Whiskey.**
- 4 What did St Patrick use to teach the Irish about The Holy Trinity? **He used the Shamrock.**
- 5 Where in Ireland would you find the 'Book of Kells'? **Trinity College, Dublin.**
- 6 Which former winner of the Eurovision song contest ran for Irish president in 1997? **Danna (Rosemary Scallon).**
- 7 In which year did the first St Patrick's Day parade take place in New York City? **1762.**
- 8 St Patrick's Day is an official holiday in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, but on which Caribbean island is March 17 also celebrated as a holiday? **The island of Monserrat, which has a large Irish population. It also commemorates a slave uprising on the same day.**
- 9 Born in Dublin in 1856 which Irish playwright has won both the Nobel Prize for literature and an Oscar? **George Bernard Shaw, he won the Nobel Prize in 1925 and was awarded the Oscar in 1938 for best adapted screenplay (Pygmalion).**
- 10 In which Cathedral is St Patrick said to be buried? **Down Cathedral, Downpatrick, County Down**



### St Thomas of Canterbury Organ Restoration Fund Monthly Draw 2018 – 19 for the 100 Club

Many of you will already know me, but for those who don't my name is Clifford Mickleburgh and I run the 100 Club raising funds for the Organ Restoration Fund.

I am pleased to say that for 2017 – 2018 we have raised just under £1,200.00 which is a magnificent achievement. Although called the 100 Club we have 167 members.

Next Sunday we have the March Super Draw when the prizes will be £100, £65 and £25.

I have been asked to continue it for another year, perhaps with your help we might call it the 200 Club and raise even more money and of course have more prizes.

In total, to date, with concerts and other generous contributions we already have about £10,000. This shows how much you all appreciate the sound of a traditional organ and the difference that it makes.

We are fortunate in having a really fine organ but you will understand that after nearly 58 years it needs to have major work undertaken in order to give us that wonderful sound of a real organ that we all love to hear. We had hoped that the restoration would have been well underway by now, but sadly the gentleman tasked with the job died suddenly before Christmas and it is taking time to sort things out. We are now hoping the restoration will start shortly after Easter.

We all know how much the organ enhances our services, especially weddings and funerals.

I will be at most Masses until 15 April for anyone wishing to join for 2018 – 2019. If I can request that for those of you who are existing members and who would like to retain their existing numbers then please see me sooner rather than later.

I hope that you will help make the 100, or should I say the 200 club, a further success.

#### **Clifford Mickleburgh**

Mob: 07803 727350 or

Email: clifford@mickleburgh.me.uk



#### **Winners for February 2018:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize of £25** – Alison Soutter

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize of £20** – Majella Shackelford

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize of £10** – Brian Buultjens

#### **Winners for March 2018:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize of £100** – C Fegrado

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize of £65** – Alison Soutter

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize of £25** – Carol Quaye

#### **Volunteering opportunities with Marriage Care:**

*“A marriage does not succeed just because it lasts; its **quality is also important**. To stay together and know how to love each other for ever is the challenge Christian married couples face!”*

#### **(Pope Francis)**

Do you have a few hours to spare to help in the challenge of Christian married couples and those preparing to get married???

Marriage Care has the following opportunities:

- 1) We offer couple counselling training for practicing counsellors.
- 2) Marriage Preparation facilitators: full training provided.

With all of these voluntary roles expenses will be paid.

For further details please ring Mrs Alma Payne on 01634 362896.