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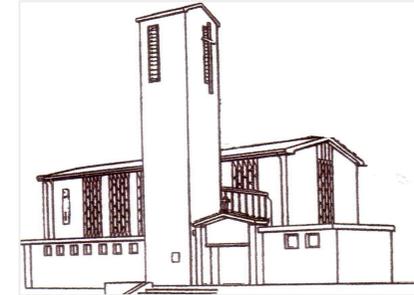
Volume 33

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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

Fr Tom McElhone - 2 Century Road,
Rainham, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0BG
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Fr Tom Tel: 01634 232972

Deacon James Coleman – Tel: 01634 306558

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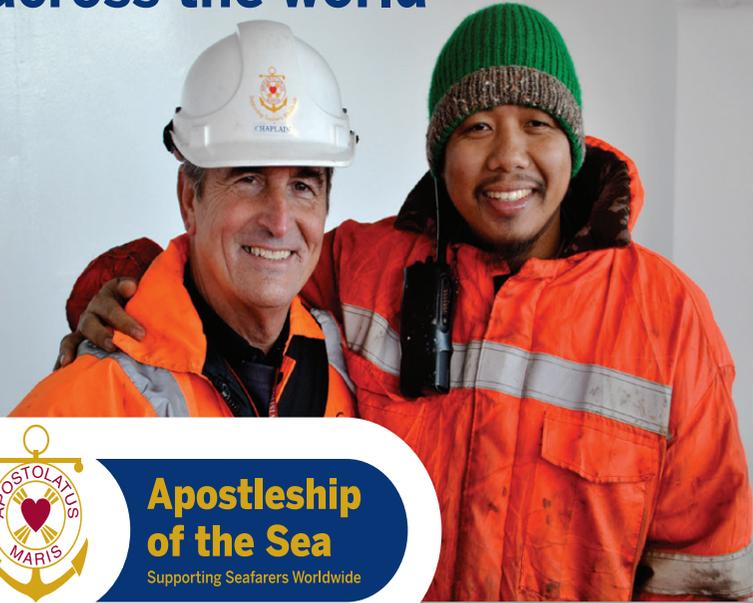
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Terry Powis on 07842 598518

Anske Bax on 07940 230741



A Child's Hymn

Hear my prayer, O heavenly Father
Ere I lay me down to sleep;
Bid Thy angels, pure and holy,
Round my bed their vigil keep.

My sins are heavy, but Thy mercy
Far outweighs them, every one;
Down before Thy cross I cast them,
Trusting in Thy help alone.

Keep me through this night of peril
Underneath its boundless shade;
Take me to Thy rest, I pray Thee
When my pilgrimage is made.

None shall measure out Thy patience
By the span of human thought;
None shall bound the tender mercies
Which Thy Holy Son has bought

Pardon all my past transgressions,
Give me strength for days to come;
Guide and guard me with Thy blessing
'Till Thy angels bid me home.

Charles Dickens



Editor's Note:

It seems a long time since I produced the last magazine but the time seems to fly by and I still seem to get quite a bit of work to do at home. I'm told that it hasn't been a bad winter but I'm afraid I feel the cold and I'm dreading the heating bills! We should soon be seeing some better weather once we get this month over with. The daffodils are coming out along the A2 and I've seen a few snowdrops which is a sure sign of Spring.

Thank you Clifford for sending me a copy of your award and well done to both you and Barney. I've reproduced it as well as I can in the magazine. Keep up the good work, it's a great an achievement.

Thank you Anne for sharing Sister Gillian's letter, it seems like only yesterday that she was at St Thomas' School and although it was a long time ago, she sounds just the same and very busy as usual!

If anyone has anything for the next magazine please do send it in. I am always pleased to hear from any of you, old and new contributors are very welcome. Just something newsy, profound or any amusing quips to put in.

Keep well, keep warm and hopefully no snow!

Alma Payne

Editor – Parish Magazine

E-mail: almapayne1@gmail.com

Tel: 01634 362896



???????? PUZZLE PAGE ????????

For this edition, we decided to make sure you're really paying attention. How are your Sudoku skills? Well now is the time to find out. If you're unsure of the rules keep reading and for those who need a helping hand look for the answers near the back.

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

- All the empty squares must be filled in with the numbers 1 - 9.
- Each row must contain *each* of the numbers 1 - 9 *once only*.
- Each Column must contain *each* of the numbers 1 - 9 *once only*.
- Each of the 9 sub-grids must contain *each* of the numbers 1 - 9 *once only*.

GOOD LUCK !!

Letter from Sister Gillian Murphy

Thank you to Anne Stinson for letting us share her letter from Sister Gillian who used to teach at St Thomas' School many years ago (too many!!)

Dear Anne & Friends,

Well, it's that time again. And what a year it has been! Earlier in the year I spent a lot of time having COVID tests and much time in quarantine, phone calls, visits from officials ... one of whom told my mum to lie when I wasn't at home ... because I had to go and get tested. He obviously didn't know the rules and told her to say that I was at home!! She had a massive panic until I arrived back at the house. At that time I realised that the left hand didn't know what the right hand was doing!!

I can't say that it has been a fascinating or exciting year but there have been some lovely highlights and some bits of hard work.

We closed our community in London and had to empty the house. I am now an expert at packing, filling skips, and charity shops as well as a little bit of online selling!! We now have five sisters in Lincoln which is better for them as they are all together and are well known there in the parishes etc. So, Lincoln has become the place that I visit. I spent four years there as a trainee sister and loved the city. The only problem is that you have to really want to go there, since it is off the beaten track.

During the summer, my nephew and his wife had their first baby, my first great niece, Zadie Elizabeth. Needless to say we are all besotted. She has been a massive distraction for my sister and husband who became the proud grandparents. They are both Directors of Nursing so Zadie has given them a focus other than patients, hospital beds, lack of nurses, and other NHS problems.

I haven't been home to see the family since the summer. However, one advantage of social media is being bombarded by photos and videos of all that is happening, and every outfit she is wearing.

Another great event was the wedding of my eldest niece, postponed from 2020. All these family events have given mum a real boost. Lockdown isn't much fun when you live alone. Although the family have been great, it's still been difficult for her, because she has lost a bit more autonomy and confidence ... so to be surrounded by the family was just what the doctor ordered. Next year will be her 90th birthday, so that's another event to look forward to!

In the latter part of the year, I managed to get to see some tennis in Paris. Not quite Wimbledon but I thoroughly enjoyed my day out. Everywhere we go in France, we need the Covid Pass ...cinema, concerts, restaurants, on the train ...

I managed to get to Valladolid, Spain to teach the seminarians and had a great time. As well as enjoying the

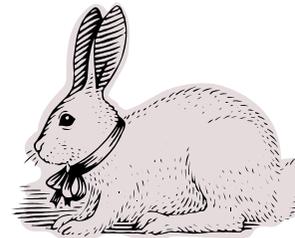
teaching and meeting the lads, Valladolid is such a lovely city: great for eating out and trying all kinds of dishes. Hopefully, I'll be back in February for the second part of my course!

As you can see there are a few events lined up for next year ... COVID permitting!!

I hope that a second year of COVID has not taken its toll on you! So many things forbidden and so many restrictions. Still, I'm grateful that my family has stayed reasonably safe.

Please give all of my friends my love. So many happy memories!

Love and prayers Sr Gillian



*God always gives His
best to those who leave the
Choice with him.*

*A hug is a great gift
one size fits all.
It can be given for any occasion
and it's easy to exchange.*



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 on e-mail 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

Funerals:

November 2021

19.11.2021 George Smith

December 2021

08.12.2021 Michael Brown

21.12.2021 Ann Hodgson

20.12.2021 Thomas Busher

January 2022

12.01.2022 Denise Thurgood

12.01.2022 Marlene Talbot

February 2022

01.02.2022 Christine Rooney

08.02.2022 Mrs Betty Ellis

03.02.2022 Mrs Joan Hillier

10.02.2022 Mrs Rosa Coleman

07.02.2022 Mrs Christine Kenny

14.02.2022 Mr Robert Dunford

Covid 19 and the lifting of Plan B Guidance

Those attending Mass may continue to wear a face covering. There is no need for Track & Trace, however we must continue to ensure there is good ventilation, sanitise hands on entry and all ministers of Holy Communion shall still sanitise their hands before distributing Holy Communion.

Use of hymn books, missals and other worship aids can be resumed and Holy Water stoups may be refilled. For the time being Holy Communion must continue to be given under one kind only. There is a general encouragement to wear a face covering when singing in Church.

*We believe in God the Father
Who created this world as our dwelling
And who entrusted to us the task of sharing it
That all might have a home*

STILL PUZZLED ?? STILL PUZZLED ?? STILL PUZZLED ??



ANSWERS TO THE SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

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."





Congratulations to Clifford & Barney on their Partnership Award, the wording of which I am printing out in case you have trouble reading the small print as unfortunately I can't seem to enlarge it.

Partnership Award

This certificate is awarded to Clifford Mickleburgh in

recognition of his outstanding commitment and dedication to supporting Kent Police and vulnerable people across Kent.

Clifford has been a stalwart of the appropriate adult scheme since 2016, volunteering over 7,000 hours across seven custody suites and at many other police stations across Kent. This is an incredible achievement.

In the last 12 months alone, Clifford and his loyal assistant, Barney his dog, have deployed to over 634 cases, totalling 1,809 hours, where his characteristic caring and engaging nature ensure the best support and guidance to those he advocates for.

Feedback from those he represents, as well as officers and staff, is overwhelmingly exemplary. The inclusion of Barney creates a unique dynamic that breaks down barriers with some of the more intractable individuals, and those who have vulnerabilities who find it difficult to connect.

Clifford's commitment to supporting vulnerable detainees, and in turn police investigations, along with his unparalleled availability, has provided invaluable support allowing Kent Police to continue to deliver a first-class service in line with the Chief Constable's Mission Vision Values and Priorities.

Adam Ball,
Detective Chief Superintendent, November 2021
 Well done Clifford & Barney!



**Kent
Police**

Partnership Award

Clifford Mickleburgh

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Adam Ball
Detective Chief Superintendent

November 2021

The Cancer Research UK North Downs Walk

Sunday 12 June 2022

Harrietsham Village Hall, ME17 1AP

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PLEASE KEEP FREE



SHOW DATES 2022



Easter Country Show - Henham Park,
Suffolk (BH) - 17th and 18th April
Nonsuch Town and Country Show
Epsom, Surrey

1st and 2nd May (BH)

Essex Country Show
Brentwood, Essex

3rd, 4th and 5th June (BH)

The World in One - Morden Park
18th and 19th June

The Bucks Country Show

Amersham

2nd and 3rd July

British Country Fair & Extreme Show

Brentwood, Essex

30th and 31st July

The Cambridge Country Show
Stow Cum Guy, Cambridge

6th and 7th August

The Framlingham Country Show

Framlingham, Suffolk

20th 21st August

The Kent Country Show

Quex Park, Kent

28th and 29th August

FESTIVE FAIR

19th and 20th November

Venue to be confirmed