

Parish Newsletter - Issue No. 94

November 2025

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

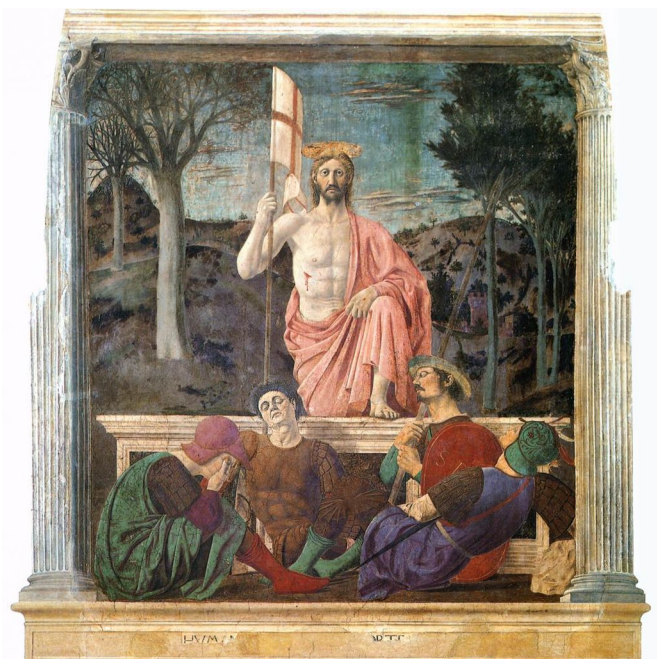


Flags are flying everywhere. I was reminded of this on my visit to the *York Art Gallery* last month when I came across a religious painting not dissimilar to the one by Piero della Francesca below. It was a conventional medieval image of Jesus bursting from an altar-shaped sepulchre, staring the viewer in the face, while guards snooze lifelessly in the foreground. In Jesus' hand is a flag identical to those seen most recently fluttering from the lampposts on Clandon Road and along North Dane Way.

I mention this, not to wade into certain contemporary debates, but to show the fickleness of symbols and signs which can be appropriated for all sorts of reasons and to support all manner of causes. The flag pictured reminds of the cross of Saint George, patron of England, but there is nothing uniquely 'English'

about the image. It is the colours of Christianity which are the key to its interpretation: red for Jesus' blood, white for purity and the cross of his crucifixion.

In this painting the flag is a victory banner over suffering and death; a symbol of evil defeated and the triumph of good. This explains the potency of such a symbol and the beginning of its awkward history. What did it mean when one or more nation state marched under



Piero della Francesca, *Resurrection of Jesus Christ* (1463-65)

this flag in opposition to others as in the days of the crusades? What did it mean when this flag was planted on non-European shores in the days of imperial expansion? History aside, if the Christian cross is adopted as any kind of national symbol, does that mean Jesus' death and resurrection benefits one group of people and not others? Again, I am not walking into contemporary debates, but noticing the power and problem of symbols. My point is flags, emblems, badges should always be handled very sensitively.

There is of course a positive side to symbols. In November, we will light candles to remember those we have loved and lost at our *Service of Remembering &*

Reflection. We shall wear poppies, another symbol of sacrifice, as we remember those involved with conflict and war on the global stage on *Remembrance Sunday*. Before the month ends, Advent begins; a season full of symbols encouraging to focus on the coming of Christ. This year we will be following a series called *Advent in Narnia* based on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, with a film viewing at St David's. Many other services and events are taking place in the Parish over the next few weeks including the return of the *Christmas Tree & Nativity Festival* at the end of November. You can find out about them here!

Rev. David Kitchenside
Team Rector

Worship in November 2025

Sunday 2 November (All Saints)

10am **Holy Communion** at St William's, Walderslade

Sunday 2 November (All Souls)

2pm **Service of Remembering & Reflection** at St Alban's,

Sunday 9 November (Remembrance)

10am **Morning Worship** at St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill

Sunday 16 November (2 Before Advent)

10am **Holy Communion** at St William's, Walderslade

Sunday 16 November (2 Before Advent)

10am **Family Vibes** at St David's, Lordswood

Sunday 23 November (Christ the King)

10am **Morning Worship** at St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill

Sunday 30 November (Christ the King)

10am **Holy Communion** at St David's, Lordswood



On the Social side

Coffee & Cake is a relaxed gathering for everyone at the end of a busy week. Held at St David's on the second Friday of each month between 10.30am and 12pm. Next date: **14 November**.

Tea at Three where cups of tea just keep on coming. Held at St William's on the third Monday of each month at 3pm. Next date: **17 November**

Holy Communion & Coffee Morning join us for Holy Communion, stay for refreshments! Held at St Alban's on the third Wednesday of each month. Next date: **19 November** (worship at 10am, refreshments from 10.30am)

Cornerstone Coffeeshop at St William's in Walderslade Village is open most days throughout the week; **Monday - Friday** 10am - 2pm and **Saturdays** from 9am.

Advent in Narnia

REFLECTIONS FOR THE SEASON
based on the Chronicles of Narnia

Film viewing at **St David's** at 2.30pm on **Friday 28 November**

Discussions groups at **St William's** at 2.30pm on **Thursdays 4, 11 & 18 December**
(Note different venues for film and discussions!)

People of Holy Trinity South Chatham

This month Ann Benger interviews Cliff Lowdell, long standing member of St William's, Walderslade.

Age: 71

Children: I had three children a daughter, then a son and another daughter. Unfortunately my son died at seven weeks old. .

Where are you from? I am from Albert Road, Chatham where I was born at home.

Could you share any childhood memories with us?

I can remember four of us sleeping in a double bed, me my two sisters and my brother it was called tops and tails I can remember my mum sending me to the butchers for bones for the dog.



We did not have a dog; it was for my mum to stew up to make a stew for our dinners. We always knocked on the old people's houses and asked them did they want any shopping done and get some coal for them and make up their fires to help them.

We were quite a poor family and had to make do with many things. I can remember doing toast over the coal and roasting chestnuts. I remember the patch snow in 1963. We called all our neighbours either Mr and Mrs or uncle and auntie and I remember playing noughts and crosses on our bedroom window on the inside in the frost on the glass. Everybody used to pull together and help each other out. When I was 11. I went to Doctor Bernardo's. That was the first time I got new clothes and shoes. It was another family for me.

What is your favourite food?

My favourite food is still a good old roast dinner or a lovely stew.

What do you watch on television? The thing I watch most on TV is Discovery.

What music do you listen to?

I like old rock 'n' roll and ballads from the 50s, jazz and Gospel music.

What are your hobbies?

My biggest hobby is photography. I used to print and process all my own photographs but I also did bodybuilding in which I have competed and have quite a few trophies and been on TV with it. I also love making things and repairing things.

What was your day job?

I am retired now. I have done many trades through my life from a butcher, a bail support worker for young offenders, foster carer. I've done all different types of building and electrics and motor mechanics and probably a few more..

Can you describe yourself in three words? Rough old diamond.**What is your Church**

background? My first memory of Church was when I was very young. I used to go to a place in Sydney Road, Chatham called the tin Chapel for Sunday school and I used to follow the Salvation Army when they used to come along every Sunday and march through the streets and I used to go down there as well. I always went to Church at Christmas to Midnight Mass. I started at St William's when I got married and I've been there ever since. When I was at school I used to be in the school choir and then I came a choir boy in Saint Paul's church that used to be on the New Road. I've always done a lot of maintenance and electrical work at St William's and did a term of being a Church Warden with Wendy Baxter.

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Christmas Tree and Nativity Festival

*Sat 29th - Sun 30th November
at St Alban's Church,
Blue Bell Hill*

OPEN from
11am-4pm
each day

entrance by donation (Cash/Card)

Cont.

Do you have a favourite hymn?

One of my favourite hymns is *There is a Green hill far away*.

Do you have a favourite Christian writing?

One of my favourite writings is when Christ walked along the beach with you and there's only one set of footprints and that is because he is carrying you and from the Bible I like that you will not be accepted into the gates of heaven unless you are childlike.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us that not many people know about you?

I was in an orphanage Doctor Bernardo's when I was young and have

been to many film premieres in London and met a lot of film stars. Once we were filmed in Oxford Street looking in a toy shop. A few weeks later, we were on *Top of the Pops* as the film with one of Elvis Presley's records. We were famous when we went back to school. I have acted at the Royal Albert Hall in an opera as a Roman soldier and I took a lot of people from United Players with me up there to join me and also did another one in Brighton. I did a lot of voluntary work for Winter Warmers. I completely rewired the old nursing home at St Bart's Hospital, New Road and did a lot more work there and got it all up and running. When I see an ambulance or a funeral. I always say a prayer for them while I am driving.

Brunch & Bright Ideas: Outcomes

The Clergy, Wardens/Stewards and Combined Ecumenical Council (CEC) have now had a brief chance to look at the outcomes from our parish vision day in September. It is now time to share the outcomes more widely.

Significant themes that emerged from our time of listening to God and one another: **sabbath, steadfastness, sustainability, strength, sharing, praise & love.**

Rev. Ann and Rev. David noticed that these themes are rooted in the theology of the Holy Trinity and fuel the life of the parish.

We worship and serve God, who is Father, and creates in love; God, who is Son, and acts in the world; and God, who is Holy Spirit, and sustains all things. In turn, our God leads us to **Love, Act and Sustain (see below)**.

A powerful strap-line emerged from the Bible readings.

'making/turning the holy ordinary and the ordinary holy'

Jeanette Lawrence led us in an exercise helping to imagine what the parish might look like in 5 years time and how we might get there. Everyone was invited to prayerfully consider how they might contribute towards this vision.

The ideas and commitments might be organised as follows:

Worship Stream

Midweek Services of various styles/themes in our Chapels (i.e. for those who light candles)

Multiple Sunday Services (am/pm across all buildings) new worshipping congregations

Bible Studies

Grow existing family/children/youth ministry

Vibrant worship — encouraging spirituality

Evangelism/Community Stream

Alpha

Community Services (e.g. Carols in the pub/street, community Easter egg hunt, services that connect like Remembrance 2018.)

Courses for the community (e.g. Gambling Anonymous, CAP Money Course, the Recovery Course helping those with addiction)

Folk Club

Leadership/Governance Stream

Growing and developing leaders (not more Clergy!)

Sustaining healthy leaders/clergy

Leadership/role succession — Skills Audit

Stewardship of resources (people, money, time)

Improving governance across the charity

Communication Stream

New website (+ QR codes)

Buildings that look like churches vs advertising everything that goes on in the building?

New welcome materials

Advertise in Cornerstone

The next question is: If these are the areas of work God is leading us into, how will they be done and who will be involved? While these areas are all worthy aspirations, they simply will not happen without people, time and, in some cases, more financial resources than we currently have available.

Clergy, Wardens/Steward and the CEC would love to hear from you, if you feel God is calling you to contribute in anyway.



In our prayers

We remember before God:

- our world; praying for countries affected by conflict and poverty
- His Majesty King Charles III and the Royal Family
- our Government, Members of Parliament, our Local Government Councillors and all who work for the good of our community.
- the Methodist Southeast District, the churches of the North Kent Methodist Circuit
- Rochester Diocese, our Bishops, and the parishes of this Deanery
- our own Parish, Clergy and leaders as we work through the outcomes of the Brunch & Bright Ideas vision day.

- those in hospital and those waiting scans, operations or treatment
- for couples recently married, for Jack Leech and Marcia Ware and those preparing for their wedding day and future life together
- those preparing for baptism and their families.
- the families of all those recently departed and those attending our Service of Reflection and Remembering.

Dates for the diary

Midweek Communion at Woodlands Court on Monday 3 November at 6.30pm

Trinity Prayers in the Chapel at St David's on Thursday 6 November at 7.30pm

Diocesan Synod at St John's, Chatham on Saturday 8 November from 9.30am to 3pm.

Woodlands Study Group
(Residents only) at Woodlands Court on Mondays 10 & 24 November at 11am

Bible Study Group (For everyone) in the Chapel at St David's on Mondays 10 & 24 November at 2.30pm

Buildings Sub-Committee in the Chapel at St David's on Wednesday 12 November at 7.30pm

Wardens Plus at 26 Mayford Road on Monday 17 November at 9.30am

Saturday Sale at St David's on Saturday 22 November between 10am and 12pm



CEC in the Cornerstone Coffeeshop at St William's on Wednesday 26 November at 7.30pm

Film Night: *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* at St David's on Friday 28 November from 2.30pm

Christmas Tree & Nativity Festival at St Alban's on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 November from 11am to 4pm.

Reading & Praying: November 2025

All Saints – 2 November

*Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18, Psalm 149,
Ephesians 1.11—end & Luke 6.20-31*

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example with
boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Remembrance Sunday – 9 November

*Job 19.23-27a, Psalm 17.1-9,
2 Thessalonians 2.1-5, 13—end &
Luke 20.27-38*

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.

2 Before Advent – 16 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 – 23 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 – 30 November

*Isaiah 2.1-5, Psalm 122
Romans 13.11—end &
Matthew 24.36-44*

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you in
our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.



Keeping in contact

More information about the Parish is available via weekly emails which you can sign-up to receive from our website, achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-South-Chatham, or by using the QR code below. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Team Rector: Rev. David Kichenside 01634 862265 david.kichenside@gmail.com
(Rest Day: Saturday)

Team Curate: Rev. Ann Ruby 07565 402121 reverendann@hotmail.com
(Parish Days: Wednesdays and Sundays)

Church Wardens Pat Long 01634 309180
Barry Horwell 01634 308552

Pro-Warden & Gift Aid Officer Pauline Bowdery 01634 669215

Church Steward Sylvia Wigglesworth 01634 683789

Parish Safeguarding Officer Mark Salter 07719 183940

Prayer Co-ordinator Mary Horwell 01634 308552
maryhorwell@blueyonder.co.uk

Church Bookings Jean Small 01634 315106

www.achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-South-Chatham

@southchatham on Facebook and @htscuk on Instagram



HOLY TRINITY SOUTH CHATHAM

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

Registered Charity No. 1135416



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The **Methodist** Church

