

HOLY TRINITY SOUTH CHATHAM

# Parish Newsletter - Issue No. 99

50<sup>th</sup>

May 2026

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



Welcome to an anniversary edition of the Parish Newsletter!

It doesn't seem that long ago that we were celebrating the 50th Anniversary of St William's. And now it is St David's turn to take centre stage as we celebrate fifty years of God's mission and ministry in Lordswood as part of what we now call the Local Ecumenical Partnership and Parish of Holy Trinity South Chatham.



All the events at St David's this month come with an anniversary flavour. First, *Coffee & Cake* at the usual time on **Friday 8 May**. This is then followed by a special *Service of Thanksgiving* with the Mayor & Mayoress of Medway, the Bishop of Tonbridge, and Rev. Gavin Hancocks from the Methodist Southeast District on **Sunday 10 May** at 10am. Baptism, Marriage and Service Registers from yesteryear will be on display in the Chapel afterwards and lunch will be shared. Hopefully the weather will be warm enough for us to make use of the garden!

As that week unfolds, we gather for Holy Communion in the Chapel at St David's at 11am on *Ascension Day (14 May)* — the closest date to the actual anniversary — and, finally, it wouldn't be a St David's celebration without the *Browse and Buy Sale* which takes place on **Saturday 23 May** between 10am and 12noon. In addition to these events, look out for historic

LOVE ♦ ACT ♦ SUSTAIN

*'turning the holy ordinary and the ordinary holy'*

photographs on display at St David's and on Social Media. If you want to find out more about the history of the church in Lordswood, Sylvia Wrigglesworth has written a piece in the summer edition of the *Grapevine*, official magazine of the North Kent Methodist Circuit, and there is an older background article on page 10.

Other significant events taking place in the Parish in May include our *Annual Meetings* on **Sunday 17 May** at which we hope to elect new Church

Wardens, CEC Members and Representatives to Rochester Deanery Synod. Copies of the *2025 Annual Report* are available now. Finally, as in previous years, the Midweek Communion and Coffee Morning on Wednesday 20 May will focus on Christian Aid Week (see page 3). It is going to be a very busy month!

*Rev. David Kitchenside*  
Team Rector

## Worship in May 2026

### Sunday 3 May (Easter 5)

10am **Holy Communion** at St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill

2pm **Holy Baptism** at St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill

### Wednesday 6 May

11am **Holy Communion in the Chapel** at St William's

### Sunday 10 May (Easter 6)

10am **50th Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving** at St David's

### Thursday 14 May (Ascension Day)

11am **Holy Communion** at St David's, Lordswood

### Sunday 17 May (Easter 7)

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

10am **Morning Worship with Annual Meetings** at St William's

### Sunday 24 May (Pentecost)

10am **Holy Communion** at St Alban's, Blue Bell Hill

### Sunday 31 May (Trinity Sunday)

10am **Morning Worship** St David's, Lordswood

## On the Social side

**Coffee & Cake** at St David's on the second Friday of each month between 10.30am and 12pm. *Hot drinks, cold drinks, lots of cake and good company!* Next date: **8 May**

**Tea at Three** takes place at St William's on the third Monday of each month at 3pm. Next date: **18 May**.

**Holy Communion & Coffee Morning** at St Alban's on the third Wednesday of each month. In May this event will focus on Christian Aid with all proceeds going to the charity. Next date: **20 May** (*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.

## Christian Aid Week 2026

This Christian Aid Week, your support could help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children.

By funding urban farming projects alongside specialist training from our partner Beacon of Hope, we can help parents fight food insecurity, grow fresh vegetables in small city spaces and earn an income to support their families.

This May, we invite you to help mothers like Fridah Moraa and Belinda Kasudi living in crowded informal settlements so they can protect their children from hunger and grow a more hopeful future.

Belinda Kasudi lives with her husband, David, and their five children in a one-room rented home in Dagoretti, Nairobi. Space is tight and income is uncertain.

Work in the settlement is unreliable. When there is no work, there is no money. And when there is no money, there is no food. Saving for emergencies once felt impossible.

*'Everything here has to be paid for. We even buy water... Providing enough food for the children is very difficult.'* – Belinda

(Source: <https://caw.christianaid.org.uk/> accessed on 31/3/2026)

## People of the Parish

*Continuing our Anniversary of theme, this month Ann Benger interviews Barbara Till, long-standing member of St David's.*

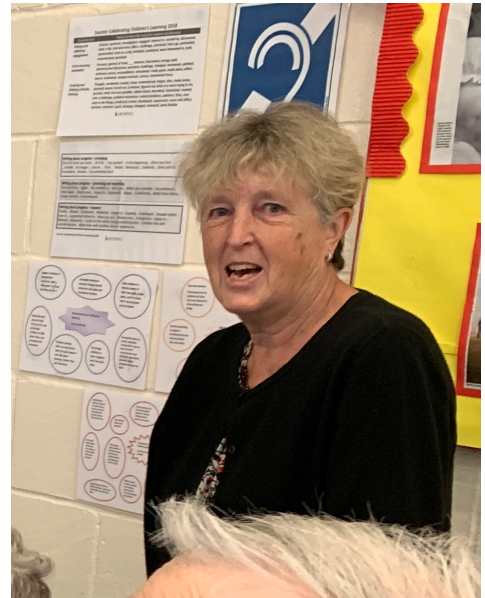
**Age 73**

**Family** 3 sons, 7 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

**What is your role in the church?** Chapel sitting. Helping with tea and coffee, visiting neighbours and the elderly.

**Where are you from?** I was born in Hammersmith Hospital and went to live in Streatham.

**What is your church background?** My Dad sang in the church choir. We lived opposite Holy Redeemer Church at Streatham, I met some girls who invited me along and I joined the Youth Group.



**Are there childhood memories you would like to share?** While I was living with my grandparents in Barnes, my Grandad gave me a ride down the garden on his Vespa every night when he came home from work. I loved it.

**What did you want to be when you grew up?**

A veterinary nurse, an air hostess or to look after the elderly.

**What was your day job?** I worked in a shop in Regent Street selling valuable stamps, then for Rank films and then for an Insurance Company.

**Do you have any hobbies?**  
Gardening and babysitting.

**What is your favourite food?** Sweet and sour chicken.

**What is your favourite music?** Michael Buble

**What do you watch on TV?** Crime series' such as Vera

**What is your favourite film?** *Seven Brides for seven Brothers*

**Do you have a favourite hymn?** *As the deer pants for the water.. Father I place into your hands.*

**Do you have a favourite Bible reading?** None that comes to mind.

**What do you draw your spirituality from?**

God guides my walking in the way He wants me to go. I often start off from home going in one direction and then change my mind and meet someone and realise that that was where I was meant to be at that time. Also from fellowship at church.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**  
Still doing what I'm doing.



## In our prayers

We remember before God:

- our broken world; especially for the situation in the Middle East with the war between Iran, U.S., Israel and allies
- His Majesty King Charles III and the Royal Family

- UK Government, Ministers of Parliament and Local Councillors
- the Methodist Southeast District, the churches of the North Kent Methodist Circuit
- Rochester Diocese, our Bishops, and the parishes of this Deanery
- the sick in body, mind and spirit
- for couples preparing for their wedding day and future life together
- those preparing for baptism and confirmation
- the family of Avril Tallett, Sharon Lovell and all those who have lost loved ones recently.

## Dates: May 2026

**Wardens Plus** at St David's on Friday 1 May at 9.30pm

**Midweek Communion** at Woodlands Court on Monday 4 May at 6.30pm

**Midweek Communion** in the Chapel at St William's on Wednesday 6 May at 10am

**Trinity Prayers** in the Chapel at St David's on Thursday 7 May at 7.30pm

**50th Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving** at St David's on Sunday 10 May at 10am followed by a bring and share lunch (*set-up on Friday 8 May from 12noon*)

**Woodlands Study Group** (Residents only) at Woodlands Court on Mondays 11 & 25 May at 11am

**Bible Study Group** (for everyone) in the Chapel at St David's on Monday 11 May at 2.30pm

**Ascension Day Service** in the Chapel at St David's on Thursday 14 May at 11am



**Funeral Service: Avril Tallett RIP** at Medway Crematorium on Thursday 14 May at 1.30pm

**Methodist Local Preachers Retreat** at Hartlip Methodist Church on Saturday 16 May from 10am to 4.30pm

**Annual Meetings of the LEP/Parish of Holy Trinity South Chatham** on Sunday 17 May at 10am

**Wardens Plus (TBC)** at 26 Mayford Road on Monday 18 May at 9.30am

**Swingate Year R Lessons** at Swingate Primary School on Wednesday 20 May from 1pm

**Methodist Circuit Meeting** on Zoom on Thursday 21 May at 7.30pm

**50th Anniversary Edition of the Browse and Buy Sale!** at St David's on Saturday 23 May from 10am to 12noon (*set-up on Friday 22 May*)

**Meeting of the new Combined Ecumenical Council (CEC)** in Cornerstone Coffeeshop at St William's on Wednesday 27 May at 7.30pm

**Service Leaders and Preachers Meeting (TBC?)** at 26 Mayford Road on Thursday 28 May at 7.30pm

## Reading & Praying

### Easter 5 - 3 May

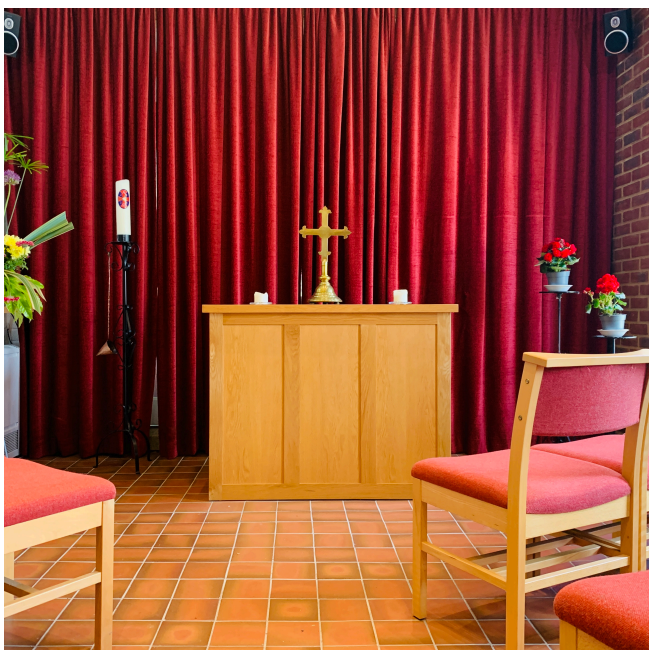
*Acts 5.12-16 or  
Deuteronomy 28.1-14,  
Psalm 147.12-20,  
2 Corinthians 4.13-15 &  
John 5.25-29*

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love  
for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life: give  
us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
**Amen.**

### Easter 6 - 10 May

Reading for the 50th Anniversary:

*Ephesians 2.17-22 &  
John 15.1-8*



### Easter 6 (continued)

*Acts 17.1-4, 10-12 or  
Deuteronomy 28.58-68,  
Psalm 145.8-19,  
Romans 6.5-11 &  
John 11.17-27*

Risen Christ,  
by the lakeside you renewed  
your call to your disciples: help your  
Church to obey  
your command  
and draw the nations to the fire  
of your love,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
**Amen.**

### Ascension Day - 14 May

*Acts 1.1-11  
Psalm 24,  
Revelation 3.20-22 &  
Luke 24.46-53*

Risen Christ,  
you have raised our humanity  
in Christ  
and have fed us with the bread  
of heaven:  
help us to seek and serve you,  
that we may join you at the  
Father's side,  
where you reign with the Spirit in glory  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Easter 7 - 17 May

*Acts 18.24-27 or  
Deuteronomy 29.10-15,  
Psalm 111,  
1 Peter 1.3-9 &  
John 11.28-44*

Risen, ascended Lord,  
as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power  
and compassion,  
that all who are estranged by sin  
may find forgiveness and peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
**Amen.**

## Pentecost - 24 May

*Acts 2.1-17 or  
Isaiah 44.1-8,  
Psalm 104.1-4, 10-15, 27-30,  
Romans 8.14-17, 22-27 &  
John 14.8-17*

Holy Spirit,  
sent by the Father,  
ignite in us your holy fire;

strengthen your children with the gift  
of faith,  
revive your Church with the breath  
of love,  
and renew the face of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Trinity Sunday - 31 May

*Hosea 11.1-4 or  
Psalm 130.5-8, 131.1-3  
2 Peter 1.16-18 &  
Matthew 28.16-20*

Holy God,  
faithful and unchanging:  
enlarge our minds with the knowledge  
of your truth,  
and draw us more deeply into the  
mystery of your love,  
that we may truly worship you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and for ever.  
**Amen.**



# Origins of St David's Church

*From Syliva Wrigglesworth with the help of church members*

As some of you may remember — and others find it difficult to imagine — Lordswood was, until about 60 years ago, just that — woodland! When building started in the Walderslade and Lordswood areas, it was envisaged that the total population would reach about 7000. It's now nearer 50,000.

As Lordswood began to grow it was clear that a church presence was going to be needed up the hill as well as in the village. So a small group began meeting in the Naval Social club - a hut in Lordswood Lane on the opposite side of Fanconi Road from The Victoria Cross pub. It was known as St Hugh's Temporary Church and run in conjunction with St James in Walderslade. They shared a baptism record book from 1960 - 1968. At that point St James was renamed St William on instructions from the then Bishop and a new book then continued till 1973. By this time St William's had been built, and both the Methodist

chapel and the mission church of St James were demolished.



St Hugh's continued to meet in the social club. This club was noticeable for dirty carpets, the smell of strong beer, and the chink of glasses as the bar was being set up to open as soon as the service had finished. When after the arson attack we worshipped for three months in the Kestrel pub, little did most of us know we were returning to our roots!

Since the Anglican church had funded the first building, the Methodists were approached to put forward the money for a new one to be built in the developing

area of Lordswood, aided generously by the new congregation in St Williams who set about fundraising for it. Stones were laid by both the chairman of the district and the Bishop of Rochester on 3rd August 1975 and the Opening and Dedication service took place on 5th May 1976, the first Sunday service being held on the following day. It was already too small as the population had soared well above the numbers expected, and an extension was immediately needed. This was called the Ted Francis Hall in honour of the Anglican minister who had had the original dream.

Since then the parade of shops, local housing and, of course, the pub have all been built, leaving St David's swamped by buildings and relatively hidden. The latest building work — after repairing the fire damage — was to make the church presence more visible, and to provide a dedicated chapel so that worship could take place even when the rest of the building was being playgroup, or dance academy, or guides and brownies meeting place etc.

Article originally printed in the *Walderslade Way*



## 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](http://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](mailto:david.kichenside@gmail.com)  
(Rest Day: Saturday)

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

**Church Wardens**      Pat Long      01634 309180  
Bary Horwell      01634 308552

**Pro-Warden & Gift Aid Officer**      Pauline Bowdery      01634 669215

**Church Steward**      Sylvia Wigglesworth      01634 683789

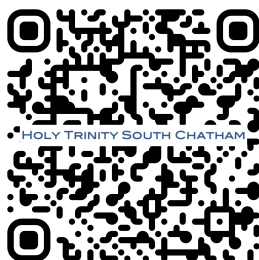
**Parish Safeguarding Officer**      Mark Salter      07719 183940

**Prayer Co-ordinator**      Mary Horwell      01634 308552  
[maryhorwell@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:maryhorwell@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Church Bookings**      Jean Small      01634 315106

[www.achurchnearyou.com/Holy-Trinity-South-Chatham](http://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

