

Parish Newsletter - Issue No. 100

50th

June 2026

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



Remembering

Are you a looking back person or a looking forward? This question came to mind as I thought over where we are as a parish. We are in a decade of anniversaries – St William's 50 in 2023, St David's in May this year and St Alban's 100th in a few years' time.



You may well have your own anniversaries – big birthdays, weddings, retirement, bereavement – and look back thinking where did those years go? Are you nostalgically thinking about the good old days or keen to be moving on?

There is good bible precedent for remembering. Every time God brought his people through yet another crisis they were told to mark the occasion with a celebration and remember it every year. Why?

I believe it was twofold. First, it was to remember how God provided for their need – that was the looking back – but then to use that memory to feel certain of his support during future troubles. As John Newton put it, 'Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come. 'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.'

I spent a lot of time over the last few months collecting photos and other memorabilia about the history of St David's. It's been fascinating how it grew as a church, and how it has developed over time. One of the big changes of the parish as a whole is the gradual move from three different churches with their own distinctive history learning to work cooperatively, to what I saw at our anniversary celebration.

LOVE ♦ ACT ♦ SUSTAIN

'turning the holy ordinary and the ordinary holy'

There were people from all the churches looking out and backing photos, putting up marquees, carrying chairs, providing and setting out food, helping with drinks, clearing away. We weren't three cooperative congregations – we were one family sharing our past and celebrating our present. I like the hymn – 'Make us one Lord, by your spirit make us one Lord'. I think on that Sunday we did it!

It may have started by having a clergy team across the parish rather than each building with its own specific minister. It was certainly hastened after Covid with the sensible plan for one service rotating round the three churches to collect together the few people who initially felt safe to come back to worship. We've got to know people we only saw at united services and learned to find our way round each other's kitchens – and to feel

welcome in there. Back to the song 'We belong together, we are family'.

And now? Having remembered our past – the innovators whose vision created our beginning, the workers both ordained and lay who worked through problems and kept us going, and our God who has faithfully been with us and guided us through the 'dangers, toils and snares' – we now move on to whatever the future brings. There will be unexpected changes, new worries, exciting innovations, most of which we have no concept of at the moment, but we have each other and God is in charge so we know we can cope with whatever comes. In the words of a St David's favourite 'Come and join our celebrations' always remembering 'God is with us'.

Sylvia Wrigglesworth
Church Steward/Warden

Worship in June 2026

Wednesday 3 June

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

Sunday 7 June (Trinity 1)

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

Sunday 14 June (Trinity 2)

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

Sunday 21 June (Trinity 3)

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

Sunday 28 June (Trinity 4)

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

On the Social side

Coffee & Cake is held 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: **12 June**.

Tea at Three — *a refined affair with afternoon tea served with a smile* takes place at St William's on the third Monday of each month at 3pm. Next date: **15 June**.

Holy Communion & Coffee Morning at St Alban's on the third Wednesday of each month. Next date: **17 June** (*worship at 10am, refreshments from 10.30am*).

Cornerstone Coffeeshop at St William's in Walderslade Village is open most days throughout the week *-serving a range of hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, cakes and other bakes;* **Monday - Friday** 10am - 2pm and **Saturdays** from 9am.

Looking further ahead the **Strawberry Tea** returns to St Alban's on **Sunday 5 July** from 2 - 4pm. *Scones, Cakes and lots of Strawberries!*



Rev. Ann's Ordination

Following a successful twelve months in the Parish, Rev. Ann Ruby will be Ordained Priest at Rochester Cathedral during a special service on **Saturday 27 June**. Many from the Parish are planning to attend to support Ann.

Then, on **Sunday 28 June**, at St William's, Ann will preside at Holy Communion for the first time and her good friend Rev. Donna McDowell has been invited to preach. It will be a special occasion as Ann begins the next stage of her ministry among us. Please join us for a bring and share lunch at St William's following the Sunday service.

People of the Parish

Ann Benger interviews Mavis Buckingham.

Age 88

Marital status: widowed.

Children: Three: Karelyn, Andrew and Malcolm; and originally 10 grandchildren but now 9.

What is your role in the church? I do readings and prayers, welcoming and anything else I am asked to do.

Where are you from?

Walderslade. We built this house in 1962. I went to Walderslade Primary and remember sliding down the hill on a tea tray on snow. I went to the Technical School at Fort Pitt and learnt to sew so well that I was able to make most of my children's clothes after I was married. My Mum married twice. My elder brother went blind as a result of measles and had to go to a special school when he was 11.

Childhood memories: I remember the prisoner of war camp on Hook Meadow. The prisoners made toys for the children at Christmas and I had a dachshund. They also made us sledges to go down the steep hills on.



I remember that we had no running water till I was 9. We used water that collected on the roof and ran into a tank.

What was your day job? I was a GPO Telephonist. I also did 20 years as a market researcher.

What is your favourite dinner? A good roast followed by a good lemon meringue pie (not what passes for it these days!)

What do you watch on TV? Detective series, *Casualty*.

What do you listen to? I have the radio on most of the day because I like to know what is going on. I am an *Archers* fan.

What is your church background? I was baptised in St

James' Church in Walderslade Village, then joined the Methodist church, where John and I were married. I was the Temperance Queen in 1952. My daughter was married at St David's.

What is your favourite hymn?

The day thou gavest , Lord, is ended.

Favourite Bible verse?

Romans 8.28 - 29.

What do you draw from

spiritually? Services, Bible study, and fellowship with my daughter, who often leads services herself in Suffolk.

In our prayers

We remember before God:

- our broken world; especially countries affected by poverty, conflict and environmental disaster
- 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
- for ordinands of both the Methodist Church and Church of England being ordained deacon and priest in June.
- for young people studying and sitting exams
- 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 Peter Foord and all those who have lost loved ones recently.

Dates: June 2026

Midweek Communion at Woodlands Court on Monday 1 June at 6.30pm

Midweek Holy Communion in the Chapel at St William's on Wednesday 3 June at 10am

Bible awareness for faith and life in the 21st century — a course hosted by Walderslade Baptist Church (ME5 9HP) beginning on Wednesday 3 June from 7.20pm to 9pm and continuing on a monthly basis until October. *See leaflets for details.*

Trinity Prayers in the Chapel at St David's on Thursday 4 June at 7.30pm

Woodlands Study Group (Residents only) at Woodlands Court on Mondays 8 & 22 June at 11am

Bible Study Group (for everyone) in the Chapel at St David's on Mondays 8 & 22 June at 2.30pm

Deanery Standing Committee on Monday 8 June at 7.30pm

Disney inspired **Blue Bell Hill Village Summer Fête** on Saturday 13 June from 2 - 5pm. *(If you are available to help set up, please get in touch with Pauline Bowdery — see details below.)*

Wardens Plus at 26 Mayford Road on Monday 15 June at 9.30am

Deanery Chapter at All Saints with St Paul's Vicarage on Tuesday 16 June at 8am

Archdeacon's Visitation at St John's, Chatham on Tuesday 16 June from 7pm



Building Sub-Committee in the Chapel at St David's on Wednesday 24 June at 7.30pm

Ordination of Priests, including Rev. Ann Ruby, at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 27 June at 11am

Rev. Ann Ruby presides at Holy Communion at St William's on Sunday 28 June at 10am. *A bring and share lunch follows the service.*

Reading & Praying

Trinity 1 - 7 June

*Ruth 4.9-17,
Psalm 107.1-9, 19-22,
I Corinthians 12.14-26 &
Matthew 5.43-48*

God of truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

Trinity 2 - 14 June

*I Samuel 1.1-6, 9-18
Psalm 113,
Colossians 4.10-17 &
Matthew 15.21-28*

Faithful Creator,
whose mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to you
and to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Trinity 3 - 21 June

*I Samuel 1.19-28,
Psalm 69, 10-20, 30-33,
Acts 2.43-47 &
Matthew 15.29-39*

God our Saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Trinity 4 - 28 June

*I Samuel 2.18-21, 26,
Psalm 144.3-4, 12-15
I Peter 2.4-10 & Mark 7.10-13*

Gracious Father,
by the obedience of Jesus
you brought salvation to our
wayward world:
draw us into harmony with your will,
that we may find all things restored
in him,
our 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 Warden Sylvia Wigglesworth 01634 683789

Pro-Warden & Gift Aid Officer Pauline Bowdery 01634 669215

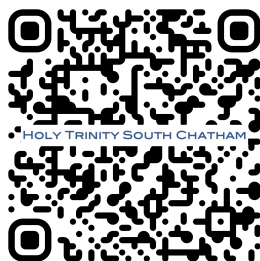
Parish Safeguarding Officer Mark Salter 07719 183940

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 **Methodist Church**

