



The Parish of All Saints', Birchington

Sunday 23rd August 2026

NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our newsletter for the Parish of All Saints', Birchington. I hope that it is providing you with sufficient information as part of our worshipping community; please let me know if it is not. ***This is a newsletter for our church congregations so please send any notices or events you would like publicised*** to Mia, preferably via email (parishclerkasb@gmail.com) by **5pm on Wednesdays**. Thank you.

Today's Services: Sunday 23rd August.

10.30am: Sung Eucharist, All Saints Church.

10.30am: Sung Eucharist, St Thomas Church.

Next Week's Service: WEEK 5: Sunday 30th August – The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity.

10.30am: Farewell Sung Eucharist, St Thomas Church. Drinks and nibbles will be available in Kearns Hall after the service. If anyone requires a lift to this service, please contact Tina Seymour.

Morning Prayer in All Saints in St. Margaret Chapel: Mondays and Thursdays at 9:15am.

"With Christ" (Eucharist/Holy Communion Service) Tuesdays at 10am, Quex Chapel, All Saints Church. Come along and contemplate and pray with us. **Iona Community Morning Prayer** Fridays at 8:30am, All Saints Church.

Prayer and Chat over coffee at **St Mildred's Acol** on Wednesdays at 10:00am.

Common Worship Bible Readings (30th August) Readings for St Thomas.

OT: Psalm 31.1-6; Habakkuk 2.1-4.

NT: Ephesians 2.19-end; John 20.24-29.

Common Worship Collect – St Thomas.

Almighty and eternal God, who, for the firmer foundation of our faith, allowed your holy apostle Thomas to doubt the resurrection of your Son till word and sight convinced him: grant to us, who have not seen, that we also may believe and so confess Christ as our Lord and our God; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

NOTICES: Please pray for the following people, all known to God, who need our prayers and for those who show them love and care: Ann, Cathy, Ann, Ian, Denise, Abdul, Carol, Keith, Mary, Susan, Carol H., Richard, Issy, Vanessa, Raymond and Sue M.

We give thanks to God for all prayers that have been answered.

In memoriam: Joyce Irene Baker who passed from this life on 26th August 2021.

Thought for the Week from the Scriptures in Three Sentences ...

John 20:24–29 **Summary:** Jesus meets Thomas in his doubt and invites him to believe.

Thought: Doubt is not a failure; it is often the doorway to deeper faith. Jesus meets Thomas personally and patiently. Let Christ meet you in your uncertainties and lead you toward trust.

Prayer for the Week.

Loving God, be with us in the week ahead. Strengthen our parish, guide our steps, and fill us with your peace. We hold before you St Thomas Church as it closes. Comfort all who feel sadness, and bless the memories, ministry, and faithful witness offered there. Lead us forward in hope, trusting that you remain with us in every change and every new beginning. **Amen.**

St Thomas Church Keys.

Could any St Thomas Church keys be returned to the Churchwardens. Many thanks.

NEW & UPDATED FEATURES & EVENTS

Giving via Sum-Up Machine.

Thank you to all those who make donations via the Sum-Up Machine near the church entrance. Sadly, the church does not receive the full amount from your donation because of its surcharges. There are other ways of donating – via the collection plate, envelopes and the Parish Giving Scheme. Please have a chat with Rev Mark if you would like to know more.



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Reporting Back from the PCC Meeting – 23rd July 2026.

Service Attendance: Attendances encouraging. Strong turnout at Family Together.

Trial of New 4th Sunday Pattern: A three-month trial will introduce a new pattern at All Saints: a 9:00am Said Communion followed by a 10:30am Morning Prayer with hymns. This offers a lighter liturgical option aimed at supporting families. Monthly Evensong From October.

Mission & Community Work: New services have begun at Wain House care home. Supper Club and school partnerships continue strongly.

Administration Update: Recruitment for Mia's replacement will begin.

Finance & Stewardship: Financial pressures continue, and all church lettings will contribute toward utility costs. Groups using Church House or Kearns Hall will be asked to cover heating, cooking, and lighting. Work will begin on exploring grants, including options for future youth ministry.

Acknowledgement of Additional Work: The PCC expressed appreciation for the Priest-in-Charge and the Churchwarden, who have taken on significant extra responsibilities, including covering Treasurer duties during this period.

Safeguarding: All new PCC members have completed safeguarding training.

Safeguarding *is everyone's responsibility.* If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues please contact Loraine, Parish Safeguarding Officer or Rev Mark as soon as possible who are the **designated safeguarding leads** for the Parish.

Churchyard Volunteers.

If anyone is interested, please contact Loraine in the first instance. Your involvement could be as limited as watering plants in pots, or for the more adventurous, gardening and weeding.

Pastoral Friends Coffee Mornings in Church House at 11:00am – 25th August and 8th September.

The next Pastoral Lunch will be on **Friday 18th September**. Gather in Kearns Hall for 12.30pm for a 1pm lunch. The menu will be **sausage and**

mash, peas and onion gravy followed by fruit crumble with custard. If you would like to attend for an enjoyable lunch and fellowship please contact Loraine by **Wednesday 16th September**. This will assist the cooks with the shopping of provisions and preparation.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Saturday 12th September – Annual Churches Ride & Stride.

Dave Alker is entering this event, and sponsor forms are at the back of church. We need help during the afternoon at All Saints Church to welcome visitors – please see Loraine if you are interested in volunteering.

Churchyard Tour, Saturday 12th September at 2pm £8 per person, including an afternoon tea in Church House at approx. 3:15pm. Meet at the lower Church entrance by Church House at 1:45pm for a prompt 2pm start. To book in, please contact Dave Alker at: dave.alker@btinternet.com or on 07962 929700 (any dietary requirements to be advised on booking).

The next **Parish Breakfast** is on **Saturday 26th September at 9am in Kearns Hall**. Our speaker is Royal British Legion Chair Lieutenant Colonel Max Houghton, who will talk about the Poppy Appeal. Sign in with Dave Alker at dave.alker@btinternet.com or 07962 929700. £8.00 payable at time of booking.

Telephone Numbers and Contact Details

Mia Ottley, Parish & Booking Administrator, 01843 840777 Email: parishclerkasb@gmail.com
Rev Mark Ham, Priest-in-Charge, (01843) 840777 or (01843) 844591 Email: priestbmba@gmail.com
Rev Jim Barber, Curate, 07389 126222 Email: james-barber@sky.com
Loraine Bant, Churchwarden, 07835 330562 Email: churchwardenlab@gmail.com
Paul Seymour, Churchwarden, 07889 150037 Email: paul.660seymour@btinternet.com Treasurer (for financial queries): treasurerofasb@gmail.com

If you would like to donate to support the life and work of our parish, please scan here:

