

Parish Newsletter - Issue No. 104

November 2026

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



A shorter than average lead article this month to draw your attention to some specific services, events and projects in the Parish.

Our *Fund Raising Working Group* has been incredibly busy lately. On page 3., you can read about their exciting ideas with an invitation to join the **£10 Talent Challenge** set to begin early next year. If you read nothing else in this newsletter, please read this...

Sunday 1 November is *All Saints' Day*, but in the afternoon our focus shifts to *All Souls'* as we remember those we have loved and lost over recent weeks, months and years with a special service at St William's at 3pm.

Remembrance Sunday follows on **Sunday 8 November**. We meet for Morning Worship at St Alban's at 10am with an Act of Remembrance at the end of the service.

This all means that *Advent* and *Christmas* are not far away! The Browse and Buy Sale, with a Christmas twist, takes place at St David's on **Saturday 28 November** from 10am; an opportunity to pick-up a bargain before the shopping madness begins.

It is then Advent...! In December we are running a series of conversations based on the movie, *Home Alone*, with a free film viewing at St David's on **Sunday 29 November** at 3pm (see page 7 for more details).

Another new development to look out for in the parish is the introduction of display screens at St Alban's and St David's. This will enable us to project services (and rely less on paper) from the end of the month onwards.



Image Credit: ACNY Resource Hub

LOVE ♦ ACT ♦ SUSTAIN

'turning the holy ordinary and the ordinary holy'

Hopefully we will be able to do the same at St William's in the not too distant future. If you have any feedback about this or any other aspect of parish life, please get in contact.

Praying that you have a meaningful remembrance-tide.

Rev. David K
Team Rector

Worship in November 2026

Sunday 1 November — All Saints / All Souls

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

3pm *Service of Remembering & Reflection*
at St William's

Sunday 8 November — Remembrance Sunday

10am **Morning Worship** at St Alban's

Sunday 15 November (2 Before Advent)

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

10am **Holy Baptism** at St William's

Sunday 22 November (Christ the King)

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

Sunday 29 November (Advent Sunday)

10am **Morning Worship** at St Alban's



Image Credit: Sketchpedia / Freepik Hub

On the Social side

Coffee & Cake is held at St David's on the second Friday of every month between 10.30am and 12noon. *Hot drinks, cold drinks, lots of cake and good company!* Next date: **13 November**.

Tea at Three at St William's on the third Monday of every month from 3pm. *Afternoon tea served always with a smile!* Next date: **16 November**.

Holy Communion & Coffee Morning at St Alban's on the third Wednesday of every month. Next date: **18 November** (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.

Growing What We Have Been Given

If you've ever wondered what the Fundraising Committee actually does, the answer is: quite a lot! There have been meetings, discussions, feasibility checks, grant research, event planning and plenty of tea and coffee. Behind it all is one simple aim: helping to raise the funds needed to care for our three churches and invest in their future.

First of all, a huge thank you to everyone who has shared ideas, offered skills, suggested contacts or simply stopped to ask, "Have you thought about...?" Many of our best ideas have come from conversations across the parish, and we want fundraising to be something that involves everyone.

We are currently exploring a wide range of possibilities, from smaller community events to more ambitious projects. Ideas under consideration include a *Travel Talks* series, community events, a Christmas concert, cabaret and auction evenings, grant applications

and even the possibility of attempting a *Guinness World Record* involving continuous Bible reading. Fundraising, it seems, doesn't have to be boring!

The £10 Talent Challenge

One project we are particularly excited about is our £10 Talent Challenge, inspired by Jesus' Parable of the Talents.

During *Advent*, parishioners will be invited to sign up. At *Epiphany*, each participant will provide their own £10 as the starting amount for the challenge. They will then use their imagination, skills, contacts and creativity to grow that money over the course of the next year.

If you would like to take part but would appreciate someone providing the initial £10, or if you would like to donate £10 for someone else, please speak to me (Rev Ann). Think of it as a parish version of *The Apprentice* but

with less shouting, no boardroom and considerably better biscuits.

So what could you do with £10? You might bake cakes, make something to sell, offer a service, organise an event, work with a local business or use a hobby or skill to raise funds. You can take part on your own, as a family or as a group.

Don't worry if you don't consider yourself entrepreneurial. The aim is not to make a fortune but to be creative and to see what can happen when we use well the gifts and opportunities entrusted to us. We will ask participants to keep a simple record of income and expenditure, and there will be some sensible rules. The £10 is not for gambling or risky ventures.

At the end of the challenge, the original £10 and any profit made will be returned to the parish to support future projects.

Why Are We Doing This?

Our churches face a number of important projects in the coming years. These include accessibility improvements, parking, boiler and kitchen work at St William's, fire-safety improvements and flooring at St Alban's, and other building projects across the parish.



Image Credit: Micheile Henderson

Fundraising also helps us unlock grant funding, as many grant providers require us to contribute some of the costs ourselves.

But fundraising is about more than money. It is about discovering the gifts already present within our parish, bringing people together, building community and strengthening our connections with our neighbours. So perhaps the question for all of us is this: *What can I do with what God has given me?*

Watch this space for more details about the **£10 Talent Challenge**. In the meantime, please keep the ideas, enthusiasm and creativity coming. We have no idea what £10 might become over the course of a year, but we're looking forward to finding out.

Rev. Ann
Team Curate

People of the Parish

This month we meet David Derrington a relatively new member of Holy Trinity South Chatham

Name: David Derrington
Age: 80

Family: married to Jill

What is your role in the church?
Music in Worship

What is your church background?
Varied

Where are you from? Cornwall

What did you want to be when you were a child? A thinker

Are there any childhood memories you would like to share? When I was seven I first got to see into Heaven. TBC.

What is your Day job? Retired from working in Education – secondary teaching and lecturing



David in action at the 2025 Carol Service

Do you have any hobbies?

Playing music, gardening and wilderness trekking

What is your favourite food?

Homegrown tomatoes with basil

What is your favourite TV programme? Midsomer Murders

What is your favourite film?

Song of Summer

What is your favourite music?

The late quartets of Beethoven

Do you have a favourite Bible reading? 1 Corinthians 12-14

Do you have a favourite hymn

Salvation belongs to our God

Where do draw your spirituality from? From the Kingdom of God, which is within us and among us

Have you had any profound spiritual experiences?

As well as the instance in childhood, usually at times of difficulty, I was taken into Heaven 5 or 6 times. About 20 years ago I started taking St Paul's teaching in Ephesians 2 literally and found that I can be there any time I want to. When I was 16 I started to know God the Creator as my Heavenly Father...mostly through asking Him questions and getting definite answers, some of which were surprising at the time but later actually happened.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? Living peacefully in Walderslade Woods. I've warned the kids that I'm going for the ton...

In our prayers

We lift to God:

- our fragile world and every country affected by poverty, conflict and environmental disaster
- international multi-lateral organisations (the UN, EU, NATO and World Economic Forum), praying for world leaders and decision-makers
- His Majesty King Charles III and the Royal Family
- the South-east Methodist District and the churches and ministers of the North Kent Methodist Circuit
- the work of the General Synod of the Church of England meeting this month, we pray especially for the newly elected representatives
- the bishops, clergy and ministers in the Diocese of Rochester
- the sick in body, mind and spirit, and those receiving medical treatment
- all couples preparing for their wedding day and future life together
- those preparing for baptism and confirmation
- the families of all those who have lost loved ones in recent weeks and months, and who will be attending memorial and remembrance services in the coming weeks.

Dates: November 2026

Annual **Service of Remembering and Reflecting** at St William's on Sunday 1 November at 3pm

Midweek Communion at Woodlands Court on Monday 2 November at 6.30pm

Midweek Holy Communion in the Chapel at St William's on Wednesday 4 November at 10am

Trinity Prayers in the Chapel at St David's on Thursday 5 November at 7.30pm

Wardens Minus at St David's on Friday 6 November at 9am

Woodlands Study Group (Residents only) at Woodlands Court on Mondays 9 & 23 November at 11am

Bible Study Group (for everyone) in the Chapel at St David's on Mondays 9 & 23 November at 2.30pm

CEC in Cornerstone Coffeeshop on Wednesday 18 November at 7.30pm

Fundraising Working Group on Thursday 26 November at 7pm

Browse and Buy Sale: Christmas Edition! at St David's on Saturday 28 November from 10am (set-up Friday 27 November between 10am - 12noon)

Home Alone film viewing at St David's on Sunday 29 November at 3pm with conversations for the curious on Tuesdays 1, 8 & 15 December at 7.30pm (on Zoom) and in-person on Thursdays 3, 10 & 17 December at 2.30pm in the Chapel at St David's.

Wardens Plus at 26 Mayford Road on Monday 30 November at 9.30pm

Reading & Praying

All Saints - 1 November

Isaiah 25.1, 4a, 6-10a, Psalm 67

Romans 15.7-13 &

Matthew 27.50-56

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 - 8 November

Amos 5.18-24, Psalm 70

1 Thessalonians 4.13-end &

Matthew 25.1-13

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.

Second Sunday Before Advent - 15 November

*1 Kings 11.26-39, Psalm 89.1-8, 14,
2 Timothy 2.8-13 & John 2.1-11*

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 - 22 November Advent Sunday - 29 November

2 Kings 24.8, 11-17, Psalm 47,
Hebrews 1.1-9 &
Matthew 27.11-14, 27-37

Isaiah 64.1-9, Psalm 80.1-8
1 Corinthians 1.3-9 &
Mark 13.24-37

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.**

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 (see QR). You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



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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

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