



NEWSLETTER – September 2026



Licensing of our new Team Vicar

We are delighted to welcome Revd Philippa Sargent as Team Vicar to the whole Benefice. Her licensing took place in St Mary's on Tuesday 15th September, conducted by Archdeacon Penny Sayer (both pictured left). A happy evening was celebrated by many members of the congregations and representatives of the Town Council and organisations active in Gillingham.

Patronal Festival and Parish Fun Day



We celebrated the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Parish Communion on Sunday 6th September (left). The previous day a series of fun activities for everyone took place in the churchyard and the Vicarage

School Room. Indoor games and activities were organised by Little Cherubs, the toddler group which meets every Wednesday in the VSR. Outdoor activities (such as parachuting Teddie bears, right) took place in the churchyard. Thank you to all the Cherubs and the other parishioners who helped organise this successful and enjoyable day.



Ride+Stride

The second Saturday in September is the day set aside nationally for the Churches Trust (DHCT) Ride+Stride sponsored event. A team of nine humans and three dogs (shown left) walked a route of about 6kms round Gillingham – thank you to them and to all who offered sponsorship. Money is being collected now and contributions are still appreciated. This allows grants to be made for repairing churches.

Buildings latest

Architects' design work on the chancel roof project has now been completed and we should soon move on to tendering. This will reveal exactly how much the work will cost and allow us to begin to assemble grant applications. The Town Council is making progress with the tomb works, which should be able to start in November.