

An Oak Jubilee: 1938-2018

Celebrating 80 years of the Parish Church of St. Mary in Wrotham Road, Gravesend



Welcome to this history of Saint Mary's Church.

This book is a short history and celebration of our church which for 80 years has been a place of Christian worship, fellowship and community. A church is more than a building, it's the people who are actually 'church' in this place and we have a rich history to share.

For material relating to the origins and first 50 years of the church this volume draws heavily on 'A Golden Jubilee, The Parish Church of St. Mary in Wrotham Road, Gravesend 1938-1988'.

Additional material for the following thirty years was compiled by lain Kitchener with support from a number of long serving members of the current congregations.

"To the Greater Glory of God was this Church built,

To the Greater Glory of God were these gifts given,

To the Greater Glory of God have people worshipped and served here,

(Day we, and future generations, keep faith with those who have left us this heritage."

From the inscription on the foundation stone at the east end.





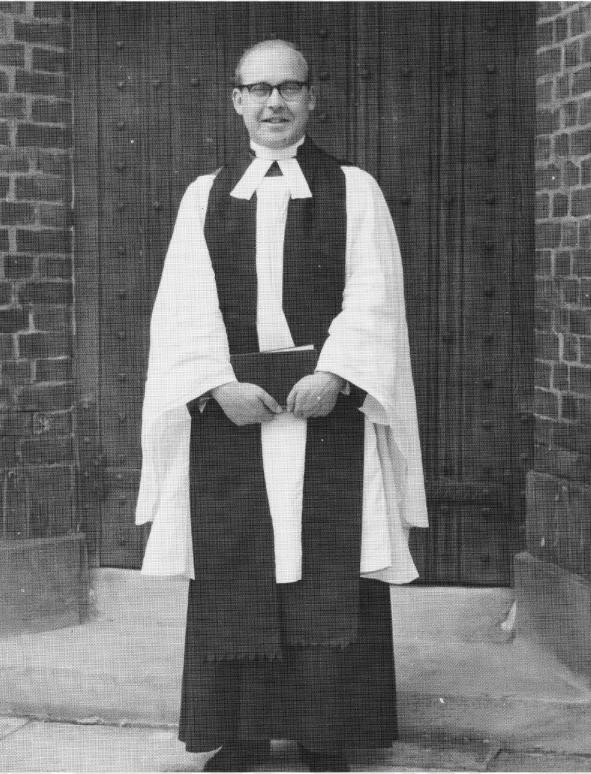
1938-1988

The following are photos of the vicars of St Mary's Wrotham Road from 1938-1988. Also included is a copy of the text 'A Golden Jubilee' which was compiled in 1987 by Ron Cole (Reader) with the help of Mr T. Plackett and published to celebrate 50 years since the opening of the building on the current site.

The picture below is of the church choir before 1938.











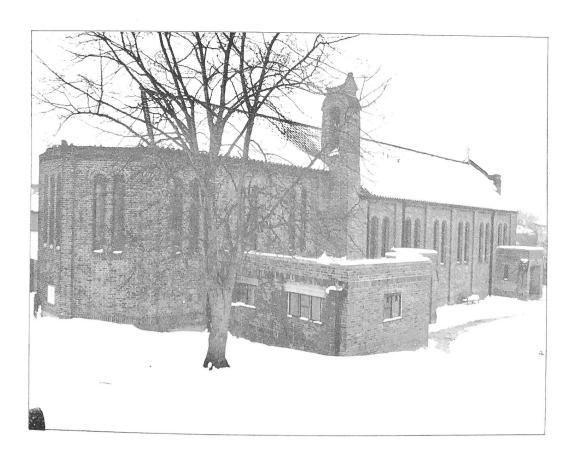




A GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Parish Church of St. Mary in Wrotham Road,
Gravesend

1938 - 1988



FROM THE PAST

When Edward Lionel Gedge, B.A. came to Gravesend as Rector in 1899, he realised that important developments going on in the part of his parish of St. George, south of Old Road West, would in a few years result in many dwelling-houses being built a long way from Gravesend Parish Church and plans for a new church to serve this district soon began to materialise in his mind.

On December 2nd, 1902, at a meeting of his Church officials it was agreed -"That it is desirable that a Mission building be erected on an approved site in the southern part of the parish." The site eventually chosen was at the junction of Lynton Road South and Dashwood Lane.

With the approval of the Rochester Diocesan authorities, plans were drawn up. Donations were readily forthcoming and on November 2nd 1904, the Church was ready for Consecration and received the name of St. Mary. With the co-operation and through the zeal of the newly-formed congregation an adjacent hall was built and opened in May, 1906.

Over the succeeding years, and with further housing development, the ambitions of the Clergy and people of St. Mary's to possess a Church of more permanent nature continued to grow in strength and purpose.

TO THE PRESENT

The scheme for building the new St. Mary's Church was outlined at a meeting held on November 14th, 1933, when it was announced that a site for the Church had been chosen in Wrotham Road at a cost of £750. The gathering of money required to build the Church became the chief object of the energies of the parish, especially among youth organisations who organised concerts, socials, dances and competitions with the smaller hall (attached to the Church in Dashwood Road) as the only place of accommodation. A grant from the Diocesan Twelve Churches Fund, and a gift of stock from a parishioner some years before, formed the nucleus of the fund which at this stage amounted to £2,500. It was not possible to proceed with the erection of the Church at that time and as Christ Church was in urgent need of money to finance the rebuilding of their Church in Old Road East, it was decided to lend them the £2,500 at 3% for 3 years.

On September 28th, 1937, the parish set itself to raise a sum of £500; the Bishop of Rochester, the Right Reverend Martin Linton-Smith, offering to provide £500 on condition the parish would raise a similar amount within a few months. St. George's Church Council, with St. Mary's Church Committee, pledged itself to do this. Two months later on November 10th, 1937, a Building Committee was formed consisting of the Rector, the two wardens of St. George's, Mr. P. E. Lines, Hon. Secretary of the P.C.C., the Rev'd. A. A. Burrows, the two deputy wardens of St. Mary's and two representatives of the Rochester Board of Finance. On March 25th, 1938, the Committee agreed to a contract with Messrs. Pilcher (of Holloway) at a cost of £5,149, with a recommendation that the work should begin as soon as possible. Additional expenses, clearing the site, church fittings etc. brought the sum required to £6,190. Of this £4,769 was already available, leaving £1,421 to be raised. Eleven guarantors of £100 brought the sum within view of fulfilment, the residue being advanced by Barlcay's Bank.

The foundation stone, observable on the outside of the South Wall of the Church, was laid on May 14th, 1938, by The Marchioness of Camden (wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Kent), and consecrated by Dr. King (Assistant Bishop of Rochester).

The building of the Church was rapidly pushed ahead and on November 1st (All Saint's Day) 1938, Dr. Linton-Smith consecrated it in the presence of a very large congregation. On this occasion Messrs. R. Haill and H. W. Gardner acted as sidesmen as they had done at the opening of the old building 34 years previously. With the Rev'd A. A. Burrows as Priest-in-charge, the worship of St. Mary's Church Family began at the Church in Wrotham Road, Gravesend.

After November, 1938, the old St. Mary's became the Church Hall accommodating a large Sunday School. In it a group of Sunday School teachers, Miss M. Burn, Miss F. Bannister, Miss W. Farrier, the Misses G. and J. K. Gardner and Miss I. Walsham gave many years of continuous service. A second school was opened in church by Miss M. Wood and with the introduction in 1964 of a 11 a.m. Family Service and Children's Church, after an act of worship with their parents, the children went to their classes in the Vestries for the younger children and in St. George's School for the older ones.

The Second World War, which had hovered over the months preceding the consecration of St. Mary's, broke out before the Church was a year old. Many of the younger members of the congregation were called away, some of whom did not return. Their names are remembered in the Memorial Book. It was, however, a matter of thanksgiving that in spite of damage wrought by enemy aircraft in the neighbourhood, the fabric of St. Mary's Church was untouched. An ex-member of St. Mary's Sunday School, Robert A. M. Palmer, V.C., D.S.O., is proudly remembered.

In 1941 Rev'd. H. T. Southgate was appointed to the Rectory of Aylesford and Rev'd R. M. Scantlebury came to Gravesend as Rector in 1942.

At St. Mary's, Rev'd. A. A. Burrows was followed by Rev'd. R. Born, who was followed in 1945 by Rev'd. K. Gregory, who later left for New Zealand. Rev'd. R. D. Daunton-Fear followed the Rev'd. R. Scantlebury as Rector of Gravesend in 1947, and from 1948 was in charge of St. Mary's. The Rev'd. W. W. J. Taylor stayed for a short period until he moved to Buckinghamshire.

From 1941-1951 parochial church life in Gravesend was unsettled by many different schemes for reorganisation. Upon one point, however, all concerned were agreed - that St. Mary's was ready for separate parochial status. On Easter Day, 25th March, 1951, the announcement came that an Order in Council had constituted St. Mary's a separate parish with effect from March 15th, 1951. The Rev'd. H. Pickup, M.A., who came from a Curacy at Middleton Parish Church, Lancashire, to act as priest-in-charge in December 1950, was instituted by the Bishop of Rochester (Dr. C. M. Chavasse) and inducted by the Ven. Archdeacon Browne on Saturday, 12th May, 1951. Thus another step forward had been realised; a Vicar at St. Mary's Parish Church.

In 1954, the Golden Jubilee (1904-1954) of the Church was held, when clergy who had served St. Mary's, returned to preach at the Church. The Bishop of Rochester gave a memorable sermon on the eve of All Saint's Day, 50 years to the day after the dedication of the original building. In 1957, Rev'd. H. Pickup and his family left for Tasmania.

The Rev'd. A. L. Dunstan, M.A. came as his successor. In October, 1958, came the first issue of St. Mary's Messenger with the heading:- OUR PURPOSE - TO BRING ST. MARY'S TO YOU AND YOU TO ST. MARY'S. This aim has continued ever since and what started as a three-fold single sheet, and with two changes of format, is now, 30 years later a magazine, but still St. Mary's Messenger. It continues to be published each month, bringing a letter from the Vicar, names of those holding office, news of people, associations, events, Church services and items of interest. Thanks are due to the Vicars, and latterly Mr. Ron Cole, on the Editorial side; and to the typists and printers and to the many distributors who give freely of their time. This Jubilee year should see the publication of No. 350. The Rev'd. A. L. Dunstan, M.A. left in 1963 to become Chaplain of Wycliffe College, Oxford.

The Rev'd. M. A. L. David, A.K.C. was instituted by the Lord Bishop of Rochester and inducted by the Archdeacon of Rochester on 1st November, 1963. Since then two major building projects were undertaken.

It became apparent that lack of facilities at 150, Darnley Road made it inadequate as a Vicarage. It had no garage or parking area to offer visitors, but above all was some distance from the Church. A suitable site for a new vicarage was found in New House Lane. The various complicated procedures took a long time to resolve before building could commence. In March, 1965, various appeals were made and later various events were held to endeavour to raise the £4,500 the Parish had to find as its part of the cost of the building. Mr. John Clements was the architect. The Vicar, his wife Joan, son Andrew and daughter Rebecca moved into the Vicarage, that had been built for the Parish of St. Mary, on Monday, 10th April, 1967.

The second major project was the building of the Vestry Extension and New Church Hall. The Hall in Dashwood Road, built and opened in 1904 as the original Church of the Parish, and from 1938 as the Parish Hall had come to the end of a very useful life. The Parochial Church Council, after much deliberation, agreed that it would be wise to build a New Hall on land next to, and part of St. Mary's Church. It was envisaged that such a development would enhance the corporate life of the Church enabling social and after Service activities to take place in a Hall adjacent to the Church. Such a Hall would also be available for outside bookings.

After much discussion with the architect, Mr. Michael Young, A.R.I.B.A., it was agreed that the project would be joined to the Church by making a new door in the west side of the Church, leading to a passage to the Hall. The left hand panels of the new glass doors depict Mary the Mother with Jesus the Son. The bottom right hand panel shows the Cathedral and reminds us of our membership of the Diocesan Family. The top right hand panel depicts the life of Gravesend and Northfleet including the pilot boat in the bottom left hand panel. The river connects the various panels. The design and execution was done by Mr. Michael Coles of the Medway College of Design.

To the right of this passage, a new Choir Vestry. The Hall, large enough and high enough for a badminton court with stage, dressing room and necessary storage space. At the southern end the kitchen, cloakrooms, and smaller room useful for meetings. Another entrance to the hall giving access to and from the existing lane which connects Wrotham Road and Meadow Road. The whole scheme to cost £20,000.

The vicar, churchwardens and treasurer went to Rochester to seek financial aid from the Diocese. After the sale of the site in Dashwood Road, realisation of assets, paying off the licensed in 1955. He helped to steer the Parish through two interregnums and in 1964 he compiled a history of St. Mary's Church to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee (1904-1964).

In December, 1976, The Rev'd. Osmond T. Lall, M.A., was licensed by the Bishop to serve in St. Mary's Church. He was born in India into a dedicated Christian family. He taught in various schools in India, before coming with his wife and family, to Gravesend in 1967. Here he taught at Holy Trinity School and was deeply involved in community relations. He became Honorary Curate at St. Mary's early in 1977.

On 21st June, 1969, Mr. Ronald Cole was licensed as a Lay Reader, and on 24th June, 1978, received the endorsement to his Reader's Licence, by the Bishop of Rochester, allowing him to preach in addition to his other duties.

In February, 1970, 23 members of St. Mary's Church Family spent a weekend at Mabledon Conference House near Tonbridge. This was arranged by the Rev'd. M. David, and present for part of the time and to lead discussion was Bishop David Halsey of Tonbridge.

On 20th November, 1971, Miss Winifred Young was made a Lay Reader by the Bishop of Rochester in the Cathedral. In addition to being licensed to assist at or take services, Miss Young was also permitted to preach which she did on many occasions. Miss Young retired in August, 1973 and moved to Exmouth. At the same time Miss Jean Gill, a lifelong member of St. Mary's Church, a member of the P.C.C. and Leader of the Overseas and Evangelistic Committee, also retired and moved to Exmouth with Miss Young.

In 1967 there began an experimental period as to the form of the Holy Communion Service. A Series II was used and after taking into account reports sent by selected parishes, of which St. Mary's was one, a revision was made and in 1973 the Church of England authorised the use of Series III at the Holy Communion Service. After a long discussion the Church Council agreed to its introduction and it was used for the first time at the 10 a.m. Family Holy Communion Service on Sunday, 1st April, 1973. Series II continued to be used at the 8 a.m. Service.

In May, 1976, new individual hassocks were purchased to replace the old long bench type kneelers. This was possible through the generous contributions of many worshippers and through money given to the Church to be used for some useful purpose.

During these years, the links between St. Mary's and missionaries working overseas were maintained and strengthened particularly with Murray and Mary Rogers and Heather Sandeman at Jyotiniketan in India. Murray and Mary Rogers visited the parish in July, 1966 during the Patronal Festival Events from 2nd-6th July. On Sunday 3rd July at the 10 a.m. Special Festival Family Communion Service the Celebrant and Preacher was the Rev'd. Murray Rogers. Links were also kept with the Rev'd. and Mrs. Roger Hooker also in India. They both stayed in the parish over the weekend 22nd-24th July, 1978, and at the 10 a.m. Family Holy Communion and Children's Church, the Celebrant and Preacher was the Rev'd. Roger Hooker.

In 1978, The Rev'd. M. A. David accepted an offer of the Living of Repton with Foremark-cum-Ingleby, near Derby. His last Sunday at St. Mary's was 2nd July, 1978 and his Institution and Induction at Repton was on 15th July, 1978.

During the interregnum which followed the Rural Dean, visiting Clergy, Rev'd. Osmond Lall, Mr. Ronald Cole and the Churchwardens; Mr. R. Tomlin and Mrs. B. Ingram made certain that the affairs of the parish continued to run smoothly.

In 1978, St. Mary's Church welcomed the Rev'd. H. Anthony Atherton and Mrs. Veronica Atherton to the parish. The Institution and Induction of the Rev'd. H. Anthony Atherton, B.Sc., Dip.Ed., F.G.S., M.A., as Vicar of St. Mary's Gravesend by the Rt. Rev. Philip Goodrich, Bishop of Tonbridge took place on 11th November, 1978

In November, 1980, after 15 years of experiment, consultation and careful planning, the Alternative Service Book was published. Individual purchases and donations enabled the church to be equipped with the A.S.B. and it was used for the first time at St. Mary's on Advent Sunday, 1980. It is also used for the occasional offices such as baptisms, marriages and funerals. The 1662 Prayer Book is still used at The Eucharist, celebrated monthly in place of Evensong.

On 5th November, 1983 at Rochester Cathedral, Mr. Victor Twine was licensed to serve as a Lay Reader in St. Mary's Parish. He has, since boyhood, attended St. Mary's regularly, serving as choir member, Head Sacristan, member of the P.C.C., Chairman of the Events Committee and making full use of his talents to further the work of the Church.

On 3rd October, 1984, it was with a deep sense of shock that the parish learned of the sudden death of Rev'd. Osmond Lall. A Memorial Service was held in St. Mary's Church on 2nd November, 1984 attended by a large congregation of his family, many friends and all sections of the community.

September, 1983, saw the start of St. Mary's Community Project, the aim of which was to try in a practical way to reduce the number of unemployed people in the area. The Manpower Services Commission gave the parish a grant of £30,000 to set up a scheme which would give employment to several people who have been without work for a year or more; to give experience and training, and to help those who need practical assistance within the community at large. The project was based on the old choir vestry which was converted into an office complete with telephone and other office facilities. The project manager is based there and the project itself overseen by a sub-committee of the P.C.C. The first project manager appointed in October, 1983 was Mr. Ian Holliday, to be succeeded by Mr. Frank Lovett, Mr. Bob Hardy, Mr. James Thomas and Mr. Trevor Roper.

At St. Mary's Church on 9th December, 1984, the Bishop of Tonbridge authorised Mrs. Barbara Ingram as a Pastoral Assistant to the parish. Again at St. Mary's Church on 15th December, 1985, The Venerable Michael Turnbull, Archdeacon of Rochester, authorised Miss Brenda Packham as a Pastoral Assistant to the parish. The parish is fortunate, indeed, in having two such devoted ladies.

St. George's Church of England Secondary School, in Meadow Road, has for many years had a close association with St. Mary's Church. The school held a regular morning service in the Church and a corporate Communion Service for scholars and staff during term time. Owing to the increase in the number of pupils these services are now held at the school although the school does hold a Harvest Festival at the Church. Two members of the staff, Mrs. A. Moss and Mrs. W. Todd designed, made up and embroidered a Chasuble and Stole which were presented to the Church for use at Harvest Time. The curtains which hang at the two doors on the east side of the Church were designed and printed at St. George's School.

Successive Vicars of St. Mary's have been governors of the school and the last Vicar, Rev'd. H. Anthony Atherton was Chairman of the School Governors.

From time to time some major and minor repairs have had to be made particularly following quinquennial surveys and reports. The payment for these repairs is facilitated in some respect by the joining of the Church Repair Scheme in 1968. Replastering, rewiring and redecoration have maintained the fabric of the Church in good order, but tribute must be paid to the

VERGERS

Mr. and Mrs. E. Gabriel 1931-1963

Mrs. E. Usherwood 1963-1977

Mrs. Elsie Usherwood resigned in 1977 due to ill health during the latter part of 1976. Many tributes were paid to her for in addition to keeping the Church immaculately clean and tidy she undertook the duties of Sacristan and often, week by week, arranged the flowers. Fortunately having regained her health she is regularly seen in Church again helping and arranging flowers. After 1977 the cleaning of the Church was undertaken by volunteers with Mrs. Winifred Twine, assisted by Mr. Victor Twine, as Sacristan.

Mrs. B. Ingram (Hon. Verger)

1984.

There is a rota of flower arrangers for the Sanctuary Vase and each Easter the Church is decorated with lilies and other flowers given in memory of loved ones.

ASSOCIATIONS AND SOCIETIES

The Anglican Young People's Association which followed a Youth Organisation started by Canon Scantlebury and called "King's Own", was largely the brainchild of the late Mr. W. A. Hollman and did good work among the young people of the parish over a considerable period. This was followed in 1967 by a Youth Club led by Rev'd. N. Tooley. There is now a Youth Fellowship which meets regularly on Sunday evenings.

Mothers' Union had a separate St. Mary's Branch until 1973-74 when it was incorporated with the Deanery Branch of the Mothers' Union. The 1956 Society was started in 1956 under the direction of Mrs. H. Pickup, wife of the Vicar at that time.

There is also a Women's Guild which meets regularly. These Associations greatly enhance the life of the parish, holding discussions, talks etc. as well as working to produce articles for sale at the fairs and bazaars assisting the finances of the Church.

The Brownies, Cub Scouts, 11th Gravesend Scouts, 6th Gravesend Guides all have a close association with the Church and are represented at Parade Services in the Church. They also play their part in fund raising efforts.

Townsend Fellowship, which was the successor to the Girl's Friendly Society, whose President for so many years was the late Miss J. K. Gardner, is now represented at St. Mary's by Miss F Bannister.

The Overseas and Evangelistic Committee has been superceded by The Outreach Committee, and the Social Committee by an Events Committee.

The Church of England Children's Society, has since 1964 been represented by Mrs. L. Packham.

The Bible Reading Fellowship until 1968 by Miss M. A. Wood and succeeded in 1968 by Miss Brenda Packham.

In 1985 a Prayer Healing Group was started; to pray for those who are ill, and followed by regular healing Services.

In the autumn of 1986 a start was made to a series of house group meetings under the umbrella theme of Christian Nurture.

Finally, meeting regularly in the hall are the Mother and Baby Club, the Play Group and the Badminton Club.

THE HALL

The building of the New Hall has already been recorded but tribute must be paid to those who as managers; Mr. A. Anson, Mr. A. Ives, Mr. R. Tuyrell and Mr. N. Parker; have supervised its running, and to the Hall booking secretaries Mrs. J. B. Smith, Miss B. Packham and Mrs. D. Mowbray, whose husband, Mr. M. Mowbray, is the present hall treasurer. In particular the work of Mr. Norman Parker and Mr. Maurice Mowbray, who have used their knowledge and practical skills in so many ways both in the Hall and in the Church must be appreciated. Thanks are also due to Mr. Ron Tomlin, who was chairman of the old hall committee, and who has organised bands of cleaners in the old and new halls. A Hall Public Address System was provided in 1976 by St. Mary's Choir after a sponsored 'Sing-In'. Thanks are also due to those willing hands that have provided refreshments on special occasions and coffee after the Family Service.

FINANCES AND TREASURERS

The finances of the Church have been in the capable hands of a succession of treasurers. To enable members of the Church Family to give regularly, a Free-Will Offering scheme was introduced in 1945 under Mr. P. Harman who was in charge for 15 years. Mr. W. L. G. Seager took over in 1963 and since then in 1968 Mr. E. Sandford, and Mr. E. Walker; in 1969 Mr. R. Caines, in 1971 Mr. R. Youseman; in 1978 Mr. J. Thomas; in 1980 Mrs. J. Clarke and since 1985 Mrs. C. Tuffee.In 1969 largely due to the initiative of Mr. R. Caines, some F.W.O. members signed a Deed of Covenant whereby the Church received the repayment of Income Tax made in respect of the covenants. This has continued and greatly helped in increase Church funds.

TREASURERS

Mr. R. Harris		Mr. E. Inwood	
Mr. T. Wilks	-1965	Mr. H. Gillis 1966	
Mr. J. Stevens	1966-1969	Mr. J. Packham	1969-1971
Mr. F. Croydon	1971-1978	Mr. A. Tompkins	1978-1980
Mr. J. Packham	1980-1981	Mr. T. Lewis	1981-1984
Mr. F. Tuffee	1984-1985	Mr. J. Packham	1985-1986
Mr. R. Wilkings	1987-		

The 'Call to Worship' is signified by the ringing of the Church Bell. The original bell was erected in memory of Richard C. C. Haill who died in 1946 and of his wife Ada Amelia who died in 1941. A new bell was installed in 1968 and given by Miss J. K. Gardner and Miss Miss G. Gardner. The bell bears the inscription:- A.M.D.G. To the Memory of H.W. and K. Gardner and their three sons. The original bell was cast into part of the new bell by permission of the relatives of the late Richard Haill.

Access to the Church is through the wrought iron Memorial Gates which were erected in memory of Rev'd. A. A. Burrows who was Priest-in-charge from 1934 to 1941. In the design of the emblem on these gates can be traced the five letters of MARIA, the latin name of Mary, the Patron Saint of the Church.

In the front of the Church grounds is a flagstaff which together with a flag were given by his parents and in memory of Alan Bray who was drowned at sea on 28th January 1957 aged 22 years and buried at Holy Trinity Church, Montevideo. Among the flags to be flown is a Diocesan Flag given in November, 1979 by Mr. Norman Parker as a thank offering on his retirement from his full-time work.

The pedestal of stones came from the demolished Holy Trinity Church.

Entering the Church by the main door, the rust coloured carpet was purchased with funds from individuals, from Mothers' Union, from Women's Guild and a market fair organised by Mrs. E. Usherwood.

The Book Rack was a gift from the members of the Badminton Club, and the Oak Table was a gift from the Mothers' Union and the Women's Guild.

The Font was presented by the Girls' Bible Class of St. George's Sunday School in 1904.

The Baptistry Candlestand was given by Chloe and Bill Croydon as a thank offering on celebrating their Golden Wedding on 1st February, 1980.

On the sill of the centre window of the Baptistry is a cross in memory of Doris Easter 1921 to 1936.

Beneath the picture by the Baptistry is a Vase in memory of Norah Wildish 1913 to 1935.

On the wall by the main door is a plaque sacred to the memory of those who gave their lives in the Great War 1914 to 1918. This was dedicated by the Archdeacon of Rochester on Ascension Day 13th May, 1920.

Proceeding up the aisle behind the chairs are the Alternative Service Books and copies of Hymns, Ancient and Modern (New Standard). The new hymn books were presented in May, 1985 by the 'Jones Family', in memory of their parents Norman and Margaret.

The hymn board was given in memory of Ethel Bridgland, for many years leader of Women's Guild.

The glass doors lead to the Choir Vestry and thence to the hall. The choir was presented with new cassocks and surplices, caps and collars by Miss Lilian Haill in memory of

her sister Adelaide Hilda in November, 1967. An additional new cassock was donated by St. Mary's Mothers' Union also in November, 1967.

A mirror and electric clock for the choir vestry were given by Mrs. Q. Slater and family in memory of Arthur Slater, a chorister at St. Mary's for some 20 years who died 7th July, 1970.

The Sanctuary carpet was provided by the efforts of the Mothers' Union and was dedicated on 30th June, 1963, at the Family Communion, by Rev'd. A. L. Dunstan at his Farewell Service.

The Lectern Bible was presented by the family of Edward William Gardner (1907-1944) who was a chorister at St. Mary's for some 25 years.

The Lectern Lighting was a gift from the members of the Women's Guild in 1966.

A Lectern Reader's Step was given on 30th July, 1967, by Mrs. Jessie Hollman and family in memory of William Arthur Hollman who died 10th October, 1966.

The Pulpit desk and lighting were given by relatives and friends in memory of Mr. R. B. Marshall who had been organist and choirmaster.

The Crucifix is in memory of William Friend, 1928.

In an alcove on the right is the organ. On Sunday 20th March, 1949 this War Memorial Organ was dedicated by the Bishop of Rochester, Dr. C. M. Chavasse to the memory of those who fell in the 1939-1945 War. After many years of valuable service it was found necessary to undertake a major overhaul of the instrument. As the result of various fund raising events and legacies left to the Church by the late Jessica Gardner and Percy Harman, a major overhaul of the organ and the replacement of the electronic side, housed in the old choir vestry, were completed in May, 1975 Choir hymn books had been given by Mrs. C. M. Beslee in memory of her sister Agnes E. Bowles and by Miss W. Young in memory of her mother, Ida Young. An organ hymn book was presented by the family of Kate Gardner 1869-1947. Hymn and prayer books were given by Mr. Norris Telling.

In May, 1985, Sheila Brookes donated a piano to the Church in memory of her aunt Joan Money. This is used when piano accompaniment is more appropriate than the organ.

In this Golden Jubilee Year we give thanks to the choirs that have led the Hymns and Songs of Praise and to those who have trained and conducted them.

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTERS/MISTRESS

Mr. W. L. Clark	Mr. K. Biggin	1961-1962
Mr. W. Facey	Mr. P. Mann	1962-1964
Mr. Rawlinson	Mr. D. Golder	1964-1968
Mr. J. Smith	Mr. M. Lisle	1968-1971
Mr. Tucker	Mr. A. M. David	1971-1975
Mr. R. B. Marshall	Mr. I. Roche	1975-1977
Mr. P. Jackson -1958	Mrs. J. Gibson	1977-

Mrs. P. Harman, Mr. P. Mason, Mr. J. Brown, Mr. D. Lamert have also assisted as organists.

At the end of the choir stalls is the Processional Cross given in memory of Kenneth George Wood.

The Chancel Chair was the gift of the Children's Sunday School made possible by their savings - Lent 1907.

The Litany Desk was presented by Gravesend Technical College and made by a former pupil, Mr. W. J. O'Connor.

The Sanctuary Flower Bowl and Pedestal were given in memory of Jeannie Sinclair Gill, M.A. a much loved and respected enrolling member of St. Mary's Mothers' Union, January 1951-September 1956.

The Processional Lanterns were given in memory of her mother, Dorothy May Crouch, by Mrs. W. Twine and Victor Twine, Easter Sunday, 11th April, 1982.

An Almsdish and collecting plates were given in memory of a devoted mother Dora Kate Parker 1884-1954 by her daughter Joan.

Another Almsdish in memory of Ronald Green was given by his parents.

The Sanctuary Lamp was given in memory of Churchwardens who served from 1905-1947.

The Altar Rails were given in loving memory of Frederick W. Boorman and Cyril A. Boorman, All Saint's Day, 1938.

Altar given in loving memory of Philip J. Martin, who was called to rest on 11th March, 1932 and of his wife Elizabeth Annie on 26th March, 1936.

Altar Candlesticks were given in memory of Hubert William Bligh by his wife and family.

The Standard Candlesticks were given in loving memory of John and Eliza Butler and Elizabeth Ann Thomson, All Saint's Day, 1938.

A new Altar Cushion was presented to the Church by Mrs. Ethel Clunne on Easter Sunday, 1969.

Cushions for the stalls of the Vicar and Reader were donated by Shirley Whitehead and Valerie Connor in April, 1982.

An Altar Service Book was given in memory of Henry William Gardner by his family in 1950.

An Altar Service Book was also given by Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Marshall.

Altar Vases were given in memory of H. R. Gardner 1904-1928.

In 1972 Mr. Elliott, his family and friends presented to the Church two wrought iron flower stands in memory of his wife, Alice Elliott.

Altar Linen in memory of Mary Ann Smoker was given by Miss M. McLaren.

An Altar Cloth and Vestment hangers were given in memory of Mr. E. C. Elliott 31st May, 1981.

An Altar Cloth in memory of Joyce Botting was presented by the Women's Guild in 1972 and a further Altar Cloth in March, 1982.

An Alb and Vestment hanger were given by Grace and Norman Parker as a thank offering on the celebration of their Ruby Wedding, 4th January, 1982.

In May 1985, a Chasuble suitable for use in Lent and Advent was given by Miss Brenda Packham and this gift completed the stock of vestments in all the major liturgical colours.

A Prayer Book for the Clergy Staff was presented by Ernest. H. Still in memory of his mother who died 4th March 1943 aged 87.

A Jersualem Bible and a Clock in memory of John Stevens, Churchwarden and Treasurer, who died on 24th December 1968 were given by his wife and family.

FOR USE AT COMMUNION

A Ciborium was given by Lydia Mary Langman on 8th June, 1940.

A Communion Wafer Box in loving and abiding memory of Alice S. Reynolds was given by her husband and family.

A Flagon was presented in dear memory of Percy Carter who died on 9th August 1926 aged 16 years.

A Paten and Chalice in memory of Joan Parker, beloved friend of St. Mary's Family, were given in 1966.

A set of Communion Cruets with silver mounted stoppers were given by Mrs. Jessie Hollman and family on 30th July, 1967 in memory of William Arthur Hollman who died 10th October, 1966.

Water and Wine Cruets in loving memory of Raymond Walter Twine, who died 19th September 1976, were given by Mrs. W. Twine and their son Victor.

A Paten and Chalice were given on Advent Sunday 1979 by Miss Mabel McClaren in memory of her sister Miss Elizabeth McClaren and by Miss Florence Bannister in memory of her sister Mrs. Kathleen Belger.

Behind the Altar, and a focal point of worship, is the large black and gold coloured metal cross designed by Mr. Keith Gibbs and positioned during extensive repair work 1961-1962.

A door between the pulpit and choir stalls leads to the Vicar's Vestry. A Vestry Clock was given in memory of Tom Bridgland who was a sidesman at St. Mary's from 1942 to 1951.

For Children's Church, Vases were given in memory of Catherine Grey, by her children.

Tables and chairs for Children's Corner were presented in memory of William Bridgland who was a sidesman from 1929 to 1942.

The New Testament - The New English Bible was given by Pamela Lessiter, for the Sunday School, in memory of her mother.

Five film strips for Children's Church were given by Mrs. L. Furley in memory of Violet Lily Denman in January, 1968.

Legacies for Sunday School Prizes were given:- £5 in memory of Ethel Maud Chaunt, £15 in memory of John Caddell, £15 in memory of Helen Nash and £25 in memory of Arthur Ambrose Burrows.

THE CHURCH GARDENS

The front garden was turfed by the generosity of Mrs. Linforth.

Plants for the Church Memorial Ground were given in memory of Reuben and Nellie Smith by their daughter Audrey in October, 1979.

Donations from neighbours in memory of Mrs. Rosie Gibbons were presented by Mr. Charles Gibbons in October, 1979.

A Gift of £50 and a tree for the Memorial Garden were given by Janet Clarke in memory of her mother Mrs. Emily Robertson, in July, 1982.

Thanks are due for the gifts of plants and shrubs and to those who have tended the gardens.

In 1961-1962, during major works, a new heating system was installed, with hot water radiators supplied by an oil fired boiler. This replaced the solid fuel heating. A new lighting system was introduced at the same time as the Church was redecorated, with a colour scheme planned by Mr. Keith Gibbs, a member of St. Mary's Church.

In 1985/86 the heating system was converted from oil to gas, the cost of this being partly borne by donations from individuals and Church groups.

THE PARISH

The parochial system of division has been in existence for many years. When the first St. Mary's Church was built in 1904, the area south of Old Road West, in the Borough of Gravesend - comprising Cecil Road, Salisbury Road, Churchill Road etc. and up to the Northfleet boundary west of Pelham Road South, including Glebe Road and the nearer side of Victoria Road, was in St. Mary's Parish. When the parish boundaries in the Gravesend Rural

Deanery were adjusted in 1951, the area described above was transferred to All Saints, Perry Street.

The present Parish of St. Mary is constituted thus:- From the middle of the road junction at the 'Kent and Essex' corner the boundary goes eastward along Old Road West, past the Alms Houses Corner and up the hill to the 'Prince of Orange'. From there it turns right down Singlewell Road, past Hammonds Corner and on to the fork in the road just before reaching St. Paul's Church. Here the boundary forks right along the narrow lane (old Singlewell Road) which leads to Gipsy Corner. Both sides of the main Singlewell Road are in Christ Church Parish. From Gipsy Corner the boundary runs across the golf course to Claphall (the old hamlet on the Wrotham road) and crosses the Coldharbour Road above the Tollgate Inn, to include all the estate in Northfleet south of New House Lane. It turns right along Coldharbour Road till it reaches Shears Green, then right again down New House Lane as far as the southwest corner of Woodlands Park, then left along Dashwood Road to the starting point.

Statistically The parish has about 4,800 inhabitants and covers some 286 acres, but it must be remembered that a great number of members of St. Mary's Church Family live outside the parish.

"To the Greater Glory of God was this Church built,

To the Greater Glory of God were these gifts given,

To the Greater Glory of God have people worshipped and served here,

May we, and future generations, keep faith with those who have left us this heritage."

PRIESTS IN CHARGE OF ST. MARY'S

Rev'd. J. W. Boden	1904-1907
Rev'd. J. L. Jones	1907-1917
Rev'd. H. Macdonald	1917-1919
Rev'd. O. A. G. Maunsell	1919-1926
Rev'd. S. M. Epps	1926-1930
Rev'd. E. L. Howland	1931-1933
Rev'd. W. Noy	1933-1934
Rev'd. A. A. Burrows	1934-1942
Rev'd. R. Born	1943-1945
Rev'd. K. Gregory	1945-1948
Rev'd. W. W. J. Taylor	1948-1950
Rev'd. H. Pickup	1950-1951

VICARS

Rev'd. H. Pickup M.A.	1951-1957
Rev'd. A. L. Dunstan, M.A.	1957-1963
Rev'd. M. A. L. David, A.K.C.	1963-1978
Rev'd. H. A. Atherton, B.Sc., Dip.Ed., F.G.S., M.A.,	1978-1987

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Early photos showing the interior of the church, the choir, key office holders and clergy. Note the ciborium around the altar which indicates that the church was once more catholic.







THE HALL ARE YOU HERE?

The Vicar Mrs. Pickup
Mr. Benson John Pickup, Richard Pickup
David Benson Elizabeth Pickup
Mr. Bevan
Mr. Blackman



Mrs. Lumley Susan Lumley Telsa Parker Greta Parker Mrs. Parker Mr. Parker Mrs. Preston Mr. Rapley Mavis Rawling David Stevens Mrs. Stevens Mr. Stevens Pauline Stewart Betty Usherwood Mrs. Usherwood Michael Usherwood

SUSAN STAPLET

Mr P Harmon.

Miss. Johnes all and

Miss. Markins

olle Jeffres

olles Eachlaid

olle Libbers

olle Albertas

olle Albertas

olle Albertas

olle Albertas

Mr. Bracey

Mrs. Bracey

Mrs. Burchett

John Clements

Mrs. Dearden

Mrs. Gledhill

Fred Johnson

Mr. Judges

Mrs. Judges

Jean Judges

Mrs. Lansley

Judith Lansley

Jose Kane



Please add your name if you have helped and are not already on the list.

IF NOT, WHY NOT





MEMBERS OF A.Y.P.A WITH MR TAYLOR ON 2ND JULY 1950.

















helped relieve the gloom

WITH a fresh crisis looming up almost every hour, those people who set out to bring a little brightness to relieve the pervading gloom are to be warmly commended. There are St. Mary's Players, Gravesend, for instance, who on Friday and Saturday presented a well arranged and ably executed musical revue "Ring out the Bells" in the brand new and

revue "Ring out the Bells cosy Church hall.

It was great fun all the way — from the opening characteristics of the way — from the opening control of the control of the way — from the control of the co

Jacquie Mount and Man-rice Mowbray combined effectively in vocal duets and the first half of the show ended with "The Bull and Bush" and the render-ing of several old favourite songs.

The St. Botolph's Hand Ball Binway conducted by

Bell Ringers conducted by Derek Wilkinson were the highlight of the second half. It was helped along

counters."

He said ho took the goods to make his wife happy.

Mrs. course had \$71.71\(\frac{1}{2}\) on her when arrested. She said she was very ashamed of herself, She had done it before.

NEW HALL

When stopped as they left the store, Mrs. Course said when the store, Mrs. Course said ritts time and we are very sorry."

Course said: "The temptation was too great. I took the stuff from various counters."

He also said: "The temptation was too great. I took the stuff from various counters."

He said ho took the goods to make hos wife happy.

Mrs. Jourse had 17.174

Arrars involved had all been paid the Bench heard.

Rabman said he went on holiday and the stamp mat-ters happened while he was away. He was ordered to pay the fine at £2 a week.



All smiles is five-year-old Nolan Busby in the arms of Father Christmas (Coun, Bob Smith of Halling) as he arrived in a cart drawn by a Shetland pony to open the Gravesend Divisional Labour Party bazaar at WoodyjHe Halls on Saturday. Holding the pony is Mr. Barrie Clarke, Secretary and Agent. In the morning Santa toured the town to advertise the bazaar which raised £300.

Photo: 17180 T7



Show packed with variety IN THE OLD HALL

IN RECENT years audiences at St. Mary's Hall, Gravesend, have come to expect a polished performance at their annual variety concert, and once again they were not disappointed, for producer Jose Kane, who is leader of St. Mary's Players and a drama teacher, expects a high standard from her cast of over 200 drawn from the various organisations attached to the church.

This year's show, "Just in time," was written by Miss Kane, and concerned the journeyings in time of cleaners, Hawkins, played by Paul Mount, and Higginbottom, played by Roy Quested, who acciden-tally launch themselves into space while cleaning out Britain's first space capsule on the eve of the official launching.

Dance

Their efforts to bring the capsule back to earth result in their entering a ime orbit and they land n the 12th century where Mayday Revels are in progress.

The children dance a ribon dance on the village reen and a hunt stops for efreshment and enterains them with songs and lances (played by the 1st and 6th Brownie packs).

It is not long before the leaners are captured as vitches and put in the tocks awaiting execution, out they are gallantly res-ued by Robin Hood and is Merry Men (played by he Tuesday Cub Pack).

Their efforts to return to he present day take them o the home of Anne hakespeare where they earn what really happened

to the missing manuscripts in a play by the Guides, and to the 1920s, where the Charleston is performed for them by the lovelies of the day (played by the? In the Victorian era they

become somewhat involved in an incident in the lives of those wild wild women of television fame (played by the Guides) and meet some very bonny bouncing Victorian babes (played by the Scouts) who, with their fond mammas, are out to catch the judges eye at the local baby show (script by B. Tourle).

Songs

Did they really present baby show winners with a bottle of stout in those days? During the first days? During the first World War they look in at a troop concert where they are entertained with songs

in harmony by the Cecil Road Singers and later they join the troops in the trenches in an excerpt from "Oh what a lovely war,"
(Venture Scouts). A hop into the future takes them to the moon where a space age guide band plays for them and they meet the Thursday Cub Pack who have travelled up Moody's moon bus for their annual outing.

Monologue

Back into the past again, a 13th century villain. played by Patrick Sandford, relates in a monologue his version of events leading to Magna Carta and still further back in time they meet the Roman business tycoon (played by Norman Jones) who first planted watercress at Springhead, talked Hadrian into building his wall and managed

Nero in the hot music | mure Elizabethan lad business (script by G. Ball).

A scene from the St. Mary's "Parish Review"

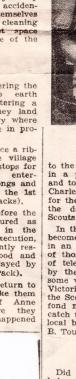
Eventually almost despairing of ever reaching the present day, they land in a dimly-lit world of long-haired youths and scantilyclad ladies with shaggy hair and painted bodies (Venture Scouts and Guides) and this turns out to be the Age of Aquarius: time-the present. Hawkins soon get back into the swing of things but Higginbottom the younger of the two. decides to return to the peace of the rocket and launch himself into space

It is difficult to pick out single items in a programme packed so full of varied content as this, but special praise must be given to the way in which the Guides brought out the contrast in characterisation between the quiet de-

Shakespearean and the robust women of the Vict sketch. The Scouts received much applaus their hilarious baby as did the 1956 Societ

its very effective scer in Roman Britain, Patrick Sandford for extremely well - deli monologue.

The slick present was due in no small ure to the work of crew under the directi Stage Manager Ma Mowbray. The accomp throughout the show Dorothy Mowbray. members of the producteam responsible for preparation of indivitems were D. Smith M. Day (Brownies) Davis and S. Lar (Thursday Cub Pack Hawkins (Scouts' Ch ton) and P. Mount ture Scouts).









And Sally goes, too



Off to Tasmania soon will go the Rev. Harold Pickup, 40-year-old vicar of St. Mary's Church, Gravesend. He is leaving his home in Darnley Road, Gravesend, to become the rector of the port of Stanley. With him will go his wife, Gwendolyn, 39, and their three children, Richard, 7, John, 10, and Elizabeth, 3. And with the family in the Strathaven Castle at Tilbury on July 5 will be the family pet—Sal two-year-old boxe.











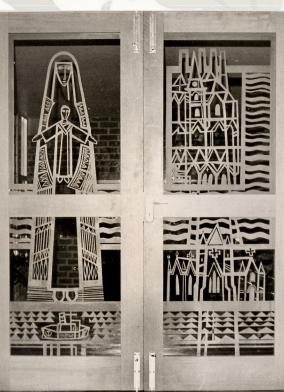












































1988-2018

The following photos are of the clergy following on from 1988 to the present day.

Many things have changed since the golden jubilee. The church has changed to embrace women priests, servant ministry and renewed its role in the community on a number of occasions.

Notably the church was a significant contributor to the development of the hospice in the parish, of which we have been involved in the chaplaincy. During this period the church also developed it's children's work, pioneering family activity days in the 1990s and in later years holiday clubs and a thriving toddler group led by Vic Twine and Trish Macklin.

Our worship has also seen many changes, from the introduction of the ASB to Common Worship, the shift from choir to music group, the emergence of cafe worship and fresh expressions of church such as the monthly Messy Church run in the hall.

We've had our ups and downs but St. Mary's is once again 'a church on the move'.

The following photos are presented in roughly chronological order and represent many events and aspects of the life of our church community. They also serve as a reminder of friends old and new, many now gone.

We hope that in twenty years time a new book will be made to celebrate 100 years in this place...









39

Rev Ruth Oats 2003-2013 Rev Trudi Oliver 2014-





























































Focus on Faith



A REALLY, REALLY NICE THOUGHT: Chris Kitchener with his own 'Spice Girls', Tricia Batcheldor, Michelle Evans, Jayne Irons, Marie Nada and Sue Stoddart. ND4462/4AC

Vicar given a spicy send-off

last Thurday.
The Reverend Chris Kitchener, or

Holy Spice as he may now be remembered, is leaving his post as vicar of St Mary's Church, Gravesend, to take up a new position at St Mark's, Biggin Hill.
Mr Kitchener, 51, who has worked

at St Mary's for more than nine years, said: "There's a lot of people I'll miss here. You do have mixed feelings - you know you have to move on but it's hard."

Before becoming ordained Mr Kitchener worked in marketing and it was not until the age of 38 that he decided to go into the church.

ferent types of work in the last nine years including being chairman of governors at Shears Green School. governors at Snears Green School. For the last five years, he has been chaplain of the Lions Hospice, Coldharbour Road. Last Thursday he was given a fare-well lunch at the hospice followed

by a surprise visit from the 'Spice Girls', alias members from the hospice staff. Mr Kitchener said it was an enormous pleasure to have worked at the hospice and that he had met some wonderful people there who were often dealing with very difficult circumstances.

He added: "To do that sort of job 1 university.

THE chaplain of the Lions
Hospice was given a grand send-off by the 'Spice Girls' last Thurdey

He did his curacy at Christchurch, and was appointed vicar of St Mary's in 1988.

He has been involved. gloomy and miserable in here but it's not'.

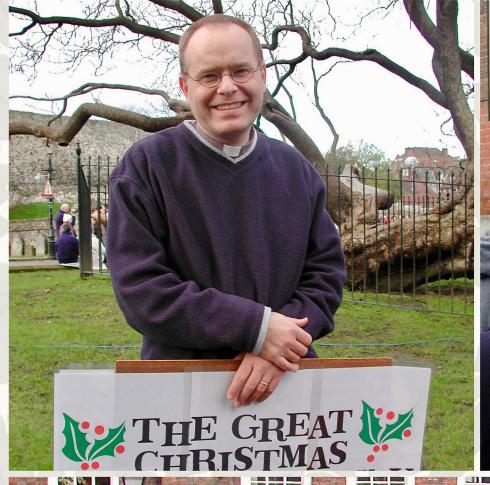
"The whole point of a hospice is to try and give people life, to make the most of what they've got."

Mr Kitchener and his wife Carol, who is also ordained, will soon be moving to Biggin Hill. Carol, who has been working at St Mary's, St George's and at Gravesend Hospital, will also be missed by the community.

The couple have two sons, Jonathan, 17, who is about to take his 'A' levels, and Iain, 21, who is at





















































































































































HIGH FLYING REPORTERS

HAVE A BLAST!

A group of trainee reporters were on their way to Chipowah Falls, Wisconsin USA when their flight was cancelled and they found themselves stranded at Gravesend Airport for four days. Alice Dunne of Hillingdon Rd Gravesend said "it was like a dream come true, meeting all these amazing people and getting to report on their marvellous stories".



- p.2 Photos from th
- p.3 Man swallowed
- p.5 Abraham visits Gravesend.
- celebrity passenger...
- speaks out.
- 2.12 Don't miss out Upcoming events.

































































lain Kitchener added 7 photos and a video — with Hannah Glover and 3 others at ♥ St Marys Church Wrotham Road Gravesend.

20 mins · Gravesend · 👪

Thanks to Trudi and Shaun for fireworks and fun at the vicarage tonight.







St. Mary's holds the first summer fete we've had for many years.





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To the Greater Glory of God were these gifts given,

Go the Greater Glory of God have people worshipped and served here, the Company we, and future generations, keep faith with those who have left us this heritage.



About this book

This book is the property of St. Mary's church Gravesend.

It should not be removed.

Many thanks to those who loaned photographs for this book. Some photos from the collection of Barbara Ingram, Iain Kitchener and those to be found hung in the church building itself. In addition within the church there are a range of photo books made after summer holiday clubs. An increasing range of images can be found on the church website at: http://www.stmarysgravesend.org.uk/and the Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/stmcgravesend/



1938-2018