



# *The Creeksea* Chronicle

## A season of Remembrance

**A**UTUMN is a time of remembrance. Perhaps it has something to do with the change from the busyness of summer to the slowing down of garden and growth; or maybe it is because of the shortening days and the misty mornings, all of which gives us time to reflect on the year gone by and the further past. Whatever the reason, circumstances have created a season of remembrance in the autumn.

At the end of October our community draws together to remember our loved ones who are no longer with us in the service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration. Every year the service has a different theme using music and readings to help us reflect and give thanks. This year the theme was Patchwork.

Patchwork was always a task for the autumn and winter. Gathering round, handling the scraps of material hoarded through the spring and summer, the women of the family recalled the shirt or dress which had provided the hexagon that would become part of a warming quilt. These quilts became a silent history of the family, recalling growth, work, laughter and relationships held in love. Through them the family could recall with gratitude those dear ones no longer present but whose love had supported them through the years and consider the patchwork of relationships that made up their own lives.

In the patchwork beauty of autumn the Church has set aside time for all of us to reflect on those we have loved, who have helped us weather the storms of life, who have blessed us in so many ways.

It is always followed by the celebration of All Saints – a joyful reminder that we are all called to be members of God's Kingdom here on earth and in heaven. We give thanks for all those whose examples have led us into our relationship with God, those saints now gone and the saints alive who encourage and support the community in our present time.

Then the nation remembers. We stand in silence around Cenotaphs around the country recalling with gratitude those who gave their lives in war throughout the last century and in this.

Almost one hundred years ago the battle of the Somme was drawing to its close. From 1st July to the 19th November there were over a million casualties. On the first day alone when British soldiers walking towards the German Trenches, were mown down by machine gun fire – there were 57,470 casualties of which 19,240 were killed. The first day of the Somme was the bloodiest in British military history. By November after five months of fighting the British army had suffered 420,000 casualties with 60,000 dead. On the 30th June this year there

**A season of Remembrance –continued**

was a Vigil at Westminster Abbey, which began in the evening of the 30th June and ended at 7.30am on the 1st July. Since then we have been lighting a candle in the church in memory of all those who gave their lives in this major battle of the Great War.

During the year there have been other anniversaries as 75 years ago the Second World War was raging. All round the coastline our major ports were experiencing the 'blitz'. In December the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour and within eight hours the battle for Hong Kong began, ending only 17 days later on Christmas day.

On Remembrance Sunday – the 13th November at our service 6.00pm we shall be gathering at the church to remember the casualties of that war and in particular 2nd lieutenant Charles Eric Wyndham Browne – a member of this church and the choir – who lost his life on the 24th October 1916. He was 19 years old. In the morning on Remembrance Sunday we shall be joining with the community of Burnham

at 10.00am for a thoughtful service at the Baptist Church followed by the Act of Remembrance at 11.00am at the war memorial.

There are some who feel that Remembrance Day in some way glorifies war. It does not. Rather 'awfully' it reminds us that we human beings are capable of inflicting huge damage on each other – ordering our soldiers to see the 'enemy' as less than human, someone who can be destroyed without consideration, just a number. In the remembering of the war dead – in reading their names – we return to them their humanity, give them dignity and remind ourselves of the dreadful consequences of our actions. As we place the Poppy Cross on our own memorial in church we are brought face to face with the consequences of human action – for the cross reminds us of the death of Christ – the son of God – who was killed for trying to make the world face up to its flaws and live in peace and love.

And then as we turn away from the poppies and the tears we are faced with the prospect of Christmas and the joyful remembrance the birth of God's son.

*We will remember them .....*

*..... We must never, ever Forget Them,  
they gave their lives for us*

## **Fifth Sunday Special! Saints Alive!**

*All age worship with something for everyone*

**C**ELEBRATE the saints at All Saints on Sunday 30th October. It's a fifth Sunday and at our 10.15am service we want to raise the roof in thanksgiving for all those people – the saints – who have passed on the story of Christ's love to us down the ages .

Don't miss a very special day – an All Saints' Special Day – when we celebrate the dedication of our Church.

So expect something very different involving a 'Family' tree, some string, a freshly baked loaf of bread, lots of hymns and so much more – as well as .....yourselves.

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## The Film Club presents

Now Showing: **The Wipers Times** . 7<sup>th</sup> November, Monday, at 7.00pm.  
*The Wipers Times* was a trench magazine that was published by British soldiers fighting in the Ypres Salient during the World War 1.

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## Getting in **SHAPE** for Christmas

**N**O – it's not a sponsored slim to raise funds for the annexe – although come to think of it.....!

SHAPE is all about discovering what you are really happy doing and then seeing how you can use the joy and happiness it gives you to help other people

You must have experienced that moment when your hand mysteriously rises when the word volunteer is banded about - even when you know that you really don't want to read or make coffee or do the flowers?

If that happens rather too often for your own liking this might just be the course that helps you keep that hand rigorously under control.

Because SHAPE is designed to help you find out just what you are best at - where you shine - and how you can use your skills and talents to make a happy and relaxed contribution in God's service. This fascinating course helps us take a look at what amazing people we are - and how we are all blessed with so many skills and talents which together make us the Body of Christ.

Discover where you stand on the line of character traits - from tidy and sorted to random and go with the flow; find out whether you are a planner or a doer;

Enjoy getting to know other folk who are as bemused as yourself at the start - and grow with them into seeing yourselves as part of God's wonderful plan to spread the Kingdom.

At the end of the course you may be surprised to find yourself suggesting what you can do - rather than trying to fill in a round hole with a square peg.

**GO ON - live dangerously - try SHAPE.**

SHAPE – booking forms In Church now!! Every Wednesday from 2nd November – 7th December 7.30pm - 9.30pm, at 8 Fernlea Road.

## Why Christmas! Or the story of the Advent Wreath

*A four week course to explore the meaning of Christmas*

**T**HERE it sits, a beautiful circle of evergreen, holly and ivy, twisting and turning in a circle, graced with four red candles all around a central candle of white. The first Candle is lit on Advent Sunday [27th November this year] and then on each of the four Sundays before Christmas an additional candle is lit until on Christmas Eve all four red candles are alight at the beginning of the midnight service. Then after Midnight comes the lighting of the white Candle – representing the light of Christ entering the world as the child of Bethlehem. Each of the Candles represents part of the story. Together they explain the plan – God's plan.

If you've ever wondered about how Christmas happened, about the plan, how it developed, what happened in the two thousand and more years before the birth of Christ that lead to that day, then you may enjoy this short course Why Christmas! There are just four 2-hour sessions which aim to explore that story in a bit more depth. It begins on Thursday 24th November at 7.30pm and continues on Thursday evening each week until the 15th December

### **Why Christmas or the story of the Advent Wreath**

An advent course. Every Thursday from 24th November – 15th December. 7.30pm - 9.30 pm, at 8 Fernlea Road.

## Our Annual Christmas Celebration

### *The Elmwood Nativity*

at the Elmwood Equestrian Centre

on

*Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 5.00pm*

## Continuing our series on Historic Burnham and Creeksea



George D Harris and his wife Glenda beside the Rapier of Sir William Harris of Creeksea.

## The Harris's of Creeksea

**W**HEN GEORGE & GLENDA HARRIS arrived at All Saints one Sunday they were delighted to find so much about their ancestors in our Church. George, from Nashville in Tennessee is one of the many American descendants of the Harris family of Creeksea Place. His ancestor John Harris was a son of Sir William Harris and a brother to Sir Arthur Harris whose tomb is in the chancel. *[The family name had a variety of spellings including Herryys and Herryis.]* As the colony of Virginia was being settled in the 1600s John and his brother Thomas travelled

to America to make their fortune. Over the years there have been many Harris family visitors from America and in answer to some of their questions Suzanne Thacker produced some background information.

The manor of Creeksea was bought by Sir William Harris of Prittlewell, in 1549. He had profited from Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries, through his connections with Richard Riche, one of the chief organisers of the break-up of church lands. When Church Commissioners interviewed the churchwardens at Burnham and Mundon in 1551, William's name was linked to the disappearance of valuable parish ornaments and, when he was High Sheriff of Essex, he supervised the burning of (*Protestant*) heretics at Stratford. He died a wealthy man in 1556, 'once more a good Catholic under Queen Mary', and left enough money for prayers to be said for him yearly, for the next eighty years. This showed just how concerned he was for the welfare of his soul after death.

William organised marriages for his children with the gentry and mercantile families of Essex and Kent and three of his sons became prominent county officials. One son, Arthur Harris, was a Justice of the Peace and gained a coat of arms for his family in 1578. It is possible that he built Creeksea Place, which has a rainwater hopper, still in place, bearing the date 1569. There was already a manor house in another part of the parish, Creeksea Hall, in which Arthur may have lived for a time but his main residence was at Woodham Mortimer. He died in 1597.

Arthur's son, another William, was knighted in 1603. William had married Alice Smith in 1583 and the couple had several children. In his will proved in 1618 Sir William named Sir Arthur (*died 1631*) as his eldest son and the inscription on Sir Arthur's tomb in All Saints' Church Creeksea states that he was the son and heir of Sir William of Creeksea. (*One printed reference says that Sir Arthur was the son of John, heir to Sir William of Creeksea, but this would appear to be incorrect.*) William and Alice's other children are believed to include; William of Lincoln's Inn; Alice, who married Sir Henry Mildmay of Graces; and two sons, Thomas and John, who were amongst early settlers who went from Creeksea to Virginia. Thomas died in Isle of Wight County in 1672 and John died in Charles County around 1638. Both the Harris and Smith families were involved in the development of Virginia. The brasses on the tomb of Sir Arthur Harris were restored in 2008, with the aid of a generous gift from Mr Lytton T Harris IV and his sister Mrs Nancy Harris Hix of the USA, descendants of those early Harris settlers from Creeksea.

It would appear that one more generation of the Harris family, Arthur's son Cranmer, inherited the Creeksea estate before it passed to the Mildmay family who held it until 1901. Cranmer and the rector of Creeksea were included in a list of 'malignants' presented to the House of Commons on 15 May 1643. Malignant was the name given by Parliamentarians to the followers of Charles I in the Civil War.

**The Harris's of Creeksea - continued**

Although it has been many years since the Harris family lived in Creeksea there are still regular visits from the American descendants. They are delighted to find the tomb in the chancel and the sword in its case by the door. But there is one disappointment, the portrait beside the sword, is not of Sir William Harris of Creeksea. Charles Raymond of Belchamp Hall, near Sudbury, who has the original painting, confirms it is of William Harris of Shenfield, who married Frances Astley. The two Williams were cousins. That disappointment is somewhat ameliorated by the fact that the 17th Century English rapier hanging in the church did belong to Sir William Harris, Knight, of Creeksea Place. Legend has it that it remained at Creeksea Place until 1877 when the Galloway family left. Miss C M Galloway gave it to the Revd D A Rooke in 1933 and, when he died in 1974, he left it to the Rector and Churchwardens of All Saints' Church

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## **The new annexe - UPDATE**

**E**VERY day brings us closer to the start of building the annexe. Over the past few weeks Sue Kettleley the Churchwarden and I have had a meeting with the architect and seen some of the finished drawings with their technical details. We've talked about the decisions the PCC need to make on the heating, the kitchen, the floor and so on. The architects have been preparing the detailed plans for the new annexe and are almost ready to go to tender – they will be sending copies of the plans to the building contractors best suited to this sort of work. When they receive the contractor's tenders we will have to decide who is best – and then work can begin.

In the meantime the design of the Stained-Glass Memorial Window to Richard and Iain House is taking shape – it will shortly go before the Diocesan Advisory Committee for approval. Careful financial planning has meant that we have a substantial fund ready for the construction of annexe but until the tenders are in and work begins we cannot be certain what the final costs will be. To ensure that we do have sufficient funds PCC member Ian Harvey, has offered to search out grants towards the building costs. Valerie Harrison, Ian Harvey, Janet Francis, Lyn Cronin and Shelley Coxeter with Tony and Sylvia Bowen have been asked to form a fundraising committee by the PCC. They will be producing plans for fundraising activities shortly.

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## **Let us build a house – the Advent Appeal Challenge**

**E**VERYONE knows about giving up things for Lent – but what about giving something up for Advent? Those four weeks before Christmas can be a bit of a nightmare – all those chocolates in the Advent Calendar, the work's Christmas party, mince pie and mingle socials, carols and cake. By the time the Christmas feast arrives it feels as if we've done it all already. So here's the Advent Appeal Challenge – give up something that you quite enjoy for Advent and put the money you've saved in the Advent Appeal. Or *[and perhaps an even better wheeze]* don't give up anything but fine yourself for indulging in the chocolates or the gin. Either way the Advent appeal benefits. And what's the appeal for – building a very special addition to God's House here at Creeksea – our annexe. Advent begins on the 27th November with a special service of the light at All Saints at 6.00pm. Before then little money boxes in the shape of a house will be available for you to take home.



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# Chronicle Insert

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## Services and Events for NOVEMBER 2016

DATE	TIME	SERVICE
6 <sup>th</sup> November	8.30am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent	10.15am	Sunday Worship Family Service
7 <sup>th</sup> November		
Monday	7.00pm	Film Club - The Wipers Times
13 <sup>th</sup> November	8.30am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>
<b>REMEMBRANCE</b>	10.00am	<b>BAPTIST CHURCH/JOINT SERVICE</b>
	6.00pm	Creeksea Remembers
20 <sup>th</sup> November	8.30am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>
Christ the King	10.15am	Sunday Worship Holy Communion
27 <sup>th</sup> November	8.30am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>
<i>Advent 1</i>	10.15am	Play & Praise
	6.00pm	Choral Service of Light, in the Celtic Tradition



## Services and Events for DECEMBER 2016

DATE	TIME	SERVICE
4 <sup>th</sup> December	8.30am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>
<i>Advent 2</i>	10.15am	Sunday Worship Holy Communion
5 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00pm	Film Club - <i>film to be confirmed</i>
Monday		
11 <sup>th</sup> December	8.30am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>
<i>Advent 3</i>	10.15am	Christmas Tree Service
	6.00pm	Carol Service
16 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00pm	Inner Wheel Carol Service
Friday		
18 <sup>th</sup> December	8.30am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>
<i>Advent 4</i>	10.15am	Play & Praise - Nativity
23 <sup>rd</sup> December	5.00pm	Elmwood Nativity at the Elmwood Equestrian Centre
Friday		
24 <sup>th</sup> December	4.00pm	Light in the darkness, carols, candles and cribs
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	11.15pm	Midnight Service - the first communion of Christmas
25 <sup>th</sup> December		
<b>Christmas Day</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>
	10.15am	Christmas story time followed by Holy Communion
28 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	Wedding of Felicity Townsend and Mark Rumbold



## *Play & Praise*

November 27<sup>th</sup> at 10.15am

We're all ready! Are you ready too?

We're waiting for Christmas and know what to do

The holly and ivy are waiting you know

There's a candle to light to give a warm glow

*Preparing for Christmas*

Make your own

Advent Candle Countdown

And some decorations for the Tree

# All Saints' Special

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October 10.15am

*Celebrating All Saints  
and Our Church*

With an extra special service  
of hymns and stories  
with communion and the bread of friendship.

*A service for all the Church family to enjoy*