

THE PARISH OF BELTINGHAM WITH HENSHAW

Parish Newsletter February 2019

Ethelbert – King and Saint

How much do you know about King Ethelbert? He was the King of Kent from about 589 until his death in 616. He was married to Bertha, daughter of a Frankish King. She was a Christian, and it was a condition of the marriage that she would be free to practise her religion. Ethelbert evidently considered that an acceptable price for a close connection with the most powerful ruler in western Europe. Bertha came with a bishop as her chaplain, and Ethelbert soon accepted the Christian religion – indeed he was the first English king to be converted to Christianity.

In 597 a Roman monk called Augustine arrived in Kent as leader of a group of missionaries sent by Pope Gregory the Great. When Augustine landed on the Isle of Thanet, a meeting was arranged with Ethelbert who insisted on it being outdoors as he was concerned that Augustine might ‘work his magic’ on him inside a building. The meeting was successful and Augustine and his followers were allowed to preach and baptise in Canterbury.

With Ethelbert’s authority Augustine placed his Archbishop’s throne at Canterbury, not in London as ordered by Pope Gregory. The Archbishop of Canterbury has remained the head of the Church of England ever since. But for this history Canterbury would not have the importance that it has today. Ethelbert was later canonised as a saint for his role in establishing Christianity among the Anglo-Saxons. His feast day is 25 February.

From the registers

December 1 – Burial of Ashes, Irene Farrah Clark, 1928 – 2018

December 3 – Burial of Sandra Hebden at St Cuthbert's Beltingham following service at All Hallows' Henshaw.

December 30 – At St Cuthbert's, Beltingham, baptism of Maddie Davison and Fenn Gilhespy

Take Care – Scammers About!!

The Citizens Advice Bureau gives excellent advice about the dangers of being scammed, where someone is trying to get your personal details, usually to get money. We are aware that some people in our parish have had quite frightening approaches, eg threatening calls asking for money to be paid over the phone from the High Court Enforcement Agency – no such organisation exists. The advice from the CAB is not to give any personal information such as bank details or computer passwords or PIN numbers; not to reply to suspicious emails; not to click on links in such emails; not to download any attachments from such emails; and not to send money or buy anything. You can report scams on the CAB website, www.citizensadvice.org.uk where there is lots of other helpful advice. Their phone number is 03444 111 444.

Weather Lore

Candlemas marks the end of the Christmas season. It is celebrated on 2 February. There is a poem association with it, which may help us to determine how the weather will develop over the rest of the winter!

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, Winter will have another fight.

If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, Winter won't come again.

New leaflet about our Parish

You will find enclosed with this copy of the Parish Newsletter a new leaflet about our Parish. It is intended that this will be displayed in various locations around the Parish, particularly where visitors to our area can see it. We hope it will encourage interest in our churches and our Services.

We also would like to send a copy of the leaflet to any newcomers who move into the Parish, together with a welcoming letter from the Vicar. If you are aware of someone moving in, we would be pleased if you could let one of the Churchwardens know, so that delivery of a leaflet can be made.

Lent Course planning

The planning is now underway for the Lent course where it is likely that the focus for the sessions will follow a showing of the film “The Way”. The film is about a father seeking to retrieve his son’s body. The son died after an accident whilst walking the Camino de Santiago, a Catholic pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. The father decides to walk the spiritual trail in homage to his son, carrying the son’s ashes with him. In doing so, he meets others from around the world, all looking for greater meaning in their lives.

Look out for further details about the date for the showing of the film, and the timings for the follow up course. All are welcome.

Mothers’ Union

God’s Tent

Messy Church