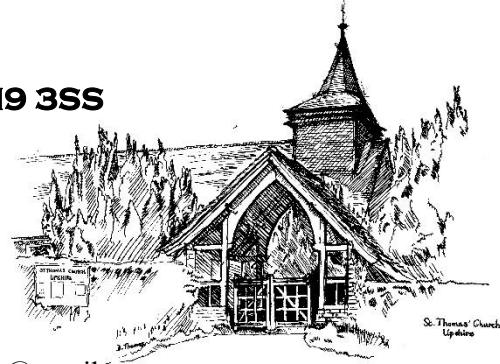


# ST THOMAS' CHURCH, UPSHIRE EN9 3SS

## NEWSLETTER

### November 2025



Rector: Revd Peter Smith, 01992 767897  
Team Vicar: Revd Jane Yeadon, 07960 604416. Email janeyeadon@gmail.com  
Benefice Office: Abbey Church Centre, Waltham Abbey, EN9 1XQ. 01992 767897  
Church address: Horseshoe Hill, Upshire, Waltham Abbey, Essex, EN9 3SS.  
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This Newsletter is free: donations to Lyn Wackett. Copy date for December Newsletter: 14<sup>th</sup> November

We are committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. The PCC has adopted the Church of England's policies and best practice on safeguarding which may be found on the Church of England website and also on the Diocese of Chelmsford website.

#### SERVICES AND DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	3pm-4pm	SEEDLINGS meet in the church
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	All Saints Day 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION Readings: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18	Luke 6:20-31
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	11am-3pm	CRAFT FAIR in the Village Hall. All handmade by local crafters.
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Sunday 9.00 am Service of Remembrance at the Lych Gate followed by service in church Readings: Job 19:23-27a	Luke 20:27-38
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am for 12noon	COMMUNITY LUNCH in church – 07899 846711 to book. (one week earlier than usual) Please let us know if you have to cancel. Thank you.
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Second Sunday before Advent 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION Readings: Malachi 4:1-2a	Luke 21:5-19
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am-2.30pm	CHRISTMAS FAYRE in Village Hall
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Christ the King 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION Readings: Jeremiah 23:1-6	Luke 23:33-43
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	2.15 pm	Upshire Mothers' Union meet in the Village Hall. All welcome A talk on 'English for Women' by Elizabeth Marshall
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> :	First Sunday of Advent 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5	Matthew 24:36-44
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	3-4pm	SEEDLINGS meet in the church
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Second Sunday of Advent 9.15am HOLY COMMUNION Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10	Matthew 3:1-12
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	3pm for 3.30pm start	CHRISTMAS CONCERT with Enfield Brass Band Book with Lyn on 01992 711573

## PRAAYER REQUESTS

You are invited to offer names to be added to our prayer diary to remember those who are unwell or unhappy.

First names only are required as God will know who we are praying for.

Contact Lyn Wackett on 01992 711573 or email [lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk)

This month we pray for Laura, Alan & Pam, Lesley, Charlie & John, Anne, Pam & John, Barbara, Vernon, Mal, Sue, Ann & Cyril, Rosalind, Doreen, Maureen, Carol & George, Beverly, Terry, Jackie, Andrea & her Mum & Dad, Nina, Carmel & the Price family, Nigel, Lola, Pearl, Susan & Alan, Jackie & Linda, Graham, Christine, Chris, Izzie, Pennie and Sue.

## THE VICAR WRITES:

"If you want to find the Lord, look for Him in the rag and bone of the human heart, not in the clouds." — Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy

As we approach Remembrance season, we often think of soldiers, nurses, and leaders who served in wartime. But among them was another kind of hero — one who carried not a rifle, but a Bible and a bundle of cigarettes. His name was the Rev. Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, better known to the troops of the First World War as Woodbine Willie.

Born in 1883, Kennedy was a parish priest in Worcester when war broke out in 1914. Feeling called to serve those on the front lines, he volunteered as a chaplain to the British Army. What made him remarkable was not only his courage under fire, but the way he met soldiers where they were — in mud, fear, and exhaustion — with compassion, humour, and the simple presence of God.

Kennedy earned his nickname by handing out Woodbine cigarettes, a small comfort in the horror of the trenches. But it wasn't the cigarettes alone that made him beloved. It was his willingness to sit in the dirt beside dying men, to pray with them, to offer words of grace and forgiveness when death was near. He was known to rush through shellfire to bring comfort to the wounded — and his bravery earned him the Military Cross in 1917.

His ministry was gritty, honest, and full of humanity. Kennedy once wrote, "If you want to find the Lord, look for Him in the rag and bone of the human heart, not in the clouds." He believed that God's love reached even into the most forsaken corners of the world — and that faith must be lived out in action, not just preached from the pulpit. After the war, Woodbine Willie became a passionate advocate for social justice and the poor, continuing his ministry among those still wounded in body and spirit. His writings and poetry captured both the sorrow of war and the hope of redemption, reminding readers that God's light can pierce even the darkest places.

This month, as we remember those who served and sacrificed, Woodbine Willie's story reminds us that faith is most powerful when it walks alongside suffering — not from a distance, but up close, with hands ready to help and hearts open to love. His life speaks still: that in every act of kindness, in every prayer whispered for peace, Christ is present.

Perhaps that is the truest remembrance we can offer — to follow his example, carrying light into the world's trenches, one small act of grace at a time. His life calls us to embody faith in action, hope in despair, and love in the midst of loss.

I pray that we can follow his example and live as peacemakers in our time.

Blessings,

Revd Jane Yeadon,

Team Vicar St Thomas, Upshire and Holy Innocents, High Beech

Benefice Youth Missioner MB 07960 604416

St Thomas Church, Upshire Bank details

St Thomas Church Upshire PCC

HSBC Bank Sort Code 40 45 20 Account number 00724505

Any queries regarding setting up a Standing Order, giving a donation to the church, Gift Aid or about joining the Parish Giving Scheme please contact our Treasurer, Ruth Moore on 07852 668633

[Ruth4366@gmail.com](mailto:Ruth4366@gmail.com)

If you are able to Gift Aid donations this increases your gift without any extra cost to yourself.

## ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Our mailing list to receive the electronic version of the Newsletter is now in excess of 100 participants so if you are not one of those and wish to be included please send your email address to Kate at [dalek16@btinternet.com](mailto:dalek16@btinternet.com) or phone 02085083942. We are looking to reduce our 'paper footprint' for climate change by printing fewer copies – your contribution will help. Thank you.

## CHURCH FLOWERS

Each month we can create memorial dedications, wedding, anniversary or special occasion flowers - Contact Kate Dale email: [dalek16@btinternet.com](mailto:dalek16@btinternet.com). Tel: 02085083942

## **GROWER'S CORNER**

The clocks have changed and our daylight hours are getting shorter by the day. Winter is firmly on its way, I love to hibernate putting on the log fire but also struggle with it too. I miss being able to wind down in the garden or allotment. The fresh air does me good after being at the computer all day.

The garden and allotment are more than ready to have their rest though, this year's drought has seen plants that normally thrive struggle as I found it hard to keep up with the watering.

Many of you know that Dad referred to us (as in his daughters) 'squirrels'. It's funny of late I just keep seeing them. Whether it's a souvenir I found in Paris, a necklace, engravings on a side of a building, in the park or on the billboard as I drive to work. Just makes me smile when I do and makes me think of you Dad. We miss you.

Update on the plots:

It's been busy, very busy! And there is of course still more!!!

We've had a lovely big delivery of woodchip which has been great for mulching, topping up the paths and creating new ones. We've cleared beds, harvested beans, tomatoes, fruit, potatoes it's been a good year. The freezer has been topped up and jars of preserves made.

I'm still cutting flowers. It brings me great joy making bunches and filling my vases.

### **November to do:**

The focus for the November garden is protection. Cold weather has arrived, and tender plants need to be snug in the greenhouse or cloaked in protective fleece. Move containers into sheltered positions against house walls.

Mulch beds and cover bare soil.

### **November sowings:**

- Salad leaves/ winter lettuce keep it going every 3 weeks to have a constant supply
- Herb seeds for the windowsill
- Broad beans

Flowers/shrubs

- It's time to get planting all those tulip bulbs. I have lots to get in
- You may still have some dahlias. Once the first frost has blackened the plant. You can chop back either leaving the tubers in the ground and mulching or lifting and storing
- It's not too late to sow sweet peas in root trainers/toilet rolls
- Plant bare root plants/trees

**Tip:** Don't be too tidy in the garden, save some spaces for overwintering insects.

Have restful November . Love Louise.



## **ST THOMAS' SEEDLINGS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays of each month (unless otherwise stated)**

A free Stay and Play church group for children and those who care for them

Join us Saturdays 3-4pm for messy craft, play, songs and stories along with a welcome cuppa

St Thomas' Church, Horseshoe Hill, Upshire, EN9 3SS



### **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

Thank you to the people who have sent in articles to be included in the Newsletter. Please keep them coming!

Anything: maybe a poem you have written, what you have been doing in the garden, childhood memories, something that happened to make you smile, it all makes for interesting reading.

**ANAGRAM** Unscramble this 12 letter anagram: NITCAUSETHIS. The answer will be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

### **50/50 CLUB**

Congratulations to the winners of the 50/50 Club Draw in August who were:

1 <sup>st</sup> :	£35	No. 67	Maureen Smith of Waltham Abbey
2 <sup>nd</sup> :	£25	No. 56	Susan Ellis of Upshire
3 <sup>rd</sup> :	£15	No. 46	Pearl Pegg of Waltham Abbey

Our thanks to all our members for their support of St Thomas' Church. Good luck to everyone who enters.

### **PUMPKINS AND SQUASH DECORATIONS FOR HARVEST SERVICE**

We would like to thank Hatters Farm, Takeley for the wonderful squash and pumpkin donations to decorate the church at Harvest time. Some were taken to the local food bank following the service, with some for our Seedlings children's group. Thank you Grace and Ross!

### ST THOMAS' CHURCH COMMUNITY LUNCHES 2025

Wednesdays, 11.30 for 12noon-2pm

12<sup>th</sup> November (a week earlier than usual) £9 per person, 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Christmas Lunch £12 per person

Please book your place to confirm attendance: 07899 846711

If after booking you are unable to come, please phone to cancel,

we can then offer a place to people on the waiting list.

### CRAFT MARKET

The Craft Market and Table Top Sale in Waltham Abbey Town Hall will be on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November, then December 2<sup>nd</sup>. 10.00am – 2.00pm. Admission free; refreshments.

**COMMUNITY LUNCHES:** Why not join us for one of our Community Lunches held on the third Wednesday of every month. Now the autumn is here we provide a delicious hot roast dinner – beef, Yorkshire Puddings, vegetables and gravy followed by a delicious dessert selection and a cup of tea or coffee in friendly company. All for £9.00. If you come on your own, you will not eat alone! For catering purposes please ring Pauline on: 07899 846711. As added bonuses, you will certainly not need to cook for yourselves and you will have the opportunity to take a look at our new banner.

**BOOK NOW** for our Christmas Lunch with turkey and all the trimmings, £12 per person.

### UPSHIRE MOTHERS' UNION

**60th anniversary of Away From It All (AFIA).** Launched in 1965, the Away From It All (AFIA) holiday scheme has been at the heart of Mothers' Union's outreach in Britain and Ireland for 60 years. What started as a simple, compassionate idea has grown into one of the most enduring and impactful projects in our movement's history. For six decades, AFIA has responded to families facing financial hardship, trauma, illness, domestic abuse, and overwhelming stress. Tens of thousands of families have been supported, with Mothers' Union groups involved in fundraising, planning and delivering the holidays.

Here are just a few heartwarming stories from across our regions this summer alone.

In Glasgow and Galway, 10 mums and 15 children were gifted a holiday at the Field Study Centre on Isla of Cumbrae in July, made possible by our dedicated MU members and volunteers.

The three days away provided great company and lots of laughs, with new friendships formed and memories created. One mum shared “thank you very much from all my heart. You are angels! Also, thanks to God that I'm 100% human! Just wanted to share the impact a couple of days can have.”

These powerful words a reminder of the impact that even a short break can have on families navigating difficult seasons.

In the Diocese of Bristol, MU members took 136 adults and 128 children on an unforgettable day out to Weston-Super-Mare. With four coaches full of excited families, the trip was all about fun, friendship, and making cherished memories. From paddling in the sea to enjoying ice cream in the sun, the day offered families a rare chance to relax and reconnect.

In Leicester, 10 families were able to enjoy a much-needed holiday at Haven Mablethorpe. The trip gave parents and children time to unwind, recharge, and create precious memories away from the pressures of daily life. For many of the families attending, it was their first real break in years, providing a time of healing, laughter and restoration. A wonderful way to start the summer holidays.

And it's not just days out and holidays that AFIA can provide. In North Devon, the scheme provided [funding for a Christian summer camp](#) for children and young people.

In the Diocese of Chelmsford, one family enjoyed a short break holiday and 3 families a day out this year, there is also a trip to the pantomime during the Christmas season.

None of this would be achievable without the generosity, prayers and tireless work of Mothers' Union members and supporters. The AFIA scheme is a testament to what we can do when we come together to uplift families in need. The dedication over 60 years has made joy possible for generations of families.

In today's world, the need for AFIA is still as urgent as ever, with families caught in the pressures of rising living costs, domestic instability, caring responsibilities and isolation and poverty. A break away from it all isn't a luxury; for some people, it's a lifeline. In a time when rest is often inaccessible to people in vulnerable situations, AFIA reminds people that they are seen, valued and loved.

If you know a family who may benefit, please contact Revd Jane.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 2.15pm in Upshire Village Hall, when our speaker will be Elizabeth Marshall telling us about 'English for Women'. Everyone welcome. Tea Hostesses: Sue McKinley and Gill Negus. Raffle: Lyn Wackett.

For further information on Mothers' Union contact Eleanor Huxter on 01992 892869

## ENFIELD BRASS BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

In the church

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 3pm for 3.30pm start.

Book early for this lively concert

tickets £10 (£5 for under 16s) from Lyn on 01992 711573.

Seasonal refreshments, raffle.

### COMING UP AT ST. THOMAS'

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month: 3.00-4.00pm Seedlings – messy craft, play, songs and stories for children and those who care for them.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November: 10.30am – 2.30pm Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: Community Christmas Lunch £12 per person, 07899 846711 to book

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December: 3pm for 3.30pm start – Enfield Brass Band Christmas Concert – 01992 711573 to book

### UPSHIRE SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Held in Upshire Village Hall, Mondays 2.00-4.30pm, Tuesdays 7.00-9.30pm No experience necessary.

Tuition and bowls available. It's fun to play! Contact Fred on 01992 711720 or Jean on 07733 084815.

STAMPS Please continue to save your postage stamps and foreign or out of circulation coins as the charities we support can use them to raise funds. At present we collect the coins for Essex and Herts Air Ambulance and The British Legion and stamps for British Heart Foundation. Stamps and coins can be left with Lyn & Dave at 94 Upshire Road – please leave in the porch if no reply. Please leave about ½" of envelope around the stamps. Thank you.

### WALTHAM ABBEY FLOWER CLUB 2024

We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in the month except January, June, August and December at Waltham Abbey Community Centre, Crooked Mile, EN9 1QD. Door open 1.45 for 2pm start.

25<sup>th</sup> November: Christmas Demonstration by Lisa Morgan

All are welcome, raffle, sales table, tea, coffee and homemade cake. Further details from Chris on 07792 594443.

### CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

Christmas puddings are now available from Lyn Wackett on 01992 711573.

6oz pudding £1.50, ½lb £2, 1lb £4, 1½lb £6, 2lb £8.

Please remember to save your pudding basins and give them to me so that I can keep the costs down next year. Thank you.

ANAGRAM The answer to the anagram is ENTHUSIASTIC.

ST THOMAS' CHURCH, UPSHIRE, EN9 3SS

## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

In Upshire Village Hall on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 10.30am-2.30pm

Everyone welcome so do come along and join us

Buy your Christmas presents from the lovely items on sale

Stalls include cakes, pickles & jams, Christmas puddings, handmade bags, cards & jewellery

Plants, decorations, and much more. Raffle, tombola, pick-a-bag

Refreshments Admission free

### SHOEBOXES

Thank you to everyone who donated filled shoeboxes or items to go into shoeboxes for Blythswood's annual Appeal. This year I was able to send 148 shoeboxes and over £200 in donations towards transport to Blythswood. This figure is slightly up on last year, so well done everyone! I was also able to send a sack of surplus items to be used at the depot. I still have a number of shoeboxes and items ready for next year, so watch out for bargains or end of line reductions. Keep them coming! Thank you, Lyn x

## **WALTHAM ABBEY CHURCH**

**Music for Lunch** – Saturdays at 12 noon. Refreshments available from 11.30am. Free admission with retiring collection.

November:

- 1<sup>st</sup> A10 Band
- 8<sup>th</sup> Musician(s) from Trinity Laban Conservatoire, to be announced
- 15<sup>th</sup> A10 Strings
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Wild about Recorders *Programme for St Cecilia's Day*
- 29<sup>th</sup> Chingyan Lo *organ*

## **CRAFT FAIR**

in Upshire Village Hall

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 11am – 3pm

A variety of stalls including Jewellery, Cards, Bags, Honey and much more!

All made by local crafters.

Refreshments

Free entry.

**At HOME INSTEAD** Epping Forest we recognise that as we get older, you may need help to be able to stay living in your own home. We Tailor our care packages to meet your needs making it possible for you to stay living in your own home where you are happiest.

Our services include Dementia Care, Personal Care, Home Help, Companionship and much more.

Our monthly Memory Lane and Singing for the Brain Sessions are held at Theydon Bois Village Hall providing lots of fun complimented with refreshments served by our lovely Team. Why not contact us to find out more and to get a copy of our What's on Where Guide (WOW Guide) and future newsletters.

Telephone 01992 666777 or email: [Victoria.rigby@homeinstead.co.uk](mailto:Victoria.rigby@homeinstead.co.uk)

Croeso i Gymru I had decided that a pilgrimage of sorts was in order, but it was not to be bare-foot and in sackcloth and ashes but rather let a train take the strain. My intended journey was to be to Holyhead in Wales, somewhere I've been a couple of times before but the scenery is stunning and always worth another look especially as last time I went the weather was atrocious with very poor visibility. I cannot remember with whom I travelled last time but it was to be Avanti West Coast on this trip. Have you seen the advert? Not the one with the red-haired gnome but the one with the roller-skated tortoise who zooms through the rush hour traffic, jumps over road works before entering a tunnel with a cheeky grin on his face where he transmogrifies into an Avanti train which exits onto a viaduct!

West Coast trains leave London from Euston and it is not a line I know well. I use the East Coast regularly and after the seven tunnels from Kings Cross the line runs pretty much on a level gradient as it crosses the edge of the Fens and continues towards York. The fields are huge with many covered in thousands of solar panels. The West Coast could not be more different for there are tunnels galore with many cuttings and embankments but roughly follows the Grand Union Canal, the fields resemble a patchwork quilt some of which were still having hay tedded which for September is almost unheard of. Other fields were populated by cattle and sheep, hundreds of them with many appearing to have been shorn not that long ago. The train had left London in glorious sunshine but by the time we reached Rugby high cloud was turning the sun into a hazy glow. I thought that it would not interrupt the view so long as it did not sink down but I had no need to worry for by the time we had reached Chester the cloud had gone and the sky was a brilliant blue. Chester is reached through a rather depressing industrial area and deep cuttings chiselled through soaring rock. But after the station the line comes out of the cuttings onto a viaduct that runs around the racecourse which looked pristine. No racing that early in the morning but the signs of the last race were evident by the churned-up going. In the middle paddock were a large group of people walking their dogs who, I suppose, have permission to be there, many were carrying little plastic bags – their sandwiches perhaps?

After Chester we were into Wales and Flintshire where again there is much industrialisation but which rapidly gave way to green fields where hay was still being cut. And everywhere there were sheep, hundreds interspersed with cattle and horses. From here the line follows the coast for inland the topography starts to rise up. First it is green hills then rocky outcrops start appearing, then the majesty of Snowdonia makes its presence felt. The mountains soar all around and the railway gives the impression that it is trying to carve a route through. In places the mountains give way to flatter areas, Rhyll being one where the railway crosses the Clwyd estuary but another larger estuary, the Conwy, awaits at Llandudno Junction where if one has been asleep you might assume you're crossing the Menai Strait! But in a short while Bangor arrives where seeing the scenery is difficult for the line plunges into deep cuttings through rock before careering towards the main A55 road, but at the last moment the line turns under the road to cross the Menai Strait sharing the same two-level bridge, the original having burnt down the railway was combined with the upgraded A55. The Strait is renowned for its vicious currents but on this day it looked blue and peaceful with Nelson standing on his plinth looking down. Goodness knows why he has a statue there, I don't think we fought the Anglesey inhabitants during the Napoleonic wars but you never know!

Once on Anglesey the railway turns eastwards giving a spectacular view of the Snowdonia mountains which stretch across the horizon as far as the eye can see. Towering into the sky I wondered if it was possible to see Yr Wyddfa but from my vantage

point they all looked about the same height. Many years ago when I was young and fit, I climbed a good few of them and thought nothing of it, now I would find it not so easy! From there the line turns towards the north and its destination passing through the small halt that has the longest station name in the world then around the perimeter of RAF Valley, a strange name I thought but slightly further on was the hamlet of Valley! Finally across the Inland Sea onto Holy Island and into the town of Holyhead which most people pass through onto ferries to Ireland. Since my last visit it appears that the burghers of the town are trying to promote a tourist industry for advertised at the station is a five day walk around Anglesey with suggestions of where to stay.

Just time for a coffee and a bite to eat followed by a walk about to stretch one's legs before rejoining the train for the return journey. The water in the harbour was brilliant blue and the sun was hot for still there wasn't a cloud in the sky. Back on the train I sat on the opposite side to that I had travelled up so that I would get a good view of the Liverpool Bay and the Dee Estuary. Crossing back through Anglesey I was rather taken with the golfers plying their sport on the most inhospitable course one could imagine. They were playing amongst a plethora of ponds and ditches which must surely make their game that bit more difficult but perhaps their handicaps reflected the difficulties they encounter. I think Mark Twain had it right though, when he said, 'that golf is a good walk ruined'! The North Welsh coast is used by holiday makers throughout the summer season and this is reflected by the hundreds and hundreds of mobile homes that proliferate the coastline which detracts from its beauty but the secret is to ignore them and look past at the sea and coastline. Reaching Llandudno things went pear shaped; sitting at the station for sometime we eventually had an announcement that there was a points failure in front of us and that we would have to wait until the fault had been fixed before we could proceed. Over an hour later it was announced that the points had been repaired and that we would be on our way but due to the delay our train would be terminated at Chester and we would have to join another London bound train which would be held for us; the silver lining to this was that we were entitled to a 'Delay Repay' – mine has already been sent to my bank! Not quite the ending to my train journey that I had expected but at least I did return to London without any further mishaps.

Between Llandudno and Chester the line runs along the Liverpool Bay and then the Dee Estuary. The waters of the Bay were a gorgeous blue and like a millpond. The forest of wind turbines out in the Bay were sitting idly with only two having turbines slowly turning. Not much electricity being generated there then! The tide was out in the Estuary showing acres of mud flats. A large raft of duck was sculling about but too far away to be identified although the oyster catchers and knots were much clearer as they followed the movement of the water backwards and forwards. The waters have strong currents and in times of high winds can be treacherous. My thoughts turned to the professional wildfowlers who used to ply their trade over these waters many years ago in boats lying no more than six inches above the waterline, it was a dangerous occupation often conducted in the worst of the weather. Not surprisingly, some lost their lives in pursuit of the fowl. Before long Chester was reached and we all traipsed from one platform to another to join the train being held for us. Although busy I found a seat where I could sit on my own and by Stamford I was asleep. A long day but despite the delay was nevertheless enjoyable. Now, I have to plan for the next 'pilgrimage' to another scenic part of this beautiful country. But not till next year!

Adrian J Liddle

#### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support held on 26<sup>th</sup> September raise £406.70. The Coffee Morning included a cake baking competition, congratulations to Carol Baldwin who won the adult section and Isabelle Davenport who won the under 16 competition. We are grateful to Michael and Anthea Godfrey for judging the competition. Thanks also to everyone who baked cakes for the refreshments and donated money.

#### ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, NINEFIELDS

Come along to our Coffee Morning on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 11am-2pm.

Coffee, tea and other refreshments available.

There will be a raffle, sale of books, cards, nearly new goods, etc and children's activities. All welcome.

#### **The story of the Poppy**

The poppy brooch is now an iconic symbol of remembrance and the British Legion, but it has a fascinating history. The first record of a Poppy Day in Britain was in South Shields in 1915 where poppies were sold to raise £200 for the local infirmary and poor children. But it would take a tenacious French woman, Anna Guerin, who has since been overlooked by the history books, to really make the poppy our nation symbol of remembrance.

Following the First World War, Anna had been inspired by Major John McCrae's poem In Flanders Fields, in which he reflected on the Flanders poppies that thrived in battlefields that were otherwise scenes of total destruction.

Anna had moved to the United States, and started promoting the poppy as a symbol of remembrance as well as selling handmade poppy brooches to raise funds for the needy.

In 1921 she wanted to spread her idea further afield, so in September that year she knocked on the headquarters of the British Legion, just four months after it was founded to ask if they would like to use the poppy emblem to raise money. Initially, the Legion was sceptical – "Poppies? Who wants poppies?" was apparently the response – but eventually the organisation came round and November 11<sup>th</sup> 1921 was declared both Remembrance Day and Poppy Day. Nine million poppies were put up for sale but were so popular they sold out. A huge £106,000 (£5.2 million in today's money) was raised and a new tradition was established.

From there, a Poppy Factory was built in Richmond to employ disabled ex-servicemen, and to this day millions of poppies and wreaths are still made there. That first poppy Anna created was made of red fabric with a green stalk

and a little banner that read 'British Legion Remembrance Day'. It progressed to a five-petal poppy with black stitching in the middle, beads and a leaf. In the Second World War austerity forced simplicity and it became just a red poppy with a black button. Today, the simplified design is made on mass, with the black button made by inmates at HM Prison Lewes.