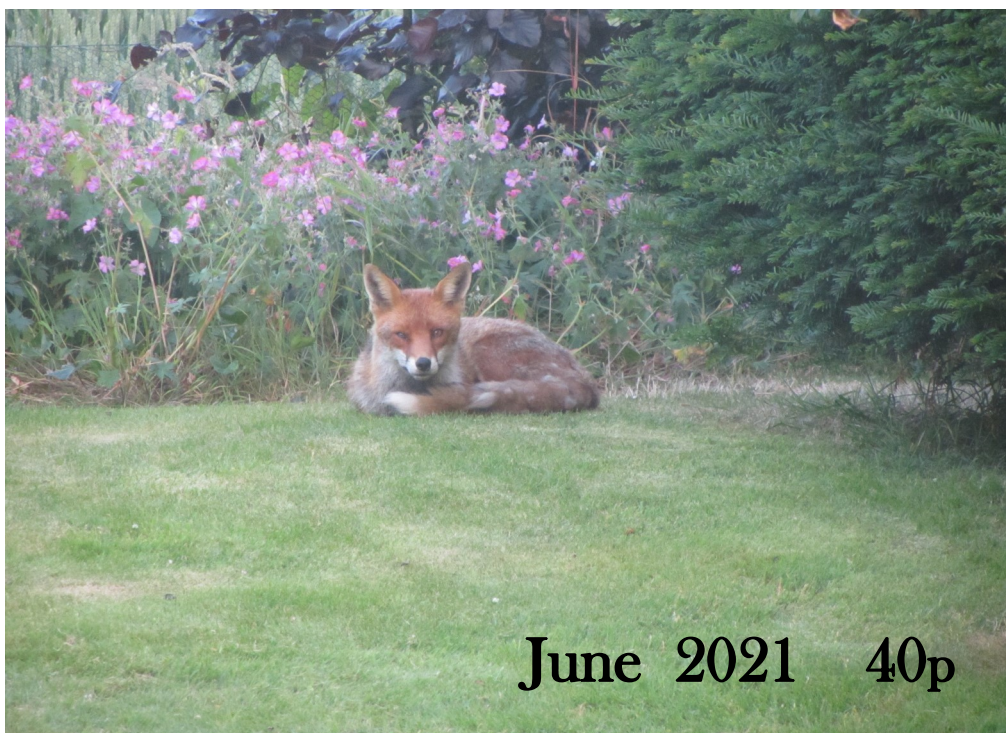


Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News



June 2021 40p



Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community Contacts

Elmsted Parish Council
www.elmstedpc.org.uk

Hastingleigh Parish Council
www.hastingleighpc.org.uk

Evington Hall (Bookings)
(www.evingtonhall.org.uk)

Evington Hall Committee Hon Sec

ECP Hon Sec

Evington Gardeners Hon Sec

Evington Community Choir

Footpath Walks

Mrs H Ransley 01233 750949

Women's Institute

Mrs J Bowes 01233 811875

Parent and Toddler Group

Mrs L Lawrence 01233 750987

Neighbourhood Watch Hastingleigh

Mr G Block 01233 750415

Neighbourhood Watch Elmsted

Mr J Argar 01233 750311

Tracey Block 01233 750415
clerk.elmstedpc@gmail.com

Tracey Block 01233 750415
clerk.hastingleighpc@gmail.com

Shelley 07401 908249
bookings@evingtonhall.org.uk

Mrs H French 01233 750483

Mrs S Boxall 01233 750206

Mrs H Ransley 01233 750949

Mrs C Jeffery 01233 750585



June

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

Welcome to the June edition of the Community News.

This month's front cover photos were sent in by Jean Ashford (young rabbits) and Trevor Wye (fox) and were taken in their gardens.

Bodsham school have sent in an article (page 14) this month and will hopefully contribute regularly so we can keep up with their news. There is also advice from the vet (page 13) and exciting news from the committee of the village hall (page 15) about the re-opening. An unusual visitor arrived in Hastingleigh (page 17) and stayed for 5 days!

This month we have focused on The East Kent Flower Company (centre pages) and Louise's new shop in Wye and we wish her all the best.

The Community News relies on articles being sent in so please send us something.

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Submissions

The *Community News* takes no responsibility for misleading advertising or incorrect editorial supplied to us in good faith.

Please provide any promotional or editorial content in Word format rather than pdf. For length, grammar and style issues the Editor reserves the right to edit it.

Editor: elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk

Advertising: advertising.communitynews@gmail.com

Secretary: secretary.communitynews@gmail.com

Or write to: The Secretary, 1 Bowl Field, Hastingleigh, TN25 5HT.

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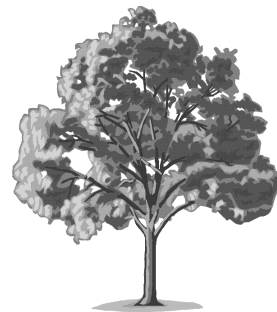
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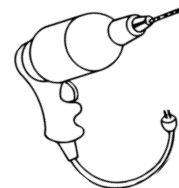
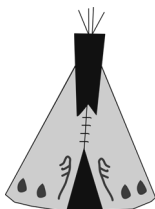
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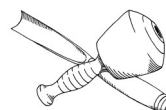
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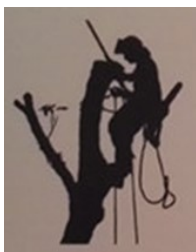
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In The Garden

After a particularly cold and dry spring, the weather in mid-May (as I write this) showed no real change in overall temperature (8°C in the middle of today!) although we have had some welcome rain to save the month. Once germinated, seedlings need light more than warmth to grow but even so there are limits! I have moved seedling peas and radishes from modules straight out of the greenhouse without any hardening off by covering them immediately with horticultural fleece which you can get at garden centres. With its light weight, it can be laid on top of and touching the crop it protects. This keeps any heat from the soil close to the plants and the translucent white colour lets a lot of light through.

June 21 will be the longest day of the year, and the extra light and warmth will encourage the garden to put on an exuberant burst of growth. But this extra light and warmth also means weeds will sprout up from seemingly nowhere. Keep on top of them by hoeing regularly in dry conditions. If the dry weather persists – keep hoeing; they say a good hoeing is as good as a watering.

Lawns and grass areas will need mowing but – do they need mowing every week and why not leave some parts unmown to encourage wildlife.

With luck, salad crops such as lettuce, radish and spring onions can start to be harvested this month. The common advice of “sow lettuce every two weeks” applies only if you want lettuce hearts. For loose leaves, 4-5 sowings in the whole year suffice, when you never cut lettuce plants, but pick outer leaves every few days by gently twisting them down and off. This allows a long life to each plant. Varieties such as Kamalia or Grenoble Red are good for this method. Sow undercover Feb-Mar, then 1st June, mid July (these three sowings for growing outdoors), and early September for undercover lettuce in winter. You will be surprised at the overall yield from this method and a block of 16 plants spaced 25cms each way can keep a family in lettuces for weeks at a time.

Greenhouse tomatoes are generally more reliable than those

outside and are much less prone to blight. Last year I tried the F1 variety Crimson Crush that, it is claimed, is blight resistant. In a sunny spot the tomatoes were great, and no blight; but then it wasn't much of a 'blight year'. I have more of this variety to try again. Pinching out the side shoots on the tomatoes while they are still small encourages the best crops.

Once you have guessed frosts are past then summer bedding plants and flowers for large display pots can be planted out for the long flowering season they give. Likewise for hanging baskets if you have them.

Spring flowering shrubs can now be safely pruned ready for next year.

Climbing and dwarf beans started off under glass can be planted out this month and even the dwarf type can do with some support to keep the leaves off the ground and away from slugs. Sweet corn needs to be sown before mid June and earlier sowings can be planted out this month in blocks at a spacing of 45cm.

Fred

Ultrafast Fibre Broadband

Thank You

Thank you to all members of the Hastingleigh and Neighbours Network Development Committee for their initiative in bringing ultrafast fibre broadband to the village and neighbourhood.

Many of us have already been linked up and are reaping the benefits of a faster and smoother broadband connection. This sort of community project takes time and effort from a handful of volunteers, for which, many thanks.

HF

Tails from Wales

Patio Cleaners

Hello, I'm finally back in work after Wales' third lockdown and have seen a few cases of pets eating things they shouldn't. My practice has been sharing some advice on toxins which I thought might be worthwhile sharing here too.

"Are you getting your garden ready for the spring and summer? - With the inevitable increase in socialising in gardens this spring due to Covid rules we just wanted to warn you about patio cleaners. The ingredients of these cleaners can differ; however, most contain Benzalkonium chloride (BAC), which is also found in a lot of household cleaning products.

The primary effects of BAC are due to its irritancy- systemic effects are uncommon. Common signs include drooling, irritation to the mouth, and inappetence. There may also be irritation to the skin, with inflammation and hair loss. Concentrated solutions may cause chemical burns. Signs are often delayed, and animals can present hours later.

When using these products on your patio please make sure you use them as directed (diluted if appropriate), keep your pets away during use and until dry, and make sure they cannot get into the product when not in use!"

If your pet does become unwell and you have been using chemical cleaners please mention this to your vet and if possible take the bottle with you.

RJB



Bodsham School News

Hello From Bodsham

As we begin to come out of national Covid restrictions, we are starting to see some signs of a more normal community feel to our school. We have missed working and playing together across the school and have looked forward to days where we can be together again.

This week has seen a first for us in a year - our lovely Parish Priest Lorraine Lawrence, returning to school to give us a fun and welcome worship for Ascension Day - at a social distance on our playground of course! It's the first time we have come together as a school since our first lockdown in March 2020 and, and for some of the children new to our school in 2020 and 2021, the first time they have seen everybody together! We then went on to celebrate Ascension Day through, crafts, art, team games and sports, finishing the day with a time of quiet prayer and reflection for the hope brought through Jesus' ascent to Heaven.

We are wishing us all much hope for our school and wider community over the coming months.

Mr Newton

Headteacher



The Evington Hall

Re-Opening

The trustees are working towards a re-opening date of 21 June. This would be for regular user-groups only until 31 December.

If it is practical to do so, the hall would then be open for private hire from 01 January 2022.

Please contact your group for up-to-date information on your regular meetings. The Hall website will be updated as and when it is possible to confirm the re-opening date.

<http://www.evingtonhall.org.uk/>

Evington Community Project CLUB

The winning numbers for the April 2021 Draw are:

1st Prize: No. 17

2nd Prize: No: 93

3rd Prize: No: 79

Many thanks to all of the 100+ Club Members for your support.

There is one number left for the 2021 draw, if you would like to purchase this number, please contact Robin on 01233 750236 or Tracey on 01233 750415 or

email evingtoncommunityproject@gmail.com

The money raised by the 100 Club allows events like the Film Nights to take place and in 2020/2021 paid for a community Zoom Licence to allow the coffee mornings to take place virtually and more frequently and other village organisations to meet virtually too.

Wye PPG

Direct Access To Social Prescribing Services

Social Prescribing Services may be something of an enigma to many people, but over the next four years NHS England plans to have them attached to every surgery, bringing greater recognition that health is not just physical, but emotional and social too.

Social Prescribers are already attached to Wye Surgery. They provide Health and Wellbeing coaching, as well as Adult Mental Health and Children and Young People's Mental Health services. What has changed is that people can now refer themselves directly, rather than having to wait to be referred by a GP.

The aim is that the patients who need more than a clinical intervention to enable them to live healthier more fulfilling lives are enabled to become active participants in their own care.

No one knows better what will help you than you yourself. Social Prescribers will focus on your particular situation and help to unpick what might be stopping you enjoying optimum health, before linking you up with appropriate organisations and community activities.

If, for example, you are anxious, depressed or demotivated, face to face sessions with a sympathetic social prescriber can help you identify issues and connect you with sources of support. It might be links with a particular community activity or addressing aspects of wider social need like debt, poor housing, unemployment, loneliness or onerous caring responsibilities.

There are a range of specialist types of support for children and young people who are struggling with poor mental health, with the aim that early intervention can prevent escalation to specialist psychiatric services. The Health and Wellbeing coaches can also provide practical advice and personalised care plans, for instance exercise regimes that take account of personal circumstances like mobility difficulties.

How can you make a self referral? Social Prescribers are employed by an organisation called IMAGO, commissioned and funded by the Ashford Stour Primary Care Network of which Wye Surgery is a part. You can refer yourself or you could refer a relative or friend with their consent. The weblink to the IMAGO Social Prescribing page may be found at www.imago.community. Scroll down to the section headed "Services" and then click "read more" under "Social Prescribing". You will find a full description of the services on offer and, below this, the "start" button for the self referral form.

Judith Timms (Chair, Wye Surgery PPG)

Unusual 5 Day Visitor

Ring Ouzel

Jean Ashford of Hastingleigh spotted this unusual visitor in her field.

Slightly smaller and slimmer than a blackbird - male ring ouzels are particularly distinctive with their black plumage with a pale wing panel and striking white breast band. The ring ouzel is primarily a bird of the uplands, where it breeds mainly in steep sided-valleys, crags and gullies, from near sea level in the far north of Scotland up to 1,200m in the Cairngorms.



Breeding begins in mid-April and continues through to mid-July, with two broods common, and nests are located on or close to the ground in vegetation (typically in heather), in a crevice, or rarely in a tree. The young are fed a diet consisting mainly of earthworms and beetles.

The East Kent Flower Company





I have been a florist for nearly 20 years, having trained in London after a career in the City. My floristry career specialised in weddings and events, latterly from a workshop at home in South Hill, Hastingleigh, where The East Kent Flower Company was formed.

During Covid, all hospitality was stopped, halting any event work. Instead, I was asked to lots of door-step deliveries of bouquets to cheer up folk, send birthday wishes and, sadly, sympathy and funeral flowers.

By chance, the old estate agent opposite the Tickled Trout in Wye was available earlier this year and so, after turning 50 in February and with both children at Secondary school, I thought the time was right to continue the momentum and open a bricks and mortar shop!

Our flowers are British when in season and from the auction in Holland. We sell by the stem, bouquets made while you wait or pre-ordered. We also have plants both indoor and out, vases, vessels and gifts. We also offer full wedding, event and funeral flower services and Vera the Van is around and about for local deliveries.

I am fortunate to have a large garden in Hastingleigh, which has a coveted cut flower section, to grow unusual flowers through the Summer. On my days off, I love working in the garden, radio on - to me it isn't a chore !
Louise



The shop is open Tuesday to Friday 9 to 5
and Saturday 9 to 1
01233812705
www.eastkentflowercompany.com

So They Do Say....!

In 1856, Mount Everest was declared to be 29,002ft. It has recently been agreed that it is now 29,032ft.

Between Christmas Day and New Year's Day, divorce applications are almost double what they are during the rest of the year for a similar period.

It has been suggested that this carol be made politically correct: God rest ye merry gentlemen - and ladies, non-binary, transgender, gender neutral, pan-gender...

800 children die each day worldwide because they drink dirty water.

The Great Plague in London (1665 to 1666) killed almost one third of the population.

Curious....When the King of France, Charles 1V, asked the Faculty of the University of Paris to explain the causes of the Great Plague of 1348, the professors replied: '...the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter brings about the death of peoples and the depopulation of kingdoms..' On the 21 December 2020 occurred a conjunction of the planets Saturn and Jupiter, the closest since 1623 and only the fourth time it has happened since 1200. Anything to do with Covid...?

A 14th century joke: a merchant asks another, 'Are you married?' The second merchant responds. 'I had three wives, but all hanged themselves from a tree in my garden.' The first merchant, says, 'Pray give me a cutting from this miraculous tree.'

TW

Virtual Coffee Mornings

With the Covid restrictions easing, the ECP have decided to host the Virtual Coffee Morning on the 1st Wednesday of the month only until such time as the Hall can hold a "Proper" Coffee Morning run by the Hall Committee in the Hall.

Robin Helmer

Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I.



Continuing on the jam making theme.....

In 1941 (July to October), the village WI made 118 lbs of gooseberry and rhubarb jam, 93 lbs black current jam, 191 lbs Czar plum jam, 216 lbs bush plums, 205 lbs damson jam, 118 lbs damson and blackberry jam; canned 87 tins of rhubarb, 167 tins plums, 218 tins of damsons; and made 73 lbs of chutney (tomatoes, marrow, onions, vinegar and spices). In making these they used 453 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs of sugar!

The Ministry of Food dictated the maximum price fruit could be purchased from the grower for, and how much it could then be sold on for once canned or turned into jam or chutney. In 1942 the maximum growers' prices for Area 1, which included Kent, were set as follows:

Kent Bush or Czar plums	2d. per lb
Apples (Group I) (Cox's Orange Pippin, Ellison's orange, Laxton's superb)	9d. per lb
Apples (Group II)	4d. per lb
Apples (Group III)	2d. per lb
Gooseberries	1s 0d. per lb
Strawberries	1s 6d. per lb
Raspberries	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb
Blackcurrants	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per. lb
Blackberries	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per. lb



From The Vicarage

By the time you are reading this, we should be back in our church buildings attending services which begin to feel a little like they did before the pandemic.

For some, return to life pre Covid 19 is all they've dreamt about since lockdown in March 2020! Meanwhile there are many more than we realise, I suspect, who are hoping for something different to come out of all this. People for whom their pre lockdown lives were less than happy or satisfying, or for whom the changes have brought about new joys, relationships or experiences. These people may be dreading the idea that we all just drift back to the 'same old, same old'! If you are one of them, I am with you, I relish the idea of returning to some things, although not necessarily unchanged, whilst there are other things that I really don't want back!

It seems to me that sometimes, before Covid, we got really quite incensed over the most trivial of issues, and that our own lives, wants and dreams were so important that, we didn't deliberately trample over others to achieve them, because that would infer we had seen them and made a conscious decision to do so, and we were mostly not mean and nasty; I think we were more like horses in blinkers, we just couldn't see what was under our own feet. Let's not do that any more.

I don't know, and therefore can't speak for, how you all felt, but I felt strangely more connected to other people, both near and far, whilst we were all shut in our own little boxes going through a shared experience, than I ever had before. The whole world felt closer, and we were in it together, for better or worse.

So it was with great sadness that I began to realise that there were some people who viewed the pandemic as an opportunity to "make at fast buck" at others expense. The one that saddened me the most was when we were told that, apparently, we couldn't trust really poor people in our society to have the money with which to feed their children at home while they weren't receiving free school meals, we had to give it to some scurrilous 'cowboy' to provide food boxes

instead. At a profit of course!

How dare someone make a profit out of other people's pain and misfortune, and as if that wasn't bad enough, how dare they do it fraudulently. I'm guessing we all saw the pictures of the potato and carrots and a few bits, meant to last a week.

When did we become a country who thinks so little of those who fall on hard times, that we think it's acceptable, in this so called caring society, to have food banks, and people having to rely on the goodness of some individuals for handouts. As a nation we should be embarrassed to find ourselves in a situation where nearly one quarter of the population live below the income median.

However, this isn't a political rant, it's a plea for somethings to be different post lockdown rather than rushing to get everything back to 'just the way it was'.

Let's keep what was good and change what was bad. Let's keep checking in on each other and watching out for those on their own, let's carry on being more aware of others needs, at home and abroad. Most of all, to add a Christian note, and as the vicar I suppose I should, let's carry on loving each other, those we are supposed to love and those who perhaps we find it harder to love.

Welcome back to our slow release from "captivity" and good luck building your new post lockdown, caring, lives.

God Bless.

Lorraine

Church Services and flower rota are on page 27.



Library Van

The mobile library van is now
due to come on **Tuesday**
8th June 9.45 to 10.15 at
Hall. Books have to be
pre-ordered and returned in a
plastic bag.

Farming Notebook

Rain

At last... Not very much, but enough to tide us over for the short term. We seem to have missed the heavy showers, which is unusual. Romney Marsh and the Stour valley have copped some heavy downpours whilst we on the top of the hill have watched the clouds divide and miss us. So far, we have had just over 30mm this month but everything has benefited. The grass is greener, the crops appear to have grown over night and the potatoes, yet to emerge from the baulks, will now have a good reserve of moisture.

However, it remains unseasonably cold, even with white frosts. And it is the middle of May! The trees are coming into leaf albeit slowly, and the countryside is covered in a mantle of young fresh green shoots. The only exception are the Ash trees, many still completely bare and the rest not looking too healthy. Several trees have lost branches over the winter and I fear the worst.

The combination of very dry weather and low temperatures has held everything back. Despite this, so as not to compromise the yield from our grass seed crop it is important to cut for silage before the end of April. Any later and some of the embryonic seed heads will end up in the silage. We had agreed to sell the silage crop to Tom Castle for his dairy herd at Debden Farm, Petham. He duly cut the crop on 30th April and took it all away the next day. The quality was excellent, but we agreed the yield was no more than 60% of what was expected.

It is significant that the commodity markets for cereals and oilseeds have firmed to new harvest highs in the last few weeks. The trade believes harvest yields have already been compromised and predict a tight supply. It is great to have strong prices, but to benefit from them you have to have something to sell!

In the office we have been busy submitting our annual application to the Rural Payments Agency for the Basic Payments Scheme. This year sees the first scaling back or “progressive reductions” of the

payments which is a direct result of leaving the EU. This year the reduction is 20%. By 2024 it will be 65% and then be phased out completely by 2027.

We are still very unsure of the detail of what will replace the BPS, but whatever is paid for will be deemed for the public good. I think there is a real likelihood that farming on anything but the poorest soils will be without financial support. The poor heavy clays of the Weald of Kent will probably receive funds to cease food production altogether and instead be supported to provide environmental benefits and public access. At the moment this is just a guess. We will have to wait and see...

Outside on the farm all the cattle are now out to grass and so we have started to clean out the yards. The dung that has built up over the winter is moved out to a field where it is lumped up into a big heap or “maxel” (aka Maxon or Mixen) It is stored here until the autumn when it will be spread on the stubble and incorporated as a valuable manure. Not only does the dung provide nutrients but it is also an excellent way of adding organic matters. A wonderful way of improving soil health. (As I mentioned in last month’s article, the 2019 Water directive, if interpreted literally, may mean that much of the spreading may be technically illegal. We are assured that the wording of the directive will be changed soon to allow spreading-but time is short...)

Dung when it is compacted in the barns has very little air within it and as such any microbial activity within it is anaerobic. By moving it and breaking it up, air is allowed into the mix and the fermentation changes to aerobic. (literally “with oxygen”) This activity generates a great deal of heat as the straw breaks down. The result in the autumn is “well rotted manure” or plant rocket fuel.

Next on the list of jobs is to thoroughly clean and service the grain stores. This involves blowing the dust and debris off the walls and roof of the grain silos and floor store. Once the dust has settled, we get to work with the industrial “Big Brute” vacuum cleaners and leave the stores nice and clean and ready for harvest. Most of our silos have under floor ducting to allow low volume ventilation of the stored grain. In these cases, we lift the grills and clean out the ducts.

Some of the grills require a quick going over with a wire brush to ensure the tiny air holes are clear.

Trailers too need a good clean and a check over. Making sure the brakes are in good working order is an essential task. It is quite easy to be carrying 18 tonnes of grain in the trailers and that takes quite a lot of stopping. Tractor brakes are only really designed to stop the tractor. They are not man enough to stop the load behind. So our grain trailers now have air brakes which are very efficient, but do need regular maintenance. Safety and hygiene are the watchwords of our pre-harvest preparations.

We still await our combine service. I must chase this up again. Time passes so quickly and harvest will be upon us before we know it. As I conclude this article the heavens have opened. RAIN. Lots of it. And hail too!! Very "English" weather.....

W Wilson-Haffenden



Hastingleigh Walkers

The Hastingleigh walkers have resumed their once a month walk on a Sunday afternoon. In April, we did a short walk over to Staple Lees via the crossroads and back to the village through the woods and past the reed bed.

In May, we started off down Boundary Lane, past the reed bed to Staple Lees, then down the lane and across to Cold Blow, along the top to New Barn Road and back to the village.

It was lovely to be out walking as a group again, even though we have to maintain social distancing.

Usually, there are no walks during the summer months, but since we have not had the chance to walk as a group throughout the winter, we have decided to try an evening walk on Wednesday 16th June, meeting at the hall at 6pm.

HR

Parishes up the Hill Rota - June 2021

<u>Date</u>		
06/06	First Sunday	9:30 –Petham – Communion
13/06	Second Sunday	9:30 –Waltham – Communion
20/06	Third Sunday	9:30 – <u>Elmsted – Communion</u>
27/06	Fourth Sunday	9:30 –Hastingleigh – Communion
<p>All communion services are for all four congregations to worship together.</p> <p>Please do not attend if you are at all unwell</p> <p>All are subject to it being considered safe for our church services to recommence - For up to date service info after the magazine goes to print, visit the Wye Benefice website. https://www.wyebenefice.org.uk</p>		

This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:

	St Mary's	St James
Jun 5 th	Dr & Mrs Lawson	Mrs McFarlane
Jun 12 th	Mrs Day	Mrs Hewson
Jun 19 th	Mrs Morris	Mrs London, Ms Flitney
Jun 26 th	Mrs French	Mrs Francesconi

Priest-in-charge: The Rev Ravi Holy: The Vicarage, Wye 01233 812450 ravi.holy@wyebenefice.org.uk Associate priest: The Rev Lorraine Lawrence (with special responsibility for Hastingleigh, Elmsted, Petham, Waltham): The Vicarage, Hastingleigh, 01233 750987 or 07894 034409 <mailto:revlorrainelawrence@icloud.com>. Churchwardens: Roz Bacon 01233 750327, Chris Cox 01227 700378. United Wye Benefice 01233 813793 www.wyebenefice.org.uk

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