Malherbe Monthly

Number 267
November 2026



Grafty Wanderers end of season Awards

See details inside + save the date for next year's first team meeting if you are interested in joining

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Dance Fit	Sharon Harris	890170
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Tai Chi	Rhonda Bailey	07985 001782
Benefice Office	Sarah Hills email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Answer phone available out of hours	850604
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The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!
Anything for the **December** edition should be sent to the Editor Carol Hulm via email (carolhulm@gmail.com) by **25th November**

Local Interests and Announcements

The Grafty Green Wanderers end of season awards

On Saturday 17th October Jan and Steve Legon kindly hosted the end season awards for the Grafty Green Wanderers.

Before announcing the yearly awards, Baby Face, our illustrious Captain thanked everyone for the drive and commitment by both the Players, the Umpires , Scorers and the Growlers to ensure we had a second successful season.

Batsman of the Year : There were several Batsman in contention including The Prof with an excellent 35 against East Sutton and Baby Faces 42 at East Sutton and his 32 at Headcorn. **The award went to The Beef** with outstanding innings over 69 at East Sutton, as well as 53 not out at Egerton and 36 at Little Chart.

Bowler of the Year : This season there were several great bowling displays from a wide range of bowlers and the following were all worthy contenders. The Brickie 3 for 28 off 5 overs at Smarden and 2 for 10 off 4 overs at Headcorn as well as Amiga Man's 19 for 3 off 6 overs at Egerton. **The winner was Road Runner** with an outstanding and match winning 5 for 21 off 4 overs at Lenham and 18 for 2 off 6 overs at Egerton.

Catch of the Year : There were a raft of contenders for this award including The Prof, The Chairman, Amiga Man, The Fireman, The Beef, The Brickies excellent C&B and a one handed catch on the boundary with a beer in other by the captain of Headcorn Cricket Club**. The winner was Ollie Brooke** with excellent catches in both his matches to change the course of the games.

Most committed: There were several people worthy of mention including Colin Felton, an umpire who's so keen and committed to raise his finger, irrespective of whether the batsman is out or not...! The Chairman, Brickie and Road Runner all played in all but 1 of the matches this year. **The winner was The Hook** who always puts his body on the line, always fielding dangerously close to increase the pressure in the Batsman and as such produced an incredible run out using several parts of his body to stop the ball before instinctively scooping the ball towards the stumps, removing the bales as the Batsman looked on in amazement.

Growler of the Year : Everywhere the Wanderers played the opposition were always amazed and envious about the size of the support The Wanderers have from The Grafty Green Growlers. Particular mentions went to Kelly Stapley who also helps The Brickie in arranging the fixtures as well as providing her support on match days. Last

year's winner Jacqui Thompson went to the extraordinary lengths to try and retain her title by running through the sprinklers at East Sutton in her bra! **This year's winner was Lorraine Hook** who turned up relentlessly all season to support and provide medical help to both the Team and her husband. She also produces a never-ending buffet of food and drink as well as involving the whole family in supporting the Team.

Player of the Year : Unknown to the Players, The Growlers had a secret poll to decide on their player of the year. Kelly Stapley came forward and said that there had been a dead heat between two players. **Therefore the award went to both The Prof** for raising the eye candy element of the team as well for his impetuous behaviour when being dismissed early in the innings and **Dangerous Dave** for both his acrobatics in the field and his general comedic charm which oozed in everything he did in both the field and at the crease.

In closing Baby Face reminded everyone that Practice session begins again in February and a pre-season get together will be held in The Kings Head on Wednesday 6th January at 6:30pm.

All new players are always welcome, so if you want to play next season then please come along to The Kings Head on the 6th January to meet the Team.

Team players nick names

Dean Cutbill - Scratchin Tendulkar	Jake Russ - No Fuss Russ
James Iles - Baby Face	Matt Smith - Mini Me
Jack Geary - The Prof	Rob McNeill - The Gorgeous one
Paul Stapley - The Brickie	Mark Tomlinson - The Benidorm Swinger
Niall McNulty - The Ginger	Jay Bray - Amiga Man
Gary Thompson - Road Runner	Nick Eastwood - The Chairman
Steve Legon - The Leg	Steve Peter - The Fireman
Dave Ryan - Dangerous	Matt Iles - The Beef
Ada Hook - The Hook	Josh Pankhurst - Panks



BUS NEWS

Following the decision by Arriva to no longer provide the morning and afternoon schooldays only services between Grafty Green and Maidstone, replacement services will be provided by Nu-Venture from 1st September 2026. Reproduced below are the details as supplied to the Parish Council by Nu-Venture.

"Working with Kent County Council, and supported by Government Bus Grant Funding, Nu-Venture will operate Bus 559 from 1 September 2026 to maintain important transport links for residents and students in Boughton Monchelsea, Chart Sutton, Kingswood, Ulcombe and Grafty Green following changes to existing Arriva bus provision.

Nu-Venture bus 559 **will operate to support scholars and students travelling to schools in Maidstone from Grafty Green (0643), Ulcombe (0650), Kingswood (0656), Chart Sutton (0712) and Boughton Monchelsea (0717).**

The morning bus 559, which part-replaces Arriva bus 89 at these places, connects with Nu-Venture bus 13 and other Maidstone-bound buses at Morrisons, Sutton Road.

The afternoon 559 will be similar to discontinued Arriva bus 59 and will operate as a through service from Chequers Bus Mall at 1612 via Loose, Linton Corner, Boughton Monchelsea, Chart Sutton, Kingswood, Ulcombe and Grafty Green.

Bus 559 is operated on a commercial basis by Nu-Venture.

Kent Travel Saver and Kent Travel Saver 16+ continue to be accepted on Nu-Venture services subject to the terms and conditions of the scheme. Contactless and Cash payments are available on all Nu-Venture buses. Longer-period tickets may be available on our App for some services".

Walks this month led by Sue Burch - All walks meet at 9.30 and commence walking at 9.45

Saturday 7th November will leave from The Wishful Thinker at 9.45 for a walk through Chilston Park. The walk leader will be Henny Shotter.

Saturday 14th November, meeting at Stalisfield

Saturday 21st November meeting at the Community Centre in Lenham for a walk to The Cherry Orchard, the site where the chest hospital used to be.

Saturday 28th November – I'm leading this one and we start up at St.Nicholas Church to walk along the Greensand Way to Chegworth excellent views, woodlands and orchards.

Yoga with Susan - weekly classes

Grafty Green Village Hall

Monday morning 9.30 – 11

Wednesday evening 7 – 8.30

Thursday morning 9.30 – 11

Yoga can be powerful as well as gentle; getting to know what your body needs through a regular practice.

For more information please give me a call 07803 962339

Sue's Apple Tree Blog

I had wanted to buy an apple tree for my new garden so a visit to Brogdale seemed the first place to go for information and choosing a tree. They don't sell trees anymore! But they did recommend the nursery that does grow heritage trees – it's called Grow at Mersham, a little out of the way but a very pleasant experience I was shown a variety of trees to suit my situation and I came away with a 'family tree' which is where you get more than one variety on one tree which means you don't have to worry about having another tree for pollination and the fruit ripens at slightly different times.

This nursery specialises in providing rare and heritage varieties; they do bespoke grafting, give advice on orchard planning, and aftercare. Orchard restoration and health checks as well as workshops and training. Look up- growfruittrees.co.uk. They are open on Wednesdays through to Saturday.

LEN VALLEY HEALTH WALKS

walking for health

Why walk?

Walking is good for both your physical and mental health
To keep your heart, lungs, bones and muscles strong
To maintain a healthy weight
To be more energetic
To reduce stress and depression
To meet new people
To enhance your sense of wellbeing

Plus, it's free!

Walking is an easy, gentle way to get active and stay active - and it's never too late to begin!

Come and join our friendly sociable group and enjoy the beautiful countryside we are so lucky to have on our doorstep.

Our walks are on Wednesday afternoons, and Thursday and Saturday mornings. We have walks for all abilities.

To join us, or for more details please contact the group co-ordinator:

Jan Enever on 01622 851623 or email: Jenever@btinternet.com

LEN VALLEY HEALTH WALKS

walking for health

Started in June 2013, we are a voluntary run group with trained walk leaders.

We walk three days a week, Wednesday afternoon, Thursday morning and Saturday morning.

The Lenham Stroll on Wednesday afternoons is aimed at those who have difficulty walking due to recent operations, other health problems or age. We walk in and around the village at a speed suited to everyone. We finish at the village tearooms for tea and a chat.

Thursday morning walks start from in and around the Len Valley. There is a medium walk of approximately 2 - 2½ miles at a moderate pace and a longer walk of approximately 3½ miles at a faster pace.

Saturday morning walks start from different venues and are 3½ - 4 miles long and at a faster pace.

Jan Enever
Group Organiser
March 2025

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council - Katie Lam MP



In September, I was thrilled to take on the Housing, Communities and Local Government brief in the Shadow Cabinet. That means I'm now responsible for scrutinising everything from the homes people rent and buy, to local government issues and defending our democracy. It's a big job, and so much of it directly affects the Weald of Kent.

Housing is probably the most obvious example. We all know Britain has a serious housing problem. Too many hard-working young people are struggling to get on the housing ladder. But at the moment, instead of building enough homes in London, where so many people want and need to live, the capital's housing crisis is being pushed out into the Southeast.

Nobody wins here.
Our beautiful villages face huge developments which permanently change their character. More pressure is piled onto roads and water systems which struggle to cope. Meanwhile, young people who want to live and work in London still can't afford to and spend hours commuting. It makes no sense.

We have to build the homes our country needs, but in the right places, with the infrastructure to support them. We've seen why that matters with repeated water outages across Kent, caused by ageing infrastructure and serious failings at Southeast Water.

The trouble is, even when we know what needs to be built, getting it done is incredibly difficult. We haven't built a new reservoir in this country since 1992. We struggle to maintain the roads we already have, while desperately needed infrastructure can take years to get off the ground. Too often, endless rules, regulations and legal challenges make getting anything done painfully difficult.

I'm also now responsible for scrutinising plans for local government. Councils make decisions about everything from social care and transport to planning and bin collections. And almost everybody pays council tax, so we all have an interest in making sure councils are well run and accountable.

That's why the uncertainty surrounding local government reorganisation has been so frustrating, with cancelled elections, changes of direction and taxpayers left picking up the bill.

And protecting our democracy nationally matters just as much. We need to tackle the biggest threats to our democracy today - including candidates campaigning in foreign languages and the rise of sectarian family voting.

Across all these issues, there's plenty to do, and so much of it matters enormously for the Weald. So, I'm looking forward to getting stuck in. If you have thoughts, particularly about how these issues affect you locally, please get in touch. I'd love to hear from you.

Village Hall News – November Newsletter

Since last month we have held the indoor boot fair at the hall, a good time was had by all with much tea drunk and cake eaten and bargains aplenty. Funds were raised for The Heart of Kent Hospice, Platts Heath School, St Nicholas Church and just under £200 was raised for the village hall which will be used to maintain and improve the hall as a community asset.

At the time of writing, it's only 60 sleeps to Christmas so in order to help you prepare for the festivities please make a note in your diaries of the following:-

Christmas Craft Fair Weekend Saturday & Sunday 21st & 22nd November 2026 10am to 2pm

The Christmas Craft Fair weekend will be held at the village hall on Saturday and Sunday 21st & 22nd November when you can buy a wide range of interesting locally sourced gifts for loved ones for Christmas, enjoy a natter with friends over a cup of tea and homemade cake, with bacon sandwiches on Sunday.

Quiz Night Friday Evening 11th December – Organised by Platts Heath School PTA

Hot off the press I have had it confirmed by the big man himself that the Platts Heath School PTA will be organising this years Quiz Night at the hall on Friday evening 11th December. This will be organised by the PTA rather than the village hall committee and I don't yet have exact timings or cost of a ticket but I believe that the format will be very similar to previous events with Neil & Sam acting as your quizmasters, tables of 8 and probably bring your own snacks and drinks but I will confirm final details and how to obtain tickets as soon as this information is to hand

Farmer's Market every Friday 1 to 3pm

The Farmer's Market is back in its usual location of the village hall every Friday afternoon between 1pm and 3pm. It offers a range of locally sourced goodies from fresh fruit and vegetables, curries, cakes, savouries, plants, pet foods, locally produced meats and much more. You can also enjoy a cup of tea and a natter with friends. All are welcome and if you haven't been before it would be lovely to see you.

As always thank you all for your support of the hall which is very much appreciated by the trustees. Without this the hall would not be the warm, cosy and vibrant meeting place for the community that it is today.

Kind Regards
Jon Thompson
Village Hall Committee Chairman - jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk - 07932 112730 -
www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk – facebookgraftygreenvillage


CHRISTMAS
CRAFT FAIR
21st and 22nd
Nov 10-2
SAVE THE DATE
Visit both days so you don't miss a thing!
GRAFTY GREEN VILLAGE HALL
ME17 2BA
TEA COFFEE AND CAKE ON SATURDAY
Tea coffee and bacon sandwiches on Sunda

GRAFTY GREEN FARMERS MARKET

EVERY FRIDAY, 1–3 P.M.

GRAFTY GREEN VILLAGE HALL



Come along and enjoy a wonderful selection of local produce, home-baked treats, crafts, and more — all from your friendly local traders!

Are you a trader?

We're currently looking for producers, particularly those offering bread, cheese, or meat products to join our market community.

For more details, please contact:
info.graftygreen@gmail.com

Grafty Green Village Hall

Bookings 07803 962339

Regular Weekly Events

Yoga – mixed ability Susan Burch 07803 962339	**Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 – 11am** **Wednesdays 7 – 8.30pm**
Pilates Cheryl Stubbs 07852 602369	**Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30 am**
Post Office	**Tuesdays 11.55 – 12.45pm**
Coffee morning	**Tuesdays 11.00 – 1.00pm**
Short Mat Bowls Joan Marriott 07503 568874	**Tuesdays 2.30 – 5.30pm**
Dance Fit Sharon Harris 01622 890170	**Wednesdays 11 – 12.30pm**
Tai Chi Rhonda Bailey 07985 001782	**Thursdays 2.00 – 3.00pm**
Craft Group Janis Carter 01622 850898	**Fridays 10 -12.00pm**
Art Class Cathy Hill 07927054708	**Alternate Wednesdays 1 – 3.30pm**
Farmer's Market Tara – info.graftygreen@gmail.com	**Friday 1- 3pm**

Regular Monthly Events

Gardening Club Doreen 01622 850287	**First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm**

The Grafty Gourmet

This simple sausage pasta sauce is full of flavour but comes together in about 30 minutes. Sausages make a quick substitute for mince that's already well seasoned.

Sausage Pasta

1 tablespoon of olive oil
1 red onion, finely chopped
400g of pork sausages, casings removed
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
50g of tomato purée
2 x 400g tins of chopped tomatoes
½ teaspoon of dried oregano
pinch of chilli flakes
pinch of sugar
200g of kale or cavolo nero, stems removed and leaves cut into 3cm/1¼in strips
400g of dried pasta (any shape)
Pinch of sea salt
Freshly grated Parmesan, to serve

1. Heat the oil in a large frying pan over a medium heat. Add the onion and cook for around 7 minutes, stirring occasionally, until starting to brown.

2. Add the sausage meat and break up into small pieces with a wooden spoon. Cook for 3–4 minutes or until golden-brown. Stir in the garlic then the tomato purée and cook for a further 2–3 minutes.

3. Pour in the tomatoes. Fill one of the tins with water and add to the pan along with the oregano, chilli flakes and sugar. Simmer the sauce over a medium–low heat for 10 minutes so it can thicken slightly.

4. Stir the kale into the sauce and cook for a further 5–10 minutes, until the leaves have softened. Add a splash of water to the pan if the sauce is looking too thick. Taste and season with salt, if needed.

5. Meanwhile, bring a large saucepan of salted water to the boil. Add the pasta and cook according to packet instructions. Drain the pasta, reserving a mugful of the pasta cooking water.

6. Add the pasta to the sauce in the frying pan and stir together, loosening with a splash of pasta water if needed to help coat the pasta.

7. Remove from the heat and divide between bowls. Top with the grated cheese and serve.

Grafty Green Gardening Club

Meetings are held in Grafty Green Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm unless stated otherwise. Entry for guests £4. Bring your plant and seed swaps! Membership £5 - contact Doreen Hulm (Treasurer) 01622 850287

Programme for 2026

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
November 3	Stephen Harmer	La Claire the Story of Jersey's lost garden
December 1	Social and creative activity	

Hello readers of Malherbe Monthly,
Hope you are enjoying this Indian summer weather, much easier to work in the garden although we do need a lot more rain.

The members, and particularly the committee, of Grafty Garden Club are wondering if you can help us?

Doreen Hulm has been our treasurer for 16 years and her late husband Les for 10 years prior to that, Doreen has recently decided that it is time she stepped back and let someone else take up the reins; could that be you?

We are hoping that someone will come forward before the AGM in January so that they can shadow Doreen who says she is happy to continue to support the new post holder for a few months after if required. Apart from being "on the door", the post entails attending our committee meetings (about five a year) and obviously keeping the books throughout the year, ensuring that bills e.g hall hire, speakers fees are paid, and income from meetings, plant sales, trips etc are accounted for. Doreen also keeps the membership list updated, which she and I juggle so that I can ensure members are contacted regularly.

If you would like to discuss the position with Doreen, she is happy for you to contact her on either 01622 850287, 07748 592281 or hulm692@btinternet.com The committee really hope that someone will come forward to join our friendly group and help maintain the smooth running of our club. You do not have to be a member but obviously we would welcome you to do so, which you will see from our programme meets monthly.

Ulcombe History Society
2026 programme

January 20th Guy Bartlett

"British women in aviation"

February 17th Derrick Parkes

"The Emperor Justinian: his reign and legacies"

March 17th Ed Adamson

"Kentish clerical errors"

April 21st Melanie Gibson-Barton

"Suffragettes and Suffragists – votes for women"

May 19th Adam Taylor

"Islands of the Medway Estuary"

October 20th Bertie Pearce

"Wonder workers and the art of illusion"

November 17th Ed Adamson

"Making and faking of ghost stories"

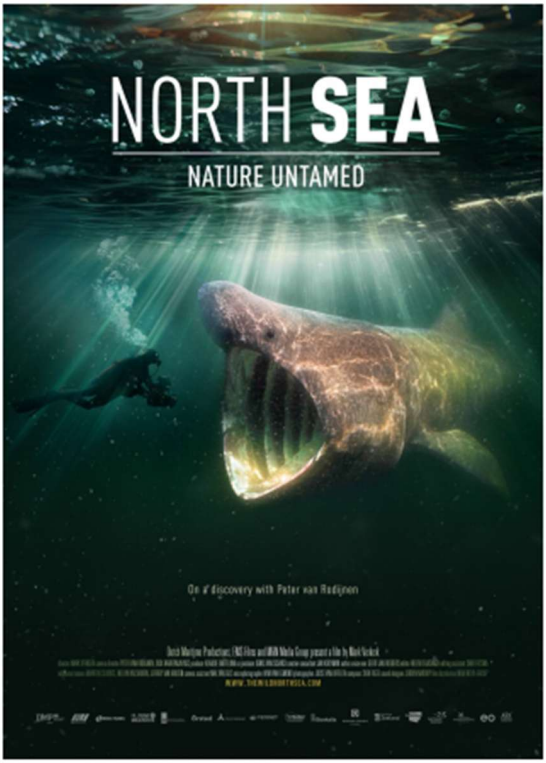
December 8th Imogen Corrigan

"The goose is getting fat"

We meet at Ulcombe Village Hall, 7 for 7.30 pm.
Guests are always welcome, admission £4

Egerton Film Society

Special Event – introduced by director Mark Verkerk



EGERTON MILLENNIUM HALL

FRIDAY 13th November 2026

Doors 7.00pm – PERFORMANCE 7.30pm

Admission £6.00

Email : egertonfilm@btinternet.com for more information

Light refreshments and licensed bar.

Egerton Film Society



EGERTON MILLENNIUM HALL

THURSDAY 26th November 2026

Doors 7.00pm – PERFORMANCE 7.30pm

Admission £6.00

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News from St.Nicholas Church – November 2026

The clocks have just gone back today and it's already dark at 5.30pm. A real shock to the system and storms coming one after another, although my plants are enjoying the rain. Even today I picked yet another 7 small, very sweet ripe figs. Quite a surprise.

Hoping you are all safe after the storms of the last few days. Kenneth drove up the hill towards the church after the Farmers' Market a couple of days ago and a branch hit the windscreen, fortunately, though badly damaged, it didn't break through and he was unharmed. Now we are being encouraged to make sure we can stay safe and self- sufficient for a few days, with non-perishable foods, means to communicate and hear news and information etc. I hear wind-up radios are already selling out. Certainly, time to ensure friends and relatives will be safe and warm in the coming months.

Usual reminders

- The church porch is always open, and we hope that friends and visitors continue to make use of its shelter and opportunity to make a hot drink, rest in the peaceful surroundings, request a prayer and read a page or two from the Bible.
- The mini food bank has been replenished if needed. Remember there is a larger food bank at the back of St. Mary's church in Lenham, open from 10.00am - 4.00pm daily.
- If you need to top up the kettle, jug or dog's bowl, there is a cold tap around the back of the church, just follow the path beyond the West door.
- The main church building is open for services, meetings, cleaning etc. At other times please contact the churchwardens for a key.

Coffee Morning

We are enjoying the more practical timing of 11.00am - 1.00pm each Tuesday, with the Post Office van visiting from 11.55am - 12.40pm. This month we have been able to donate another £100 to the charity 'Perennials', which supports those who have worked in the horticultural industry and are needing help during difficult times.

Harvest Supper

We have had very positive feedback from those who came to this year's Harvest Supper on October 3rd. Many thanks to all who did the cooking, the organising, the serving and also made the hall look so welcoming.

Thanks to everyone's generosity, St. Nicolas church has been given more than £500.
We found a pretty brooch in the Hall while clearing up.

We have not been able to find who it belongs to. If you think it might be yours, do get in touch. My mobile number is 07469 175290.



Harvest Festival
On Sunday 11th October the auction, after the service, of donated perishable goods, raised more than £100, which has been donated to Demelza House, for their amazing care for children with life limiting illness and their families.

The non-perishable gifts are given to a food bank.



Farmers' Market
We continue to have a stall on the first Friday each month, which Jacquie, Janet and I really enjoy, usually selling a variety of scones, though recently we have been encouraged to make some cakes when other stall holders are unavailable.

Indoor Boot Fair
On Sunday 26th October, thanks to Janet and Rosemary who manned a stall in the Hall. Many congratulations to the organisers. It was a busy place when we joined them. Worthwhile charities and individuals made it very sociable. The refreshments were very tempting.

Remembrance Service in St.Nicolas church on November 11th at 10.30am.
A reminder that there will not be Evensong on that day.

The induction of Rev. Simon Tillotson at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 25th November in St.Mary's church, Lenham, by Bishop Rose. All are welcome to this service when we greet Rev. Simon and his wife as he becomes our new rector in the benefice.

Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd November
Jacquie and I are planning to man a stall and are busy knitting, sewing and generally making goods. Knitted socks are already in the pipeline. Fudge, scones and Lemon Curd will be on offer. Definitely an annual event to enjoy.

Looking ahead
Memorial service at 3pm on Sunday 6th December at St.Nicolas
A time to remember those friends, family and loved ones who have died. This time of year can be especially poignant, when we think of friends and family we miss.

This is also the special day in the church calendar when we remember St Nicolas, a saint of kindliness and caring. Let this church offer care and gentleness to all.

Sally Alexander

Len Valley Benefice November 2026

Everybody is welcome



Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

1 John 4 v7 (part)

Sunday 1st November
9.15am Lenham: Breakfast Church
9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship
11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Wednesday 4th November
9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion
11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

Sunday 8th November
10.15am Lenham: **Remembrance Service**
10.15am Harrietsham: **Remembrance Service**
10.15am Ulcombe: **Remembrance Service**
10.30am Boughton Malherbe: **Remembrance Service**

Sunday 15th November
8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)
9.15am Lenham: Breakfast Church
9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion
11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham: Morning Worship
3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Sunday 22nd November
11.00am **Benefice Holy Communion Service** at Ulcombe

Wednesday 25th November
7.00pm St Mary's, Lenham: **Installation and Induction** of the **Revd. Simon Tillotson** as Rector of the Len Valley Benefice at St Mary's, Lenham

Sunday 29th November
11.00am **Benefice Service** at Harrietsham **'Welcoming Rector Simon Tillotson'**

Please note that some services may need to be altered or cancelled at short notice due to circumstances beyond our control.



At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
We will remember them.

Remembrance Service

Sunday 8th November

10.30am

St Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe



Christian Message - November 2026
The Kindness That Changes Us

"Be kind." It is a simple message and one that we seem to hear increasingly often. In a world where people can be quick to criticise and tear one another down, kindness is certainly something worth encouraging! But what does kindness actually mean

The picture of kindness that is painted in the Bible is much richer than simply being nice or polite. In the New Testament, the Greek word that is translated as 'kindness' carries the idea of a kindness that meets a real need. It is kindness that is expressed at just the right time and in the just the right way. It is kindness that does something. And the Bible says that this kind of kindness begins with God.

Paul writes in Titus 3:4-5:
But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.
God's kindness is not just a warm feeling towards us. It is kindness in action. He offers us forgiveness, frees us from shame and guilt and gives us new life with him.
God's kindness is intended to lead us home to him. His response to us is not condemnation but an invitation to repentance, mercy and restoration.

His invitation is not to carry an unbearable burden but to discover the kindness of his heart. The more we understand God's extraordinary kindness towards us, the more it changes how we see ourselves and subsequently how we see other people.

Rather than simply trying harder to be nice, we are invited to allow God's kindness towards us to produce kindness through us. Elsewhere in his letters, Paul encourages us to look beyond our own interests and consider the interests of others.

Sometimes that will mean something significant. More often, it will be smaller, like noticing someone who needs encouragement, giving someone our time, or helping when it's inconvenient.

These small acts matter. They can change the atmosphere of a home, a workplace or even a community. Instead of simply going along with the existing culture, consistent acts of kindness can create a new culture, one that begins to look a little more like God's kingdom.

Of course, kindness can be costly. We may give to people who cannot give anything back, or to people we don't think deserve it. Our kindness may go unnoticed. But God's kindness towards us was never dependent on us deserving it.

Perhaps the place to begin is simply to receive it. To open ourselves up to the kindness of God and to allow it to take root in us. Then, one ordinary day at a time, we can become people through whom that same kindness reaches others.

Ben Doggett, Pathways Church

Emergency and Help Contact Details

Police, Fire and Ambulance Emergencies	**999**
Police, Non-Emergency - (Including PCSO ……)	**101**

Ambulance 999 note: an **aed** 'public access ***defibrillator***' is sited and available 24/7 at the premises (in porch) of A.W. Court in Headcorn road. Ambulance 999 control centre will give 999 callers the lock code, if appropriate, to access the ***defibrillator.***

NHS Medical Helpline			**111**
Maidstone & Pembury Hospitals			**0845 155 1000**
William Harvey Hospital			**01233 633331**
Headcorn Surgery	(*out of hours listen to*		**01622 890294**
Lenham Surgery	*recorded messages)*		**01622 858341**
Electricity (UK Power Networks)			
	Emergencies and Power Cuts		**0800 783 8866**
		Or	**01243 508866**
Water	*Emergencies*		**0333 000 0002**
Southern Water Foul and Waste Water drainage/Flooding			**0330 303 0368**
Calor Gas	*Emergencies*		**08457 444999**
KCC	*Emergencies*		**03000 41 41 41**
	Highways		**03000 41 81 81**

KCC Community Wardens:

Local warden – Stuart Ellesmere		**07969 583923**
District Support – Dawn Riach-Brown		**07773 397125**
Fire	*General Enquiries*	**01622 692121**
	Home Safety Visits	**0800 923 7000**
R.S.P.C.A	*Emergencies*	**0300 1234 999**
Vet	*24 Hour Pet Emergency Treatment Service*	**01622 734555**

Maidstone Borough Community Protection - **01622 602202** – Bonfires, crime, dogs, domestic abuse, loan sharks, noise, pests and protection orders

Environmental Services – **01622 602162** – Fly tipping, Street cleaning, Litter, Bins, dead animals

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