

# Malherbe Monthly

Number 64  
November 2009



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

Useful contact names and telephone N<sup>os</sup>.  
BOUGHTON MALHERBE/GRAFTY GREEN

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Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	Rev: Dick Venn email: <a href="mailto:dickvenn@gmail.com">dickvenn@gmail.com</a>	858195
Associate Priest	Marian Bond, available Wednesday-Sunday	07966 442181
Reader	Miss Joan Drury email: <a href="mailto:jdrury23@btinternet.com">jdrury23@btinternet.com</a>	853766
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders email: <a href="mailto:churchoffice@lvb.org.uk">churchoffice@lvb.org.uk</a>	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Tricia Dibley	858891
Fresh Fish delivery	Friday afternoons at approx. 2.20 by Post Office	01580 754300
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
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<p>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 left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (<a href="mailto:mf.hitchins@virgin.net">mf.hitchins@virgin.net</a>) by <b>20<sup>th</sup> November</b></p>
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**Front cover:** The 30mph sign on Headcorn Road in Grafty Green.  
Take note – Speedwatch is coming to Grafty Green soon – keep to the speed limit !!!

## **News from St. Nicholas Church**

### **Harvest Festival and Back to Church Sunday**

Harvest Festival this year was linked with Back to Church Sunday which was held on 27th September and the Church looked lovely decorated with corn and apples etc with lovely autumn flowers. The auction of produce took place after the service while coffee and biscuits were served. It raised £175 for Demelza House Children's Hospice. Back to Church Sunday enabled us to welcome a few new people to our Service which was lovely. See you again soon, we hope.

### **Harvest Supper**

The Harvest supper was held on 10th October, 2009 and Mair has written an article later in the magazine. Our thanks are due to Mair Chantler who organised this event for us on behalf of St. Nicholas Church. The proceeds will be split between the Church and a charity. Thank you very much Mair.

### **New Bibles**

Bible Sunday was on 25th October, when our new bibles were blessed by Rev: Marian Bond, our Associate Priest, during our monthly All Age Worship Service. We also have a beautiful new Lectern Bible, the pages of which are numbered exactly the same as the small bibles, so it will be easy to refer to certain passages, to illustrate points of Scripture. Some of the bibles will be in the Church for anyone to use. The cost of these bibles was covered by donations and money raised at a coffee morning.

### **Coffee Morning**

The Ladies of St. Nicholas have decided to hold a Coffee Morning in the Village Hall Grafty Green, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month between 10.00am & 12.00 starting in November. This will be non-profit making, just a donation to cover the cost of the coffee. Anyone who wants to pop in will be most welcome.

We thought that an opportunity to meet was needed, to have a chat and a coffee or tea and a biscuit, particularly during the winter months. So if you have time to join us, just come along for as long as you can – to meet and get to know other people in the village. We know there are new people living amongst us, but opportunities meet them and each other are very limited, so do come along.

See you there on the 11<sup>th</sup>. As this is Armistice Day, we will be observing the 2 minutes silence at 11 o'clock.

**Joan Davidson**

## **Jenny Whittle - News from County Hall**



### **Protecting Maidstone's Maternity Services**

In January 2008 I gave birth to my daughter, Katie, at Pembury Hospital. I expected to give birth at Maidstone Hospital and even undertook a tour of the maternity facilities there a month before I had Katie. When I went into labour, however, I telephoned Maidstone's maternity unit only to be told that there were no beds available and I would have to go to Pembury instead. I was in too much pain to kick up a fuss and had a superb team of midwives look after me at Pembury during a very long and exhausting labour. Fortunately the 21 mile trip from my home to Pembury Hospital occurred before the morning rush hour began – had I gone into labour later in the morning, I would have been stuck in heavy traffic whilst in the most severe pain that I have ever experienced in my life.

It is with interest and concern therefore that I learnt the maternity unit at Maidstone is going to lose its consultants in 2011, to be replaced by a midwifery-led unit. Women who have had difficult current or previous pregnancies will be directed to go to Pembury where consultants will be retained; in fact, any expectant mother in Maidstone can opt to go to Pembury if she so wishes. My concern, however, is for those women with uncomplicated pregnancies who suffer severe complications during labour at Maidstone and are whisked to Pembury by ambulance over 20 miles of single carriageway A-roads. I cannot begin to think of the anxiety this would cause mothers in labour as well as the potential increased risk to mothers and babies.

After I was elected in June, I was appointed as a member of the KCC Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee. I have a particular interest in maternity issues and have been tasked to undertake some research on the potential impact of withdrawal of consultants from Maidstone's maternity unit. If you or your family have any experience of having had a normal pregnancy but a difficult birth at Maidstone in which the consultants' presence has been essential, I would be grateful if you could get in touch. I believe that highlighting individual "human

case” stories are the only chance we have of protecting the provision of hospital consultants in Maidstone’s maternity unit.

Best wishes

**Jenny Whittle**

County Councillor for Maidstone Rural East

[jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk)

01622 734897

### **Harvest Supper & Quiz Night**

Firstly, a big thanks go to Mandy and Mike Hitchins for all the help in setting up and organizing and running the bar, Joan Drury, Sally Alexander and Andree Chantler for help with the catering, Mike and Joan Davidson for supplying the delicious apples, Jackie Hansen for organizing the quiz and to all who helped with serving, washing up and clearing up.

Although a disappointing number of tickets were sold, I am sure that everyone who attended will agree that it was a good night out with plenty to eat and drink and a taxing quiz to get our brains cells going and a chance to catch up with old friends.

The intention was not to make a great profit but to draw the community together to be thankful for the harvest. However, a profit was made in the region of £374 which is to be split between St Nicholas Church and the Crisis at Christmas Organisation, who provide food and shelter over the Christmas period for the homeless.

Thank you once again for all who helped and bought tickets. I have enjoyed being part of the organising team for the past two years, it was hard work but worthwhile.

**Mair Chantler**

# Maidstone — Chart Sutton — Kingswood — Grafty Green

# 59

## Mondays to Fridays

Service No.	School Days		Not School Days	
	Only	Days	Only	Days
Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	59	59	59	59
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	1227	1402	1555	1555
Wheatsharf	1229	1404	1557	1557
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	1236	1411	1604	1604
Linton Corner	1240	1415	1608	1608
Cornwallis Academy	1244	1419	1612	1612
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1249	1424	1617	1617
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1252	1427	1509	1620
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1255	1430	1512	1623
Warmlake Corner	1258	1433	1515	1626
Kingswood, Village Hall	1306	1438	1523	1634
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	1306	1438	1523	1634
Ulcombe, Post Office	1313	1445	1530	1641
Grafty Green, King's Head	1320	1452	1537	1648
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	1320	1452	1537	1648
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	1320	1452	1537	1648

## Saturdays

Service No.	School Days		Not School Days	
	Only	Days	Only	Days
Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	59	59	59	59
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	0838	1241	1525	1755
Wheatsharf	0840	1243	1527	1757
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0847	1250	1534	1804
Linton Corner	1254	1538	—	—
Cornwallis Academy	1258	1542	—	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1303	1547	1817	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1306	1550	1820	R
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1309	1553	1823	R
Warmlake Corner	0859	1312	1556	1826
Kingswood, Village Hall	—	—	1604	R
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0907	1320	—	1834
Ulcombe, Post Office	0914	1327	—	1841
Grafty Green, King's Head	0921	1334	—	1848
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—	—	R
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	—	—	—	R

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Maidstone, King St, Colman House, Stop L2	59	59	59	59
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station, Stop J4	0838	1241	1525	1755
Wheatsharf	0840	1243	1527	1757
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0847	1250	1534	1804
Linton Corner	1254	1538	—	—
Cornwallis Academy	1258	1542	—	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	1303	1547	1817	—
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	1306	1550	1820	R
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	1309	1553	1823	R
Warmlake Corner	0859	1312	1556	1826
Kingswood, Village Hall	—	—	1604	R
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0907	1320	—	1834
Ulcombe, Post Office	0914	1327	—	1841
Grafty Green, King's Head	0921	1334	—	1848
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	—	—	—	R
Headcorn, opp. Millbank Lay-by	—	—	—	R

## Mondays to Fridays

Service No.	School Days		Not School Days	
	Only	Days	Only	Days
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	59	59	59	59
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	0736	—	—	—
Ulcombe, Post Office	0745	—	—	—
Kingswood, Village Hall	0730	0730	0922	1332
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0735	0735	0927	1337
Warmlake Corner	0738	0738	0929	1339
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0744	0744	0935	1345
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0739	0747	0909	1348
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0742	0750	0811	1351
Cornwallis Academy	0745	0753	0814	1354
Linton Corner	0750	0758	0820	—
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0756	0802	0953	1403
Wheatsharf	0758	0800	0806	0957
Maidstone, King Street	0810	0814	1005	1415
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0808	—	—	—
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0817	—	—	—
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0826	—	—	—

## Saturdays

Service No.	School Days		Not School Days	
	Only	Days	Only	Days
Headcorn, Millbank Lay-by	59	59	59	59
Grafty Green, Pig & Whistle	0736	—	—	—
Ulcombe, Post Office	0745	—	—	—
Kingswood, Village Hall	0730	0730	0922	1332
Kingswood, Ashford Drive	0735	0735	0927	1337
Warmlake Corner	0738	0738	0929	1339
Chart Sutton, Buffalo's Head	0744	0744	0935	1345
Boughton Monchelsea, Cock Inn	0739	0747	0909	1348
Boughton Monchelsea, Albion	0742	0750	0811	1351
Cornwallis Academy	0745	0753	0814	1354
Linton Corner	0750	0758	0820	—
Loose, Loose Road, Old Loose Hill	0756	0802	0953	1403
Wheatsharf	0758	0800	0806	0957
Maidstone, King Street	0810	0814	1005	1415
Maidstone, Chequers Bus Station	0808	—	—	—
London Road, Somerfield Hospital	0817	—	—	—
Tonbridge Rd, Oakwood Park	0826	—	—	—

## Sundays and Public Holidays\*

Service 59 does not run on Sundays or Public Holidays.

### NOTE

1. The Saturday buses are provided on behalf of Kent County Council by Nu-Venture (Tel: 01622 882288), NOT Arriva.

### CODES

\* — These buses are provided on behalf of Kent County Council. If you have any comments or suggestions, please write to Transport Integration, Kent County Council, Gibson Drive, West Malling, Kent ME19 4QG.  
 \* — Special arrangements apply over the Christmas and New Year period and at Easter. Please watch for announcements.  
 R — Sets down only upon request by passengers boarding at or before Loose Road, Plains Avenue.

## Grafty Garden Cuttings – November

The warm, moist conditions are producing their bounty of fungi, which are appearing in ever increasing shapes, sizes and varieties. Our favourite are field mushrooms, easily identified by look and smell. Or so one thinks. I spotted a wonderful crop surrounding a bush in the front garden, but upon harvesting them, they turned out to be Yellow Staining mushrooms. Almost identical to field mushrooms, the give-away is the bright yellow stain that appears as soon as they are touched or cut, and they are poisonous enough to cause sweating, flushing and stomach cramps. They have gone onto the bonfire and we have hopes of something more edible appearing elsewhere in the garden. We did try the edible Birch Bolete one year but it looked and tasted rather as one might expect cooked slugs to look and taste, so we will not be eating that again.

I spotted a squirrel this morning, the first for months as it swore at something it did not like, before dashing away up the back of the tree, where it thinks it cannot be seen. It was collecting acorns, all that are left, apart from a few rather small chestnuts. Our trees are not mature enough to produce worthwhile sized nuts, as yet.

Something large and strong has been forcing its way through our hedge by much use of teeth, claw and brute strength, over the past few weeks. We think badgers are the culprits, especially as before it rained, it was beside the damson trees, where they could easily Hoover up the fallen fruit for the moisture. Something has also taken a small hedgehog and left me to find a sad little pile of skin and prickles. On a more cheerful note, 6 beautiful cock pheasants were strutting around the orchard as well as the squirrel, possibly taking refuge? Although I did not hear any guns at the time.

The compost bin devoted to leaves has yielded a wonderful amount of leaf mould this year despite having taken 2 years to rot down. I have been able to bag up enough to use for potting next spring, filled the green house borders for next year's tomatoes and mulch a very hungry border. Next job; to dig out a compost heap to mulch further areas, including the vegetable garden. The last of the tulip bulbs are being planted, the onion sets for sweet, white 'Snowball' onions are in, as is a sowing of broad beans under cloches. Other, spring flowering bulbs like narcissi, hyacinths, alliums and anemones can go into the ground or containers any time during the month. To stop squirrels digging them out place a piece of wire netting over the bulbs, before covering with soil.

Pot-grown tender plants should be brought into shelter and containers placed against a wall, if frosts are forecast. Those containers with spent plants and compost need emptying and cleaning. The used soil should not be re-used for

other plants, although grow bags can be revitalized with the removal of the old roots, the addition of a handful of fertilizer and a little new soil, and lettuce or salad leaves sown. Now is a really good time to have a mower serviced; ours was done in less than 24 hours, and bird feeders and baths need a through clean with disinfectant, ready for all the winter visitors.

**Rosemary Smith**

### **Platts Heath Primary School**

Well here we are, term one completed in what feels like the blink of an eye. I swear time passes quicker every year but the beginning of this term was strange for me this year as I watched my youngest go into her final year of primary school looking so different (they seem to go into a metamorphosis over the holidays) and then seeing the new little ones walking into school who I remember being born as if it were yesterday. How time flies.

It must have been strange for the staff of the school too because as we saw the school return to a four class structure. We also welcomed a new teacher, Miss Sarah Keywood. This new structure has been well received and means that we are able to focus on the Early Years Foundation Stage as it should be. I understand that the day's learning stems from the children's interests whereby they learn through play. The four classes have now been named after castles and a house system has been introduced. House points will be given for good work and good behaviour and there is a trophy for the house with the most points.

After school clubs are doing well and we have something to offer not only every day but for everyone. Drama, Netball, Football, Warhammer, French, Science and Film Club.

The Eco Warriors are still doing their bit to keep us green. Last year we gained our bronze award and are now well on our way to achieving the silver award.

The school has been very lucky this year with several new opportunities arising. As part of the Government's Wider Opportunities in Music scheme, KCC have provided funding for a teacher from Kent Music School to give the year 5 & year 6 children a music lesson for one hour every week. The children have chosen to learn to play the clarinet. From my own experience it seems to be going very well but I will be glad when they learn a new tune, I'm sure the hot cross buns tune is firmly embedded in my brain!

The year 5 & year 6 children have also been given the opportunity to build a Go-Cart under the guidance of Mr Ian Rapley a former head teacher who is now an Ambassador for Medway Education Business Partnership.

We have been very lucky to acquire a Go-cart kit which the children have to build and have been doing so over the last six weeks , the cart is put together solely by the children under Mr Rapley's guidance. Once completed the children will test the vehicle to ensure it is fully functional and in June will be given the opportunity to race against other schools at the Kent County Show in what I am told is like a mini grand prix. It's all very exciting.

The Halloween disco went down a treat once again, the costumes were fantastic the dancing was superb and as always the PTFA did wonderful job organising the event. All in all it seems to have been a very busy first term and I'm sure term two will prove to be the same.

Don't miss our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December with all the usual festivities.

If you would like to know more about our school, please contact our headmaster Mr Ian Priddle on 01622 850316.

**Angie McElvanney**  
**On behalf of Platts Heath School**

### **The Lenham Players**

The Lenham Players will be presenting **A Victorian Christmas Revue** at Lenham Community Centre for two nights this Christmas on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7:45pm.

This is an entirely new show in the format that was very popular for many years in the old Village Hall. There will be free Mince Pies in the interval and the audience will be able to bring their own wine and nibbles to further their enjoyment. They are also encouraged to wear appropriate Victorian garb to add to the atmosphere.

Tickets will be available from Len Valley Newsagents, The Community Centre or by telephoning 01622 858561 at £8:00 each.

**David Abson**

**Answers at the back (don't look first!)**

	Find the missing word?
1	_____ Young, Radio DJ retired in 2002
2	Melvyn _____, Highbrow TV presenter
3	George Frideric _____, German born composer famous for his water music
4	_____ _ No Deal, TV game show with Noel Edmonds
5	_____ Melody, a song covered by the Righteous Brothers
6	_____ Swift, Writer who penned Gulliver's Travels
7	Ding _____, Top Chinese snooker player
8	The _____, 1970 comedy set aboard The Pacific Princess
9	_____ Coltrane, Larger than life actor
10	_____, Motoring programme with Jeremy Clarkson

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the Highwayman!**



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# **NEWS FROM ULCOMBE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

It is fantastic to be able to start this article by thanking people. Firstly, I would like to thank all of those parents who have given up time and energy during October to help make our school look wonderful. Some areas have had some much needed 'TLC' which is very much appreciated. I would also like to thank those from the school and wider community who came to the public meeting earlier in the month to find out more about how we are trying to improve our school. And once again, thank you very much to those parents who have let us know how pleased you are with what we are trying to do in school. There have been yet more positive comments about a wide range of things. It is great to know that what are doing is appreciated!

## **Improving Our School**

As you may now be aware, we are hoping to build an extension to house a library, disabled toilet, storage and a small kitchen area. As well as being a fantastic resource for the children to use in school we hope to be able to open it up to the wider community for small group meetings such as adult education. It will also be a suitable area for breakfast and after-school clubs. We have been working on plans to improve the school as Kent County Council is selling unused land at our school. We have been able to come to an agreement with them that the proceeds from the sale of the land will be made available to us to improve the building. If there are sufficient funds we will also be improving the office and entrance areas as well as working on other key areas for improvement of the fabric of our school. This is a wonderful opportunity which we are keen to take advantage of whilst we have this agreement with KCC. At the present time KCC are applying to the DCSF in central government to confirm that the land can be taken out of educational use. We hope that you will be able to support us as we seek to take advantage of the offer being made to us by the local authority, an offer which gives us a unique opportunity to improve the school in such a fantastic way.

## **Open Morning**

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October we held an Open Morning, so that parents and friends of children at the school could come and see what we get up to on a 'normal morning'. It was fantastic to meet children and their parents who may be joining us next September as well as parents of children already in school. If you were unable to join us, or you know others who have a pre-school age child who were not able to join us, please contact the school and we will arrange a time for you to come and see our wonderful school at work.

## **Cinema Visits**

The children all enjoyed their trip to the cinema as part of National Schools' Film Work. The trips went really well following on from the outstanding success of Film Club. Tawny Owls went to watch the Spiderwick Chronicles, whilst Barn Owls, Snowy Owls and Owlets watched Ice Age 3. Thanks to the Odeon Cinema in Maidstone for their help.

### **Fireworks Night**

The Friends of Ulcombe School are organising our annual Fireworks Night for Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November. Everyone who joined us was amazed by the fireworks last year, which were definitely our best yet. As well as a fantastic fireworks display again this year, there will be a barbecue and various other stalls. We look forward to seeing you there from 6.30pm!

### **Remembrance Day Assembly**

Parents and friends are again invited to our Remembrance Day Assembly on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 10.45am. This will include a two minute silence at 11 o'clock. We hope lots of you will join us for this very special occasion.

### **Ulcombe School Friends' Dinner**

Our next Friends' Dinner will be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November. It is always wonderful to welcome friends and neighbours to our school. For just £3.95 you will be able to enjoy a wonderful lunch cooked by our own School Cook, with some of our older children being the waiters and waitresses. After lunch children from each class will show what they have been doing in class in, I am sure, a very entertaining way. If you would like to know more please contact the School Office (01622 842903).

### **Harvest Celebration**

I am sure, those of you who were there will agree that the Harvest Celebration at the start of October was a wonderful occasion. The children were great leading our worship in a variety ways. Well done to everyone who kept singing when the music stopped!

Well I think that is enough to be going on with! Please remember to come and ask us in School if you have any concerns or require any further information.

**Mr V Hampton**  
***Head Teacher***

## How about joining a Yoga Class?

Yoga exercises promote increased flexibility, postural alignment, balancing muscle groups and counter-acting the overuse of specific muscles used in our everyday activities. Yoga also focuses on being able to breathe with control; using the breath with movement to bring balance between the body and the mind.

Generally, the class will start with a warm up through the joints and stretching the muscles and then practicing sequences of moves that improves co-ordination and grace, strengthening areas of the body and building stamina.

Each session finishes with a relaxation to allow the mind and body to feel rejuvenated. To be able to relax and reduce stress provides a natural way to boost the immune system, sooth the nerves and promotes a positive state of mind.

### **Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall**

Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.00 am  
Term starts Thursday 3rd September  
and

Wednesday evenings - 7 - 8.30 pm  
Term starts Wednesday 9th September

£5 a Session

If you are able to make any of these dates and would like to join in  
please give me a call -

Sue Burch - 01622 850381

email:burch1997@aol.com

Mobile: 0780 3962339



## GRAFTY GREEN GARDENING CLUB 2009 PROGRAMME

Date	Topic	Speaker
6 <sup>th</sup> January	AGM + Vegetable growing - hints and tips	Sissinghurst gardener: Amy Cabey
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Dry Garden	H. Newman
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Butterflies	Steve Weeks
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Show & River Medway Part 2	Graham Johnson
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Plant Sale – on the Green	
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Local garden visit	Sissinghurst
5 <sup>th</sup> June –7 <sup>th</sup> June	Weekend visit to Hampshire	
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Lullingstone Castle – World Garden visit	Tom Hart Dyke
4 <sup>th</sup> August	Social at Myrtle House, Grafty Green	
1 <sup>st</sup> September	Autumn show - Aspects of showing	Lesley Feakes
6 <sup>th</sup> October	Village Signs	Avice Harms
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	<b>Kent in the 19<sup>th</sup> century</b>	<b>Bob Ogley</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Gardening quiz and supper	

- ❖ Membership to the gardening club is only £5 for an action packed year
- ❖ Regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month in the village hall at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated. 75p for members and £1 for visitors.
- ❖ The club enables members to swap plants/seeds, share ideas and improve their growing skills.
- ❖ Meetings are friendly and informal; visitors are always welcome; refreshments included.

Tuesday evening at 7.30 November 3<sup>rd</sup> in Grafty Green Village Hall - the gardening club welcomes Bob Ogley who will speak on 'Kent in the 1900 century'.

**Sue Burch**

## Re- housing the homeless

One of the objectives of MAIDSTONE CHRISTIAN CARE is to help to re-house the homeless. When they are re-housed they usually have nothing by way of furniture, bedding or the normal items of cutlery etc. etc. Some of these items are provided by the Beacon church but they do not handle electrical equipment in view of the rules and regulations now operating. I am happy to store moderately sized electrical items – carpet sweepers, fires, toasters; kettles etc. (provided they are in working order) and make them available to those we re-house. If you have surplus items of this sort or if you become involved in clearing the house of a friend or family member where such items are surplus to requirements will you please have a word with me.

*The Revd. D.W. Bond*

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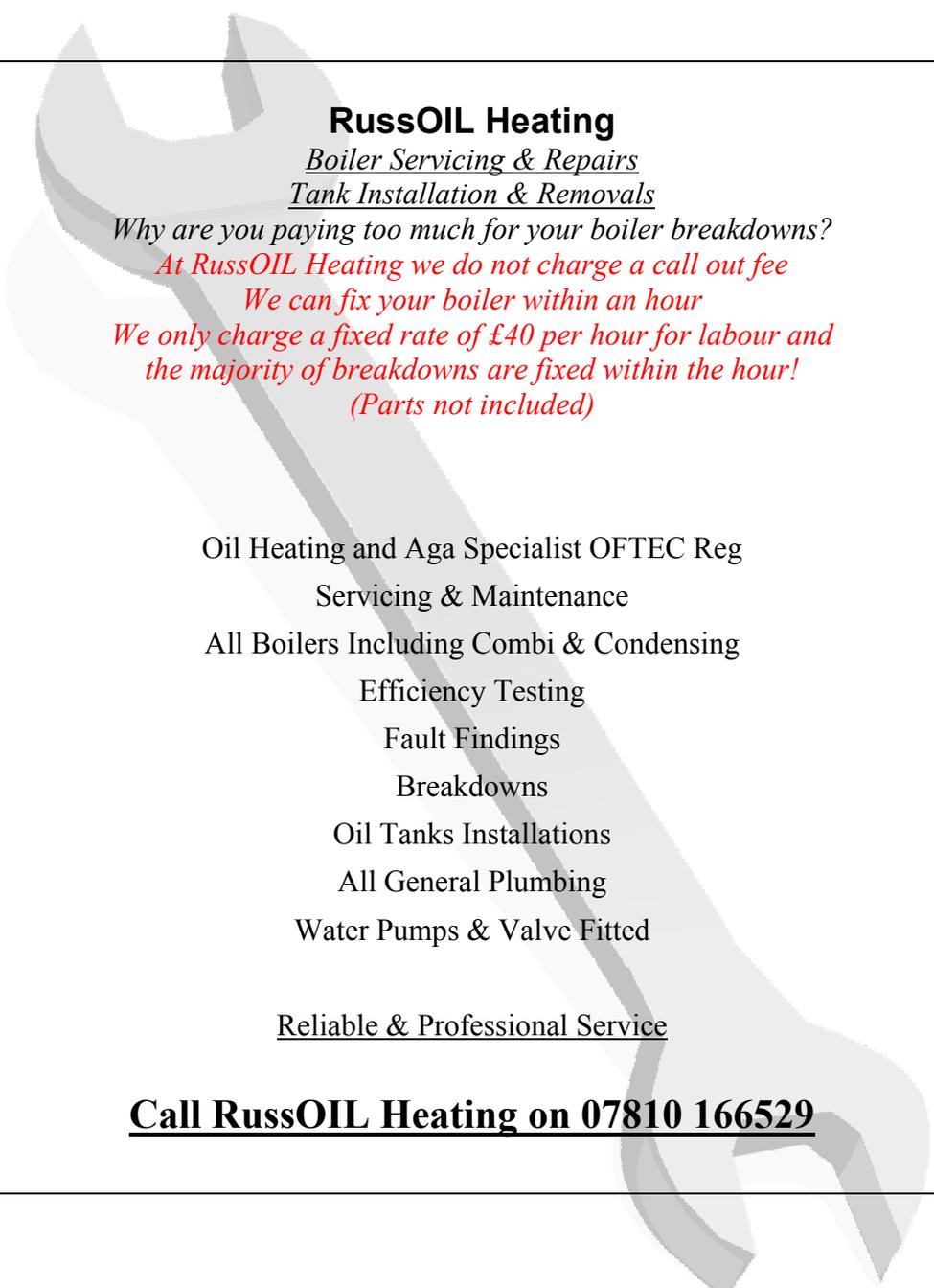
We are pleased to say we have now arranged the following computer classes to be run from September to December:

<b>Basic IT</b>	Tuesdays 15 <sup>th</sup> /22 <sup>nd</sup> /29 <sup>th</sup> Sept/6 <sup>th</sup> Oct 10am-12 noon
<b>Basic IT</b>	Wednesdays 11 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> /25 <sup>th</sup> Nov/2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 10am-12 noon
<b>Digital Photography</b>	Wednesdays 16 <sup>th</sup> /23 <sup>rd</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup> Sept/7 <sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30pm-9.30pm
<b>Word Processing – Basic</b>	Tuesdays 13 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> /27 <sup>th</sup> Oct/3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 10am–12 noon
<b>Word Processing – Intermediate</b>	Tuesday’s 17 <sup>th</sup> /24 <sup>th</sup> Nov/1 <sup>st</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Dec 10am– 12 noon
<b>Desk Top Publishing</b>	Tuesdays 20 <sup>th</sup> /27 <sup>th</sup> Oct/3 <sup>rd</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup> Nov 7.30pm–9.30pm

For full details and any further information please contact our Booking Clerk – Sylvia Tillman on 01233 756050.

We can also arrange to run other classes such as Excel, Ebay, Home Security, Internet, etc. If there are four or more people interested in any of these subjects, we will be happy to look into arranging times and dates. In addition, if there are any other areas where you think we can help, don’t hesitate to talk to Sylvia and we will do what we can.

Our computer clinic is open every Saturday morning from 10am to 12 noon to help you with technical advice, photocopying, scanning and laminating etc. – or just a coffee and a chat!



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**An Obituary printed in the London Times.....**

Interesting and sadly rather true.

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as: Knowing when to come in out of the rain; why the early bird gets the worm; Life isn't always fair; and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but over-bearing regulations were set in place.

Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

Common Sense declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an Aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, his wife, Discretion, his daughter, Responsibility, his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers;  
I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is To Blame, I'm A Victim

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

## Link Word Puzzle - Answers at the back (don't look first!)

I hope you enjoyed last month's link word. Here is another  
to rack your brains – Paul Neaves

The answer to number 1 has been filled in – can you solve the rest?

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Double	Bar	Fire	<b>Cross</b>
2	Kidney	Grind	Wall	
3	Rhyme	Slope	Day	
4	Silent	Sparring	Business	
5	Blanket	Paint	Suit	
6	Shoulder	Sore	Feet	
7	Club	Fall	Cap	
8	Birthday	Sharp	Post	
9	Clean	Onion	Chicken	
10	Milk	Fly	Cup	
11	Driving	Match	Acid	
12	Clock	Pirate	Controlled	
13	Quality	Film	Sign	
14	Front	Lion	Dog	
15	Clear	Short	Near	
16	Passive	Chain	Ban	

### The Grafty Gourmet

This is a great alternative to the more familiar beef and tomato lasagne. Thick with fresh mozzarella, parmesan and ricotta cheeses, this chicken and spinach recipe could make you forget about the other type completely.

## Chicken Lasagne

9 x Sheets of Lasagne (buy fresh, as they require no pre-cooking and are much easier to use)  
115g Butter  
1 Onion, chopped  
2 Cloves of Garlic - crushed  
60g Plain Flour  
1 Teaspoon of Salt  
475ml Chicken Stock  
355ml Milk  
450g Grated Mozzarella Cheese  
80g Grated Parmesan Cheese  
1 Teaspoon Dried Basil  
2 Teaspoons Dried Oregano  
1 Teaspoon Ground Black Pepper  
490g Ricotta Cheese  
280g Cubed, Cooked Chicken Meat  
550g Frozen chopped Spinach, thawed and drained  
4 Tablespoon chopped Fresh Parsley

1. Preheat oven to 175 degrees C.
2. Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Cook the onion and garlic in the butter until tender, stirring frequently. Stir in the flour and salt, and simmer until bubbly.
3. Gradually, a little at a time, add the chicken stock, stirring constantly and then repeat with adding the milk, a little at a time, and bring to the boil, stirring constantly. Be sure to add a little of each at a time, whilst stirring constantly, or else the sauce will go lumpy with the flour.
4. Stir in half (220g) mozzarella cheese and a quarter (20g) of the Parmesan cheese. Season with the basil, oregano, and ground black pepper. Remove from heat, and set aside.
5. In a bowl, mix together the ricotta cheese, spinach and the chicken.

6. Spread 1/3 of the ricotta, spinach and chicken mixture in the bottom of a 9 x13 inch baking dish. Layer with 3 sheets of the lasagne. Place over the lasagne, 1/3 of the sauce mixture and sprinkle with a 1/3 of the remaining mozzarella and 1/3 of the remaining parmesan.

7. Repeat the layers another 2 times, with the chicken mixture, lasagne and sauce/cheese. Sprinkle the final layer of the sauce/cheese with the chopped parsley.

Bake 35 to 40 minutes in the preheated oven.

**The Grafty Gourmet**

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### **Grafty Green Heating Oil Syndicate**

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**Keith Anderson**

## **St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath**

The committee welcomed three new members onto the management committee at their October meeting, Anna Stubbs, Kate Stansfield and Karen Yardley. You may have met Karen at the Mother and Toddlers group on Monday mornings.

The new ladies came up with quite a few suggestions for future use of the hall one of which is to re-instate a carol singing evening on Christmas Eve 16.00-18.00. The singers will go from the hall around the village and back to the hall at 17.00 for Mulled Wine and Mince pies. It was felt those villagers at home on Christmas Eve might like to take a break from the stressful preparations for an hour or two. We have also arranged with John and Helen Nye to hold a quiz night in late January.

There have been a number of parties held of late and Platts Heath School held their Harvest Festival before the half term break. The Line Dance class is in need of new members so if you fancy a fun way to exercise and pleasant company give us a try. We do not take ourselves seriously, have a good laugh and drive Joanne mad sometimes; it is on Thursday evenings 8pm-9pm.

Anyone wishing to hire the hall can do so by phoning me on 858891 or Duffrey Robinson on 850463.

**Patricia Dibley Secretary**

## **Len Valley Christian Union**

There will be an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Len Valley Christian Union at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2009, at the Church St John the Baptist, Harrietsham, where the committee will be discussing the proposed closure of the charity.

**Pamela Cuerden**

## **New church youth group**

The new church youth group for the Len Valley met in Harrietsham Village hall on Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup> from 7.00 to 8.30. Young people from Y7 to Y9 met for games and discussion and had a good time. Groups decided who they would pick as the 5 most important people from the Bible and why. Our next meeting is Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, then Nov 15<sup>th</sup> and Dec 13<sup>th</sup>. Why not come along and join us?

**Helen Venn**

## Concert at All Saints, Ulcombe

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Music from Six Centuries; Composers of the Year**

The Musick Cabinet is a group of like-minded musicians based in and around Kent. They use a variety of instruments to bring to life a wide ranging selection with an eye (and ear) for the unusual in both repertoire and instrumentation they explore the less-trodden paths of both mainstream and forgotten composers.

The group is adaptable. Different players appear depending upon the needs of the music. They have been playing together since the early 1970's in several early music ensembles, most also being members of the Southern Early Music Forum. Carl Willetts created "The Musick Cabinet" in 2007 as a focus for the kaleidoscope of musical activities of his friends.

Why "The Musick Cabinet"? Imagine a cabinet of many small drawers. Pull out each one and you find a different musical treasure, whether a strange instrument, unheard of composer or unusual ensemble. A cabinet is also a small room (they play chamber music) and a close group of colleagues and friends (they are).

This year's concert at Ulcombe will include music from the fifteenth to twentieth centuries. It will feature composers whose birth or death centenaries or half centenaries fall in 2009. Thus the programme will be built around pieces by Hoffhaimer (b1459), Gardane (b1509), Purcell (b 1659), Handel (d1759), Graun (d1759), Mendelssohn (d1859) and Martinu (d1959).

The concert will start at 7.30 pm and during the interval refreshments will be served.

*For more details and tickets (price £7.50), please contact either: Mrs Molly Poulter, The Old Dairy, Street Farm, Ulcombe, Maidstone, ME17 1DP. Tel. (01622 842988) or The Church Office, Harrietsham Village Hall, Harrietsham, Maidstone ME17 1AP. Tel (01622 850604).*



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## The November Night Sky

For most of November the Sun is in the constellation of Libra, and then moves briefly into Scorpius, and finally into Ophiuchus.

Full Moon occurs on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, when the Moon is in the constellation of Aries, and New Moon on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

We are unlikely to see Mercury this month as it is at “superior conjunction” (passing directly behind the Sun).

Venus is rising just before dawn, and is visible low in the south eastern sky. Although it is still extremely bright, it is gradually getting more difficult to see.

Mars is rising in the northeast around 9.30 pm, and is high in the southern sky at dawn. The light from Mars is slightly orange in colour and is steadily getting brighter. It should not be long now when we will be able to see some detail through a telescope.

Again Jupiter is well placed for viewing this month. It can be seen due south just above the horizon around 6 pm. Relative to the stars it is moving slowly north-eastwards in the constellation of Capricornus. Through a telescope the disc of Jupiter can clearly be seen, together with the dark and light cloud bands and some of the four major moons.

Saturn is rising in the east in the early hours of the morning, and is well up in the south-eastern sky at dawn. Through a telescope you should be able to see many of Saturn’s moons, together with the famous rings forming a narrow oval.

Some of you may have read that scientists have discovered an eighth ring around Saturn. The thin layer of ice and dust was discovered by the Spitzer Space Telescope at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. The new ring extends way into space and is about 3.7 million miles from the planet.

This month we have an opportunity to see the Leonid meteor shower, which is generally active between 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of November. Experts are predicting an extra peak of activity around 10 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> of November. The showers will appear to radiate from the constellation of Leo just above the north eastern horizon, and will continue to be visible well up in the southern sky at dawn.

**John Maunder**

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# SUTTON VALENCE CHORAL SOCIETY

## AUTUMN CONCERT 2009

### *CELEBRATING THE CHORAL SOCIETY'S TWENTIETH BIRTHDAY YEAR*

Sutton Valence Choral Society celebrates 20 years of music-making during its 2009-10 season, which begins with a performance of Mendelssohn's *St Paul* on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 7.30pm, in All Saints' Church Maidstone.

Musical director Bryan Gipps conducts the 80-strong choir, accompanied by the Beresford Sinfonia, in this brilliant, dramatic oratorio about the life of St Paul. The work was completed by Mendelssohn in 1836 and was immensely popular in his lifetime, although 200 years after his birth (in 1809), the work is now rarely heard.

Three top international soloists will be helping to make this a special occasion. American soprano *Kathryn Copeland* has given concerts in world-famous venues, from Carnegie Hall to the Albert Hall, under some of the world's greatest conductors. Tenor *Clifford Lister* has sung with the choirs of Canterbury and Westminster Cathedrals and now tours frequently in Europe, the US and Far East. Baritone *Stephen Alder* specialises in oratorio; he performs regularly with the BBC singers and has toured in Europe, China, Japan, USA, Israel, Brazil and Argentina.

Tickets are £10, available in advance from Sharon Music, 65 High Street, Maidstone, ME14 1SR (Tel: 01622 761649) or by ringing 01622 842269.

*Sutton Valence Choral Society (reg. charity no. 1119160) supports Demelza House (reg. charity no.1039651)*

### **Fathers, do NOT exasperate your children!**

Younger readers of this magazine may rejoice to read the above words from the Bible! Fathers may pause for thought and review the way they treat their children. Who knows? What I do know is that the headline above is a quotation from St. Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus.

Studies from this book of the Bible will continue at Weirton Villa on Thursdays at 10am for 10.30. Why not join us and discover more of God's teaching about family life? You can be sure of a warm, coffee-fuelled welcome.

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**Malherbe Monthly Magazine**

This magazine can now be viewed on the Internet via the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Web Site. As well as the current edition, all back issues for 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 can be viewed. You even get the front cover in colour!!!

This web site also hosts all the minutes of Parish Council Meetings and gives details of up-coming events in the Village Hall. The below link will get you there:  
[www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk)

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## Christian Message

The 1<sup>st</sup> of November is All Saints Day, and as Ulcombe's church is dedicated to All Saints, we will be celebrating our Patronal Festival. On All Saints Day we remember not only the well known saints, but the ordinary men and women who are called to be saints through baptism.

If asked to name a few saints, most people these days would immediately name our Patron Saints – St George for England, St Andrew for Scotland and St Patrick for Ireland. Many would also name the four saints after whom the first four books of the New Testament are named –St Matthew, St Mark, St Luke and St John.

What is a saint? We often hear the phrase, 'She's a real saint putting up with ...', or 'He's a saint doing all he does for .....'. We say this because we see people doing things and putting up with things that we know we would find difficult or impossible. And we feel they are very special people.

In the early days of Christianity, St Paul used the word 'saints' when writing his letters (epistles) to the congregations of Philippi, Ephesus, Colossus, Thessalonica etc. All the baptised Christians in the churches were called saints.

But the word 'saint' has developed a more specific meaning over the centuries. Many thousands of people have been beatified (made a saint) for a whole variety of reasons. Some have been martyred; others have done wonderful things for their people and communities. What they all have in common is that they are holy people who have allowed themselves to be used by God.

St Stephen was the first Christian saint, stoned to death soon after Jesus was crucified. Then there was St Paul, who first persecuted the early Christians and then, after his Road to Damascus experience, took the Christian message to the Gentiles. Most of the disciples of Jesus suffered a martyr's death and are called saints. There are too many saints to be recalled, but there are some we specially remember: St Benedict whose Rule of Life was used throughout the monastic world; St Catherine, a 4<sup>th</sup> century virgin, who was broken on a spiked wheel for her faith (the origin of the name *Catherine Wheel*); and Joan of Arc who talked the Dauphin into defending France, and was later burnt at the stake by the English.

Here in England, our first saint was St. Alban. He lived in Verulamium, now known as St. Albans. He was converted to Christianity in AD 304 by a fugitive Christian priest whom he sheltered. Christianity was forbidden by the Romans and Alban was caught and beheaded.

St Augustine was sent by Pope Gregory 1 to England to convert the 'Angles' to Christianity. He arrived in 597 AD with forty monks, and they set up churches

across the south. It is quite probable that our church here in Ulcombe was established by one of St Augustine's monks.

St Cuthbert was a holy man who took great care of the poor and the sick. He lived as a hermit for many years, and then was made Bishop of Lindisfarne in 685 AD. He was one of the first men to protect wild life – trying to preserve the eider ducks on the Farne Islands.

What many saints have in common is that they did not come to sainthood without struggle. Many, as people today, rejected for many years the saving grace of Jesus Christ and refused to believe. Some, like St Augustine of Hippo, was so reluctant to give up his hedonistic life that he prayed 'Grant me continence and chastity, but not yet.'

What makes a saint? A very popular hymn, 'For all the Saints', says that God is 'their rock, their Fortress and their Might.' Saints are people fired up with God's love, who allow themselves to be burnt up and consumed for the glory of God, who shine and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble. St Matthew quotes Jesus as saying 'Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.'

None of us can aspire to sainthood, but Jesus has given us guidelines. He told the rich young man, who asked what he should do to inherit eternal life, that he should not murder, steal, or give false testimony, that he should honour his father and mother, and love his neighbour as himself. On another occasion, when talking about the end time, Jesus said that those who will inherit the kingdom are those he will recognise: 'for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited me in; I needed clothes and you clothed me; I was sick and you looked after me; I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Although we can't all be saints, with God's help, we can endeavour to follow the Christian path by putting our trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, admitting our faults, and acknowledging God's promise that he 'so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.'

**Molly Poulter**

***The Len Valley Benefice***  
*Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe*  
**Sunday/Main Services – November 2009**

**1<sup>st</sup> November 4th Sunday before Advent (All Saints)**

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion  
9.30am Harrietsham Family Praise Service  
9.30am Boughton Malherbe BCP Holy Communion  
11am Lenham Holy Communion  
11.15am Ulcombe Family Praise Service

**8<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Sunday**

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion  
10.15am Harrietsham Remembrance Service  
10.15am Boughton Malherbe Remembrance Service  
10.15am Ulcombe Remembrance Service  
10.45am Lenham Remembrance Service  
6.30pm Boughton Malherbe Choral Evensong  
7pm Taize Service Bearsted

**15<sup>th</sup> November 2nd Sunday before Advent**

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion  
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion  
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion (Sung)  
11am Lenham Holy Communion  
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion

**22<sup>nd</sup> November Sunday before Advent (Christ the King)**

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion  
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion  
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Family Praise Service  
11am Lenham Family Praise Service  
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion

**29<sup>th</sup> November 1st Sunday of Advent**

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion  
10.30 am Ulcombe Holy Communion (Benefice Service)  
6.30pm Harrietsham Informal Service

## Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

Answer	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3
1	Double	Bar	Fire
2	Kidney	Grind	Wall
3	Rhyme	Slope	Day
4	Silent	Sparting	Business
5	Blanket	Paint	Suit
6	Shoulder	Sore	Feet
7	Club	Fall	Cap
8	Birthday	Sharp	Post
9	Clean	Onion	Chicken
10	Milk	Fly	Cup
11	Driving	Match	Acid
12	Clock	Pirate	Controlled
13	Quality	Film	Sign
14	Front	Lion	Dog
15	Clear	Short	Near
16	Passive	Chain	Ban
			Smoking

	<b>Find the missing word?</b>
1	<b>Jimmy Young</b> , Radio DJ retired in 2002
2	<b>Melvyn Bragg</b> , Highbrow TV presenter
3	George Frideric <b>Handel</b> , German born composer famous for his water music
4	<b>Deal or No Deal</b> , TV game show with Noel Edmonds
5	<b>Unchained Melody</b> , a song covered by the Righteous Brothers
6	<b>Jonathan Swift</b> , Writer who penned Gulliver's Travels
7	Ding <b>Junhui</b> , Top Chinese snooker player
8	The <b>Love Boat</b> , 1970 comedy set aboard The Pacific Princess
9	<b>Robbie Coltrane</b> , Larger than life actor
10	<b>Top Gear</b> , Motoring programme with Jeremy Clarkson

## **Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)**

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the new timetable up to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2009. The main difference is that all Grafty Green times will be on a Sunday and the freighter will only be here for 45 minutes – so get there early. Additionally there will be no service for collecting electrical items .i.e. no separate freighter to pick up items such as TV's, monitors, etc. They state it is against EU rules and they have to provide a separate freighter to do this.

### Grafty Green

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 14:15 – 15:00 -: Church Rd – Junction Headcorn Rd

### Platts Heath

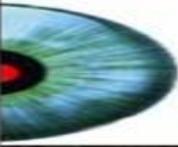
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 11:15 – 12:15 -: Green Lane

### Ulcombe

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 12:30 – 13:15 -: Lodge Road

### Lenham

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 14:15 – 14:45 -: Lenham Heath Rd – Boughton Rd



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