



Malherbe Monthly

Number 53
December 2008



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

Useful contact names and telephone N^{os}.
BOUGHTON MALHERBE/GRAFTY GREEN

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Borough Councillors	Jenny Gibson Richard Thick	890200 891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	858348 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Pat Anderson	858350
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
KM Correspondent	Sylvia Close	858919
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Sunday School	Mair Chantler	859672
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	Rev: Dick Venn	
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders (email: churchoffice@lenvalleybenefice.org.uk)	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	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
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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 **January** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th December**

Front cover: Chilston Park Hotel – Boughton Malherbe Parish

News from St. Nicholas Church

Christingle Service

On the 14th December at 3.00pm we will be holding our Christingle Service at St. Nicholas. This service will be instead of the usual morning family service. Do come along and bring your children. Each child is given a Christingle and told the story explaining all about the various parts of the Christingle. It is a service especially for children and having it in the afternoon makes the lighting of the Christingles so much more effective. See you there, I hope.

Carol Singing

Carol Singing will be on 18th December at 7.00pm prompt. We will meet by the village shop, sing a carol or two and then set off to the first house we are visiting. Come and join us. We will welcome anyone. If one or two people could bring their cars along that would be really good. The evening will end at the Kings Head as usual; we hope to arrive there at about 9.00pm.

Decorating St. Nicholas

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Friday 19th at 2.00pm so that it will look lovely for the Carol Service on 21st. If you can help please get in touch with Joan on 850210.

Carol Service

Our Carol Service will be held at St. Nicholas at 3.00pm on 21st December. This service is usually our most well attended service of the year with people coming back to Boughton where they spent their childhood. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service - see you there. When arriving to attend the Carol Service or any service please be careful when parking that you don't block any entrance to the houses near the Church. Thank you

Crib Service

The Crib Service will be held on 24th December, Christmas Eve at 3.00pm and we will be collecting for Winston's Wish Charity. This Charity supports bereaved children who are very much in our minds at Christmas time.

Christmas Day

At 10.00am on Christmas Day 25th December we will be celebrating Christ's birth with a Family Communion Service. Come and see Jesus in the crib on his birthday.

Benefice Service

The Sunday after Christmas, 28th December, at 10.00am will be a Benefice Service at St. Mary's Lenham

Christmas Cards

Christmas cards and notelets are on sale in the village shop at very reasonable price. They are being sold in aid of St. Nicholas Church Fabric Fund. Please buy a pack - thank you.

Joan Davidson

CHRISTMAS or XMAS

Does the title puzzle you? Let me try to explain.

I start with the ending of both the words above - MAS. It means FESTIVAL or FEAST - and is one reason why some people refer to the Communion service as The Mass. So, CHRISTMAS really means - "The Festival of Christ". Festivals are usually happy and joyful and noisy affairs, so you wouldn't expect such a festival to fall on a solemn day, such as Good Friday - and undoubtedly Christmas Day will be a noisy time.

But XMAS is different. When I was in school taking algebra, it took some time for me to grasp that the subject is essentially simple - all you have to do is find the value of X - the unknown quantity. Think how often you see Christmas written as Xmas: in this case, XMAS becomes "The Festival of the Unknown", and sadly, to so many people, that is what CHRISTMAS is - the celebration of someone or something of which they have little or no knowledge. Whilst we do not know the exact date of the birth of Jesus, many years ago, tradition established the 25th December as the day when we commemorate his birth and by so doing, we are celebrating the birth of someone who has become part of our everyday life. In so many ways we have learnt of God, in the person of Jesus Christ, being with us day by day, so our festivities at

Christmas are for someone we know, and whose presence we appreciate - NOT for an unknown being.

I can recall, as a child, going to my grandparent's house on Christmas Day. There was an empty chair at the head of the table: I was told that that was where Jesus would be sitting if he was present. Probably, that won't be happening anywhere this year - to so many the person of Jesus seems to have been removed from our thinking. Let me put that in context by telling you a simple but charming story. A family had the custom of allowing the youngest member of the family to "be Father Christmas" and distribute the presents under the Christmas tree. When Sarah was 6 yrs old, it was her turn - so she gave out what was a large number of parcels - and then proceeded to crawl all round the tree. Her father asked her - "What are you doing?" Her reply was - "I thought that this is Jesus' birthday, but I guess we all forgot to buy him a present!"

May the love and the blessing of the Christ Child be with you all, not only at this Christmastide, but also throughout 2009.

Rev. Donald Bish

A message from Gwen and Les Wraight in New Zealand



Hi Everybody,

How is winter? Not too hot here today, only 25 degrees.

We have now moved down off the mountain where it was snowing a lot but it is much better in Taupo. We are renting a house with Paul and Sharon while we look for a house. Not too sure what we really want at the moment. We have looked both in the country and nearer to town. The country ones are too large with 5 or 6 paddocks and the town ones with too small a garden. We shall keep looking - never mind we have only been here a short time.

It will be strange having Christmas on the beach, put another sausage on the barbie, All for now, be in touch soon.

Love Gwen

The twelve days of Christmas was originally written to help Catholic children in England remember different articles of faith during the persecution by Protestant Monarchs. The 'true love' represented God and the gifts all different ideas.

- 1 The partridge in a pear tree was Christ.
- 2 Turtle doves = The Old and New Testaments
- 3 French hens = Faith, Hope and Charity - The Theological Virtues
- 4 Calling birds = The Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
- 5 Golden rings = The first five books of the Old Testament, the Pentateuch, which relays the history of man's fall from grace.
- 6 Geese a-laying = the six days of creation
- 7 Swans a-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
- 8 Maids a-milking = the eight beatitudes
- 9 Ladies dancing = the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 Lords a-leaping = the Ten Commandments
- 11 Pipers piping = the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 Drummers drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

The Grace Family

Pictured below are Jack, Janie and Danny Grace, in the Kings Head on Thursday 27th November, who after over 25 years in Grafty Green are moving to Devon.





Sue's Yoga Classes

YOGA FOR GOOD HEALTH

* BALANCING * ENERGISING * DE-STRESSING * MAINTAINING
FITNESS *

at

Grafty Green Village Hall
Church Road

Thursday Mornings

8th January – 12th February 2009

Mixed ability class - suitable for beginners

9.30 – 11 £5 a session

And yoga for Mums with Baby

Also Thursday Mornings

11.15 – 12.30

£5 a session

*Wear clothes that allow free movement and bring a small
blanket.*

For further details contact Sue Burch on 01622 850381

Yoga for maintaining or regaining youthful agility, strength, stamina and relief
from stress

Can't Cook - Want to Cook?

Teenage cooking event in Grafty Green Village Hall
on

Monday 29th December 2008 10a.m. to 12 noon

**Please complete the form below to book by 21st December and
send to either:**

Yvonne Fletcher 07778773943 @ Underlea

Sue Burch 01622 850381 @ Myrtle House

Who are organising and supervising the event.

The number of places available is limited.

All ingredients supplied and there will be no charge! Yes it's
FREE!

You will go home with either a chicken casserole or a shepherd's
pie (for two) and an apple pie.

When booking please state which first course dish you want to
cook.

✂-----

Teenage cooking event in Grafty Green Village Hall

Monday 29th December 2008 10a.m. to 12 noon

Name _____ Age _____

Contact details _____

Shepherd's Pie Chicken Casserole

Parent/Guardian consent:

I agree to let my daughter/son take part in this event

Signed _____ date _____

The Grafty Gourmet

As Christmas is fast approaching, I thought I would theme this month's recipe accordingly. This is an ideal starter for your Christmas Dinner, and is simple to make. Preparation time is about 20 minutes and cooking is about 25 minutes. Serve with a leafy salad.

SMOKED SALMON SOUFFLES WITH DILL

(Serves 4)

50g/2oz Unsalted Butter

50g/2oz Plain Flour

300ml/½ Pint of Milk

3 Eggs

Salt and Freshly Ground Black Pepper

1 Egg White

175g/6oz Chopped Smoked Salmon

Extra Smoked Salmon cut into strips

1 tbs Chopped Dill

Extra Sprigs of Dill for Decoration

1. Heat the butter in the pan and add the flour. Cook for 1 minute over a low heat, stirring. Take off the heat and gradually stir in the milk. Place back on a low heat and stir until thickened.
2. Beat eggs and season with salt and pepper. Beat into the flour, butter and milk mix. Whisk the egg white until stiff, and fold this into the mixture. Then fold in the chopped smoked salmon and chopped dill.
3. Butter 6 ramekins and spoon the mix into each one. Smooth the top of each mix with a knife or spoon.
4. Bake in a pre-heated oven, Gas 5 or 190 degrees for 25 minutes or until risen and golden. (If using an electric oven, cook without the fan on).
5. Remove from the oven and serve each decorated with the strips of salmon, placed in curls on the top, and a sprig of dill. Serve with a leafy salad.

Have a Happy Christmas
The Grafty Gourmet

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

Find the missing word?	
1	Roy _____, Singer known as "Big O"
2	_____ Wine, 1978 Hit for Elkie Brooks
3	A _____ Day's Night, A Beatles No 1 Song
4	_____ Street Preacher's, A Welsh Band
5	You _____ Hurry _____, Sony by The Supremes 1966 & Phil Collins 1982
6	_____ John B, A Beach Boys Hit
7	Waterloo _____, A No 1 Hit for The Kinks
8	_____ of Matchstick Men, An early 60's Hit for Status Quo
9	Rubber _____, A Hit song for 10cc
10	_____ Flamingo, A song by Manfred Mann

Grafty Green Heating Oil Syndicate

Grafty Green has its own Heating Oil Syndicate. We have over 200 members who benefit from cheaper Heating Oil when ordered in bulk. If you are prepared to buy at least 500 Litres 3 or 4 times a year and are fed up with Oil Tankers trundling through your village every week causing damage to our roads, not to mention the environmental cost and you want to join, email europa.13@btinternet.com or call Keith Anderson on 01622 858350. We now reach out to over 25 villages in the Ashford and Maidstone area. This club is non profit making.

Keith Anderson

Grafty Garden Cuttings – December

The garden magazines all say "now is the time to take hardwood cuttings from your trees and shrubs. It's easy and you will soon have many new plants to grow-on and plant out". It is, but who wants dozens of the same buddleia, forsythia, weigelia etc (unless the odd one is to replace an old tired specimen). Not many of us. Fruit bushes like blackcurrants or gooseberries, maybe so if anyone wants to try their hand at rooting cuttings. Perhaps the best solution is to visit friends gardens and swap a few instead.

Time to look back at the past year - well, maybe not as it really was too dismal. Wet, cloudy and late frosts that ruined the stone fruit crops, those little munching monsters on the cabbages and now pigeons stripping the holly berries so early. I have cut some branches and put into water, plus swathing some in-situ with fleece, just to save a few for Christmas. We hope the birds leave the mistletoe alone too, as it has more berries than ever before. Counter to belief, it does little harm to any healthy tree it infests, be it apple, crab apple, poplar or lime unless they are old and sick anyway when it might just hasten their demise.

The usual advice for this time of year: place wormeries and planted containers into shelter or protect them with a jacket of bubble wrap. Pond pumps and water features should be removed, cleaned and stored frost-free and a ball or similar floated on the pond, to stop it freezing over completely. Ice should never be hammered to break it, for the shock can kill fish.

I have begun the winter clean-up for, despite wanting to keep as much undergrowth as possible for the wildlife, if I leave it all until the spring I shall never finish the job. I have also made a start on reviving one of the borders, but with everything so wet and stodgy, there are just a few holes and a great number of well trodden plants to show for my efforts. Not good.

Winter pruning can begin as well and the clearing of the vegetable garden, plus leaf collecting and as much as possible composted: no seed heads of invasive weeds. They should be binned or burnt. If not in use, clean out and disinfect greenhouses, pots and trays and leave well ventilated, to dry out.

Check for mouldy leaves and caterpillar damage to overwintering plants, also root damage by the vine weevil grubs for pests and diseases enjoy indoor protection as much as the plants. Keep watering to a minimum and avoid splashing the leaves. Stored potatoes need good protection from frost but should not be kept too warm, as they will begin to shoot.

Christmas for me, is always made more festive by a poinsettia or three. Look out for well branched plants that are sturdy, with healthy, dark green leaves down to soil level, not rocking in the pot and at least 5 heads of coloured bracts and if the bracts have little yellow and red flowers in the centre, so much the better.

Merry Christmas

Rosemary Smith

Can you read these right the first time?

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- 19) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 20) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?



Get into the Christmas Spirit

at

Platts Heath School Christmas Fair

Saturday 6th December

3pm until 6pm

Tea & Cakes, Secret Room, Tombola, Grand Prize Raffle, Craft Stalls, Mulled Wine, Hot Food and of course Santa.

You will find us on Headcorn Road, Platts Heath

St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath

Once again our quiz night was a great success making £226 profit, with John and Helen making it a most enjoyable evening. We nearly needed a shoehorn to fit everyone in, it was quite cosy.

At long last the chairs for the Little Angels group have arrived so now they are able to sit at tables and do their puzzles and painting. Any mum who wishes to join the group is welcome to contact Karen Yardley the group leader on 858208 or go along on Monday mornings at 10am - 12noon.

May I remind the Line Dancers there will not be a class on 4th December and the Christmas party is 11th December? Anyone wishing to come along to the party night for a taster of Line Dancing will be welcome and admission will be free.

Talking of Christmas I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during the year and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Finally if anyone wishes to hire the hall they can by contacting me on 858891 or Duffrey Robinson on 850463.

Patricia Dibley Secretary St Edmunds Trustees

Grafty Green Gardening Club



- ❖ On December 2nd we will be having a practical/social evening making a decoration for the Christmas table or for the door. With this in mind, if you have any seed heads, cones or greenery that you can bring on the night please save them for us. We will be providing the oasis and other floristry items; you might like to bring your own secateurs/scissors. We will also be providing wine/juice and nibbles.

Sue Burch

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	Ball	Eaten	Tiger	Moth
2	Charge	Girl	Note	
3	Farm	Poker	Press	
4	Grid	Pig	Works	
5	Berth	Boy	Nation	
6	Bitter	Result	South	
7	Power	Spanner	Wall	
8	Floor	Open	Seating	
9	Ebb	Mark	Way	
10	Broad	Shadows	Type	
11	Long	Prison	Half	
12	Foot	Under	Knit	
13	Finger	News	Small	
14	Hanging	Laundry	Ball	
15	Spilt	Skin	Boat	
16	Line	Coat	Band	

The English Language !!!

Let's face it - English is a crazy language.

There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You lovers of the **English language** might enjoy this.

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that is "UP."

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends. And we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen.

We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car . At other times the little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night.

We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP ! To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4th of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP

When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things UP. When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry UP

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP, so..... it is time to shut UP ...!

Yvonne Keeling



Egerton Telecottage

Parents Aware!

Situated in the centre of the village of Egerton, the Telecottage is run by volunteers and offers computer courses for all levels, starting with the absolute beginner.

A new course will begin in the New Year dealing with the ever growing issue of

'Internet Safety and Computer Protection at Home'.

Aim of the course:

The course is aimed primarily at parents wishing to protect their children on the Internet and also at grandparents, aunts, uncles, and school staff. The course is designed to:

- Raise awareness of Internet threats
- Provide low tech tips for checking children's online activities and an explanation of popular parental control strategies

Subjects covered include:

- Internet awareness & threats
- Protecting children online
- Understanding and updating anti-virus software

To book onto this course or any of the other courses we offer, or for further information, please telephone Sylvia Tillman on 01233 756050

There will be further classes in the New Year including a peep into Ebay where perhaps you could sell some of those unwanted Christmas gifts!

Remember we have a free drop-in session every Saturday morning between 10am to 12 noon – come along and meet some of the team, log on to the internet or just and have a coffee and a chat. We would be very happy to see you.

The December Night Sky

At the start of December the Sun is in the constellation of Ophiuchus, and is moving into Sagittarius on 17th December.

The shortest day of the year is Sunday 21st December. This is the Winter Solstice, when the Sun reaches its most southerly point in the sky. Full Moon will occur on Friday 12th December, and rises in the northeast at sunset. New Moon is on Saturday 27th December.

At the end of December, Mercury is setting about an hour after the Sun. It can be seen to the lower left of Jupiter, but is not as bright. There will be much better views of this planet early next month.

Venus is now a brilliant 'Evening Star' and can be seen in the south-western sky just after sunset. At the start of December it sets about 6.30 pm, and by the end it will be setting about 8 pm. Venus is moving rapidly north-eastwards out of Sagittarius and into Capricornus on the 17th.

Mars will not be visible this month as it is in conjunction with the Sun on 5th December. I will, however, return to Mars to give you an update on Nasa's Phoenix Lander, which I mentioned in my June article.

The giant planet Jupiter is low in south-western sky after sunset, and is to the right of Venus. Jupiter gradually sinks into the twilight, and by the end of the month it will be difficult to see. Saturn rises in the middle of the night, and is high in the southern sky at dawn. It is moving very slowly south-eastwards in the constellation of Leo.

Now back to Mars. Early last June Nasa's Phoenix Lander made its successful yet perilous descent onto the surface of Mars. This was Nasa's second attempt to explore the poles following the failure of the Mars Polar Lander in 1999, when the computer shut down the descent engine.

The mission was a great success, sending detailed pictures of different types of terrain, and carrying out experiments such as measuring the pH of Mars's soil. Unfortunately, as temperatures fell to -130°C in Mars's arctic wastes, the Phoenix is no longer operational, and will never rise again.

John Maunder

PETER MANLEY AND SPECIAL GUEST Exhibition Darts Match

PETER 'ONE DART' MANLEY PDC PROFESSIONAL DART
PLAYER FORMER WORLD NO 1 AND SPECIAL GUEST
BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA WORKING MENS CLUB
SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 2008
DOORS OPEN 7PM (MATCH STARTS AT 8PM)

TICKET PRICE £12.00 BUY IN ADVANCE TO ENSURE YOU CAN
GET IN!

PHONE LEE 07894 715251
OR WAYNE 07903 587343

TICKET INCLUDES ENTRANCE TO CLUB AND PLAY OFF ON THE
29th NOVEMBER AT 11.30 AM TO SEE IF YOU CAN WIN YOUR PLACE
TO PLAY PETER ! TOE THE OCHE 12.30PM. 10 SPACES UP FOR
GRABS!!

IF YOU CANNOT MAKE THE PLAY OFFS THERE IS AN
OPPORTUNITY TO
BID ON THE NIGHT TO PLAY PETER, AND ALL THE PROCEEDS GO
TO
THE KENT AIR AMBULANCE FUND

COME AND HAVE FUN!! YOU DONT WANT TO MISS IT!! DARE TO
WEAR
THE FAMOUS PINK SHIRT !!

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Maidstone Borough Council has now issued the timetable for this service up to 22nd February 2009. Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during this period:

Grafty Green

Saturday 20th Dec: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd
Saturday 21st Feb: 13:30 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

Saturday 1st Feb: 12:15 – 13:00 -: Green Lane

Ulcombe

Saturday 6th Dec: 07:45 – 08:30 -: Lodge Gardens (cul-de-sac)
Sunday 8th Feb: 11:15 – 12:30 -: Lodge Gardens (cul-de-sac)

Lenham

Saturday 20th Dec: 09:00 – 10:30 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Boughton Rd
Saturday 21st Feb: 07:45 – 08:45 -: Lenham Heath Rd - Boughton Rd

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 and 2008 can be viewed. You even get the front cover in colour!!!

This web site also hosts all the minutes of Parish Council Meetings and give details of up-coming events in the Village Hall. The below link will get you there:

www.boughtonmalherbepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Music Notes - December

December – the month of Christmas Concerts and carol services – even though the feast of Christmas doesn't begin until the 25th ! There will be so many events demanding our attention this month that any selection is rather arbitrary. Of course your local carol services are key; I have included a few others - from the very many – in my list for the month:

Saturday 6th December, 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone – Maidstone Symphony Orchestra with Michael Thompson perform Richard Strauss's *Horn Concerto No. 2* and Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No.5*. Tickets 01622 736392

Saturday 13th December, 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone – Maidstone Choral Union's Christmas Concert. Always a very popular event. Tickets 01622 726193

Sunday 14th December, Service of lessons and carols at 6.00pm at St. Nicholas' church, Leeds.

Tuesday 16th December at Bradbourne House, East Malling – Piano recital by the brilliant young French pianist Francois Salignat. Alban Berg's *piano sonata* of 1907, and works by Chopin, Ravel, Mozart & Beethoven. Tickets at door; information (only) 01732 843129

Brian Hardy

Harrietsham Carol Service

Come and join us for the Harrietsham Christmas Carol Service, on Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm organised by Len Valley Christian Union. We will enjoy a mixture of readings and poems, carols and anthems. Graham Cray, the Bishop of Maidstone and the Bishop for Mission in the Diocese of Canterbury will be preaching. Bishop Graham's special concerns are the engagement of the Gospel with contemporary culture, youth ministry and the theology of renewal. He has been chairman of the Greenbelt Festival and is currently chairman of the Soul Survivor Trust and a member of the Council of the Evangelical Alliance. He chaired the working party which wrote the Mission Shaped Church report on church planting and fresh expressions of church.

The retiring collection will go to Maidstone Street Pastors. After the service you are welcome to stay behind for refreshments, to talk to Bishop Graham and the LVCU committee.

Pamela Cuerden

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Ball	Eaten	Tiger	Moth
2	Charge	Girl	Note	Cover
3	Farm	Poker	Press	Stud
4	Grid	Pig	Works	Iron
5	Berth	Boy	Nation	Wide
6	Bitter	Result	South	End
7	Power	Spanner	Wall	Socket
8	Floor	Open	Seating	Plan
9	Ebb	Mark	Way	Tide
10	Broad	Shadows	Type	Cast
11	Long	Prison	Half	Term
12	Foot	Under	Knit	Wear
13	Finger	News	Small	Print
14	Hanging	Laundry	Ball	Basket
15	Spilt	Skin	Boat	Banana
16	Line	Coat	Band	Waist

	Find the missing word?
1	Roy Orbison, Singer known as "Big O"
2	Lilac Wine, 1978 Hit for Elkie Brooks
3	A Hard Day's Night, A Beatles No 1 Song
4	Manic Street Preachers, A Welsh Band
5	You Can't Hurry Love, Sony by The Supremes 1966 & Phil Collins 1982
6	Sloop John B, A Beach Boys Hit
7	Waterloo Sunset, A No 1 Hit for The Kinks
8	Pictures of Matchstick Men, An early 60's Hit for Status Quo
9	Rubber Bullets, A Hit song for 10cc
10	Pretty Flamingo, A song by Manfred Mann

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday/Main Services – December 2008

7th December St. Nicholas (2nd Sunday after Advent)

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Family Service
11.00am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Family Service

14th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
10.15am Harrietsham Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham Family Service
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion
3.00pm Boughton Malherbe Christingle Family Service
7.00pm Holy Cross Bearsted Taize Service

21st December 4th Sunday of Advent

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion
3.00pm Boughton Malherbe 9 Lessons and Carols
6.30pm Harrietsham 9 Lessons and Carols
6.30pm Lenham 9 Lessons and Carols

24th December Christmas Eve

3.00pm Harrietsham Crib Service
3.00pm Ulcombe Crib Service
3.00pm Boughton Malherbe Crib Service
6.30pm Lenham Crib Service
11.15pm Harrietsham Midnight Holy Communion
11.15pm Ulcombe Midnight Holy Communion
11.15pm Lenham Midnight Holy Communion

25th December Christmas Day

08.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Family Service and Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Family Service and Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham Family Service and Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Family Service and Holy Communion

28th December Holy Innocents (1st Sunday of Christmas)

8.00am Lenham BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Benefice Service Lenham with Holy Communion

In addition to the main Sunday Services in Church the following events might be of interest to you

Tuesday 2nd December 6.30pm Lenham Church Cub Scouts Carol Service

Sunday 7th December 3.30pm a short service in The Hospice, Preston Hall Maidstone

Tuesday 9th December 6pm Carols in Harrietsham School

Wednesday 10th December 7.30pm Carol singing with the Salvation Army starting from the green (opposite the Mace shop)

Monday 15th December Swadelands School in Lenham Church

Tuesday 16th December 1pm Platts Heath Infants in Lenham Church

Tuesday 16th December 7pm Ulcombe Church 9 Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 17th December 10am Lenham Primary School in Lenham Church for their end of term service

Wednesday 17th December 7.30pm Harrietsham Church. Concert by Sutton Valence Choral Society

Friday 19th December 2pm Harrietsham Primary School in Harrietsham Church for their end of term service

Friday 19th December 2.15pm Ulcombe Primary School in Ulcombe Church for their end of term service

Saturday 20th December 7.30pm in Lenham Church. A Concert by The Kent Police Choir (contact Vera Congdon 01622 859913 for more information and cost of tickets)

Monday 22nd 6pm meet at Harrietsham Village Hall for Carol singing around the 3 Care Homes in Harrietsham

St. Peter's Catholic Church, Bearsted

Button Lane, off Cavendish Way, Ashford Road, ME15 8NJ

Mgr Timothy Galligan Phone: 736100

Web www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

- Dec 23rd 6.00 pm Family Carol Service
(Younger children especially welcome)
- Dec 24th 6.00 pm First Mass of Christmas
11.30 pm Carols and Christmas Midnight Mass
- Dec 25th 10.30 am Christmas Day Mass

Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Harrietsham

Rectory Lane (off East Street)

Mgr Timothy Galligan Phone: 736100

Web www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

- Dec 25th 8.45 am Christmas Morning Mass

"Talk about the pews....." (G K Chesterton)

The battle of the pews rages in many rural churches. The armies fight from entrenched positions. Those opposed to their removal use slogans such as, "over my dead body" while the modernisers provide practical reasons for the reduction of some, if not all, pews. Pews are news! I heard recently that a member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee had described a church in another part of the county as "over pewed!"

As a former churchwarden (no axes to grind now!) I jumped at the opportunity to attend a meeting of Sanctuary UK in Christ Church, Spitalfields, at which Sir Roy Strong was the main speaker. His most recent book, "A Little History of the English Country Church" (Vintage £9.99) has now been published in paperback.

Sir Roy's main points provide useful facts for any discussion about the beautiful village churches in our Diocese. Let me list a few:

- Never forget that for 8 centuries the Christian church managed without special buildings.

- Church buildings have always been subject to change, e.g. during the Reformation, by the Tractarians and by the keen Victorian modernisers.
- There has been a demographic change since churches were first built. In 1800 80% of the English population was rural but by 1900 80% lived in towns thus making many village churches redundant.
- Three of the best attended annual services were introduced comparatively recently and have nothing to do with the Gospel though they are useful in attracting worshippers. These are Remembrance Sunday, a sad inclusion after the Great War; Mothering Sunday which saw life in 1945 and Harvest Festival which was a Victorian innovation.

Sir Roy concluded that conservation is an outmoded term. What is needed is adaptation. "Unless you allow a building to change you will kill it." He was critical of Simon Jenkins recent popular book on English churches because the author is an unbeliever who denies that the buildings are monuments of faith. This statement is at odds with Sir Roy's contention that a church building is a "place of revealed faith."

He said that PCC's must decide whether they want small defensive congregations or small vibrant churches. He encouraged the involvement of whole communities in discussions about church buildings with a view to making them more widely used.

It was an interesting day with the added bonus of Tracey Emin being one of the speakers. She is not a Christian but lives near Christ Church and described it as "my church"; a place where she goes for peace and inspiration.. I have no doubt that there are many in our village who would use similar words to describe St. Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe if only it could be left unlocked.

Joan Drury

Mr Albert Cuckow

Last month the funeral of Mr Cuckow took place at Vintners Park. He was 87 and had worked on local farms including Boughton Place and Ivy House. Before he moved to Headcorn he and his family lived in a cottage near the King's Head and his daughters still recall Grafty Green.

Harrietsham Carol Concert December 17th

Once again Christmas in Harrietsham starts with our Carol Concert by the Sutton Valence Choral Society in St John the Baptist's Church on Wednesday December 17th at 7.30pm.

Expect the usual mix of religious and secular pieces and readings performed to the impeccably high standards of the SVCS under the baton of Brian Gipps, plus the opportunity to get your own voices in trim for Christmas with a number of congregational carols.

Entry is free and seasonal refreshments will be provided afterwards. There will be a retiring collection, proceeds of which will be shared equally between the Friends of St John's and the Mayor of Maidstone's Charity Fund. Please give generously, using the Gift Aid envelopes which will be available so that we can reclaim tax on your donations.

Andrew Bond

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