

# Malherbe Monthly

Number 154  
May 2017



**Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath**

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

County Councillor	Jenny Whittle	734897
Borough Councillors	Martin Round Shellina Prendergast <a href="mailto:shellinaprendergast@maidstone.gov.uk">shellinaprendergast@maidstone.gov.uk</a>	890276 07818 048234
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	859549 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Chris King email <a href="mailto:boughtonmalherbepec@gmail.com">boughtonmalherbepec@gmail.com</a>	850711
Village Hall bookings and other matters	Carol Hulm email <a href="mailto:carolhulm@gmail.com">carolhulm@gmail.com</a> Mobile 07990 574214	853583
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Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dazzle	Gail Kelly	850671
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Neighbourhood Watch	Sue Burch	850381
Parish Council Website	<a href="http://www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk">www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk</a>	
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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 **June** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 ([mfhitchins@btinternet.com](mailto:mfhitchins@btinternet.com)) by **20<sup>th</sup> May**

**Front Cover:** Footpath between Boughton Place and Liverton Hill.  
Photo courtesy of Christine King

## News from St. Nicholas Church

**Morning Prayer** will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 9.30 a.m. in St. Nicholas Boughton Malherbe and on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at All Saints Ulcombe. You are very welcome to join these sessions.

**Bible Study/ House Group will be held** at Weirton Villa, Grafty Green, 18<sup>th</sup> May and on May 25<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> June. For further information about these Groups please ring Joan Drury on 01622 853766. For those of you who are interest we are a small group of people who meet to study passages from the Bible.

**Lent Lunches** These were a great success again this year . We held 5 lunches and are very grateful to the hostesses for opening their homes to us to meet in. We raised £508.70 which will be sent to Christian Aid for their fund raising week in May.

**A Confirmation Service** will be held at St. Nicholas Boughton Malherbe on 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00p.m. We have 3 candidates this year, Laura Hooker, Lily Goodwin and Jean Williams. The service will be conducted by Bishop Trevor Willmott assisted by Rev: Millie Hart. Please come along and support our candidates as they take this big step in their lives.

**Coffee Morning** Our monthly coffee mornings will resume this month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in the village hall Grafty Green 10.30am until 12.00 noon Do come along and share a coffee and homemade cake or cheese scones with a friendly chat.

**Gentlemen at Breakfast** will be on 27<sup>th</sup> May at the Dog and Bear Lenham at 8.00 a.m. where a full English Breakfast will be served costing £8.50 per head. To reserve a place please ring Sarah at the Church Office on 01622 850604 or James Hodgkinson on 01622 850137.

**Joan Davidson**

## Christmas market

The Friends of Ulcombe Church are planning a special **Christmas Market** on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December from 2.30 pm till 7 pm.

We are mentioning it now because we are hoping that those in the village who are into crafts of any sort might like to take a stall (£10 plus a raffle prize!). This will give you plenty of time to prepare your crafts for the stall.

We are hoping to have other things going on – children’s activities, tours up the tower, music, food and drink, Father Christmas, and a light hearted concert with songs and carols at the end.

Put it in your diary! - For more information, please contact Molly Poulter on 01622 842988

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Grafty Green**

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16th Century  
Coaching Inn  
haunted by  
"Dover Bill" -  
the Highwayman!**



**Traditional Sunday Lunches**

**Fresh Fish Fridays  
Lunches and Suppers**

**Booking Advisable  
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**Children's Room Beer Garden**

## **Weekly Yoga Classes In Grafty Green Village Hall:-**

*Feel more energetic and flexible, reducing stress levels*

Wednesdays at 7pm and Thursdays at 9.30 am

**New term starts** 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May for 8 weeks - no Yoga 8<sup>th</sup> June

Drop in at £8 a session

Each class is an hour and a half giving time to prepare and warm up the muscles for more intense stretches, and time for mindfulness, breathing technique and a deep relaxation.

For more information call me on 850381

Unwind, relax but yet energise – the magic of yoga!

*Susan Burch*

**Grafty Green Gardening Club** has been busy planning our contribution to the village fete on 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. We will be running some competitions which we hope you will enter; there are **cash prizes!**

- Three onions – largest by weight and girth
- Three onions – most artistically displayed
- Three runner beans – longest
- Three runner beans – most artistically displayed

Get planting!

- A hand tied posy made up of herbs and edible flowers known in medieval times as a 'tussie mussie'.

Entry forms available on the day – staging at the fete from 1pm.

**For children** (three age groups – under 8, under 12 and under 16)

- The largest diameter sunflower head.

Ulcombe and Platt's Heath Schools are taking part but if your child or grandchild does not go to either of those schools and would like to take part please let me know and I will provide the sunflower seeds and entry form.

**Sue Burch 850381**

## Grafty Green Gardening Club – Programme Of Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker/Event</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Jan 10	AGM and Sarah Morgan	Alpines in landscape design
Feb7	Tim Ingrams	Hellebores
March 7	Nikki Gammans	Bumblebee Conservation
April 4	Alison Marsden - and Spring Show	Front gardens – making the most of your house
<b>May 2</b>	<b>Steven Edney</b>	<b>Salutation Garden</b>
<b>May 6</b>	<b>Plant Sale 10am on the village green</b>	
June 4	Sunday afternoon Garden Safari around our village	
June 9 -11	Weekend away Somerset, Walnut Tree Hotel, North Petherton,	
July 4	Boldshaves, Woodchurch	
August 1	TBA	
Sept 5	Tram Hatch	
Oct 3	Stephen Harmer	History of Sissinghurst Garden Autumn Show
Nov7	Fiona Wemyss	Blue Leaf Plants
Dec 5	Meal	

May meeting talk and Plant Sale on the Village Green - On 2<sup>nd</sup> May come along to the Village Hall at 7.30pm and hear Steven Edney talk about the lovely SALUTATION GARDEN at Sandwich. This event is open to everyone. For non-members there is a small charge of £2.00 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits and an opportunity to catch up with friends and ask questions of our speaker.

Plant Sale on the Village Green - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am. (In the hall if wet!) Second hand garden tools stall - Home made Cake stall - Tea/Coffee served outside the Shop! Please come and join us on the morning!

A host of gardens are open this month in Kent including Hole Park 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Doddington Place 7<sup>th</sup> May, Scotney Castle 11 May and Godinton House and gardens 14<sup>th</sup> May. For further details of these and other gardens see in the Yellow Book.

Garden Safari - Grafty Green - June 4<sup>th</sup> We look forward to celebrating 20 years of the Gardening Club next month with an open garden event in and around the village. Look out for posters giving details nearer the event!

Tip of the Month - Beware of night frosts! Sow Chard, Leaf beet and Beans and plant Marrows and Courgettes. In the fruit patch prune Raspberries and put straw under strawberry plants. Around the garden keep an eye out for pests and diseases and keep mowing and feeding lawns.

**Carole Frost - Secretary - Grafty Green Gardening Club (01622) 757536.**

# GRAFTY GREEN PLANT SALE

ON THE GREEN  
SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MAY  
10 – 12  
VARIETY OF QUALITY HARDY  
PERENNIALS AND ANNUALS  
+ *second hand tools*

In the Village Hall if wet!  
TEA, COFFEE AND CAKES



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## Village Hall News

[www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk)

On **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.30 we will be holding our **Village Hall Committee AGM** at the Hall. Do, please, come along and have your say on the way the Hall is run, the fees we charge, the things we spend our money on, the events we organise, and so on. Better still, why not offer your services as a committee member? We'd love to have some new faces on the team, particularly younger folk and folk new to the village who could bring a new perspective to our deliberations. We have formal meetings only every 3 months and, in-between, groups of people take forward ideas for village events, investigate Hall improvements or undertake minor tasks to maintain the Hall, so the commitment is not huge.

Contact me if you'd like more info, or just turn up on the night – you can be assured of a warm, friendly welcome. Alternatively, if you have any ideas for future events or comments you'd like to make, do please email me at the address below.

If you would like to help on a particular project but not commit to an on-going role, here's an idea: We need help to run our **fete** – it's too big a job for the Hall Committee alone – so why not offer to lend a hand with that? Any assistance, large or small, on the day (**2<sup>nd</sup> September**) or beforehand, would be much appreciated. Indeed, the fete won't happen unless someone like you lends us a hand. So do contact me or Jon Thompson (01622 851351)... please! We need to know now if the proposed fete this year is viable.

We have leafleted most of the parish with appeals for help that have so far bourn little fruit, so please get in touch immediately if you can help in any way. The annual fete used to be a tradition in the village but died because of lack of volunteers. We have revived the concept in recent years but it will wither again if we can't get enough help.

Last month I trailed an idea to use the land at the rear of the Hall as a mini allotment for villagers. The area is unused at present and can become a bit of a wasteland if untended. The soil is poor, but the idea is that the Village Hall and Gardening Club would assist anyone interested to create raised beds (eg using sleepers filled with compost) in which they could grow whatever they wished for their own use. So far there has been little interest shown so, if the idea appeals to you, this is your last chance to let us know. A decision will be made on this at our AGM in a few days time.

Perhaps your own garden is dedicated to flowers or is purely a children's play area – or perhaps your children would like their own flower or vegetable plot – or perhaps you would just like to garden more convivially with like-minded neighbours, sharing ideas, labour and produce. If so, do contact me on the email address below to express an interest in principle.

*Richard Pilborough,*

Hall Committee Chairman.

Email: [pilborough@grafty.plus.com](mailto:pilborough@grafty.plus.com)

## Cowslips and Forget-me-nots



Photo courtesy of Christine King

**Garden Safari in GRAFTY GREEN  
9 Gardens open**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 11 am to 5 pm

Celebrating 20 years of Grafty Green Gardening Club.  
Teas, cakes and ice-creams available.

Tickets and guide, £5 per person, children under 12 free, available  
from the village shop or by phoning 01622 850381.

Anyone who would like to include a meal in their day can book a  
light lunch, eg ploughman's or sandwiches, at the Kings Head,  
Grafty Green, ME17 2AN, by phoning 01622 850259, by the 30th  
May; (booking is essential)

**Helen Whately**

**MP for Faversham and Mid Kent**

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## **Parish Clerk Boughton Malherbe Parish Council.**

### **Chris King**

As those of you who are regular readers of the Malherbe Monthly you will have seen over the past six months advertisements for a new Parish Clerk for the Parish of Boughton Malherbe.

Well sadly on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2017 Chris King retired from the role of Parish Clerk. Chris has been in the "job" for the past five years .In that time she has worked very hard to bring the Parish Council up to date ,introducing computers !!!,and ensuring that all members of the Parish Council complied with the ever changing regulations and requirements of Government both central and local. Not an easy role !!

As a Parish Council we will greatly miss Chris's advice and guidance as Clerk ,legal officer and financial officer. The Parish Council would like to express their most grateful thanks for all the work and support that Chris has put in on behalf of the whole parish.

Chris –a very happy retirement and please don't go too far away as I am sure we will need to "pick your brains "

### **Chris Hume**

The Parish Council have been very fortunate to recruit a New Parish Clerk who took over Chris King's role just before Easter.

Chris Hume ,how convenient to have the same Christian name ,currently lives in Maidstone ,but he tells us that he did indeed live in Ulcombe for a while. In addition as a great walker Chris knows most of the footpaths through the Boughton Malherbe Parish.

Chris has a very wide and knowledgeable background in public service that the Parish Council are looking forward to being able to take advantage of this experience. I am sure all of you will join the Parish Council in welcoming Chris to the role of Parish Clerk for Boughton Malherbe Parish Council.

Contact Details Phone 07972 630555

E mail [boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com](mailto:boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com)

**Robert Turner**  
**Chairman Boughton Malherbe Parish Council**

PS There will be a presentation to Chris King in the Village Hall on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May** after the next Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting. EVERYONE is welcome to join us

# ‘A KENTISH KITCHEN’

The Tithe Barn, Lenham

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2017

10am – 4pm

This indoor event will take part in the largest 14th century Tithe Barn in the country, situated in the beautiful village of Lenham. Following the great success of previous Mid-Winter Markets at the barn (this event is being held again on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017), we are pleased to present you with this chance to join us to celebrate what the producers of Kent have on offer and exceptional treasures on show created by our local makers.

Delicious homemade food and entertainment will be available throughout the day. This amazing barn is rarely open to the public so the opportunity to soak up the traditional atmosphere is not to be missed.

For further information please contact Sharon Prior at Orchids on 0776 401 401

## Free networking events

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.** The Dog & Bear Hotel, Lenham Square. A special visit from Kevin Collier to provide more information about getting older in today's society, for business people and others. **Wrinkly** is an organisation which aims to join the dots with care for the elderly and vulnerable across Kent. We do this in many ways. We host events for the general public where we invite providers of services to community halls and events. We hold afternoon tea parties where people can get together and chat about what is going on. We organise networking events for everyone working in the elderly and vulnerable sector.

These networking events are not just for carers and care homes but plumbers, electricians, accountants, clothing designers, therapists and anyone who wants to get to know other providers in their area. We want to make the lives of our elderly and vulnerable clients full of joy and laughter not isolation and loneliness. 5:45pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> May in The Dog & Bear Hotel in Lenham.

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May** with Lenham Valley Business Association at The Weald of Kent Golf Club in Headcorn. "An Employers Guide to Apprenticeships" Mid Kent College is a significant provider of Apprenticeship training and currently supports over 900 apprentices located in businesses across the region. This presentation will provide employers with an update on the latest Apprenticeship reforms and guide employers through the process of recruiting, training and supporting an Apprentice. Chris Hare, Executive Director for Enterprise & Employer Engagement, Executive Team Mid Kent College

More information on 01622 820841 from **Alan Reading, Organiser.**

## May Music notes

A very mixed bag this month, which took a lot of research to unearth, but it offers a really good and broad selection of concerts:

- Thursday 4th May, there is a lunchtime concert (12.30-2.15) at St. Dunstan's church, Stone St., Cranbrook, by Musicians from Maidstone Grammar School. Concert starts at 12.30, refreshments available from 12.00pm. Free admission.
- Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May, at St. Mary's Church, West Malling, the Maidstone Singers join with West Malling Community Choir to put on a pre-tour concert .For more information call 01732 521221
- *Alternatively*, if you would like to participate yourself, at Holy Cross Church, church lane, Bearsted on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May the Big Sing are providing a singing workshop with Bob Chilcott from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Hot drinks provided but bring your own food. To book a place call 01233 820298.
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm at The Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park, the Maidstone Symphony Orchestra's last concert of the season brings Dvořák's great *Cello Concerto* played by a brilliant young Bulgarian, Michael Petrov, together with Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique Symphony*. Pre-concert talk presented by Steve Migden from 6.40pm to 7.10pm. Tickets at the door.
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 8.00am to 5.00pm, the Invicta Jazz Orchestra will be providing "Proms in the Park" on the Riverstage at Whatman Millennium Riverside Park , Maidstone, Kent ME16 OGB. Information from 01622 758611

I'm afraid I can no longer obtain radio and TV information earlier enough for our magazine deadlines, so with regret I leave that research to the readers.

**Brian Hardy**

## Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council, which will be the AGM and the Annual Parish Council meeting, will be held in Grafty Green Village Hall on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 19.30.**

The Agenda for these meetings and the minutes for the last meeting (and all previous minutes) can be viewed on the Boughton Malherbe Parish Website or by contacting the Parish Clerk

## **Grafty Gourmet**

A great seasonal recipe that only takes 15 minutes to prepare. The slow cooking process is well worth the wait. The lamb is so tasty and tender after cooking. It just falls apart.

### **Slow Roasted Lamb Shoulder**

5 garlic cloves, peeled, plus 1 full head  
of cloves separated but unpeeled  
3 table spoons of rosemary, chopped,  
plus 2 large bunches rosemary  
2 tablespoons of soy sauce

1 shoulder of lamb  
4 onions, peeled and cut into large  
chunks  
150ml of dry white wine  
300ml of strong chicken or lamb stock

1. Heat the oven to 140 degrees C, (120 degrees C if using a fan oven). Using a pestle and mortar, make a paste with the 5 peeled garlic cloves, chopped rosemary and soy sauce. Slash the top of the lamb shoulder 5 or 6 times – make the cuts around 1cm deep. Then rub the paste into these cuts, spreading the remainder over the flesh.

2. Place the onions, unpeeled garlic cloves and half the rosemary sprigs in the centre of a large, deep roasting tin, and sit the lamb on top of it. Season it with lots of black pepper and a little salt, then scatter over the remaining rosemary. Pour the white wine and the stock into the roasting tin and cover with loose fitting foil, folding the edges tightly around the tin.

3. Roast in the oven for about 6 hours, until the lamb can be easily pulled from the bone using a fork. Then turn the oven up to 170 degrees C, (150 degrees C if using a fan oven). Remove the foil and roast the lamb for a further 20 minutes, until the top has become crisp and it has turned a rich dark-brown colour. Leave to rest for about 20 minutes, then serve with some roasted vegetables and the juices from the pan. If the juices look a bit fatty, pour into a jug and skim the fat off the top with a spoon.

## **Grafty Green Short Mat Bowls Club**

### **New Members Always Welcome - Join Us**

Every Tuesday at 2.00pm in the Village Hall, Gentle exercise, easy to learn, loan bowls available

Further information - Chris Wheal 01622 858100



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

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Bearded	Boarder	Rough	<b>Collie</b>
2	Cabin	Film	Neck	
3	Bee	Game	Park	
4	Bed	Maid	Pot	
5	Boy	Order	Ship	
6	Dustbin	Eye	Saucepan	
7	Blazer	Play	Primary	
8	Down	Dracula	Head	
9	Rag	Day	Mid	
10	Custom	In	Purpose	
11	Arts	Court	Law	
12	Fall	Rope	Wise	
13	Draw	Foot	Player	
14	Chest	Cob	Coco	
15	Curtail	Ore	Steam	
16	Fraud	Hidden	Housing	

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

	Find the missing word?
1	Green ____, Asian Drink
2	_____ Ann Duffy, The first female Poet Laureate
3	_____ Langsford, Wife of Eamonn Holmes
4	Tracey _____, High profile contemporary artist
5	_____ Lumpur, Capital of Malaysia
6	The _____, Strauss Waltz in 2001 'A Space Odyssey'
7	The _____ Back, A part of the Star Wars franchise
8	_____ Downey Jr, Played superhero Iron Man
9	Norman _____ Fletcher, Part played by Ronnie Barker
10	_____ House, Novel by Charles Dickens



# Who'd A Thought It?

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## All our yesterdays ... Sandway



This photograph, circa 1920, is of Hills Grocery and Drapery Shop at Sandway.

In 1882, it was owned by Raymond Thomas Thurstun and in 1907 was sold to Thomas Hales. John Percival Hills took over the shop from Thomas Hales in 1915 and remained until the 1930s, when Mr. and Mrs. Mickeljohn followed - Mrs Mickeljohn being remembered for being one of the few ladies of the time who wore a wig!

In the early 1950s a Mr. and Mrs. Giles took over for a short while before selling on to Mr. and Mrs. Henson in 1954. The Hensons remained until their retirement to Grafty Green in 1972, when the shop finally closed. They then moved to Ashford Road, Lenham.

The Post Office at Sandway was opposite the shop and was closed down in 1948, and moved across the road to the shop premises. When the shop closed the Post Office moved again, this time to Platts Heath Shop. Previous Post Masters included: 1882 - Robert Hughs; 1907 - Frederick Sitford; 1930s - Miss Sitford, daughter of Frederick, who carried on until 1948.

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**If you have any interesting news that you would like to share please send it to Mike Hitchins at [mfhitchins@btinternet.com](mailto:mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion in the next months issue**

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## Lenham Family Festival

The 2017 Lenham Family Festival is in the final planning stages now.

A wide variety of music acts have been booked for the main day on Saturday 10 June and they will be performing both inside and outside Lenham Community Centre.

We have also had confirmation that our popular face painting lady, Sharon, will be returning again this year and our friendly nail bar ladies will also be back, offering hand and foot massages in addition to painting nails.

As well as all the usual food and craft stalls, we are hoping to have a new attraction for 2017 - a selection of owls from Jams Owls which can be viewed and can also be held for a small charge. As long as we can find a site suitable for them that won't be too noisy, we think they will be a fantastic addition to the Lenham Family Festival, and it will be a great opportunity to see these beautiful owls up close and learn more about them.

This year we will be holding an extra raffle for youngsters in addition to the usual raffle for adults.

Don't forget the Festival also includes:

- A live music event at Lenham Social Club on Friday 9 June
- Music from Sixpenny Piece during the market in Lenham Square on Sunday 11 June
- The City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra concert on Saturday 17 June

Remember this community event will be raising funds for the Katy Piper Foundation and Lenham Primary School.

If you are an individual and would like to help us raise funds for these two very deserving causes, please come along to our final 2017 Festival Committee meeting which will take place on the last Monday of the month at 7.15pm in the Appleton Room at Lenham Community Centre. We are always pleased to welcome new faces.

We are still looking for volunteers to help out on the main day of the Festival with a variety of tasks, none of which are particularly onerous. If you would like to be involved in this way, please contact Gail on 01622 850126. She is compiling a list of names and contact details of willing helpers to be contacted nearer the time.

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- or click

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**TO REPORT:** Litter; fly tipping; abandoned vehicles; dog mess;  
noise:

- Call **01622 602202** (Environmental Issues MBC)

or click

<http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/report>

**TO REPORT** non-domestic Water Leaks:

- Call **0333 000 0002**

or click: <http://www.midkentwater.co.uk>

**TO REPORT:** Overgrown Footpaths click on:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way/report-a-on-a-right-of-way>

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## Christian Message May 2017

Term time is busy for many people with work or study, and this time last year was no exception for me: The last push to get an assignment submitted, was followed by bags hurriedly packed and the next morning, off we set: a rush at the airport, blue skies over land and sea, confusion over driving to our hotel, a late dinner and then – nothing. No rush, no bustle, no commitments – just time to do whatever, whenever, however – or to do nothing but sit, enjoy and reflect:

on the beauty of the surroundings;  
on the last year;  
on one's family or friends;  
on one's faith and Church life;  
or on the future.

Taking time to reflect on one's faith is a bit like a holiday. It gives us time away from busyness:

to read the Bible both for pleasure and for learning,  
to plan to exercise or put into practice what we learn,  
to feed from the beauty of God's creation,  
and to rest and cleanse our minds and souls.

Reflecting might be a first step into faith or a renewal of beliefs that may have dwindled.

If it is a first step it may seem daunting or alien, but it is worth a try. In Revelation 3 we hear the famous words:

*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."*

Jesus really wants us to open our hearts to him.

If it's a renewing of our faith we may rediscover the joy of prayer and a life with God at our side. In Romans 12 we can read:

*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

Whether we are turning to Christ for the first time, returning to faith, or seeking to strengthen our existing faith, the Lord will be there to guide us further. With this sort of nurture, we can develop the energy, thirst and curiosity to explore and learn more, enabling a deeper walk with God, even if life becomes hectic again.

**Pamela Cuerden**

## **A Flower Festival at the Good Shepherd**

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Rectory Lane, Harrietsham, ME17 1HS will be holding a Flower Festival in May. This is to celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday also the publication of the fascinating and unique history of the church which was constructed in 1881. It was built for the use of workers building the section of the railway between Maidstone East and Ashford. The theme of the festival will be the history of the church.

Come and enjoy our floral displays within the peace and tranquillity of our church hidden away in Rectory Lane.

A warm welcome awaits you on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017**. 10am to 4pm.

Refreshments available. We regret there is no wheelchair access. Free entry but donations welcome!

For more information contact:  
Fr. Geoffrey Pointer Tel: 01622 736100  
email: [parishpriest@catholic-bearsted.org.uk](mailto:parishpriest@catholic-bearsted.org.uk)  
[www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk](http://www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk)

## **Homelessness**

Homeless Care Maidstone have written to thank the members of the Len Valley churches for their ongoing support.

I quote from the letter: "You can be assured that every single item we collect will be received by those who need it most. Keeping the Day Centre going means that we are not only able to help the homeless men and women who come into the Centre but we are also able to reach out to families and people in our communities who are struggling."

A personal thank you from Sally Alexander and me to Rob and Nick Eastwood who assist the involvement of this village by providing space for the gifts of residents in the village shop.

**Joan Drury**

**The Christian Literature Crusade** Quarry Hill Road (opposite the railway station) Tonbridge is now closed on Mondays. Books can be ordered by telephone (01732 364897) or by email [tonbridge@clcbbookshops.com](mailto:tonbridge@clcbbookshops.com)

*The Len Valley Benefice*  
*Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe*  
Sunday/Main Services – **May 2017**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**9.30am** Lenham: Holy Communion

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

**9.30 am** Lenham: Breakfast service

**9.30 am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (Prayer Book)

**11.00 am** Ulcombe: Family Worship

**11.00 am** Lenham: Holy Communion

**3.30 pm** Harrietsham: GIFT family worship

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

**8.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion (Prayer Book)

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Service

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Lenham: Morning Worship

**6.30pm** Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

**10.30am** Chippendayle Lodge

**7.00pm** Boughton Malherbe: Confirmation Service with Bishop Trevor

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

**4.00pm** Lenham: **Messy Church**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Service

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Morning Worship

**9.30am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Morning Worship

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

**3.00pm** Lenham: **Rose Service**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May**

**8.00am** Dog & Bear, Lenham:

**Men's breakfast**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

**8.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion (Prayer Book)

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy Communion

**9.30am** Boughton Malherbe: Family Worship

**10.45am** Ulcombe: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Lenham: Family Worship



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First Aid Support – when **an ambulance has been called using 999** - Interim emergency support (first aid and AED defibrillator), prior to arrival of paramedics / ambulance, may be available (not 24/7) by calling Chris Wheal on 07979 864929 -this is a voluntary 'good Samaritan' facility for residents. It is hoped a SECAMB (ambulance) community first responder scheme may start in future

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)  
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or **01243 508866**

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Calor Gas *Emergencies* **08457 444999**  
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*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**  
*KFRS Community Volunteer – Chris Wheal* **01622 858100**

R.S.P.C.A *Emergencies* **0300 1234 999**  
Vet *24 Hour Pet Emergency Treatment Service* **01622 734555**

## Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Bearded	Boarder	Rough	Collie
2	Cabin	Film	Neck	Crew
3	Bee	Game	Park	Keeper
4	Bed	Maid	Pot	Chamber
5	Boy	Order	Ship	Tall
6	Dustbin	Eye	Saucepan	Lid
7	Blazer	Play	Primary	School
8	Down	Dracula	Head	Count
9	Rag	Day	Mid	Week
10	Custom	In	Purpose	Built
11	Arts	Court	Law	Marital
12	Fall	Rope	Wise	Guy
13	Draw	Foot	Player	Bridge
14	Chest	Cob	Coco	Nut
15	Curtain	One	Steam	Iron
16	Fraud	Hidden	Housing	Benefit

	Find the missing word?
1	Green Tea, Asian Drink
2	Carol Ann Duffy, The first female Poet Laureate
3	Ruth Langford, Wife of Farnon Holmes
4	Tracey Emin, High profile contemporary artist
5	Kuala Lumpur, Capital of Malaysia
6	The Blue Danube, Strauss Waltz in 2001 'A Space Odyssey'
7	The Empire Strikes Back, A part of the Star Wars franchise
8	Robert Downey Jr, Played superhero Iron Man
9	Norman Stanley Fletcher, Part played by Ronnie Barker
10	Bleak House, Novel by Charles Dickens



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