



Malherbe Monthly

Number 54
January 2009



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

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

County Councillor	Vacant	
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	Christine King email: christine-king@hotmail.co.uk	07710 457297
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 email: dickvenn@gmail.com	858915
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		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: mf.hitchins@virgin.net	858937
Mike Hitchins	Editor: mf.hitchins@virgin.net	858937
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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 February edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by **20th January**

Front cover: Local farmer Ken Alexander’s daughter Anne, being ordained at Christchurch Cathedral, New Zealand on the 29th Nov 2008. Anne (on the left of the photo) used to be a teacher at Platts Heath Primary School before moving to New Zealand.

News from St. Nicholas Church

We wish you all a very HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Christingle Service



Our Christingle Service was attended by 15 children and their families and was led by Sally Alexander and Joan Drury who explained to the children what each part of the Christingle signifies. The orange represents the world and the four cocktail sticks with dried fruit and sweets on are the fruits of the earth. The red ribbon around the Christingle represents the blood Christ shed for us and the candle in the top of the

orange is Christ the Light of the World. Thank you to all the ladies who made the Christingles.

Carol Service

The Carol Service on Sunday 21st December was very well attended. We had our usual candle light with the familiar carols and Christmas hymns. The Choir sang two not so well known carols, Lullay my Liking and The Shepherds Farewell. Our new Rector (Priest-in-Charge) Dick Venn gave the Christmas Address. Mulled wine and mince pies were served to everyone and there was a good amount of chat among friends and acquaintances - some returning to the Parish Church of their childhood for the service. Once again thank you to all those who gave towards the refreshments.

Questionnaire

There will be a questionnaire coming your way during the first few weeks of the New Year, as we try to provide you with a better church life and try to use the St. Nicholas Church building to a better advantage during the coming years. There will be a box in the Village Shop for you to post your return questionnaires and any comments. Please take a few moments to answer the questions - we really do want to hear your opinions.

Organist

Gordon Drake, our organist is looking to retire and so reluctantly we are looking for a new organist. Gordon, who is now in his eighties has been with us for a good many years and seldom misses a service.

The job is not too arduous as we only have few services during a month that require the organ. The first Sunday of the month in the morning and Evensong on third Sunday. Every fourth month there is a Benefice Service on the 4th Sunday and when there is a Fifth Sunday, and it is our turn, another Benefice Eucharist. There is also the occasional Wedding or Funeral.

We are told that although our organ is small it is a good little instrument and a good organist can make it sound fantastic. So if there is anyone you know who might be interested, please let a member of the PCC, Choir or a Warden know. The organist gets an extra fee for Weddings and Funerals as well as well as being paid for each service.

Joan Davidson

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

	Find the missing word?
1	___ Don't Preach, Song by Madonna & Kelly Osbourne
2	Stir ____, Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder prison comedy
3	Our Man in ____, Graham Green Novel
4	___ Simons, Roxy in Eastenders
5	Echo ___ ITV1 soap linked with moving wallpaper
6	___ Charles, US singer with Hit the Road Jack
7	Lex ____, Superman's adversary
8	___ Steptoe, Father in the old comedy
9	Stranger ___ ____, 1961 hit for Acker Bilk
10	___ Story, A Buzz Lightyear Movie



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

GRAFTY GREEN GARDENING CLUB 2009 PROGRAMME

Date	Topic	Speaker
6 th January	AGM + Vegetable growing - hints and tips	Sissinghurst gardener: Amy Cabey
3 rd February	Dry Garden	H. Newman
3 rd March	Butterflies	Steve Weeks
7 th April	Spring Show & River Medway Part 2	Graham Johnson
Saturday 9 th May	Plant Sale	
? May	Local garden visit	TBA
5 th June – 7 th June	Weekend visit to Hampshire	
12 th July	Lullingstone Castle – World Garden visit	
4 th August	Social at Myrtle House, Grafty Green	
1 st September	Autumn show & talk - TBA	
6 th October	Village Signs	Avice Harms
3 rd November	Kent in the 1900 century	Bob Ogle
1 st December	Gardening quiz and supper	

Further details from Sue Burch on 850381 or Rosemary Smith on 850526

- ❖ 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.

The Grafty Gourmet

Happy New Year everyone. This month's recipe is one that should take the chill out of the cold winter nights. Again, it's very simple, but very tasty. It can be served with dumplings and vegetables if desired.

BEEF IN BEER

(Serves 4 - 6)

900g (2lb) Stewing Steak
300ml (½ pint) Stout or Best Bitter
225g (8oz) Button Mushrooms halved
4 Medium Onions
15g (½ oz) Butter
2 Tablespoons Plain Flour
1 Tablespoon Vegetable Oil
1 Teaspoon Soft Brown Sugar
½ Mustard
1 Bay leaf

1. Pre-heat the oven to 180 degrees Centigrade (Gas Mark 4). Cut the Steak into 1 to 2 inch cubes, and slice the onions.
2. Heat the butter and oil in a large casserole dish and cook the meat for 10 minutes, until browned and sealed.
3. Remove the steak, and add the onions and fry until transparent. Then add the halved mushrooms, add the flour and stir well, allowing the flour to absorb the fat.
4. Return the steak to the pan, add the beer, mustard, bay leaf and sugar and stir well. Cover and cook in the oven for about 2 ½ hours or until tender.

The Grafty Gourmet

Grafty Garden Cuttings – January

Why not begin the New Year with a visit or two to someone else's garden? There are plenty out there with wonderful displays of winter colour and form and plenty of ideas to be gleaned. We can all visit the following, but RHS individual members can enter free during all or part of January: Wisley, Nymans, Denmans, Sheffield Park and Bedgebury. The Broadview garden at Hadlow College also has plenty of winter colour, and Bedgebury a new car park, visitor centre and trail that is child and wheelchair friendly, but there are many more gardens worth a visit at this time of year.

There are certain jobs that really should be tackled this month, weather permitting: if not already completed, finish pruning vines before the sap starts rising again, ditto wisteria and all fruit trees and bushes, (restricted forms should be pruned in the summer), and cut back late flowering clematis to within a foot or so of the ground.

Anyone wanting a challenge can have a go at trying to keep those Christmas present plants alive for another year or two: bulbs will last longer in flower, if kept just moist and in a cool room with plenty of light. Once flowering is over, cut off the spent heads and place the pot in a sheltered spot, outside, for the leaves to die back naturally. Store the dry bulbs and plant in the garden in the usual way in the autumn. They may come to nothing, but after a year or two, may bulk up and begin to flower.

Poinsettias can go on for years. Cut them back once the red bracts fade, pot on and grow like any other house plant for the summer, but be aware that white fly love them. In the autumn, they do need very long nights and short days to colour up again.

Primroses and polyanthus hate being indoors, so I would suggest potting them up individually as soon as possible, hardening them off somewhere sheltered and planting them out when conditions are favourable. Azaleas are grown in the smallest pots possible to encourage blooming, so they are pot-bound from the beginning, which means they need careful monitoring for dry compost - they should never be allowed to dry out or the flowers and leaves will drop and next year's flowers can also be compromised. Once they have faded pot them on into a container at least 2 sizes larger and always into lime-free compost and water with rain water, preferably at room temperature rather than from a freezing water butt. They can be stood outside for the summer and brought in once frosts are forecast in the autumn, although with our milder winters I have risked one or two, very successfully, in very sheltered sites in the ground year round.

Happy New Year

Rosemary Smith

Teenage Cooking Event

As advertised in last month's magazine, the Teenage Cooking Event took place in Grafty Green Village Hall on 29th December. It was an excellent creative and productive morning; wonderful pastry made as well as a chicken bake and a shepherd's pie.



Yvonne and Sue would like to thank Margaret Neaves for her help and support and all those who took part.

After such a successful session we would be interested to know of other skills that could be shared - any ideas or volunteers who would like to give their enthusiasm and skill to others, adults as well.



Yvonne Fletcher and Sue Burch

St Edmunds Centre Platts Heath

The first event at St Edmunds is a new venture, a karaoke evening on Friday 9th January an idea thought of by our chair lady and the toddler group ladies See separate advertisement for details.

I hope you will all come along and have a great time. Every time we put on an evening aimed at the villagers it is a great success and we are asked when the next event is.

I sincerely hope that some of the younger members of our community will start to have a few ideas giving us a wider range of events to enjoy.

The hall seats 60 people around tables or 80 people just seated with a small garden out the back so is a nice size for villagers use. Whilst we only have one parking bay mainly for any disabled vehicle owners or the loading and unloading of equipment needed for the day the hall is ideal for walking to and home again after a night out. The Nave area has become a small stage, which our school uses for their end of term plays. Anyone wishing to start an armature drama or dance group are welcome.

We have ambitions to purchase curtains for the stage area and a public address system Since Mr Canning installed plenty of power points along with the heating system last year there is no longer a problem with power points for lights and sound systems.

The Little Angels mothers and toddlers group had their Christmas Party and although 5 "little angels" were unable to attend due to the sickness which has been doing the rounds this year the others all had a really great time. They will be back on Monday 5th January 2009 at 10am-12noon and new mums are welcome. Telephone Karen Yardley for further details on 858208.

The Line Dancing starts again on 8th January 2009 at 8pm so if you have over indulged during the bank holiday and would like to try a different way to get rid of the weight gained and have a laugh with a friendly group of people - do come along and join us. Your first night will be free and then £3 per person.

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

**KARAOKE NIGHT
AT
ST EDMUNDS CENTRE
SCHOOL LANE PLATTS HEATH
ON
FRIDAY 9th JANUARY 2009
AT 7.30
£3 PER PERSON
TO BOOK A TABLE RING
KAREN 858208 OR MARGARET 858710**

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN REFRESHMENTS AND GLASSES

Lenham Wanderers Centenary Club Lottery Draw - December Results

1st Prize £30 - S. Davies
2nd Prize £12 - Emma Gee
3rd Prize £6 - Mrs B. Gill

Please contact Bill Taylor (01622 858714) or Roy Dayes (01622 850203) if you would like to purchase a ticket - £1 per month or £10 for a full year's membership. All proceeds go to Lenham Wanderers Football Club.

Under 11 Players Needed!

Our current Under 11s team is in need of extra players for the 2009-10 season. If you know of any Under 11 players (current school Year 6) who would like to join an enthusiastic group of players please contact Craig Smith on 01622 851229 or craig@abacus-shipping.co.uk

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	Finishing	Last	Man	Post
2	Bear	Circle	Explorer	
3	Boat	Human	Meeting	
4	Air	Nautical	Stone	
5	Arrow	Cause	Crop	
6	Bar	Pigeon	Toad	
7	Effort	Football	Spirit	
8	Please	Week	Whatever	
9	Coach	Switch	Wire	
10	Casting	Free	Protest	
11	Fish	Pole	Quality	
12	Out	Passport	Trading	
13	Jack	Last	Short	
14	Eleven	Hind	Sea	
15	Engine	Pump	Station	
16	Bill	Dessert	Feed	

Heaths Countryside Corridor

Chilston Pine Planting

Many of you will have noticed the pine tree bank in Chilston Pines while travelling along the M20 (between junctions 8 and 9). Have you also noticed that the number of trees here is dwindling? Unfortunately, these trees have a limited life expectancy and now the majority on this bank are dying or have fallen down.

To rectify this situation, the Heaths Countryside Corridor will be planting a few pine trees in the Chilston Pines site (entrance on Lenham Heath Road, near to Bowley Lane Bridge) on Wednesday 4th February. This tree planting day will ensure that there will be pine trees at this site for future generations to admire. During the day the dead trees currently littering the site will be tidied up too. If you would like to help with these activities please come along after 10:30 am (but before 3pm). Fallen pine will also be available for taking away, should anyone want to stock up logs for next winter.

The Annual General Meeting for the Heaths Countryside Corridor will be held on this day too (Wednesday 4th February), at 7:30pm in the Red Lion, all welcome to attend.

Ruth Lovering



Egerton Telecottage

New Computer Courses for 2009

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.

Egerton Telecottage Computer Centre is starting a new programme of computer courses in the New Year - including a brand new course to give parents hands on experience in protecting their children from some of the risks of using the Internet.

Carol Hulm, a qualified instructor and computer consultant, who has joined the team of volunteers at the Telecottage, has designed a short two session 'Parent Aware' course which will alert parents, relatives or school staff to the risks for children of using the internet and provide easy to understand tips for checking children's on line activities and methods of parental control, including understanding anti-virus software.

Carol says "I think the internet is brilliant with all the special offers and the special networking that it brings - it can save you money, bring you closer to friends and relations from around the world and lots more. But it can bring risks. If you don't know what your children are doing on the internet they could accidentally get into trouble using chat rooms, downloading inappropriate material or allowing a virus on the computer that could cost hundreds of pounds to get fixed. It only takes a few hours to understand how to keep your computer free from viruses and make it safer for your family"

The Telecottage is planning to offer some other new courses in the New Year if there is demand – such as editing videos to put on to computers and using Skype for free telephone calls. It now has the latest Office 2007 software with Vista and can provide training in how to use it for those used to earlier versions or facing it for the first time with a new computer.

Dates for courses starting from January 2009 are:

- Basic IT Tuesday mornings – 13/20/27 Jan/3 Feb
- Basic IT Wednesday mornings - 4/11/18/25 March
- Intermediate W.P. Wednesday mornings - 14/21/28 Jan/4 Feb
- Basic W.P. Monday mornings - 2/9/16/23 March
- Digital Photography Tuesday evenings - 6/13/20/27 Jan
- Desk Top Publishing Thursday mornings - 5/12/19/26 March
- Vista & Office 2007 Thursday evenings - 15/22 Jan
- Parent Aware Monday evenings - 26 Jan/2 Feb
- Parent Aware Tuesday mornings - 3 and 17 March
- Ebay Thursday afternoons -12/19 March
- Internet Wednesday evenings - 4/11/18 March

Ring Sylvia on 01233 756050 to find out more about the courses and to book a place.

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

The January Night Sky

The Sun is in the constellation of Sagittarius at the start of January, and moving into Capricornus on the 19th January. The Earth is at perihelion (it's closest to the Sun) on 4th January. Now that we have passed the Winter Solstice we can expect the days to gradually get longer.

Full Moon occurs 11th January, and will appear even larger when it is rising, as the Moon is near perigee (its closest point to the Earth). New Moon is on 26th January.

As I explained in my last article, it should be easier to see Mercury at the beginning of this month. If you look to the southwest around 5 pm. Mercury will appear like a tiny point of light in the twilight sky, just to the left of the brighter Jupiter.

Venus is still a brilliant 'Evening Star' in the south western sky at dusk, and is moving rapidly north eastwards, out of Aquarius and into Pisces. At present it is setting at about 8 pm, but by the end of the month it will be setting around 9:30 pm.

I am afraid it will not be possible to see Mars or Jupiter this month, as Mars is still behind the Sun, and Jupiter is extremely low in the southwest just after sunset. I will return to Mars at the end of this article.

Saturn is rising in the middle of the evening, and is well up in the southern sky by dawn. It is not the best time to view the rings of Saturn, as they are almost edge on to Earth. Many of the moons, however, are clearly visible through a telescope. Some of you may have read that NASA has discovered evidence that one of Saturn's moons, Enceladus, has a spreading Earth-like crust, strengthening the theory that there is a water sea under the surface.

There is yet another meteor shower this month known as the Quadrantid. This will peak early in the month, and the best time to see them is on the 3rd after midnight. The meteors appear to radiate from a point between the handle of the Plough and the bright star Vega to the North.

Now back to Mars. NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter has spotted deposits of Carbonate, which is formed in neutral or alkaline water. This counters the theory that all water on Mars was at one time acidic, and means that it would have been a benign environment for early Martian life.

John Maunder

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 21st Feb: 13:30 – 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Platts Heath

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

Ulcombe

Sunday 8th Feb: 11:15 – 12:30 -: Lodge Gardens (cul-de-sac)

Lenham

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 - January

After a luxury of musical events to celebrate Christmas, January is rather thin, apart from pantomimes. I have included one local pantomime in my list, for which you may wish to make a note of the date in your new diary, but there are plenty of others advertised in the local press:

- Tuesday 6th January, 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Week St., Maidstone – Maidstone Choral Union 's Twelfth Night Concert. Entrance free, retiring collection.
- Sunday 11th January, 3.00pm at Sutton Valence School, Sutton Valence Music society presents an afternoon of operatic and song entertainment from a quartet of singers from the Royal college of Music. Details 01622 844888.
- Saturday 24th January at 7.30pm in Canterbury Cathedral – The Canterbury Choral Society Winter Concert. Details 01227 762862.
- Friday & Saturday 6th & 7th February, LADS presents *The Pied Piper* at Leeds Village Hall. The 7th includes an afternoon performance. Details 01622 631280.

The Month's Good Cause

MAF or Flying for Life

I recently attended a very interesting talk about The Mission Aviation Fellowship or "Flying for Life". This charity was founded after the Second World War by ex RAF pilots who wanted to put their flying skills, acquired in wartime, to peaceful purposes.

The mission of MAF is to get aid and mission to people who need help but who cannot be reached by road. They make impossible journeys possible and shorten road hauls of days into flights of hours.

Using mainly Cessna light aircraft and flying from rough airstrips in Africa and other geographically demanding areas (as far apart as Mongolia and Mexico) their tasks which support medical teams, aid agencies and evangelists include the provision of 'flying doctor' services (Tanzania), the delivery of blood to remote hospitals (Northern Uganda), provision of transport for The Gideons Bible Mission (Madagascar), and delivery of food aid (Southern Sudan).

The demand for the services of MAF is increasing. Some cries for help can be planned for; some are 'out of the blue' The charity needs money to provide 'flight readinesses - aircraft, pilots, maintenance, and fuel.

MAF is a registered charity no. 1064598. You can add your help by sending donations to Mission Aviation Fellowship, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone. CT20 2TN. Further information is available on website www.maf-uk.org

Brian Hardy

If you would like to advertise in Malherbe Monthly and reach the whole of Boughton Malherbe, Grafty Green, Liverton Street and Platts Heath, the monthly costs are:

$\frac{1}{8}$ page	£3.00
$\frac{1}{4}$	£5.00
$\frac{1}{2}$	£10.00
Complete page	£20.00

Phone 01622 858937 or
Email mf.hitchins@virgin.net

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Finishing	Last	Man	Post
2	Bear	Circle	Explorer	Polar
3	Boat	Human	Meeting	Race
4	Air	Nautical	Stone	Mail
5	Arrow	Cause	Crop	Root
6	Bar	Pigcon	Toad	Stool
7	Effort	Football	Spirit	Team
8	Please	Wreck	Whatever	Next
9	Coach	Switch	Wire	Trip
10	Casting	Free	Protest	Vote
11	Fish	Pole	Quality	Star
12	Out	Passport	Trading	Stamps
13	Jack	Last	Short	Straw
14	Eleven	Hind	Sea	Legs
15	Engine	Pump	Station	Petrol
16	Bill	Dessert	Feed	Spoon

	Find the missing word?
1	Papa Don't Preach , Song by Madonna & Kelly Osbourne
2	Str Crazy , Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder prison comedy
3	Our Man in Havana , Graham Green Novel
4	Rita Simons , Roxy in Eastenders
5	Echo Beach , ITV1 soap linked with moving wallpaper
6	Ray Charles , US singer with Hit the Road Jack
7	Lex Luthor , Superman's adversary
8	Albert Steptoe , Father in the old comedy
9	Stranger on the shore , 1961 hit for Acker Bilk
10	Toy Story , A Buzz Lightyear Movie

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

4th January Epiphany

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Christingle Family Service
11.00am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Christingle Family Service

11th January Baptism of Christ

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe Family Service
11.00am Lenham Christingle Family Service
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion

18th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham Holy Communion
9.30am Boughton Malherbe BCP Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham Holy Communion
11.15am Ulcombe Holy Communion
6.30pm St. Nicholas Boughton Choral Evensong

25th January Conversion of Paul

8am Lenham BCP Holy Communion
10.00am Lenham Holy Communion
6.30pm St. John the Baptist Harrietsham Informal Service led by Harrietsham
Massive

Assistance Required

There is an urgent need for a musician to accompany services in the churches at Leeds and Broomfield. If you feel you may be able to help, please contact Rev Norman Dabbs, tel 01622 880482.

Start!

Life!

What is it like? Some say it's a dream, others call it a joke. Some describe it as a puzzle - and a lucky few enjoy the life of Riley.

If you've got questions about life and the Christian faith and are looking for answers, then why not make a Start!

Start is a short (six-session) course designed to help people discover the essence of Christianity. It works in small groups, using video clips and discussion when you can talk, listen and ask questions. It's a good opportunity to brush up on the basics, or to find out the basics, and to get to know people.

Why not come along and give it a go? Each session lasts about 80 minutes and there will be tea, coffee and biscuits. Let us know if you're interested, and what time suits you best, and we'll try to accommodate you. We'll be starting in the New Year, in late January.

Please contact Michelle Saunders in the Len Valley Benefice office (01622 850604; email churchoffice@lvb.org.uk) or Rev Dick Venn at Lenham Vicarage (01622 858195; email dickvenn@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you!
Dick Venn

Women's World Day of Prayer. Friday, March 6th 2009

10.30am at St Marys, Lenham. 7.00pm at All Saints, Ulcombe.

On this day over 3 million people worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a service prepared by Christian Women in Papua New Guinea. This is always an exciting day. The extent of unity in prayer is shown by the fact that the first service will begin in Tonga and travel around

the world until the sun sets in neighbouring Western Samoa. By then, the Day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland alone over 5,000 services will have been held!

All are welcome, please come along, let us worship together and learn a little more about Papua New Guinea.

Rosemary Davis

Christian Message – January 2009

The New Year is always a time when we think of the possibilities of a new start, new beginnings. Perhaps this year we can also be in reflective mood? It is good to look forward but we could also be encouraged if we look back over our lives. We could take time to recall God's love and faithfulness, both over the previous year and in all the years that have gone by. It is when we look back that we often can see God at work in our lives.

Each New Year in the Christian calendar we traditionally recall the circumcision and the naming of Christ. Name giving is so important to us all. We put much thought into naming our children, our pets, and sometimes even our cars! Our names identify us for the whole of our lives. I have heard that in Poland, a person's name-day is more important than their birthday.

I wonder why our particular names were chosen by our parents. Perhaps some of you will tell me the stories behind your names in the coming weeks? When my niece was born her parents called her Tina and I remember wondering even then, about 40 years ago, how she would feel as she grew older about her name, as she grew from being that tiny little girl. As it happens, she has always remained petite and the name has always suited her!

Jesus too is identified by his name - the one who saves. (Matthew 1:21). And his tiny body at the circumcision ceremony takes on the sign of God's covenant or promise. He is marked as a Jew; he is fully part of his culture. Circumcision was a physical response to God's promise and it was also a sign of national identity.

We are also marked for life, saved and set free to love God and enjoy his promises. And so, in our New Year celebrations, let's also celebrate God's promise that he is with us yesterday, today and forever. What will your response be as you celebrate in that knowledge? ... Happy New Year to you all!

Millie Hart

BibleLands

The name **Hope School**, (Beit Jala, Bethlehem), was chosen by the pupils themselves in 1977 and the School's motto is taken from Psalm 71:5: 'For you have been my hope, O Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth'. Christian and Muslim students from the Bethlehem area and from all over the West Bank, study and live side-by-side at Hope School.

Students begin their day with prayers in the Chapel. However, when they have Religious Education (RE) lessons, the students separate to learn about their own religion. It is illegal to teach non-Christian children about the Bible at school. Teachers could be imprisoned, or schools closed down, if these laws are disobeyed. A club, for Christian students, helps to support them in their daily life and witness at a time when the number of Christians in the Holy Land is decreasing dramatically. Students study the Government curriculum, including Arabic, Hebrew and English, and senior students can specialise in Business Studies, including Accounting, Economics and Computing. This vocational approach helps to prepare them more fully for their lives after school.

The School provides clothing, study materials and three meals each day to the boys who board there, either because they live far away, or because they are unable to live at home. Some of the boys come from very difficult home environments and prefer to stay at Hope School even during holidays. Although the School tries to encourage these children to maintain their family relationships, accommodation is never refused to anyone who needs a place to stay. Hope School tries to make it 'home', giving students hope for a brighter future.

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