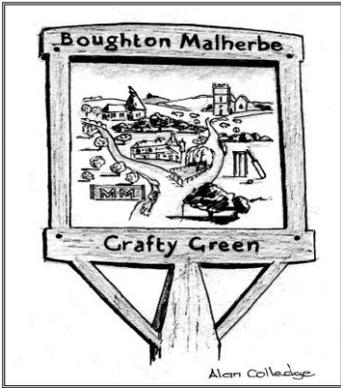


# Malherbe Monthly

Number 232  
November 2023



Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October: Members of the Grafty Green Gardening Club replanting the planters on the Village Green.

## Useful contact names and telephone N<sup>os</sup>.

County Councillor	Shellina Prendergast Shellina.Prendergast@kent.gov.uk	07970 461160
Borough Councillors	Martin Round martinround@maidstone.gov.uk Ziggy Trzebinski ziggytrzebinski@maidstone.gov.uk	890276 078524 92770
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Vanessa Goodwin	859549 858372
Parish Council Clerk	Vickie Ford email boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com	07791 135248
Village Hall bookings	Jan Carter email janlcarter@btinternet.com	850898
Village Hall General Enquires	Jon Thompson email bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk Mobile 07932 112730	851351
Gardening Club	Doreen Hulm	850287
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dance Fit	Sharon Harris	890170
Craft Group	Jan Carter	850898
Yoga	Sue Burch	850381
Parish Council Website	www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk	
Priest in charge	Dr John Huggins email: vicar@lvb.org.uk	850280
Pilates	Cheryl Stubbs email: c.stubbs8@btinternet.com	07852 602369
Art Class	Cathy Hill email: cathyonthehill@hotmail.com	07927 045708
Benefice Office	Sarah Hills email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Answer phone available out of hours	850604
St. Edmunds Centre	Kate Stansfield Mobile 07500 895831	
Fresh Fish delivery	Tuesday at approx. 3pm by Post Office	07976 435217
<b>Malherbe Monthly Production Team</b>		
Mike Hitchins	Advertising: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
Mike Hitchins	Editor: mfhitchins@btinternet.com	858937
John Collins	Treasurer	850213

The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!

Anything for the **December** edition should be left in Grafty Green Telephone Box, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20<sup>th</sup> November**

## News from St. Nicholas Church – November 2023

Suddenly, summer is over. The autumn colours are glowing, perhaps not so glorious as other years, but very welcome. In this corner of the country, as we missed the heavy rains, constantly mentioned in weather forecasts elsewhere, we were left with hosepipe bans and thirsty plants and trees! I am sure it will all even out by next year. Won't even mention climate change! Let's just enjoy God's gifts in our countryside day by day, so much to be grateful for in these troubled times.

### Usual reminders

**The church porch.** No changes there. It remains open at all times. Enjoy the shelter, peace and distant views. As the light changes the outlook and atmosphere so often, stay a while with a hot drink and take it all in. If needed, take from the mini food box. There is a larger, more comprehensive food bank at the back of St Mary's church in Lenham, open daily 10-4pm.

**The main church building** is open for services, cleaning, meetings etc. Please contact the churchwardens at other times for a key if you would like to visit.

**Church service times** are on the noticeboards by the porch door, on the larger board by the bench on the roadside and outside the village hall in Grafty Green.

**Celtic Morning Prayer** is said in the side chapel each Monday 9-9.30am. A very relaxed and informal time to think and pray for our communities, world problems, events, our friends and families and any who may need our thoughts and prayers at this time. If you have any prayer requests, please contact Rev. John Huggins or the churchwardens. There will shortly be a box in the porch with a pen and paper if you would prefer to write a request and it will be read, and prayers said, during the following Monday Morning Prayer time.

**Village Coffee Morning** is held every Tuesday from 11.30-2pm in the village hall in Grafty Green. The Post Office is open the same day from 12.45-2.15pm, there are various stalls each week too. To find out more, just come along and enjoy coffee/tea and cakes, as well as good company. It is definitely the place to be, and be seen, on a Tuesday morning!!

As always any donations received are shared equally between the church and a charity chosen by the coffee morning regulars. Last month £250 was sent to the Disaster Emergency Fund for aid to Morocco and Libya. We hear very little of the crises in these countries now, as the horrors of the conflict between Israel and Hamas dominates our news.

**Harvest Supper** was much appreciated by all who came along. Again, a relaxing evening, with a very good meal. Many thanks to all the cooks and helpers, their food was delicious. Thanks to Angela who sourced the recipe for the casseroles, and for bringing the lovely grandchildren along too! We hope more families of all ages will join us in future.

Must give a big thank-you to the Craft Club, who gave up their Friday morning session and to those who came along with greenery, fruit, vegetables and flowers to make the many decorations for the supper in the Hall next day. We were a bit daunted as Sandra was unable to guide us this time, but as always the Hall looked amazing, especially by the time others had draped greenery around the walls etc. thanks to everyone.

Finally, £260 were raised for church funds. Again, thank you.

**Harvest Festival** in the church on Sunday 8th October. A quick turn-around with the Hall decorations, as they were removed after the Supper and taken to decorate St.Nicolas the next day. The Goodwin family were absolute stars! The produce brought by so many made an extra generous feel to the occasion. As usual the non-perishable goods were taken to the food bank in Lenham church. The perishable foods, cakes etc. were auctioned off while we sat with tea and cakes. Kenneth made a very successful auctioneer, ably encouraging people to empty their pockets and purses to bid for the goods! The church treasurer was able to send £200 from the auction to Demelza House, to support their work for children with cancer and their families.

**The Wotton Family.** Wotton family descendants visited the church two weeks ago, with fresh information. They brought a beautiful, clear family tree to follow. Sir Walter Raleigh was a known associate of 'our' Sir Edward and Sir Henry Wotton. Their family tree shows that not only were they close friends, but that Sir Henry Wotton was his brother-in-law! Sir Henry's wife was Lady Jane Throckmorton, her younger sister, Lady Elizabeth Throckmorton was the wife of Sir Walter Raleigh! The visiting family are direct descendants of Sir Henry and Lady Jane Wotton's only son William. So the information goes on!

**Winter Fair 18th/19th November.** We are looking forward to having a stall each day that weekend, always good to catch up with friends. Panic beginning to set in, but the **Craft Club** members are full of ideas. All will be well!

## **Finale**

**Advent** will soon be with us, with all the events preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth. A time for reflection on our own life, despite the rush of making this time special for our friends and family.

Especially we think and pray for all those in the Holy Land of Israel and Palestine at this time. This land, where Jesus was born and grew up and taught us of God's everlasting love and peace, as it continues to be a place of conflict and division. The horrors of the violence and inhumanity can be overwhelming and heartbreaking. We give thanks to the United Nations and aid agencies of many faiths, working to alleviate the suffering. May God give them strength and peace.

**Sally Alexander**

## **Boughton Malherbe**

**Parish Council**

**Contact Details**

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07791 135248

[boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com](mailto:boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com)

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[retreat@heatherschiropody.co.uk](mailto:retreat@heatherschiropody.co.uk)

The Brown Barn, Bull Hill, Lenham Heath, Kent, ME17 2JA (Off the A20)

## **Helen Whately**

**MP for Faversham and Mid Kent**

I work for you. If you have a problem you think I can help you with, please contact me or visit me at

one of my surgeries  
House of Commons,  
London, SW1A 0AA

[www.helenwhately.org.uk](http://www.helenwhately.org.uk)

Tel: 020 7219 6472; Email: [helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk)

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## **Village Hall – November Newsletter**

It was busy time at the hall again last month where in addition to our normal clubs and societies we hosted the Church's Harvest Supper and our village Scarecrow Festival. Both events were well attended and for all of you who helped out, cooked cakes & casseroles, made scarecrows and supported the events thank you it made both days fun and enjoyable.

The scarecrows this year were of an excellent standard, (you are a clever lot in Grafty Green!) and I am pleased to tell you that Slash from Guns and Roses was voted the best scarecrow and is residing in Build a Bear in Fremlin Walk. His old mate Freddie Mercury who was constructed by the children at Platts Heath Primary School is living just opposite him in The Body Shop and is also taking part in the Maidstone Town Centre Festival. Such was the quality of our scarecrows that Maidstone asked for some more for their scarecrow display at the entrance to the Lockmeadow Shopping Centre and Elton John, Madonna, John Lennon, Judy Garland and Dolly Parton are all on display there.

**That's not all we have the following events leading up to Christmas, (where did this year go?)**

**Christmas Craft Fair Weekend of Saturday & Sunday 18th & 19th November 10 am to 2pm**

We are pleased to announce that due to the high demand for stalls this year our Christmas Craft Fair will be held at the hall over two days on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday 18th & 19th of November from 10 am to 2pm on both days. There will be a wide variety of stalls on each day where you can browse jewellery, toiletries, cards, artwork, handmade coasters, bags, ceramics, cosmetics, wooden items, general craft items and so much more..... We will also provide a variety of refreshments so that you can have a chat with friends and enjoy a cup of tea and some cake on the Saturday and tuck into a bacon or a sausage sandwich on the Sunday with your tea or coffee.

The event will provide you with gift ideas for some unique and individual Christmas presents produced by local craftspeople. We are hoping that the choir from Platts Heath Primary School will be able to sing carols so the event should have a lovely festive feel to get us all ready for Christmas and on both days Jack Skylark will be teaching the children how to make pebble pets, bug homes, pendants, reindeers and snow folk so you will have a good idea what your little ones will be giving you at Christmas!

## **Christmas Quiz – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 7pm for 7.30pm**

I am pleased to say that Richard once again ably assisted by his elves will be hosting his very popular annual Christmas Quiz which will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 7.00 for 7.30 start. Tickets are £15 per person and the format will be the usual teams of eight, a pay bar, supper, lots of unwarranted heckling and insubordination usually caused by inebriation. Please save the date, dust off those Christmas jumpers and organise your teams. For those of you like me who don't have any friends don't worry we can find you a team on the night! Please contact myself on either 07932 112730 or [bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk](mailto:bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk) to purchase your tickets.

## **Stop Press – New Tai Chi Class Thursday Afternoon 2pm to 3pm starting 16<sup>th</sup> November**

I am very pleased to say that Rhonda Bailey of Abundant Energy has kindly agreed to host a new Tai Chi Class at the Village Hall. Classes will run from 2pm to 3pm on a Thursday afternoon starting on the 16<sup>th</sup> November. Just the ticket to get fit and relax before the stresses and strains of Christmas & The New Year. Please see below information on Tia Chi and how to join the classes. Rhonda is offering discounted taster sessions with a view to offering regular classes next year if there is sufficient take up to make the classes viable, so if this is an activity you would like to consider please support this new class at the hall. Rhonda has kindly provided the following information on Tia Chi and how to book the taster sessions:-

### **A little bit about Tai Chi**

Technically, Tai Chi is a Chinese martial art but it is well-known for its slow moving, continuous and flowing exercises that are practised for its benefits to health. The movements, along with a focus on breathing, have a calming effect, improving posture, balance and building internal strength and energy. Tai Chi can also help to improve flexibility, reduce stress, lower blood pressure, strengthen the lungs... and so much more.

Rhonda from Abundant Energy offers small, friendly Tai Chi classes that are suitable for all levels of fitness. She has been practicing Tai Chi for 30 years and teaching it for over 15 years. Participants are encouraged to work within their own ability without any strain on the body as the movements are slow and within a 'comfortable' range of motion. All movements can be adapted to suit the abilities of each individual person and Tai Chi is often recommended by physiotherapists, Doctors and other health professionals as a safe way to rehabilitate.

Classes will be starting on Thursday 16 November in Grafty Green Village Hall ME17 2BA, 2:00-3:00pm with a special introductory offer of £20 for a 4-week taster course. Come along and have a go.

To book your place contact Rhonda on 07985 001782 or Email: [bex.taichi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bex.taichi@yahoo.co.uk)

Further information on the website: [www.abundantenergy.uk](http://www.abundantenergy.uk)

### **Carols Round the Tree, Father Christmas & Festive Refreshments at the Hall Thurs 14th December**

Please make a note in your diaries and save the date. The Parish Council have very kindly agreed to sponsor a Christmas Celebration on Thursday 14th December open to all. The arrangements are being worked on as we speak, but In a collaborative event we will be organising Father Christmas for the children, Carols round the Christmas Tree and then all back to the hall for seasonal refreshments. I will provide further detail on timings in next month's magazine.

### **Jon Thompson Hall Committee Chairman**

[bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk](mailto:bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk)

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

Facebook – [graftygreenvillage](https://www.facebook.com/graftygreenvillage)

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### **Sketching Group - (Proposal)**

I am looking to start up a local informal “sketching group” where like-minded people can meet up and enjoy their interest. I started from scratch about twelve months ago from scratch and it is now something I really enjoy. Also, an opportunity for “car share” to a sketching class held weekly at Rye.

(no need to attend every week). If you are interested give me a call 07979 864929 or email [cwcancare@gmail.com](mailto:cwcancare@gmail.com)

**Chris Wheal**



## ***New TAI CHI CLASS***

Relax, gentle stretch, mindful movements,  
increase energy, improve balance... and so much  
more.



Thursday 2:00-3:00pm  
Grafty Green Village Hall, ME17 2BA

### **Introductory offer:**

4 week taster course for just £20.00

**16 November - 07 December**

To book your place contact Rhonda  
07985 001782

Email: [bex.taichi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bex.taichi@yahoo.co.uk)  
[www.bexleyandsoutheasttaichi.co.uk](http://www.bexleyandsoutheasttaichi.co.uk)

*It's that time again!*

*Time for the famous  
Grafty Green*

*Christmas Quiz!*

*Sat. 2nd December  
at the Village Hall*

*Doors open 7.00 ~ Quiz starts 7.30*

*Tickets **£15** (includes Ploughman's Supper)*

*from Jon on **07932112730***

*~~ Teams of up to 8 ~~*

*~~ Pay bar ~~*

**Grafty Green Christmas Craft Fair Weekend!**  
**Come along on both Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday**  
**19<sup>th</sup> November to our Christmas Craft Fair**  
**which is bigger and better than ever!**

We will have a wide range of stalls including jewellery, toiletries, cards, artwork, handmade coasters, bags, ceramics, wax melts, wooden items, general craft and so much more.....

On Saturday there will be tea, coffee and cake and on Sunday we will also have bacon and sausage sandwiches.

So come along and support your village hall, buy unique Christmas presents and chat with friends over a cup of tea or coffee.

Don't miss out on that special gift by only coming on one of the days



**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November**  
**10.00-2.00**

**Grafty Green Village Hall ME17 2BA**



## Grafty Green Village Hall

Bookings 01622 850898

### Regular Weekly Events

<b>Yoga – mixed ability</b> Susan Burch 01622 850381	<b>Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 – 11am</b> <b>Wednesdays 7 – 8.30pm</b>
<b>Pilates</b> Cheryl Stubbs 07852 602639	<b>Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30 am</b>
<b>Post Office</b>	<b>Tuesdays 12.45 – 2.15pm</b>
<b>Coffee morning</b>	<b>Tuesdays 11.30 – 2.00pm</b>
<b>Short Mat Bowls</b> Joan Marriott 01622 858100	<b>Tuesdays 2.30 – 5.30pm</b>
<b>Dance Fit</b> Sharon Harris 01622 890170	<b>Wednesdays 11am – 12.30pm</b>
<b>Craft Group</b> Janis Carter 01622 850898	<b>Fridays 10am -12.00pm</b>
<b>Art Class</b> Cathy Hill 07927054708	<b>Alternate Wednesdays 1 – 3.30pm</b>

### Regular Monthly Events

<b>Gardening Club</b> Doreen 01622 850287 Sue 01622 850381	<b>First Tuesday of the month 7.30pm</b>
------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------



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# Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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

## Minutes of a Planning Committee Meeting held in the village hall at 7.00pm on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Present:** Cllrs B Adams; T Andrews; R Galton  
Clerk: Mrs Vickie Ford

### Cllr Galton opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

1. **Chairman:** RESOLVED: Cllr Andrews to chair the meeting
2. **Declaration of anybody filming/recording this meeting:** none
3. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs N Eastwood and R Turner
4. **Declarations:**
  - (i) **Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:** Cllr Galton declared an interest in planning application 23/503980/FULL: neighbouring property
  - (ii) **Declarations of lobbying:** none
5. **Requests for Dispensation:**

In the light of councillor absences, the Clerk had considered Cllr Galton's request to discuss and vote on planning application 23/503980/FULL and gave dispensation under delegated authority.
6. **Approval of Minutes of the Planning Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023:** approved and signed as a true and accurate record
7. **Planning Application:**
  - (i) **Public Session:** no members of public present: no public session
  - (ii) **23/503980/FULL**

PROPOSAL: Erection of a single timber framed garage with flat roof.  
ADDRESS: Foxes Earth, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2AP  
Members noted that the proposed garage would not be seen from the road, nor would it be in direct view of any property.  
RESOLVED: to give a neutral response with no additional comment (2 members voted, Cllr Galton abstained)

**The Meeting closed at 7:10 pm**



# Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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

## Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 28th September 2023 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs B Adams; T Andrews; N Eastwood (part time); R Galton (Chairman)  
Clerk Mrs Vickie Ford

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.15 pm

**Anybody filming or recording this meeting kindly requested to declare it: none**

### **EM01/09/23 Apologies:**

Apologies from Cllr R Turner were received and accepted

### **EM02/09/23 Declarations:**

**Any lobbying:** none declared

**Any interest in items on the agenda:** none declared

**Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests:** none declared

**EM03/09/23 Public Session:** no members of public present: no public session

### **EM04/09/23 "The 59" Community Bus Service Funding:**

The Clerk recommended that an application to the National Lottery "Awards for All" scheme be made in order to fund, or part fund, the 59 community bus service for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

**RESOLVED:** to give authority for an application to be made

Cllr Eastwood joined the meeting and enquired about timescales for a decision on funding from the National Lottery. The Clerk stated that decisions were taking up to 16 weeks, hence the decision on authorising an application could not be delayed until the next scheduled Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:20 pm

## Information for residents

MBC and Kent police build processes that support residents. It's important that the residents use the tools available. This also ensures issues are recorded and safeguarding issues can be monitored.

### Police matters:



[My Community Voice](#) (MCV) is a two-way engagement tool set up by Kent Police for residents, businesses and community groups in Kent and Medway. MCV will enable Kent Police to update users with news, alerts, appeals, engagement events and general policing activities. Members of the public can choose what information they receive from us and how they receive it – whether that's by email, text or voice mail. They can also share or reply to the messages they receive, enabling improved two-way communication, information sharing and problem-solving opportunities for the force.



Residents should be encouraged to report all crimes and ASB to the police. The easiest way to do this is online [www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/](http://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/) or by calling 101. **If an emergency 999.**

Residents can also report anonymously via [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) or 0800 555 111.

Also for young people [www.fearless.org](http://www.fearless.org) is a site where young people can access non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality. It also allows them to report anonymously issues or concerns.

**Nuisance and community issues:** Report via [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk) or [here](#)

### British Transport Police- Safety on the Railway Network:

The free Railway Guardian app is an all-in-one safety app from the British Transport Police. The app allows you to report crimes or concerns on the rail network, share your journeys with trusted contacts, and get access to news, guides, or support.



Small actions can all play a part in making everyone's journey a good one, such as:

- downloading the app
- reporting crimes and concerns
- learning about acceptable behaviour on the network and setting an example being an active bystander

# Grafty Gourmet

These are simple to make and can be quite addictive. Choose the strength of the hot sauce in the dip to suit your own taste. I would add a little at a time until you get the spice that is right for you. These are also perfect to make in an air fryer, as the outside becomes nice and crispy.

## SPICEY CHICKEN MEATBALLS WITH SPICY MAYO DIP

### For the Meatballs:

1 tablespoon of vegetable oil  
1 lb of minced chicken  
1 large egg  
½ cup of freshly grated Parmesan  
¼ cup of panko breadcrumbs  
2 tablespoons of soy sauce  
3 cloves of garlic, minced  
1 teaspoon of ground cumin  
A pinch of salt

Freshly ground black pepper

Crushed red pepper flakes

### For the Dipping Sauce:

½ cup of mayonnaise  
2 tablespoons of hot sauce (such as Nando's Piri Piri)  
2 teaspoons of clear honey  
½ teaspoon of ground cumin

### Oven Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180° and grease a large baking sheet with vegetable oil.
2. In a large bowl, combine the chicken, egg, Parmesan, breadcrumbs, soy sauce, garlic, and cumin. Season with salt, pepper, and a pinch of red pepper flakes. Roll mixture into 16 meatballs and place on prepared baking sheet.
3. Bake until golden and cooked through, about 15 minutes.

### Air Fryer Method:

1. In a large bowl, combine chicken, egg, Parmesan, panko, soy sauce, garlic, and cumin. Season with salt, pepper, and a pinch of red pepper flakes. Roll mixture into 16 meatballs.
2. Working in batches, place the meatballs in the basket of the air fryer in a single layer. Bake at 180° until golden and cooked through, 12 minutes, flipping halfway through.

### For the Dipping Sauce:-

1. In a medium bowl, combine the mayonnaise, hot sauce, honey, and cumin and mix well.
2. Serve meatballs with spicy mayo for dipping.

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Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

## Mrs Harris Goes to Paris

**Friday November 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00**

*Running time* 1hr 56 mins

We have a change to our previously announced schedule, which now sees Mrs Harris on her way to Paris a whole lot earlier than we at Lenham Film Club had planned. Come along and spend a happy evening with Mrs Harris and share her dream. **Mrs Harris Goes to Paris** (PG, 2022) is based on a book by Paul Gallico and follows the widowed Mrs Harris as she scrapes together every penny that she can muster from her cleaning job in Battersea, so that she can fulfil her great dream. And, you've guessed it: her dream is to go to Paris where she has set her heart on buying a very special Dior dress. And what happens there changes everything and not only for the determined Mrs Harris. Set in the 1950s, this charming comedy-drama which stars the wonderful Lesley Manville as Mrs Harris, is one to cheer the bleakest November day.

*Director: Anthony Fabian*

Come along and join us as we get into the Christmas spirit on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December when we're showing romantic comedy **The Family Stone**, in which Everett takes his high-flying girlfriend Meredith home for Christmas. What better way to celebrate the holiday period! We'll be showing **Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny** on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January.

Please get in touch for more information or to join our mailing list.

**Admission:** members £4, non-members £5, under 16 £2, under 5 free.



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This play is being directed by Richard Pilborough who lives Locally

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# Don't Dress For Dinner

by Marc Camoletti, adapted by Robin Hawdon

**7TH - 11TH  
NOVEMBER**

**TUESDAY - FRIDAY, 7.30PM  
& SATURDAY 3PM**

---

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## Grafty Green Gardening Club Program of Events 2023

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
January 10	Dr Mick Lynn and AGM	Which came first the Bee or the Flower
February 7	Steven Harmer	The story of Plant Hunting
March 7	Kevin Tooher	Getting the best out of Composting
April 4	Caroline Halfpenny and Spring show	A Gardener's response to Climate Change.
Saturday April 29	10 am Plant sale on the Green	
Sunday May 14	Coach outing to Leonards Lee	
June 6	Outing to Faversham – Edible Culture	
July 4	Outing to Elmside, Ulcombe - Rhian Banham's Garden	
Sunday August 13	Coach outing to Hyde Hall	
September 5	Victoria Golding and Autumn show	Marden Meadow
September 8,9,10	Weekend away in Dorset, staying in Weymouth, visit Chawton House and Gardens, Abbotsbury, Athelhampton House and Garden and Holme Gardens	
October 3	Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, Madrona Nursery	Designing a Perennial Boarder
<b>November 7</b>	<b>Christine Bartlett</b>	<b>Healthy House Plants, Happy Home</b>
December 5	Social – wine and cheese with slide-show	

On November 7th Christine Bartlett is our speaker will give us her talk on 'Healthy House Plants, Happy Home'. Some of us struggle to keep them alive and some are very good with house plants so I am sure that we will all learn something from this talk!

Last month's talk by Ylva Blid-Mackenzie of Madrona Nursery was enhanced by some fabulous and unusual plants which were purchased by many members.

Some members have been enjoying themselves recently by dressing up a scarecrow on a gardening theme. Judy Garland was chosen for this year's entry prepared with much dedication and including a 'yellow brick road'. Well done to all who contributed to this worthy venture, I think we came 2nd and last I heard Judy was on her way to Maidstone to be enjoyed by the good folk there!

**Jobs for the month ideas:**

Lift and divide rhubarb crowns

Winter prune fruit trees and shrubs, including renovation of hedges

Continue with winter digging

Lift and store dahlias

Check the bonfire for hibernating creatures before lighting it

Clear out bird boxes, and put food out for birds

Finally, Don't be too tidy in the garden in order to provide plenty of seeds for the birds to feed on and winter shelter for insects.

**Yoga Classes in Grafty Green Village Hall with Sue Burch**

Monday mornings 9.30 to 11

Wednesday evenings 7 – 8.30

Thursday mornings 9.30 – 11

To join a class or for more details please call Sue Burch on  
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## Christian Message November 2023 – Showing Mercy

The story of 'The Good Samaritan' (Luke 10:25-37) is one of the best known of all of Jesus' parables. The impact of the parable can be seen in our vocabulary as you may hear someone described as 'a good Samaritan'. Or you may be familiar with the charity 'Samaritans' which provides such excellent support to those who need a listening ear.

In the parable, a man is on a journey when he is attacked, robbed and left for dead. Two different men walk past whom we would expect to help him but they do not. Instead, he is bandaged and cared for by a Samaritan. This would have been a great shock and very provocative to Jesus' listeners who had a long-standing dislike and distrust of those who came from Samaria.

At the beginning of the passage, Jesus affirms that we are to love our neighbour. This parable, then, stems from Jesus being asked about who we are to consider our neighbour. As Jesus concludes the parable, He then poses a question of his own:

*"Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"*

*The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."*

*Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."*

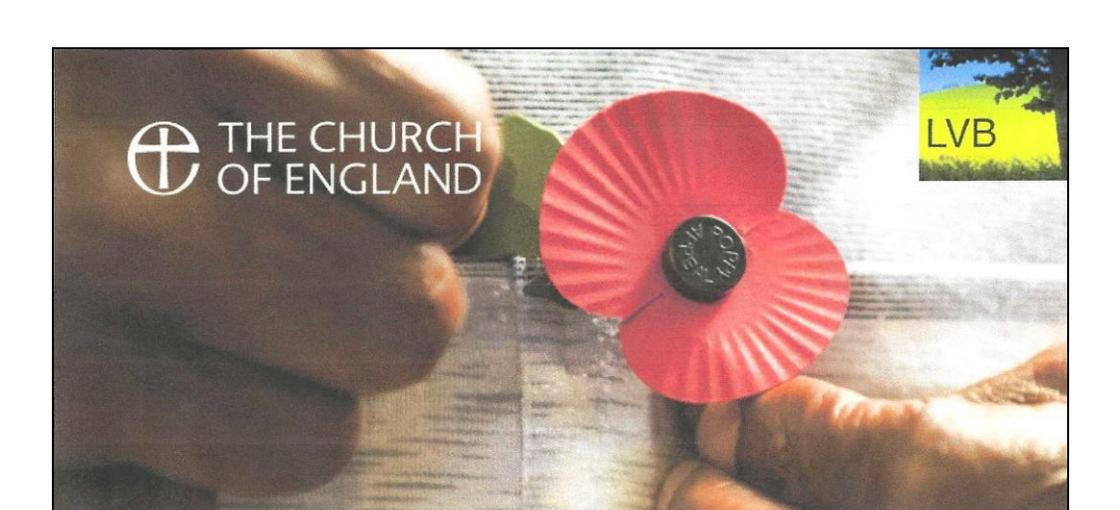
So, in talking about loving our neighbour, Jesus challenges us not just with **who** we ought to love but also **how** we show that love. We are told to show mercy.

We live in a time in which, particularly on social media, it is quick and easy to pass judgement. All of us struggle with the temptation to criticise others and write them off when they fall short of our expectations.

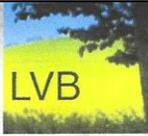
The beauty of the Christian message is that God never wrote us off. Despite our failures and shortcomings, the Bible declares in Lamentations 3:22-23:

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

What wonderful news that every day we can receive afresh the mercy of God! The exhortation of Jesus is that, as people who have received great mercy, we would express that to 'our neighbour'. Perhaps someone immediately springs to mind that you know you can show mercy to? Inspired by the mercy we can receive from God, let us be those who love our neighbour by showing mercy to those around us.



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

# Remembrance Service

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November  
10.15am

St Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe



## Len Valley Benefice November 2023

*Everybody is welcome*

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

**9.30am** Lenham: Holy  
Communion (BCP)

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

**9.30am** Boughton Malherbe:  
Holy Communion (BCP)

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast  
Church

**11.00am** Harrietsham: Family  
friendly Morning Worship

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy  
Communion

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

**10.15am** Boughton Malherbe:

**Remembrance Service**

**10.15am** Harrietsham:

**Remembrance Service**

**10.15am** Lenham:

**Remembrance Service**

**10.15am** Ulcombe:

**Remembrance Service**



### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

**8.00am** Lenham: Holy  
Communion (BCP)

**9.30am** Boughton Malherbe:  
Holy Communion

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Holy  
Communion

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast  
Church

**11.00am** Lenham: Morning  
Worship

**11.00am** Ulcombe: Holy  
Communion

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

**10.30am** Benefice Holy  
Communion at St John's,  
Harrietsham

*'Identity: "We are united  
but not uniform"*

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