



Next Editors: Fay Joyce & Corinne Wells: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 10th December

Candlelit Christmas Eve Carol Service at 6pm

The Christmas Eve Candlelit Carol Service at St Mary's is a very special event that has grown and grown in popularity. To our joy, the church was full in 2024 and we hope to repeat this again in 2025. The Revd. David Jones will lead the service. Together we will share this wonderful community event; there will be Bible readings retelling the story of the birth of Christ on that first Christmas, along with many joyous carols and wonderful organ music. Following the service there will be time to chat with friends whilst enjoying mulled wine and mince pies. Come early to get a seat as this is very popular event!

Wendy and Iain Simmons

Gilly Devas

The majority of those in Hunton are aware of the sad news of the passing of Gilly Devas on 3rd September. She is missed by so many.

To commemorate her memory we have, in consultation with her family, agreed a proposal to have a three-seater oak bench, suitably engraved, positioned in the Churchyard over-looking the tower entrance and the grave of her late husband, Michael Devas, where Gilly's ashes will be interred.

We know that many have offered contributions towards the cost. If you also want to contribute, please contact Ron Porter on ronlporter@btinternet.com or James Forster on forsters.hunton@btinternet.com. It is proposed that we use the Hunton Herald bank account to collect donations.

The school are also proposing to install a reading bench within their grounds and will award, in her name, an annual prize for the most improved reader irrespective of age. Gilly had spent many years helping children with their reading, accompanied with her dog, so this is a most appropriate thing to do.

Ron Porter

Hunton's Fright Night – What a Howling Good Time!

Hunton's Fright Night on Halloween went down an absolute SCREAM!

The Club was packed with ghosts, ghouls, glamorous zombies & more - all ready to let their wigs down for a night of DEVILISH fun. Paul and Heather French stole the spotlight – with the Best Costume title – while plenty of others got lucky in the raffle with some FANG-TASTIC prizes. The food was scrumptious, the drinks flowed freely, and Sharon's live music had everyone dancing like CREATURES of the night.

A HUGE Hunton thank you to EVERYONE who pulled together to make the evening such a success and more importantly to ALL who came to support the night!

As the evening wound down, the crowd joined in for a communal 'TIME WARP' sing-along – the perfect way to end a night of spooky silliness, laughter and top village SPIRIT.

Same again next year? Why the heck not, but leave your BROOMSTICK at home as it's not safe to 'Drink & Ride!'

Kerry Larkin



Your Local Contacts:

School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
Pond and Tree Warden: Sam Andrews	huntontreewarden@gmail.com	Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	01622 820403
Rector: Revd. Lorna Faulkner*	747570	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474	Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill	c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com
Churchwarden: Iain Simmons	820875	Katie Lam MP	katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk
	ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com	Assistant to MP Katie Lam	020 7219 8175
Community Wardens Team	07811 271021	Village Club: Roger Lee: roger.c.lee@btinternet.com	820210
Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson	07885 763071	Reporting HGVs	huntontrafficreporting@gmail.com

**not available on Fridays*

Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Contacts

Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com
Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com	Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com
Cllr Mike Summersgill - 820429, mshuntonpc@btinternet.com	Cllr Iain Simmons - 820875, isimmons@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Simon Webb - 07878 018997, simon.webb5@btinternet.com	

Diary Dates

Hunton Village Club AGM, 5th December; 'Carols at the Club', 19th December; Carol Service at St Mary's, 24th December, 6.00pm;
Post Christmas Walk / Lunch, 28th December; Celebrate New Year's Eve at The Club, 31st December.

Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk/events-list for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email clerk@huntonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Hunton



www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk



@HuntonVillage

Pastoral Letter

It's the time of year for my guilty pleasure: The Christmas movie. Made for TV schmaltz. Big city girl, small town boy (in a flannel shirt, probably runs a Christmas Tree farm or a café...) meet; instant attraction; some misunderstandings occur; there's a Christmas pageant; wiser older community person says wise words... there's a kiss, and a happy ending.

However, whilst they are a whole lot of escapist fun, I have had to learn, over the years, to be very careful about allowing Christmas films to shape my expectations around what Christmas *should* be.

Christmas must be indulgent, cosy, sparkly, tidy, perfectly decorated, romantic, filled with laughter. It must be red and white and green and gold and there must be waffles and Christmas sweaters champagne for breakfast and perfectly iced cookies and snow and coordinating hats and scarves and open fires and hot cocoa and parties and... STOP!!!!!!

I bought the Christmas edition of a supermarket magazine a few years ago. Articles included how to wrap the perfect present, make the perfect cocktails, lay the perfect table, arrange the perfect drinks tray, host the perfect party, wear the perfect dress, do the perfect make up... and then, right at the back, there was an advice page where someone had written in saying that the pressure of Christmas made them feel depressed and overwhelmed...

I confess, I can be a sucker for it all; I have felt the sharp pinch of imagined failure...

So, this time of year, I just want to remind you – and myself - that all the games and trimmings are a riot – they can be fun and make dull winter days feel a little warmer... but there is no *should* with Christmas... apart from remembering that Christmas should be whatever works for you and your loved ones.

My prayer for you all this Christmas is not that your decorations are perfect or that your homemade crackers go bang; my prayer is that wherever you are, whatever you do, whatever you wear, or eat, or drink, or watch, that you will simply know the presence and love of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, God with you.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Lorna

Carols at the Club – A Festive Evening Together

Join us at Hunton Village Club on Friday 19th December from 7pm for a cosy evening of Christmas carols and community spirit. Christmas jumpers are essential!

Big, bold, sparkly, silly — whatever your style, dig out your favourite festive knit and wear it with pride. This is a wonderful opportunity to share Christmas joy with friends, neighbours, and the wider Hunton community.

Bring your best singing voice too!

Kerry Larkin

Shake Off the Christmas Crumbs at Hunton Village Club!

Feeling full of mince pies and ready for some fresh air?

Join us on Saturday 28 December for a cheerful post-Christmas countryside walk, followed by a hearty lunch.

We'll meet at the Hunton Village Club at 11.00 and set off on a gentle circular walk (around 1½ hours), perfect for stretching your legs and swapping Christmas tales. Bring your family, friends and dogs along; everyone is welcome! When we return, the bar will be open (cheers to that!) and a buffet lunch will be waiting to reward your efforts. Lunch prices:

- £10 for Club Members
- £12.50 for Non-Members
- £5 for Children

What better way to round off the festive season than with fresh air, good company and great food?

To help with catering, please email Lesley by the end of Boxing Day if you'd like to join us. Don't forget to mention any food allergies or unusual dislikes — our friendly volunteers will do their best to accommodate. Contact: lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

Step into the great outdoors, raise a glass, and celebrate the season the Hunton way!

Christmas may be over, but the cheer isn't. Come and help keep the sparkle going!

Kerry Larkin

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 20.00 – 23.00

2nd & Last Fridays of the month 18.30 – 22.00

Regular Monthly Events Include:

Gents Beer Night – 1st Wednesday

Book Group – 2nd Wednesday

Needles & Natter – 3rd Wednesday

Hunton Ladies Evening – Last Wednesday

Events for the Rest of the Year:

Club AGM Friday 5th December

Carols at the Club Friday 19th December

Boxing Day Drinks Friday 26th December

12 Noon – 2pm

Walk and/or Lunch* Sunday 28th December

New Year's Eve Wednesday 31st December

For more information contact

Lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com

**Places must be pre-booked*

A Tale of Three Rectors

I have been asked a number of times if I knew why two of our early Rectors were “ejected” and have not, until now, been able to answer with any confidence. The Kent Archaeological Society website has been very helpful in filling in the blanks.

The first to be ejected was Theophilus Higgons (not a typo). Born in Buckinghamshire in about 1578, he was noted as “a young man of pregnant parts and a tolerable Latin Poet much stained with Puritanism and as “being very violent against all such as favoured the Romish see ... cutting down a Maypole because he thought it came out of a Romish Forest.” He seems to have been an impetuous man of strong opinions!

After first serving as Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop of Gloucester he was appointed Lecturer at St. Dunstan’s Church, Fleet Street where “he was much followed ... for his sweet and eloquent preaching”.

While there he married clandestinely. His father and relatives were much put out at this and in consequence of this and the disrespect and neglect it brought him, he left his wife and went into the North of England but soon returned to London.

“Being very ambitious and not finding preferment suitable, as he thought to his merits, he thereupon and through debts occasioned by his marriage, fell into a deep discontent, and was finally drawn over to Rome. He wrote a pamphlet about it, went to France for two years but “found out not what he expected in Respect, Preferment and I know not what”, and was at length regained to the English Church by the Dean of Winchester.

He preached a sermon at St. Paul’s Cross, 3rd March 1610 in testimony of his hearty reunion with the Church of England and humble submission thereunto and was then made Rector of Hunton in 1610, where his first wife died in 1615 but he soon married again and by his second wife had six children, five of whom survived him. Mr. Higgons’s second wife died at Hunton in 1645, the same year that Parliament implemented the policy of sequestration, seizing the income and assets of church livings from clergy deemed “malignants” (those loyal to the King and Catholicism) as a means of both punishment and financial gain during the English Civil War. This policy was part of broader Parliamentary wartime measures, which involved replacing “delinquent” clergy with ministers favoured by ... Parliament, effectively transferring patronage from the crown and bishops to the state.

Given his well known flirtation with Roman Catholicism it is not surprising that sequestration of the living followed. He held on as long as he could but was at last compelled to relinquish Hunton to Mr. George Latham and retired to Maidstone in 1647.

In choosing the rather more relaxed George Latham to replace the previous incumbent, the powers that be may have taken a step too far. It seems that Mr Latham failed to maintain records of baptisms, marriages and deaths during his time in Hunton, but of course, it wasn’t his fault! His apology (issued the year of his ejection) reads as follows:

“The cause of the incompleteness of this [Parish Records] book for some years past was the passing of it through so many hands, both of ministers and others, and the several changes of the times, and not the wilful neglect of him, who now at last had it in his custody He often earnestly [begged] the Parishioners to bring in the names of such persons who ought to have been Registered; either for marriage, baptizing or burial, and they not so doing, the default must be imputed unto them; and not to him but for any such as came and informed him, concerning ye same; had them set down without delay or denial, such as I remembered I registered of my own word.” [Mr. Latham’s apology for the many omissions in the Registers during the years he was at Hunton – from 1647 to 1662.]

To complete the set, though not ejected, Anthony Paule (Rector before Theophilus Higgons) was appointed Rector of Hunton in 1575. He was a noted protestant who had been incarcerated in the Tower of London for his faith by the Roman Catholic Queen Mary (who reigned from 1553 to 1558). He survived the experience and was released by Queen Elizabeth before moving to Hunton where he served as Rector for about 35 years.

All three clearly lived in challenging times!

James Forster

Stonewall and the Hunton Duddys

My five times great grandfather settled in Hunton around 1675 and the last members of my family left the parish about two hundred years later. For most of that time my ancestors were farmers who owned Stonewall. I have been carrying out a lot of research as I wanted to find out as much as I could about our family history, how we came to own Stonewall and then to suddenly lose it. During the course of my research, I’ve learnt a lot more about my family, both in Hunton and earlier, how Stonewall evolved over the years from a medieval hall house, the clothiers who previously owned Stonewall, and what happened after our ownership. I also learnt about early hop farming and something about what life was like in those times in Hunton.

I’ve written an A4 booklet setting out a lot of what I’ve learnt, which I’m happy to share with anyone who may be interested. The first batch of booklets should be with James Forster (contactable on forsters.hunton@btinternet.com) around the middle of December and I can produce more if there’s any interest. St Mary’s has been very important to my family and I’d like the church to benefit if possible. I’m not making any charge for the booklets, but I hope that if people enjoy them, they may choose to make a small donation to the church.

Martin Duddy

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 – 11pm; Fridays 6.30 – 10.30pm (2nd and last Fridays only); Sundays 8 – 10.30pm

Gardening for the Festive Season

You might not want to get out gardening in the winter's cold months, but there are pleasures to be had in being in the garden at this time. Though the full colour of spring and summer has disappeared as plants die back, there is plenty you can feast your senses on.

Structures of evergreen shrubs clipped or shaped or merely left to their own devices provide a presence and stand out in snow or frost. Plants such as box or its' near equivalent, Ilex cranata (should not succumb to box moth); pittisporums, hollies or even small conifers can make an impact on their own.

There is colour to be had in berries, particularly holly and yew; and the stems of dogwoods such as cornus alba in its' vibrant red it looks great against evergreens or back lit by the sun. The bark of Acer Griseum can glow a charming copper even if not lit by the sun and the pure white bark of silver birch can have a ghostly appeal.

And then there are the scents around the garden. Sarcococca which packs a punch considering how small the flowers are, Witch hazel (hamamelis), Daphne and winter honeysuckle, (Lonicera fragrantissima) are heavenly. These scents come to meet you before you see the plant and are great to have near paths or by the front or back door.

If you leave the cutting back of herbaceous perennials until spring, not only does it give the opportunity for birds to eat the seeds and insects to hibernate; they provide a presence and lit up by frost you forget they are the brown of spent plants that have done their flowering. Good examples that stand up are the echinacea, achillia and sedums. Ornamental grasses also add some grace and movement, any of the miscanthus, panicums, calamagrostis and stipas also look good with any plant including the browns of the perennials not yet cut down but doing their dormant bit.

A little bit of frost or snow adds a sparkle - what more could you want for this festive season?

Remembrance Sunday Service

This is a special day for many people throughout the world and here in Hunton we do try to play our part in a national remembering of sacrifices made for us. The church looked stunning with the silhouettes recalling Hunton's young men who lost their lives, the flowers, poppies and wreaths decorating the church so beautifully and a good congregation of 84 filling up the pews with their newly covered cushions.

This year we had two new displays to remind us of what war means for those involved, both home and abroad.

In the first there were letters from Hunton families, both past and present, sent during WW1 and WW2. Some were distinctly bloodthirsty, some described horrendous events whilst another from Ypres presented a peaceful picture of breakfast and birdsong (ironically this man was killed shortly afterwards). The most moving letter was written to Guy Oliver by his father, the one-year-old son he had never met and that he clearly feared he would never meet. Happily, this story has a happy ending! The second display included photographs from the war in Ukraine which underlined the horror of that conflict. Of all the 11 young men pictured, 3 had recently been killed and 7 had been wounded, some seriously. Only one was now unhurt.

Our thoughts are with them all and with their extended families and friends.

James Forster

Benefice Service Rota – December 2025

Church	7 th 10:30am	13 th	14 th 10:30am	20 th	21 st 10:30am	22 nd	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day 10:00am	28 th 10:30am
Coxheath	Christmas Crafts LF & BP Carols & Christmas Tree light switch on 4:30pm JT & BP		Christmas Tree Festival Christmas Folk (TBC) 4pm LF		All Age Christingle 11:00am LF & BP Carol Service 4:00pm LF	Lights of Love 6:00-7:30pm LF	Children's Service 4:30pm DJ Midnight Communion 11:15pm DJ	Family Worship LF	Holy Communion CD, DJ & Team
East Farleigh		Carols around the tree 4:00pm LF	Holy Communion, LF & DJ				Christingle 4:00pm LF & BP		
West Farleigh			Carol Service 4:30pm, CD				Communion 9:30pm LF		
Hunton					Holy Communion, DJ & CD	Christmas Market	Carol Service 6:00pm DJ		
Linton	Holy Communion		Holy Communion DJ & SE	Messy Christingle 3:00pm Carol Service 4:15pm BP & LF				Family Service & Communion DJ	
LF -Lorna Faulkner, DJ – David Jones, BP- Becky Parnham, CD -Clinton Davis, SE – Sue Elliott									
Midweek Services									
Coxheath 10:00 Thurs: 4, 11 & 18 Dec BCP Communion									
Linton 12:00 Wednesday 10, Communion 25th Dec NO SERVICE									

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