



## Will it need a fatality before action is taken?

**The fear of a child being killed on West Street outside the village school has led councillors to call for action from the Highways Authority to make the road safer.**

Members heard at their November monthly meeting of how cars were still speeding through the village making it highly dangerous especially when parents park their vehicles outside the school to deliver or collect pupils each day. It has been suggested that possibly traffic calming could be introduced in West Street and improvements made to the junction with the Bishops Lane access to the school. The overall problem would be eased if the existing 40mph speed limit was enforced, say Councillors, or better still if it was to be reduced to 30 or even 20mph in this very dangerous spot.

A resident living opposite the school has reported parents parking on the yellow road markings warning motorists to 'Keep Clear'. Councillors agreed it was often a case of people being too lazy to park a few hundred yards away and walk their children to the entrance.

In the past, the Highways Authority has agreed this section of the road needs to be made safer but their only action was to install the railings outside the entrance. Although this has been highly beneficial, further improvements are needed.

## Ofsted inspectors and firemen visit busy school

Hunton Primary School saw a busy start to the term with 11 new children joining in September, including Edward into Year 3, and Cameron, Olivia, Alexandra, Oliver, Emma, Jack, Millie, Callum, Polly and Rebecca into the Reception class. The next big event in the term calendar was the Ofsted inspection, when staff and children worked hard to show off the school, of which they are very proud. Details of the report will be given once it has been published.

The Rev. David Jones visited for the Harvest Festival service, when children were joined by parents and younger brothers and sisters, all helping to make it thoroughly enjoyable event. The children brought in gifts for the service at St Mary's and distribution by the church.

Book Week gave children the opportunity to look through exciting new books, which could be bought by parents, while a visit by Rob Parkinson took youngsters on imaginary journeys using stories and songs. In another visit from the Fire Brigade, children were given a fascinating talk on fire and safety.

Some of the more able writers at Hunton School had the opportunity to visit Wateringbury School where they were joined by children from other local schools for a writers' group. Wes Magee, a children's author, led the day. The children produced wonderful pieces of work and shared their experiences with the rest of the class. Sadly, the school is saying 'goodbye' to Sara Anscomb, who has taught in Middle School for the last seven years. She is leaving to have her second baby, due in the New Year. She will be missed by all staff and children, and especially remembered for her lively love of performances and quizzes. Everyone wishes her and her family well and look forward to hearing all about the new baby.

### Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Clerk to Parish Council: David Swan	814445
Village Hall:	820309	Village Hall Booking: Lisa Danch	820322
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Under-5s Playgroup:	741951
Maidstone Police:	608186	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	'Potholes' concern (MBC) Graham Steady	602000
Associate Rector: Revd Ruth Bierbaum	743866**	Churchwardens: Lynda Twaite	820739
also: Revd David Jones	741474**	Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Hon PCC Secretary: Nicky Grainger	813527	Organist: Philip Moore	749356
Rectory:	747570	**not available on Fridays	

**4 December:** Yalding Yuletide Market stalls and entertainment 5pm (814109)

**4 December:** Guitar Concert in Village Hall, 7.30 for 8.00pm (820683 or 820226)

**17 December:** Christingle Service 6pm (820360)

**18 December:** Yalding Farmers' Market (814109)

**19 December:** Church Candlelit Carol Service followed by mulled wine and refreshments in Village Hall 6pm

**All items for the January Issue to the Editor as soon as possible, and by 14 December, please**

### Have they asked you yet?

Have they asked you what you need for Christmas; what you want?

This evening I walked through Boots in Maidstone - there was a special offer to entice the November Christmas shoppers, and the place was frantic with (mostly women) gathering all those things which will be 'wrapped-and-then-unwrapped-and-forgotten-after-a-week-or-two', into their baskets.

We plan so much for the festive season: so much money, so much effort; so much time. Trees. Lights. Parties. If you detect a hint of Scrooge...then don't get me wrong. It's a great feeling to receive a present, and I love walking down the street and seeing the glimmers of other people's decorations; the carolling in frosty air (as John Betjamen would say); the chance to share food with friends and family and finally collapse in front of the telly.

**BUT** that isn't what I *need* for Christmas; it isn't even what I want (to be honest). What I need for Christmas is a place, a space, a stillness, where I can be, where I can let God be in me; where I, like Mary, can ponder the immensity of what it means that God took flesh and lived amongst us. I need, more than anything, to find Jesus within and without the issued fripperies. I need to reflect on the hope his coming brings into this desperate world; to sit for a while and soak up the rays of his love; to let his light illumine my soul.

That's what I need for Christmas. You can't buy it at Boots, but by my reckoning it's a far superior offer. This Christmas, I hope that you as well as me find the Peace which the World cannot give, in Christ Jesus the Lord.

Ruth

### A new Rector - Prayer, Patience and Perseverance

The process of finding and appointing a new Rector is set out in the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 and we are progressing along the route that has to be followed.

Since Roger left at the beginning of September, the 5 PCC's have compiled individual parish profiles and personal attributes that they would be looking for in a new Rector. These have now been collated and approved and a copy sent to the Bishop for his comments and for his statement describing, in relation to the Benefice, the needs of the Diocese and wider church. A copy was also sent to our Patron, The Lord Chancellor.

A meeting between our Patron, being represented by his appointment secretary, Mr Nick Wheeler, the Archdeacon, representing the Bishop, the Rural Dean and all members of the PCCs was held on 11th November. Two parish representatives have been appointed by each PCC to share in the process of selecting the new Rector.

These preliminary stages completed, we now wait for our Patron to present a candidate for interview by the parish representatives. In the meantime, we pray for God's guidance that a suitable person is found. The process can take quite a long time and patience and help is required to turn this uncertain period of vacancy into a positive experience.

St Mary's PCC

### Gardens strike Gold in Wildlife Awards

We are hearing daily about some aspect of the environment, and it's not just global warming, pollution or fly tipping - we live in it and it's all around us, which is why so much emphasis is being placed nowadays on the value of our gardens. A scheme called *Gardening for Wildlife 2004* was organised through the summer by the Local Environmental Agency and Medway Valley Countryside Partnership. Open to garden or land owning organisations, the scheme attracted five entrants in Hunton who were visited and interviewed by independent assessors.

David and Anke Way and Mr and Mrs A Parker won gold awards - the highest - while Hunton School and Anne Bishop gained silver with a bronze going to Christina Harrison. Congratulations to them and come on all you green-fingered gardeners, get ready for next year's scheme and be prepared to enter!

### Views needed for survey to improve footpaths

Ramblers who enjoy a pleasant walk in the Hunton area through the changing seasons, could help with a survey that is planned of the local footpaths. An effort is being made, through the Parish Council, to monitor use, maintenance and possible improvements to the network.

Small grants may be available for Public Rights of Way improvements such as better waymarking, building steps on steep sections, replacing stiles with gates for easier access for the less able or perhaps even a way through for elderly dogs!

So Anne Bishop, the local trees and footpaths officer, is keen to receive readers' views as soon as possible. Give her a call on 820683 so that she can get the survey under way. Do it straight away before the busy festive spell. She is also planning some tree planting and maintenance in January, and we hope to report more details and dates in next month's issue.

### David to become Co-ordinating Chaplain to Kent Ambulance

The Kent Ambulance Service has appointed chaplains, to each station throughout the county, from the main denominations in the Christian Church. On Tuesday 7 December at 5.30pm, the Bishop of Tonbridge, The Rt Revd Dr Brian Castle, will be leading a Service of Thanksgiving for the work of the Kent Ambulance NHS Service at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath, during which the Revd David Jones will be licensed as Co-ordinating Chaplain to the

**Lifeboat Christmas Market:** After the success of last month's Coffee Morning, raising £378 for the RNLI funds, the Yalding and District Ladies' Lifeboat Guild is all set for the Christmas Market at the village church on Saturday, 4 December, in a background of festivities and singing.

## Looking back into Hunton's history

Modern visitors passing through Hunton should think of the plight of previous travellers. From another report by Hasted on the County of Kent (1797-1801) it is stated that the 'country is lovely, but that part of the parish of Hunton below the hill, from the nature of the clay soil, is very miry in wet weather and almost impassable. And in the summer drought, quantities of large buzzing flies continually assault passers-by making it most disagreeable and unpleasant to the extreme. The only exception is when standing under the thick shade by spreading oak.'

The report concludes: 'We may smile or even be sickened by the fulsome flatteries of the well-to-do who surveyed the scene through rosy spectacles. Of course things were nothing like as lovely as seen on ideal summer days. Yet taking account of imperfections which abounded in both place and people, then and now, we believe that most residents would agree that Hunton is a good place to live in, and that they feel fortunate to be living there.'

Lovers of Trollope will recall what a fuss arose in Barchester when John Bold alleged the Rev Septimus Harding was effectively a sinecurist, drawing a fat salary.

The identical charge was levelled against a past Rector of Hunton, the Revd Robert Moore, but it has been stated in a History of the Parish that his conscience remained unstirred. The second son of an Archbishop of Canterbury, by favouritism he had obtained three church livings, the one in Hunton bringing him in £500 a year as part of a total income of £9,000.

Critics at the time, in the mid-19th century, did not lack invective. A Mr Rowland published a poem referring to Mr. Moore as a "slug and a muckworm, more skilled to fleece the helpless than to feed people." In a letter to 'The Times' the Revd Moore said that he was "hurt at being held up more than others similarly circumstanced to public odium." He pleaded that his office was a "patent one of great antiquity" and its emoluments were regulated by Act of Parliament. There is no record as to what Hunton parishioners thought - we can only guess!

## Judy's dish to keep the veggies happy

*This month's offering from chef Judy Vickery of Bensted Close is for vegetarian diners and serves four people*

### Vegetarian Kebabs

**Ingredients:** 2 aubergines (thickly sliced), 4 small onions. 2 green peppers (de-seeded and cut into pieces), 8 cherry tomatoes, 2 courgettes (thickly sliced), 8 chestnut mushrooms

**Marinade:** 4-6 fluid oz. olive oil, juice of a lemon, 2 level tbsp. dried rosemary, 1 crushed clove of garlic (if liked), salt and freshly ground black pepper

**Method:** Put all the ingredients into a bowl with the marinade and leave for at least one hour, mixing and turning frequently. Thread the vegetables equally between four skewers and grill gently until the vegetables are cooked. Brush them with the leftover marinade and turn frequently. Serve with long grain rice and wedges of lemon.

**Shirley remembers:** *Many of you know Shirley Parnell, who was born in the village and has spent her life being associated with Hunton life. She has been sharing a few memories, which we will be publishing over the next few months. Maybe they will just spark off a few thoughts from our readers of other Hunton memories that we could also share in the future.*

*A phone call is all it takes, no writing involved, just a friendly chat - ring Wendy Simmons on 820875.*

"When I was a girl, about six weeks before Bonfire night, all the gang collected wood and Mr Devas' father allowed us to make a huge bonfire on his land, it was marvellous. Later on, when I was down at 'The Square', we collected wood from where the newer houses are, opposite the school, and made another enormous bonfire there. We collected everything - old beds, chairs, anything really - and up it went in flames, woosh! John Scott's father let us use his land. It was great because everyone joined in. We collected about 10 pence a week over several weeks, so that we could have a few fireworks, not many, nothing too fancy, just simple old fashioned good fun! The next day was just as much fun, as we had to clear up all the bed springs, which hadn't burnt. Life seemed better in those days, somehow."

### HUNTON SCHOOL SEEKS A NEW GOVERNOR

The search is on for a school Governor, ideally a person who plays a role in the local community but is not a parent or teacher. Anyone interested in applying for this position should contact Barbara Godden-Wood on 820360.

**Danger cones concern council:** *The council is trying to identify a mystery visitor who keeps placing traffic cones at the side of a stretch of road from the village hall to the foot of Hunton Hill in a bid to stop heavy lorries from damaging the roadside hedge. But the cones are a danger to motorists with one accident reported and several near misses.*

The bulk refuse freighter will be at the Village Hall on Saturday 22 January from 07.45 to 08.45

## At St Mary's Church in December

### Notices

**Brass cleaning:** Mrs Grainger & Mrs N Scott  
**Flowers:** 3rd: Mrs McLoughlin  
 5th & 12th: Mrs Grainger  
 18th: All helpers for Christmas, please  
**Church Family Service Coffee Rota (11am)**  
 5 December: the Leonard family  
 2 January: Mrs Grainger

### Sunday Club meets before Carol Service

The December meeting is on Sunday 19 December. This is the day of the *Carols by Candlelight* at St Mary's, so we have planned a tea at 4.30pm at 4, The Square (the home of Mike and Jenny Taylor) so that we can go as a group to the Carol Service at 6.00pm.

Also, Christmas time and the New Year mark the party season and on Sunday 2 January, from 4.30-6.30pm, we will be hosting the Benefice Party for all children of Primary School age who are members of the other church groups in the Benefice, and their friends. More details will follow by the usual letter to each member, but mark the date and time in your new diaries.

For any other details contact David (741474)

### Services

#### Sunday 5th - 2nd Sunday of Advent

11.00am Church Family Service & NADFAS Presentation Revd R Bierbaum  
Reading: Romans 15:4-7

#### Sunday 12th - 3rd Sunday of Advent

9.15am Holy Communion Revd D Jones  
Readings: James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

#### Friday 17th

6.00pm Christingle Service

#### Sunday 19th - 4th Sunday of Advent

NO MORNING SERVICE

6.00pm Carol Service

Revd D Jones

OPEN COLLECTION FOR C OF E CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

#### Friday 24th - Christmas Eve

11.30pm Holy Communion Revd D Grimwood  
Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10 John 1:1-14

#### Saturday 25th - CHRISTMAS DAY

9.15am Christmas Day Service for all, followed by HC Revd D Jones

#### Sunday 26th

10.30 Benefice Service at Holy Trinity, Coxheath

Sunday 2 January: Church Family Service 11am

The National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Society (NADFAS) will present a record of St Mary's and talk about their work and our Church at the Family Service on Sunday 5 December, at 11am.

**'Up & Running':** We will continue to meet on Thursday afternoons from 1.30 - 3.00 pm with a Christmas break on Thursdays 23 and 30 December. We start again in the New Year on 6 January 2005.

**Advent - a time for reflection:** Those who are getting ready for Christmas, and thinking about what Advent means, can join together for a time of reflection at the beginning of Advent. The very first mince pies prior to the festive season will be served with tea/coffee on Wednesday 1 December from 7pm in Holy Trinity, Coxheath followed by a short time for reflecting on the meaning of Advent and Christmas. Contact Lesley (745702) for more information.

### Services at the other churches in our group:

December	5th	12th	19th	24th	25th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.15 CFS	11.00 HC 7.00 Carol Service	5.00pm Children's Service 11.15pm HC	10.45am Christmas Day Service for All followed by HC
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC	8.00 HC 10.30 MP	11.00 Parish Worship 6.00pm Carol Service	4.00pm Christingle 11.30pm HC	10.45am HC
Linton	9.15 HC	8.00 HC 11.00 CFS	9.15 HC 4.00pm Carol Service	11.30pm HC	9.15am Christmas Day Service for All
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC 6.00 EA	(no morning service) 3.00pm Carol Service	9.15 HC	9.30pm HC	10.15am HC for All

10am every Thursday - Holy Communion (1662) at Coxheath

HC: Holy Communion MP: Morning Prayer CFS: Church Family Service EA: Evening Alternative

The only service on 26 December will be a Benefice Service, at 10.30am, at Holy Trinity, Coxheath.

For Weddings, Thanksgivings, and Baptisms, please contact Revd David Jones (741474)