

New head has passion for education

Sue Wood, the new Head Teacher of Hunton School, is looking forward to getting to know the children, parents, and the local community over the next few weeks.

Sue, who lives in Hartley (near Bluewater) and enjoys the wonderful drive through the Kent countryside to school, is married with three daughters aged 22, 19, and 16. She says: "I was so pleased to be offered the position after a very long whole day interview and, although I had a pleasant Christmas with my family, I was even more excited when 2005 arrived and I could get into school!

"I have worked in a variety of schools both in Inner London, Medway, and Kent, with a range of children from 3 to 11 years. I have a real passion about education and can think of no better job than leading a school in which the teaching of children and the development of them as young people who have the skills to deal with life in the 21st century is at the centre of importance. The recent successful Ofsted report shows this is already happening at Hunton; we now have the opportunity to build on these successes and move forward.

"From my first few days around the school it was evident that everyone works hard to ensure that all the children enjoy school life and experience a feeling of achievement. Staff are constantly building each child's self esteem, self belief, and sharing Christian values, all of which I believe are imperative to successful learners and good citizens.

"This is a lovely school with a real sense of community; I hope those who do not know the school or haven't visited recently will come along and see us at work; they will be made very welcome. For those unable to visit, please try to browse our new school web site www.huntonschool.org.uk, of which I am personally very proud, as it will open our school community to a wider audience and, in time, become a more eco-friendly way to share information. I give my thanks to Darren Bramley, a good friend and GMTV cameraman, who has given his time freely to set up this new project for us."

Come along and paint the hall

Hard-working members of the Village Hall Committee will be at the hall on Saturdays 12 and 19 February, from 9.30am, and need help to redecorate the interior of the hall. Volunteers are needed and will be thoroughly welcomed so that the job can be done in just two hits!

Just an hour or two of volunteers' time will be much appreciated. All paint will be provided but please bring your own paintbrushes! Coffee and tea will be also be served - maybe even bacon sarnies! If you'd like to help, please telephone Tricia on 820804 (it will help the organisers to know how much bacon to buy!) or just turn up on the day.

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
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Pre-School Supervisor: Pippa Fordham	746829
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	

Dates for Diaries:

19 February: *Black & White Show* for Tsunami Appeal (see page 2)

19 February: Yalding Farmers' Market (814109)

9 March: Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm Village Hall (814445)

2 April: *Beatles Night* - Coxheath Village Hall, Tickets £10, Brian Mortimer (746046) Proceeds to Alzheimer's Fund

Let's unite and call for an end to world poverty

FACT: Today the gap between the world's rich and poor is wider than ever. Global injustices such as poverty, AIDS, malnutrition, conflict and illiteracy remain rife.

When faced with the enormity of poverty in the world, it's tempting to shrug our shoulders and ask "what difference can I make?" But in the last month, as governments and individuals have pooled gifts of money, following the Tsunami disaster, we have seen that together, we have tremendous power for good.

Imagine then the power of this generation to really make a positive difference to world poverty.

Which of us doesn't want an end to preventable famine and disease, for example? Who of us would want history to say about us: "Well, they had the opportunity to stop it - but did nothing?"

Think of how much evil could have been prevented, if each individual German had stood together against Hitler, and of how Apartheid in South Africa was abolished because we shouted together. And think now, of how loud your voice will be, when you open it to call for an end to poverty, and find yourself joined by a chorus from earth and heaven doing the same.

As Tony Blair is President of the G8 in 2005, we British have a unique opportunity to put pressure on the World Bank, the IMF, and the world's richest nations, to make trade fair and drop crippling debt of the poorest nations. To join your voice to that great chorus calling for an end to the 30,000 unnecessary deaths a day through poverty, join the *Make Poverty History* Campaign. The first big event will be in Trafalgar Square on 3 February, with Nelson Mandela. For more details go to the *MakePovertyHistory* web site. Ruth Bierbaum

Hard work leads to success for Pre-School

Hunton under 5's Pre-School, praised at the end of last year after their Ofsted Care Standards Inspection, has grown in popularity and size over the last couple of years.

Supervisor Pippa Fordham explains that, as well as attracting children from the village, the Pre-School is attended by youngsters from Coxheath, East Farleigh, Loose, and other surrounding areas.

"Due to the increasing size of the Pre-School, we now employ nine members of staff. Most sessions are full and there is a current waiting list," says Pippa. "Expansion has enabled the group to offer a Lunch Club, and music lessons taught by teachers from the Kent Music School." Referring back to the Ofsted inspection, Pippa says: "I was thrilled with the excellent report. I'm sure our success is down to our dedicated, caring staff and supportive committee of parents who all work so well together as a team. It is brilliant that we are now reaping the benefits of everyone's hard work and the time spent training for child-care qualifications over the last couple of years. As well as providing care and learning for village children, it is wonderful we attract those from the wider community."

The Pre-School welcomes any visitors interested in seeking a place in Sessional Day Care for their child. Alternatively, they can telephone for a prospectus on 820309 or contact the supervisor (746829) for further information. Government funding is available for three and four year olds.

A mixture of haze, blueness, ripples and sky - Out & Out Abroad

A further holiday report from Turkey, following last month's discovery of 'white daffodils' on the beach.

Just in time after my wonderful discovery on the beach, I caught my promised transport to go up Babdagh, a 6,550ft mountain. It was a nerve-racking 45-minute journey, gradually climbing through a dry, stony landscape. The driver's drum music on the radio competed with the bumps in the road.

We passed majestic Atlantic cedars covered with a beige dust on the bendy road before finally reaching the summit. From there, a party of paragliders leapt out of the jeep before making a much bigger jump and floating away with their multi-national tourists in tandem, silently circling for the 40-minute descent to the beach - a mixture of haze, blueness, ripples and sky.

I was welcomed at the top by the glider pilot overseeing procedures, who shook my hand saying: "Welcome to Turkey, mother of Mike, my paragliding son. Are you going down now - the wind is the best?" I asked him if *his* mother would do it and he laughed and agreed she would not. I thanked him for his welcome, while admiring the surroundings and telling him how exhilarating the trip had been. My companion, a former Turkish ladies' acrobatic champion tugged at my arm and pointed enthusiastically at a young 16-year-old local girl preparing to go solo. 'Be

Black and White Show for Tsunami Appeal

Gardening expert David Way and his wife Anke are presenting the second Black and White Garden Show (Snowdrops and Hot Chocolate) at Southover, Hunton on Saturday, 19 February, from 10.30am to 3pm. The enlarged collection - more than 70 kinds of snowdrops - will be on view, together with hellebores (Oriental Christmas roses), hardy cyclamen, and early dwarf daffodils, while visitors can gain advice on cultivation and buy plants which will be on sale. The entrance charge will be just £2.50 for adults, with children free; the proceeds will be donated to the Save the Children Tsunami Disaster Appeal.

Southover garden is at the end of Grove Lane (off West Street, opposite Hunton School).

There will be free parking subject to soil conditions!

In search of a piano: Does anybody have a piano that they are wishing to dispense with? A Hunton

Record collections include £633 for Tsunami: With busy congregations, one topping 180 people, a five-year record was reached in the money taken at St Mary's over the festive period, including a splendid £633 for the Tsunami Disaster Appeal.

Chorister Joy McLoughlin said: "In the face of the sad, bleak tragedy it was heart-warming to see the will of so many people to help in any way. But of course the need is on-going and those wishing to give support can send donations to church treasurer David Twaite; please make cheques payable to 'Christian Aid'. 'Taxpayers' can enhance their contributions by 28% (Gift Aid') by signing a simple form available from David."

John Scott adds: "The Christmas Day service inspired one visiting family to say they would like to come again - sentiments echoed by the children. It was a great pleasure to hear the bells ringing again with thanks to Graham Heath and his team of ringers. Thanks also go to Kate Stevens for providing the magnificent tree."

Further thanks came from Jean Murrell to all friends and neighbours for their great response to the church appeal for blankets, sheets and household goods. Some parishioners felt the lack of lighting in the village over the festive holiday was sad. Lawrence Martin has offered the use of his garden and model train as a fund-raiser to purchase lights for next year!

FOOTNOTE: Christian Aid has collected £250,000 enabling partners in India and Sri Lanka to provide shelter and rations for more than 50,000 families. More money is still urgently needed to get emergency food and shelter to families. It can range from £15.00 to buy hot meals for 125 in emergency feeding centres to £250 to provide essential emergency shelter and food for 20 families. Visit the website www.christianaid.org.uk

Do You Know who I am?

This lovely, friendly ginger tom appears to have lost his way. He is generally spotted around the northern end of East Street seeking food and shelter, but unfortunately nobody in the immediate vicinity knows where his owners are. Can you help? Please call 820509 if you have any information.



Church Treasurer: St. Mary's Church needs a new Treasurer to manage the Church accounts. This is mainly book-keeping with manual ledger entries, payment of bills, balancing bank and Diocesan accounts, and preparation of Financial Statements for Annual Report. Enquiries, please, to David Twaite tel. 820739.

Pop into the Post Office for holiday services: Yalding and Coxheath Post Offices remind Hunton residents that they 'don't just sell stamps', and stress that they provide a service for those already planning their summer holidays. Travel insurance is available and is described by the Post Office as "highly comprehensive and great value." Foreign currency is still commission free, except for sterling traveller cheques; for those going to Europe, they should pop into the Post Office to pick up their new E111 form. Yalding postmistress Margaret says: "There are important changes, and the old E111 expired on the last day of 2004." With Post Offices all across the country threatened with closure our local ones are telling residents to "use us or lose us".

Let's face the music and dance!

For those who have failed to keep their New Year's resolutions, here's the chance to get into shape and have some fun as a bonus! Sounds good? - then read on!

A new dance class has started on Monday evenings, 8-9pm, at Hunton village hall and is run by local girl Claire Moakes. It's essentially beginners tap but with a modern twist. Claire, who has been dancing since the age of five says: "I wanted to provide something for the village and initially started a tap class for the Hunton School children, which has proved popular. The mums began to ask: 'Can you do a class for us too?' - So I thought why not? It's open to everybody of all abilities, for men as well as ladies; it will start as a beginners' class. There are no exams or tests and the class will be a mixture of traditional tap routines, set to music from well known musicals like *Chicago*, *Singing in the Rain*, and *Me and My Girl*, with a little bit of Beyonce, Enrique Iglesias, and Christina Aguilera thrown in!"

Claire has lots of experience in various forms of dance - in ballet, and modern jazz as well as tap and has 'starred' in local shows with the *County Towners*, Maidstone Operatic Society, and local dance troupes. She is a mum of two children at Hunton school, and is looking forward to the challenge of providing a place for local ladies - and hopefully budding Gene Kellys - to tone up their thighs, bottoms, and tums in a different way from pounding those treadmills, doing unending sit-ups, and pushing weights!

So go on, why not give it a go? You never know, you might find yourself on the next *X Factor* show entertaining the nation! Mmm ... what about a "Hunton Village X Factor show - now there's a thought! (Contact: 820509)

Classes at Hunton Village Hall every Monday from 8 pm to 9p.m Phone 820509 for more information.

White House does it again! Fund-raising events through last year, organised by hosts Arthur and Jan Morris and supported by their generous regulars at the White House, Hunton, have raised a magnificent £1,158 for the pub's Old Folk's charity; the New Year got off to a great start with £471 being collected for the Tsunami Disaster Appeal.

villager wishing to learn the art would be interested to hear from you. Please call Claire on 820509

At St Mary's Church in February

Notices

Brass cleaning: Mrs Redfarn & Mrs Weston
Flowers: 30 Jan & 6 Feb: Mrs Pullham
Church Family Service Coffee Rota (11am)
 6 February: Mrs St John & Mrs Andrews
 6 March: the Simmons Family

Sunday Club: After the Festive parties and the meeting at Durrants in January, the club meets again on Sunday 20 February at Buston Manor Farm Cottage from 5.15-6.45pm. The club is open to any local child of primary school age, and generally meets on the third Sunday of the month, with an activity, tea, and Christian input. Contact David Jones (741474) for details - all are welcome.

Services

Sunday 6th - Sunday next before Lent

11.00am Church Family Service

Mrs E Doyle

Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

Wednesday 9th - Ash Wednesday

8.00pm Holy Communion at Linton

Sunday 13th - 1st Sunday of Lent

9.15am Holy Communion (1662)

Ven Clive Mansell

Readings: Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

Sunday 20th - 2nd Sunday of Lent

11.00am Morning Prayer

Mrs E Doyle

Readings: Genesis 12:1-4a John 3:1-17

Sunday 27th - 3rd Sunday of Lent

9.15am Holy Communion(CW)

Revd R Bierbaum

Readings: Exodus 17:1-7 John 4:5-42

Sunday 6 March: 11am - Mothering Sunday Service

Ash Wednesday - 9 February - the start of Lent - there will be a Service of Holy Communion at St Nicholas', Linton at 8.00pm for all the churches in the Benefice.

Relationships under the microscope: This year's Lent Course will start on Monday 14 February, continuing each Monday until 7 March, at Lantern Cottage, Barn Hill, Hunton; it will follow the course entitled 'Better Together?' Topics to be covered will include Relationships - in the Family, in the Church, with Strangers, with God - and Broken Relationships.

Each evening begins at 7.45pm with coffee, for a prompt 8.00 start; it will finish no later than 9.30. The format is a 10-minute taped introduction and then discussions on the relevant topic. For further information contact David Jones 741474.

Mothering Sunday is on Sunday 6 March and will be marked with a Special Service at St Mary's at 11.00am.

31 March - 10 April: A Voyage with St Paul and visit to the Seven Churches of Asia led by the Rt Rev Michael Nazir-Ali (747570)

'Up & Running': The Toddler and Parent group meets every Thursday from 1.30-3.00pm at Holy Trinity church, Coxheath. All are welcome - just turn up to have a natter and drink while your 'little ones' play! (741474)

Mums invited for a friendly chat: The Coxheath Area Branch of the Mothers' Union will continue to meet every third Wednesday of the month at 2pm at the Holy Trinity Church. Meetings are informal and with speakers or discussions on a variety of topics. They usually end with tea/coffee and a chance to chat and catch up with friends from around the Benefice.

At the January meeting, John Partridge, recently awarded the MBE, talked about his work with the Royal British Legion; in February, Laura Sparks will talk about her travels through World Challenge. As this will be half-term week it is hoped that more young mums will be able to attend.

The AGM and Annual Service of Renewal will be held on 16 March. The Mothers Union is involved with the 'Make Poverty History' Campaign - check it out on the website at www.themothersunion.org or, for more information about our local branch, contact Lesley on 745792.

Services at the other churches in our group:

February	6th	9th	13th	20th	27th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	8.00pm Service of Holy Communion at Linton	9.15 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 CFS
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC		8.00 HC 10.30 MP	11.00 Parish Worship	8.00 HC 10.30 MP
Linton	9.15 HC		8.00 HC 11.00 CFS	9.15 HC	9.15 HC
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC 6.00 EA		11.00 CFS	9.15 HC	11.00 MP
10am every Thursday - Holy Communion (1662) at Coxheath HC: Holy Communion MP: Morning Prayer CFS: Church Family Service EA: Evening Alternative					

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