



Flower Arranging

A very successful day was had by all who attended the Christmas Wreath session on Saturday the 8th December.

If you are interested in learning about flower arranging and having a good time with a friendly group, the new term for Flower Arranging will start on Tuesday the 8th January in the Hunton Village Hall.

Time: - 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Cost: - £35.00

Duration: - 5 Weeks.

For more details contact Jackie- 01622 753053

Sandra Bullivant



Dick Whittington

Nothing to look forward to after Christmas?

Make sure you put this date in your diary. Thursday 17th January 2008 at 6.30pm in Hunton School Hall.

Hunton School PTA have arranged for a professional pantomime company to put on a performance of Dick Whittington. A line up of professional actors will be accompanied by dancers, music, sets, lighting, and all the spectacle you would expect from a Christmas Pantomime.

Tickets are limited and at only £5 each are very good value for a professional production. To reserve your places please contact Dawn Dixon (01622 820598). All profits will directly benefit the school.

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Clerk to Parish Council: Vikki Stancombe	842782
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane	820127
Pre-School Supervisor: Nicola Julier	07972067110	Maidstone Police:	608186
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
Rector: Revd Peter Walker	747570**	'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills	0845 824 7800
Associate Rector: Revd Ruth Bierbaum	743866*	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
also: Revd David Jones	741474*	Organist: Philip Moore	749356
		PCSO Hannah Percival	07772226032

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Thursday 17th January 6.30pm Dick Whittington, Hunton School, £5 (01622) 820598.
Saturday 2nd February 7.30pm Barbishop, Village Hall, £10 (01622) 81426

All items for the February issue to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th January, please

God's Delight....I wonder what or who brings joy into your life at the moment? What or who makes your heart swell with delight at the merest thought? A pensioner might jump up and down with excitement on winning the lottery; a lover might feel like bursting with happiness at the sight of their beloved. We understand these emotions, and I hope that in 2008 you will find a goodly portion of joy yourself, but how often do you think about the way God delights in you?

At the turn of each year in this Benefice, we give out cards with a Bible verse on. The idea is that you keep this card somewhere it can be seen throughout the seasons, so that you can ponder the verse alongside the different twists and turns that the year will surely hold.

So which verse have we chosen for 2008? It's from Psalms 147 verse 11...

God takes pleasure in those who honour him, in those who trust in his constant love (Good News version)

or as another translation puts it...

...the Lord delights in those who fear him; who put their hope in his unfailing love.

It is a given - a done deal if you like - that God's love for you is unfailing. Like a good parent, his love for us does not disappear because we might forget or neglect him. But how God's heart rejoices and brims with pleasure when he sees that we remember him in our lives; when we live with him as our Lord; when we involve him in our daily decisions and talk to him and seek to do his will. Then, Jesus says, God is like a woman who when finding a tenth of her lost wealth, calls her friends to come and celebrate with her. And again, God is like a father who throws a party for the son who came to his senses and remembered the blessings within his father's house.

So my hope is not just for your joy this year, but that you will choose to live 2008 with the purpose of delighting God; by acknowledging him as your Lord and trusting in his good purposes for you.

Yours in faith

Ruth

Hunton Book Club November 2007 Review

'Tell No One' by Harlan Coben

Every year Elizabeth and David Beck return to Lake Charmaine, a place that has been part of their lives since they were children. But on their thirteenth visit, Elizabeth is kidnapped and murdered, while David is left for dead. Eight years pass, but to David it still feels as if more than one life ended on that night. Then an image of Elizabeth appears on his computer screen brutally ripping open the old wounds. Is it just a practical joke? Or evidence that somehow his wife Elizabeth is still alive? Suddenly David is running away from his safe, ordinary life, chasing a ghost whose messages hold out a desperate hope - and warn him to tell no one.

Book club members generally agreed with reviews that this is a pacey, devour-at-one-sitting thriller. Several enjoyed the read and thought the author had cleverly fitted together the pieces of the story like a jigsaw. Some were uncomfortable with the detailed descriptions of violence. Others found the book too light a read and the style unsatisfying. There was a lively debate too about racial stereotyping and whether it was fair or not to accuse the author of using this inappropriately, as a shorthand device. Interestingly, one member had seen a recent film of the book which avoided the shortcomings we discussed (available in French with English sub-titles). Unsurprisingly, given the mixed reactions, the average score for the book was 6/10.

"Barbishop"

Barbishop is an all female close harmony group formed in 1999

The group performs a broad repertoire of music from Palestrina through to more modern numbers made popular by artists such as The Andrews Sisters; Bette Midler; The Carpenters and Frank Sinatra
Please join us for an evening concert at Hunton Village Hall

Saturday 2nd February 2008 from 7.30pm

Tickets available from: 01622 81426, £10 including Ploughman's Supper

GamBLE (Gambia Building Links in Education)

Out and Out

Armchair Gardening

Shorter gardening days and creeping cold encourage us to curl up by a warm fire with books and seed catalogues to dream and plan. Pictures are always perfect, veg are crisper, fruit is fresher, flowers are fuller, last year's disappointments recede and next year's victories are just a scatter of seeds away.

Also it has finally been shown that fruit and veg grown organically are better for us. Not only are antioxidants present in greater quantities to help cut the risk of cancer and heart disease but also beneficial minerals such as iron and zinc are enhanced by this method of growing.

Armchair planning is great and the scientific evidence inspiring, it won't be too long now before we can get out and get gardening again!

Christine McSweeney

Hunton School Christmas Activities

Christmas time saw a very busy period for the school with all their Christmas activities. Upper and Middle school took part in a 'Sing around Christmas' at All Saints in Maidstone on the 10th. The school took part in the Christingle Service on the 13th December, which followed on from the Nativity Play, Christmas Lunch was on the 12th and the Christmas Party on the 19th where the children could wear their own clothes, before breaking up for the Christmas break.

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Saturday 2nd February 2008 at 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park, Maidstone.

Conductor Brian Wright

Bizet - Carmen Suite

Weber - Clarinet Concerto No.2. Soloist Mark Simpson Clarinet

Rachmaninov - Symphony No.2.

This concert has a programme for every taste, with the current BBC Young Musician, Clarinettist Mark Simpson, joining MSO in Weber's delightful 2nd Concerto. Elsewhere, Rachmaninov expansively exploits both sumptuous harmonies and lyrical, romantic melodies in his 2nd Symphony and there's the evergreen suite from Bizet's Carmen.

Concert tickets (£10, £16 and £20, seats for children and students with a student card £5) are available from the Membership Secretaries on 01622 736392 and can be paid for and collected on the concert evening at Mote Hall, or by phoning 0845 1552277 when payment can be made by credit card.

David Bramley

Maidstone Orchestra Society.

Dennis

Currently there is a white male aged 60 years who has a white beard and swept back hair about 5'8" tall and slim build, he is well spoken and often carries a blue holdall. He usually stays at a church overnight in Week Street Maidstone. He often wears a variety of jackets from suits to wax jacket or jacket covered in paint stains.

His name is Dennis. He has a habit of knocking on doors asking for food or small change.

He has been a vagrant for many years and can look after himself.

Some residents have been giving him money and food. Unfortunately this encourages him. The police are receiving calls about him as often he scares residents because he appears at their door at odd times of the day or night.

I ask you to be kind to him and not to give him any food or money as he does have access to both.

Gary Shaw

At St Mary's Church in January

Notices	Services
Brass Cleaning: Sue Scott Family Service Coffee Rota: 6th January 2008 the Taylor family Flowers: 6th January Mrs Scott 13th January Mrs Scott 20th January Mrs Grainger 27th January Mrs Grainger Hunton Sunday Club The Hunton Sunday Club, aimed at primary aged children living in Hunton or attending school in Hunton, meets on Sunday January 20 th at Hunton Village Hall for their New Year Party to which members of the Coxheath Sunday Club have been invited. The time differs slightly from our usual meetings as we are meeting at 4.30pm until 6.30 pm. For further details contact David 741474	Sunday 6th January - Epiphany 11.00am Family Service and gift day Revd Peter Walker Readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2: 1-12 Sunday 13th January - Epiphany 2 09.15am Holy Communion Revd David Jones Readings: Isaiah 42: 1-9, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3: 13-17 Sunday 20th January - Epiphany 3 11.00 Morning Prayer (bcp) Miss C Bostock Readings: Isaiah 49:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1: 29-42 Sunday 27th January - Epiphany 4 9.15am Holy Communion Revd Peter Walker Readings: Isaiah 9: 1-4, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4: 12-23

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2008

On Tuesday 22nd January 2008 at 7.30pm at Holy Trinity church , Coxheath there will be a service held to mark this week and the speaker is the Rev'd Derek Scott, minister of the Linton Road, Congregational church. The theme this year is 'Pray without Ceasing'. All are welcome.

Carol Singing

A big thank you to the residents of West Street and Benstead Close who contributed so generously when a group of us came round carol singing on Sunday 23rd December. Over £68 was collected which will be donated to Starfish Malawi.

<i>January</i>	<i>6th</i>	<i>13th</i>	<i>20th</i>	<i>27th</i>
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS
E. Farleigh	9.15 HC	8.00 HC(bcp) 10.30 MP	11.00 FS	8.00 HC 10.30 MP
Linton	9.15 HC 13.00 Baptism	8.00 HC (bcp) 11.00 FS	9.15 HC	9.15 HC
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC	11.00 MP	9.15 HC	11.00 MP
HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service, SW: Service of Word APCM Annual Parish Council Meeting				

For Weddings, Thanksgivings, and Baptisms, please contact Revd Peter Walker