



The Trains Steam In - A Great Success!

Due to the kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Lawrence Martin of Wayside, Amsbury Road, a wonderful train day was held on September 14th in their garden, accompanied by a huge tea and mercifully a fine afternoon. There appears to have been about 180 people present, and nearly £1,400 was raised for the Friends of St Mary's Church. Many thanks to Sue and Lawrence.

A thank you also to the ladies who helped with the teas and all the drivers and operators for their hard work in making such a success of the day

John Scott



The Great Glass Window

In last month's issue readers will have read about the major Heritage Project in Hunton, the restoration of ancient stained glass windows in our parish Church. The expertise necessary for this complex, detailed and lengthy process is, understandably very costly. The Parish would not have been able to shoulder the financial burden were it not for the strong support from outside and within the Parish. The heritage importance and value of our ancient glass windows is recognised by experts, who have helped us obtain grant aid from a number of charitable trusts. We have also received invaluable support from within the Parish. Mrs Gilly Devas, on leaving Hunton Court, has presented the PCC with substantial additional funding to ensure that the project is successfully concluded. Her late husband, Michael, like his father before him, gave unerring support to St Mary's; the completion of this project, in spring 2009 will form a lasting tribute to their lifelong support covering 150 years

David Way

The Restoration of St Mary's Window begins

All the ancient coloured glass is labelled and packed in bubble wrap and then in wooden boxes and the lids screwed down for transport to John Corley's studio in Deal



Charities Supported in Memory of Kathleen Moore

Many of you will know that Kathleen Moore, the much loved wife of our organist Philip, died of Leukaemia a short time ago. Two of Kathleen and Philip's daughters, Gillian and Helen entered the Great North Run, for the benefit of the Heart of Kent Hospice and Leukaemia Research Fund. Due to their efforts and the retiring collection at the service of Thanksgiving for Kathleen, the magnificent sum of just over £2000 was raised. This sum will be split between the two named charities. Well done girls.

John Scott

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell 820731
School: Secretary/Head Teacher 820360
Under 5's Pre-School: 820309
Pre-School Supervisor: Nicola Julier 07972067110
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop 820683
Rector: Revd Peter Walker 747570**
Associate Rector: Revd David Jones 741474*

Village Club: Doug Redfarn 820495
Clerk to Parish Council: Vikki Stancombe 842782
Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane 820127
Maidstone Police: 608186
Neighbourhood Watch: 608173
'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills 0845 824 7800
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown 820288
Organist: Philip Moore 749356
PCSO Hannah Percival 07772226032

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

3rd November-13 December Thurs 10am-5pm, Fri -Sat 11am-4pm, Lee Millar's Photographs, Mascall's Gallery, Paddock Wood
Thursday 13th November, Hunton Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 8pm
Saturday 22nd November, Applause Event: 'Make do and Mend', Hunton Village Hall, 8pm
Saturday 29th November, Hunton School Christmas Fayre, 2-5pm
Saturday 6th December, Yultide Market, Yalding, 5-8pm
Sunday 7th December, Gift service in aid of the school in Malawi, St Mary's Church
Wednesday 10th December, Graham Kendrick's Dreaming of a Holy Night, All Saints Church, Maidstone, 7.30pm

Parish Councillors contact details

Parish Council Chairman
- Roger Sawtell 820731
Clerk to the Parish Council
- Vikki Stancombe 842782
Cllr Les Leonard 820858
Cllr Moira Walter 745765
Cllr Gary Thomas 820691
Cllr David Heaton 820678
Cllr Keith Eatwell 745569
Cllr Ron Porter 820220

All items for the December edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th November, please

Dear Friends,

'God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself' (2 Cor 5:19)

'Without vision the people perish' (Proverbs 29:18)

You know the saying you wait for the bus which never seems to come, and then three come along at once.

I have just attended two conferences within the space of two weeks. The first was actually a retreat for the clergy of the Malling Deanery. It was organised by our Rural Dean, Jim Brown of East Malling. The retreat was led by Bishop Brian and the venue was a retreat house about one hour's journey from Calais. Four cars transported the twelve clergy to Dover and hence to the ferry for the 75 minute crossing. Bishop Brian gave us a number of talks on the subject of 'reconciliation'. His Lent book on this subject is being published in late November. One phrase which struck with me was: 'when one fails to forgive another, it imprisons both the unforgiven person and you'. It reminded me of something similar I learnt a long time ago: 'to be unforgiving towards another is as if one locks that person in prison and throws away the key'. The Scriptures tell us: 'God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself'. Again, Jesus tells us to be reconciled one to another.

It's often a hard lesson to learn and carry out! We need to seek God's grace to be our help in all such times.

A week later another ship came along - it was the 'Black Prince' sailing from Liverpool to Dublin. It was the occasion of the Annual Conference of CVM (Christian Vision for Men). This was an opportunity for some of our '5P Men's group' in the United Benefice to attend this. Six of us hurtled up the motorway in a hired people-carrier to board the ship and enjoy two days of excellent teaching, worship and fellowship. There was also the opportunity to visit the city of Dublin. 'Band of Brothers' was the theme and it was certainly that as some 300 men came together.

The vision which had its beginnings 15 years ago with Max Sinclair (who lives near Sevenoaks) has as its goal 'to win the men of this country for Christ'. It seems an impossible vision, but over the years many have come to know the Lord Jesus as a reality through this organisation's passion. The 5P group affiliated to CVM earlier this year and we are grateful to Mike Marsh of Coxheath for his heading up this and organising events throughout the year to bring men together.

There is a statistic which brings home to us the need for men to come to faith. That is, that if a man comes to Christ there is near a 90% probability to bring his family to Jesus than any other member of that family. The Harvest is indeed ripe!

Speak to me or Mike Marsh (tel: 745702) about outreach to the men of our parishes.

Also have a look at the website: www.cvmen.org.uk

Two mighty themes for our thoughts and prayers this month: Reconciliation and Vision.

With my prayers,

Peter

Harvest Festival at the White House

A very successful harvest festival was held for 40 people at the Whitehouse on Sunday 5th October

Thanks go especially to:- Paul and Sharon Parnell of Hunton Fruits, Tom and Lou Arnold of Beech Farm, Jan at the Whitehouse and everybody else for their contributions and hard work.

The fruit and groceries were donated to the Women's refuge



Conker competition

The following Sunday at the Whitehouse there was an hilarious conker competition. The proceeds were donated to Age Concern as in the end, due to exhaustion, the finalists were unable to break their opponent's conker it was declared a draw between Charley Adams and Brian Mortimer

Portraits of the 20th Century Greats

Exhibitions of photographer Lee Miller have recently graced the walls of London galleries including the National Portrait Gallery and the V&A, but will soon be found closer to home at Mascalls Gallery in Paddock Wood.

Lee Miller Portraits will be at Mascalls Gallery from 3 November to 13 December.

Admission is free.

Opening times are Monday to Thursday 10am to 5pm, Friday and Saturday 11pm to 4pm.

For further information contact the Gallery on 01892 839039 or online www.mascallsgallery.org

Hunton School Christmas Fayre and Pantomime

Hunton School will be holding a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 30th November, 2-5pm, where there will be lots of exciting stalls and activities such as tombola, raffle, teas, cakes and craft stalls. Please come along and support your local village school.

Following on from the success of this years pantomime we will again be playing host to the same production company for their performance of Jack and the Beanstalk, this will be on Friday 30th January at 7pm. More details will be available in next month's Herald.

'Make do and Mend' - Applause Event

Suitable for all ages this show, originally inspired by the Ragroof 'Button Museum', a growing interactive collection of donated and found buttons and their associated stories!

Date 22nd November 8pm. Tickets Adults £6 and Children £4. From Jane 820127 or Alan 820683

Hunton Book Club - Book Review

Dirk Bogarde by John Coldstream

The authorised biography of Dirk Bogarde by the former literary editor of the Daily Telegraph is an erudite account of the life of the film actor and best-selling author. Ironically, the book seems insufficiently edited; the research is so thorough that it is hard to imagine that there is anything left to say. There are detailed descriptions of proposed film projects which never came to fruition. A dedicated student would find the book an invaluable source but a reader looking for entertainment is likely to prefer Bogarde's own witty style in his series of autobiographies.

We gave the book a score of four out of ten. Next month's book is Mister Pip by Lloyd Jones.

School News

Pumpkin Competition

Schools from all over Kent entered the Pumpkin Competition, including three secondary schools! Kent County Council organised and paid for the marquee and refreshments and the school organised the activities. Thank you to Mrs. McNama who made superb floral arrangements and spent her time with Mrs. Bullivant decorating the marquee on Thursday. All our children who attend eco-council participated in the event. The rest of the school went out to see the displays and joined the schools for a while. The School won 1st prize for the heaviest pumpkin, 2nd for the largest. Trading Standards undertook the weighing and measuring, so it was very fair! KCC officers were present and presented the prizes. A huge thank you goes to all the staff and children who worked so hard to make the day a success.

Donations for Malawi School The School are seeking donations of any writing resources for the school in Malawi.

Graham Kendrick Dreaming of a Holy Night

Graham Kendrick, the well known Christian song writer and composer, will be in concert at All Saints Church, Mill Street, Maidstone on Wednesday 10th December starting at 7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm) Tickets costing £10 including mulled wine and mince pies will be available either via David Jones 741474 or direct from the box office Union street Methodist church, weekdays 9am - 12noon or email info@hope08maidstone.co.uk

Out and Out

Bonfires

Bonfires are central to the traditional celebrations of November the 5th and who doesn't love to hear the crackle and fizz and see the shapes etched into the darkness by leaping, shifting flames?

But bonfires used to clear rubbish can be a cause of aggravation when smoke drives people inside on warm summer's evenings or leaves drying washing with an unpleasant smell. So what are the guidelines for causing least aggravation?

A good gardener should aim to keep bonfires to a minimum by composting as much material as possible. Woody material can be shredded or taken to the dump for disposal, as can diseased material and pernicious weeds. A lot of my woody prunings go into an 'eco pit' where it slowly rots down, but I will burn prickly prunings and a huge pile of twiggy apple prunings which may harbour honey fungus.

To keep smoke nuisance to a minimum try to dry out material before burning, choose a day when there is a light wind to blow smoke away from neighbouring properties and never burn household rubbish which contains plastic, rubber, foam or paint. Using an incinerator can also help. But don't forget that the best time to have a bonfire when it will cause least aggravation is on November the 5th.

At St Mary's Church in November

Notices	Services
Brass Cleaning Ruth Porter	Sunday 2nd November - 4th Sunday Before Advent 11.00am Harvest Revd David Jones Readings Preacher's choice
Church Cleaning Mr and Mrs Leonard	Sunday 9th November - 3rd Sunday before Advent 10.50 Remembrance Sunday Holy Communion Revd David Jones Readings Micah 4 v 1-5 and Romans 8 v 31-end or Corinthians 50 - end
Flowers 2nd November Mrs Simmons 9th November (Remembrance) Mrs Simmons 16th November Mrs Bullivant 23rd November Mrs Bullivant	Sunday 16th November - 2nd Sunday before Advent 11.00am Morning Prayer Mrs E Doyle Readings Zephaniah 7 v 7 & 12-18, Matthew 25 v 14-30
Hunton Sunday Club Hunton Sunday Club will meet on Sunday November 16th at Scott's House, West Street from 5.15pm until 6.45pm. This Club is open to all primary school aged children living or attending the local primary school in Hunton. Fun, games and tea are always on the menu and new members are welcome to join. Contact David 741474 for further details.	Sunday 23rd November - Christ the King 09.15am Holy Communion Revd David Jones Readings Ephesians 5 v 1-11 and Matthew 25 v 31-46
	Sunday 30th November - Advent Sunday 10.30am Benefice Service at East Farleigh Revd Peter Walker Readings Isiaiah 64 v 1-9 and 1 Corinthians 1 v 3-9 and Mark 13 v 24-37

A Letter from Ruth

Dear All,

In these last days before I take up my new post, I am able to find some space, at last, to express my long overdue 'thank yous' to you.

Since July 7th life has been what I like to call 'interesting'. What with learning car gymnastics and the subsequent operations on my right hand and arm, moving home and saying goodbye to many friends, my 3 months off sick, have been somewhat frantic! Now, as I start as a mental health-care chaplain on 13th October, my rather ironic hope is that things might find a new 'normal'.

But back to the purpose of my writing: 'Thank you!'

Thank you for your prayers around my hand, health and home. I know they have made an absolute difference and all three are as good as they could possibly be. The doctors at East Grinstead continue to be very impressed by my progress.

Thank you for all the cards and encouraging words you have sent me (I think I need an extension to display them all), and thank you for the gifts I received on leaving, including the cruciform arrangement of pictures of the 5 churches, and the very generous monetary gift. I have to tell you that this made, again, a very real difference, as put together with a special grant, I have now been able to purchase a car, a little, very red, 3 year old Kia Picanto. Praise God also that I am able to drive, even a manual, and have no horrible flashbacks or phobias.

This is really about Christ's power to heal, rather than any bravery on my part.

God has been faithful throughout this difficult time - alongside me.

'Come near to God and He will come near to you' is the promise found in James 4:8, and one that I have found to be true. May you also know the strength and peace of the presence of Christ alongside in all the interesting episodes of your lives.

With love,

Ruth

November	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
Coxheath	11.00	10.30 Remembrance	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	
E. Farleigh	9.15	8.00 HC 10.30 Remembrance	11.00 FS	8.00 HC 10.30 MP	10.30 Benefice Service
Linton	9.15 HC	10.00 Remembrance	9.15 HC	9.15 HC	
W. Farleigh	9.15 Patronal Festival	10.45 Remembrance	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