



Hunton Festival

Although the Festival in early October may seem rather distant, tickets for a central element in the three day programme are already on sale. The Festival has been organised to celebrate the restoration of three windows in our Parish Church which contain medieval stained glass. Central to the programme is an illustrated lecture by a Kent expert on stained glass. The John Briggs Memorial Lecture is an annual event and this year Hunton will provide the venue. It takes place on Saturday 3rd October 2009 in our Village Hall at 2.30 pm followed by tea. Admission is by ticket only.

John Briggs was a Canterbury solicitor who left a generous bequest to Friends of Kent Churches. In his memory the Friends sponsor lectures in Kent parishes. All profits go towards the restoration of the church in the parish hosting the event. The Friends exist to help historic churches meet the enormous repair bills they regularly face and over the last 60 years have made well over one thousand grants, totalling £1.6 million. You may like to join them (details from Mrs Angela Parish, tel. 01580 852 249).

The guest speaker at the Festival will be Leonie Seliger M.A. from Canterbury. After outlining the history of stained glass and its restoration she will discuss the changes in attitude to conservation and the application of science to the processes involved.

Tickets are £10 per person for the lecture and tea—for a ticket application form contact David or Anke Way on 01622 820876.

Hunton has been highly fortunate in attracting major grants for this intricate and painstaking work, undertaken by the John Corley Studio in Deal, fully covering the £40,000 involved.

In addition to the generosity of Friends of Kent Churches, other grants were received from The Pilgrim Trust, The Leche Trust, The Glaziers' Trust and the Society of Antiquaries of London.

A generous bequest in support of this project has also been made by Mrs Gilly Devas formerly of Hunton Court, in memory of her late husband Michael Devas, a lifelong church member and former churchwarden. *David Way*

HGV Traffic Surveys Shelved

Complaints about heavy goods lorries using the roads around Hunton and damaging the mediaeval bridges in Yalding led to money being earmarked to carry out surveys on HGV traffic through the area.

But Maidstone Borough Councillor Colin Parr reported that the plans had now been shelved through lack of funds, saying: "Years and years of campaigning seem to be coming to nothing and this matter is being pushed under the table. We need to take further action to press for these surveys and to also find out what they will cost.

The highway damage, inconvenience to other drivers and possibly the danger to motorists must be stressed. There is a huge groundswell of anger against these lorries."

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 David Jones | 741474* | Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown | 820288 |
| | | Organist: Philip Moore | 749356 |
| | | PCSO Jo Watts | 07772 225983 |

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Sunday 10th May 3-5.30pm, Cream Teas, Nettlestead Place
 Thursday 14th May 14th. 8pm Annual Meeting Hunton Parish Council at the Village Hall
 Saturday 16th May 7.30pm Childe Rolande in concert at Hunton Village Hall
 Sunday 17th May, 11.30am-3.30pm, Hunton School May Fayre
 Tuesday 19th May at 8pm AGM Village Hall Committee at the Village Hall
 Sunday 7th June 2009, 2-6pm, Linton Garden Gala, Linton Village
 Sunday 14th June 11-5pm NGS Garden openings: The Old Stables, Queen Anne House, Southover
 Saturday 27th June, Hunton Village Fete
 Sunday 9th August Train Event in Hunton
 Saturday 3rd October, The John Briggs Memorial Lecture, the Village Hall
 2,3, and 4th October, Flower Festival, Hunton Church

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 June edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th May, please

Hi

Easter is over for another year and Spring well established; although those of us who live on top of the hill know that the cold winds still blow until the end of this month. Good Friday is the time to plant potatoes, but the late Spring Bank Holiday is the time to put out the bedding plants!

Well what did we make of Easter? Easter is the greatest Christian Festival and the only day now in the year when the big shops and Garden Centres have to close. We really are 'spoil sports' aren't we as Christians? We only ask for one day out of 365 and the commercial life of the country moans!

But why should we still ask for our 'one' day? St Paul writing to the church in Corinth writes, 'By this Gospel we are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you.' What is that Gospel that Paul preached? He thought it was of first importance to tell people 'That Jesus died for our sins, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day and that he appeared...' Very simple really and I believe well worth stopping for 'one day' to think about what that means for each one of us. You see the disciples after they had seen Jesus die were, we read, 'together with the doors locked for fear'. For them the world had come to an end. Fear is surely the one thing that is at the heart of all of us and can stop us living our lives to the full.

The present situation in the world is that people are frozen with fear. The fear of losing their job, of pensioners losing their savings and hence their pensions, the fear of buying things in case we find that money is tighter in the future, the fear of not being able to afford a holiday. If we ourselves are not fearful we can be for our children and grandchildren as they face a future of uncertainty. But Easter was not simply about Jesus dying, being buried, rising again but also about 'appearing.' We live in this time after Easter in a world liberated from fear. Yes, the present fears are very real but they ought not to 'freeze' us with fear. The great promise of Easter, and now as we approach the Ascension of Jesus, is that through the power of Jesus' ever present presence with us, through his Holy Spirit we can live as people who can call upon him to seek comfort and support in the situations we find ourselves facing knowing that the world is in good hands or better still in God's hands. Jesus left his disciples, and so us, with these words 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the World gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.'

May the days ahead fill you with God's peace as we face what lies ahead in our lives.

David

HUNTON CLUB BOOK GROUP MARCH BOOK REVIEW

PANIC by Jeff Abbott

What if everything in your life was a lie?

Things are going well for 24 year old Evan Casher: his career as a documentary filmmaker is booming and his relationship with his new girlfriend, Carrie, couldn't be better. After an urgent phone call from his mother, he makes an unexpected trip home. Then the unthinkable happens. He arrives to find his mother brutally murdered, and narrowly escapes an attempt on his own life. Spirited away from the scene by an enigmatic mercenary with an agenda of his own, Evan is confronted with a shocking fact: his entire life has been little more than a carefully constructed lie.

Pursued by a powerful, ruthless organization of killers who will stop at nothing to keep old secrets buried, Evan's only hope for survival is to uncover the truth about his family and his own past. With his mother's attackers fast on his heels and with no one to trust — not the authorities, his father, nor the woman he loves — his perilous search takes him from the Texas Hill Country to New Orleans, London, and Miami. Full of jolting plot twists, Panic is an emotionally charged, heart-stopping thriller about one man's determination to take back his stolen life.

If you haven't had enough spy conspiracy stories or you feel lacking in running, gunfights, car chases and general confusion then Panic is for you. Abbott certainly didn't seem to want the reader thinking they knew what was going on with numerous twists and turns. The beginning was promising but the twists got a little tiresome after a while; the development could have been quicker and the running and avoiding and wrapping up would have been sufficient without them.

All in all, we agreed it was okay. We could do a lot worse. On the other hand, it was pretty pulpy, and we're not sure we'll remember it in a month's time. We know we'll never bother reading it again. Maybe it was more of a book for the "boys".

Our score reflects our opinions and gave us an average of 5 out of 10.

Our book for April is Savage Garden by Mark Mills.

In Aid of GamBLE

Childe Rolande Electric Folk Band at Hunton Village Hall
On Saturday 16th May 2009 at 7.30pm, Tickets £8
Box Office 01622 814027



Roof repairs to Football Club Changing Rooms

Keith Eatwell, reporting from the last King George V Playing Fields Committee meeting, said that repairs have been carried out to the boiler and roof of the football club changing rooms, costing a total of around £950. Checks were being made to see if this is covered by insurance.

Cream Teas

Sunday May 10th 3-5.30pm, Nettlestead Place, (Next to Nettlestead Church on the B2015)

Suggested donation for tea £4

Medieval Undercroft - Parking - disabled Parking. Walk in the 'Good Garden Guide' garden

Raffle - end of day cake sale. Children Roll up for Jonjo the Clown at 3.30pm

Enquiries 01622 871945 01622 813322 proceeds to Christian Aid

Hunton School May Fayre

Is on Sunday 17th May 11.30am—3.30pm, this year all money raised will be going towards the new fourth classroom. Among the many stalls and attractions for young and old alike will be BBQ, bar, teas, raffle, tombola, plant stall, bouncy castle and pony rides. There will also be dancing displays by Flair School of Dance and cheerleading by Hunton School children and lots lots more, so please put the date in your diaries and come along and support your local village school.

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Conductor Brian Wright

Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park, 23rd May 2009

Tickets 01622 736392

A blockbuster of a programme. The great German violinist Ulf Hoelscher plays Samuel Barber's haunting Violin Concerto and some superbly virtuosic Saint-Saens. There is also passionate panache with Bernstein's West Side Story Dances, elegant charm with Faure's Pavane and sumptuous splendor with Ravel's Daphnis & Chloe suite No 2

Visit our web site www.mso.org.uk

Hunton and the Origins of its Church

Hunton lies in a most favourable position. The village spreads up the south facing slope of the hill, with many springs where the rain soaks down and reaches the clay. There are orchards on the hillside, and there were hop gardens 30 years ago as we can see from the converted Oasts. Most of the village is in the flatter valley of the Beult, and the number of fine houses must signify that farming was usually prosperous. From the past only "well-to-do" folk's houses remain to us - poor people's dwellings fall down.

For the earliest inhabitants it must have been a good place to live. In Reverend Moray's book on the village he proposes that it consisted of three manors; Buston, which is on the hill, Hunton Court, towards the river, and Bensted Manor, later merged with Buston. The houses of Buston and Hunton Court still stand though of course rebuilt, and Bensted is remembered in the name of Bensted Close.

It seems impossible to "think" oneself into the medieval mind, when life was hard and often short and always uncertain. Well-being or poverty were dependent on the weather for the harvest; and sickness had little remedy. The church was of the utmost importance to people and religion permeated their lives in a way we find difficult to imagine. So a building in which to worship was a necessity.

It is thought that there was an earlier building on this site, but the earliest part of the current building dates from the eleventh century.

The north wall of the nave is the oldest part of the church; it is possible to make out the stones of part of a round-headed Norman window. The walls are made of ragstone rubble, it looks almost like stones collected from the fields, held together by a great deal of mortar, lots of different mixtures of mortar! It is amazing that they could build a wall of that height with such mixed rubbishy stone - but it is still standing firmly.

(The walls of the tower and the south aisle are similar with quoin of better cut stone while the later vestry and organ loft extensions are made of entirely different pinkish stone in blocks, and the chancel has been given a coat of render).

Some years ago a lecturer brought his group to look at St Mary's and when asked why he had chosen this church he said that it showed the changes and developments that had been made in every century since its founding.

Continued on back page

At St Mary's Church in May

| Notices | Services |
|---|---|
| Coffee Rota 3 rd May - Forster Family Brass Cleaning May- Sue Scott Flower Rota May 3 rd Mrs Forster May 10 th Mrs Forster May 17 th Mrs Porter May 24 th Mrs Porter May 31 st Benefice Linton Hunton Sunday Club The Sunday Club will meet on Sunday May 17 th at South Lodge, the home of Ted and Celia, from 5.15pm until 6.45pm. If it is warm and dry afternoon I hope we will be outside playing games before coming in for our story and tea. If you have a child who either lives in Hunton or attends school in Hunton primary school then there is a welcome for that child to join us each month. For further details contact David 741474 | Sunday 3rd May - 4th Sunday of Easter 11.00am Family Service - Revd Peter Walker Readings: Preachers Choice Sunday 10th May - 5th Sunday of Easter 9.30 Holy Communion - Revd David Jones Readings: Acts 8 v 26-40 and John 15 v1-8 Sunday 17th May - 6th Sunday of Easter 11.00am Morning Prayer - Miss C Bostock Readings: Acts 10 v 44 - 48 and John 15 v 9 - 17 Thursday May 21st Ascension Day 7.30pm Holy Communion East Farleigh Readings Acts 1 v1-11 and Luke 24 v 44-end Sunday 24th May - 7th Sunday of Easter 09.30 Holy Communion - Revd Peter Walker Readings: Acts 1 v 15 -17 & 21-26 and John 17 v6-19 Sunday 31st May - Pentecost Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion Benefice Service- (Linton) Revd Peter Walker Readings: Acts 2 v 1-21 and John 15 v26-27 & 16 v 4b-15 Sunday 7th June 11.00am Family Service Readings: Preachers Choice |

And so in the 13th Century the "improvements" began. The tower was built, it has a pyramidal spire clad with oak shingles, renewed about 30 years ago, and nowadays contains a peel of six bells, two of which date from 1697, which were recast in 1900. The bell ringing group has recently been formed again, and rings before Morning Prayer on the third Sunday in the month, perhaps you have heard them practicing? I understand that it is a reputable peel of bells.

Another English Style 13th Century improvement was the enlarging of the chancel and the two early windows, and in about 1280 the stone piscina with the aumbrey above, and the stone sedilia, were made. It is possible to date these with some confidence as the style of carving stiff-leaved is typical of that time. The piscina was used for washing the sacred vessels, the aumbrey is a little cupboard used for storing the consecrated bread. It still has its original door. And the Sedilia are seats used by the clergy during the Mass.

Taken from Mary Johns notes from her talk in August 2008.

Rev'd Canon Gordon Oliver

Rev'd Canon Gordon Oliver, the Diocesan Director of Training will be coming to the United Benefice on Saturday May 30th to lead an 'Away Day'. The purpose of this is to work out a vision for the future of the parishes. This is an opportunity for all parishioners to voice their hopes, aspirations and vision for the future as we seek the way forward. This will be held at Hunton Village Hall. - 9.30am - 3.30pm. Tea/Coffee provided - please bring a packed lunch. This is a very important meeting - please do your best to attend. Further details from Rev'd Peter Walker.

Maidstone Bible Convention

Monday May 11th to Thursday May 14th, at 8.00pm each night, at the Salvation Army Citadel, Union Street. Further details next month.

| May | 3 rd | 10 th | 17 th | 24 th | 31 st |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|------------------|
| Coxheath | 11.00 HC | 9.30 MP | 9.30 HC | 11.00 FS | Benefice Linton |
| E. Farleigh | 9.30 HC | 08.00 HC 11.00 FS | 9.30 HC | 08.00 HC 09.30 Matins Wedding 1.30pm | Benefice Linton |
| Linton | 9.30 HC | 09.30 HC | 08.00 HC 11.00 FS | 09.30 HC | Benefice Linton |
| W. Farleigh | 8.00 HC | 11.00 MP | 9.30 HC | 11.00 MP | Benefice Linton |
| 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