

Malherbe Monthly

**Number 250
May 2025**

After 25 years, your village cricket team is reborn
See more information inside



Left to Right: Brian Grundy, George Dady, Les Hulm, Peter Smith, Dave Ambrose, Don Barber, Paul Ross, Richard Perks, Andrew Perks, Kevin Phillips, John Collins, David Humphries, Mike Humphries, Jack Grace, Roger Markwick, Les Wraight, Colin Sandford, Mike Davidson, Peter Shersby, Ron Maddocks, Ian Durbin, Chris King

Picture courtesy of John Collins, 1987

Names courtesy of the Boughton Malherbe A journey through time book

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The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the
Production Team; publication of articles/adverts
does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!
Anything for the **June** edition should be sent to the Editor Carol Hulm via
email (carolhulm@gmail.com) by **23rd May**



A village cricket Team reborn.....

“ Boughton Malherbe Cricket team started in 1906 as was an active part of the Kent village cricket league but was disbanded in 2000 due to both the declining number of players and groundsmen to ready the pitch.

Last year, on a Sunny afternoon at The Oval watching England beat the West Indies, four local residents felt a deep desire to rekindle the spirit of village cricket and decided to try to resurrect a Grafty Green cricket Team as a “wandering” Team as the old cricket ground and pavilion are now long gone....

Paul “ The Brickie “ Stapley from the Boughton Park estate led the charge and became the driving force to make the dream a reality.

An influx of new and enthusiastic residents into the village provided the back drop of players many of whom hadn’t lifted a bat or ball in anger since leaving school.

The only exceptions were James “ Baby face “ Iles, the elected Captain and who’s claim to fame is that he is still the youngest player ever to play first class cricket for Kent, Steve “ The Leg “ Legon who played regular village cricket in Kent for many years and Jack “ The Prof “ Gearey, who teaches PE in a local secondary school.

Egerton Cricket Club, in bygone years the “old local rivals“, have been a great source of both support and encouragement, sharing their net practice facilities at both Sutton Valance school and their home ground as well as providing a kit bag.

Under the stewardship of James and Paul net practices commenced to try find, nurture and hone any cricketing skills that were buried deep in the Team. Progress was slow but each training session produced all sorts of aches and pains, but perseverance coupled with a desire not to let themselves or the village down has produced a merry band of brothers who love to play cricket.

Like the preverbal Phoenix from the flames, a new Team was reborn to face their opening Twenty 20 match against Egerton on Sunday 1st June at 1pm.

A village cricket team is all about engaging with the community, and fostering a sense of belonging, so if you have some cricketing prowess and want to come along to join the Team practice sessions, please feel free to contact Paul on 07803 610800.

Finally, as we start our Cricketing journey, **please come to Egerton Cricket ground on Sunday 1st June at 1pm to support the reborn village, Cricket Team.**

The new team line up: James Iles, Paul Stapley, Gray Thompson, Steve Legon, Niall McNulty, Ada Hook, Jack Geary, Matthew Iles, Jake Russ, Mark Tomlison, Dave Ryan, Colin Felton, Dean Cutbill

Memories of Di, excerpts from the Eulogy by Sylvia Close

Di and Ralph moved from Yalding to Grafty Green. They had two children, Barbara and Norman, Barbara had two girls, Rachael and Jacqueline. When Barbara told Di she was going to be a Great Grandmother, Di was so pleased. Megan has been very special to her, hearing all the news of her school.

Di was a member of many local clubs, including being a very active lady on the PCC of St. Nicholas. One thing that Di did was keep our Brass in the Church sparkling, John Collins has a photo of her standing on the top of a pew to reach the top. In the Church are a lot of kneelers

that are stitched in cross stitch many were stitched by Di. Di also loved knitting, all the cardigans that were worn by her, she had made herself.



Many years ago, I lost my husband, Tony. I thought this lovely Church up here on the hill would be lovely if we had it opened Sunday afternoons. Di and I thought it would be lovely to offer Tea and Scones for visitors to enjoy amongst the views and so the cream teas were born. My Mum and sister offered to help Di and I start this very happy time to begin. Sally offered to make the scones, which now is 200 a week, they are really lovely with homemade jam and fresh cream for visitors to have with tea and a friendly chat with everyone. Di was the queen of the china, low and behold if everything did not match, you were in trouble. Laura was always at her side and Di taught her about the matching, the oldest and youngest, what a team.

A very dear village club of Grafty Green is the Gardening Club. Di went on all their weekends away and visited lots of local gardens and enjoyed the speakers. Anyone who knew Di knows what a lovely garden she always had.

Every Thursday I would call for Di to go shopping. She loved to have a good look around Morrisons for her favourite treats. One day on our trip we noticed an elderly lady sitting on a chair by the tills. She told us her daughter did her shopping but had come out for a change. This lovely lady told us she was 100 years old. Di asked her what her secret was for her age, she said she had a triple Scotch every night. As we came out, Di said that sounds like a good tip!

One of things Di and I did was a bit naughty. I said to her; “do you fancy going scrumpin?” Her reply was “OK”. We went one Sunday afternoon but forgot the bags. So, we picked the apples up and put them in our skirts pulled up like a loose bag. Suddenly, I saw the farmer coming towards us. “Good afternoon, ladies” he said. “If you ladies would like some apples, there is an orchard across the road. You are welcome to pick some” We laughed about this for a long time.

The covid came and I worried about Di not being able to see anyone. When we were allowed to meet two people outside, I took up my two folding chairs and Di and I sat along the wall of her house watching the traffic go by. The Government then allowed more people to meet outside. Liz and Doreen arranged for us to have a cup of tea and cake in their lovely gardens every Friday, we still have that lovely treat to this day, Liz and Sally would collect Di from Warmlake. Tuesdays Di enjoyed Coffee and cakes in the Village Hall when the Post Office visits.

I have so many memories of Di, which I think all of us have and will keep safe. Di came to my family on several occasions, for christenings and special roast dinner times. We all felt she was someone special, as everyone did.

My vision of Di, here, sitting in a lovely garden, having a lovely cream tea, lots of cream, with her daughter, Barbara. Di always attended our Church every Sunday. She always greeted everyone with a warm welcome.



An Easter Message from Katie Lam MP

Few things are more beautiful than our countryside in spring. The snowdrops and daffodils are in bloom, and the cold winter is finally coming to an end. Easter is a time of change, renewal and hope.

It's also a time when people come to their local parish churches, not only to worship but also to catch up with friends and neighbours. In villages throughout the Weald of Kent, parishes are at the heart of both spiritual and civic life. They offer support and sanctuary all year round – even if it's often at Christmas and Easter that we come to appreciate them the most.



Most of the work churches do is down to a few selfless volunteers, who do everything from ring the bells to run Sunday schools and play groups. Church wardens are also at the forefront of fundraising to protect our historic buildings. But they can't do it all on their own – a church roof can easily cost £20,000 to repair.

That's why, earlier this year, I joined other Conservative MPs in fighting to renew the Government's Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. It's not (confusingly) actually a grant scheme, but a tax rebate, refunding VAT paid on maintenance and repairs to listed churches. Thankfully, the Government listened and will be extending the scheme for another year. But there's more to be done. I'm working to protect the long-term future of the scheme, since I know how vital it is for parish churches like [if listed, name of the parish's church/es].

In Parliament, I've also questioned the Church Commissioners on why they are spending millions of pounds on divisive political projects, and less and less on parish churches. Parishes *are* the Church of England: The Church Commissioners' funds should go to protect these centres of faith, history and community, and the clergy who devote their lives to them. Along with our local councilors, farmers, teachers, doctors and business owners, they are crucial to the flourishing of the Weald of Kent – we can't take them for granted.

It's not just our churches that need investing in. The state of our roads and public transport is something I'm really worried about, especially after reading the results of the Transport Survey I sent last month. I'd like to thank everyone who took part; your feedback will help me work with Kent County Council to fix our potholes, put an end to disruptive street works, and get our villages better connected by public transport. I'll also be holding the Government to account on their promises to improve transport services across the country, making sure rural areas like the Weald of Kent don't get left behind.

As ever, if there's anything you'd like to speak with me about, don't hesitate to get in touch. You can email me at katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk, or speak to me on 01580 388344.

I hope you all had a happy and joyful Easter!

Village Hall News – May Newsletter

Dear All,

I hope you are all keeping well at the time of writing we are preparing for the Bingo Night which is proving popular so once again thank you for your support which is very much appreciated. We have the following events coming up:

VE Day Dance at Ulcombe Village Hall Saturday 10th May at 7.30pm

To celebrate the 80 th Anniversary of VE day the trustees have collaborated with our friends in Ulcombe to host a VE day Dance at Ulcombe Village Hall. There will be live bands, military fancy dress, (a prize for the best dressed lady and gent on the night). Tickets are £5 and can again be ordered from myself. Please bring your own food and snacks, there will be a pay bar but you are welcome to bring your own booze. All proceeds will go to the Help for Heroes charity.

Community Cream Tea at the Village Hall Saturday 14th June 2025 2 pm to 5 pm

Ron Galton as some of you will know has sadly been ill recently and he would like to make a contribution to the community by way of an event where we can all come together. Ron has very kindly agreed to sponsor a cream tea at the village hall on Saturday 14 th June. This will be a free event where everyone is welcome, so please come along and enjoy the scones, jam and cream in the friendly surroundings of the hall. There will be the usual tea, coffee and soft drinks together with a glass of sparkling wine.

Quiz Night in collaboration with Platts Heath School Saturday 5th July 7pm for 7.30pm

Following the success of last year's event we will again be collaborating with the Platts Heath PTA to host a summer quiz night at the hall on Saturday 5 th July. Our quizmasters will again be the brilliant Neil and Sam, tickets will be £15 per head, with teams of 8. There will be food, (not fish & chips!), a pay bar but you can bring your own booze. It will be the usual heady mix of laughter and inebriation so a good time will be had by all and don't worry if you are shy like me and don't have any friends, we can find you a team to play with. Tickets can be purchased from either from myself or the school.

And Finally:

As part of our arrangements to host the weekly farmers market we have obtained a food hygiene certificate for the village hall and following a visit from Maidstone's environmental health department we have obtained a 5-star rating.

Kind Regards

Jon Thompson Village Hall Committee Chairman

jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk Tel 07932 112730

www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk facebook – graftygreenvillage



ULCOMBE AND GRAFTY GREEN

JOIN FORCES TO COMMEMORATE 80TH
ANNIVERSARY OF V.E.DAY WITH A

V.E. DAY DANCE

7.30 pm Saturday 10th May

At Ulcombe Village Hall

Tickets £5.00 per person

Live bands, pay bar, raffle

prize for best female & male outfits

All proceeds going to Help for Heroes

Tickets from

Ziggy on 07852 492770 ziggytrzebinski@hotmail.com
or Jon on 07932 112730 - jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk



Grafty Green Community Cream Tea

Grafty Green Village Hall

Saturday 14th June

2.00pm -5.00pm

Come along and enjoy scones, jam and cream
with friends and neighbours

plus, tea, coffee and a glass of sparkling wine

Any enquiries to Jon Thompson 07932112730

This free community event has kindly been
sponsored by Ron Galton



Grafty Green Village Hall

Bookings 01622 850898

Regular Weekly Events

Yoga – mixed ability

Susan Burch 01622 850381

Mondays 9.30 – 11am

Thursdays 9.30 – 11am

Wednesdays 7 – 8.30pm

Pilates

Cheryl Stubbs 07852 602369

Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30 am

Post Office

Tuesdays 12.45 – 2.15pm

Thursdays 11.15 – 1.15pm

Coffee morning

Tuesdays 12.00 – 2.00pm

Short Mat Bowls

Joan Marriott 01622 858100

Tuesdays 2.30 – 5.30pm

Dance Fit

Sharon Harris 01622 890170

Wednesdays 11am – 12.30pm

Tai Chi

Rhonda Bailey 07985 001782

Thursdays 2.00 – 3.00pm

Craft Group

Janis Carter 01622 850898

Fridays 10am -12.00pm

Art Class

Cathy Hill 07927054708

Alternate Wednesdays 1 – 3.30pm

Alternate Thursdays 7-9pm

Farmer's Market

(With effect from 28th February)

Friday 1- 3pm

Regular Monthly Events

Gardening Club

Doreen 01622 850287

First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm

Digital Kent

Fourth Tuesday 11.30-1.30

The Grafty Gourmet

A warming dessert with two textures of pastry. This crumble has a short crust pastry base with a crumble topping. Serve with warm custard, cream or vanilla ice cream.

Apple & Almond Crumble

For the filling and base:-

8 eating apples (Granny Smith or Braeburn work well)
50g of golden caster sugar
½ teaspoon of mixed spice
2 tablespoons of plain flour, plus extra for dusting
500g block shortcrust pastry

For the crumble:-

50g of plain flour
50g of ground almonds
70g of golden caster sugar
70g of cold butter, cut into cubes
30g of flaked almonds

1. Firstly, make the crumble. Tip the flour, ground almonds, sugar and a pinch of salt into a bowl, then rub in the butter with your fingers until the mix resembles breadcrumbs. Stir in the flaked almonds and chill until needed. Can be prepared up to two days ahead and chilled.
2. Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan with a baking tray inside. Peel, core quarter and slice the apples, then tip into a bowl with the sugar, mixed spice and flour. Toss well and set aside. Roll the pastry out on a lightly floured surface until it's large enough to line a 20-22cm pie dish. Line the dish with the pastry, then trim and crimp the edge.
3. Spoon the apple mixture into the base, then scatter over the crumble. Bake on the hot tray for 35-40 mins until the topping is toasted and the pastry is deep golden. Leave to stand for 10 mins, then serve warm with cream, custard or ice cream.

Grafty Green Gardening Club

Meetings take place in Grafty Green Village Hall, usually on the first Tuesday of the month and begin at 7.30. Members contribute £2 for each meeting where we have a speaker and guests (always welcome) £4.

Outings take place from May to August this year and the cost and final details will be sent out prior to the event.

Membership £5 - contact Doreen Hulm (Treasurer) 01622 850287

Programme for 2025

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
6 th May	6pm outing to Frittenden, Brickwall Cottages, TN17 2DH	
9 th – 11 th May	Weekend away to Suffolk, The Mill Hotel Sudbury, Middleton House, Melford Hall, Flatford Mill and Markshall Arboretum	
3 rd June	6pm outing to Woodchurch, Boldshaves TN26 3RA	
1 st July	TBA	
5 th August	Outing to East Malling Communigrow educational wellbeing garden charity.	
2 nd September	Autumn Show & Rachel Castle (Swallowfields Nursery)	Shine a light on bulbs!
7 th October	Kevin Tooher	The Edwardian gardens of Sussex
4 th November	Ed Flint (head gardener at Tidewell Manor Robertsbridge)	Roses and friends
December	Leeds Castle light show	

Gardening Tips

Here are some gardening tips for May:

- Prune spring flowering shrubs once they have finished flowering.
- Stake/support large perennials.
- Tie in clematis and other fast-growing climbers.
- Direct sow hardy annuals in gaps in the borders.
- Continue direct sowing in the veg plot (little and often best with many crops like lettuce, carrots)
- How off weed seedlings (choose a dry day)
- Plant up pots and containers with summer bedding once all risk of frost has passed
- “Chelsea chop” perennials at the end of the month to create stronger stems on tall flowers (e.g. sedums, Michaelmas daisies and perennial sunflowers)
- Consider No Mow May to boost biodiversity (you can just leave some areas unmown if it seems a radical step!)
- Plant out beans, pumpkins, squash, sweetcorn and courgettes once all risk of frost has passed
- Don't forget to water containers and newly planted plants. A good soak weekly is best.

And relax!

Sue's Nature Notes

Slow worms (*Anguis Fragilis*)

The slow worm (also known as deaf adder or blind worm) is one of those creatures (a legless lizard) that we suddenly disturb whilst 'gardening' which could be when you investigate the compost heap, or disturbing new ground to be cultivated or just tidying up the garden as they spend much of their time hidden, burrowing into long grass, leaf litter or log piles.

They are the gardeners' friend, eating slugs, snails, spiders and earthworms.

Other interesting facts about slow worms are their scales don't overlap so they are smooth; they give birth to live young in September - November; the young slow-worms are like golden threads!

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Monday and Thursday mornings 9.30 till 11

Wednesday evenings 7 till 8.30

No class 1st or 5th May

‘Drop in’ or to book call Sue Burch (British Wheel of Yoga teacher) on 07803 962339

Yoga can be powerful as well as gentle; getting to know what your body needs through a regular practice; for more information, please give me a call.

Sue's Blog

..... it's magic!

What an explosion of greenery this year, one minute there are bare twigs with just the slightest hint of buds opening then quite suddenly there seems most trees have come into full leaf. The oak is a little later with a golden hue to their young leaves and then the local lime trees just take their time but are now, too, in leaf but the hue of this green is almost khaki.

One evening as I drove down Church Road the sun was low enough to under-light the trees on the Weald; very theatrical; these brief moments in nature are astounding and fills me with joy.

The warmth has brought out some of the early butterflies, the yellow brimstone and orange tip explored the aubrietia out in flower now, also in the garden I was surprised to see a gold crest flitting amongst the gooseberry bushes.

The dawn chorus has brightened the start of the day with a wren singing for nearly half an hour with a harmony of a blackbird and robin.

Sue



Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

The Critic

Friday, May 9th

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 1hr 41 mins

Our film in May is **The Critic** (15, 2024), which stars the wonderful Ian McKellen as vitriolic and powerful theatre critic Jimmy Erskine in this brilliant thriller set in 1934. Erskine vows revenge when he is sacked by the new owner of the newspaper where he works. Convinced he has been treated unfairly he gleefully plans every step of his retaliation. For this he manipulates a gullible young actress, Nina Land, for his first move. She is persuaded to seduce his ex-boss which sets in train the dark and gripping rigmarole that follows. Based on a novel by Anthony Quinn, **The Critic** offers an evening of thrills and suspense with the incomparable Ian McKellan, wonderfully supported by a host of British stars including Gemma Arterton, Mark Strong and Lesley Manville. What more could you want?

Directed by Anand Tucker.

For our June performance, June 13th, we've something different - we journey to the Land of Oz, not with Judy Garland, but in the gorgeous Oscar winning musical fantasy **Wicked**. Don't miss this one!

Please get in touch for more information or to join our mailing list.

Admission: Adults £5, under 16s £2; cash only, card payments not accepted.



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Platts Heath Film Club

ST. EDMUNDS, PLATTS HEATH FILM CLUB.

You are invited to our last film night of the current season on FRIDAY 16th MAY The film chosen is A COMPLETE UNKNOWN. The story is about the life and times of Bob Dylan

Doors open at 7.45 p.m. for a prompt **8 p.m. start**. Suggested donation to support the upkeep of the village hall is £4. It would be helpful if you can confirm attendance. Email 1468ceb@gmail.com The hall is located in School Lane. Cars can be parked in Green Lane.

Our next film night will be on Friday 17th October.



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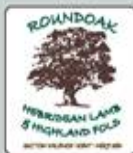
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ON 01622 844491**

**ROUND OAK FARM, HENIKER LANE,
SUTTON VALENCE, ME17 3ED**

You're Invited to the Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 12th May

We warmly invite all residents to attend the Annual Parish Meeting, which will take place on Monday 12th May at 7.00pm at Grafty Green Village Hall.

So, what is the Annual Parish Meeting? It's a yearly opportunity for the Parish Council to report back to the community on its work over the past year. You'll also hear updates from our County and District Councillors, and possibly from local voluntary and community groups. It's a great chance to find out what's been happening in and around Boughton Malherbe and to ask questions or raise issues that matter to you.

Unlike a regular Parish Council meeting, this one is all about the community it's not governed by the usual formalities of council business, and members of the public are welcome to speak and share their views. While any decisions or resolutions made during this meeting aren't binding on the Parish Council, your voice can still make a real difference.

Following the Annual Parish Meeting, we'll hold the Annual Parish Council Meeting, where council members will carry out their formal yearly responsibilities.

Agendas for both meetings will be available closer to the date and can be viewed on the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council website.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Come along
to Maidstone Borough
Council's drop in sessions for

Heathlands Garden Community

Heathlands will be located in the East of the borough between the villages of Lenham and Charing and is allocated in Maidstone Borough Council's Local Plan Review. By 2054, in accordance with the garden settlement principles – this development will deliver:

Key Features

- 5,000 new homes
- 40% affordable homes
- 5,000 new jobs
- 14 hectares of dedicated new employment land
- One new district centre and two new local centres
- New health care and community facilities
- New rail station along the Ashford-Maidstone line
- New primary school provision totalling 7 forms of entry (FE)
- New 6 FE secondary school
- New country park
- 20% biodiversity net gain
- Due regard given to a range of both on and around the site designated and non-designated heritage assets



Drop-in sessions

Comments and feedback will be used to inform the emerging Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) being prepared by Maidstone Borough Council. The SPD will provide further guidance about how the new community should be developed, which will inform any future Outline Planning Application.

Saturday 10 May, 2pm-8pm

Lenham Community Centre,
12 Groom Way, Lenham, Maidstone ME17 2QT

Tuesday 13 May, 2pm-6pm

Dog and Bear Hotel, The Square,
Lenham, Maidstone ME17 2PG

Online survey

You can also share your feedback via our digital survey. Scan the QR code or visit:

bit.ly/localplan-maidstone



Website will be available
from Saturday 10 May



News from St. Nicolas Church – May 2025

The weeks of Lent leading to Holy Week with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the joy Easter Day, far from a time of reflection and thoughtfulness, as we might hope and expect, seem to become busier. The ever-growing range of Easter-themed merchandise can gloss over the true meaning of it all, which, in reality, is much more exciting, enthralling and momentous for each one of us — and it costs nothing!!

The fact that Jesus gave his life for us and teaches us how to live a life of trust in God is utterly priceless.

Usual reminders

The church porch is open at all times for shelter, quiet, a hot drink and biscuit, even a comment in the visitors' book and maybe a dip into the bible on the windowsill. We are sorry if there is not enough water in the jug or kettle, but there is a fresh water tap round the back of the church beyond the West Door if you need.

Personal prayer notes can be left here to be collected and said at Monday morning prayer time. The mini food bank box is available for anyone in need, with a larger food bank at the back of St.Mary's church in Lenham, open daily from 10.00am-4.00pm.

The main church building is open for services, meetings, cleaning etc. please contact the churchwardens for a key at other times. Service times are on the noticeboards.

Celtic Morning Prayer is usually said on Mondays 9.00am-9.30am. We should now be back in the church, with the warmer weather.

Village 'Cake and Coffee Time' continues on Tuesdays from 12.00noon-2.00pm in the village hall in Grafty Green along with the Post Office, 12.45-2.15pm. Donations for the refreshments are shared equally between St.Nicolas and a charity chosen by the regulars.

News

The Lent lunches continued to be well supported and enjoyed. Many thanks to the soup and bread makers and all those who joined us. Everyone's generosity has raised more than £250 to be sent to Christian Aid. Will let you know the exact amount next time.

Holy Week

The first 3 days of talks:

Finding God, in Nature, in Art, in Music we're really interesting, bringing lots of discussion. The Night Prayer, or Compline after each talk is a special time.

The 'Music' session had us all learning to use our voices!!

Maundy Thursday is the evening for 'foot washing', not everyone is brave enough for this, but for those who allow their feet to be washed by their vicar it can be very humbling.

Good Friday's 'Hour at the Cross' at St. Nicolas featured the reading of St. John's Passion narrative, and we listened to excerpts from Howard Goodall's 'Invictus' music.

Easter Sunday began with a 6.00am daybreak service, followed by a breakfast of Hot Cross buns and brioche in the church. Such a happy start to the day with more than 25 friends from all the 4 churches. We loved the homemade buns!

We hope everyone had a fulfilling and a chocolate-filled Easter.

We send our prayers also to those whose Easter was a struggle, including those mourning the death of Pope Francis and for wisdom for those discerning the leaders of both the Church of England and the Church in Rome.

Sally Alexander



Len Valley Benefice

April 2025

Everybody is welcome



For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says
to you, do not fear. I will help you. *Isaiah 41:13*

Sunday 4th May

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion *with baptism*

Wednesday 7th May

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

Sunday 11th May

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

6.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Sunday 18th May

8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

11.00am Lenham: Morning Worship

Sunday 25th May

11.00am Benefice Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe

'Re-Sourced in Christ – Community'

Christian Message May 2025

Reverend Richard Birch

What is the “church”? We have a wonderful medieval building on the Square in Lenham, dedicated to St Mary, which we call our “church”. But in the years just following the death and resurrection of Jesus there were no buildings specifically for Christian worship and the “church” was the family of Christian worshippers. It is important to remember that the church is about people more than it is about buildings.

In the third century after Jesus, Christians began to set aside buildings specifically for worship and gradually they became known as “churches”. Now there are many ancient buildings that are very special to us, they are places where people have prayed and worshipped over the centuries, and it is possible to feel the atmosphere inside and sense the presence of God. They are amazing places for Christians to join together and develop their relationship with God. But we can do that in other places too, for example at the war memorial across the A20, and we still meet in house groups, very similar to those in the first century.

People meet together in St Mary’s every day of the week, not always to sing hymns and to worship formally. The building is used for many purposes, for bellringing and choir singing, for coffee and chat, for Wednesday Feast, for sewing circle, for the food bank.

When Archbishop William Temple was reported as saying, “The church is the only society on earth that exists for the benefit of non-members.” he was talking about the church as the family of believers. It is this thought that inspires the Christian family to use the church building for the good of all the community.

At St Mary’s we are currently raising money for the Hub project, which will open up the church building for much more flexible use for the benefit of the Lenham community. Jesus instructed us to love our neighbours, and it is the working out of this that drives us to use the church building as widely as possible, not just for Christian worship.

The need for good village venues is increasing as Lenham doubles and redoubles in population. St Mary’s has a long and interesting history at the very centre of the community. We have an amazing opportunity to develop the church building as a place where the church family can meet, where the community can gather for Christenings, Weddings and Funerals, and where we can have the space for many activities for the wellbeing of all who live in our village.

Emergency and Help Contact Details

Police, Fire and Ambulance Emergencies	999
Police, Non-Emergency - (Including PCSO	101

Ambulance 999 note: an **aed** 'public access ***defibrillator***' is sited and available 24/7 at the premises (in porch) of A.W. Court in Headcorn road. Ambulance 999 control centre will give 999 callers the lock code, if appropriate, to access the ***defibrillator***.

NHS Medical Helpline	111
Maidstone & Pembury Hospitals	0845 155 1000
William Harvey Hospital	01233 633331
Headcorn Surgery	01622 890294
Lenham Surgery	01622 858341

Electricity (UK Power Networks)
Emergencies and Power Cuts **Or 0800 783 8866**
01243 508866

Water	<i>Emergencies</i>	0333 000 0002
Southern Water Foul and Waste Water drainage/Flooding		0330 303 0368
Calor Gas	<i>Emergencies</i>	08457 444999
KCC	<i>Emergencies</i>	03000 41 41 41
	<i>Highways</i>	03000 41 81 81

KCC Community Wardens:

Local warden – Stuart Ellesmere **07969 583923**
 District Support – Dawn Riach-Brown **07773 397125**
 Fire General Enquiries **01622 692121**
 Home Safety Visits **0800 923 7000**

R.S.P.C.A *Emergencies* **0300 1234 999**
Vet *24 Hour Pet Emergency Treatment Service* **01622 734555**

Maidstone Borough Community Protection - **01622 602202** – Bonfires, crime, dogs, domestic abuse, loan sharks, noise, pests and protection orders

Environmental Services – **01622 602162** – Fly tipping, Street cleaning, Litter, Bins, dead animals

WARNING

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