

Malherbe Monthly

Number 248
March 2025



Always the first sign of Spring
Picture courtesy of John Collins

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Gardening Club	Doreen Hulm	850287
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dance Fit	Sharon Harris	890170
Craft Group	Jan Carter	850898
Yoga	Sue Burch	07803 962339
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Priest in charge	Dr John Huggins email: vicar@lvb.org.uk	850280
Pilates	Cheryl Stubbs email: c.stubbs8@btinternet.com	07852 602369
Art Class	Cathy Hill email: cathyonthehill@hotmail.com	07927 045708
Tai Chi	Rhonda Bailey	07985 001782
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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 **April** edition should be sent to the Editor Carol Hulm via email
(carolhulm@gmail.com) by **22nd March**



Hello! I'm Katie, and I'm now the Member of Parliament here in the Weald of Kent. I represent our area in the House of Commons, acting and advocating on behalf of all my constituents. I'll be writing in the *Malherbe Monthly* every now and then to keep everyone in Broughton Malherbe up to date with what I'm working on.

Right now, I'm very focused on transport. As you'll know, getting around our beautiful rural home isn't always easy. All too often our roads and pavements are closed for works, or there are big lorries on inappropriate country lanes, or there's no longer a bus route where we need it. We rely on the roads to get to work, school, the shops, GP appointments, to see friends and family — everything! The state of our roads and our bus services is fundamental to how well we can live our lives.

But the problems we have seem to be sidelined in Westminster. This is a very urban Government and urban Cabinet, and when I see taxes on farmers and millions of pounds being given to big city councils, I worry that the countryside just isn't that important to them. We deserve better.

That's why I've joined the Transport Select Committee — a cross-party group of MPs in Parliament who work to scrutinise the Department for Transport and all sorts of other relevant bodies and organisations. I successfully pushed for the Committee's first enquiries to be on bus services in rural areas, and "street works" (when utilities companies dig up the roads) and the disruption they cause.

I want to know exactly how people find the roads and buses — and anything else transport-related — around here to inform my work in these inquiries and beyond. So I'm sending out a survey to every home, asking your thoughts on local transport. You can fill it out and post it back to me when it arrives through your door, or complete it online using the QR code below (or by going to www.katieforkent.com/transportsurvey2025). It only takes 5 minutes!

I'm looking forward to hearing from you and reading your survey responses. If there's anything else 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.



59 Bus News

Commencing on **Wednesday 22nd January**, a change of route and timings of the Wednesday only service to and from Maidstone will be introduced by the operator, Nu-Venture. This is designed to improve the reliability of the service which has been badly affected by the seemingly never-ending road closures in the area, especially when Chartway Street is closed because there are very limited alternatives suitable for buses.

The service will now start from Kingswood and then serve Ulcombe and Grafty Green before continuing to Maidstone via Headcorn and the A274 (and Otham). It will no longer serve Chart Sutton and Boughton Monchelsea. The advantage for Grafty Green is a reduction in journey time of around ten minutes.

The bus will leave **Grafty Green** village at **09.56**, stopping in **Headcorn, Forge Lane junction**, (opposite Costcutter) at **10.05**, **Sutton Road (Morrisons) 10.26**, due to arrive in **Maidstone Town Centre** at **10.39**.

It returns from **Maidstone, King Street stop L2** (outside of Greggs) at **12.45**, fifteen minutes earlier than previously, and runs via the A274 to **Sutton Road (opposite Morrisons) 12.57**, **Headcorn (Forge Lane junction) 13.18**, and **Grafty Green** at **13.27**, before proceeding on to Ulcombe and Kingswood.

The English National Concessionary Travel pass, available to anyone who has reached state pension age, can be used on the bus, and for those without a pass the return fare is £4-90.

As ever the message is very much **'USE IT OR LOSE IT'**, so you are encouraged to make good use of this service to help ensure it continues.

John Collins
(On behalf of Boughton Malherbe Parish Council)

Village Hall News – March Newsletter

Dear All,

I hope you are keeping well.

Coming up shortly we have the following events at the hall:

Farmer's Market at the village hall every Friday between 1 pm and 3 pm

By the time you read this we will have held our first farmer's market at the hall with stalls selling pet treats and accessories, knitted crafts, plants and flowers, a meat stall, homemade curries, Kent and Sussex cheeses, a fruit, vegetable, eggs and juices stall, homemade cakes, homemade skin care products and scones from the church. Tea and coffee are served so you can come along and buy local produce and enjoy a relaxing cuppa and a natter with friends and neighbours.

Pancake Evening – Tuesday 4th March 5 pm to 7 pm

Once again we will be hosting our annual pancake evening. We will be offering our usual selection of sweet and savoury pancakes together with refreshments so please come along and enjoy a delicious pancake or two and spend some time over a cup of tea with friends. As well as the pancakes there will be activities to keep the children entertained.

Bingo Night Saturday 26th April 7 pm for 7.30pm

Back by popular demand is our annual bingo night hosted by Phil Snow of By Jingo it's Bingo. As well as the usual fun and entertainment there will like last year be a host of fabulous, interesting and unique prizes to be won. Tickets are £10 and can be ordered from myself on 07932 112730 or jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk please bring your own food and snacks. There will be a pay bar but you are welcome to bring your own booze.

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

To celebrate the 80th 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 the Help for Heroes charity.

Christmas Panto Aladdin Saturday 10th January 2026 3 pm to 4.30 pm

Well, it's not really Christmas but you know what I mean! Following the popularity of this year's Panto we have booked Aladdin with Shooting Stars entertainment who performed this year's panto so successfully. More details and ticket prices will be provided later in the year.

Kind Regards

Jon Thompson Village Hall Committee Chairman

jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk

facebook – graftygreenvillage

GRAFTY GREEN VILLAGE HALL

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The 2025 AGM will take place at the Village Hall
on Monday 7th April at 7.30pm**

You are all invited!

AGENDA:

- Receive the minutes of the last AGM
and deal with matters arising;**
- Receive the Chairman's report on the
work of the committee last year;**
- Receive the annual accounts and the
Treasurer's report;**
- Open discussion of the committee's work;**
- Elect a committee for the coming year;**
- Consider ideas for the future;**
- Review Hall hire fee;**
- Any other business**

***Please come along,
cast your vote and have your say.***

The Village Hall committee is a registered charity, (no. 288091), run for the benefit of the local community. We host a variety of events throughout the year such as the Christmas Quiz, Pancake Evening and the Craft Fair. The hall is also used by a wide variety of clubs and societies and we make the hall available for hire to local residents for both social and business events.

Kind regards,

Jon Thompson

Hall Committee Chairman

Tel: 07932 112730

Email: jon@grafftygreenalpacas.co.uk

There is now a weekly Farmer's Market held at Grafty Green Village Hall from 1pm-3pm

Pet treats and accessories

Scones

Knitted crafts

Pre loved books

Homemade skincare products

Plants and flowers

Hogget, mutton, goat and beef

Homemade curries

Kent and Sussex cheeses

Fruit, vegetables, eggs and juices

Homemade cakes

They will also be serving tea and coffee.

For further information please email Tara at
info.graftygreen@gmail.com



GRAFTY GREEN VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL PANCAKE EVENING



TUESDAY 4th MARCH 4PM TO 6PM

COME AND MEET YOUR FRIENDS & ENJOY

SWEET & SAVOURY PANCAKES £2.50 EACH

Lots of children's activities

Grafty Green Village Hall Bingo Night

Saturday 26th April
7.00pm for 7.30pm

£10 a ticket from

Jon Thompson 07932 112730

jon@grafftygreenalpacas.co.uk

Bring your own snacks and
there will be a pay bar





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 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

This is another very simple recipe. Cod is used here, but any white fish can be used instead. The distinctive flavour of the paprika and oil from the chorizo really compliments the fish. Serve with rice or just some crusty bread.

SPANISH CHORIZO & COD STEW

100g of diced chorizo
1 onion - sliced
2 garlic cloves - sliced
1 teaspoon of smoked paprika
1 tablespoon of tomato purée
250ml of vegetable stock
400g tin of chickpeas - drained and rinsed
2 sliced roasted red peppers from a jar
500g cod loin
Chopped fresh flatleaf parsley

1. Heat a large non-stick pan, then fry the chorizo and onion for about 8 minutes or until soft and caramelised. Add the garlic cloves and smoked paprika and cook for a further minute.
2. Stir in the tomato purée, vegetable stock, chickpeas and roasted red peppers. Cook for 4-5 minutes until thickened.
3. Cut the cod loin into 4cm chunks, then place carefully into the sauce. Cook for 3-5 minutes or until cooked through and the fish flakes easily. Sprinkle with chopped fresh flatleaf parsley and serve with crusty bread or rice.

The Grafty Gourmet

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
4 th March	Jaqueline Aviolet	A the nursery – demonstrations + plant sales
1 st April	Spring Show & Steve Edney	The Kitchen Garden + plant sales
26 th April	10 – 12 am Plant Sale Village Hall	
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	

7.30 Tuesday March 4th

Jacqueline Aviolet will be presenting a talk 'At the Nursery' following the pancake event in the village hall - come early for a pancake. Jacqueline will be bringing **plants for sale.**

Gardening Tips

- Mowers may need cleaning or a service
- Clean pots and seed trays to reduce the risk of bacteria and subsequent seed failure
- Dahlia growers should check over-wintered tubers and pot up all that are free of rot, keep moist and frost free until planting out in May
- Sow indoors or heated greenhouse – tomatoes, cucumber and courgette seeds; chit second early potatoes to plant out 30 cm apart
- Raspberry canes can be planted and any direct sowing can begin
- Avoid any hedge trimming until nesting birds/chicks have flown

Sue's Blog

Views from my window – beginning the year

The days are lengthening but the weather is unpredictable; gales, perpetual rain and then a sunny day! There are lime trees at the top of the road which are silhouetted against the winter sky – often grey and bleak but when the afternoon sun is shining on the naked branches, they have a bronze glow. The little gang of wood pigeons keep watch from the upper branches whilst the starlings prefer the television aerials opposite.

The jackdaws strut along the ridge of the properties across the road whilst the blue tit flits back and forth collecting a sunflower seed on each occasion.

In the garden there are aconites flowering; their bright yellow petals contrast against the dark soil and there is a promise of clumps of daffodils and snowdrops that will brighten the view of the front garden.

There is much to do to make the garden to my liking! Where to put a pond; construct the raised beds for the vegetables and move the hydrangeas? The wind has brought down delicate twigs from the silver birch which has too much ivy growing up it; another project.

The first wildflower is about to bloom in my lawn (meadow to be) – a dandelion! Plus the grass is full of lawn daisies, their flat leaves spread out on the surface.

At the end of the day, not quite evening, there is a mini murmuration of starlings – what a joy!

Sue Burch

Sue's Nature Notes

The sap is rising! This is the time of the year when mating, nesting, hatching and brooding happens. The first signs are the pairing up of adult birds; wood pigeons, which mate for life, strut around together whereas smaller birds may sing from a vantage point to attract a partner. You may notice the birds picking up moss, small twigs or anything fluffy for nest building.

Wrens pick a spot close to the ground, quite often within ivy against a wall or the base of a tree. It is widely known that blue tits and great tits like to nest in a hollow of a tree, a hole in a gate post or a purpose made nesting box. Thrushes, which are less common now, need bushes, bramble similar to blackbirds. Robins are opportunists and will pick a variety of sites from the ground up to ten feet or more high in thick herbage and can be very close to humans' coming and going.

Out in the woodlands or fields there are ground nesting birds such as skylark, pheasant, partridge, woodlark and woodcock so walking on a pathway and keeping your dog on a lead will avoid disturbing these birds.

Sue

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Monday and Thursday mornings 9.30 till 11

Wednesday evenings 7 till 8.30

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; to enrol give me a call.



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UPDATE ON COMPUTER CENTRE RECYCLING FOR GOOD CAUSES AND SUPPORTING A NEW CHARITY



Used Household Batteries

Expired domestic printer ink cartridges

R N I B

See differently

Used Postage Stamps

With the start of 2025 I thought this a good time to update everyone on our success at recycling items at the Computer Centre in Egerton to raise money for good causes over the previous year with our Recycling of used Batteries, Stamps and Printer Cartridges.

- I am pleased to advise that we have raised in total £145 from old **Printer Cartridges** which has gone to Egerton C E Primary School
- We have collected over 40 kilos of **used Batteries** which have been taken to the Cancer Research Shop in Ashford to support them in collecting a ton of batteries so that they can then raise £100 from them for their Charity
- Earlier in 2024 we sent approximately 5,400 **Stamps** to the Saving Yorkshire Dogs Charity to help them raise money for looking after their dogs. This is a charity that one of our Committee Members has supported for many years. However, in August of last year we were advised that Charity will no longer take stamps.

Fortunately, after much research, our Committee Member has now located a new Charity that also take Used Stamps to aid their fund raising and that is **Royal National Institute of Blind people**.

RNIB

See differently

This is the UK's leading sight loss charity. Who offer practical and emotional support to blind and partially sighted people, their families and carers.

By collecting stamps for the RNIB we can help to make a difference to blind and partially sighted people. They are able to raise £20 for every kilogramme of stamps they receive from us.

We have already collected a large pack of used postage stamps to send to them which will be weighed and posted to them shortly, and I will advertise the result in due course.

These donations to these worthy causes are all because of the kind collections provided by yourselves, the residents of Egerton and our local community.

Thank you

Please continue to bring your used Stamps, as well as Batteries, and Printer Ink Cartridges, to the Computer Centre adjacent to the Millenium Hall TN27 9DT to help raise even more funds for these good causes.

The collection boxes are accessible during Post Office opening times of

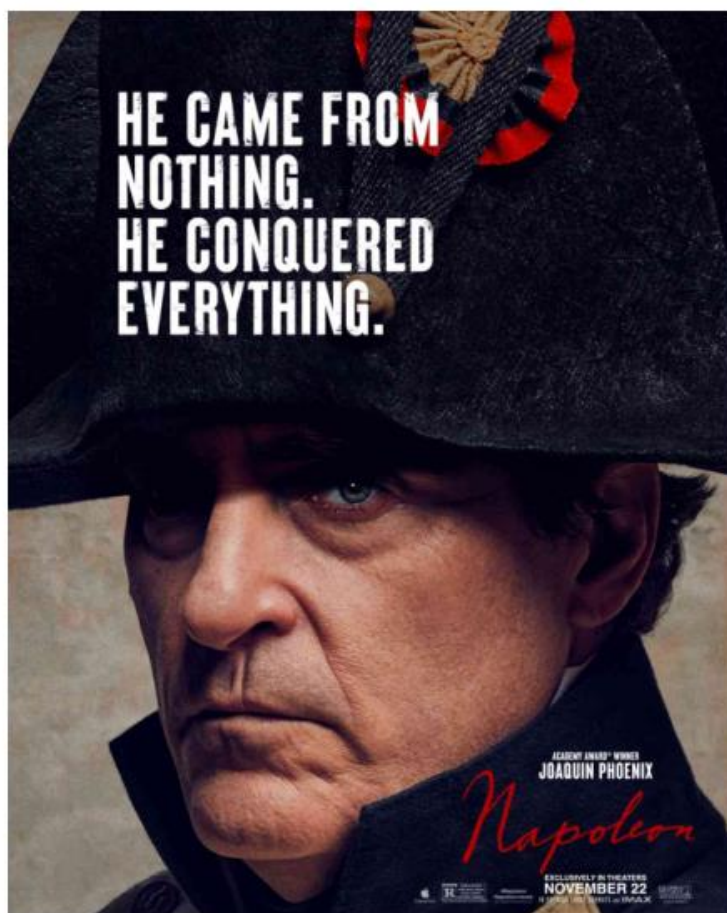
Tuesdays 10.00 – 12.00

Fridays 14.00 – 16.00

AND

Computer Centre opening on every Saturday 10.00 – 12.00

Egerton Film Society



EGERTON MILLENNIUM HALL

THURSDAY 27th March 2025

Doors 7.00pm - PERFORMANCE 7.30pm

Admission £6.00

Email: egertonfilm@btinternet.com for more information



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Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

The Miracle Club

Friday, March 14th

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 1hr 30 mins

This is Maggie Smith in a comedy drama with a difference. *The Miracle Club* (12, 2023) set in 1960s Ireland has an all-star cast which includes Kathy Bates and Laura Linney. A group of friends win tickets for a pilgrimage to Lourdes at the raffle in their local club and all three are eagerly looking forward to the visit. They have different reasons for their enthusiasm, but all are battling difficult situations in their lives. Just as they leave for France, however, they're surprised when a fourth person joins their group. The stage is set for the trip although it's very far from how they had each imagined it. After all, why aren't there as many miracles as they'd expected? But there are consolations... Spend a wonderful evening with us and share *The Miracle Club's* twists and turns, heart-breaking struggles and sheer exuberance.

Director: Thaddeus O'Sullivan

As well as showing a great film on March 14th, we'll also be revealing the fabulous line up of films that we'll be showing as part of our Spring and Summer 2025 programme. There'll be more about our future films in the April issue of Focus. 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.



lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com



www.lenhamfilmclub.org



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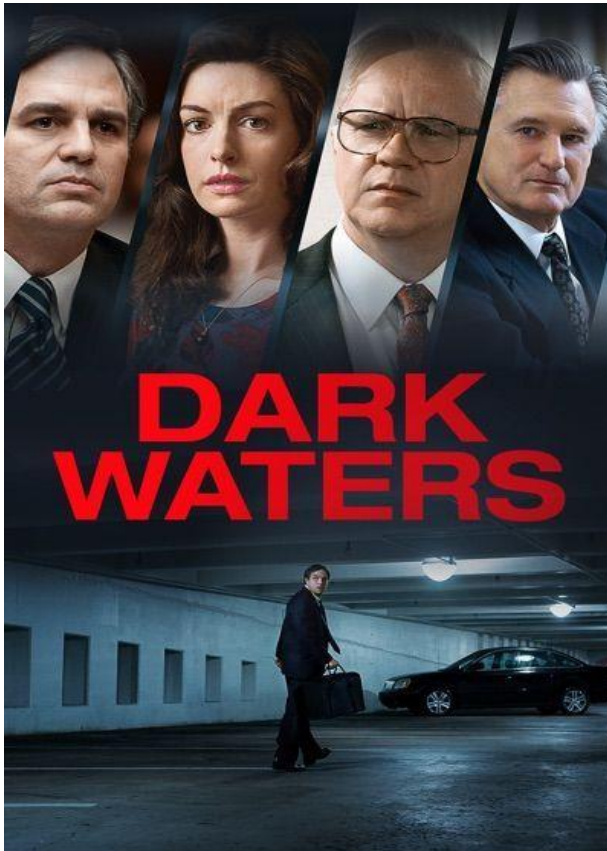
Platts Heath Film Club

You are welcome to our next film presentation on **Friday 21st March**

The film to be shown is **Dark Waters** Cert 12, Starring Mark Ruffalo & Ann Hathaway. Inspired by a true story. A large American Corporation attempts to cover up deaths linked to their commercial activities.

Doors open at 7.45 p.m. for a prompt **8 p.m.** start. Suggested donation **£4.**

Car parking Green Lane.



To receive film information a week before each presentation or to confirm attendance email: 1468ceb@gmail.com.

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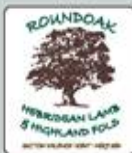
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News from St. Nicolas Church – March 2025

Steve, you must have felt a bit miffed last month when so many friends were given thanks for the important roles they play in the life of St.Nicolas. But no mention of what you do, trudging up the hill so regularly to wind the church clock! Many apologies. Truly we appreciate what you do for us, keeping our service times on track and a quick time check for all walking, working and driving past. So often we can be guilty of failing to notice and give thanks for what goes on around us, quietly and without fuss. All of us will have experienced being, ourselves, sidelined and unnoticed. In God's world we are taught that everyone is cherished, appreciated and will not go unnoticed, even the 'smallest sparrow that falls' is known and loved by Him.

Usual reminders

The church porch is open at all times, for shelter, rest and a place to pause, make a hot drink and enjoy the view. Do use the prayer cards, the requests are noted and prayed for during Monday morning prayer time. Make use of the bible on the windowsill and the mini food bank box. There is the larger food bank at the back of St.Mary's church in Lenham. It is open daily from 10am-4pm.

The main church building at St,Nicolas is open for services, meetings, cleaning etc. Please contact the church wardens for a key if you wish to visit at other times. Church service times are on the notice boards by the porch, the roadside and outside the Village Hall in Grafty Green.

Celtic Morning Prayer is usually said each Monday morning 9.00am-9.30am. An informal time of prayer, short bible readings and time for discussion and to remember the needs of others, friends, neighbours, world issues and ourselves.

Village Cake and Coffee Time takes place in the village hall in Grafty Green each Tuesday 12noon-2pm and coincides 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'. In February £100 has been sent to the Dogs Trust.

News

Lent lunches will be held in the Village Hall 12noon-2pm on Tuesdays, for 5 weeks, starting on 11th March, the subsequent dates are, 18th and 25th March and 1st and 8th April. All proceeds will be donated to Christian Aid, for their work in areas of the world where people are in desperate need, regardless of faith or ethnicity. As usual, bread and soup will be served and will be at the same time as the Cake and Coffee Time. That could be lunchtime sorted!

If we are not still overloaded from the Pancakes in the hall the week earlier!

Looking Forward

Mothering Sunday is on March 30th. There will be a service at St.Nicolas at 10.30am, with distribution of posies and refreshments. Remember the clocks go forward this morning!

The Farmers Market

Looking forward to the new venture in the Village Hall. Hoping it will be a success for those taking part and for visitors. Well done to the committee for their hard work.

Another opportunity for the community and others further afield to get together.

May this time of Lent be a peaceful and reflective time and the grief of Good Friday will give way to the joy and promise of Easter Day.

Sally Alexander

Church Choirs

In common with our sister Churches, our church is liable to lose its choir unless we can find a few more voices.

We attend three services a month, all very different. The first is Evensong on the 2nd Sunday at 3.30 in the winter and 6.30 otherwise. The next one is Eucharist, which is at 9.30 in the morning on the third Sunday of the month. The last one is on the fourth Sunday of the month and is a meeting of all four Churches and choirs for a service at one of our Churches.



There is always tea, coffee and cake afterwards and a chance to have a chat. We're a friendly lot!

If you, or someone you know would be interested, why not give me a call on 01622 850287. Maybe you could only manage one or two of the services. The Christmas Carol service would be a lovely one to start!

Doreen Hulm

Len Valley Benefice

March 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 2nd March

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Wednesday 5th March

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion Ashing Service

11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

Sunday 9th March

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Sunday 16th March

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 23rd March

11.00am Benefice Holy Communion at All Saint, Ulcombe

*'Re-Sourced in Christ – Prayer &
Worship'*

Sunday 30th March

11.00am Benefice Taizé Service for Mothering Sunday at St Mary's, Lenham

Christian Message March 2025

Strengthen the rubbery knees!

Did you ever have one of those toys which were a wooden animal on top of a base with a push plunger in it? When you push the plunger, the strings would go slack and the animal would wiggle around and collapse! They're so simple but so fun! It's less fun on the occasions when our own lives feel like that! We all face times when our own knees are suddenly feeling a lot less rigid!

There is a passage in the Bible, in Isaiah 35:3-4, which gives an amazing encouragement to those who may feel in that situation. In a paraphrase of the Bible called 'The Message', we read the following:

Energize the limp hands,
 strengthen the rubbery knees.
Tell fearful souls,
 "Courage! Take heart!
God is here, right here,
 on his way to put things right
And redress all wrongs.
 He's on his way! He'll save you!"

Verses like this are so impactful because they are outworked with two different emphases. In this passage is both an uplifting promise for the way God desires to care for us and also a picture of who He wants us to be for others.

The verses speak so intimately of a God who is not distant or aloof. He is not a hard taskmaster wagging his finger at our failings. Instead, He is "here, right here, on his way to put things right and redress all wrongs". How awesome it is to know that the divine creator of the universe desires to be involved in the challenges of our day to day lives! We can put our hope in Him. He is a God of justice and restoration!

As well as being on the receiving end, we get to be the one who brings this good news and aids in the strengthening of others! Jesus demonstrated the 'strengthening of rubbery knees' in extraordinary ways and we follow his example. When we consider those with whom we share our life; our family, our close friends, our colleagues, I'm sure that we can all think of those whose hands are feeling weak at this time. We get to bring the message of "Courage! Take heart!" God is here and He wants to put things right.

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

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