

# Malherbe Monthly

Number 255  
November 2025

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November  
10.00-2.00

Grafty Green Village Hall ME17 2BA



## An apology

Last month we had a printing error which meant that some of you had magazines that included pages that were out of order and upside down. I apologise for this and will ensure that this is not repeated.

If you would like a corrected copy, please email me so I can arrange it. [Carolhulm@email.com](mailto:Carolhulm@email.com)

## Useful contact names and telephone numbers

County Councillor	Sarah Emberson <a href="mailto:Sarah.Emberson@kent.gov.uk">Sarah.Emberson@kent.gov.uk</a>	
Borough Councillors	Martin Round martinround@maidstone.gov.uk Ziggy Trzebinski ziggytrzebinski@maidstone.gov.uk	890276 07852 492770
Member of Parliament for the Weald of Kent	Katie Lam <a href="mailto:katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk">katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk</a>	01580 388344
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Vanessa Goodwin	859549 858372
Parish Council Clerk	email boughtonmalherbecp@gmail.com	
Village Hall General Enquires	Jon Thompson Email: jon@grafftygreenalpacas.co.uk	07932 112730
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
Farmers Market	Tara Musson <a href="mailto:info.grafftygreen@gmail.com">info.grafftygreen@gmail.com</a>	
Parish Council Website	www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk	
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
Benefice Office	Sarah Hills email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Answer phone available out of hours	850604
St. Edmunds Centre	Kate Stansfield Mobile 07500 895831	
Fresh Fish delivery	Tuesday PM fortnightly by the red "phone" box (date to be posted on the box)	07976 435217
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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 **December** edition should be sent to the Editor Carol Hulm via email ([carolhulm@gmail.com](mailto:carolhulm@gmail.com)) by **25<sup>th</sup> November**

## An update from Katie Lam MP



Autumn is always a beautiful time in the Weald: orchards full of apples, and our vineyards and farms busy finishing the harvest. Just the other week, I managed to pick my own pears in Marden and to sample some lovely wine produced in Ham Street. It's a busy time of year, especially with Parliament returning, so I wanted to share a short update on what I've been doing, as well as what's coming up locally.

I recently met with Kent County Council's Transport Cabinet Member to share findings of my transport survey. I pressed for fairer funding for Kent's roads, better resurfacing and pothole repairs, stronger enforcement on speeding and HGV routes, and protection for local bus services.

I want to update you all fully on what I found out, so over the next few weeks, every household in the Weald of Kent will receive a letter from me in the post. Inside, you'll find the results of the transport survey that so many of you completed earlier this year and a new survey on crime and policing.

As the nights draw in, many people worry more about safety: at home, on our high streets, on our roads – and even online. At a local business earlier this month, I heard about trailers and stock being stolen; sadly, it's a common problem, especially for many of our farmers. Rural areas like ours face different challenges to cities, and I want to make sure the voices of our small villages and towns are properly heard, and to see how I can best help.

This is your chance to tell me what's happening where you live. So, please do take a few minutes to fill in the survey when it arrives. Your answers will directly shape the questions I ask in Parliament and the work I do with Kent Police.

I hope everyone's wrapping up warm as winter approaches. It's a season that can bring its own challenges as well as moments of quiet reflection. It's a good time to take stock and think about how we can support one another and keep our communities connected. As ever, if there's anything you'd like to talk to me about, please don't hesitate to get in touch at [katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk)

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07889 562931.

Completed forms should be returned no later than  
7<sup>th</sup> November 2025.



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## **WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

to become School Governors for  
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Governors need a variety of transferable skills and experience, as well as an everyday knowledge of internet and modern technology as much of our work is done virtually. We also use a bespoke online Governance system.

Governors need to commit to visiting the school regularly for monitoring, attend 6 Full Governing Board Meetings per year both in person &/or virtually plus initial New Governor training and at least three further training sessions every year, some of which can be done virtually.

**If you would like a chance to make a difference to all the children in our Federation by ensuring they all reach their full potential.**

Please contact Sam Branchett, Office Manager, for further information or an application form

**Email:** [office@plattsheathkentsch.co.uk](mailto:office@plattsheathkentsch.co.uk) or **call:** 01622 850316

## The cricket season finale at East Sutton

East Sutton is a small cricket ground nestled the Low Weald and as The Grafty Green Wanderers Team arrived the groundsman was rolling the perfectly prepared pitch.

The Grafty Green Growlers lined the boundary rope alongside the pavilion as David Chandler rested on the Five bar gate like a concerned Farmer reviewing his flock whilst Carol perched like a Secretary bird on her seat, pencil in hand and the scorebook open. James Iles won the toss and decided to bat... game on.

The East Sutton groundsman turned out to be their opening fast bowler and the wicket was very much to his liking, moving ball and causing problems to the Wanderers opening batsman of Jack "The Prof" Geary and Jay "Amiga Man" Bray..

In the 6th over "The Prof" decided to have a go at a slower paced delivery, he failed to connect and his stumps were duly removed by the ball.

With the score at 21-1 Josh "Panks" entering the batting until in the 8th over when in total disbelief "Amiga Man" saw all his stumps removed by an outstanding delivery which moved about 2ft outside off stump!

"Panks" then took the bull by the horns and hitting 3 straight boundaries to start to get the scoreboard moving.

Over the next 17 overs he amassed a total of 71 runs including 14 boundaries and two sixes, he was supported by a string of 6 batting partners who just couldn't find a way to deal with the bowling attack before "Panks" finally fell to a catch by the Eastwood Sutton fielder leaving the Wanderers at 130 for 9.

The wanderers final two batsmen put in the last few runs and The Wanderers ended their innings on 134 all out off 27 overs.

East Sutton took the field and steady moved the score along to 25 until two quick wickets were taken by both Gary "Grey by Night" Thompson and Mark "The Essex Swinger" Tomlinson leaving East Sutton at 33 for 2.

"Amiga Man" and Paul "The Brickie" Stapley then joined the Bowling attack with both Bowlers taking 2 wickets each in successive overs to leave East Sutton at 58 for 6 in the 13th over.

The Wanderers fielding had been magnificent with every player putting their bodies on the line to reduce the boundaries with "The Essex Swinger" taking a ball in the goolies and suffering a severe groin strain whilst "Dangerous Dave" dazzled on the leg side boundary.

The Growlers were fixed on "Amiga Man" who run like a man a third his age in front of them, maybe this was the eye candy they had been looking for all season.

“ The Essex swinger “ returned to get another wicket and the match was in the balance at 69 for 7 as drinks were taken.

The Wanderers knew that East Sutton had kept back a couple of really good batsman so it was all set up for a grandstand finale.

The match recommenced, a lovely ball from “ Baby Face “ caught the batsman off guard and the ball looped tantalising towards Nick “ The Chairman “ Eastwood, it hung in the air for an age as all the Wanderers fixed their gaze on “ The Chairman”.

The ball seemed to bounce from hand to hand as if he was juggling with it and with one last grasp for the ball, his hand found air and the ball hit the ground and the relief was clear to see on the batsman’s face.

“ Baby face “ then delivered a fabulous ball which struck the Batsman pads plumb in front of the wicket. The umpire immediately raised his finger, the batsman left the field after scoring 22 and East Sutton were 116 for 8 off 22 overs needing 19 to win with two wickets remaining.

“ Amiga Man “ was called back into the bowling attack and in his last over of the day delivered a fantastic ball which sent the stumps flying.

East Sutton were now 130 for 9 as the last man took the field to face “ Baby Face “ , it was going to the wire but it wasn’t going to be the Wanderers day. East Sutton managed to grab 5 runs off the over to win the match at 135 for 9.

The players left the field to the raucous appreciation of The Growlers and an Invite from East Sutton to return next season.

The Wanderers man of the match went to “Panks” with a marvellous innings of 71 runs.



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 which will start in February/ March, please feel free to contact Paul on 07803 610800.

# Village Hall News – November Newsletter

Dear All,

## **Internal redecoration**

I am pleased to advise you that Karri of She Paints Ltd has been appointed to carry out the internal redecoration of the hall, with the exception of the Parish Council meeting which will be held at the hall on Monday evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 the hall will be closed from Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December until Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January when we will be hosting our annual panto – this year it's Aladdin whilst the works are completed.

## **Trustees**

We are looking for some new trustees with fresh ideas to build on the progress we have made over the last few years in making the village hall a hub for the local community where you can meet your friends and neighbours and undertake a wide variety of activities. You don't need any special skills, you just need to be honest, trustworthy, unselfish and want to work as part of a team. I know this discounts most of you but if there is anyone left who would like to give something back to their community please let me know as we would love to hear from you.

## **Christmas Craft Fair Weekend Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 10am to 2pm**

We will have a wide range of stalls including jewellery, toiletries, cards, artwork, handmade coasters, bags, ceramics, personalised items, wooden items, general craft and new stalls that we have never seen before!

On Saturday there will be tea, coffee and cake and on Sunday we will have bacon sandwiches to go with your cuppa.

So come along and support your village hall, buy unique Christmas presents and chat with friends over a cup of tea or coffee.

Any donations of cake will be gratefully received on the Saturday morning.

## **Christmas Quiz Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 7pm for 7.30pm**

It's that time of year again for you to get your thinking caps on, it's the usual teams of 8 but if you are sad like me and have no friends never fear we will find you a team. There will be a best Christmas Jumper competition and a raffle. In a slight change from last year there will be no meal provided or a bar so please bring your own food and drink – tickets which are selling fast are £10 a head and can be booked via myself on 07932 112730 or

[jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk](mailto:jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk)

## **Aladdin – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 3pm to 4.30pm**

Oh no it isn't oh yes it is! We will be hosting our annual Christmas Panto in January! This year it is Aladdin and as usual it is sure to be lots of fun. Tickets are £15 for an adult which includes a free child ticket, (under 11), additional child tickets will be charged at £5 per child and once again can be booked via myself on 07932 112730 or [jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk](mailto:jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk). Kind

Regards

Jon Thompson Village Hall Committee Chairman

[jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk](mailto:jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk) Tel 07932 112730

[www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk) - facebook – [graftygreenvillage](https://www.facebook.com/graftygreenvillage)



**Grafty Green Christmas Craft Fair Weekend!**  
**Come along on both Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday**  
**30<sup>th</sup> November to our Christmas Craft Fair**  
**which is bigger and better than ever!**

We will have a wide range of stalls including jewellery, toiletries, cards, artwork, handmade coasters, bags, ceramics, personalised items, wooden items, general craft and new stalls that we have never seen before!

On Saturday there will be tea, coffee and cake and on Sunday we will have bacon sandwiches to go with your cuppa.

So come along and support your village hall, buy unique Christmas presents and chat with friends over a cup of tea or coffee.

Don't miss out on that special gift by only coming on one of the days



**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November**  
**10.00-2.00**

**Grafty Green Village Hall ME17 2BA**



GET READY FOR

# QUIZ NIGHT

*Test your knowledge and have a  
blast at our Quiz Night!*



**£10 EACH**

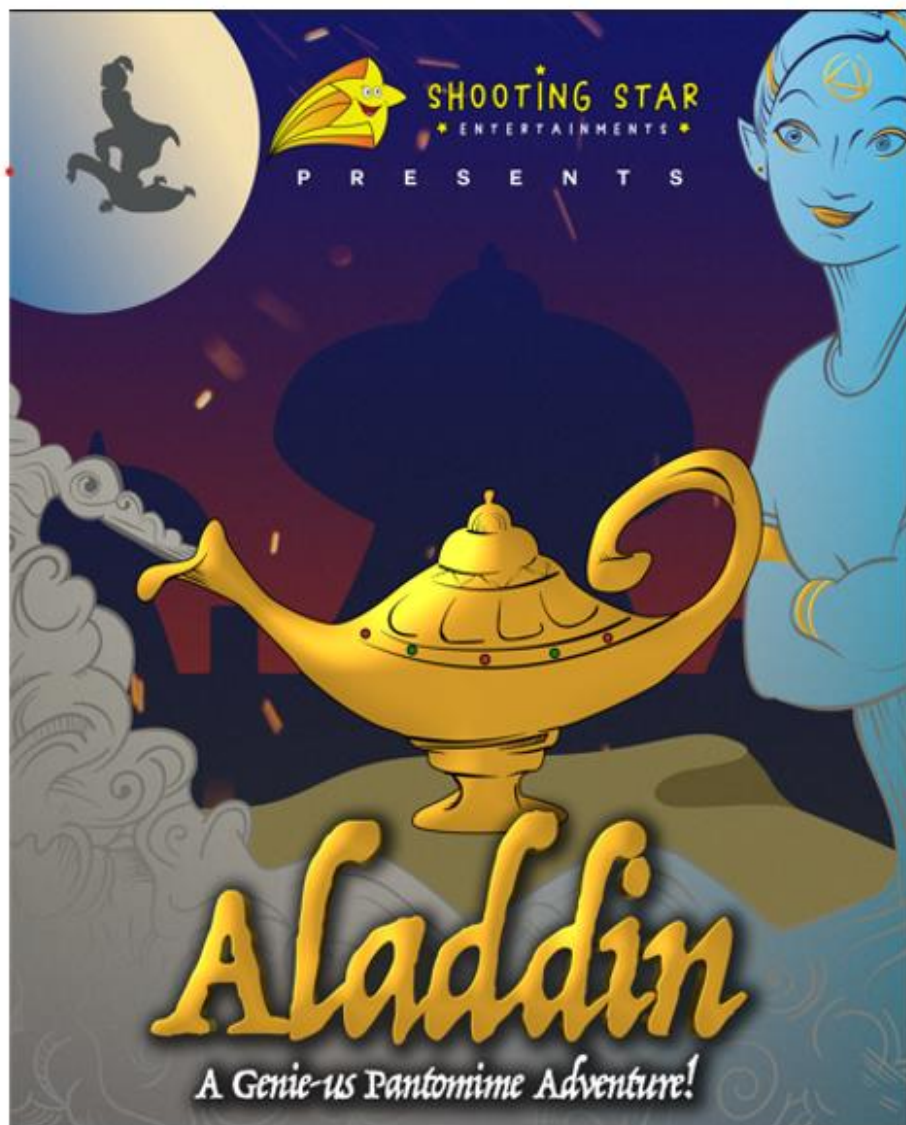
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DRINKS**



**7.30**

**13TH DECEMBER**

**GRAFTY GREEN VILLAGE HALL**



Grafty Green Village Hall Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 3pm to 4.30 pm

Tickets are £15 per adult which includes a free child's ticket - extra child's  
tickets are £5

To book tickets please contact Jon Thompson on  
either 07932 112730 or [jon@griftygreenalpacas.co.uk](mailto:jon@griftygreenalpacas.co.uk)

# **Grafty Green Village Hall**

Bookings 07932 112730

## **Regular Weekly Events**

**Yoga – mixed ability**  
Susan Burch 07803 962339

**Mondays and 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 07503 568874

**Tuesdays 2.30 – 5.30pm**

**Dance Fit**  
Sharon Harris 01622 890170

**Wednesdays 11 – 12.30pm**

**Tai Chi**  
Rhonda Bailey 07985 001782

**Thursdays 2.00 – 3.00pm**

**Craft Group**  
Janis Carter 01622 850898

**Fridays 10 -12.00pm**

**Art Class**  
Cathy Hill 07927054708

**Alternate Wednesdays 1 – 3.30pm**  
**Alternate Thursdays 7-9pm**

**Farmer's Market**  
Tara – [grafftygreen.info@gmail.com](mailto:grafftygreen.info@gmail.com)

**Friday 1- 3pm**

## **Regular Monthly Events**

**Gardening Club**  
Doreen 01622 850287

**First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm**

**Digital Kent**

**Fourth Tuesday 12 – 2pm**

# The Grafty Gourmet

Bacon-wrapped sausages cooked in a sherry-laced, onion-rich sauce make this French onion sausage casserole a quick and easy dinner to warm you up on these cold nights.

## FRENCH ONION & SAUSAGE CASSEROLE

6 rashers of streaky bacon  
375g pack of pork chipolatas  
Vegetable oil for frying  
25g of butter  
500g of onions, sliced  
2 garlic cloves, sliced  
1 tablespoon of plain flour  
100ml of medium dry or dry sherry, plus an extra splash  
1 beef stock pot  
3-4 bushy fresh thyme sprigs, plus extra leaves to garnish  
8 large thin slices of fresh baguette or similar crusty bread  
4 teaspoons of wholegrain mustard  
125g of strong cheddar cheese, grated  
Splash sherry vinegar

1. Cut the bacon rashers in half, stretch each piece by running the back of a kitchen knife blade along it, then wrap one around each chipolata. Heat the oil in a medium hob-safe casserole dish, add the pigs in blankets and brown over a medium-high heat for 4-5 minutes. Set aside.
2. Add a splash more oil if needed, along with the butter, then add the onions and a plenty of salt and black pepper. Fry gently for 5-6 minutes until starting to soften. Stir in the garlic, then cover and simmer for 15 minutes, stirring once or twice, until the onions have softened and turned deep brown. Stir the flour into the onions, then cook for 1-2 minutes. Add the sherry, stock pot and 500ml hot water from a just-boiled kettle. Stir to combine, then add the browned pigs in blankets and the thyme
3. Simmer on a low-medium heat for 20 minutes until it thickens. Meanwhile, heat the grill to high. Toast the baguette slices on each side. Spread with the mustard, then scatter with the grated cheese. Cook under the hot grill until the cheese has melted and is bubbling and golden. Stir a splash more sherry and the sherry vinegar into the casserole, season to taste, then serve with the cheese toasts, and extra thyme leaves, if you like.

# 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 Gardening Tips

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
4 <sup>th</sup> November	Ed Flint (head gardener at Tidewell Manor Robertsbridge)	Roses and friends
December	Leeds Castle light show	

### Gardening tips for November

- Frost and cold weather seem to arrive later each year. Keep an eye on the weather forecast.
- Protect tender plants from frost. Lift and move to greenhouse or wrap fleece around plants in situ.
- Lift dahlias (or mulch heavily) once blackened by frost.
- Continue to tidy borders for winter, cutting back dead foliage (leaving seed heads which look decorative and for birds and insects to eat).
- Mulch any cleared areas with compost.
- Dig out perennial weeds.
- Lift and divide overcrowded perennials.
- Plant bare root fruit trees and bushes, hedges and roses.
- Shorten hybrid tea roses and floribundas to reduce damage from wind rock.
- Prune climbing roses.
- Plant tulip bulbs in containers and beds.
- Continue to collect leaves, add to compost or make leaf mold.

Better late than never!

## **Sue's Blog – reminiscing!**

A year has passed since moving from Grafty Green and during this time I have related my experiences of the natural world in my new location. There have been some surprises but mostly I have been reassured by the familiarity of my garden visitors to those in Grafty Green; though there are no woodpeckers or house-martins but I do have jackdaws that chatter on my roof and mini murmuration of starlings.

My keenness for the outdoors must have begun at a very early age as there are family photos of me digging! But the earliest planting recollection is transplanting flame tree seedlings to the border of the driveway (it was West Africa) and I would have been around 5 years old. I also had a plot of my own to tend to where I grew African Marigolds and loofahs.

Coming back to England we stayed with my grandmother who was a keen gardener and she and I would potter for many an afternoon where I learnt my basic gardening skills – I still use some of her tools!

I think it would be good to read of other people's recollections – where did you grow up? Was there a moment where you began a life-long hobby?

Send Carol ([carolhulm@gmail.com](mailto:carolhulm@gmail.com)) your thoughts and life's observations, to be included in a proposed new feature of this magazine.

Sue

### **Yoga with Susan**

#### **Weekly classes in Grafty Green Village Hall**

**Monday morning 9.30 – 11**

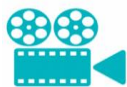
**Wednesday evening 7 – 8.30**

**Thursday morning 9.30 – 11**

***New term starts 27<sup>th</sup> October for seven weeks.***

Yoga brings a sense of peacefulness and connection to yourself and others whilst bringing more flexibility and strength into the body.

For more information or to enrol for the new term - please give me a call 07803 962339



# The Salt Path

**Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00**

*Running time 1 hr 55 mins, director Marianne Elliott*

Along the Cornwall, Devon and Dorset coastline runs the glorious 630-mile pathway on which **The Salt Path** (12, 2024) is set, based on the real-life story of Raynor Winn and her husband Moth Winn. Not only have they just lost their home, but Moth has just been diagnosed with a terminal illness. However, their seemingly bleak future is transformed when they set out to walk the length of The Salt Path within a year, taking with them virtually no belongings save for a tent. Deep in the coastal countryside and driven onwards by their strength and determination, their struggling relationship is challenged as the glories of the natural world around them wield their influence. The film is based on Raynor Winn's memoir published in 2018. Although arousing much press interest, nothing can change the message of this unusual and powerful film. So, to all of you who have travelled the path as well as those who still have that thrill to come, do join us on Friday November 14<sup>th</sup>.

And then comes Christmas month. Dog lovers take note - on Friday December 12<sup>th</sup> we are showing **The Friend**, in which writer and teacher Iris's life is thrown into chaos by a very large dog indeed. Great Dane, great film!

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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# MR. BURTON

SOME ARE BORN GREAT. SOME ARE INSPIRED TO BE GREAT.



IN CINEMAS 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

## **EGERTON MILLENNIUM HALL** **THURSDAY 27th November 2025** **Doors 7.00pm - PERFORMANCE**

**7.30pm Admission £6.00**

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- ✿ Baby massage, reflexology and colic alleviation (birth-crawling)
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- ✿ Baby yoga (3 months to pre-school)

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- ✿ Parties
- ✿ Coffee mornings

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We thoroughly enjoyed our Basking Babies 'Nurture Me' course. It was great to learn massage and reflexology techniques to help with common complaints such as teething and colds. Me and my baby were so relaxed after each session. It was lovely to get to meet other mums and babies, and be able to chat over a cup of tea each week.



# News from St.Nicholas Church – November 2025

Beautiful autumn colours just now along the hedgerows, gardens and woodlands. Definitely my favourite time of the year. Of course, it will soon be over as the storms roll in, and the leaves fall. All part of the big plan to rest and recover before the work starts afresh for next year's growth and fruiting. Think we could all do with a bit of that in our lives and slowly settle down and prepare our plan for next year, with all the knowledge of what was good in this year. We can dream!

## Usual reminders

The church porch remains open for all. Enjoy a hot drink and the peace of its surroundings. Open the bible, we never seem to have time for that in our hectic lives. Leave a prayer request for yourself or for someone you are thinking of. It will be prayed for in church as soon as possible. If you need more water for the jug or kettle or your dog, follow the path round beyond the tower, there is a tap at the back of the church.

Make use of the mini food bank box if you need. There is a bigger bank, at the back of St. Mary's church in Lenham, open daily from 10.00am - 4.00pm.

The main St.Nicholas's church building is open for services, meetings, cleaning etc. If you wish to visit at other times, please contact the churchwardens for a key.

## News

### Village Cake and Coffee Time

Still going strong every Tuesday in Grafty Green village hall 12.00 - 2.00pm to coincide with the Post Office 12.45 - 2.15pm. All donations are shared between the church and a charity chosen by the coffee time regulars. We hope to support the work of the Lord Whisky animal sanctuary based at Stelling Minnis shortly.

### Harvest Supper

This event, held in the village hall on 11th October, proved to be a popular evening. The hall looked very festive, many thanks to Jacquie, Kenneth and Jon. The food was much appreciated, thanks to the talented cooks, the custard was in great demand.

More than £500 was raised to help maintain our ancient St.Nicholas, standing for more than 800 yrs as a place of generosity, celebration, hope, hospitality, peace and prayer, in and for this community, and all who pass by.





### **Harvest Festival**

We thank everyone, and especially Platts Heath School, for the generous gifts of produce this harvest time.

The many sunflowers in the church decorations looked very cheerful, added to the autumn flowers from the hall.

All the nonperishable gifts were taken to the St.Mary's Church food bank.

The perishable foods were auctioned off after the service and raised more than £100 for Demelza House.

Many thanks to Kenneth for raising the auction prices to eye-watering levels. No complaints.

### **Farmers' Market**

Jacquie, Janet and I enjoyed manning our scone, bread and cake stall on Friday 24th October. Lovely people to chat to and explain our recipes and their stories, especially the surprise of the Coronation scones, made with Mango chutney, curry powder and cheese! Once tried, they all sold out fast. Good for the National Trust.

£90 were raised for the church. Thanks to the Market organisers for giving us a space.

### **Farewell**

The funeral of Malcolm Ford took place at St.Nicolas on Friday 24th October. There was a large gathering of family and friends to say goodbye. We send our thoughts and prayers especially to Fatima at this sad time.

Relax and take time to enjoy the Autumn colours this year.

Sally Alexander



# ***Len Valley Benefice***

## ***November 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 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

**9.30am** Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

**9.30am** Lenham: Breakfast Church

**9.30am** Harrietsham: Morning Worship

**11.00am** Lenham: Holy Communion

### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

**9.30am** Lenham: Holy Communion

**11.00am** Harrietsham: Chippendayle

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

**10.15am** Boughton Malherbe: **Remembrance Service**

**10.15am** Lenham: **Remembrance Service**

**10.15am** Harrietsham: **Remembrance Service**

**10.15am** Lenham: **Remembrance Service**

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

**11.00am** **Benefice Holy Communion at St Mary's, Lenham**

### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

**11.00am** **Advent Sunday Benefice Holy Communion Service at All Saints, Ulcombe at St John's, Harrietsham**



# Christian Message

## Focus on November

Reverend Richard Birch

“The pen is mightier than the sword” is a saying that many will recognise. It is attributed to Edward Bulwer-Lytton from 1839. However, its origins go back much further. In the fifth century BCE the Greek writer, Euripides, wrote “The tongue is mightier than the blade”. And even further back in the seventh century BCE the Assyrian, Ahigar wrote “The word is mightier than the sword”.

There is, perhaps, a development in these sayings in that in ancient times the written word was available to only a few people, it was the spoken word that transmitted ideas. Whereas by the nineteenth century books and pamphlets were widely available. Now, of course we have “social media” and it seems that is the popular medium for discussion of ideas.

There is no doubt that words are powerful, however they are transmitted. They can affirm and they can criticise, they can build up and they can break down. They can transmit truth, and they can tell lies.

When I was young, I was given good advice that I should never say behind someone’s back what I would not say to their face. It seems even more relevant today that we should not “post” comments on-line that we would not say to a person’s face, and we should remember the commandment not to tell lies.

The new developments in technology mean that we can transmit information and ideas incredibly quickly. The temptation can be to press “send” before we check what we have typed. Is it true? How will it be received? Often the messages I receive show that they have not even been read back, there are so many typos present.

If Jesus were in human form today, would he use social media to reach people with his message? I am not sure he would, much of what appears on the internet and particularly on social media has become untrustworthy through misuse, the telling of lies and unsubstantiated claims.

We must take care with the words we use and how we use them. For most people the message of Jesus is most strongly conveyed between people when it is told face to face. The words of Jesus were told to only a relatively few people during his life on earth. Over the next one hundred years or so they were recorded by pen and ink. Over the next two thousand years the words of Jesus have been studied by scholars and ordinary people, and they have changed the world.

# Emergency and Help Contact Details

Police, Fire and Ambulance Emergencies	<b>999</b>
Police, Non-Emergency - (Including PCSO .....)	<b>101</b>

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	<b>111</b>
Maidstone & Pembury Hospitals	<b>0845 155 1000</b>
William Harvey Hospital	<b>01233 633331</b>
Headcorn Surgery ( <i>out of hours listen to</i>	<b>01622 890294</b>
Lenham Surgery ( <i>recorded messages</i> )	<b>01622 858341</b>

Electricity (UK Power Networks)	
<i>Emergencies and Power Cuts</i>	<b>0800 783 8866</b>
<b>Or</b>	<b>01243 508866</b>

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

## KCC Community Wardens:

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

R.S.P.C.A	<i>Emergencies</i>	<b>0300 1234 999</b>
Vet	<i>24 Hour Pet Emergency Treatment Service</i>	<b>01622 734555</b>

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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