

Malherbe Monthly

Number 238
May 2024



Grafty Green Village Hall, Post Office on Tuesdays and Polling Station at the upcoming Maidstone Borough and Boughton Malherbe Parish Council elections on May 2nd

Useful contact names and telephone N^{os}.

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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	850381
Parish Council Website	www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk	
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
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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 left in Grafty Green Telephone Box, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th May**

News from St. Nicholas Church – May 2024

We have just returned from a week staying in a cottage on the Fountains Abbey, Studley Park estate, maintained by the National Trust and a World Heritage Site in North Yorkshire. This area, close to the Yorkshire Moors and Dales, with wonderful countryside, magnificent, huge, open skies, historic castles, ancient abbeys and small towns, is deeply embedded in my life. This was a precious time of being home.

We could walk out of the door into the rolling deer park, with many paths leading through to lakes and water gardens and on to the abbey, in all its ruined grandeur, still proclaiming the power of God's love and relevance to the world, as it has done for many centuries, its mission continuing.

Having a key to walk and be enfolded in this space alone in the evenings was to feel special beyond words.

Reminders

The church porch is open at all times, as usual. A good place to pause in your walk, enjoy a hot drink and watch the rural life around. Hopefully the weather will be gentler as the days grow longer. Paper and envelopes are there if you have a prayer request. Any requests will be read in Monday morning prayer time in the chapel, or in private if you wish. In this case contact Rev. John Huggins or the churchwardens. Make use of the small food bank, if you need. There is a larger food bank at the back of St. Mary's church in Lenham, open daily 10-4pm.

The main church building is open for services, cleaning, meetings etc. Please contact the churchwardens for a key if you wish to visit at other times.

Church Service times are on the noticeboards by the roadside and porch, also outside the Village Hall in Grafty Green.

Celtic Morning Prayer is said in the side chapel each Monday 9-9.30am. This is an informal time, with bible readings and time for prayer, spoken or in silence, for people, events, problems or worries. Can be a helpful time to share a need in confidence.

Village Coffee Morning takes place each Tuesday 11.30am-2pm in the village hall in Grafty Green. The Post Office is usually open 12.45 - 2.15pm. There are often other items for sale, eg. free-range eggs, honey, Pluckley teas, eco-household products, handmade cards, jams and marmalade. All donations for the tea/coffee and cakes are shared equally between the church and a charity chosen by the 'regulars'. Come and be a part of this.

Easter Services. 'An hour at the Cross' service, in a church and altar empty of all items, is always a sad and sombre time on Good Friday. With thanks to those who joined in this thoughtful time.

The Daybreak service on Easter Day was well supported, with around 30 friends from around the benefice joining at St.Nicolas to see the sun rising at 6am! Despite the clocks going forward we formed a joyous group, lighting the new Paschal candles for each church

from the fire, and welcoming the risen Christ into our lives. We really enjoyed the breakfast of Hot Cross buns, croissants, chocolate eggs and hot tea and coffee after, around our beautiful refectory table. Thanks to Kenneth for his new-found bun making skills! Only a couple left !

Easter Day service was a quieter service, but no less enthusiastic as befits this momentous day in the church calendar.

The monthly meditations continue on the first Saturday of each month at 2pm. Led by Rev. John Huggins. The session usually lasts for half an hour, followed by tea and a biscuit and discussion if anyone wishes. It is a very enjoyable, reflective and relaxing time.

Pauline Fisher our very talented and hardworking organist is leaving the benefice and moving to the West Country. She will be missed by all who have appreciated and heard her musicianship, both with the trumpet and organ, over many years. Her unstinted work with the singers and choirs and within our church services will be remembered by us all. We send her many thanks and love for everything she has done. Our prayers go with her and her family and wish her a very happy time in her new home.

Wedding. There will be more information next month after Laura and Ollie's wedding at St.Nicolas in a few days' time. We wish them lots of happiness on the day and for their future life together. We continue praying for them both.

Finale It is the time again when we look forward to the Craft Fair in the Village Hall in Grafty Green on both the Saturday and Sunday 11th and 12th May. Thank you to the organisers of this popular event. The knitting needles are clicking and plans are afoot for cakes, fudge and other delights. We love meeting visitors and friends on these occasions. St. Nicolas himself would enjoy it too, I am sure.

Will meet you there!

Sally Alexander

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Parish Council
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Helen Whately

MP for Faversham and Mid Kent

I work for you. If you have a problem you think I can help you with, please contact me or visit me at

one of my surgeries
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London, SW1A 0AA

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Village Hall – May Newsletter

We held the village hall's AGM on the 16th of last month and I am pleased to advise you that we have agreed not to increase the hiring fees for the hall which remain at £10 per hour for ad hoc bookings with a discounted rate of £8 per hour for regular hirers. As trustees we feel that this makes the hall, a valuable community resource, available to all. If you would like to book the hall either for a one-off event or a regular hiring please contact our bookings clerk Jan on 01622 850898.

I would also advise you that Cheryl our Pilates teacher is commencing a new Saturday morning Pilates class at the hall between 9.30 and 10.30 am starting on the 1st June. Details of this new class is provided below.

New Pilates Class Saturday Morning 9.30 to 10.30 am starting 1st June

I am very pleased to say that Cheryl our Pilates teacher has kindly agreed to host a Saturday morning Pilates Class at the Village Hall. Classes will run from 9.30 to 10.30 am starting on the 1st June. Please see below information on Pilates.

A little bit about Pilates

Pilates teaches ease of movement and good posture. It conditions the whole body by lengthening, strengthening and rebalancing, helping you enjoy daily activities with greater ease and less chance of injury. The classes are mat based and are particularly safe for those with back problems. The movements are controlled and co-ordinated and can be adapted to suit the abilities of each individual person. It can work for everyone, regardless of fitness level, Pilates is often recommended by physiotherapists, doctors and other health professionals as a safe way to aid rehabilitation. It is practised by seniors and elite athletes alike.

To book your place or for further information please contact Cheryl on 07852 602369 Email: c.stubbs8@btinternet.com Cheryl is offering a special introductory offer of £20 for a 4-week course.

Digital Kent - Help with the Internet and anything digital Tuesday 4th June 11.30 to 1.30

Digital Kent is a free service provided by Kent County Council working in partnership with the NHS, District & Borough Councils and the social sector with the objective of tackling digital exclusion across Kent and Medway and I am pleased to advise you that they have kindly agreed to set up a new hub at the village hall once a month at the same time as our coffee morning and the Post Office. They will provide a digital champion, (Mark), who will be on hand to help you with accessing the internet and all things digital. So if you are a dinosaur like me I can imagine Mark will be quite busy on his monthly visits to the hall!

In addition to our regular activities at the hall we also have some events coming up as follows:-

Spring Craft Fair Weekend Saturday & Sunday 11th & 12th May 10 am to 3pm

We will also be hosting our very popular spring craft fair weekend at the hall on Saturday & Sunday 11th & 12th of May where you can browse a wide selection of stalls offering a range of interesting crafted items, have a chat with friends and enjoy a cup of tea and some cake on Saturday or enjoy a bacon sandwich on the Sunday. There will be a wide range of stall holders including beauty products, bags and lots of gift ideas. Any donations of cake will be very welcome and we look forward to seeing you at the event.

Bingo Night – Saturday 29th June 7 for 7.30 pm

Richard the host with the most will be our compere for our very first bingo night at the hall. Please make a note in your diaries as this will be an event not to be missed!

Jon Thompson Village Hall Committee Chairman

jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk

www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk

Facebook – [graftygreenvillage](#)



Digital Kent is working to improve digital inclusion and capabilities in the county of Kent.

Formed by Kent County Council in 2021 and part of the Helping Hands scheme and Financial Hardship programme, the Digital Kent service has been created as a response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic.

Together, working with partners, the services and support that we are providing is currently time-limited, due to the nature of the funding we have available.

Grafty Green Village Hall

Bookings 01622 850898

Regular Weekly Events

Yoga – mixed ability
Susan Burch 01622 850381

Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 – 11am
Wednesdays 7 – 8.30pm

Pilates
Cheryl Stubbs 07852 602639

Mondays 2.00-3pm
Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30 am

Post Office

Tuesdays 12.45 – 2.15pm

Coffee morning

Tuesdays 11.30 – 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

Regular Monthly Events

Gardening Club
Doreen 01622 850287
Sue 01622 850381

First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm

Grafty Green Village Hall Craft Fair

Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th May 10.00-3.00

SAVE THE DATE!

Lots of your favourite stalls plus for the first time:

Rose Gems

For the Love of Cookie Dough

Tatty Tay

Lauren's Printing Services

Elliot Hill Dog Products

Doodle Daze Candles

Don't miss our biggest and best craft fair ever!

Tea, coffee and cake on Saturday and tea, coffee and
bacon sandwiches on Sunday.

Saturday is full but we have a couple of spaces on the Sunday if you
are selling a craft that we don't already have. Please contact me on

angelaoaks101@gmail.com



New Pilates Class

Mixed Ability (Beginners/Improvers welcome)

Pilates teaches ease of movement and good posture.

Conditioning the whole body by lengthening, strengthening and rebalancing, helping you enjoy daily activities with greater ease and less chance of injury.



Saturdays 09:30 to 10:30 am - Grafty Green Village Hall

Introductory Offer 50% discount:

4 week course for £20 (normally £10 per session)

1 June to 22 June

To book your place please contact Cheryl

07852 602369

Email: c.stubbs8@btinternet.com

Helen Whately – MP

'An update from your local MP Helen Whately

Wherever you live you deserve a fast police response. This shouldn't change if you live in a town, village or rurally.

When something goes wrong you should be able to rely on help being there when you need it, but in recent years some of our rural communities have felt let down by police response times – as local farmers told me last summer.

When tools and equipment go missing or you're threatened by intimidating behaviour help should be on hand quickly.

That's one of the reasons why in 2019 we promised to put 20,000 more police officers on our streets, and it was great to see that target hit last year. These officers are already helping to put this right.

There's been some really encouraging data nationally, with crime falling in England and Wales by 50% since 2010, and even since March 2020 theft has reduced by 50%, knife crime by 8% and domestic burglary by 30%.

We've also got record numbers of police officers on the beat here in Kent, and every ward now has its own named officer – something I campaigned for last year. Along with our local Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott they're working hard to keep us safe, and I'm grateful for all that they do.

I'm pleased to see the data shows that neighbourhood crime – antisocial behaviour, vehicle crime and theft - is falling across Kent. Without the hard work of everybody across Kent Police this would not be possible.

On top of more boots on the ground and bobbies on the beat we have seen a further £28 million allocated to the force's budget for 2024/2025 with further money coming from the Home Office's Violence Reduction Unit and the Safer Streets Fund.

More money and more officers are a great start, but the most important thing is that people across Faversham and Mid Kent feel safer and it's why I've made faster police response one of my 5 local priorities.

At the end of last year, I invited Maidstone parishes to the Downswood Community Centre to talk to Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott and Maidstone District commander Mark McLellan.

It was great to hear Kent Police have increased the size of the Rural Policing Unit and they're also reducing the time taken to answer 101 calls.

At the end of last month, I saw rural policing in action when I visited the Rural Policing Team in Faversham to hear how they've been tackling rural crime locally. The introduction of Farm Watch is helping local farmers report crime digitally and get specialist rural teams to incidents quicker.

If you've got something you would like to raise with me about crime in your local area, please do get in touch with my office. The more we report crime the more effective our police can be.

Working together will help keep our communities safer.

Best wishes

Helen Whately MP'



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Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

Save The Date

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Monday 13th May** at Grafty Green Village Hall at 7.00pm. The Parish Council look forward to seeing you all there. This is a great opportunity for local residents to meet members old and new of the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council and to hear from many of the clubs and organisations who are active in our village. Of course, you can also raise any suggestions for improvements in the Village or raise any concerns that you may have. As the new clerk to the Parish Council, it is my first meeting and I look forward to seeing many of you there. Thank you to those of you who have already sent me your reports for inclusion in the meeting. Those who haven't there may still be time, just let me know.

Hot on the heels of the Annual Parish Meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 8.00pm. Residents are very welcome to stay but please note can only address the Parish Council during the public session. Agendas for both of these meetings will be issued shortly and can be viewed on the website www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk or the noticeboard.

I hope to see you all on the 13th and if in the meantime I can be of any assistance please do get in touch at: boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com

Marie Norris
Clerk Parish Council

General Waste & Recycling Collections

Maidstone Borough Council announced they have introduced a facility on their website where you can check the status of your general waste & recycling collection, without having to report a missed collection.

[Check the status of your collections - Lookup \(maidstone.gov.uk\)](http://maidstone.gov.uk)

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Several of the prospective candidates for the Boughton Malherbe Parish council elections have discussed what we feel are important values that are fundamental in a newly elected Parish council.

The election date is 2nd May 2024

Each voter can vote for up to 5 candidates.

We wish to see new, vibrant, progressive and reachable councillors that stand for its voters.

Councillors that parishioners can approach and themselves become involved within the village and in council affairs.

Parishioners that can voice concerns and ideas openly and honestly.

A new council needs to be exciting, relevant, necessary, transparent and forward thinking.

Influencing and shaping a long-term development policy for the parish.

Between us we have new and innovative ideas. If any of us are voted onto the Parish Council we want to ensure it moves with the times and embraces positive change if needed.

Promoted by Nicholas Eastwood on behalf of himself, Gary Thompson, Lorraine Hook and Christine Tomlinson all at Post Office House, Grafty Green ME172AN

Nick Eastwood: For the last four years I've served on the parish council during which time I have continually strived to keep our spending productive & efficient and make the council as accountable as possible. I have supported the good council efforts such as improving road marking and footpath access, but have not shied away from objecting to waste, unjustified expenditure, and surplus taxation. I see a disconnect between council and public as an ongoing challenge and hope to be able to combat this with increased openness and transparency.



Christine Tomlinson: I have been a resident of Grafty Green for just over 4 years and have been a part of the village, its life and its residents through supporting events and working at the Kings Head. We need a Parish Council that will support those that need guidance and assistance, keep our residents updated and involved in any proposed changes. It should be accessible and approachable. We need to protect the village's beauty and its community spirit.

"Things can't change overnight, but if we all did nothing they never would"

Lorraine Hook: I have had the pleasure of living in Grafty Green for the past 6 years. I have been involved in and organised local events with others in the village. A new Parish Council should be the underpinning support to the community and act in their best interests. Residents need to be kept informed of any changes that may affect them. We need a transparent and approachable Parish Council that has residents at the heart of all decisions that are made. I am passionate about the beautiful village I live in and want to strive to maintain what we have here in our idyllic piece of heaven.



Gary Thompson: I have lived in the parish for 15 years and have really enjoyed being part of the community in Grafty Green. I have supported the village hall and helped with various events over the years. I understand how important it is to support and protect our villages, and I am excited to have the opportunity to form part of a parish council that can make a difference to local people's lives.

Grafty Gourmet

Pork, cider and apples are a great combination in cooking, for a reason. This great recipe blends both the sweet and the salty flavours together for a real winner !

SAUSAGE & CIDER CASSEROLE

1 tablespoon of sunflower oil	2 tablespoons of plain flour
8 good quality pork sausages	300ml of dry cider
200g of smoked bacon lardons	300ml of fresh chicken stock
50g of butter	8-10 fresh sage leaves, chopped
2 medium onions, chopped	1 tablespoon of wholegrain mustard
2 garlic cloves, crushed	2 small eating apples
2 small parsnips, chopped	A squeeze of lemon to serve
3 large celery sticks, chopped	(optional)
1 tablespoon of tomato purée	

1. On the hob, heat the oil in a large flameproof casserole dish (with a lid). Add the sausages and brown them all over, then transfer to a plate.
2. Add the bacon lardons to the casserole dish and fry for 5 minutes until the fat is crisp and brown. Transfer to the plate with the sausages.
3. Drain off all but 1 tablespoon of the oil from the casserole dish and add half of the butter and, when melted, add the onions and garlic. Cover and cook for 10 minutes, stirring now and then, until soft and lightly browned.
4. Take off the lid, stir in the parsnips and celery and cook for 2 minutes more. Stir in the tomato purée and flour, then gradually stir in the cider and stock and bring to the boil.
5. Return the sausages and bacon to the casserole dish, then stir in the sage and mustard. Cover and put in the oven and cook for 40 minutes.
6. When the casserole is ready, melt the remaining butter in a non-stick frying pan. Quarter, core and slice the apples into wedges. Add them to the pan and fry gently for 2-3 minutes until golden all over and just tender. Season with a little salt and pepper.
7. Remove the casserole from the oven, stir in the apples and season to taste (add a squeeze of lemon if you think it needs it). Serve with baked potatoes or mash and greens.



Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

One Life

Friday May 10th

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00.

Running time 1 hr 50 mins

Don't miss this outstanding and poignant biographical drama. *One Life* (12A 2023) is the remarkable true story of humanitarian Sir Nicholas Winton MBE, who fifty years later is looking back on his visit as a young stockbroker to Prague, just before the outbreak of World War II. The inhabitants of the city were living in desperate conditions with the Nazi forces' invasion imminent and during his visit, in a race against time, he managed to save hundreds of mainly Jewish children from the Nazis before the borders were closed. Now looking back at that terrible time, he is haunted by the shadows of all the children he was unable to reach. The incomparable Anthony Hopkins stars, alongside Helena Bonham Carter and Johnny Flynn. This magnificent film is a moving and memorable testament to what one man could achieve in the face of evil. Directed by James Hawes

Our performance on Friday June 14th also harks back to World War II and is also a true story – but a far different one. **The Great Escaper** sees Bernard Jordon determined to attend the 70th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy... a slight problem as he lives in a south coast care home !

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

Admission: members £4, non-members £5, under 16 £2, under 5 free.



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Ruth on 01233 756332

Grafty Green Gardening Club Program of Events 2024

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
January 9	Joe Archer	From Kew to Kent
February 6	Sally Channon	Thanet Earth
March 5	Steve Kirk	Wild life reintroductions in Kent
April 2	Spring show plus Maureen, Christine and Sue	Encouraging wildlife visitors to your garden
Saturday April 27	Plant fair	
May 7	Vicky Golding – Outing to Marden Meadow	
June 4	Social in Bridget Samuelson's Garden, Crumps Lane	
July 2	Outing to Hawkhurst – Hands of Hope garden	
July 30	Outing – Old Rectory Otterden	
September 3	Autumn Show and Steven Harmer	Arts and Crafts movement and their gardens
September 13 - 15	Weekend away to north Devon	
October 1	Kevin Tooher	Choice trees for small spaces
November 5	Davina	The story of the Dower House garden at Chilston Park
December 3	Practical session – table decoration with guidance from Sandra Pilborough	

Saturday April 27 is our Plant Fair in the Village Hall. Come along and buy plants and other items on a gardening theme. The tables will be set for tea and coffee for you to relax and catch up with others. We will open up at 10.00 prompt so come early for the best choice of plants.

We will be having our first summer outing of the year on **May7th** to Marden Meadows. Vicky Golding will be there to meet us and give us a brief history of the meadows, wild flowers etc. We look forward to seeing you on the evening !

In our gardens : - we can prune spring-flowering shrubs the have finished flowering and move tender shrubs in pots outside for summer. Feed, weed and mow lawns now to encourage good growth. Be mindful of night frosts when you harden off summer bedding plants. Divide and cut back spring-flowering perennials. Dahlias can be planted out at the end of the month.

Grafty Gardeners

Sue's nature notes

I recently made a rough survey of one of our flower rich verges – should you happen to walk from the triangle at the junction of Eastwood Road up to Yew Tree farm this list I compiled is just some of the plants identified.

There were other plants too like cuckoo pint, ivy and cleavers; all the plants and the hedgerows bordering the verge give cover to the small mammals and birds. It is well known that if we look after the bottom of the food chain we will be helping the mammals and birds that also live in our little bit of this planet.

This is a precious asset in the parish; the nectar it gives to early bumblebees and butterflies and other emerging insects plus the enrichment to our hectic lives as we pass by, possibly daily, taking in the view and maybe seeing the verge with a new perspective!

Wild flower found	Caterpillar food or nectar for butterflies, seed eating birds
Blue bell	Bees , small and large white
Bramble	Brimstone, comma, gate keeper
Bugle	
Bush vetch	
Buttercup – 2 types	Holly blue
Comfrey	
Cow parsley	Mini beetles and hover flies
Cranesbill -herb Robert, hedgerow	
Creeping and milk thistle	
Dandelion	Early source of nectar for bees
Dead nettle - white, cut leaf purple	
Garlic mustard	Orange tip
Greater stitchwort	Orange tip
Ground ivy	Orange tip
Herb bennet	
Hog weed	Hover flies
Knapweed	Comma, common blue, meadow brown
Ladies bedstraw	
Ladies smock	Speckled wood, orange tip
Lesser celandine	
Meadow sweet	
Nettle	Peacock, red admiral

Ox eye daisy	
Plantain	Goldfinches enjoy the seeds
Primrose, cowslip	brimstone
Ragwort	Gate keeper, cinnabar moth
Silverweed, Potentilla	
Sorrel	
Thistle, creeping and milk	Goldfinches, red admiral
Veronica – ivy leaf	
Water mint	
Wild strawberry	
Willow herb	
Wood anemone	
Wormwood	
Yarrow	Large skipper, small heath



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Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall. and local walks!



No class on Monday 6th or 27th May - bank holidays

No class on Thursday 2nd May – Local elections - if this is a fine day I will lead a walk to take in the beauty of a local woodland to do a spot of forest bathing.

I am also leading a walk on Saturday 4th May when I hope to lead folk to a spot where we will hear nightingales. Meet at St. Nicholas Church at 9.30 for a 10 o'clock start.

More information – call me on 01622 850381

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Christian Message May 2024

Whitsuntide

From Rev. Richard Birch

May has always been the month for me when the promise of spring develops into the beginnings of summer. Spring half term was always our first camping trip of the year with our three boys, often in the New Forest. Now they have all left home, and we avoid school holiday time for our camping.

Other things have changed since our family was young - the Spring Half Term always used to start with Whit Monday. We still have Whit Monday, but it does not always coincide with the Spring Bank Holiday.

Whit Monday, of course, follows Whit Sunday which is sometimes called Pentecost. 2,000 years ago Jesus' disciples were together in a locked room on the Jewish festival of Pentecost. The door was locked because they did not feel safe. It was six weeks after Jesus had been crucified and Jesus had visited them in his resurrected body a few times since he died, to encourage them. On this day of Pentecost they had another important visit. This time from the Holy Spirit, who came in the form of flames that did not burn anything and the sound of a great wind that did not ruffle their hair.

The effect of the Holy Spirit was to change the disciples from a bunch of frightened men wondering what the future held to a coordinated team of bold evangelists. Peter particularly became a great speaker and when he explained to the wondering crowds what was happening 3,000 joined the disciples and formed the new Church. Some people now regard this day as the birthday of the Christian church.

The Holy Spirit still visits people today and whenever it happens people are changed. The Spirit brings gifts of talents and abilities that we are not aware we had. And we find that we are able to work for Jesus in all kinds of unexpected ways.

Visits of the Holy Spirit are very special and we will be gathering in our churches on Whit Sunday, 19th May, as a great celebration of the birthday of the Church. As spring blossoms into summer it is a good time to remember the developing new Christian Church and pray for its continued growth today. Whatever May means to you, you will be very welcome to join us.

Worship Leader(s) needed.



The Len Valley churches (Boughton Malherbe, Harrietsham, Lenham, Ulcombe) are looking for people with musical talent who can support, develop and lead the worship in one or all of our churches. If you can play an appropriate instrument, have gentle leadership skills and are open to being involved in Christian worship, please do contact us for more details. This role involves some financial reward. We can also support training, for example for young keyboard players who want to learn to play the organ. Please call 01622 850280 or email churchoffice@lvb.org.uk for information.





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Len Valley Benefice

May 2024

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‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.’

Matthew 13:31-32

Wednesday 1st May

9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)

11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

Sunday 5th May

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church

11.00am Harrietsham: Family friendly Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion *with baptism*

Sunday 12th May

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 19th 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 26th May

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at St John's, Harrietsham 'I am the gate'

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Lenham Surgery <i>recorded messages</i>)	01622 858341

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<i>Highways</i>	03000 41 81 81

KCC Community Wardens:

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<i>District Support – Dawn Riach- Brown</i>	07773 397125

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<i>Home Safety Visits</i>	0800 923 7000

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