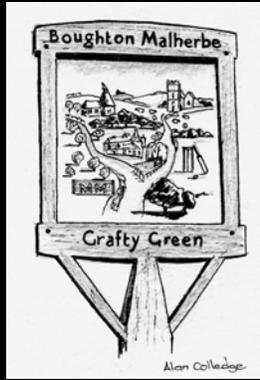


Malherbe Monthly

Free



Number 24

July 2006



Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

Useful contact names and telephone N^{os}.
BOUGHTON MALHERBE/GRAFTY GREEN

County Councillor	Sandy Bruce Lockhart	890651
Borough Councillors	Jenny Gibson Richard Thick	890200 891224
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Joan Davidson	858348 850210
Parish Council Clerk	Pat Anderson	858350
Village Hall bookings	Doreen Walters	850387
KM Correspondent	Sylvia Close	858919
Gardening Club	Sue Burch	850381
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Sunday School	Mair Chantler	859672
Yoga	Liz Watts	737321
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Anderson Sue Burch	858350 850381
Incumbent	Revd Don Irvine (email: revdonirvine@uwclub.net)	859466
Benefice Office	Michelle Saunders (email: churchoffice@lenvalleybenefice.org.uk)	850604
Mobile Library	Wednesday afternoons	
St. Edmunds Centre	Tricia Dibley	858891
Fresh Fish delivery	Thursday afternoons at approx. 3.30 by Post Office	
Council Rubbish Freighter	See article in magazine	
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Chris King	Advertising: Christine.kings@btinternet.com	850711
Mike Hitchins	Editor: mf.hitchins@virgin.net	858937
John Collins	Treasurer	850213

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 August edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mf.hitchins@virgin.net) by 15th July

Front cover: Platts Heath Primary School.

News from St. Nicholas Church

Benefice Walk

Once again the weather was kind to us, in fact it was almost too hot. Quite a number of walkers took part in the 11.5 mile hike between the four Churches of the Benefice. Refreshments were available at all the Churches for Elevenses or Lunch and water bowls for dogs, who came along with their owners and there was at least one dog taking part. Once again a fun time for participants and those manning the Churches meeting and greeting, a getting to know you time for the Benefice.

Cottage Gardens of Grafty Green

The Garden Safari was very successful with the weather behaving itself again. There were nine Gardens open and Teas were available at two of them. The Sunday School Children were selling small items for their project supporting a Child, who is not so well provided for, as they are themselves. Tickets were on sale on the Village Green and there was a Cake Stall, a Plant Stall, the Plants were provided by the Tarry family of Ulcombe. Many, many thanks to all the Garden owners, who had worked so hard during the weeks before hand making their Gardens look as beautiful as possible. Its amazing how all those little jobs, that you've been meaning to get around to, suddenly are completed, when there's a Garden Safari coming up. Well done everyone who helped any way to make the whole afternoon a success.

Barbecue at Godington Lake

The Barbeque at Godington Lake, Harrietsham on 4th June was attended by a good number of us. The weather was fine and warm and the Lake looked beautiful, the Marsh Frogs were singing well and there was a family of Mallards not long hatched, I think there were six little ducklings. The children brought ball games to play with and two very happy dogs romped around. Many thanks to Mair for organising the Food with help from various ladies providing the Salads. Thanks are also due to Dominic Goodwin and Chris Parkinson for doing the cooking and to James Chantler and Ken Alexander for helping to make the afternoon a success. Thanks again to David and Andree Chantler for allowing us to use the Lake area.

Cream Teas – Boughton Malherbe Church

Cream Teas start on 9th July 2.00p.m.-5.00p.m., St. Nicholas Churchyard is the venue or in the Church Nave, if wet. Do come along and enjoy an afternoon sitting in the sun looking at our beautiful view of the Weald of Kent. We look forward to making new friends and greeting once again those, who have been our regular customers, over years that we have been serving Teas and they know just how good our Cream Teas can be. Forget the diets that you might be struggling to keep to and try our homemade Scones and fresh Strawberry Jam with a Pot of Pluckley Tea. £2.50 per person.

Joan Davidson

Grafty Garden Cuttings – July

With the light evenings, warm weather and World Cup football on the television, I find it increasingly difficult to venture indoors, especially in the evenings. The heady mix of flower perfumes and the chorus of bird song are intoxicating and there is always something that can 'just' be done before cooking a meal: a little dead-heading, watering or potting-on, boarders to dig and compost to spread, edging or chasing rabbits. Never a dull moment really. Time to break out the candles and keep on digging.

The peas I sowed last autumn are cropping well, as are the broad beans I find autumn sown to be much more worth while - no caterpillars in the peas and if it comes hot and dry, my spring sown broad beans develop rust not pods. The garlic also looks good, but the dwarf and runner beans are off to a slowish start. Slugs have been a huge problem, so the bran is in play, with a very few slug pellets where the birds have no access. This year seems to be one long battle against everything that chomps. For the first time ever, we have had to fence and net the brassicas, the sweetcorn and marrows and spinach, and newly planted ornamentals. The wire serves a purpose, but looks like Fort Knox.

Time to sow wallflowers, forget-me-nots and other like biannual's cut down leaves on spring flowering bulbs, divide iris clumps and continue to keep an eye open for pests and diseases. My gooseberries regularly suffer from mildew but I sprayed them with milk and it seems to work, for we have a healthy crop for the first time in years. Fed up with limp lettuce salads, I am also trying mixed

oriental leaves, sown and grown in a large pot, which stands by the back door. They are cut and come again and very tasty.

Continue mulching to conserve moisture and water plants thoroughly and less frequently, to encourage deep rooting. Hoeing between plants regularly is also nearly as good as a watering and allows any moisture that is about, to soak in.

Rosemary Smith



SUMMER NEWS LETTER 2006

As promised, we have finalized our plans for the summer events which are as follows:

Weekend in Norfolk: For those of you who are coming to Norfolk on 14th July we would like you to pay your balance by 6th June and check with Carole that we have your booking details correct, i.e. single room, twin or double beds, special diets.

Saturday 1st July is our first Rose and Sweet Pea Show. Entry forms for this event will be available from 6th June at Rosemary's or after that from committee members/post office. The categories are very general so we hope that many of you will enter. There will also be a photographic category. The format of the afternoon will be: 1 – 2 pm book in with the show secretary and set up your

display; 2 – 3 judging will take place. We are endeavoring to acquire some vouchers/prizes from garden centers in the area to give out to the winners.

Saturday 5th August is the outing to Nymans. This is a National Trust property so free entry to members (don't forget your card) otherwise the fee is £5.95. We meet at 2 pm for 2.30 talk about the property.

5th September will bring us back to meeting in the village hall with a talk by Ian Currie on 'drought, deluges and dust devils' – at the time of writing I wonder which will be affecting us during the summer months!

Sue Burch

Short Monthly Quiz – Answers at the back (don't look first!)

	Question	Answer
1	What animal is a cross between a mare and an ass ?	
2	Does a female walrus have tusks ?	
3	What is the plural for fungus ?	
4	What is the name given to a male horse that is less than four years old ?	
5	Is the stamen the male or female organ of a plant ?	
6	What is the alternative name given to a crane fly ?	
7	Is a young seal called a kitten a pup or a cub ?	
8	What is the only bird that possesses nostrils ?	
9	Do snakes have eyelids ?	
10	From which flower do we obtain opium ?	

YOGA

Grafty Green Village Hall

Thursday mornings

9.30 - 11.00

£5 a session

Yoga for stamina, suppleness,
strength and relaxation

Mixed Ability Class

For further details contact Liz Watts on 01622
737321

YOGA FOR GOOD HEALTH

* BALANCING * ENERGISING * DE-STRESSING *
MAINTAINING FITNESS*

Link Word Puzzle Answers at the back (don't look first!)

I hope you enjoyed last months link word here is another
to rack your brains – Paul Neaves

The answer to number 1 has been filled in – can you solve the rest?

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	America	Heating	Reservation	Central
2	Down	Shoulders	Vapour	
3	Cabin	Cut	Neck	
4	Set	Star	Studio	
5	Fantastic	Leading	Sleeper	
6	Boots	Slopes	Stick	
7	Language	Star	Writer	
8	Board	Cut	Reproach	
9	Hitch	Point	Term	
10	Book	Knitting	Sleep	
11	Game	Nature	Price	
12	Oat	Square	Ticket	
13	Defence	Service	War	
14	Bin	Eye	Ocean	
15	Beauty	Black	Soft	

Many thanks to **Paul Neaves** who set both the Quiz and the Link Word Puzzle.

Platts Heath School Update

After attending the SOAB meeting which took place at County Hall on 8 June where Sir Sandy Bruce-Lockhart spoke very passionately and admirably on our behalf, it is with great disappointment that we have to report that the majority vote was that the proposal for closure of Platts Heath School and merger with Kingswood School should be put forward for public consultation.

Of the Board: 2 opposed, two abstained and the remaining five were in favour for different reasons (not all negative).

This is the response we clearly did not want. Although public consultation does NOT mean the closure/merger will happen, its process can have a very damaging effect on the school. **We therefore appeal to all of the parents of Platts Heath School to have faith, hold tight and continue to support the school by keeping their children there. If you start to leave now, the inevitability will be closure! We have to view this consultation in a positive light and show them our strengths.**

Our second appeal would be to the community of Platts Heath itself and surrounding villages to give us your support by signing our petition and writing to Paul Carter, John Simmonds and Graham Badman at KCC. Your letters can make a difference!

We also need your support on **Thursday 13 July at 7 pm at Kingswood School** when we have to attend our **Public Consultation meeting**. This is where you get the chance to have your say!!

The future of our school and village is in your hands now! Please, don't just sit back and wait for others to do something, we all have a responsibility for the community in which we live. If you want to make a difference make sure you attend! Your presence and opposition to this proposal will be valued immensely!

Why do KCC want to close us?

1. As far as we can decipher from the proposal, it is due to the fact that we have less than 100 children, our accommodation is of poor quality and we have lack of scope for development, i.e. bigger and better buildings. Yes, our buildings are a

little bit shabby but, they provide a warm, comfortable, functional and versatile environment suitable for our children to learn, and at the end of the day, isn't that what education is all about, but it would seem that today we live in such a material world where the condition of our buildings is far more important an issue than the standard of education going on inside them.

2. In reality, it would appear that KCC are only interested in money and our school just happens to be sited on prime building land.

For those of you who don't know our school, we have been here for over 130 years and are visible when passing through the village on the Headcorn Road, but blink and you might just miss us. We currently have 74 pupils many of which are achieving above average results. This year 6 out of 7 of our year six leavers who took the 11+ will go on to Grammar School, that is quite an achievement!

I personally, have found this school to offer a very close, caring and personalised education for both my daughters and I have great respect for those teachers who actively encourage parent involvement.

Our thanks go out to Sir Sandy Bruce-Lockhart and Hugh Robertson for being so passionate about our cause and who are doing everything within their power to help. To Cllr Jan Sams and Tom Sams for their support and encouragement and to those within the community who are already behind us.

**We intend to fight to save our school but we really do need your support!
Please Please Help!**

We will keep you updated.

Angie McElvanney msmac@talktalk.net
Platts Heath SOS Committee

Stop Press .. Platts Heath School Fayre .. Stop Press

Didn't we have a fantastic day yesterday! We've had so much positive feedback!
Thank you all for your comments.

Both Hazel and I would like to say a big thank you to all of you who were involved. Nobody realises exactly what goes into these type of events and how much time and energy people freely give. We think you are amazing and you should all be very proud! We'll book you all in for the same time again next year!! ha ha

You will all be wondering how well we did, so I will keep you in suspense no longer. We took a total sum of £2305.00, but after expenses we are left with a clear profit of £1,312.15. Not bad eh? Absolutely Stupendous!
Well done everyone!

Angie & Hazel

ACCREDITED MEMBER OF THE PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING ALLIANCE



JOB VACANCY

With effect from September, the pre-school has a vacancy for a **Pre-School Leader/ Deputy Leader**. The successful applicant will need to hold an NVQ Level 3 qualification in Childcare / Early Years and will be responsible for the day to day running/ deputising of running of the pre-school. An ability to carry out curriculum planning is essential, along with processing of Early Years Funding. We are a small, friendly group, located in the middle of Lenham village, offering a high quality of care and education as recognised by OFSTED for 2½ - 5 year olds. Lenham Acorns Pre-School is an Equal Opportunities employer.

Further information and an application form can be obtained from Melissa Alexander Tel: 01622 858558

Registered Charity: 1072146

Heaths Countryside Corridor
A community initiative of Charing Heath and Lenham Heath

Heath helps its endangered neighbours !!

The best laid plans for ‘mice and newts’ will provide a sanctuary in the shadow of the High Speed Rail Link through the Kent countryside.

Supporters of the Heaths Countryside Corridor (HCC) abandoned their leisurely Sunday morning recently to set up dormice nest boxes in what remains of an ancient woodland near the village of Charing Heath. Just over a week later, and more turned out in the dark and rain to see what appears to be a significant colony of great crested newts in two ponds situated on a strip of land sandwiched between the M20 and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link near Lenham.

Both sites were recently acquired by the HCC trust in order to provide a nature conservation and recreational area for local inhabitants – people, plants and animals alike!

Ruth Lovering, the HCC Secretary, said ‘We live alongside so much wildlife and flora and yet seldom notice what treasures we actually have living amongst us. The HCC is in the process of carrying surveys of the sites acquired along a corridor running from the eastern end of the village at Charing Heath through to Chilston at the western end of Lenham Heath. It’s early days yet, but already we have discovered rare species of lichens and unusual habitats for mammals, birds and insects. And now we have what looks to be a fragile community of dormice somehow hanging on to survival in Hurst Wood, after being knocked around during the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, and a significant colony of Great Crested Newts.

‘It cannot be easy for dormice surviving such upheaval, and not to mention the noise from the motorway and the jet-like rush of noise every time a Eurostar train rushes past’ said Steve Kirk, a local conservationist licensed to survey dormice colonies and handle these endangered animals. ‘These creatures sleep for six months of the year, risking famine and hypothermia if they are woken up in the winter, and – as they sleep on the ground during the winter months - they need secluded areas; but they also need nesting places among trees that sustain

them with the flowers, fruits and nuts during the Spring and Summer in order to breed before the cold returns. The HCC is doing a fantastic job in helping these endangered animals.'

Jo Haskett, Project Officer for the Kentish Stour Countryside Project (KSCP) was equally complimentary of the work and aims of the HCC. During a cold and wet Friday night, Jo showed local people, including a number of children, the newt colonies around the site that she had discovered following several weeks of surveying. Afterwards she said 'If it weren't for groups such as the HCC, Kent would be in danger of losing important breeding grounds for the endangered Great Crested Newt. The site that once used to belong to the Chilston Estate, but which has long since been cut off by the M20 and more recently the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, is home to a healthy population of these astonishing amphibians. But the area has been under significant pressure from both the environment, in the form of drought, and human activity, all of which threatens to destroy this small natural oasis. The intervention of the HCC at the eleventh hour will secure this habitat for the long term, and the KSCP are happy to be involved with them.'

HCC is very grateful to our sponsors: the dormouse event was funded by Action Earth and Kentish Stour Countryside Project; the Newt survey work was funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, Kent County Council, Maidstone Borough Council and Rail Link Countryside Initiative.

For more information on the Heaths Countryside Corridor see:
<http://www.heathsc.co.uk/>

Neighbourhood Watch Messages

The surrounding area has had a recent increase in theft from sheds and outbuildings. Try to ensure that all your buildings are secure and alarmed. If possible consider putting in movement activated lighting or alarms. Do not leave keys in your vehicles. Property taken includes, building equipment and tools, gardening tools, and of course vehicles.

If you see anything suspicious and are able to take index numbers and descriptions, or anything you consider to be useful to the Police, please inform the Police as soon as possible on 01622 690690.

Keith Anderson

St Edmunds Centre

By now I had hoped to have the refurbishment work started but we are still awaiting the church to sign the lease enabling us to collect the grant funding allocated to us from each of the councils. So watch this space as they say!!

On a happier note the BBQ and Rounders match we held on the school field was very well supported and great fun. I'm now getting ask when we will have another. Whilst we did not intend this to be a fund raising event we did make over £100, which we shared with the PTFA.

By the time you read this you may well have seen the Platts Heath line dancers at the school fair. They still meet every Thursday at 8pm £2 per adult and new comers are always very welcome.

Tricia Dibley

HOLLINGBOURNE



Sunday 2nd July 2006

You are warmly invited to visit Hollingbourne when many village gardens will be opening their gates to visitors as part of the biennial Garden Safari - from large gardens with spectacular views in Broad Street to the varied, intimate gardens of Eythorne Street. Teas in the Village Hall, Plant Sales and a Summer Exhibition & Sale of Local Crafts. Ample parking provided. Tickets with maps available on the day (Adults £4/Children 50p). All profits benefit the Heart of Kent Hospice so do make sure the date is in your diary. Phone 01622 880349 for further details.

Sunday 2nd July 2.00-6.30pm Tickets £4



The Heart of Kent Hospice is situated in the centre of the County of Kent serving the Maidstone community and its surrounding area. The Hospice is a specialist palliative care centre whose purpose is to provide expert care and support for patients with advanced cancer, motor neurone disease or other life threatening illnesses where curative treatment is no longer possible. Registered Charity 288164 Tel: 01622 790195

Art Exhibition

Pat Abson is holding an exhibition of paintings in the gallery of Goldsmith's Fine Art. The gallery is in Lenham High Street and the opening hours are Monday to Saturday 9.30am – 5.30pm. The exhibition will run from Saturday 1st July until 15th July. I do hope you can come.

Pat Abson

Grafty Green Heating Oil Club

Grafty Green has a successful Heating Oil Club, we have to date nearly 100 members all taking advantage of cheaper heating oil when ordered in bulk. To make this club work all members have to have at least the minimum 500 Litres every time we order, that is about 3 to 4 times a year. It makes sense to have a bulk order delivered over 2 to 3 days every 4 months, rather than have tankers clogging up our village every week.

We now cover Harrietsham, Headcorn, Lenham, Liverton Hill, Platts Heath, Sandway Ulcombe and Biddenden.

If you would like to join or need some information about the club, email me on europa.13@btinternet.com or 01622 858350. The Oil Club is non-profit making.

Keith Anderson

Bulky Refuse Collections (Weekend Freighter Service)

Please find below the dates of when the weekend freighter service stops near your home during August, September and October.

Grafty Green

Saturday 9th Sept: 07:45 - 08:45 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Saturday 28th Oct: 13:30 - 15:15 -: Church Rd - Junction Headcorn Rd

Ulcombe

Saturday 26th Aug: 07:45 - 08:45 -: Ulcombe Lodge Gardens

Sunday 15th Oct: 11:15 – 12:15 -: Ulcombe Lodge Gardens



CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE

BibleLands works with those who have been orphaned and other people who live in particularly deprived circumstances across the region. With growing poverty becoming an increasing matter of concern for those living in parts of The Middle East, BibleLands Project Partners continue to meet the need for practical support to the poorest and most underprivileged communities across the region.

£12562 has been sent to **Development of Upper Egypt Trust (DUET)** to help fund a recycling and environmental project in Meir, a rural village in Upper Nile Region where high unemployment and poverty prevail. This project will not only help to keep the environment clean, but will also help to generate employment.

£5000 has been made available to help with the running costs of a **Baby Care Clinic in Tura** on the outskirts of Cairo. The Clinic provides essential post-natal baby and child care to the local community.

£5000 from BibleLands has helped to fund two new lifts at **Cedar Home in Beirut**. A service lift will enable food and laundry to be distributed throughout the building from a basement; a task that has previously been done by carrying it up flights of stairs in the six storey building. The other passenger lift will be used by the girls and staff to access their living accommodation more easily.

Our total **social care programme** support amounted to **£141,509**

Egerton Telecottage

Egerton Parish Council's computer training facility based at the Millennium Village Hall is now in its sixth year as a purpose built Telecottage offering advice and tuition.

Run entirely by volunteers, courses are run throughout the year on Basic IT, Basic and Intermediate Word Processing, Excel, Desk Top Publishing, Digital Photography, Internet and Email, and Ebay etc. Most are evening classes with a few being run in the mornings. It is hoped soon to be able to offer a LearnDirect Sage Basic Bookkeeping Course and another on Website Design and suggestions for other subjects are always welcomed.

Every Saturday morning an informal drop in session is run from 10am to noon offering free advice on computer problems as well as using the facilities to send emails or surf the Internet.

If you would like any further information on current classes please ring Alison on 01233 756366 or just drop in to see us for a coffee and a chat any Saturday morning – we would be happy to you.

Answers to the Quiz and Link Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	America	Heating	Reservation	Central
2	Down	Shoulders	Vapour	Rub
3	Cabin	Cut	Neck	Crew
4	Set	Star	Studio	Film
5	Fantastic	Leading	Sleeper	Light
6	Boots	Slopes	Stick	Sid
7	Language	Star	Writer	Sign
8	Board	Cut	Reproach	Above
9	Hitch	Point	Term	Technical
10	Book	Knitting	Sleep	Pattern
11	Game	Nature	Price	Reserve
12	Oat	Square	Ticket	Meal
13	Defence	Service	War	Civil
14	Bin	Eye	Ocean	Liner
15	Beauty	Black	Soft	Spot

	Question	Answer
1	What animal is a cross between a mare and an ass?	Mule
2	Does a female walrus have tusks?	Yes
3	What is the plural for fungus?	Fungi
4	What is the name given to a male horse that is less than four years old?	Colt
5	Is the stamen the male or female organ of a plant?	Male
6	What is the alternative name given to a crane fly?	Daddy-Longlegs
7	Is a young seal called a kitten a pup or a cub?	Pup
8	What is the only bird that possesses nostrils?	Kiwi
9	Do snakes have eyelids?	No
10	From which flower do we obtain opium?	Poppy

From the Registers

Saturday 13th May, at Lenham, St Mary, wedding of Robert Wickenden and Louise Skinner.

Sunday 14th May, at Lenham, St Mary, baptism of Hannah Mills.

Monday 15th May, at Harrietsham, St John the Baptist, funeral of the late Reginald Audley.

Saturday 20th May, at Lenham, St Mary, wedding of Jeremy Eades and Stephanie Barry.

Saturday 20th May, at Harrietsham, St John the Baptist, wedding of Kevin Crouch and Victoria Goodall.

Friday 26th May, at Harrietsham, St John the Baptist, funeral of the late Dennis Tabrett.

Sunday 28th May, at Harrietsham, St John the Baptist, baptism of Jack Salisbury.

Bits 'n Pieces

Saturday 1st July at 11.00am - Ordination of the Revd Marian Bond in Canterbury Cathedral

A former Church Warden, Marian has been officiating as a Reader since November 2000 but, for the past 3 years, she has also been training for ordination. All are welcome to attend the service in the Cathedral but, be warned, seats for this service will be at a premium; you are advised to come early!

Sunday 2nd July at 6.30pm - Taize Service in Marden

This month, instead of holding our usual Taize Service in Ulcombe, we are moving to Marden! The Taize Service in Marden that evening will be Marian Bond's first service in her new post as Assistant Curate in Marden, St Michael & All Angels so, in order to support Marian, we are forgoing our service in Ulcombe and travelling to Marden instead - come and join us!

Sunday 9th July at 6.00pm - Reader Admission Service in Canterbury Cathedral

On this annual occasion, those who have newly qualified as Readers in the Church of England are formally admitted, and some are honoured for their long service. In recent years we have been fortunate to witness the admission of Marian Bond and Millie Hart as Readers in this Benefice. This year, however, we are to have the privilege of having two of our Readers of long-standing admitted as Reader *Emeritus*. As the title hints, this marks a formal retirement, but it is also an authorisation to continue in honorary office. Our two gentlemen so to be honoured are Robert Hilton and David Essex, each of whom has given over 30 years of service as a Reader.

Tailpiece

If you don't like something, change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it!"

July ... A Turning Point?

As we reach 1st July each year, we stand at the mid-point of the year; it's the 182nd day of the year with 183 remaining. It's a good time to take stock, to look back at what we've been doing and to look forward to what we plan and, perhaps, to things we hope to do.

About a dozen years ago I came across a useful exercise in examining my own life. It was part of a book which then became one of my all-time favourites; it's called '*God of Surprises*' and was written in 1985 by Fr Gerard Hughes, a Jesuit priest. The first chapter is called "*Where Your Treasure Is*". The chapter's title is

a direct quote from St Matthew's gospel, chapter 6, verse 21 - Jesus said: "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*"; here, Jesus is teaching about faithful living and the difference between earthly and heavenly values.

At the end of Hughes's first chapter, he suggests an exercise to help readers to understand themselves better. The exercise involves writing your own obituary. He says '*this may sound a bit morbid*', but he encourages the reader to try it before deciding it is a waste of time. He goes on to say:

"Do not write the sort of obituary which you are afraid you might have but the kind of obituary which, in your wildest dreams, you would love to have. Do not analyse it, or try to think it out too clearly, but allow your fancy run free. Having done it once, return to it now and again and see if you want to add to it or correct it".

Most of the chapters of the book conclude with suggested exercises but, for me, this one was the most powerful of them all. At the time I was preparing to leave the Army after some 30 years and to become a full-time student at a theological college in preparation for ordination. I won't share with you my own draft obituary but I offer the exercise as a suggestion at this turning point of the year.

I believe it is good to reflect on past events, to consider where we are at present and to ponder the direction in which we may be heading. Of one thing we may be sure: *God is with us*, for that is the Name of God **.

**** Matthew 1:22- 23**

" 22... this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel which means, "God is with us."

If you would like to find out more about Church services or activities please contact either the Revd Don Irvine (859466) or the Revd Fiona Naylor (853919) or the Benefice Administrator, Michelle Saunders (850604).

Revd Don Irvine

The Len Valley Benefice
Lenham & Boughton Malherbe; Harrietsham & Ulcombe
Sunday Services - July 2006

Date	Time/Location	Service
Sun 02 Jul 06	08.00 L 08.00 H 10.30 H	BCP HC BCP HC CW 1 - All Benefice Service with ALM admission)
3rd after Trinity	18.30 Marden	Taize (with the Revd Marian Bond)
Sun 09 Jul 06	08.00 L 09.15 BM 09.30 H 10.45 L 11.15 U 15.00 L 18.00 Canterbury 18.30 L	BCP HC Fam Svc CW 1 (with Baptism Matthew Butler) Fam Svc CW 1 Baptism (Leo Hazelwood) Cathedral - Readers' Admission Youth Service
Sun 16 Jul 06	08.00 L 09.15 BM 09.30 H 10.45 L 11.15 U 18.30 BM	BCP HC BCP HC CW 1 CW 1 (with baptism Douglas Davison) CW 1 BCP EP
Sun 23 Jul 06	08.00 L 09.15 BM 09.30 H 10.45 L 11.15 U	BCP HC MS CW 1 CW 1 CW 1
6th after Trinity		
Sun 30 Jul 06	08.00 L 10.30 BM [18.30]	BCP HC CW 1- All Benefice Service <i>No informal Service this month</i>
7th after Trinity		

Key

Parishes / Churches

L: Lenham
BM: Boughton Malherbe
H: Harrietsham
U: Ulcombe

Services

BCP HC = Book of Common Prayer (1662) Holy Communion
BCP EP = Book of Common Prayer (1662) Evening Prayer
Fam Svc = Family Service (not Communion)
MS = Morning Service (not Communion)
CW 1 = Common Worship (Order One)
H = Holy Communion
Informal = Informal! (not communion)

Many thanks to Eddie Brooke for printing this magazine - It is very much appreciated

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