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St Mary's Ancient Stained Glass goes for Restoration

Hunton Church, a Grade I listed building, has an extraordinary historical legacy. Its stained glass windows having survived the Restoration period date from as early as the 13th Century.

Inserted in the north wall, the oldest part of the church there are two decorated style windows. Incredibly the glass tracery is mostly 13th Century. This is a great treasure. There is the Agnus Dei in the near window and the little seraph, with the curly hair and six yellow wings in the lozenge shape underneath. It is amazing to have glass from this period still in our windows.

The upper half of the central perpendicular window (we call it the Canterbury Window because the lower half has Victorian reproductions of the 13th Century roundels in the Cathedral) contains a mixture of glass from the 1400s and 1600s. There are also coats of arms of Henry VIII and two Archbishops, and other heraldry; enamelled glass birds, animals and flowers, and little 18th Century faces.

Another thing that surprised the experts is that this window has rectangular panes of greenish glass outside the stained glass which has the date 1784 diamond scratched on one panel, and the date 1701 can be seen on the lead. The earliest known protective glass is in York Minster where it was installed in the 1850s. No protective glass appears in Canterbury until the 20th Century. This makes the glass remarkable. We have for some time been aware that it badly needs conservation. This is very costly, as only an expert can deal with such glass.

We cannot thank David and Anke Way enough for the extraordinary amount of time, effort and persistence that they have given in obtaining promises of grant money to help with this project. Grant bodies will not give you money unless you can show that you have an active programme of saving and fund-raising. Happily the necessary money, is now available, and the work is due to start on Monday, October 13th this year.

First the two side windows will be removed and taken by John Corley to his studio in Deal. We hope that they will be back by Christmas, and then the Canterbury window will go. It will be wonderful to see them in the spring.

Taken from Mary John's Talk in Aid of Friends of St Mary's Church in August.

Pay Phone to Go?

Hunton's only telephone box in West Street, outside the Village Club, was due to be removed by BT on October 1 unless the council considered it necessary to retain the facility.

The cost to keep the pay phone would be an annual payment of £500 for a term of agreement over 15 years. BT had decided on the removal after giving figures showing that during the past year there were only 216 calls made from the kiosk.

The Club has generously offered the public use of its telephone but the premises are only open at certain times of the week.

Councillors were trying to circulate all villagers before the October 1 deadline to get their views on whether or not the telephone should be retained and the BT charge paid.

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Clerk to Parish Council: Vikki Stancombe	842782
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane	820127
Pre-School Supervisor: Nicola Julier	07972067110	Maidstone Police:	608186
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
Rector: Revd Peter Walker	747570**	'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills	0845 824 7800
Associate Rector: Revd David Jones	741474*	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
		Organist: Philip Moore	749356
		PCSO Hannah Percival	07772226032

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Thursday 2nd October, Autumn York Course, 7.30pm-9.30pm, Wardes Moat, Yalding
 Friday 3rd October, Harvest Barn Dance, 7.30pm-10.30pm, Coxheath Village Hall
 Sunday 5th October, Harvest Lunch, 12 for 12.30pm, Village Hall, 820200/820288
 Saturday 18th October, Maidstone Symphony Orchestra, 7.30pm, Mote Hall Maidstone
 Saturday 18th October, Police Surgery, Yalding Farmers Market 10am-2pm
 Tuesday 28th October, Flower Arranging Winter Term starts, 1pm-3pm
 Thursday 13th November, Hunton Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 8pm
 Sunday 6th December, Yultide Market, Yalding, 5-8pm

Parish Councillors contact details

Parish Council Chairman	
- Roger Sawtell	820731
Clerk to the Parish Council	
- Vikki Stancombe	842782
Cllr Les Leonard	820858
Cllr Moira Walter	745765
Cllr Gary Thomas	820691
Cllr David Heaton	820678
Cllr Keith Eatwell	745569
Cllr Ron Porter	820220

All items for the November edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th October, please

Dear Fellow Readers

Please excuse me if my letter is in many ways personal. When I wrote the July letter, Anne, my wife was still alive, and although her health declining none of us knew that that she would die within days. Life has changed. An understatement in so many ways and it is hard to come to terms with that change. I know that I am neither the first nor the last to experience the change that the death of a loved one brings about. Over these last weeks I have been surrounded by so much love, love in the many cards and letters, love in the words that have been said about Anne, love in the concern for myself and family, and that has been a great help and support and I am grateful for all that love.

So where does faith help? I believe our faith is in a loving God who walks with us through the events of life. We don't escape those events as Christians. It is not about an 'insurance policy' against what life throws at us. It's not like a lucky charm. I feel that at times the Christian faith can be portrayed in that manner. So often I hear people speaking about miracles in terms of a cure or escaping the consequences of events. My faith allows me to know that Jesus Christ walks with me through those dark moments of doubt and anguish in offering me his comfort and knowing his presence in my journey.

But secondly my faith helps me because of Anne's faith and God's promise, recorded by the writer to the Hebrews, to '(Jesus will) neither leave us nor forsake us' (Hebrews 13 v 5). I know that for Anne the years of meeting the challenges of her illness and the pain within her body are no more and that she is with her Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Jesus said 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' (John 10 v 10) Anne believed that and saw death in terms of the fullness, the completion of life.

Yes, the physical absence of the one we love does hurt and the sharing of life and things together isn't easy to accept and the emptiness is painful. Faith doesn't remove those human feelings but it can remove the fear of the future for both the one who dies and those who live on.

Anne was one for writing down her thoughts. She wrote to try to put into words her thinking. These notes were seldom for reading; that is unless she wanted me to know something. After she died I came across her response to being told her condition was in its terminal stage. I finish with them and hope that you may understand why she could face with confidence her death and maybe help other readers face the future with confidence.

'I do not expect to live until I am 70 but I want to live until I die. I am not dying...every day is a bonus! I hope to live until I die, not to be dying until I die.'

My you all know the presence of the living Lord in your lives.

David

Plans Afoot for New Classroom

A planning application is being considered for a new single storey extension with a mono-pitched roof comprising of a new classroom and entrance hall for Hunton C of E primary school.

The Kent Education authorities have said that the extension "would help towards teaching and ensure compliance with current education standards." They added that there were no plans for an increase in the number of pupils or teaching staff. Viewing the plans for the extension, which would be built in the play area to the south east of the school buildings, Parish Councillors raised no objections to the plans. Residents living opposite the school in West Street have been contacted.

Kent Highways Footpath Estimate

An initial costing of £70,000 has been given by Kent Highways for installing the much-needed footpath between Bensted Close and the Village Hall.

The county officers, after visiting the village, stressed that this figure did not include the cost of re-aligning electricity, installing street lighting - if needed - improving drainage and purchasing required land from the two private owners.

But Maidstone Borough Councillor Colin Parr, who attended the site meeting, said there was only one telegraph pole for re-aligning while the drainage to take water into the roadside ditch should not be too costly.

He is pressing the Kent engineers to give a detailed breakdown of their costing which was described as an "off the cuff, broad brush figure."

Mr Parr stressed that at some stage funding would be required and in preparation for this feedback was needed to show that the community was in favour of the path installation.

Parish Councillor, Gary Thomas, queried whether the Highways officers were considering an 'urban' path and if so it needed to be stressed that a 'rural' one was required.

Council Chairman, Roger Sawtell, said that at the next council planning meeting, members would discuss the proposals and village residents would be circulated with a questionnaire seeking their views.

YALDING YULETIDE MARKET, Saturday 6th December, 5-8pm

The High Street will be closed to traffic and alive with street entertainers, festive food and gifts.

Stalls cost £20, to book, contact Annie Lee-Davey, 01622 814555.

More details from the website: www.yaldingfarmersmarket.co.uk



Kathleen Moore

After living in the shadow of cancer for 11 years, Kathleen Ann Moore, wife of Hunton church organist Philip, finally lost her battle on September 8th when she died aged 67.

An enthusiastic and invaluable member of the team that launched the Hunton Herald in the early 2000s, Kathleen, like her husband, devoted a great part of her life to music, from the time at the College of Music where the two students met.

Born in Sudbury, Suffolk, she moved with her family to the south coast. Later, after marrying Philip at Henley in August 1964, their three "charming daughters" were born - Gillian, Helen and Alison.

When the family moved to Maidstone, Kathleen became head of music at Aylesford school and later head of special needs at St Michaels, and then a Governor, before finally serving the Kent Music School.

Actress Miriam Margolis, a close friend of Kathleen at Oxford High School, speaking at a thanksgiving service, remembered her as having "the kindest heart and sweetest singing voice."

Poultry Sale

A sale of reasonably priced pure and cross bred poultry is to be held on Saturday October 4th at 2pm at High Lees, Wagon Lane, Paddock Wood, TN12 6PT.

If you think you may be interested in buying, please bring a pet carrier. Refreshments will be available.

For more information, contact either Lucy, 017754 240110 or Jane, 077699 37744

Hunton Book Club - Book Review

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Fahrenheit 451, the temperature at which paper burns, is a story set in a future time where books are forbidden and a fireman's job is to start fires (to burn books) rather than put them out.

This book, first published in 1953, also describes a world where screen entertainment is a major part of peoples' lives and where music is constantly available through ear pieces. This we all found spookily familiar to today's society.

Those who liked the book enjoyed Bradbury's descriptive and poetic prose and characterisations. They found his vision of the future accurate in parts and also found the story reminiscent of 1984 and Brave New World.

Conversely those who did not enjoy the book found it confusing and irrelevant.

The average score for those who read the book was just over 6 with scores ranging from 2 to 8.

Christine McSweeney

Out and Out

The Trim Reaper?

I have recently been beguiled into buying an Austrian Scythe in the hope of bringing some order to the rough grass in an orchard and of becoming a trimmer fitter person.

Here is the sentence which got me dreaming '...if you are gripped, (by scything) you will enter into a relationship between you, your tool and your land, which will unveil new depths season after season. There is a magic in mowing which puts the rhythm of the body and the dynamics of a community in touch with the breathing of the earth.' How could I resist?

My scythe came from The Scythe Shop (www.thescytheshop.co.uk) who also provide enough information to get started, explaining the rotating, sweeping motion, close and parallel to the ground needed to effect a good cut. And I have to say the results are good. On year old meadow grass the scythe cuts easily and quickly leaving a windrow of hay which is easily pitch forked onto the compost heap. Compared to a strimmer it makes no noise and no pollution and the end product is easier to tidy up, over all it may even be quicker. One good man can apparently scythe an acre in a day, well I can't boast this yet but I am now certainly a trimmer reaper. *Christine McSweeney*

Responses Following the Cob Nut Article

Dear Editor

I read David Newman's article about Cobnut trees in the September 08 issue of The Hunton Herald with interest. We have 2 Kent Cobnut trees in our garden that we planted about 15 years ago and they both produce quite a few nuts, we also get woodpeckers and squirrels visiting the trees. We bought the trees from a specialist grower near Tonbridge as far as I can remember.

Just thought I'd let you know that there are a few more Cobnut trees in Hunton.

Brendan Cronin

And following on from Last month's article, Carole and Denis Manley said they had a mature plant growing at Stonewall in East Street that has been there since at least 1969 and is now about 10ft high and has a daughter plant.

At St Mary's Church in October

Notices	Services
<p>Brass Cleaning Mary Johns and Anke Way</p> <p>Flowers 5th October Mrs Way 12th October Mrs Way 19th October Harvest Festival—All Helpers 26th October Harvest Festival—All Helpers</p> <p>Sunday Club Sunday 19th October from 5.15pm-6.45pm at Ted and Celia's home, South Lodge, Jennings. The club is open to all children who live in Hunton or attend Hunton Primary School. An evening of activities, games and food. Contact David Jones on 741474 for further details</p>	<p>Sunday 5th October - 20th Sunday after Trinity 11.00am Harvest Revd Peter Walker Readings Preacher's choice</p> <p>Sunday 12th October - 21st Sunday after Trinity 09.15am Holy Communion Canon Richard Lea Readings Philipians 4 v 1-9 and Matthew 22 v 1-14</p> <p>Sunday 19th October - 22nd Sunday after Trinity 11.00am Morning Prayer Mr David Barnes Readings Isaiah 45 v 1-7 and Matthew 22 v 15-22</p> <p>Sunday 26th October - 23rd Sunday after Trinity (Bible Sunday) 09.15am Holy Communion Revd Peter Walker Readings 1Thessalonians 1 v 1-10 and Matthew 22 v 34 -46</p> <p>Sunday 2nd November - 4th Sunday before Advent 11.00am Family Service Revd David Jones Readings Preacher's Choice</p>

Remembrance and Thanksgiving

On Sunday November 2nd (the day after All Saints Day) at 3.00 p.m. at East Farleigh church there will be the annual service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for those who have died. All are very welcome to attend and to light a candle in memory of a relations or friend. Many people find this service helpful in their journey of coping with their loss. The preacher will be the Rev Stuart Piper, Lead Chaplain for the Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells Hospital Trust

Harvest Lunch

The Harvest Lunch will be held on Sunday 5th October after the Harvest Festival Service. The lunch will be in the village hall at 12 for 12.30 pm. Tickets priced £5 for adults, £3 for children under 12 and £14 for a family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) are now available from Liz Oliver on 01622 820200 and Alison Ellman-Brown on 01622 820288. The Harvest Festival Service at St Mary's Church begins at 11 am.

Graham Kendrick Concert

Graham Kendrick's 'Dreaming of a Holy Night' Tour comes to All Saints Church, Maidstone, on Wednesday 10th December at 7.30pm, ticket price £10 including mulled wine/apple juice and mince pies. What more could you ask for for Christmas? Further details to follow about obtaining tickets but why not consider buying a ticket for a friend as a Christmas present?!

Autumn Clean-up

St Mary's Church Autumn Clean up will take place on Saturday October 25th from 9.00am. If you can spare an hour to help - you would be most welcome

October	5th	12th	19th	26th	2nd November
Coxheath	11.00 Harvest	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	9.15 Harvest	8.00 HC 10.30 MP	11.00 FS	8.00 HC 10.30 MP	9.15 HC 3.00pm Bereavement Service
Linton	9.15 HC 3.00pm Baptism	8.00 HC 11.00 Harvest	9.15 HC	9.15 HC	9.15 HC
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC TBC Harvest at the Whitehouse	11.00 Harvest	9.15 HC	11.00 MP	9.15 Patronal Festival

HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service,
 SW: Service of Word
 APCM Annual Parish Council Meeting

For Weddings, Thanksgivings, and Baptisms, please contact Revd Peter Walker