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A Fantastic Festival

Hundreds of visitors came from far and wide to see the magnificent display of flowers in St Mary's church on the first weekend in October. As they toured the church, delighting in the wide variety of arrangements and enjoying their tea and coffee, remarks such as "We've been to lots of flower festivals in churches and this is the best ever" and "These are even better than the ones in Leeds Castle!" were heard. The flowers were arranged by the church flower team and other people from the village; as well as by members of the Hunton flower club; Hunton school pupils and children from the Hunton and Linton Pre-School. The theme for the floral arrangements was "what's in a window?" each one



reflecting the colours and subjects in the windows. These included a peacock, a golden oak, Jacob's ladder, an owl and a heron. Funds raised from donations and sales of tea, coffee and cakes were in the region of over £1,440.

The windows were recently replaced in the church and the three day festival was to celebrate their return. The inspiration for it was the restoration of three stained glass windows. The glass in the windows, some dating from the 14th century, has been painstakingly cleaned and restored over the past year by the John Corley's Stained Glass Studio in Deal. The festival was the result of nearly two years hard work by David and Anke Way supported in more recent months by the work of Sue Pinks and her flower team. Money was raised for the flowers by a 'train' day at the home of Lawrence and Sue Martin and by sponsorship donations from local businesses. Sue Pinks, who lives in Barn Hill said: "Everybody has worked very hard to make the festival a success and it has really brought people together. It has been a great event for the village. I think we all know each other better as a result"

The key element, around which the festival was conceived, was the John Briggs Memorial Lecture, an annual event in the programme of the county wide charity, 'Friends of Kent Churches'. Each year its organisation is shouldered by a different parish. Hunton's turn came in 2009. A stained glass expert Leonie Seliger from Canterbury Cathedral delighted a packed Village Hall on Saturday afternoon with her illustrated talk on stained glass conservation, raising £900 for the church in the process. As visitors left the Village Hall they were met with a celebration in sound from the bells of St Mary's.

Another magnet drawing visitors to Hunton on the Saturday was the demonstration inside the church of stained glass restoration, kindly provided by John Corley in person. Many fascinating historical details relating to St Mary's windows came to light during the restoration process and various historical artefacts were on display. In due course it is planned to mount these within a display case in the church as a permanent record.

The festival ended on Sunday evening with a packed Church taking part in the 'Songs of Praise' service of thanks, conducted by the rector.

Liz Oliver, David and Anke Way and Sue Pinks

Alison Elman-Brown writes... As Churchwarden of St Mary's I would like to say a big thank you for everything over the weekend of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th October. A special thanks to David and Anke Way for their endless work to present such a hugely successful and professional lecture for the Friends of Kent Churches; and the village support in everything to do with the flower festival so fantastically organised by Sue Pinks.

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309
Pre-School Supervisor: Nicola Julier	07972067110
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683
Rector: Revd Peter Walker	747570**
Associate Rector: Revd David Jones	741474*
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495

Clerk to Parish Council: Vikki Stancombe	842782
Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane	820127
Maidstone Police:	608186
Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills	0845 824 7800
Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Organist: Philip Moore	749356
PCSO Jo Watts	07772 225983

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Saturday 5th December, Yalding Yuletide Market 5-8pm
 Wednesday 9th December, Parish Plan Introductory Meeting
 8pm Village Hall
 Sunday 20th December, Freighter Visit 1415-1500 Village Hall

Parish Councillors contact details

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

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

Dear Fellow Readers

The Autumn months, are for me, months of reflection: reflection about the way in which we interact with so much of life. We begin with harvest with its focus on thanksgiving for the world and produce that God has given us. St Luke's Day, October 18th, when we consider the contributions that medical advances have informed our understanding of relationships to our bodies. Then to Remembrance Sunday when we look back to the contribution that former and present generations have made and are making even to the present day to the improvement of relationships between nations and within nations. Most of our enjoyment in life comes about when our relationships are good and I would suggest that our problems in the world come from a breakdown in relationship. We abuse the world by our greed and need for profit and easy gains. In recent years there is a growing awareness that things have got to change and we need to re-engage with the world in a responsible and positive way. Health problems arise when we fill the body either with the wrong food or too much. Alcohol and drug abuse have shown us how they affect relationships in so many ways through, amongst other things, growth in crime, breakdown in health and financial difficulties. The growth in the Health & Gym Club culture comes from a realisation that we need to treat our bodies with respect. Finally, Remembrance Sunday reminds us of the horror and damage done to individuals when communities cannot live in peace with each other.

The Church's role in all this is not to dictate ways of behaviour but to point out clearly that it is in our relationships that we find peace and happiness. It must also point out with clarity that what at times attracts us can destroy relationships that are good and wholesome. Relationship is the basis of all our life. Marriage and divorce either build up relationship or can damage or destroy the individuals or family. How many children today are damaged by the relationships they experienced in growing up? How much poverty is brought about by treating the earth badly or by the greed of those who want everything for themselves. So when relationships are damaged we must say that that way of life is 'wrong' because it brings so much unhappiness and distress in individuals and community.

Paul wrote to the church in Philip, a church under persecution, a church where relationship had broken down. 'Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 2 v 3 - 5). Most of us do that most of the time but we should recognise the consequences when we fail. Paul's greatest ambition was to have a full relationship with Jesus Christ and also to do nothing that prevented others having that same relationship.

David

Lost Property If anyone has mislaid any tea towels and a tray from the flower festival weekend events, they are in the Church. Please speak to Alison (820288)

Wanted - Hunton Herald Deliverers We are in need of a few more deliverers for the Hunton Herald. If you feel you could help out to deliver a few copies please contact Christine 01622 820852

Out and Out - Autumn Glory

For breath-taking beauty in the Autumn garden there is nothing to beat the fleeting colours and occasionally, scents of trees just about to shed their leaves. A recent walk around Batsford Arboretum in Gloucestershire highlighted some of the best examples. For fiery reds there is nothing to beat the Japanese maples; Acer Palmatum 'Osakazuki' has green Summer leaves which turn the most astounding red, Acer p. 'Bloodgood' has purple leaves in summer which turn redder as the autumn progresses. These two are very small trees that will fit into any sized garden and also grow well in pots. For a large tree Liquidambar Styraciflua has leaves turning to purple, red, and gold, just don't plant this on chalky soil.

For scent as well as colour consider Cercidiphyllum Japonicum whose leaves give off the scent of burnt sugar or candy floss as they begin to fall. You can often smell this tree before you see it.

As you read this it may be a little late to get out and see these autumn colours but it is an ideal time to purchase trees and get them planted before the ground freezes. A tree planted now will get settled over the winter and be off to a good start next year. Make sure new trees are watered during any dry weather next Summer and they should provide a taste of the Autumn glory which will continue to amaze for years to come. *Christine McSweeney*

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Conductor, Brian Wright, Saturday 28th November, 7.30pm, Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park

The programme consists of three works: Haydn - Symphony No. 100 "Military", Ferdinand David - Trombone Concertino Soloist Peter Moore Trombone and Dvorak - Slavonic Dances Op.46.

14 year-old trombonist Peter Moore is the current BBC Young Musician and he's chosen to play a delightful early-romantic work for us. Unusually for Haydn, his Military Symphony features an array of percussion instruments, while Dvorak's quasi-symphonic set of eight Slavonic Dances have an irresistible charm and panache.

Concert tickets £12, £16 and £21, seats for full time students with a student Card £5, available from Membership Secretaries on 01622 736392, paid for and collected on the concert evening at Mote Hall, or from Maidstone Leisure Centre Box office on 0845 1552277 when payment can be made by credit card.

Tickets for all Children up to and including 18 years of age are FREE. Bookings can be taken on www.mso.org.uk using the booking form on the Performance' page. MOS Registered Charity No. 287986.

The Hunton Club Book Group September

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

The Book Thief is a novel narrated by Death, a sympathetic character but one who knows he will take us all in the end. He tells the story of Liesel Meminger, a young girl living in Germany with her adoptive parents in the early years of the Second World War. Her relationships with those around her are warm but the horrors of the Nazi regime threaten them all. Liesel's father teaches her to read but the family is poor and she doesn't possess books. So she steals them, the first from a bonfire where books are being burnt by the Nazis.

Liesel's family and their friends are variously touched by hunger, Hitler Youth, the war in Russia, the Jewish death camps and allied bombing.

Death does take everyone in the end but we learn of the roundness of their lives and the fullness of their humanity on the way.

We were more divided over this book than over most others. A few of us found it very moving and compelling and gave it a score of 9 or 10. We thought it was one of the best books we had ever read. Others in the group were unimpressed. The over-all score was 6.5 out of 10.

Our book for October is The Boy in Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne.

Liz Oliver



YALDING YULETIDE MARKET

SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER 5-8pm

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

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

School News

A trip to the Zoo... of Robotic Animals

As you are aware the School places a very high value on trips and visits. Middle School has been to visit the Robot Zoo exhibition at Horniman Museum. The children were able to see a collection of robotic models of animals, and lessons have been taught and planned based on this experience.

The Reception Class went to Yalding Organic Gardens to enjoy the sensory garden, and Lower School visited St. Mary's church as part of their RE curriculum. They spent a long time learning about the pulpit, lectern and altar and revised their knowledge of the use of the font.

Upper School had a visit from Mr Potter, Mrs Redfarn's father, who was evacuated during WWII.

The School contributed to the flower festival by producing a copy of a section of the newly renovated stained glass window and by making two beautiful banners depicting the life of our School and the Village. These were produced by the children and were hanging in the entrance inside the church.



West Farleigh Charity Needs Your Help

Local charity, Dandelion Time (formerly known as the Dandelion Trust for Children), located in Charlton Lane, is looking to establish a pool of fundraising assistants that we can call on every now and again for events we may hold or attend and wondered whether any readers may be interested.

Dandelion Time, if you are not already aware of us, is a charity that helps and educates children with various behavioural, educational and emotional

needs particularly by providing therapeutic and development activities for such children and their families within a sustainable farm environment.

If anyone is interested please contact Viv Sullivan at info@dandeliontime.org.uk or on 01622 814001.

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/dandeliontime> - Support Dandelion Time for free when shopping online with over 600 popular retailers, including Argos, NEXT, M&S, John Lewis, Debenhams, HMV, Vodafone, DELL, The Body Shop®, PLAY.com, Interflora, Comet and many more.

Temporary Road Closure - Lughorse Lane, Yalding, Maidstone.

SouthEast Water intends to provide a new water connection and it will be necessary to temporarily close Lughorse Lane outside Horseshoe Cottage whilst these works are in progress. The temporary closure will be in operation during the week commencing Tuesday 8th December 2009 for up to 2 days. The road will be reopened as soon as works are complete. Access will be available up to the point of closure or via a signed diversion route.

At St Mary's Church in November

Notices

Coffee Rota

1st November The Leonard family

Brass Cleaning

November - Anke Way and Sylvia Gurr

Flower Rota

November 1st Mrs Simmons

November 8th Remembrance Mrs Simmons

November 15th Mrs Wright/Mrs Mason

November 22nd Mrs Wright/Mrs Mason

Hunton Sunday Club

We meet this month a week earlier than usual - Sunday November 8th at 5.15pm at Scott's Farm, West Street. For location details give me a ring on 741474 but it is just past the former PH. The Prince of Wales is on the right hand side of the road. (Used to be a Vet in days gone by) Reminder the Club starts at 5.15pm and we finish after tea at 6.45pm. The Club is open to all children of primary school age living in Hunton or attending Hunton School.

Services

Sunday 1st November - 4th Sunday before Advent

11.00 Family Service - Mrs Alison Ellman-Brown

Readings: Preachers Choice

Sunday 8th November - 3rd Sunday before Advent

10.50 Remembrance Sunday - David Barnes

Readings: Micah 4 v 1-5 and Romans 8 v 31 - end
or 1 Corinthians 50 - end

Sunday 15th November - 2nd Sunday before Advent

11.00am Morning Prayer - David Barnes

Readings: Daniel 12 v 1-3 and Mark 13 v 1-8

Sunday 22nd November - Christ the King

09.30am Holy Communion - Rev David Jones

Readings: Revelation 1 v 4b-8 and John 18 v 33b - 37

Sunday 29th November - Advent Sunday

10.30am Benefice Service (West Farleigh) - Revd Peter Walker

Readings: Jeremiah 33 v 14 - 16 and Luke 21 v 25-36



Diocesan Council for Health and Healing

A date for all Christians who work as NHS Healthcare Professionals in Rochester Diocese

Sunday 8th November at 3.00pm at St John's Church, Meopham

The speaker will be Revd Dr. Geoff Walters, Senior

Chaplain of Pilgrims Hospices in East Kent and lecturer on "Spiritual Care" at University of Kent. He will be speaking on "Safe at Work: Is it possible in the Modern NHS?" Tea and refreshments available

The afternoon will conclude with a Service of Affirmation.

To book a place, please email sally.forward@hotmail.co.uk or phone Sally Forward on 01634 310958.

The Family Service 6th December - Gift Service

The Family Service on 6th December is the Gift Service. If anyone would like to bring along a gift, could it be pens, pencils, paper or other writing implements, unwrapped please. These will be forwarded to our partner school in Malawi.

Annual Bereavement Service

It is planned to hold our annual Service for the Bereaved on Sunday November 15th at 3.00pm this year. We also have a change of venue and are planning to hold the service at All Saints, West Farleigh.

Choosing a New Bishop of Rochester - 'Be part of the process!'

Public consultation at 8.00pm on Thursday 12th November at St Justus Church, The Tideway, Rochester, ME1 2LT Those responsible for the Appointment of the next Bishop of Rochester value your views. Help us to understand what kind of person would be best for the role and the Diocese. We look forward to welcoming you.

This is an open invitation to everyone to take part in the selection process

David

Churches Together in Maidstone

Advent Service Sunday November 29th at 6.00pm, Salvation Army Union Street

Followed by brief AGM of Churches Together in Maidstone



November	1 st	8 th	15 th	22 nd	29 th
Coxheath	11.00 HC	10.30 Remembrance	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	10.30 Benefice W. Farleigh
E. Farleigh	9.30 HC	08.00 HC 10.30 Remembrance	9.30 HC	08.00 HC 09.30 Matins	10.30 Benefice W. Farleigh
Linton	9.30 HC	10.00 Remembrance	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	10.30 Benefice W. Farleigh
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC	10.45 Remembrance	9.30 HC 3pm Bereavement Service	11.00 MP Trad	10.30 Benefice W. Farleigh

HC: Holy Communion, MP: Morning Prayer, (bcp) Book of Common Prayer, FS: Family Service,
SW: Service of Word

APCM Annual Parish Council Meeting