



Editors: Sue & David Heaton, 3 New Cottages, Barn Hill, Hunton, ME15 0QT 01622 820678 herald@hunton.org.uk

Friends of St Marys, Hunton

It is incredible to think that this Charity has now been established for nearly 12 months. In fact the first Anniversary is approaching and we have to, under the rules of our Constitution, hold an Annual General Meeting in a public place. We plan to do this at the Village Hall on the 1st February 2010 at 7.30pm. We do hope that you will find time to come along and that invitation extends to members and non members alike. Remember the charitable fund now stands at a figure well in excess of £4000 thanks to so many of you for your generosity and our fund raising efforts which again so many of you supported. We have earmarked most of that money to support the PCC's planned work on the tower (it needs re-pointing) and to avoid problems with the Fane Memorial inside the Church. We therefore continue to plan to raise further funds apart from appealing for members. It will only cost you £10 a year. As a charity we can recover the tax if you are a tax payer so that helps us enormously and it is easier for us to budget with assured annual income coming in. One off donations are also very welcome and hitherto we have been very pleased with the support we have had. Membership forms will be available at the AGM and they are also in the church or from any of our trustees. On the topic of trustees I am very pleased to tell you that our numbers on our Trustee Committee have grown as Lisa Halliday and Kate Banks have now joined us and we are very pleased that they have done so. The help they will bring will be most welcome as we go forward.

Dates for your diary:

27th December — please join us for another walk along the footpaths of our beautiful village. The last walk was a great success. This one will be shorter than the last one as we recognise that many will still be recovering from the festivities. Same price, £2. per head, children, dogs etc are welcome and free. We will be starting at the Village Hall at 10.45am and return to the Club for refreshment and light bites at 12.15pm or thereabouts.

13th February 2010 — Quiz Night 7.30pm Village Hall. It will be a slightly different format this time as we will not be catering but asking you to form teams of six or eight and to bring your own food. The Club have agreed to run the bar for us and Trish and Phil Nichols have kindly agreed to be the question masters/adjudicators. There will be a raffle and prizes for the winning team and runners up. The tickets will be £5 per head, children under 16 free. It will be great fun and hope that you will make up teams and join us. We will be selling tickets soon.

Finally, with the co-operation of David and Anke Way and the PCC we are planning a Snow Drop event at the church yard on the 14th February, Valentine's Day. For the past 10 years the snow drops in the churchyard have not only been carefully nurtured but split each year so that after this time the display is wonderful. There is nothing like the first signs of spring in deep mid winter, so please come along. We plan to open the church and the churchyard at 11am, refreshments, food and hot drinks will be served inside the church and donations only will be taken on that day. We expect the day's events to end at 4.30 pm.

You will see that there is much going on and if you would like to learn more about this local Charity then please contact any one of the trustees. The objects of the Fund are fairly wide but primarily focussed on the preservation of the church building and I am sure you will all agree with me that is a most worthwhile cause as generations to come will benefit from what we are doing now.

Ron L Porter, Chairman of Trustees

Applause: Friday 19 February at 8pm at the Village Hall. Jeff Lang a hugely talented guitarist, singer/songwriter from Australia. A definite winter warmer on a February evening.

Your Local Contacts:

Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Clerk to Parish Council: Vikki Stancombe	842782
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane	820127
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Maidstone Police:	608186
Pre-School Supervisor: Nicola Julier	07972067110	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills	0845 824 7800
Rector: Revd Peter Walker	747570**	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Associate Rector: Revd David Jones	741474*	Organist: Philip Moore	749356
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495	PCSO Jo Watts	01622 604392

*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays

Dates for Diaries:

Friday 1st January, A Musical Afternoon, 3pm St Marys Church
Wednesday 13th January, Parish Plan Meeting, 8pm, Village Club
Thursday 14th January, Hunton Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall
Friday 19 February, Applause Event Jeff Lang, 8pm, Village Hall
Monday 1 February, Friends of St Marys AGM, 7.30pm Village Hall
Saturday 13 February, Friends of St Marys Quiz Night, 7.30pm, 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 February edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th January, please

Dear Friends,

2010 dawns and what will the New Year bring? What resolutions are you making - or even breaking already?!

I know that I intend to have a go at reading the Bible through in one year.

There are some very good guides written to achieve this without feeling too weighed down by the sheer thought of such an enterprise. Let me know if you need some direction on this.

Why read the Bible at all? As Christians we need to consult the Maker's manual.

The Bible is full of all sorts of different styles of writing ranging across history, poetry, prophecy, and metaphor addressing mankind's needs.

When we read that 'trees sing for joy and floods clap their hands' we understand that this is poetry. When Jesus told us to 'be as harmless as doves', we are not meant to lay eggs.

When he told a story about a man falling among thieves it was a parable explaining a deeper truth.

The Bible is not a book of abstract philosophy - it is a book about life and about people in real situations. In our reading of it we should look expectantly - we may be shocked or surprised by some of the events recounted - but we too can expect to hear God speaking through these words with something for us, and when we apply the Bible regularly one of the great benefits is that we start to see the world in a Christian way.

Jesus enjoins us to act obediently to the Bible's guidelines. He said that when we hear and obey our lives become like houses built on a rock, safe and secure.

As we persist in reading the Bible thoroughly, worship becomes a living force, our work for God becomes a vital activity, and Jesus becomes a daily companion.

A man in prison was given a Bible to read. He used its thin pages to roll his tobacco in. He smoked his way through all the Bible and reached St.John's Gospel. Reading what he was about to burn he gave his life to Jesus!

Yes, the Word of God is very powerful - 'sharper than a two-edged sword' writes St.Paul.

Happy New Year and happy reading!

With prayers,

Peter

Hunton Village Club

Affiliated to the Working Mens Club & Institute Ltd, West Street Hunton,

WELCOME TO HUNTON VILLAGE CLUB

The Club is the only licensed premises in Hunton and is run by the members for the members. For the last few years we have been operating solely on a voluntary basis to provide the village with, what we hope, you will find a clean, friendly and enjoyable venue for a social gathering. Our membership needs to increase so that we can continue to provide the village with these facilities, but more importantly we need villagers to make use of the club as our income is falling. It is a great location for friends or family, with other members, to celebrate a birthday or anniversary.

Whilst we can do with more volunteers it is most important as a first step to increase membership which is only £10.00 for a full annual membership with voting rights (£5.00 for OAPs), a social membership is also available for just £5.00

We are open on Sunday Lunch times and every evening except Tuesdays. Please come along and join us in keeping the club open - complete a membership form today. We hope to see you at the club in the near future.

If you are an existing member don't forget to renew for the New Year.

At the Club's AGM Allan Peckham did not stand for re-election as Chairman. Nick Davies was proposed and was unanimously elected as Chairman.

Phil Nicholls, Membership Secretary

A Musical Afternoon

There will be a musical afternoon in the Church on New Years Day at 3pm. Harpsichord, base viol and a recorder

Book Review November 2009 - Notes on a Scandal by Zoe Heller

This tale starts with the story of a 'scandalous' relationship between a middle aged, married, art teacher called Sheba, and a boy of 15 years, as related by Barbara, another teacher, but this time a spinster nearing retirement. However as the tale progresses it becomes clear that this is as much a story about human relationships, manipulation and obsessive behaviour as about the scandal.

The book club found plenty to discuss within this book from the manipulative behaviour of its characters, to identifying who the real victims were and even the nature of infidelity. We found the book challenging and found we reacted to the characters and the themes, describing them as creepy, sinister and obsessive. We did not find the book fun to read due to its total lack of characters which you could warm to but it's psychological themes were certainly disturbing and remained with us once the story had ended. We gave the book an average score of 6.5 out of 10 with scores ranging from 4 to 8.

Christine McSweeney

Parish Plan Meeting - Exploring the First Steps in Planning the Plan

To some, village life is seen as a rural idyll with community spirit, to others it can be isolating and lacking amenities. There is no doubt that rural life has its own set of advantages and disadvantages, but should we care? Could we make a difference? Would we be bothered if large-scale development comes to Hunton for example? Should we have a view on the balance between development and the maintenance of the village and its surrounding countryside? Often these issues and others are forced upon us before we have had a chance to consider them and reach a consensus.

We don't know what issues will arise in the future but with a Parish Plan we can determine how we view Hunton in the years to come and shape how WE wish it to be. This community-led document would be the basis for decisions by the Parish Council on issues on which we have a settled view in the village.

The first meeting to discuss a Hunton Parish Plan took place on 9 December at the Village Club. Those who attended the meeting are keen that the proceedings should be transparent and open to all and the notes of each meeting will be put on the village website (www.hunton.org.uk) or available on request. The agenda items for the next meeting will be published regularly in the Hunton Herald.

The next meeting will be **13th January 2010 at 8pm in the Village Club**. Jim Boot, Community Planning Co-ordinator from Maidstone Borough Council, will be attending and we are hoping someone from a neighbouring Parish will share their experiences as well. Please come along we would love to see you!

Barbara Wright

Out and Out - Countryside Concerns

The countryside is an integral part of Hunton, I would guess that many residents have chosen to live here because the land is a major part of their work life or leisure time. Walking, gardening, farming, fishing and football, the need for fresh air and muddy boots runs deep.

Work is starting on a Parish Plan for Hunton, this is a document that will be a fantastic opportunity for us to put forward our views on all aspects of how Hunton should develop as a village. If you love the countryside and want to put this at the forefront of this plan, considering it's preservation, development and all environmental issues then do get involved. Details of how will be published in the Herald so look out for those.

If you are starting the year eagerly looking out for the first signs of snowdrops, for buds swelling on branches and looking forward to the first game of the year then I look forward to seeing you at the next Parish Plan meeting.

Christine McSweeney

School News

The Balloon Race Amazingly two of the balloons that were let off during the opening of the new extension celebration have reached far off destinations. One reached Holland whilst the second reached Poland! The children knew from our digital weather station that the wind was westerly that day and they have now used Google Earth to track the gardens they landed in and the distance covered. A photograph with a description of our school has been sent via e-mail to the two recipients.

Sponsored Skip The final amount raised by the sponsored skip was an amazing £508.80 - thank you everyone.

Basket Ball Tournament A team of Year 6 pupils participated with approximately 120 children at Aster of Hever School to play in a basket ball tournament. The children played very well and enjoyed the experience.

A Visit from the Local Police Force Middle and Upper School had a visit from our local police officer PC Gary Shaw and our Police Community Support Officer Jo, along with two other PCs. The children had the opportunity to try on uniforms, riot gear and look around the police Landrover. A number of photographs are to be seen on our website in the gallery.

Hunton Village Hall Vacancy - Cleaner Sadly we are losing our present cleaner to other commitments so are looking for someone local to take on the job early in the new year. The rate is £160 per calendar month and for this we require the hall to be cleaned to an acceptable standard in order to meet booking arrangements. This does involve some work at the weekend but not necessarily every weekend. If you are interested and for more details please contact Jane on 820127 or Alan on 820683.

Many thanks and best wishes to Sharon Winter for her contribution.

Alan Bishop

Village Club Seeks Land for Beer Garden

Something for the Parish Plan! The Hunton Club is seeking support from Ann Widdecombe MP over the possibility of getting engagement with BT regarding a piece of land next door to the Club that could be used as a beer garden. Previous talks between the Hunton Village Club and BT were unproductive.

This was a real issue that was raised at our first Parish Plan meeting and Phil had us signing a petition in presence of a film crew from the BBC! Miss Widdecombe is putting together a programme about Politics and the crew were keen to film our first meeting, particularly focusing on Phil's issue. This is being raised at Sessions House on Miss Widdecombe's last day before stepping down as MP. This is in recognition of the projects that she wishes to pick up as she retires from Parliament but not from Politics.

At St Mary's Church in January

Notices	Services
<p>Coffee Rota 3rd January - The McSweeney family</p> <p>Brass Cleaning January - Christine McSweeney</p> <p>Flower January 3rd Mrs Sue Scott January 10th Mrs Sue Scott January 17th Mrs Alison Ellman Brown January 24th Mrs Alison Ellman Brown</p> <p>Hunton Sunday Club Our January meeting is in a new venue and we are going to meet on the 2nd Sunday in the month. We are at The Grove, Grove Lane on Sunday January 10th from 5.15pm until 6.45pm. I look forward to seeing all the regulars and just maybe a few new faces. Give me a ring on 01622 741474 if interested. The Club is open to all primary aged children either living in or attending school in Hunton. David</p>	<p>Sunday 3rd January - Christmas 3 11.00 Family Service - Rev David Jones Readings: Preachers Choice</p> <p>Sunday 10th January - The Baptism of Christ First Sunday after Epiphany 09.30am Holy Communion - Rev Peter Walker Readings: Acts 8 v 14-17 and Luke 3 v 15-17, 21-22</p> <p>Sunday 17th January - Epiphany 2 11.00 Morning Prayer - Mr David Barnes Readings: Isaiah 62 v 1-5 and John 2 v 1-11</p> <p>Sunday 24th January - Epiphany 3 09.30am Holy Communion - Revd Peter Walker Readings: 1 Corinthians 12 v 12-31a and Luke 4 v 14-21</p> <p>Sunday 31st January - Epiphany 4 10.30 Benefice Service - at East Farleigh Readings: Ezekiel 43 v 27 - 44 v 3 and Luke 2 v 22 - 40</p> <p>Sunday 7th February - Epiphany 5 11.00 Family Service</p>

For Your Diary

Confirmation Service - 7th February 2010 Five adults from the Benefice will be confirmed on Sunday February 7th 2010 at Holy Trinity church, Coxheath by the Rt. Rev Michael Gear as honorary assistant Bishop in the Diocese who lives at Yalding. The service is at 10am and will include Confirmation and Holy Communion. Please pray for these five adults as they take this step on their Christian journey

Ash Wednesday - 17th February 2010 There will be a celebration of 7.30pm Holy Communion at St Mary's Hunton to mark this day and also the beginning of Lent.

Lent Study 2010 Starting on Wednesday February 14th and every Wednesday during Lent (until March 24th) the Lent Course this year will be entitled 'A Lent Study on the Healing Ministry) led by the Rector, Rev Peter Walker, and will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Coxheath for the whole benefice. Each evening will commence at 7.30pm and finish at 9.00pm.

Get Filled

13th January 2010, 7.30pm - 9.30pm. If you want to walk on Water, you've Got to Get out of the Boat, "Water walking" in faith with God by John Ortberg

Kay and Tony Mason warmly invite you to six sessions held every 2nd Wednesday of the month. The evening starts at 7.45 with Soup So Bring a mug and Get Filled followed with Tea or Coffee.

If you would like to know more contact Kay & Tony, Email: getfilled@live.co.uk Tel 01622 820488, Donations £1.50
Venue: 23 Bensted Close Hunton ME15 OSD

Churches together in Maidstone AGM

The elections took place and John Sweetman was elected Treasurer, Anne Binsted Secretary, Freda Crispin Vice Chair and David Jones Chair. If you have any members who would like to join us on this small working Group could you let me know please. I hope to circulate details of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity that takes place from 18th to 25th January 2010. Events arranged so far are:

Monday 18th 2.00pm at Salvation Army, Wednesday 20th 1.00pm at St Faith's , Wednesday 20th at URC at 2.00pm for Ladies

I am hoping that other churches may use one of their regular meetings to focus on the Week of Prayer and open the meeting to others in the town. I have details of the focus for 2010 and details are on the appropriate web page under Churches Together in England and Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. David

January	3 rd	10 th	17 th	24 th	31 st	7 th February
Coxheath	11.00 HC	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS		11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	9.30 HC	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC 09.30 Matins	10.30 BENEFICE SERVICE	09.30 HC
Linton	9.30 HC	09.30 HC	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC		09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	8.00 HC	11.00 MP	9.30 HC	11.00 MP (mod)		08.00 HC

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