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## Pothole Problems

Wheel-breaking, tyre-busting potholes in Hunton roads, aggravated by January's Arctic weather conditions, have been reported to the Kent highways team by the Parish Council.

Chairman, Roger Sawtell, said that a highways engineer had visited the village and was surprised to find that the potholes were in several roads around the Parish and not just on Hunton Hill as he had been advised. He agreed to repairs being carried out.

It was reported that in the past, holes filled temporarily by the county had resulted in the filler tarmac coming out within weeks whereas those repaired by the Electricity Board had lasted years. Maidstone Borough Councillor, John Wilson, reported his disappointment that after two years of lobbying the issue of heavy lorries using the country lanes was only briefly featured in the latest Kent strategy report 'Growth without Gridlock'.

"Hunton Councillor, Gary Thomas and myself have been pressing for action since 2007 and have been fobbed off by County officials in the past. And now this integrated transport strategy plan barely mentions the problem of articulated lorries.

"All we want is information and feedback on the routes these lorries are taking - where they are coming from and going to. Maybe they are on local business which could be alright - we just want to know," said Cllr Wilson adding that after his latest approach, action had been promised by Geoff Mee the County Director of Integrated Transport Strategy.

Councillor Thomas stressed the dangers for walkers using the Greensand Way, a popular Kent route, and descending the steep steps onto Hunton Hill, a busy local carriageway.

## Report from King George V Playing Field

In his report from the King George V Playing Fields, Keith Eatwell said that the Committee was looking into plans to replace the netting at the edge of the village bowls club after cricket balls had been hit onto the bowling greens last season. He said that the children's play equipment was in good condition.

### Applause Friday 19 February, 8pm, Village Hall

Jeff Lang a hugely talented guitarist, singer/songwriter from Australia on a World Tour and coming to Hunton - unmissable  
A definite winter warmer on a February evening. Tickets £8  
Alan 820683/Jane 820127 Licensed Bar [www.jefflang.com.au](http://www.jefflang.com.au)

### Snowdrop Sunday

Snowdrops in St Mary's Church Yard, Hunton.  
Sunday 14th February 2010 11.00am - 4.30pm  
Teas and refreshments will be available,  
proceeds to the Friends of St Mary's Hunton

## Gardening for Wildlife Award

Hunton churchyards have been entered in to wildlife competitions in several past years and won recognition as well managed public spaces with regard to biodiversity and ecofriendly aspects. The organisers of Gardening for Wildlife, from the Kent Wildlife Trust, have informed us that we have won a Silver Award and that their representative, Maureen Rainey, will be at the 11am Family service on Sunday 21st February to present the award to the congregation and volunteer helpers. Everybody is welcome, make sure you will be there!

*Anke Way*

### 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	01622 604392

\*not available on Fridays \*\*not available on Mondays

### Dates for Diaries:

Monday 1st February, Friends St Mary's AGM, 7.30pm, Village Hall  
 Saturday 13th February, Friends of St Marys Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Village Hall  
 Wednesday 17th February, Parish Plan Meeting, Hunton Village Club  
 Friday 19th February, Applause Event, Jeff Lang, 8pm, 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 March edition to the Editors as soon as possible, and by 15th February, please*

Dear fellow humans

Oh dear! Just sitting down comfortably for a relaxing evening when the phone rings. 'Is it your turn or Peter's to write the letter for the Newsletter?' Peter's was my immediate thought and prayer! But no, when I looked at the list it was mine. Have you ever been caught out thinking all was well and that it was someone else's job? Well I have now and certainly it is not the first time I have fallen for mistakes like this. When I was teaching, I remember a member of staff forgetting to write all of his reports before the final due date when they had to be handed in to his colleagues. He was mortified and rushed round to every member of staff he was due to hand in reports to, to apologise for his mistake and then set to that night to try to make amends. In my career I met other teachers who were forgetful and they tried to cover up their mistake and left the recipients of the missing reports to chase them. We all make mistakes but it is what we do about it that makes all the difference.

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## **Friends of St Mary's Quiz Night** 13th February 7.30pm Village Hall.

Make a team of six to eight and join us! If you have not got a team, come along and we'll find you a team.

Bar - Bring your own food - Raffle - Prizes for winning team and runners up. Tickets £5 per head, children under 16 free, available on the door or from Ron Porter (820220) and David Heaton (820678).

## **Out and Out - Waiting**

I am writing this having come in from a garden just released from the grips of snow and ice. It was refreshing to see green again after the blinding white of snow but there are several things that look like the cold may have been too much for them. Branches knocked off evergreens by the weight of snow, and some marginally hardy plants with frost blasted leaves. Gardening can be a waiting game and that is what we must do to see whether these sad looking specimens have been finished off or not.

It was good to see that there were some plants that have continued regardless of the snow. A shrubby honeysuckle is starting to flower and the native hellebore is showing signs of flower buds, a few daffodil leaves are poking through the soil and witch hazel flower buds are swelling. One snowdrop ('Atkinsii') is showing white, but as yet no sign of *Galanthus Nivalis*, the native snowdrop. By the time you read this, these snowdrops should be ready to go and gardeners' long wait for the start of the season will be over.

*Christine McSweeney*

## **Do You Like a Good Sing?**

Come and join in. There are a small number of us in Hunton who just love singing and want to get together on a regular basis to have some fun. Anything from Mozart to *Les Miserables* and all the fun music in between.

You don't need to be a Kathryn Jenkins, Aled Jones, Kiri de Kanawa or a Pavarotti. If you can't read music, it doesn't matter. Just bring your voice. Everyone is welcome. No day or time set yet as it depends on who is available and when. Our whole idea is in its very first stages, but you have to start somewhere! And I have lots and lots of fun (and some serious) music to sing. So if you would like to join in with the fledgling Hunton Singers (name to be decided on at a later date) please give me a ring.

Sue Pinks 01622 820709

## **Progress with Parish Plan**

Last week saw our second meeting with a few more new faces round the table which was great. We want to get as many people involved as possible and it is really important that everyone is engaged with the process and have their say in what goes into the questionnaire as well as responding to it. Anyone will be welcome to come along and join in; add comments or just have a say. Throughout the next few months we will be using all sorts of opportunities to display information about the Parish Plan and give people an opportunity to give us feedback. The quiz night in the Village Hall, 13th February, and the Applause event 19th February are two events we will use to display information and seek comments.

At the last meeting Jim Boot (Community Planning Co-ordinator, Maidstone Borough Council) and Carl Adams (Rural Officer, Action with Communities in Rural Kent) came to explain about the advantages of a Parish Plan and something of the process to get there. They will be on hand to provide support as needed and point us in the right direction.

Next month we intend to formalise the committee and members so please come along. We need a whole host of skills and experience and there will be plenty for people to do and we need to make sure that a lot of work does not fall on only a few people.

We will be using the Hunton Herald to keep everyone abreast of progress and [www.hunton.org.uk](http://www.hunton.org.uk) for all agendas and minutes of the meetings. If you want to talk it through with anyone please phone Sue Heaton (820678) or Barbara Wright (820218). Next meeting - Wednesday 17th February, Hunton Village Club, 8pm

# HUNTON BOOK GROUP REVIEW    DECEMBER 2009

## **The Shack by William Paul Young**

Mackenzie (Mack) Allen Philip's, decides one weekend to take his children on a camping trip until tragedy strikes in the most unexpected way. As Mack's two older children are out canoeing they lose control and the canoe flips over. Yet while his attention is focused on saving them, a serial killer abducts his younger daughter Missy. As the search progresses, the dress she had been wearing is found torn and bloodied in a shack, high up in the mountains, implying that she has been murdered.

What follows for Mack is described as *The Great Sadness*. Mack cannot forgive himself, and blames God for allowing such a tragedy to happen to him and his family. Until, one day Mack finds a note in his post box, signed "Papa" (God) inviting him to return to the shack. Unsure if it is a cruel joke, curiosity gets the better of Mack and he decides to return to the scene of his daughter's murder.

Here the story departs from reality and enters a world where Mack meets Papa (God) portrayed in the form of a black woman, Jesus as an ordinary man in jeans and t-shirt, and Sarayu (The Holy Spirit) as an Asian woman. Mack spends the weekend with them in a world where time and reality no longer exists as we know it, and during that time finds healing, peace, deeper understanding and forgiveness about life. The questions he has to face are challenging and painful, but gradually Papa, Jesus and Sarayu work to bring healing into Mack's life and enable him to understand what a relationship with them is supposed to be and how that reflects in his relationship with others.

The book is certainly not theology as most think of it and clearly Young is making assumptions about the nature and reality of God based on a human understanding of Scripture. However, he has taken a bold step in trying to communicate something about God in a fresh and unusual way to the reader, told through the life of Mack, even if some may initially find the idea of portraying God as a black African-American woman somewhat difficult (as did I). Above all, what is communicated is the depth of God's love for humanity and his desire for relationship with us out of free choice, a relationship that is active and living and is lived every moment of every day. It is this relationship that ultimately impacts the entire way we relate to and see others.

Most have wrestled with similar questions as Mack, at some point in their lives in some form. In particular this book would be especially relevant to anyone experiencing suffering in his or her own life. *The Shack* has the potential to be a source of healing and encouragement to some. It will not be what you expect, it may be uncomfortable and it is certainly not conventional.

**The Shack** drove the group into a deep, open and lively discussion and as the evening progressed, it was clear that this book had provoked and challenged us in one way or another; some loved this book and some rejected it.

I enjoyed this book and would thoroughly recommend it as well worth a read. Our average score for **The Shack** was 5.

*Kay Mason*

## **School News**

### **It's all Greek to me**

The children in Upper School will be studying the Ancient Greeks and learning about significant events in Ancient Greek history; comparing beliefs and ideas of Athenians and Spartans and finding out about the Battle of Marathon. During the term the children will compare sources of information about the Trojan horse and use a range of sources to discover more about ancient games and discover why the Olympics were revived. They will have the opportunity to consider the designs of the pottery and make their own replica pots using clay.

The Middle School children have begun to learn about the Romans and the founding of Rome and the two main characters (Romulus and Remus). They will examine how the Roman Empire changed areas, for example, the invasion of Britain, and to find out about aspects of family life in Roman times, including what a Roman Villa looked like and about Roman hygiene and how they introduced public baths, toilets and sewers to Britain.

Lower School children will be learning about traditional costumes around the world, different clothes worn in different climates and they will use maps to plot where clothes are produced. Then they will focus on India, the clothes worn, including at an Indian wedding and consider the jewellery and weaving patterns.

Reception class will be learning about space, looking at rockets, stars, planets, aliens, the moon and lots of exciting cooking activities with a space theme.

### **Fund Raising**

The end of service collection after the Christingle Service raised £99.53 for the Children's Society and this month the children at Hunton School have taken responsibility to assist earthquake victims to rebuild their lives and their communities by planning a programme of fundraising activities that includes 'Bob a Job' week - children to do jobs around the home that they do not normally do to raise money, such as hoovering, dusting, tidying, cooking, walking the dog, cleaning shoes, making breakfast, making cups of tea; and a bring and buy sale and cake sale.

## At St Mary's Church in February

Notices	Services
<b>Flower Rota</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> February - Mrs Porter 14 <sup>th</sup> February - Mrs Porter LENT - No Flowers <b>Coffee Rota</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> February - Moira Ensoll and Sylvia Gurr <b>Brass Cleaning</b> February - Wendy Simmons <b>Hunton Sunday Club</b> Hunton Sunday Club will be meeting on Sunday February 14 <sup>th</sup> at Freelands, West Street at 5.15pm until 6.45pm. This Club is open to all children of primary school age who attend school in Hunton or who live in Hunton. Please Contact David Jones 741474 for further details. The March meeting will be held on Sunday March 21 <sup>st</sup> at Grove Cottages, West Street. Reminder that the February Family Service will be held on Sunday February 21 <sup>st</sup> at St Mary's and the Mothering Sunday Family Service will be on March 14 <sup>th</sup> (both services at 11.00am) David	<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent</b> 10.00am Confirmation & HC - Bishop and Revd Peter Walker Readings: Special <b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February - Sunday next before Lent</b> 09.30am Holy Communion - Rev Peter Walker Readings: 2 Corinthians 3 v 12 - 4 v 2 and Luke 9 v 28 - 36 <b>Ash Wednesday - 17<sup>th</sup> February</b> 7.30pm Holy Communion - Revd Peter Walker and Revd David Jones Readings: Isaiah 58 v 1 -12 and John 8 v 1 - 11 <b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> 11.00 Family Service - Revd David Jones Readings: Deuteronomy 26 v 1 - 11 and Luke 4 v 1- 13 <b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> 09.30am Holy Communion - Revd David Jones Readings: 2 Philipians 3 v 17 - 4 v 1 and Luke 13 v 31 - 35

*Continued from Page 2* Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> and goes on until just before Easter, is often thought of as a time to give up things? Well, I'm not suggesting you give up making mistakes although for me I'm going to give up thinking that when problems arise it is a problem for other people to solve. No, I'm thinking that maybe I ought to be contemplating the problems that I cause other people by my mistakes. Saying we're going to do something to time, like many of the trades and professions we deal with, is one annoying habit we can easily get into ourselves. Do we always deliver on time and can we be trusted to complete a task we have offered to do? Are we reliable? Can people trust us to do what we promise? Are we lazy and rely on others? There's so many things that we can look at in our lives that involve 'giving' up but also 'giving out' to others. Giving up chocolate might make the chocolate producers redundant! All our actions, good and bad have a consequence. Surely an attitude of serving each other, being aware of others, is the message that Jesus encouraged his followers to strive for. He encouraged people to love and to serve and to be aware of their actions. In the parable of the talents Jesus says 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.' We need to treat everyone with respect in our approach to them and maybe Lent is our opportunity to think about the ways we can 'give up' the things that prevent this happening in our lives. Have an enjoyable Lent!

*David*

**Lent Study 2010** Starting Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup> and every Wednesday during Lent (until March 24<sup>th</sup>) 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.

**5P Men** The 5P Men's group is organised as part of activities within the Benefice of five parish churches - Coxheath, East Farleigh, Hunton, Linton & West Farleigh. We started the New Year with an AGM meeting and quiz at The Bull East, Farleigh on 18<sup>th</sup> January. The following events are planned for the next few months.

**February:** Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7.30 pm The Bull Pub, East Farleigh - Street Pastors. Talk by Graham Tanner- on the work of the Maidstone Street Pastors

**March:** Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7.30 pm The Bull Pub, East Farleigh - Aviation. Talks by Jonathan Barnes about the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship and Colin Brewer, ex BA 747 pilot, (now on private jets) on his experiences

**April:** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> 7 pm Tour and evening meal at the Shepherd Neame Brewery, Faversham. Cost £20

If you are interested in coming to any of these events, would like more details about the events/5P Men or wish to be added to the 5P Men mailing list, then please contact:

Group organiser- Mike Marsh on 01622 745702 or email 5pmen@talktalk.net-- all welcome

February	7 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> March
Coxheath	10.00 Confirmation & HC	9.30 MP	11.00 HC	11.00 FS	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	See Coxheath	08.00 HC 11.00 FS	09.30 HC	08.00 HC 09.30 Matins	09.30 HC
Linton	See Coxheath	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

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