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Thank You Hunton!

The Christmas Market Team were thrilled at the support received for our first market. Little did we realise how you would all get behind us when we hatched the idea on a warm sunny June day.

During the six months of planning, we met and overcame many hurdles. The largest of which was how to light the churchyard and stalls to give the same effect as the magical German markets. Here we give a big thank you to the Hunton Herald who very kindly funded the lights donated to St Mary's Church.

Finally the day arrived, we were unsure if anyone would come along. To our amazement, the car park was full by 4.15pm. The very wet conditions prevented us from using the playing field for overspill, so a big thank you to the car parking team who were very good at organising the impossible!

We saw most of Hunton pass through, together with visitors from many parts of Kent, for this we thank those involved in publicity and spreading the word.

We were entertained with music in the church by an excellent saxophonist and the Quercus singing group together with a superb display of fire baton twirling in the churchyard.

We are grateful to Friends of St. Mary's Committee who stepped up to take on the well supported BBQ and hot drinks stalls.

The generosity of the village in donating bottles for the bottle stall, the collection teams and those manning the stall resulted in another successful stall. We reiterate our thanks mentioned in the January Herald.

Cakes, puddings, mince pies and biscuits were baked and sold together with various decorations and wreaths etc. made by enthusiastic village members.

Six Christmas trees were decorated by various village groups and added to the Christmas atmosphere inside the church.

All too soon it was drawing to a close with community singing led by The Huntones.

You may have read in last month's Herald the alarming headline regarding support needed for the Club. With the dwindling congregation the same problem exists with our splendid church. The Friends raise funds for the upkeep of the building only. Money recently donated funded the pointing of the bell tower and was also put towards the repair of the ancient doors. For this reason, the £1,100 raised at the Market has been shared between Friends of St Mary's and St. Mary's Church.

To all who helped and those who came along we thank you.

We look forward to seeing you next year, keep the date in the diary for 14th December 2013.

Christmas Market Team

Trial Run for a "Pop Up" Village Shop

We will be trying out the first "pop up" village shop in time for Easter outside the village church. The idea is to provide an opportunity for people to provide local produce - jam, cakes, bread, traditional and seasonal items the likes of which cannot be found in local shops and supermarkets which can then be sold at the "shop". It will not be a rival to our local shops, farmers markets and supermarkets but rather a unique opportunity to sample something artisan or home produced, which will change on a regular and seasonal basis. More information in the March edition of the Herald. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions please let us know. E-mail annette@trought.com.

Your Local Contacts:		Clerk to Parish Council: Sharon Goodwin	681238
Parish Council Chairman: Roger Sawtell	820731	Village Hall Booking: Jane Crane	820127
School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police:	608186
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Neighbourhood Watch:	608173
Pre-School Supervisor:	07972067110	'Potholes' concern (KCC): Kim Hills	0845 824 7800
Pond and Tree Warden: Anne Bishop	820683	Churchwarden: Alison Ellman-Brown	820288
Rector:	747570**	PCSO Jo Watts	604392
Non Stipendiary Minister: Revd David Jones	741474*	Hunton Bell Ringers, Michael Webb	745716
Village Club: Doug Redfarn	820495	<i>*not available on Fridays **not available on Mondays</i>	

Diary Dates	Parish Councillors Contact Details
Sunday 10 th February Snowdrop Event Churchyard Midday- 4pm	Parish Council Chairman – Roger Sawtell 820731
Wednesday 27 th February Parish Plan Meeting Village Club 8pm	Clerk to the Parish Council – Sharon Goodwin 681238
Thursday 14 th March Community Orchard Meeting Village Club 8pm	Cllr Les Leonard 820858 Cllr Ron Porter 820220
Saturday 16 th March Litter Pick Village Hall 10.00am	Cllr David Heaton 820678 Cllr Tony Stanbridge 820761
Saturday 16 th March Bulky Rubbish collection Village Hall 1.40pm	Cllr Gary Thomas 820691 Cllr Steve Wyles 820403
Thursday 28 th March Gardening Club Village Club 8.30pm	

Check out www.hunton.org.uk for changes and see the latest up- dated version. If you would like to add an event to the village diary email huntondiary@btinternet.com - new events are being added all the time.

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

February is mostly a dreary month, coming as it does at the end of winter, and has been described by one poet as 'cold wet and grey' and spring does indeed seem far away. We flick through the holiday brochures, and think longingly of sunny beaches and blue skies, of pristine ski slopes or of city breaks in interesting places. Three years ago we took a mid-February family holiday in the vibrant city of New York. We were there for St. Valentine's day, and I was fascinated to see the enthusiasm which New Yorkers celebrated that special event. It is a day for lovers to declare their love for one another. Smartly suited and immaculately groomed young men carrying large bouquets or boxes of chocolates much in evidence. The many churches in the city enter into the event with enthusiasm announcing suitable sermon titles such as 'Love Changes Everything', 'Love makes the World Go Round' or 'You are My Heart's Desire'. The best one I thought was 'The Greatest Love Story Ever'.

Most people don't take St Valentine's day all that seriously when we send a card to our spouse or sweetheart out of a sense of fun. But for others it is an earnest declaration of their love for a special person in their life who is indeed 'their hearts delight'.

In a sense the bible is a Valentine card, or to be more accurate, a love letter. God's love letter to the human race in which He tells us how much He loves us. Of the many verses in the Bible, that tells us of this love one of my favourite is: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases His mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness."

Do join us if you can at one of our many services leading up to Easter, as we explore in depth God's love for us.

David Barnes

Lay Reader

A Fond Farewell

Unfortunately, due to delivery reallocation at Royal Mail Maidstone, I have been forced to relinquish my position as postman to the Hunton area.

Little did I know when I first took on this delivery, just how much it would be a part of my life. Such has been the friendliness of the residents, that I have felt part of the village. Over the past 14 years I have followed the changes within the area. Watched families grow; young children attend the local school, grow into young adults and then leave to attend university or employment. Despite the floods, snow and annoying road closures, my time has been an enjoyable experience, all due to the appreciation shown towards me. Hopefully our paths will cross at some later time. Many thanks, Terry (postie)

Spring Season Applause

Saturday 23rd March- **Christine Tobin** 'A Thousand Kisses Deep'
&

Friday 10th May - **Sarah McQuaid**

We are delighted, with the help of Applause and the National Rural Touring Forum, to bring these talented musicians to Hunton. If you wish to reserve tickets for either performance please contact us on either of these two numbers.

Alan 820683, Sue and David 820678

More details next month.....

The Armed Man

Saturday 23rd February 2013 7.30pm

Mote Hall, Maidstone

Choral Suite by Karl Jenkins presented by

Maidstone Choral Union

Martin Hindmarsh, Music Director

and **Maidstone Wind Symphony**

Jonathan Crowhurst, Music Director

Brett Baker, Trombone

Tickets £7 - £16

Available from 01622 726193 and 1580 291056

The leisure Centre booking Office 0845 1552277

www.maidstonewindsymphony.org

Snowdrops

Sunday 10th February.

Service 11.00am followed by Snowdrop event 12.00 – 4pm

At the 11 o'clock church service there will be the dedication of the repaired doors by the Ven. Archdeacon Clive Mansell, followed by the welcoming of visitors to the church to view the Snowdrops around the Churchyard from 12.00pm. Refreshments will be available within the Church and all proceeds will go to the Friends of St Mary's Hunton to support the fabric of the Church. Entrance is free.

School News

Term Topics

Devas class are learning all about space and the moon, our galaxy and the solar system.

Bannerman's topic this term is France. The children will learn where France is and the different ways to get there. The children will role-play going to France and exploring famous landmarks. In science the children will be learning about different light sources and will explore which materials let light pass through.

Porteous class will be studying rainforests and looking at tribes, sustainability and the geography of rainforests. Their Art and DT sessions will focus on rainforest habitats and collage. In science Porteous will be investigating sound and how the ear works.

Borton class will start their 'Thrills and Spills' topic. They will be learning about the history of travelling fairs and sketching and painting fairgrounds using different techniques to show light, speed and movement. They will be researching famous theme parks around the world in order to study and create their own theme park maps.

Hunton Club Book Group A Review for December 2012

Pure by Andrew Miller

Jean-Baptiste Barratte comes to Versailles in 1785 to undertake a commission for an aristocrat. The cemetery at Les Innocents is too full and the whole site must be excavated and moved to Montparnasse. Barratte stays in the house of the Monnards. He meets the organist of the church. He meets an educated prostitute and falls in love with her. There is an attempt on his life. He comes across the young men who will, in a few years, be part of the French Revolution. Already there is graffiti going up on the walls of Paris and we know what they mean better than Jean-Baptiste does. He hires men to undertake the work and buys himself a pistachio-green suit to celebrate the fact that he's now in fashionable Paris and not the country.

Baratte finds that the stink of the dead dominates the quarter, fouling the air and tainting even the breath of those who live there. The vast smoke-blackened church that presides over the graveyard obliterates the light. And yet, as the engineer begins his grisly excavations, he finds that the residents of this poor and labyrinthine district have a powerful attachment to both. There are also those who support his work, among them a kindly doctor. Meanwhile the half-disinterred cemetery becomes a kind of hell, with huge fires kept burning day and night to clear the air. Bones are piled in heaps. The brutish miners brought in to clear the corpses collapse inexplicably in the deep pits. Prostitutes shriek in the shadows. There are acts of madness and unexplained violence. As the foreman of works observes bleakly "I had some good in me once Doctor Guillotin".

As December was a very busy month, only 7 of our members managed to finish this book, however, apart from 1 all the rest enjoyed this story even though it was rather disturbing. The style of writing was thought to be very good with particularly powerful descriptions of the awful foul smells and tastes. It gave a very good insight into life in prerevolutionary Paris. Some felt they would like to read another Miller book.

We gave this book a score of 6.5

Jackie Crooks

Open House Coffee Morning

All Welcome! Why not come along for a cuppa and a chat and a "Thought for the Day"

Tuesday 12th February at 10.30am till 11.45am

Please come along to 23 Bensted Close, Hunton, ME15 0SD Contact Kay on: 01622 820488



Litter Pick - 16th March 2013

The first village clean up for 2013 will be on Saturday 16th March. We will meet as usual at the Village Hall at 10am to collect gloves, pickers, jackets etc. If anyone would like to volunteer their services for this would you please e-mail Di Martin in the first instance (di.martin1@btinternet.com) telephone 01622 820115 for more information.

V.C.Grave Uncovered in Churchyard

Honestly....I Cried....

This was the response of the Kent Chairman of the Victoria Cross Trust to his first sighting of the grave of Lt Col Arthur Drummond Borton in our churchyard at St Marys Church. Awarded the V.C. in 1918 Arthur Borton (also known as 'Bosky' Borton) was buried in Hunton Churchyard in 1933. As he was not in active service at the time of his death his grave does not come under the care of the War Graves Commission nor is there any family left in this country to give it individual care.

The grave is in the New Churchyard on the road side by the hedge and almost opposite the entrance to the village hall. When you go to view the snowdrops take a minute to have a look at this grave, it would be interesting to hear your thoughts on it and whether it should be better cared for, we look forward to your views. Send them to Herald@hunton.org.uk. See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-20906354> for the South East Today Report.

Maybe I Have too Much Time on my Hands.....

....but I keep looking around for ways to make use of things that otherwise would be thrown away. My latest 'discovery' is that there are a number of ways to use the empty pots from a well known yoghurt drink – the one with the millions of friendly bacteria. I will share with you my two favourites:

Once the pots, which look to me like mini milk churns, are thoroughly washed they can be slipped over the top of garden canes where they help to stop the more accident prone amongst us from poking our eyes out on them and can support garden netting to protect young crops from the birds. Because of their shape and size they are not easily dislodged by the wind but do tend to rattle a bit – which also keeps the birds away.

The pots can also be cut in half, along the seams lengthwise, and then further cut to form rectangular plant labels (in the shape of a distorted capital 'T') which then fit snugly against the sides of most standard flower pots. Two good size labels can be cut from each pot, so a family of four, each drinking a yoghurt every day, can give rise to 56 plant labels per week at a cost of, well, nothing.

And when you are finished with them – they can be recycled in the normal manner.

Steve Wyles

At St Mary's Church in February

Notices

Flower Rota
3rd and 10th Mrs. Ruth Porter
Lent – No Flowers

Lent Course - My Grace is sufficient for thee (2 Corinth 12⁹)

In the last few years we have used the York Courses for our Lent study and generally they have been well received. This year, however, our own Bishop has developed a course along with Dr Paula Gooder, a well respected lay theologian. It has been decided that we will use this material for this year.

The focus is on the ministry of healing in the widest sense. In his introduction to the course Bishop James

writes: During Lent let's take time, as individuals and as churches, to examine the state of our hearts before God. Let's look at what is going on around us and ask God to show us what part we have to play in bringing His healing and wholeness to our broken world. And let's allow Him to change our motives and actions to be conformed to Christ, to the one who conformed himself to us so that everyone might have life, and have it abundantly.

The course looks interesting and thought provoking. There is an accompanying DVD as an introduction to the session followed by discussion and fellowship. All sessions are open to anyone within the Benefice so if you can't make the sessions in 'your' church feel free to join a more convenient group.

Do come and join us:

West Farleigh Church on a Tuesday afternoon at 2:30pm. **Contact:** David Barnes (01622 747934)

Dates: Tuesdays 19th and 26th February and 5th, 12th and 19th March

Linton, (hosted by Kath & Paul Cooper at Forge Cottage, Linton Hill. ME17 4AW) on a Tuesday afternoon 2.15pm for 2.30pm start. **Contact:** Cilla McKenzie (01622 741318)

Dates: Tuesdays 19th and 26th February and 5th, 12th and 19th March.

Coxheath Church on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. **Contact** David Barnes (01622 747934)

Dates: February 20th, 27th, March 6th, 13th, 20th

Hunton (hosted by Mary Johns) on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm. **Contact** Chris Bostock (07951 007382)

Dates: February 21st, 28th, March 7th, 14th, 21st

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra

Saturday 23rd March 2013, 7.30pm at Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre,

The programme consists of three works

Beethoven : Overture, Leonora No. 3.

Walton : Viola Concerto.

Berlioz : Symphony, Harold in Italy

We've another return, this time for Kentish-born Robin Ashwell, in a programme celebrating the viola. Written for Paganini, Berlioz's passionate Symphony has a viola soloist as its chief protagonist, while Walton's magnificent concerto was written for the great Lionel Tertis.

Concert tickets £10, £20 and £25, students with a Student card £5, available from Membership Secretaries on 01622 735830, with cheque payment, collected on the concert evening at Mote Hall or from Maidstone Leisure Centre Mote Hall Box office on 0845 1552277 when payment can be made by credit card, a booking fee applies.

Booking can be taken on www.mso.org.uk using the booking form.

Tickets for all Children up to and including 18 years of age are FREE.

Services

Sunday 3rd February – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

11.00am Family Service—Mr Alan Smith

Readings: Preacher's choice

Sunday 10th February – Sunday next before Lent

11.00am Holy Communion –Ven. Clive Mansell

Snow Drop Sunday and Dedication of the Doors - Archdeacon

Readings: Exodus 34 v 29 – end and Luke 9 v 28 - 36

Wednesday 13th February Ash Wednesday

7.30 pm At Linton – Rev Eileen Doyle

Readings: Isaiah 58 v 1-12

Sunday 17th February – First Sunday of Lent

11.00am Morning Prayer – Miss Chris Bostock

Readings: Deuteronomy 26 v 1 – 11 and Luke 4 v 1 - 13

Sunday 24th February - 2nd Sunday of Lent

11.00am Holy Communion – Rev David Jones

Readings: Genesis 15 v 1 – 12, 17 – 18 and Luke 13 v 31 - end

February	3rd	10th	13th	17th	24th	3rd March
Coxheath	11.00 HC	11.00 MP		11.00 HC	11.00 FS HC	11.00 HC
E. Farleigh	09.30 MP	08.00 HC 11.00 FS + Baptism		09.30 HC	08.00 HC	09.30 MP
Linton	09.30 HC	9.30 FS	7.30pm HC	08.00 HC	09.30 HC	09.30 HC
W. Farleigh	08.00 HC	11.00 MP		09.30 MP Trad	09.30 HC	08.00 HC

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