



Cobham & Luddesdowne
News *Christmas 2022*

PARISH of COBHAM & LUDDESDOWNE with DODE

Vicar — currently in an interregnum

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SUBMISSIONS *Cobham and Luddesdowne News is a community magazine produced by and for the residents of Cobham, Sole Street and Luddesdowne.*

Please send material for inclusion by the 15th of the month

preceding publication to editorialcfn@gmail.com

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Well it is nearly Christmas once again -can you believe it?

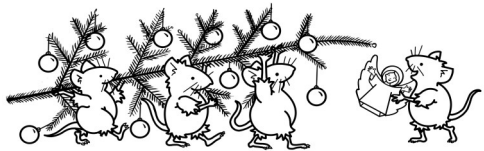
A warm welcome to all of you receiving this magazine for the first time. A copy of our monthly magazine is delivered to every household at Christmas and Easter; I do hope you enjoy it and if you would like to subscribe and find out what is happening in our parishes every month contact me by email at editorialcln@gmail.com.

A very big 'shout out' to Rosemary Dymond and her fantastic parish volunteers for achieving **BEST VILLAGE AWARD** in the South & South East Britain in Bloom competition – well done and thank you! (page 21). There is a lot of singing planned at various events during December with our fantastic choir performing in Cobham Church (page 5) and carols will be emanating from St Mary's Church Room on 17th December (page 6).

This time of year is also a great opportunity to thank the various groups for their contribution to the wonderful community feel of the parishes, whether that be bell ringing, embroidering, baking, watering the flower troughs, distributing the magazine, fundraising or working as part of the parish council; you all give your time freely and it is very much appreciated.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and happy new year.

Tina

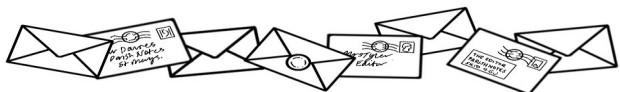


Used Postage Stamps

Please may I ask everyone who reads our lovely magazine in the Parish of Cobham, Luddesdowne and beyond for your used postage stamps as I am collecting for the R.N.I.B and I need to fill my boxes! If possible the stamps need a border of about 1 cm' all round.

There will be boxes in both Cobham and Luddesdowne churches, or you can send or deliver them to me at The New College of Cobham, Cobhambury Road, Cobham, Gravesend DA12 3BG.

Thanking you,
Mrs Dorothy Gee



Bell Ringing by Peter Hartley

“Ringing the changes” is a saying derived from bell ringing for method ringing involves constantly changing the order in which the bells sound in accordance with the particular pattern of the named method being rung. In a 45 minute Quarter Peal there are 1,260 changes and in a 3 hour Full Peal 5,040 changes. With concentration and skill the ringer has to weave his bell in the exact and ever changing order amongst the other bells.

Change occurs constantly whatever we may wish. The bell ringers of Lindfield Church in West Sussex had planned for the historic Whitechapel Bell Foundry in the City of London to cast them a new ring of 8 bells. But, after centuries of trading, Whitechapel’s folded. Plans changed and fortunately the Westley Group of Stoke-on-Trent cast their new bells and Whites of Apleton installed them on a new metal frame. Amidst change a solution had been found.

This year has seen dramatic change. Three months after the celebration of the first ever Platinum Jubilee Queen Elizabeth II died and the Reign of King Charles III began. The immaculate ceremonial in Edinburgh, London and Windsor following the death of our beloved Sovereign was everything that the late Queen merited at the end of a long life of duty and service.

Our Head of State changed and our head of government changed with bewildering frequency resulting in three Prime Ministers in seven weeks. Liz Truss established a new record of brevity of 44 days for being Prime Minister; a pub quiz answer for years to come. Hopefully change can now be replaced by solutions.

2022 has joined the year of the threes. 1936 the year of the 3 Kings: 1978 of 3 Popes: 2022 of 3 Prime Ministers. Name those involved in your Christmas Quiz.

Change goes on and Christmas will come when the Cobham bell ringers will hope to ring the changes. For certain we ringers wish everybody a very Happy Christmas.





Cobham Choir

Tom Bettley *director*
Laura West *soprano*

Christmas Concert

A festive programme of traditional Christmas music alongside some lighter seasonal songs, much of it familiar but with some surprises along the way. A perfect part of the Christmas countdown whatever your age or musical taste.

“Another beautiful, festival, fun performance. This has become an event we look forward to each year”

Audience member from last year

Saturday 10 December

4pm

Cobham Hall



Thursday 15 December

7pm

Cobham Church

Tickets £10 (£3 under 18s)
including interval refreshments
From Cobham Community Stores,
on 07926 677188 or at

www.ticket-source.co.uk/cobham-choir

And on the door from 6.30pm (subject to availability)



SOLE STREET COMMUNITY CAROLS

A FUND RAISING EVENT FOR

ST MARY'S CHURCH ROOM

On Saturday 17th December.

10am-11am & 2pm-3pm

In the Church Room

Seasonal refreshments will be available.

Please come and support us and make a dedication to a loved one.

SEE YOU THERE!



Sunday 4th December 3:00pm – 4:00pm
Christingle Service in Cobham Church

Including carols, children's craft activities, and candle lit Christingle line up. Each child will get a Christingle (orange, ribbon, and candle) to help light up the church. Children are welcome to come dressed in Nativity costumes.

For further information contact Rachel on 07947072818 .



SOLE STREET WI

Members of Sole Street WI have been getting into the Christmas spirit jolly early this year, in preparation for the WI Christmas Fair at Meopham which at the time of writing takes place less than a week away. We have even held craft meetings to create samples of Christmas table decorations that can be made to order after the Fair !

Our main meeting in November had a change of speaker, as the ranger from Forestry England could not be spared from his duties to give us an update on Jeskyns. However we had instead a lively presentation from a member of the West Kent Badger Group. Our December meeting is traditionally a Christmas luncheon held in the St Mary's Church Room when we have invited members of local WIs to join in the fun.

There is also a more serious side to the proceedings when we vote on the choice of our national campaign to submit to Federation. This year's short-listed resolutions are :

Women to women - turning over a new leaf in the lives of women tea workers.

Clean rivers for people and wildlife.

Save our water - every drop matters.

Online gambling - time for action.

Weekly walks continue at Jeskyns. Our Book Club held at Meopham Library recently attracted another new member who was inspired to join our WI.

We have dates in the diary for visits to live theatre performances at Bluewater Cinema to see The Royal Ballet's "Cinderella" and "The Sleeping Beauty" and also Andre Rieu.

We hope many in our local community will join us for a mirthful celebration CHRISTMAS CAROLS & LIGHTS OF LOVE throughout SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER when we will be joining the Local Funding Group for carols, mulled wine and mince pies at the St Mary's Church Room.

The members of Sole Street Women's Institute wish you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year !

For further info please contact our President, Yvonne 01474 813455

Molly Isaacs

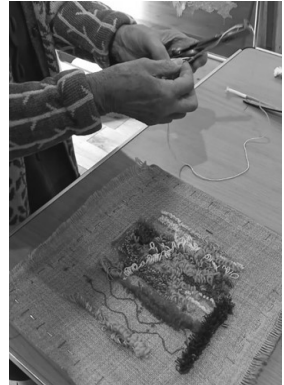
North Kent Embroiderers

This month we were delighted to welcome Diana Springall to talk to our group. Diana lives locally and still works as a designer and maker in her home studio. She was born and grew up in India and has travelled widely since then with her pieces exhibited all over the world. Diana has been chairman of both The Embroiderers' Guild and The Society of Designer-Craftsmen.



She explained how as a child she had so much freedom as she didn't attend school until the age of nine when her family returned to the UK from India. Her mother embroidered but it was a wonderful art teacher who inspired her to follow her dream of a career art. During her time at Goldsmiths in the late 50's, embroidery was regarded as being of equal value to painting, illustration and sculpture and thus her life in Textile Art began.

Diana's story is a fascinating one, with widely varied commissioned works for the Japanese Bank, a Jewish synagogue etc. Her travels have influenced her greatly and her passion for embroidery has led her over the last forty years to develop The Diana Springall Collection <https://dianaspringallcollection.co.uk/> showcasing the works of many well known textile artists including Jean Littlejohn, Alice Kettle and Audrey Walker. Diana's time with us was both entertaining and inspiring. It was an honour and a privilege to hear her talk.



During the meeting, we also discussed the idea of adding another strand to our banner. This time it will be to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Some of our members will be busy planning new ideas to make into stitched squares for another hanging.

If you would like to join our group or would just like to find out a bit more about us then please look at our website northkentembroiderers.co.uk/ or email us at: info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk or contact our Chairman, Eileen Tuff on 01474 324734

Happy stitching, Karen (All links and photographs used with permission.)



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COBHAM & LUDESLOW W.I.



Our November meeting was preceded by an enjoyable ploughman's lunch, made even more scrumptious by some delicious home-made apple crumble, expertly prepared by Elizabeth Haider and June Woodham (and hubby!).

One of our newest members, Jan Dickson, who is an expert crocheter, gave a much appreciated and successful workshop session for ten of our ladies, who were anxious to learn the basics of the craft.

At the meeting itself, our members were invited to show off their crafting skills by making a Christmas card and most were delighted with the result, which turned a piece of white card, some green paper and a few silver stars into a professional-looking "pop-up" greeting card, with the help of some folding, cutting and gluing and some assistance from Anne Latcham, who had very kindly organised the "make" and prepared and supplied the kits. While we were enjoying our tea and cakes, a beautiful floral bouquet, and a birthday card signed by all of our members, were presented to Molly Neville, who celebrated her ninetieth birthday in November. Molly's enthusiasm and special contribution to our W.I. never diminishes.

Most of our "groups" are meeting regularly once more. Our craft group meets twice a month at the National Trust barn and is looking forward to its annual "dabble day" in December with two "mini-makes"; a separate Needlework group meets every two weeks to try out different types of embroidery; the art group, also meets twice a month in each other's houses, and is experimenting with paintings using only two colours; our "Knit and Natter" group is taking orders for knitted and crocheted items for winter and also sending "twiddle muffs" and blankets to Darent Valley hospital; the "Read and Rabbit" book group is now sourcing copies of a book for its members to read and discuss next time; the Lunch Group is growing in popularity and meets once a month; and a small group of ladies meets regularly for "mindfulness" sessions.

Our next meeting, on Wednesday 7th December, will be our annual Festive Tea, where we get together to "eat, drink and be merry", with the help of some home made delicacies and some crackers, silly party hats and even sillier party games.

Jenny Brooker (Secretary)

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allergies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Menopausal symptoms | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anxiety & Depression |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insomnia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Musculoskeletal problems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fertility & IVF support |

THE TUESDAY POP-IN

The December meeting, to be held at the Leather Botte on Tuesday 13 December, will be a **Christmas lunch**. Please contact Mary Palmer (01474 816788) **not later than 6th December** if you would like to come.



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LUDESDOWN SOCIETY
CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 3rd December 2022
in Luddesdown Village Hall

4pm-6pm for Children under-11's (incl. a gift from Santa)

6pm onwards for all ages
£5 per person

£2 under-16 (either or both sessions)
*** Festive Buffet* * Party Games & Music ***

*** Bring Your Own Drink ***

Contact: Jill Escudier or Dave Freeman

Tel 01474 391644



LUDESDOWN SOCIETY

NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

Sunday 1st January 2023
at Luddesdown Village Hall

Walk starts at 11am (Dogs welcome)

Mulled Wine before we set off

Soup & Baked Potatoes when we Return

No charge, but donations at your discretion

Contact: Jill Escudier or Dave Freeman

Tel 01474 391644

**Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street
Church Services during December**

(Please note the various times for services this month)



Sunday 4th December

**10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne
3pm Christingle, Cobham**

Sunday 11th December

10:30am Nine Lessons and Carols, Cobham

Sunday 18th December

**7pm Carols by Candlelight, Luddesdowne
Collection to charities**

Saturday 24th December, Christmas Eve

10pm Holy Communion (BCP), Luddesdowne

Sunday 25th December, Christmas Day

10:30am Christmas Day Communion, Cobham

Midweek services

9:30am 7th Holy Communion in Sole Street church

14th Informal Morning Prayer

(Venue in peoples homes,

phone Pat on 01474 814343 for details)

RIDE & STRIDE

Saturday 10th September dawned bright, sunny and warm, a splendid opening curtain to a day of wonderful cycling in quite glorious countryside yet one touched with poignancy as this was a day of mourning for our past Queen, her gracious majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who had died just two days before the R & S day . The strong constitutional link between State and Church ensured that the event could still take place and hundreds of churches across Kent opened their doors that day for quiet prayer for our past Sovereign but also to allow visitors to sign their books of condolence. I took advantage of this to write in as many books as possible across West Kent on behalf of the Lieutenancy. Each church visit then became quite emotional as one read so many touching memories and the most beautiful of displays that were assembled at each table. I very rarely saw the same photographs of Her Majesty as I travelled from church to church and this year it also gave me an opportunity to see each church with its welcomers in a new light as we shared personal stories and reminiscences of her life and their meetings with her.

I am pleased that the sunny and warm day continued as I cycled on my way to Tunbridge Wells, the generous refreshments and kindly welcomers kept me energised so I was able to cycle briskly back home via Hadlow, Watlingtonbury and West Malling passing another 14 churches on my list to visit. However , time was against me, probably because I was spending extra time in each church this year and so I only managed to visit 56 churches by 6 o'clock and could see the next 4 churches a few miles ahead but these don't count as after 6.00 all the signing in sheets are removed. However I cycled on after West Malling to Cobham, in the dark , but refreshed by a lengthy stay in a local hostelry! I had spent a most inspiring day cycling the most beautiful countryside of the realm. But most importantly from all of this our three places of worship – Luddesdown, Sole Street and Cobham will each benefit from the funds raised through all of your most generous sponsorships. St. Peter & St. Paul church in Luddesdown sponsorship came to £980 , St. Mary Magdalene in Cobham £1095 and St. Mary Church Room £1005. Such an enthusiastic support by these three churches for R & S should encourage them to apply for a grant from the Friends of Kent Churches organisation who support the R&S contributors. Thank you all for your outstanding generosity this year and to all the welcomers for their kindnesses.

Rosemary Dymond .

Please see below an article provided by Shorne members of the Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) Wild About Gardens Volunteers. I hope to be able to bring more articles from them in the near future.

Gardening for a Wilder Kent

Members of the KWT who live nearby were encouraging everyone to enter the “Wild About Gardens” scheme in 2019 and Shorne Churchyard received an award together with a number of outstanding gardens. This is now “Gardening for a Wilder Kent”. YOU can make a difference to the wildlife in Kent.

Our gardens have become a welcome refuge in recent times. If you look carefully you can see everyday changes and the wildlife that visits. You will have seen and heard that we are facing population crashes in species and numbers of animals, plants and insects. We can reverse this together.

Wildlife needs food, water and shelter and gardens are often an untapped potential, providing thousands of hectares of soils with millions of soil improving organisms, miles of ribbons of flowers through our villages for pollinating insects and thousands of nooks and crannies for insects, birds, mammals and reptiles to thrive. Let’s encourage more wild creatures and create vital stepping stones and corridors for wildlife.

The KWT website has lots of advice sheets and information available for you to download.

One of the first things recommended to encourage and sustain wildlife in our gardens is the addition of water. A wildlife pond is different to an ornamental fish pond as a wildlife pond will encourage creatures that may be eaten by ornament fish. If you can’t contemplate a pond you can leave water in various places in your garden such as a birdbath but do not discount a pond. One of KWT Garden Advisors has installed a pond in the front garden. More on this in the weeks to come.



COBHAM HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Harvest Festival service was a joyful occasion with the church and porch beautifully decorated with autumnal flowers and pumpkins by Michele Jackson and Jean Pickering.

The collection raised over £200 for the Poverty and Hope appeal. The fresh produce went to the Ellenor Hospice and a very large quantity of canned and packet foodstuffs were taken to the Foodbank in Gravesend.

Very many thanks to all those who contributed so generously.



“THE VIEW WHERE I AM”

The Exhibition was spectacular and was extremely well attended. Everyone said how good it was to see the village through new eyes!

The ariel photographs, taken by Nigel Haig, and generously lent by Margaret, were complimented by present-day drone photographs, taken by the Hyde family.

Over 200 beautifully mounted postcard sketches were also on display, most of them done by the pupils at Cobham Primary School.

There was also a projected slide show.



A multitude of thanks are due to Kate, Mike and Martha Hyde, who organised the show, along with Sarah, Geraldine, Mary and Jon Pye. All those who made cakes and biscuits and who were on duty and served teas all day, and special thanks to Radu who was kind enough to collect and deliver the display boards, despite being busy with the apple harvest. The Friends of Cobham Church are pleased to announce that £870 was raised for F.O.C.C funds. It was an absolute triumph!

Meopham Library Writing Group meets again on **Thursday 1st December 2022** at 10am until about midday in Meopham Library. Each month, everyone is invited to write a short story, poem or article, using less than 1,000 words, based on a writing theme such as “Bottled”, “Invasion” or “Emergency”. There is also a writing challenge, in which a selection of words as are used in one or two sentences, using as few words as possible. Several times a year, there is a Rolling Story, where everybody contributes 150 words to a story, before passing it on to the next person by email. There are always lots of twists and turns in the plot and unexpected endings!

If you are interested in creative writing, you are very welcome to join our small, friendly group. Some people are beginners, but others are more experienced writers who have already had stories, articles and poems published in magazines or books. Most people enjoy writing about their early memories, which are really appreciated by their family and friends. Writing can also be very therapeutic when facing difficult times.

The following writing group meetings will be on 5th January 2023, 2nd February and 1st March. For more information about the group, please ring **01474 813379** or just turn up at Meopham Library on the first Thursday of each month.

The **1st South Street Boys Brigade and Girls Association Company** meets every Friday at South Street Baptist Church, Wrotham Road, DA13 0QJ, next to Hope Hill Scout Camp, from 6pm until 7.30pm during term time. Boys and girls aged 5-18 years old are very welcome to come and join in the fun, which includes challenges, badge work, team games, craft, cooking and outdoor activities.

The weekly subscription is £2 and the uniform is a blue T-shirt and a blue sweatshirt with badges. The end of term will be on Friday 16th December. For more information, please visit the church website at:

www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk or ring 01474 813379. The national website is at: **www.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK**

The Boys Brigade **Honey Hill Camp Site** in Maidstone has an adventure playground, wooded areas and well equipped camping facilities.

The Boys Brigade **Water Activity Centre** in Tonbridge has canoes, kayaks and stand up paddle boards, with a team of fully qualified leaders supervising the activities. To find out more, please visit the Water Activities Centre website at **www.thewac.org.uk**

BRITAIN IN BLOOM 2022

It was on 13th September following an inspector's visit on 30th June that Cobham village heard they had won the BEST VILLAGE AWARD for the South & South East Britain in Bloom competition .

The story behind all this of course is quite complicated and purposefully involves as many as possible in the community. The village is grateful to the Parish Council who paid the £50 entry fee for the competition, then it is up to the villagers to fund, prepare and look after the village throughout the year. Fortunately we have a back-up in the form of our own local competition called the, FRONT OF HOUSE. For several years Cobham has run this competition that focuses on floral displays and colourful front gardens, those houses that abut the roadside focus on using hanging baskets or flower troughs, whereas others with small front gardens decorate borders and arrange colourful arrangements in all sorts of containers. The competition starts in April and continues through to October but it is open to the whole community therefore the pubs enter as well as the Community shop, the station, village halls and the Almshouse. Judging takes place in July when an R.H.S. qualified judge visits the Parish and awards points for the display presented by the competitors. This year there was quite a focus on recycling with magnificent displays on bicycles, wheelbarrows and greengrocers carts to name just a few! Trophies, certificates and vouchers are given as prizes and free membership of course to Cobham Gardeners Club who award the recipients at their Autumn Show.

This local competition helps to make visitors and speeding through traffic aware that this is a working village where people live and care for the place in which they live. We hope that by doing so that motorists and cyclists don't just use it as a "rat run" but slow down to admire the prettiest of Kent villages. Therefore to enhance the Parish more there are colourful flower troughs along the paths between the pillars, on the chicanes and edges of roads, in front of the station, pubs and shops. This year, following the national example the grassy banks were seeded with wild flowers that gave a brilliant show throughout the summer. Now of course you can see the results of our GREEN CANOPY with all three cherry trees in full bloom on the banks.

The Britain in Bloom inspectors, apart from overall impression, look for maintenance of planted areas and the quality of plants (most of ours were donations from villagers). They focus on the pride taken in the Parish as to environmental management, cleanliness, litter control and general maintenance of grass areas, signage and display boards.

Cont'd on page 22

We were asked to minimize our use of plastic and in Cobham's case the forty homemade wooden troughs (incidentally made by a resident of Cobham College) were much admired and earned us extra points, so thank you Olly.

So what did the inspectors say as they awarded us the trophy and the title of BEST VILLAGE IN THE S.&S.E REGION ?

"Clearly there is evidence of commitment, enthusiasm and pride shown by the residents and volunteers. A small village with a boundless wealth of history, knowledge, energy and colourful with amenities many towns and villages would be envious of. Frequent visitors come and go, walkers and cyclists obviously enjoy the splendour a village can give. Views are endless to the eye, coupled with colourful displays greets the visitor to this beautiful place."

S.&S.E. in BLOOM involves the counties of Kent, Surrey, East and West Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of White, East and North Dorset and East Wiltshire. The competition is not so much about the blooms but more how the community care for their environment and the place where they live. The Britain in Bloom Competition is a gardening competition and is a powerful tool for building communities and tackling local issues together. It inspires community groups in towns, cities and villages to make positive changes to their local environment through the horticultural, environmental and community action.. The competition is run by the Royal Horticultural Society and is the biggest volunteer competition in the world. The competition is run in areas, Cobham is a member of the South and South East region.

Luddesdown & District Rights of Way Group.

We are a small friendly group that usually walks from The Cock Inn, Henley Street, Luddesdown, Gravesend DA13 0XB, at 11am on Wednesdays. We walk at a gentle pace for some 90 minutes in beautiful countryside. Occasionally we lead weekend walks.

With four Socials a year in Luddesdown Village Hall and a twice yearly Newsletter, we would be delighted if you joined us for a walk or two. Becoming a member costs £7 per person a year.

Please contact Walks Co-ordinator Janet Ferguson, preferably by email janetferguson@hotmail.fr. Or Chairman Gerry Minister on 01474 813 376.



Cobham Gardeners' Society

December—Winter frost

As we approach the shortest day of the year in December you will need work to keep you warm outside, such as digging and tree pruning. Check your winter protection and if you have a greenhouse make sure the heater is working. Hopefully there are not too many jobs left to do this year so you will have time for some fireside garden planning.

Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Check your winter protection structures are still securely in place
- 2 Check that greenhouse heaters are working
- 3 Insulate outdoor taps and prevent ponds from freezing
- 4 Prune open-grown apples and pears (not those trained against walls)
- 5 Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding
- 6 Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts, root crops
- 7 Deciduous trees and shrubs can still be planted and transplanted
- 8 Take hardwood cuttings
- 9 Keep mice away from stored produce
- 10 Reduce watering of houseplants

On Wednesday 7th December at 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm the Society will combine it's AGM, Annual Prize Giving, with a Christmas Get-Together, a celebration of the achievements of our worthy cup & trophy winners. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members. Why not be our guest and take the opportunity of finding out what the Society offers over a glass of wine and some festive nibbles!

Looking for ideas for the Christmas Stocking? Why not give 2023 membership of Cobham Gardeners - a year of fun for a very reasonable £8! For a membership application form email Cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk
For more information on Cobham Gardeners' Society email cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01474-363315

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COBHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2022

There will not be a public meeting
in December

LUDESLOW PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 22/23

16 January 23 Full Council Mtg.

Ludeslow Village Hall at 7.30pm

20 March 23 Annual Parish Mtg.

Ludeslow Village Hall at 7.30pm

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Colour in one star a day as you countdown to Christmas

"I bring you **good news** that will bring great **joy** to all people. The **Saviour** has been born today! ...
 Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased".
from Luke 2 vs. 10,11,14

CHRISTMAS

B A B Y T H O L Y J U D E A R T H
 B J P E A C E S O N O F L O C K P U S
 R O F I E L D E G A S H E P H E R D S
 I Y O N B O R N O Z E G M A R Y A A A
 N M R N A T O Z O A P A A L I R I V V
 G O D S C H I L D R H L N A S O S I I
 L J E S U S H O N E L I G H T O E D O
 O G U A R D I B E T H L E H E M Z S U
 R S L S H E E P W H Y E R L O R D O R
 Y N N A N G E L S B H E A V E N A M E

MARY • JOSEPH • NAZARETH • GALILEE • JUDEA • BETHLEHEM • DAVID
 HOLY • CHILD • BABY • SON • NAME • JESUS • MANGER • ROOM • INN
 SHEPHERDS • FIELD • GUARD • FLOCK • SHEEP • ANGELS • SHONE • BRING
 GOOD NEWS • JOY • SAVIOUR • BORN • CHRIST • LORD • LIGHT
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J	I	H	J	T	N	S	E	N	A	B	N
O	E	N	G	H	I	S	W	E	M	E	A
D	K	S	R	O	G	L	H	K	E	A	I
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C	P	R	I	S	O	N	E	R	S	T	E
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H	N	F	E	N	S	E	E	N	A	R	T
S	G	M	O	D	E	E	R	F	H	A	A
R	U	O	V	A	F	S	E	H	S	A	F
E	R	C	D	S	B	E	S	T	O	W	M

Christmas is nearly here! Two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on his people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

Messiah Broken Heart Freedom Darkness Favour Prisoners
 Comfort Mourn Bestow Crown Beauty Ashes Son God Jesus
 Seen Father Whoever longing thousand



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