



Cobham & Luddesdowne
News *Christmas 2024*

PARISH of COBHAM with LUDESLOWNE and DODE

Priest-in-Charge – The Rev'd Canon Alyson Davie

Phone no. 01474-812068 email:- alyson@stjohnsmeopham.co.uk
(Rest Day: Friday)

Associate Priest – The Rev'd Pam Davies

For Wedding, Baptism and Funeral enquiries and all other enquiries please contact Pam.

The Vicarage, Battle Street, Cobham, Kent. DA12 3DB

Phone no 01474-394515 email:- rev.pamdavies@sky.com (NB new number)

(Current work days are Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday)

Pastoral assistant- Janet Weaver, 36 Highview, Vigo Village, DA13 0RR
(01732) 823936

Church Safeguarding Officer - Hilary Savage - (01634) 723027

Church Office Phone no. 01474 813495

Church Officers of St. Mary Magdalene, Cobham

Lay Chair	Hilary Savage	
Churchwarden	Hilary Savage	(01634) 723027
PCC Secretary	Ron Chamberlain	(01474) 814250
Treasurer	Jeffrey Julie-Rusz	07946 249021
Deanery Synod	Hilary Savage	

Church Officers St Peter and St. Paul, Luddesdowne

Lay Chair	Sue Campbell	
Treasurer	Janet Weaver	(01732) 823936

Parochial Church Council Members

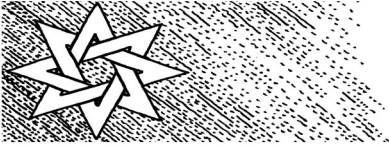
Cobham	Luddesdowne
Peter Balanck	Diana Bampton
Ron Chamberlain	Jill Beety
David Palmer	Sue Campbell
Lynn Ruddock	Janet Weaver

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 editorialcln@gmail.com

Cover photograph Adrian Whiteing -

Printed by Wested Logistics Limited 01474 361615
sales@westedpress.com



December 2024

Well it is Christmas time again, I am certain it comes round quicker every year!

It is at this time of year I like to mention the many volunteers in our parishes, the people who help with the magazine; providing content, photographs, proof reading, ensuring distribution and a special mention of the volunteers who deliver the magazine; risking their fingertips as they post it through the many 'snapping' letterboxes. Additionally, there are numerous people who give up their time to raise funds for the churches and halls by putting on events for the community and keeping the many clubs and societies ticking over. Let's not forget the Parish Councillors and the volunteers who look after the memorial green and all the flower boxes. -Thank you all.

Many Christmas events can be found in the pages of December's magazine with performances from Cobham Choir (p.36) and the Gravesham Choral Society (p.16). The Luddesdown Christmas Party (p.32) New Year's Day walk (p.24) and a Christmas Celebration at the Thursday Fellowship meeting (p.15).

Have a good Christmas and best wishes for 2024. *Tina*



If you are interested in subscribing to receive a copy of the Cobham and Luddesdown News each month, please email me. Alternatively, you can always pick up a copy of the magazine for just £1 at the Cobham Store or the Little Shop. Sole Street.





A letter from the Vicar—Rev'd Pam Davies

Dear friends,

Has anyone asked you if you are ready for Christmas yet? If not, they probably will soon. It's one of those questions that people ask at this time of year. We perhaps ask the question ourselves. It's the sort of question that's often asked when someone isn't quite sure what to say. It's a kind of conversation gap filler. But what does the question really mean?

Probably even the people who are asking the question don't really know what they mean. It could be a question about shopping for gifts, it could be a question about buying in food for Christmas Day, Boxing Day or some other family get together, it could be a question about decorating the house for Christmas – inside or outside, it could be a question about getting cards written and posted. It's probably generally meant to be a question that's a little about all of these things.

But as we think about Advent and preparing for Christmas, what would we understand the question 'Are you ready for Christmas?' to mean? What should we understand the question to mean? Well, I think that in Advent we are supposed to be thinking about being 'ready' for two different things.

Firstly, we should be preparing ourselves for Christmas. I think that this means thinking about our relationship with God, thinking about our need for a Saviour, thinking about God's love for us and his gift to us, thinking about who Jesus is and what he means to us. Maybe being ready for Christmas is about our recognition of our separation from God without Jesus and a willingness to accept him once again, to welcome him into our lives once again and to worship him once again.

Secondly, we should be thinking about, and preparing ourselves for, Christ's Second Coming. Our word Advent is derived from the Latin word *Adventus*, which is a translation of the Greek word *Parousia* which refers to the Second Coming. So how can we prepare ourselves for Christ's second coming?

Cont'd on Page 5

Well, part of this would probably be in the same way that we might prepare for Christmas – thinking about our relationship with God, thinking about our need for a Saviour, thinking about God’s love for us and his gift to us, thinking about who Jesus is and what he means to us; but also, I think it means trying to live lives that are worthy of disciples, followers of Christ. We will never really achieve this, but we should be thinking about what this means and we should be trying. I hope that you are not overwhelmed by Christmas preparations. I hope that you have a good Advent. I hope that the next time someone says to you ‘Are you ready for Christmas?’ you think a bit about being ready to welcome Jesus, both in terms of this season and in terms of our relationship with him on into eternity.

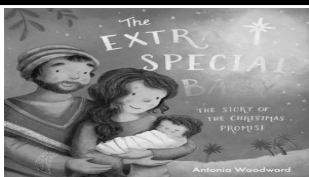
So as Christmas approaches yet again, we at Cobham, Luddesdowne, Meopham and Nurstead churches will be retelling the story of Jesus' birth in our Christingle, Carol, and Crib services and other services. The story takes us beyond the baby Jesus to remind us how desperately we need God and how extravagantly God loves this world.

Do join us as we rejoice at Jesus' birth and embrace him in our lives as the most wonderful and life changing gift that one can ever receive. Jesus is a free gift from God but it will take you until eternity to unwrap its treasures.

May God bless you and your family this Christmas and in 2025.

Your friend

Rev Pam



The Extra Special Baby - Story of the Christmas Promise
By Antonia Woodward, SPCK, £10.99

A long time ago, a long way away, some very clever men discovered an exciting promise! For in Bethlehem one night, under the quiet starry sky, an Extra Special Baby was born.

This beautiful retelling of the Nativity story will take children back to the excitement of that very first Christmas night, when life on earth would change forever. A helpful picture book to share with a child at bedtime, or with a group of children during the Christmas season.



FRIENDS OF COBHAM CHURCH



Q: How much was raised at the quiz-night on 2 November?

A: £515!!!

Huge thanks to everyone who supported us

**The Friends are in urgent need of new members.
Please contact Jon Pye (pyejonathan46@gmail.com)
or Mary Palmer (amarypalmer@aol.com)
if you are interested and would like further information.**



THE TUESDAY POP-IN



There will be no Tuesday Pop-in in December.

Instead there will be a Christmas lunch
on Thursday 12 December.

If you would like to attend this session
please contact Mary Palmer (01474 816788)

not later than 3 December

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 . Ian Sheridan, Acting Chairman, 07951 927 517

SOLE STREET WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Sole Street WI members would like to thank all of you who attended our "Pre-Loved Sale" on 9th November in the Meadow Rooms helping us to raise money for new curtains in the renovated St Mary's Church Room. The fund raising is ongoing with the sale of donated items via "Minted & Vinted". Our next venture to increase our fund for the curtains will be:

SOLE STREET WI CRAFT SALE SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER at ST JOHN'S CENTRE MEOPHAM 10 AM - 2PM

When we will be exhibiting hand-crafted Christmas lamp bottles (trending again this year) Christmas tree decorations created in white clay, hand-painted glass & garden pots and much, much more.

Our main November meeting had an historical local connection "Some Great Women of Gravesend" - an illustrated talk by Christophe Bull. Many of you may have heard Christophe speak and know him for his official guides of Cobham Hall and gardens, also Municipal Mace Bearer for Gravesham Borough Council.

In December it is our tradition to hold a Christmas Lunch in the St Mary's Church Room - think not Jam and Jerusalem but raised pies, frozen bowls of glazed king prawns, Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall style blueberry muffins and every good thing! This year, as our dear "Tin Tabernacle" is being renovated, we will be celebrating in South Street Baptist Church and inviting neighbouring WIs to join us.

Our Walking Group continues throughout the winter, meeting up every Tuesday for some invigorating exercise and perhaps a draught of hot chocolate in our community cafes. Future Craft Group meetings to be advised.

Sole Street Women's Institute members wish you all a Happy Christmas !
For further information on all our activities please telephone our president, Yvonne tel 01474 813455.
Molly Isaacs

Complete *Family* **Law**

Complete Family Law Ltd is a modern and innovative law firm based in north Kent. We can offer appointments at our offices, via remote methods including Zoom or telephone, with home visits also available.

With our friendly team of expert Solicitors and Legal Executives, Complete Family Law can assist with:

- **Divorce**
- **Wills and Probate**
- **Financial Applications**
- **Children Issues and Applications**
- **Disputes between unmarried couples**
- **Family Law Act Applications (Injunctions)**
- **Disputes within the wider family**
- **Lasting Powers of Attorney**

**0330 223 2016 (Brasted & Cobham)
0330 223 2018 (Otford)**

**info@completefamilylawltd.co.uk
www.completefamilylawltd.co.uk**



BELL RINGING by Peter Hartley



The Old Rectory and The Old Vicarage, from behind their gates, gaze across churchyards and for now the churches and their bells remain while the clergy proclaim the faith. In Oxfordshire at Wigginton the church dates from 1250 and stands on the site of a Roman temple and villa. The 1753 ring of 6 bells were rehung in 1998 on a new steel frame fitted below an historic wooden frame which had to remain. Today ringers climb the tower stone spiral stair and then descend the eight foot metal loft ladder to the lowered ringing room floor. Well done the local ringers in this elevated dungeon ringing a Coronation quarter peal in 2023 while today the Reverend Janet tends the flame in her four parishes.

At St. Kenelm's Church, Enstone the church guide describes a building from around 850A.D. with 13 centuries of history and 9 eras of building, rebuilding and changes. Legends about the murdered Saxon child King Kenelm abound and the 2018 striking mosaic reredos by Nicholas Mynheer links the lives of Christ and Kenelm. While we rang the six 1831 bells a Lady was arranging bucketfuls of flowers for a big Saturday Wedding and the Parochial Church Council leaflet stressed a monthly deficit of £1,108 which must be addressed.

The Ministry Team of 3 clergy look after the 7 parishes in the Cherwell Valley Benefice and we rang at Somerton. There were many memorials to the Fermor family who remained quietly Catholic through the religious upheavals of the 16th and 17th centuries. Today bats are happy in the church and with long ropes we rang the bells from the ground floor.

Finally, to Steeple Aston where they are awaiting a new Rector for their 3 parish Benefice. The famed Steeple Aston Cope (1310 – 1340) is now cared for at the Victoria and Albert Museum. In the Lady Chapel the monument to the haughty Georgian Sir Francis Page, 'the hanging judge', with his reclining relict Lady Page, died 1730, looks down on the tables for today's after Service coffee. Up in the tower gallery we rang the 8 bells. The obviously able band had a silver cup for their ringing. In May 2023 they had rung a 3 hour peal on the eve of the Coronation, had general ringing on Coronation Day, and rang a quarter peal the next day for the Sunday service. As at Cobham very many countrywide rang for crowned King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

The glorious Church of England churches endure and their bells remain. Congregations and ringers fade and need to be renewed. Meanwhile the Warwickshire River Avon and the Oxfordshire River Cherwell flow on.
Happy Christmas.

REMEMBER THEM

Over 80 villagers and friends gathered on the Memorial Green in Cobham on Sunday 10th November to remember the fallen of our village. Many of the gathered were relatives of the men and women whose names were read out from the memorials engravings, the poignancy of that reminder was felt by all who attended the service .Two sixth form students from Cobham Hall read John McCrae's poem In Flanders Fields "If ye break faith with us who die we shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders fields ". Two young brothers from Cobham Primary School then read a quite emotional poem written by a nine year old " I am only a child and it's hard to explain the feelings I have as I sit in the rain and think of the men who went off to war knowing they would not come home anymore"

Thank you children and students for reading with such earnestness and empathy. The sun continued to shine in the still Autumn air, the startlingly bright coloured trees and the magnificent view across the Downs that faced the memorial cross painted a very different landscape to that endured by the fallen. As the bugler played the Last Post copper leaves fell silently on the heads bowed below and all reflected on the names of those in our village who never came back. The Chairman of Cobham Parish Council brought the service to an end by thanking everyone for their attendance and thanked especially the team of cyclists who dressed in RBL cycling shirts had arrived breathlessly just before the service started having valiantly cycled strenuously up Cobhambury road, in fact they have always attended this occasion with their bikes and their presence was very much appreciated. Rosemary Dymond

Quotes—For anyone with relatives coming to stay this Christmas...

- An hour with your grandchildren can make you feel young again. Anything longer than that, and you start to age quickly. - Gene Perret
- The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. - Anon
- Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents for a minute and look around. - Anon

Prestige Property Maintenance

Old fashioned standards of customer service and a high quality craftsman finish to all work undertaken

- Repairs and renovations, internal and external
- Painting, decorating and tiling
- Shelving and cupboards made to measure
- Furniture and fitted kitchen repairs and restorations
- Gardening, fencing, paths and patios

No job too small – References available on request



Contact Kevin by telephone or email to arrange a visit to discuss your requirements

Telephone: 07765 405641 Email: prestigemaintenance@outlook.com

THE MEADOW ROOM COBHAM AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

Hire rates start at £36.50 for a session

Contact us or visit the website for full details

Discount for parish residents

For bookings, call
07460242304

Or email

bookings@meadowroom.org.uk

www.meadowroom.org.uk

Registered Charity No 228007

LUDESDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings will be held at 7.30pm on Monday

Annual Parish Meeting on 17th March 2025 and the Annual Meeting on Monday 19th May 2025

All meetings will be taking place at Luddesdown Village Hall.

COBHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

7.30pm on 3rd December at the Meadow Rooms



Lewis Solomon

Funeral Service



The oldest independently owned and family run funeral directors in Gravesend and surrounding towns

Especially for the first time, any time of the day or night you can talk to us
We will attend to everything, we can provide for all of your requirements
We have a private chapel of rest and can provide a fleet of Hearses and Limousines to compliment a dignified occasion

19 DARNLEY ROAD, GRAVESEND, KENT, DA11 0RZ

*24 hour personal service
parking available on site
bespoke funeral plans*

01474 352261

Email: office@lewissolomon.co.uk

www.lewissolomon.co.uk



GULLANDS

SOLICITORS

Agricultural and Farming Law

Farm Sales and Purchases

Conveyancing

Divorce and Family

Employment Law

Wills, Estates and Tax Planning

Accident Claims

Medical Negligence

Criminal Law

Road Traffic Offences

Commercial Property

Construction Law

Landlord and Tenant

Dispute Resolution

Company and Commercial Law

Health & Safety Prosecutions

Business Defence

Licensing

Notarial Services

info@gullands.com www.gullands.com



Whitehall Place | 47 The Terrace | Gravesend | Kent | DA12 2DL | 01474 887688

16 Mill Street | Maidstone | Kent | ME15 6XT | 01622 689700

RIDE & STRIDE 2024

Thank you all for your sponsorship and support this year which spurred me on my way to cycle across west Kent in search of 60 churches to achieve my target for you all .What a beautiful day it was too with warm sunshine and blue skies. I couldn't believe my luck and that for Kent churches, as far more participators than ever took to the roads and paths across Kent to visit churches across the county. It seems that local teams of cyclists and walkers adopted their local churches to visit as there were far more visitors to the 10 Gravesend churches and the villagers around, even in some cases having to walk or cycle the Downs across Cobham and Luddesdowne. St. Peter & St. Paul church at Luddesdowne had its greatest number of visitors ever with 13 visitors all making the steep climb to the church and being greeted by Jill, Ron, Diana, Sue and Anne at the church door . Thank you to Mary and her team who kept Cobham church continually open to its 10 visitors.

As for ,me I managed only 53 churches and learnt a lesson to service my bike in future before embarking as my lower gears failed miserably forcing me to walk or scoot up the hills , mind you it was exhilarating with the high gears sailing downhill ! However no excuses for it was as ever a most enjoyable ride through the beautiful Kent countryside, tiny country lanes that so easily reminded me of the true "Garden of England".

What is it that makes the day so special to all the participators? Quite simply it is the special welcome one receives at each open church and the opportunity to walk inside and admire the architecture of our very special ancient buildings rarely visited by those outside the area. One of many churches I went to were in the middle of nowhere but manned by one person from the congregation who had arranged church music played throughout the day, had candles lit and enough cakes to feed an army and excitedly told me all about their church, what a joy! I can assure you that such a welcome is truly appreciated so thank you to the teams at Cobham and Luddesdowne who gave their time to sit in the church as welcomers. Here then is the result of all this effort and your sponsorship, thank you so much.

Cobham	£747	£144 Gift Aid	10 visitors	Total + GA = £891
Sole Street	£635	£138 Gift Aid	11 visitors	Total + GA = £773
Luddesdowne	£770	£150 Gift Aid	13 visitors	Total + GA = £920

Rosemary Dymond

  @kmjacupuncture



ACUPUNCTURE

ELECTRO-ACUPUNCTURE

CUPPING

GUA SHA

www.kmjacupuncture.com

kate@kmjacupuncture.com

01474 612 057

Station Approach, Wrotham Road,
Meopham, DA13 0HP

A modern approach to health using
ancient wisdom and healing



British
Acupuncture
Council Member

professional
standards
authority
accredited register

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sciatica | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General fatigue | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Muscle aches & pains |
| <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 |



Professional Domestic Cleaning Services

Are you a busy mum?

Working long hours?

Just need extra help?

Give us a call for reliable

DBS checked staff and

fully insured service!

07545 455742

sophie@capablecleaners.co.uk

www.capablecleaners.co.uk

LUDESDOWN VILLAGE HALL

The hire charges are as follows:
from £40 per session (please visit
our website for full details)

**Concessions for
parishioners
and members of
LUDESDOWN SOCIETY**

For bookings and enquiries please
contact:

Colin Dickens 07460 242304 or
email lvhbooking@gmail.com

Sunday Afternoon Club at the St John's Centre, Meopham September- December 2024

3.00pm on Sunday Afternoons: Songs and Stories,
Prayers and Games, Activities and Food!
For Children up to age12 and their adults.

**8 September: Sharing
God's blessings at
harvest time**



**10 November:
Making sacrifices
(4.00pm start)**



**13 October: Four
fishermen, the first
disciples**



**8 December:
Following the star to
Bethlehem**



For further information contact Jill on 01474
813632 or Jan on 01732 823753

Thursday Fellowship.

Our meeting in December is on Thursday 19th at 2.00.p.m. In the St. John's Centre. We celebrate Christmas together. You are welcome to bring readings, poems, a short quiz, some seasonal 'funnies' a CD, and we will sing members' choice of carols in between. There will be a festive Tea to end with. It always seems to work and it's different each year! Everyone is very welcome.



GRAVESHAM CHORAL SOCIETY INVITE YOU TO



A Christmas Celebration

Featuring
Carol of the Bells
In dulci jubilo
O Holy Night

And a chance to join in with some well-known carols

Followed by wine and mince pies

8pm, Wednesday 18th December 2024
in St George's Church, Gravesend

conducted by Matthew Watts
accompanied by Francesca Massey

Tickets from
www.graveshamcs.co.uk

£12 adults (£13 on the door)
£5 under 18's (£6 on the door)

Registered charity no. 278822

Meopham Library Writing Group meets again on **Thursday 5th December** from **10am** until noon. The following meetings will be held on 2nd January, 6th February and 6th March.

Each month there is a different writing theme such as “Confession”, which can be used as a starting point for a poem, short story or an article. There is also a writing challenge, which involves trying to include seven or eight key words, chosen by group members, in short sentences, using as few words as possible.

Creative writing is a very enjoyable activity, which can also be used to record special family memories and it can be therapeutic for people who have been bereaved, or who are facing difficult times. If you are interested in writing short stories, poetry or articles, you are warmly invited to join our small, friendly group. Beginners and more experienced writers are equally welcome to come to meetings. Please ring 01474 813379 for more information, or just turn up at Meopham Library on 5th December.

1st SOUTH STREET BOYS BRIGADE and GIRLS ASSOCIATION COMPANY

The 1st South Street BBGA Company meets every **Friday evening** during term time **6pm-7.30pm** at **South Street Baptist Church**, Wrotham Road, Meopham, DA13 0QJ (*next to Hope Hill*).

The end of term is on 13th December and BBGA meets again in the New Year on 10th January 2025. Boys and girls aged 5-18 years old are invited to join us for team games and challenges, art, craft, cooking, nature activities and Bible stories. The weekly subscription is £2.

The young people have opportunities for kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding at the Boys Brigade Water Activities Centre in Tonbridge as well as summer camps at the Honey Hill Boys Brigade Campsite in Maidstone. Please visit: www.BOYS-BRIGADE.org.uk for more information about the Boys Brigade and Girls Association.

SOUTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday morning services during Advent all begin at **10.45am** and finish at about midday. The Carols by Candlelight Family Service is on 15th December at 5pm, followed by mince pies and tea or coffee. All are very welcome to join us.

SONG TIME meets every **Monday** morning **9.45am-11am** during term time for families with babies and toddlers. There are lots of different toys, craft activities, musical instruments, singing and refreshments. Family admission is £1.

Please visit www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk or ring 01474 815039 for more information about all the activities at South Street Baptist Church.

Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street

Church Services during December

(Please note the various times for services this month, do come and join us)



Sunday 1st December

10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne
4pm Christingle, Cobham

Sunday 8th December

10:30am Holy Communion (BCP), Cobham

Sunday 15th December

10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne
4pm Nine Lessons and Carols, Cobham

Sunday 22nd December

10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham
4pm Carols by Candlelight, Luddesdowne

24th December – Christmas Eve

4pm Crib Service, Cobham
10pm Holy Communion (BCP), Luddesdowne

25th December – Christmas Day

10:30am Christmas Day Communion, Cobham

29th December

10:30am Holy Communion, St John's Meopham, Joint Service

Midweek services in Sole Street

At The Railway Inn, in the Restaurant area.

9:30am 4th Holy Communion

Informal Morning Prayer

11th and 18th December

St John's Meopham with St Mildred's Nurstead
Church Services December 2024



- Sunday 1st Dec 9.45am Morning Worship for Advent at St John's
 11.30am Holy Communion at St Mildred's
- Wednesday 4th Dec 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre
- Sunday 8th Dec 9.45am Holy Communion at St John's
 11.30am Mattins at St Mildred's
 3.00pm Sunday Afternoon Club at St John's
- Wednesday 11th Dec 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre
- Sunday 15th Dec 9.45am Morning Worship at St John's Church
 11.15am Churches Prayer Mtg at St John's Centre
- Wednesday 18th Dec 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre
 4.30pm Carols on Meopham Green
- Sunday 22nd Dec 11.30am Christmas Carols at St Mildred's
 4.00pm Carols by Candlelight at St John's
- Christmas Eve 4.00pm Crib Service at St John's
Tuesday 24th Dec 11.00pm Joint Holy Communion at St John's
- Christmas Day
Wednesday 25th Dec 9.45am Joint Family Worship for Christmas
 at St John's.
- Sunday 29th Dec 10.30am Holy Communion at St John's
 for all four churches.



THE LFG'24 COFFEE MORNING
ON 9 TH JANUARY, 2025 IS
IN AID OF PARKINSONS UK
TO BE HELD FROM 10.30 – 12.30
AT SOLE STREET HOUSE

CAKE STALL, BRING AND BUY AND RAFFLE
ENTRY £3.00 – CASH ONLY EVENT

CHIROPODIST

HOME VISITING SERVICE

FOOT CARE AND ADVICE

IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME

HCPC registered chiropodist/podiatrist with over 20
years' experience

Anna Mapp MSSCh MBChA

01474 812494 or 07977 465452

anna.mapp773@gmail.com



HEDGE & FENCING SPECIALIST

ESTABLISHED FOR 20 YEARS

- ALL HEDGES AND SHRUBS TRIMMED, REDUCED AND REMOVED
- STUMP GRINDING SERVICE
- ALL STYLES OF FENCING SUPPLIED AND INSTALLED
- SLEEPERS AND DECKING SUPPLIED AND INSTALLED
- ALL STYLES OF GATES SUPPLIED AND INSTALLED

CALL MATTHEW ON:

07796 416607

OR 01732 822467 EMAIL: mhlgardencare@yahoo.co.uk

**FULL PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE,
FREE ESTIMATES & REGISTERED
WASTE CARRIER**



TREE STUMP REMOVAL SERVICES

- FULLY INSURED
- REGISTERED WASTE CARRIER
- FREE ESTIMATES

CALL MATTHEW ON:

07796 416607

OR 01732 822467

OR EMAIL:

mhlgardencare@yahoo.co.uk



COBHAM & LUDESDOWN W.I.

October and November in our W.I. are what one might call our 'arty crafty' months. In October, following a hearty ploughman's lunch, our members embarked on their annual 'make', which this year was a Christmas card, which involved the careful folding of a paper doily to form a Christmas tree, attached to a gold foil background. It sounds simple but it involved some further additions to add more detail. They were a bit fiddly to handle but the results were fantastic and along with some laughter and the usual delightful conversation over a cup of tea and cake, helped to raise our spirits in the midst of a troubled world, with winter just around the corner. Thanks were given to Anne Latcham, whose idea it was and who provided all the materials and instructions.

Our November meeting was our annual Autumn Show, where our members have the opportunity to show everyone their art and craft skills and we are able to see what they have been making throughout the past year. The craft judge was extremely impressed with the work and awarded her 'Judge's Choice' to Liz Hulf for her beautifully tailored silk-lined coat. Liz also went on to win the Dorothy Kemp trophy for most points overall. One wall of the Meadow Room was covered with paintings and our members were asked to choose their favourite, which was Anne Latcham's beautiful painting of a parrot and Anne was awarded the Irene Brierly trophy. Molly Neville's colourful and artistic photo of fans came first in the photographic competition with the subject 'something that opens and closes'. Our president Jan Dickson won the painted card competition.

We are all looking forward to our 'Festive Tea' on Wednesday 4th December, when we can indulge in some calorie-laden festive fare and some delightful singing from the choir of Cobham Primary School.



CELLAR DOOR

Experience the welcoming atmosphere of the Silverhand Estate Cellar Door, where every visit reveals the unique stories behind our exceptional wines.

Wednesday - Sunday
11:00 - 18:00

Friday
11:00 - 21:00

Silverhand Estate Cellar Door, Luddesdown Rd,
Luddesdown, Gravesend, DA13 0XE



THE SEASON OF
SPARKLING

+44 (0)330 122 5290

 silverhandestate

 silverhandestate

silverhandestate.com



new chef NEW MENU

Restaurant Hours

Wednesday - Saturday | 12-3PM | 6-10PM

The Lion, Luddesdown Rd, Luddesdown,
Gravesend DA13 0XE

BOOK NOW

+44 (0)330 122 5290

 thelionluddesdown

 The Lion Luddesdown

thelionluddesdown.com

LUDESDOWN SOCIETY

New Year's Day Walk

11am

Free Event

Luddesdown Village Hall

Mulled Wine on Arrival @ 10.30am

Soup & Jacket Potato on Return

Dogs Welcome

IT Solutions Kent Ltd

IT Support –

CCTV - Networking

0333 050 2446

support@itsk.co.uk

COBHAM TREE SURGERY

All aspects of work undertaken

Tall & Dangerous Trees

Hedge trimming

£5 million Public liability insurance

Most waste organically recycled

Call for a free quotation:

07789261474

Stuart@cobhamtreesurgery.co.uk

WWW.COBHAMTREESURGERY.CO.UK

KCC TRADING STANDARDS APPROVED

Our last talk for the year was by Silverhand's tourism manager Jamie Hughes, who gave a very entertaining and informative talk about why this area is great for vineyards and all that Silverhand do for the environment. We finished the evening with sampling a selection of their wines. For more information see <https://silverhandestate.com/>

On Wednesday 11th December at 6.30 pm for 7 pm the Society will combine its AGM, Annual Prize Giving, with a Christmas Get-Together, a celebration of the achievements of our worthy cup & trophy winners. If you are interested in joining why not come along and take the opportunity of finding out what the Society offers over a glass of wine and some festive nibbles! The AGM doesn't take long, we quickly move onto the festive nibbles and wine!

At the AGM our 2025 schedule will be available giving full details of our shows and talks for 2025, plus details of a society coach trip to RHS Hyde Hall.

December Winter frost

As we approach the shortest day of the year in December you will need work hard to keep 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 against walls)
- 5 Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding
- 6 Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts and 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

Looking for ideas for the Christmas Stocking? Why not give 2025 membership of Cobham Gardeners - a year of fun for a very reasonable £10! For a membership application form email cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk For more information on Cobham Gardeners' Society email cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk or phone 07770-985965

Consilio

Partnership

Garden Design - gardens tailored to your needs

Landscaping - full landscaping service

Garden Maintenance - regular visits to one off tidy-ups

Consilio offer a comprehensive range of garden services through our team of fully qualified & experienced professionals.

Landscaping Services include:
driveways-patios-fencing-decking-
water features-planting-turfing-etc.

Please contact us with your enquiry or ask a member of staff

01474 247 077

07311 381858

enq@consiliopartnership.com
www.consiliopartnership.com

North Kent Embroiderers

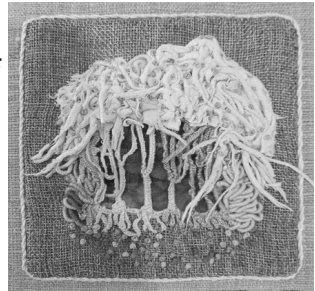


Hello Everyone,

Some of our group recently took part in a day school run by Roz and Judy, two sisters who can be found at Felterswww.woollyfelters.com

The class was an introduction to the art of needle felting and by the end of the day our members had produced the adorable little bears that you can see here. Despite a certain amount of finger pricking, everyone had a very enjoyable time.

A different kind of technique was described by Christine Seymour-Godwin who came to talk to us about the art of needle weaving with a painted silk background. Christine told us how as a child she had been fascinated by watching her grandmother darning, stitching backwards and forwards and then weaving up and down to mend a worn hole in a garment.



She said that this memory together with her love of trees had led her to her current embroidery style. Christine explained how she cuts the weft (left to right) threads of a piece of fabric, usually linen, scrim or hessian and draws them back to leave a gap in the fabric with only the warp (top to bottom) threads remaining intact. She then uses a variety of different wools, silks and other fibres to embroider highly textured scenes of trees and woodland.

The finished pieces are beautiful in themselves but they are usually backed by a piece of silk fabric which Christine has painted and as you can see here, the finished result is stunning.



If you would like to join our group or would just like to find out a bit more about us then please pay us a visit - look at our website

<https://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/>

or email us at: info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk

or contact our Chairman, Eileen on 01474 324734

Happy stitching, Karen All photos with permission



Absolute DIY Services

All aspects of DIY covered, from hanging a blind to a complete room makeover, painting / decorating, flooring, flat pack assembly, no job too small, and all at competitive prices.



Darren Lawrence
Sole Street,
07841 51 8255 / 01474 812853

JOHN GREEN DECOR LTD

PROFESSIONAL PAINTERS
& DECORATORS

INTERIOR, EXTERIOR
& INSURANCE WORK
ALL ASPECTS OF PAINTING
AND DECORATING
INCLUDING WALLPAPER
HANGING, PAINT
EFFECTS AND SPRAYING



Phone: **01474 871273**
email: sales@johngreendecor.co.uk
website: www.johngreendecor.co.uk

Stephen P Gay Memorials Inc. Horlocks



SPECIALISTS IN MONUMENTAL
MASONRY
**120 Old Road West
Gravesend
Kent, DA11 0LR
Tel: 01474 321003**

MEDWAY METALS LTD

Buyers of all scrap
metal & car batteries

QUICK PAYMENT

01634 297423

UNIT 6 SHAMEL PARK, MEDWAY CENTRE EST.
COMMISSIONERS ROAD, STROOD
ME2 4HQ

*Spare a thought (and lend a hand) to
those who work so hard to prepare
our festive fare!*

The Christmas Kitchen

The kitchen is, at Christmas
A very busy room!
Lots of work in such a rush
Or Christmas Day will loom.

First there is the cake to bake
And many pastries too,
Mince pies and biscuits, festive fare
There is so much to do!

Then comes the day, the kitchen
fills
With wondrous cooking smells,
As turkey roasts and parsnip toasts
The cooks must work their spells.

The dinner's on the table
We gather round and eat,
But someone has to wash the pots
And make the kitchen neat.

So have a happy Christmas,
Enjoy the festive fare,
But grab a towel and help the cook,
And show them that you care!

By Nigel Beeton



HO HO HO !

What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl visited Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and asked what she would like for Christmas. She gasped, and stared at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

What do you get Dad?

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

You can tell

You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights

All Seasons garden Maintenance

Local and reliable service

Grass and Hedge cutting, Border Maintenance, Pruning

Pressure washing,

Full public liability insurance

References available from existing customers

Contact John - Home: 01322 423063 (Based in Gravesend)

Mobile: 07951 429175 Email: boaz26@live.co.uk

APEX PEST CONTROL

Mole catching, Wasp nests, Rodents

24/7 service



AtTENTively Yours...

Here to provide you with a fully personalised service

Catering for garden parties, corporate and sporting events

High specification - best quality equipment used

Site survey and no obligation quotation

Freephone 0800 389 8298

Office 01474 815150 Mobile 07766 681151



Robin Hunter

Tree Surgery
Garden Design
Fencing & Gates

Tel: 07775 971380

Email: robinhunt1@hotmail.co.uk

- Professional, Affordable, Service
- Foils & Colour Specialists
- Cut & Blow Dry Specialists
- Wedding hair available on request
- Hair extension by appointment (Tuesday only)
- Late Evenings (Monday & Thursday's)

£5 OFF PERMS & COLOURING
WITH THIS ADVERT



RAILWAY CUTTINGS
HAIR STYLISTS

Station Approach, Meopham, Kent - Telephone: 01474 813378



Christmas Party

14 December 2024
2Pm Onwards

Luddesdown Village Hall

Party Games, Buffet & Music
FREE Drink on arrival
Plus a visit from Santa

£2 per Child
£5 per Adult

RSVP
dickens_90@hotmail.com

Christmas is so exciting having time with family and lots of goodies to share!

I know some children get so excited about what Santa Paws may bring them that they search around the house for clues . Well I know a lady whose grand-doggie had the same idea; he found his way into the spare bedroom and discovered a delight of goodies that his people had bought for friends and family and he located his own Christmas gift too, he was so overwhelmed with joy that he couldn't wait for the big day and he gobbled up his present! Now some might think this was a naughty thing to do, but I think he was ingenious in his detection work and I think he should be recruited by MIFido, just imagine the work he could do on His Majesty's Sniffing Service! Of course I would never go looking for presents. I will have to be patient and look under the tree on Christmas morning..... Merry Christmas! Love and Licks Paddy.



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 2 verses 1-7

The Roman Empire charged the countries it had invaded taxes, based on the number of people and what they earned.

Emperor Augustus gave orders that all people in the Empire were to be registered so they could be taxed.



This census was before Quirinius became Governor of Syria * (* whose own census started riots - Acts 5:37)



When the order came, Mary and Joseph were living in Nazareth.

But Joseph was descended from King David, who had been born in Bethlehem...



Mary to Bethlehem to stay with his family.

Come and meet everyone!



A normal home in Bethlehem stable with mangers



While they were staying there, Mary's baby was born.



There was no space in the guest room to put a new baby!

So they made a snug bed for Jesus in one of the mangers.



Need a Plumber?

Your local plumber is

Graham Hickson

Reliable, prompt and reasonable prices

20% discount on labour with this magazine

Graham Hickson

07968 551 562 g.hickson@btinternet.com

VAT Sole Free Trader

**Wills & Trusts
Powers of Attorney**

**Based in Cobham
covering all Kent**



British Will Writers



**Totally Confidential
Friendly and Professional
Free Consultation**

07942 999 919

<http://www.britishwillwriters.com>

ADVERTISING RATES IN THE MAGAZINE

Page Size	1 Year	6 months	1 month	Dimensions (mm)
¼ page	£60	£36	£13	W:65 H:90
½ page	£105	£56	£18	W:135 H:90
Full page	£195	£100	£34	W:135 H:185

Contact **Janet Weaver** on **01732 823936**
cobandlud.office@btinternet.com

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

Father Christmas is based on St Nicholas, who was born in the 3rd century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering, and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop, he suffered in prison with other bishops under the emperor Diocletian's persecution of Christians.

One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight, and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery. The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas - on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.

Father Christmas Nicholas Born Third Century Greek Village
 Devout Wealthy Needy Sick Suffering Prison Emperor Poor
 Family Three Daughters Stockings money

Cobham Choir

Tom Bettley *director*

Laura West & Sophie Williamson *soprano*

Christmas Concert

Tuesday 17 December, 7pm
Cobham Church

"An uplifting experience - wonderful singing in a lovely setting - Christmas has begun."

Tickets - including interval refreshments:

£10 (£3 for under 18s)

from Cobham Community Stores

on 07926 677188 and at www.ticketsource.co.uk/cobham-choir

