



Cobham & Luddesdowne

May 2024

News

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PARISH of COBHAM & LUDDESDOWNE with DODE

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

For Funeral enquiries please contact Alyson Phone no. 01474-812068
email:- alyson@stjohnsmeopham.co.uk

(Rest Day: Friday)

Associate Priest – The Rev'd Pam Davies

For Wedding, Baptism 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

Treasurer Janet Weaver (01732) 823936

Parochial Church Council Members

Cobham	Luddesdowne
Peter Balanck	Jill Beety
Ron Chamberlain	Sue Campbell
Ann Clarke	Janet Weaver
David Palmer	

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

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May
2024

Today we had a taste of Spring; the rain stopped, some blue sky appeared and there was warmish breeze! Let's hope it is just the start of sunnier days ahead!

There is a new series of articles, starting this month, produced by the Shorne Wildlife Community (P.5). I do hope you find them interesting. The Local Funding Group have a special D. Day event taking place on the 7th of June (P.17). I have also been contacted by an Active Retirement Association which meets in Meopham. If you are interested see page 29 for more info. For news of the Cobham Youth Club, see page 15.

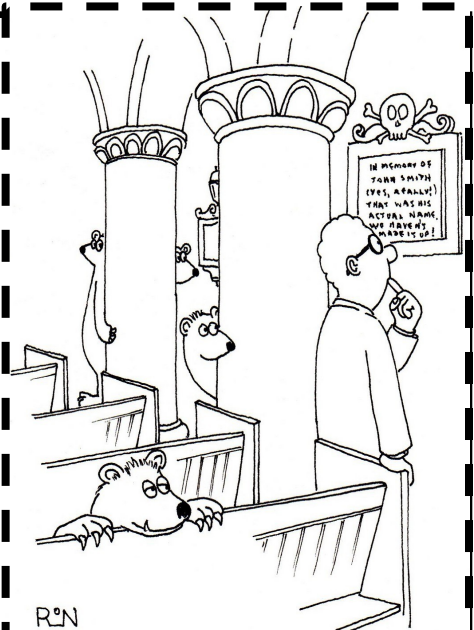
Wishing you sunny and happy Bank Holidays. Tina

ST MARY'S
CHURCH ROOM

The Local Funding Group, St. Mary's Church Room, Coffee Morning held on the 14th March donated £250 to Water Aid. Thank you to all friends who supported this event so very generously.

Future meetings will be held at The Railway Inn on the following dates: 9th May, 13th June, 11th July, 8th August, 12th September, 10th October, 14th November. From 10.30 - 12.00.

Additionally, the Local Funding Group, wish to thank Garfield Weston for the grant promised recently of £10,000 towards the restoration of St. Mary's Church Room.
Su Rowe



Dennis spent a long time in church
looking for his forbears

A letter from the Rev'd Pam Davies

My dear friends

If you work for a well-known organisation such as British Gas or BT or a High Street bank or even the local council and let it be known in the course of the conversation you will find that people are quick to tell you their opinion of the gas, telephone service, banks or councils. You rapidly build up a picture of your employer's public image.

I find the same thing happens with me on the Church of England (or the church in general). And what is the public image? Basically, that the church is always on about sin, and that only non-sinners are welcome. "Say a special prayer for me, vicar" said one person I meet from time to time. "Why" I asked, "Because I'm too bad to go to church, I'm too sinful" Why don't you join us one Sunday? I ask another person. "Oh no" Is the reply "you could do without an old Sinner like me."

Faced with a world, (When not talking to a clergy person) that doesn't seem much concerned about sin. I find myself asking whether Christians are in fact unhealthily obsessed with it. Is there something morbid about our weekly recital of the Confession and of our "*manifold sins and wickedness... the remembrance of (which) is grievous unto us and the burden of (which) is intolerable.*" A quote from the Book of Common Prayer.

Self-acceptance, self-affirmation, even self-assertion is much more to the modern taste than acknowledgement that we have done wrong and broken God's law. If people talk about guilt at all, they often mean guilty feelings, something subjective rather than objective. Even in Christian circles you hear people using expressions such as "feeling OK or not feeling OK" about something.

On this subject of sin, a modern Christian author has written: "*nowadays the conviction of sin is widely misunderstood, secularists pity Christians whom they picture as people bowed to the ground under the enormous burden of self-condemnation, as those who go around all the time feeling guilty. Actually, of course, as anyone who has experience conversion knows, the Christian is the only person who does not go around all the time feeling guilty. For them, sin is a burden he can lay down: he can admit it, repent and be forgiven.*"

Christ alone has achieved the forgiveness of our sin and therefore it is only the Christian who can be free of guilt and guilty feelings while at the same time being honest about himself or herself. This was the virtual truth grasped by the penitent thief on the cross next to Jesus. He recognised the saving grace of Christ.

So, people who think the church is concerned about sin are right, and so it should be because God is. Where so many are wrong, however, is in supposing that Christians have achieved – or think they have achieved - perfection and that sinners are not welcome among their number. Perhaps we need to examine our consciences, individually and collectively, and ask ourselves whether we have mistakenly conveyed that impression.

I love the story of the vicar who put up a large sign outside his church 'THIS CHURCH IS FOR SINNERS ONLY' it caused a lot of offence among some of his congregation, but he was absolutely right, wasn't he?

Your sincerely friend and minister

Rev Pam

Over the past couple of years we have been provided with some wonderful articles by the volunteers of the Kent Wildlife Trust.

Thankfully, The Shorne Wildlife Community Group will be sharing, with us, some of their articles which reflect the work they are doing to conserve our beautiful wildlife.



Our aim is to nurture, conserve and sustain wildlife in Shorne and our environment through collaboration and by promoting this message.

Take a walk in Great Crabbles Woods, Randall Woods, Starmore Woods, Court Lodge Woods, Shorne Country Park, Ashbank Woods (Woodlands Trust) or Cobham Woods (National Trust) and see how many English oaks you can see? Shorne's English oak trees are dotted all around our village: the commons, lanes, woods, private woodland gardens and field edges, many here are ancient or veteran. How lucky we are to have them here before we were born.

Let's all try and protect these beautiful trees as much as we possibly can – why?

One oak tree can support more wildlife biodiversity than ANY other native species in the UK; up to 2300 species are known to be associated with oak trees. Our two native oak trees in UK are the English oak or common oak and the Sessile oak.

A range of birds feed on oak trees, either looking for insects or acorns or a place to nest: Blue Tit and Great Tit, Nuthatches, Wood Pigeons, Woodpeckers, Magpies; Tree creepers and owls nest in its trunk. Squirrels build their drays in the oaks, bats roost in old woodpecker holes or under bark. Holes and crevices in the tree bark are perfect nesting spots for the dormouse.

As oak leaves fall to the ground in autumn, the leaves support biodiversity, feeding many insects as they rot down. Hedgehogs love oak leaves for their nests.

It is said no other tree species in UK supports a greater diversity of life than an ancient oak. That is apart from them being so beautiful.

Let us all preserve our oaks.

Ruth Hensman and Celia Burns

COBHAM AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY –

Presents A Murder Mystery Evening

“A Murder has been arranged” by Patricia Gay.

By arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts.

Performances on May 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th at 8pm

The Meadow Room, The Street, Cobham Kent DA12 3BZ

Come on your own or with others and sit on a table of 6 to 8. Enjoy a simple two course supper eaten between acts, while you test your little grey cells to discover the clues and the murderer. Any wine beer etc. to be purchased from bar, at a more than reasonable price and this will be open from 7.30pm.

Tickets £15.00 Box Office - 07552665588 - opens 15th April 2024 -

Free parking

CADS CENTENARY YEAR!



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

As Easter was very early this year and the accompanying holidays too, our April birthday celebration was postponed till May. Members did enjoy a very productive craft meeting at home of our President, Yvonne and a lovely outing to Great Comp Gardens though, as you can see below.

Weekly walks continue every Tuesday when the early bluebells and vibrant fields of rapeseed (“as high as an elephant’s eye”?) compete for our attention.



Our 40th or Ruby celebration was arranged opposite our faithful Tin Tab at The Railway Inn with a delicious Thai curry (Ruby Murray) and the convivial celebratory glass of fizz. The landlord has most generously agreed that we can hold all our monthly meetings there in the afternoon for the duration of the refurbishment of the Church Room, for which

we are most grateful. Next main meeting is our AGM, at which we vote on this year’s Resolution: “The NFWI calls on the Government to increase investment in the training and retention of dentists and to review the current inadequate NHS contracts in order to ensure everyone can access an NHS dentist wherever they live.” The WI has past mandates related to dental health (1926, 1930, 1960 and 1996). Members will also be donating oral hygiene products to the local Food Bank in support of this motion. Cobham & Luddesdowne WI has offered to provide 2 tellers on the occasion and we will reciprocate for theirs. Two of our members will attend the National Federation Annual Conference on 5 June at the Royal Albert Hall.

We continue our support, being representatives on the Local Funding Group, for refurbishment of the St Mary’s Church Room. Our ladies will be providing all the scones for the Strawberry Tea on 23 June at 44 Sallow Shaw. As publicised in last month’s CLN:

Sole Street WI on Saturday 6 July via Cobham Vicarage

- **Guided Gambol: a walk to visit Luddesdowne & Cobham Churches then a Ploughman’s Lunch in Vicarage garden (£15)**
- **Family Frolic: guided walk in Jeskyns to take in fairy wood & play areas**

concluding with BBQ & Fete fun Vicarage garden (£25 for family of up to 6) For further information on this and all our activities, please contact our President Yvonne tel 01474 813455. Molly Isaacs

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THE TUESDAY POP-IN

Meetings are held at the Leather Bottle on the second Tuesday of the month from 10.30 till 12 noon; all are welcome to join us for a relaxed chat and coffee.

Next pop-in Tuesday 14th May.

CONTACT: MARY PALMER - 01474 816788



Betty Bicker-Robinson

We regret to announce the passing at age 97 of Mrs Betty Bicker-Robinson, who has lived in Round Street since 1948. She worked for many years on Mr Lawrence's farm and, after her first husband died, worked at Cobham Hall where eventually she became Head Cook. While in her eighties she did a sponsored tandem parachute jump from an aeroplane, raising £2,000 for the Ellenor Foundation.

Born at New Barn in 1926 she remembered well walking at 3 years old to Sunday School at Longfield Hill, together with the neighbours' children, and the hymns she learnt that she recalled into her nineties.

This exceptional memory has also been a help in recent times to the local amateur archaeologist, and thanks to him many of her memories can be found at <http://shornewoodsarchaeology.co.uk/oral-history/blues-yarns> under the heading 'Blue's Yarns ', as Blue was her family nickname.

During the 2nd World War she spent a period in the Land Army in Gloucestershire where it was necessary to cycle 10 miles to work each morning, drive a Fordson tractor all day, then cycle 10 miles back.

In recent years, her favourite pastime was to watch children playing on the promenade at Gravesend or watch shipping movements on the river, but always ready to chat about times gone by.

AF

The Funeral and Service of Thanksgiving for Betty Bicker-Robinson took place at Thames View Crematorium on the 5th April 2024

Betty was born on the 8th November 1926 and died on the 4th March 2024 at the age of 97 years. The service was conducted by Tobin Wallace-Sims. Our condolences and prayers go to Betty's daughter Jenni and family and to Arthur Fry



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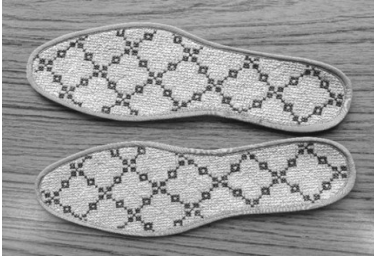


Whitehall Place | 47 The Terrace | Gravesend | Kent | DA12 2DL | 01474 887688

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North Kent Embroiderers

Hello Everyone,



At our meeting in March we welcomed Callisto Searle as our speaker. Callisto is an artist who lives locally but who went to China to live and to study Ancient Chinese Philosophy. Life for local people where she lived was very tough but the people were strong and resilient. Callisto told us how she became fascinated by the beautiful Suzhou embroidery done by the women. She

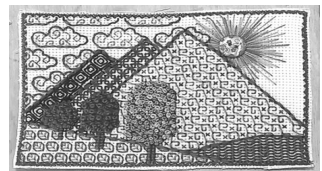
also explained how the women would sit together quietly on a bed and embroider insoles for the men to wear in their shoes when they went out to work. These were made from layers of fabric stitched together. A grid was drawn on by hand and then a cross stitch design added as you can see. The women would stitch motivational messages such as 'tread on a small (mean) person' in the shoes. The idea was to give the men strength and to remind them of the women and home they would be going back to.

On her return to the UK Callisto brought with her samples of this lovely work which she was happy to show us. The traditional colours are very bright and the designs are full of symbolism. How lovely for us to see these pieces and to hear the stories behind them. Thank you Callisto! To find out more and about the workshops she runs you can follow Callisto on Instagram [art_by_callisto](#)



This month's postcard challenge was based on the theme 'Abstract'. You can see Lorraine's contribution based on the skill of blackwork (which doesn't have to be black!).

For our upcoming meetings and workshops please look at the website (see below) or check out our QR code. If you are looking for a new hobby or would like to pick up an existing pastime there might be something that would interest you.



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



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BRITAIN IN BLOOM 2024.

Last year we once again achieved Silver Gilt and we moved one point up the scale so our village is in the VERY GOOD category for its summer long displays, so another 5 points and we shall at last reach Gold, so.....here we go again with renewed energy and hopefully this year 100% participation. This year it would be good to see every front Garden onto The Street participate, and every house without a front garden create a profuse display of colour in troughs or window boxes. We have a D-Day commemoration and a celebration of 100 years for the CADS, this year, so the theme for Front of House is masses of COLOUR and PARTICIPATION. Thank you to our COMMUNITY SHOP, PUBS and you for last year, this year the village will improve the display around the village pump and encourage the village school to “dig for victory” and we must add more display around the Sports Clubs area and even the outside toilets! The wild flowers will once again bloom along the banks and we will make our village a colourful invite to all our visitors. The Front of House Competition invites will go out to you all .
Rosemary Dymond

RIDE AND STRIDE 2024

I am very pleased to say that all three of our churches will be open for sponsored cyclists and walkers this year on **Saturday 14th September** so please walk or cycle out to visit Luddesdowne, Sole Street and Cobham that day any time between 10.00 and 6.00 and help to raise more sponsorship for this national event that takes place all over England. In addition if you want to add more churches to your list of visits there are another 15 open in Gravesend and Meopham area with another 5 in Halling and Snodland , so you don't have to travel too far to amass quite a collection of visits My sponsor forms will be in the churches in the second week in July, look out for them!

The Cobham Youth Club

The sessions up to and including July 2024 will be:

Friday 24th May

Friday 21st June

Friday 5th July

Friday 19th July

The youth club starts at 7.30pm and finishes at 9.30pm. £2 per session and the venue is the Meadow Rooms, The Street, Cobham.

BELL RINGING by Peter Hartley

“Use it or lose it” and I am grateful to use the Kent County Council Mobile Library Service which comes to Cobham village every other Tuesday stopping opposite the Primary School between 10am and 10.40am. From the ever helpful Matt I have just enjoyed “Steeple Chasing: Around Britain by Church” by Peter Ross. “His stories are always a joy” as Ian Rankin remarks.

In bell ringing you may not wander but Mr Ross’s church-crawling is a delight to be shared. He visits St. Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield, London’s oldest parish church, which has been our family’s wedding church. In St. Paul’s Cathedral the author recalls the Blitz and I remember one unique moment standing alone in wonder in Wren’s vast masterpiece.

St. Peter the Vincula in the Tower of London, the burial place of executed Queens Anne Boleyn and Katherine Howard, is visited by Peter Ross and my mind wanders to a cold, dark winter’s night when after the Ceremony of the Keys the Tower had lost its daytime Disney feel and reverted to its ancient and threatening state prison atmosphere.

At Southwark Cathedral Peter Ross thinks of Charles Dickens in 1869 observing the ringing practice of the members of the Ancient Society of College Youths (founded in 1637). Simon Meyer, a present member and ringer, recounted the words of a priest “Bell ringing is the most fascinating aspect of English culture. It is so intriguing and ancient and unchanged in secret. No one has any idea about it, really, but it’s hidden in plain sound”. The Cathedral bells rang in sorrow when I was present at the memorial service for those in the 1989 Bowbelle/Marchioness River Thames tragedy. Whilst he was there Mr. Page met the cleverly named Southwark Cathedral adopted cat “Doorkins Magnificat”.

As well as having eight bells the church at Stow Bardolph in Norfolk has a macabre wax effigy of Sarah Hare who died in 1744. Both Peter Ross and I have enjoyed talks with Lady Rose Hare who like Lady Harriet Bligh was a daughter of Esme, 9th Earl of Darnley.

Up to Durham with its mighty Cathedral so dramatically viewed from the train. Peter Ross quotes the words of Sir Walter Scott “Half church of God, half castle ‘gainst the Scot”. And I think of seeing Bishop John Habgood being enthroned on the highest throne of Christendom.

Further north in Edinburgh Mr. Ross has many a tale to tell of Old St. Paul’s, “a black arrow of soot dark stone”, founded in 1689 and a part of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Standing close to Edinburgh Waverley Station we both have frequently climbed the Calvary Stair, one step for each of the 33 years of Christ’s life, from the street to the church.

We can share our love of churches with our own particular stories. The other Sunday, with fellow Cobham ringers, we shared our skill ringing touches of Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire Doubles and it was good to hear later in the village the kind comment “Nice to hear the bells”. There is the chance to share the treasures of the mobile library service in Cobham scheduled to visit on May 7th and 21st.



D-DAY FORTITUDE SOUTH, KENT'S WARTIME DECEPTION

Based on his book, an evening with Sole Street author, John Reymond, as he explains the deception which convinced Hitler that the Allies main assault was to be in the Pas de Calais and the Normandy landings were a feint.

LFG fund-raising event towards St. Mary's Church Room

At The Meadow Room, Cobham

On Friday, 7th June 7.00 pm for 7.30

Tickets: £25.00

Including two-course dinner with wine

Optional Wartime Fancy Dress

Contact: Su Rowe 07557 990944

Payment to: Tin Tabernacle Community Fund

Account Number 83638219. Sort Code 20-25-43

Other Forthcoming fundraising events in aid of St Mary's Church Room renovations.

6th July 9.30am Morning guided walk from Sole Street to Luddesdown and Cobham Churches then on to the Vicarage, Cobham for fun, games, stalls and Ploughman's lunch.

6th July 2pm Afternoon guided Frolic from Sole Street to Little Jeskyns / Jeskyns Park to the Vicarage, Cobham for more fun, games, stalls and BBQ. Family & Individual Tickets will be available. Food to be pre-booked 01474 813 445.

31st August Children's Scavenger Hunt around Sole Street—from Sole Street House. Hellzapopin to play music from the 50s, 60s and 70s. Picnics can be ordered from Nicola.

Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street

Services during May



Sunday 5th May

10:30am Family Service with Baptisms, Luddesdowne

Sunday 12th May

10:30am Holy Communion (BCP), Cobham

Sunday 19th May

10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne

(followed by Luddesdowne Annual Meetings)

4pm All Age Service, Cobham

Sunday 26th May

10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham

Midweek services

Please phone Pam on 01474 394515 for venue

**9:30am 1st May - Holy Communion,
8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th Informal Morning Prayer**

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



Wednesday 1st May **NO** 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre

Sunday 5th May 9.45am Songs of Praise at St John's

11.30am Holy Communion at St Mildred's

Wednesday 8th May 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre

Sunday 12th May 9.45am Holy Communion at St John's

11.30am Mattins at St Mildred's

3pm Sunday Afternoon Club at St John's Centre

Wednesday 15th May 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre

Sunday 19th May 9.45am Morning Worship for Pentecost
at St John's Church

11.15am Churches Prayer Meeting at St John's Centre

Wednesday 22nd May 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre

Sunday 26th May 9.45am Holy Communion at St John's
11.30am Family Service at St Mildred's

Wednesday 29th May 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre

LUDDESDOWNE PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on Monday 18th March and was well attended with representatives from a number of local groups and members of the public. The Chairman's Annual Report is now available on the Parish Council Website (luddesdown-pc.gov.uk) which is where you will find all of the details of our forthcoming meeting dates. Minutes of previous meetings and Financial Information including the Budget for the 2024/25 year.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time at the Village Litter pick and also to Silverhand Estate who are arranging for fencing around the children's play area to be put up and are also making good the fence by the pond in Henley Street. We also welcome Charles Amis as our new parish clerk who can be contacted via our website or by phone on 07544 863324

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Luddesdowne's Register

Burial of ashes

Marjorie WINDSOR died on the 30th June 2023 aged 87 years old. On the 9th March 2024 Marjorie's ashes were buried in the Garden of Remembrance in Luddesdowne's churchyard. The service was conducted by Lesley GOULD, Licensed Reader from St Mary's Gravesend.

Our condolences and prayers go to Marjorie's husband, their sons Andrew and Philip and their families.

Funeral Service

Colin Walter CAMPBELL was born on the 21st June 1938 and died on the 31st January 2024 at the age of 85 years old. Colin's service of Thanksgiving for his Life took place at Luddesdowne Church on the 22nd March 2024 followed by Thames View Crematorium. The service in the church was conducted by The Rev'd Pam DAVIES and the crematorium by The Rev'd Canon Alyson DAVIE.

Our condolences and prayers go to Colin's wife Sue, son Andrew, daughter Debbie and their families.

Other Funerals

Bernard Maurice KEATING was born on the 4th September 1935 died on the 15th January 2024 at the age of 88 years. The service took place on the 1st March 2024 in St Paul's Catholic Church, Meopham, followed by Committal at Thames View Crematorium. Our sympathy and prayers go to Bernard's family.



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Meopham Library Writing Group

Meopham Library Writing Group meets on the first Thursday morning of every month. The next meeting is on Thursday 2nd May from 10am until noon. Creative writing is a very enjoyable activity, which can also help people who are facing difficult times or record special family memories. There is a different writing theme each month, such as “May Day”, as well as a writing challenge. If you are interested in writing short stories, poetry or articles, you are invited to come along to the meetings. Beginners as well as more experienced writers are equally very welcome to join us. Please ring 01474 813379 for more information, or just join us at Meopham Library on 2nd May. The following meetings will be on 6th June, 4th July and 1st August.

1st SOUTH STREET BOYS BRIGADE and GIRLS ASSOCIATION COMPANY

Boys and girls aged 5-18 years old are invited to join the Company for games, craft, cooking, Bible stories, science and nature activities every Friday evening during term time 6pm-7.30pm at SOUTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, Wrotham Road, Meopham, DA13 0QJ(*next to Hope Hill*). The weekly subscription is £2. In the summer there are outdoor activities, including a camp at the Honey Hill Boys Brigade Campsite in Maidstone and opportunities for kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding at the Water Activities Centre in Tonbridge, with a team of trained and fully qualified leaders. For more information about activities at South Street Baptist Church please ring 01474 815039 or visit www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk

SOUTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday morning services all begin at 10.45am and finish at midday. The next Family Service is on 26th May. 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.

People of all ages are invited to the next FAMILY GAMES AFTERNOON on Saturday 18th May 2pm-4pm. There will be table tennis, indoor archery, pool, board games and refreshments and admission is free.

Spring Show

What a great Spring Show we had! 195 exhibits and probably the best selection of homemade cake for sale that we have ever had. The sun shone and having viewed the show visitors were able to enjoy their tea and cake sitting outside in the sun.

Summer is on its way!

As bulbs fade and herbaceous borders grow in leaps and bounds, it is now clear that summer is approaching. Sowing and planting out bedding can begin, depending on regional weather variations, and you can take softwood cuttings. It's also time to get back into the lawn mowing regime, as the lawn will be loving the warmer temperatures this month brings.

Here's the RHS Top 10 Jobs for May.

- 1 Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants.
- 2 Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining.
- 3 Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas)
- 4 Collect rainwater and investigate ways to recycle water for irrigation.
- 5 Regularly hoe off weeds.
- 6 Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days
- 7 Mow lawns weekly
- 8 Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges.
- 9 Lift / divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs.
- 10 Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs.

There is plenty going on within the Society -

Expert Speaker Talk – Wednesday 8th May 7pm in the Meadow Room, Cobham

Water In The Garden by Caroline Halfpenny

Caroline Halfpenny discusses the reasons and importance for having water in the garden - aesthetics, noise. Free entry for members, visitors welcome and pay only £3.

Cobham Gardeners' Society coach trip to RHS Wisley Gardens

Wednesday 22nd May 2024

There are only a few spaces left on our trip to Wisley. The coach will depart Cobham (opposite school) at 9.15am and leave RHS Wisley at 3.45pm. The cost is £10 for Society members and £15 for non-members, which includes return coach transfer from Cobham and entry to the gardens. To book email cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk

Summer Show & Plant Sale Saturday 8th June 2024 at 2:00pm to 3.30pm in the Meadow Room, Cobham.

This is Gardeners' Society second Show of the year. The show features Adult & Junior Show Categories, Flowers, Vegetables, Preserves & Photographic entries. Tea, coffee & home-made cake is on sale. **Free Entry for Members & Non-Members.** For more info email cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk You can buy Membership of Cobham Gardeners at any time. You can apply for membership at the talks or via email cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk It is only a modest £10 for the year –

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Entrance £2 (50p for under-16's)

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Cash-only Event

We would very much appreciate donations of items (in good condition please) for the Bric a Brac stall as well as cakes, children's toys & books, bottles and plants. Please contact **Jill or Dave** on **01474 391644**

Cobham Parish Council Meeting dates

7.30pm on 21st May at the Meadow Rooms - *Annual Parish Meeting*

7.30pm 4th June at the Meadow Rooms

7.30pm on 2nd July at the Meadow Rooms

7.30pm on 3rd September at the Meadow Rooms

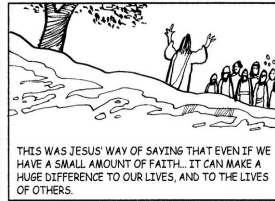
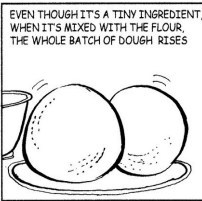
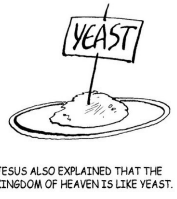
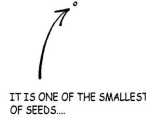
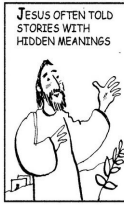
7.30pm on 1st October at the Meadow Rooms

7.30pm on 5th November at the Meadow Rooms

7.30pm on 3rd December at the Meadow Rooms



The tale of
the
Mustard
Seed
& the tale of the
Yeast



Hello
I was running in the garden recently when suddenly my paw started to hurt, I held it up and the editor made a fuss of me and made sure I rested it for a few days. It is all better now! I didn't need a nurse, but did you know that 12 May is International Nurses Day? It would have been the birthday of a very famous nurse, Florence Nightingale. We have thousands of nurses, midwives and nursing associates looking after people around the country, so let's say a big thank you to all of them for the challenging work they do. Love and licks Paddy x



Enjoy the colouring :)



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The first Sunday in May is Rogation Sunday. This is when many parishes still 'beat the bounds'. Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land. The practice began with the Romans, who processed around the cornfields each Spring, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, in order to get rid of evil. About 465 AD the Western world was suffering from earthquake and storm. Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields. Thus 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial. It arrived in England early in the eighth century. Each Spring, led by the priest, a little party from the parish would set out with a Cross to trace the boundaries of the parish. They'd implore God to keep their corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to harvest. In the days when maps were scarce, 'beating the bounds' helped remind everyone just where the boundaries were. Do you know yours today?

Sunday May Rogation Beat Bounds Asking Blessing Seed Land
 Romans Processed Cornfields Spring Earthquake Storm Prayer
 Cross Boundaries Crops Harvest maps



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