

Cobham & Luddesdowne
News

March 2022

PARISH of COBHAM & LUDDESDOWNE with DODE

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SUBMISSIONS *Cobham and Luddesdowne News is a community magazine that is produced by and for the residents of Cobham, Sole Street and Luddesdowne. We welcome all contributions of local interest.*

Please send material for inclusion by the 15th of the month preceding publication to editorialcn@gmail.com

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Cover photograph by Adrian—thank you

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March
2022

Hello-

Firstly – an apology from me as I included the community bus timetable in the last magazine when sadly the bus is no longer running. Thanks should definitely go to the volunteers in the parish who previously took the bus out every Thursday and ferried parishioners to and from Gravesend with the occasional trip to Bluewater.

Exciting news! The April/Easter magazine will be published and distributed to every household in the parish, it will include a flyer which you should complete if you wish to purchase a paper copy each month at £1 per edition. I know that many of you prefer a paper copy, but they will continue to be published online for those wishing to access it from there. Please see Angela's request below and her letter on page 4.

Have a blooming lovely March! Tina

WANTED Magazine co-ordinator

Can you help us? In order to provide a hard copy of the Cobham and Luddesdowne News we need someone who is able to collate the magazine each month and distribute bundles to volunteers.

The role will include the following

Receive magazines from printer.

Sort into bundles

Drop off the bundles to those who will distribute to households.

You will need to be able to drive with your own transport and room to sort the bundles

If you can help with this please contact Janet on 01732 823936

THE TUESDAY POP-IN



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

Next pop-in 8th March

CONTACT: MARY PALMER - 01474 816788

FROM THE VICAR

Love is in the air.....

Dear reader

As I write we have just had Valentine's day where lovers send greeting cards and flowers to those they love and where proposals of marriage are often made.

I watched a program the other day about where all of those lovely red roses come from. The flower markets produce thousands upon thousands of red roses that then go to auction where stores and market stall holders buy them in bulk to sell on to us. Seeing so many thousands of Red Roses in transit took my breath away and made me think about how we express our love to one another. (apart from the commercial aspect)

The giving of a card or flowers is a lovely way to send someone a token of our love and appreciation whether it is for valentine's day, a birthday or some other special occasion and it makes us all feel appreciated and special.

But, is it only on one day a year that we buy flowers to express our love? Is it only on a birthday or at Christmas that we send someone a card to let them know we are thinking about them? If it is, then what about all the other days in between?

C Morley once said " if we discovered that we had five minutes left to say all that we wanted to say, every telephone would be occupied by people calling other people to stammer that they love them. Why wait until the last five minutes."

We all need to know that we are loved and we could all express our love and appreciation for others far more often than we do. Even if it is just a quick phone call to enquire how someone is doing.

I found this the other day...**A child's view of love.**

"When my gran got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails any more. So my grandpa does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love. Chrissy, age 6

"Love is what makes you smile when you are tired" Terri, age 4

"Love is when my mummy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." Danny age 7

"Love is when mummy gives daddy the best piece of chicken". Elaine age 5

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day."

Mary Ann, age 4

Our love and appreciation can be expressed in so many ways in the little things we do every-day as well as on those special occasions. Love can be expressed in deeds as well as in words and perhaps our deeds speak louder than our words.

Cont'd on next page.....

Ultimately love comes from God; we love because he first loved us. Jesus Christ showed us what love is when he went to the cross and gave up his life for us. He suffered and died so that we might be forgiven for every wrong word or deed that we have done. His love for us is so great that he gave everything up for us. God doesn't just say I love you, he shows us just how much he loves us by giving his life over to death and rising again in glory to show that even death is defeated.

The isolation that many endured during the days of lockdown revealed the devastating effect that loneliness and unexpressed love can have on our mental health. Is there someone you can reach out to today to show that you care? It doesn't always have to be someone you really know well, it could be the neighbour you have not seen for a while, or the friend you have been meaning to call. Don't give in to self pity and sit there thinking that no-body ever calls me...instead pick up the phone or knock on the door or send a letter or a card and reach out because love is only love when you give it away. And know this, you are not forgotten, you are loved more than you know, you are special to God, so when you are feeling unloved, look to him, close your eyes in prayer and ask God to reveal his love to you because **he died for you**, even if you were the only person in the world he still would have died for you because **he loves you that much**. Blessings Revd Angela Walker

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"Call a chimney sweep not the Fire Brigade"

North Kent Embroiderers

Hello Everybody,



Our 'Stitch and Chat' session this month was a good chance for us to catch up with friends whilst working on those unfinished objects (UFO's). A small group of us had a session learning about our overlocker machines. This was led by the lovely Caroline from CCB sewing machines <https://ccb-sewing-limited.myshopify.com/> It was great to learn new tricks with some (very) old machines. Caroline was very patient with us!



This month was also the time for us all to bring our embroidered letters for the new hanging. We had each chosen one or more of the letters that make up the words North Kent Embroiderers and these will be stitched together to be used when we are out and about as a group and wish to let people know who we are! The QR code will also be useful here too.



Our next event will be a 'Stumpwork' day school. We are privileged to have world renowned tutor Jenny Adin-Christie www.jennyadin-christieembroidery.com coming to teach us. Jenny is an excellent teacher-watch this space to see how we get on! It will be lovely to take part in some face to face learning after all the online sessions that many of our members have benefitted from during recent months. If you would like to join us or just find out a bit more about us then please look at our website <https://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)



SOLE STREET WI

This February saw the 70th anniversary of HM The Queen's accession to the throne and has inspired our Committee to focus on the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. We are planning to display a collection of members' memorabilia spanning the 70 years of The Queen's reign over the Jubilee weekend in the Church Room. This has resulted in many an early "spring clean" as our ladies check out their attics and photo albums for our "museum" !

"Coronation mug from 1953" and "Coronation badge given to school-children in Scotland"



We are designing a window size montage which at present is planned to show the traditional postage stamp design of The Queen's head with crown and are amassing buttons & bottle tops to craft the mosaic.

Another collection of no mean size is being collated for our photographic book depicting Sole Street WI's activities throughout 2021 as our entry for the National Federation's "Elizabeth Bell Competition". This 'magnus opus' has its roots in many members' photographs and our talents in digitalising them range widely from gifted to variable !

At Easter time we will be holding a sale of home made produce & craft to raise funds for the hire of another premises for Institute meetings whilst St Mary's Church Room is undergoing refurbishment. This is currently planned for Saturday 9th April, 10.30 am - 2pm at the Church Room.

The next monthly meeting (speaker TBA) will take place there on Tuesday 22nd March at 2pm. For further information please contact Yvonne, 01474 813455

Molly Isaacs



Cobham Gardeners' Society

Meetings & Shows at the Meadow Room in Dickensian Cobham, Kent
SatNav DA123BZ Registered Charity No 228007



Wednesday 9th March 2022 - 7.30pm

Pruning: Why, When & How

Alison Marsden, founder of Gardening by Design, is asked about pruning more than any other single topic. Many people avoid pruning altogether for fear of doing irreparable damage to their trees & shrubs. Her talk covers why we need to prune plants and how plants react to pruning so that you can have confidence that you are doing the right thing at the right time.

Members free - non members £3



Sharing a love of gardening ... locally
Contact us cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk



ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROOM SOLE STREET

Opened on Thursday, 14th March 1889 by Revd. G.H. Blandford Vicar of St. Luke's South Hackney. (Vicar of Cobham: Revd. Arthur Berger)

From the seething white heat of the industrial revolution shone the equally intense light of religious revival. Churches set out to bring the gospel and moral values to newly crowded industrial cities. In 1889 St. Mary's Church Room provided a church and meeting place for the people of Sole Street unable to travel to their mother church in Cobham, on garden land given by the internationally renowned architect, Sir Herbert Baker, from his neighbouring 15th century Wealden House, 'Yeomans' - a tribute to engineers at Boulton & Paul, who designed this prefabricated ecclesiastical building with flat packed corrugate iron.

Sadly, the building has fallen into disrepair and the aim of the Local Funding Group, formed to support St. Mary Magdalene Church, Cobham, is to provide a future-proof historical tin tabernacle to house the beating heart of our community contributing to mental health, care, interest, advice, education, friendship for all ages and capabilities in a comfortable and workable facility to meet the needs of our village and surrounding area making it a better place to live, work or visit.

The Local Funding Group was formed in 2013 and we have raised £33,372.41p. in the community. In 2021 the Rev. Angela Walker asked us to be responsible for applying for grants as well. This is a monumental task for us. An architect was appointed, and we have planning permission and building regulations for the proposed restoration of the building. Contractors are now submitting quotations and we are applying for grants. The total cost of the work is over £150,000 + VAT. We are grateful, therefore to Gullands, for so generously supporting our cause and we thank them for contributing to our appeal.

Susan Rowe



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Spring arrives, usually by mid-March and more frequent sunny days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of gardening tasks.

It's time to get busy preparing seed beds, sowing seed, cutting back winter shrubs and generally tidying up around the garden. Here's the RHS Top 10 Jobs for March.

- 1 Prune bush and climbing roses
- 2 Protect new spring shoots from slugs
- 3 Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
- 3 Plant summer-flowering bulbs
- 4 Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
- 5 Top dress containers with fresh compost
- 6 Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)
- 7 Cut back Cornus (dogwood) and Salix (willow) grown for colourful winter stems
- 8 Hoe and mulch weeds to keep them under control early
- 9 Start feeding fish and using the pond fountain; remove pond heaters
- 10 Prune bush and climbing roses

More advice can be found on the RHS website <https://www.rhs.org.uk/>

Cobham Gardeners' next expert speaker talk of 2022 is Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 07.30pm

'Pruning: Why, When & How'. Alison Marsden, founder of Gardening by Design, is asked about pruning more than any other single topic. Many people avoid pruning altogether for fear of doing irreparable damage to their trees and shrubs. Her talk covers why we need to prune plants and how plants react to pruning so that you can have confidence that you are doing the right thing at the right time. Entry free to members, non-members welcome and pay £3.

Spring Show & Plant Sale Saturday 9th April 2022 at 2:00pm in the Meadow Room, Cobham. This is Gardeners' first Show of the year. The show features Gardening Tips, Adult & Junior Show Categories, Flowers, Vegetables, Preserves & Photographic entries. Tea, coffee & home made cake is on sale. There's **Free Entry for Members & Non Members**.

Annual Membership in 2022 is still only a modest £8 – money you more than get back from free entry into all Gardeners' expert speaker talks and massive savings of up to 50% on quality plants at local garden centres. For how to become a member email cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01474-363315.

IT'S A GIRL THING!



**RUTH, ESTHER AND MARY
COME AND HEAR**

**THEIR STORIES
at a sponsored Bible Reading
by Angela**

**Saturday, 12 March 12 noon – 4 pm
in St Mary's Church, Cobham**

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**Further information on how to sponsor Angela
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Friends of Cobham Church is a Registered charity no 280467

“One thing that never seems to improve as we get older is the deepening mystery of the power that computers have over us, and the utter confusion that results when they do something that we don’t expect!”

The Computer Swallowed Grandad!

The computer swallowed Grandad!
Yes! Honestly! It’s true!
He pressed Control and Enter –
And disappeared from view!
It devoured him completely
The thought just makes me squirm!
He must have caught a virus
Or been swallowed by a worm!
I’ve searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I’ve even searched the internet
But nothing did I find.
I went to Mr Google
My searches to refine
His reply was in the negative,
‘Nothing found’ was Google’s line.
So, if inside your inbox
My Grandad you should see –
Please copy, scan, and paste him
And send him back to me!

By Nigel Beeton



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come! Song of Songs 2:12



Smile Lines



With Mothering Sunday in mind.... Some youngsters were asked;

Why God made mums

These were the answers given by some seven- year-olds...

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows all the passwords we use online.
2. Mostly to clean the house, I think.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. I've heard it was some amazing experiment on men that got out of hand.
3. God made my mum just the same like He made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and one part of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.
3. They have a lot more hair than dads, are softer to hug, and wear woolly jumpers.

Why did God give you to your mother, and not to some other mum?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other kids' mums like me.
3. Other mums wouldn't understand about me being afraid in the dark.



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History tours

Greenhithe-From Greenhithe to Greyhithe and back again (Illustrated talk & supper)-a talk about the history & transformation of Greenhithe.

Speaker: Christoph Bull (Local historian)

On: Monday 7th March 2022

At: Reliance Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend

Begins: 6pm for the fish & chip supper, talk to follow

Cost: £18 includes the supper and the talk

Booking essential: Reliance Restaurant 01474 533593-or call into the restaurant.

Come in - Guided tour of St George's church, Gravesend & environs

On: Tuesday 15th March 2022

At: St George's Church, Church Street, Gravesend

Guide: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

Meet: 2pm.

Price: £10 (includes light refreshments at the church afterwards) – the tour will go ahead only with 10 people or more.

Stories of Pocahontas and much-much more.

Booking essential. Rev Jim Fletcher (Rector of St George's church) 01474 532505

Showing of the John Mills film “The Long Memory”, filmed locally in the early 1950s with a short talk by Christoph Bull on “Gravesend the day before yesterday”

On: Wednesday 30th March 2022

At: Woodville Halls, Gravesend

Begins: 7.30pm

Details: via Woodville Halls

Forthcoming in April:

A Romanian evening with Christoph Bull doing an illustrated talk on “A Kentish man in Transylvania” with a Romanian meal at The Ambient Romanian Restaurant in Windmill Street, Gravesend. Full details to follow but if you want to travel to Romania without leaving Gravesend and meet some great characters from history with some amazing stories of local connections with landscapes, castles and blood suckers, delivered in a lively style by Christoph and being served with genuine Romanian cuisine all served by real Romanians (not pretend ones), then watch out for this unique event on April 28th 2022 -where local history meets Transylvania in Gravesend town centre

Welcome to Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street Churches

Services during March



Sunday 6th March

10:30am Holy Communion (BCP), Cobham

Sunday 13th March

10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne

Sunday 20th March

10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham

Sunday 27th March

10:30am Mothering Sunday Service, Luddesdowne

10:30am Mothering Sunday Service
with Baptism, Cobham

Midweek services (please note change of time)

9:30am Holy Communion 9th Informal Morning Prayer

2nd, 16th, 23rd & 30th held in people's homes during the winter months contact Pat 01474 814343 for details.

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COBHAM & LUDESDOWN W.I.

The year has started on a more positive note, with at least two thirds of the members feeling safe enough to attend the January and February meetings, albeit warmly dressed, with overcoats and scarves to withstand the wintry draught blowing through the open door ventilating the room, and sitting a sensible distance away from each other.

In January, Peter Hartley gave us a fascinating talk entitled “Jubilation”, which was so appropriate in this, the Queen’s platinum jubilee year. We were surprised to learn that she is the first monarch to celebrate seventy years on the throne and we wish her every happiness for the future and long may she reign. Plans are under way for our WI to contribute to the jubilee celebrations in Cobham and Luddesdown. The “Knit and Natter” group already has plans to knit some members of the royal family, (including the corgis!) to provide a post box topper. There are also proposals to decorate the village pump with red, white and blue flowers and bunting. Look out also for an Easter post box topper, currently under production. Peter’s talk gave a potted history of past jubilee celebrations and some interesting facts about the Royal Maundy ceremonies, with which he has been involved.

The speaker for the February meeting was well-known local historian, Christoph Bull, who gave an illustrated talk entitled “Luddesdown – An Obscure Place”, We learned how local people had constantly fought off attempts to change it, including, in more recent years, attempts by the Ministry of Defence to use a large part of it as a military training ground. We also discovered that somewhere in Luddesdown, there are the remains of a concrete power plant, installed during the second world war to power sets of lights to fool the Luftwaffe into believing that there was an aircraft runway there, to distract them from other possible targets. We saw a picture of the “Cock Inn” without its 1963 extension and found out that the “Golden Lion” had previously been named “The Duke’s Arms”, and before that, “The British Tar”. We also learned that Luddesdown church was almost completely rebuilt in the 1860s and saw pictures of the beautifully preserved wall paintings inside.

Various groups have been emerging from their enforced “break”, with the largest of them – the Craft Group, now holding their twice-monthly meetings at the National Trust barn, the smaller Art Group experimenting with materials they have not used for some time and a new Needlework Group having a go at crochet.

Continued on page 22

The book groups have yet to re-start. The “Knit and Natter” group though, which has already been referred to, has kept going throughout the pandemic, spurred on by the enthusiasm and dedication of Jill Beety, who leads it. The real contribution that has been made to the community, through the work that they and other knitters and natterers in the village and surrounding area have produced, with, for instance, blankets and “twiddle muffs” for dementia patients, should not go unrecognised. Unfortunately, the popular “Wellbeing” group has had to be suspended temporarily.

The next monthly meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd March, when Jacqueline Fuller, the Community Warden, will be coming along to give advice about keeping safe from perpetrators of crime, such as scams and fraud – an extremely important issue in today’s world. Visitors are always welcome to come along to these meetings. For more information, please contact the secretary (email: cobhamluddesdown@wkwfwi.org.uk ; tel. 01474 362501)

COBHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2022

8th March, Committee Room, Meadow Rooms
5th April, Main Hall, Meadow Rooms

LUDESLOWNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 22/23

16 May 22 Annual Council Mtg. Luddesdowne Village Hall at 7.30pm
18 July 22 Full Council Mtg. Luddesdowne Village Hall at 7.30pm
19 September 22 Full Council Mtg. Luddesdowne Village Hall at 7.30pm
21 November 22 Full Council Mtg. Luddesdowne Village Hall at 7.30pm
16 January 23 Full Council Mtg. Luddesdowne Village Hall at 7.30pm
20 March 23 Annual Parish Mtg. Luddesdowne Village Hall at 7.30pm

Luddesdown and District Rights of Way Group

Friendly local walks run 11:00 am every Wednesday morning at a gentle pace from Luddesdown and Cobham. Contact Gerry or Janet for details:-
01474 813376 or 07977 416366

1st South Street Boys Brigade & Girls Association Company

The **1st South Street Boys Brigade and Girls Association Company** meets every Friday evening from 6pm until 7.30pm during term time. Boys and girls aged 5-18 years old are very welcome to join in the fun, which includes challenges, team games, craft and outdoor activities. The uniform is a blue T-shirt and a blue sweatshirt with embroidered badges. The weekly subscription is £2.

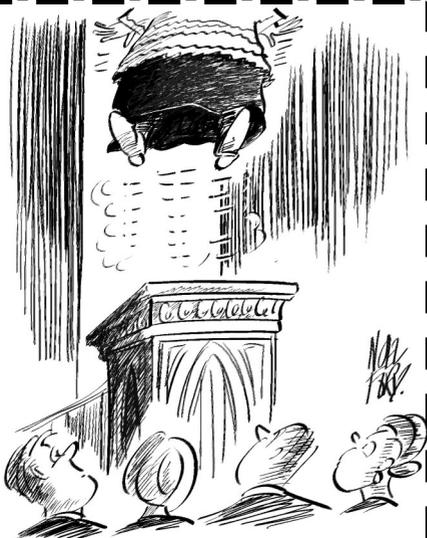
Please visit the **South Street Baptist Church** website at: www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk for more information about the Company.

After Easter, there will be opportunities for older girls and boys to visit the **Honey Hill Camp Site** in Maidstone, which has an adventure playground, wooded areas and well equipped facilities.

The **Water Activity Centre** in Maidstone has recently been upgraded and has bought new canoes, kayaks and stand up paddle boards. All these water activities are supervised by fully qualified leaders. Watch the video on the **Water Activities Centre** website at www.thewac.org.uk

Please visit the Boys Brigade website to find out more

www.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK



The fan-heater under the cassock idea proved not to be such a good one



Steve put the finishing touches to Peter's Lent array

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ME2 4HQ

Parish Council news

The youth club is run by youth workers from The Grand at Gravesend but they are looking for volunteer leaders to work alongside them so if you have some spare time to offer that would be gratefully received.

The next youth club sessions are 11th March and 25th March from 7.30pm at the Meadow Rooms, The Street, Cobham. It is for children from Year 6 (top year primary) to Year 9 (13-14 years old). Subs are £2.00 per session.

Watch this space!

Keep an eye out for news of the Community Pop-Up café coming to both Cobham Village and Sole Street in the near future....

LUDESLOW VILLAGE HALL

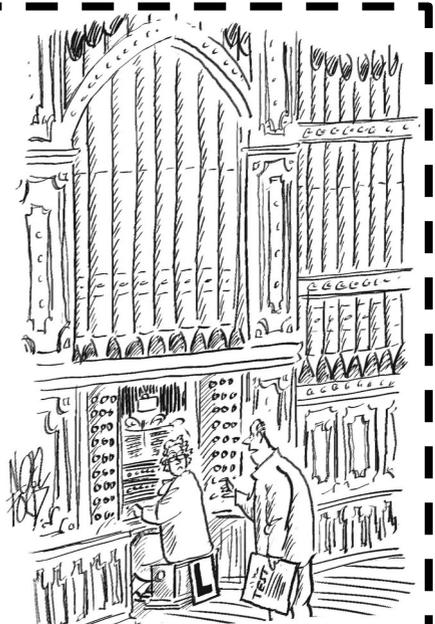
"The hire charges are as follows:
from £40 per session (please visit
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Hello – it is good to think that spring is around the corner and every year a family of Rooks make their nest on our roof, they are very noisy especially when the young birds want feeding! Bigger black birds called Ravens have been found, by a German university, to be very clever and can use tools to find or hide food and they can also read the expressions on human faces. Anyhow we like our rooks and know that good weather is on its way when they arrive. Love and licks—Harvey. 



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told stories about a lost sheep and a lost coin, then one about a man with two sons. The younger son said to his father...

I want my share of what I'll inherit from you now!



So the father divided his property between his sons.

The younger son took his money and went to another country.



Then his money ran out and there was a famine. The only job he could get was feeding pigs.



He was so hungry he would have eaten their food.



Then he came to his senses -

I'll go to my father, say sorry, and ask him for a job as a workman!



He set off for home.

His father saw him coming, ran to him and hugged him.



Father, I am so sorry. I am not good enough to be your son..



But his father sent servants to get clothes for his son and prepare a feast to celebrate his return.

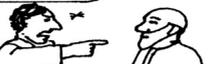
The older son came back from work and heard the noise. Your brother has returned and your father is having a feast!



The older son was so angry he wouldn't go into the house.. so his father came out to see him.



For years I've slaved for you and you've given me nothing. He returns after wasting your money and you give him a feast!



My son, all I have is yours, but we should celebrate because he was lost and now he has been found.



Meopham Library Writing Group

The meetings are held in Meopham Library on the first Thursday morning of each month. Masks must be worn in the library and as the kitchen is unavailable just now, everyone brings their own drink. The next writing group meeting will be on **Thursday 3rd March 2022 at 10am** until about midday.

Each month, there is a different writing theme and everyone is invited to write a short story, poem or article, using less than 1,000 words. Recent writing themes have included; “New World”, “Only Time Will Tell” and “Space”. There is also a writing challenge, which involves writing a sentence or two, including seven words chosen by the group, but using as few words as possible.

Last month, we read out our first “Rolling Story”, which had an incredible number of twists and turns in the plot! Each person had written about 150 words of the story, before passing it on by email to the next person on the list. It was a very interesting challenge, which will be a new activity undertaken, every other month, from now on.

Anyone who is interested in writing, either as a beginner or a more experienced writer, is very welcome to join our small, but friendly group. Many people enjoy writing about their memories, which can be interesting and informative for their family and friends.

Although writing is very challenging, it can also be therapeutic in difficult times. The following writing group meetings will be held on 7th April, 5th May and 2nd June. For info about the group, please ring **01474 813379**.

CHURCH ROOM CLEANING

I am very pleased to be able to report that St. Mary Magdalene Parochial Church Council, Cobham has agreed to fund two hours cleaning each month in St. Mary’s Church Room. This will take place in the morning of the fourth Monday of each month.

While this is a generous gesture by the PCC, it would be a bonus to be able to add extra time to this programme and so we invite you to consider sponsoring one hour @ £12. 50.

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TWO WOMEN EVENTS

Present:

FIL STRAUGHAN



THURSDAY 17th March 2022

St Mary Magdalene Church, Cobham KENT

7pm for 7:30 start

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March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and grow closer to him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage. How many words can you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?

Lent spiritual Easter preparation fasting prayer desert selfdenial
Repentance seeking finding growing mothers love care nurture
Learning teaching disciples worldwide flowers thankyou nursing
family



Meetings & Shows at the Meadow Room in Dickensian Cobham, Kent
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