



Cobham & Luddesdowne News

November 2025

£1

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For all enquiries, including Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals, please contact Alyson.

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

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

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Churchwarden	Hilary Savage	
PCC Secretary	Vacant	
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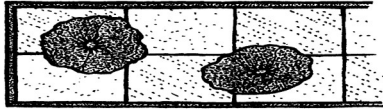
Diana Bampton
Jill Beety
Sue Campbell
Janet Weaver

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—Cobham Pump with poppies.

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November
2025

Harvest Thanksgiving with Four Churches

The joint Harvest service involving congregations and community members from Cobham, Luddesdowne, Meopham and Nurstead held at St John's Church, Meopham on 28 September was a lively event focussed on thanking and blessing farmers near and far.

68kg of donated perishable foods was subsequently distributed to Gravesham Foodbank and a further 28kg to West Kingsdown Community Stores. In addition a substantial quantity of fresh produce was given to the Ellenor Hospice in Gravesend.

We also raised £309.72 in cash and card donations to go to Rochester Diocese Poverty and Hope Appeal projects around the world. The majority of these involve supporting farming communities affected by climate change in Africa and Latin America. As much of the cash donations were gift-aided, an additional £52.50 can be reclaimed from HMRC, to give a total raised of £362.22

Thanks very much to everyone involved for your help in sharing God's blessings around the world.

Peter Kettle LLM,
Poverty and Hope Appeal Coordinator.



Thursday Fellowship.

Our next meeting will be at 2pm on the 20th of November in the St. John's Centre, Meopham.

Our Speaker is Roz Oliver. The more people attending the better, our gatherings are always enjoyable so please do come along, the kettle will be on and a cup of tea awaits!

See you there.



Thinking of tomorrow

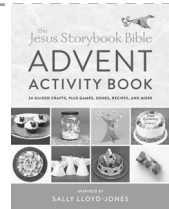
I have many happy memories of my parents and grand-parents, listening to the stories of their younger lives and growing up in a very different time. Even now I wish I'd had the opportunity to have learned more.

Do you have grandchildren, nieces, nephews? Then this winter, during those long dark days, why not spend some time putting together a sort of scrap-book of memories to give to them?

Things you might like to include could be: where you lived when you were a child; what your school was like, what games you most enjoyed, who your best buddies were, what pets you had, what your first job was, and how you met your partner. What was your first car, and where was your first home as an adult? Add a selection of photographs that you have from the past.

Better still - make the book together.....

The Jesus Storybook Bible Advent Activity Book - 24 Guided Crafts, plus Games, Songs, Recipes, and More By Sally Lloyd-Jones, Zondervan, £9.34



This is your guide to a complete and creative celebration of the holiday season, filled with crafts, games, recipes, songs, and activities for every day of Advent. *The Jesus Storybook Bible Advent Activity Book* highlights the significance of the Nativity and meaning of God's most precious gift.

The book is a journey through the Bible stories in both the Old and New Testaments that lead to Christmas. It includes:

24 days of crafts along with songs, recipes, and activities to celebrate Advent, with easy-to-follow step-by-step instructions and colour photos. Variations on the activities to make them appropriate and accessible for all ages and families.

A perforated insert with punch-out Jesse Tree ornaments that correspond with the stories of Advent. All supplies needed are commonly found around the house or easy to obtain.

This Christmas, start new holiday traditions with your family with *The Jesus Storybook Bible Advent Activity Book*, based on the bestselling *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, with over six million copies sold.

North Kent Embroiderers

At our last meeting members welcomed Elitta Fell www.mouseline.co.uk to speak to us. Elitta is a silk painter and watercolourist, who was formerly a graphic designer, but who explored various crafts—including mosaics and rag rug making—before discovering silk painting, which marked the start of a new chapter in her career.

As an introduction to her talk, Elitta gave us a brief history of silk making. Archaeologists have found silk thread and spinning tools that are between six thousand and seven thousand years old, with China claiming to be the first to use silk threads. The silkworms from where the silk comes, feed exclusively on leaves from the white-berried mulberry tree. China kept silk production secret for two thousand years, until the process eventually began in Japan. The ancient Silk Road opened up the highly profitable silk trade with Europe.

Each silkworm produces one thousand yards of continuous thread, but sadly in commercial production the cocoon is boiled in the process of unwinding the thread. If, as in the wild, the grub is allowed to eat its way out of the silk cocoon, then the short lengths of silk thread have to be joined to make a continuous length. The resulting woven fabric is less smooth. Scientists have long tried to copy the beauty of woven silk and have even made a silk like product using spider's webs and also from (genetically modified) goat's milk.

Elitta mainly uses chiffon weight silk material as it allows the dyes to be absorbed fully on both the back and front of the material. There are two kinds of products which Elitta uses in silk painting. Gutta is used to make outlines of her design on the silk and dyes are then added. The gutta prevents the colours from merging. Coloured gutta remains on the material, but clear gutta can be removed to leave an empty white line as part of the design. To set the paint, heat is needed. There are a variety of methods, including steaming, using a hairdryer or an iron.

Elitta told us about the various finishes that can be applied to the wet dye e.g. salt will absorb some of the colour and create less dark areas, giving a mottled effect. Alcohol drops will remove the colour altogether. One method is to mix water and vinegar, drop on to the dye, then wrap the silk over your hand to secure some folds before putting the bundle (without your hand!) into the microwave. This creates a tie dye effect.

Japanese shibori is another technique Elitta uses to make her designs. Silk can be wrapped around wood or folded tightly and clamped before dyeing. To make silk pictures, a lightweight iron on Vylene is used to back the silk.

Elitta had brought some beautiful examples of her work for us to see.

Con't on page 6

CONT'D FROM PAGE 5

We are also promised a 'Have a Go' session later in the year for members to try painting on silk.

We are continuing the challenge of producing an embroidered 'postcard' to swap with another member who has undertaken the challenge. The theme for our postcards this month was 'Mountains'. You can see some here.

Thank you, Evelyn, for taking notes and for Veronica for taking a photo in my absence.



If you would maybe like to start a new hobby and 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: ino@northkentembroiderers.co.uk or contact our Chairman, Eileen on 01474 324734
Happy stitching, Karen



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*). Boys and girls aged 5-18 years are warmly invited to join us for games, art, craft, cooking, Bible stories and outdoor activities. Half term will be on 24th and 31st October. The weekly subscription is £2. The Boys Brigade Water Activities Centre in Tonbridge teaches kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding. Camping and outdoor activities take place 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 organisation. SONG TIME meets every Monday morning during term time 9.45am-11am, for families with babies, toddlers and children under five. There is a varied selection of toys, including a slide, ball pool, soft shapes, construction toys, home corner, creative activities, musical instruments and singing. Family admission is £1. The FAMILY GAMES AFTERNOON is on Saturday 15th November 2pm-4pm for all ages, including younger children. There will be board games, pool, table tennis, curling, indoor archery and refreshments. Free admission and everyone is welcome. SOUTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday services all begin at 10.45am and finish about midday. There is a Family Service on Sunday 30th November. All are welcome. Please visit www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk or ring 01474 815039 or 01474 813379 for more information about activities.

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 11th November

CONTACT: MARY PALMER—01474816788



A LITTLE SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU SMILE

Hear, hear

A very deaf elderly man was finally fitted out with a hearing aid that really worked. A month later his doctor called him in for a check-up. “Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.”

The gentleman replied, “Oh, I haven’t told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I’ve changed my will three times!”

Morning

There are two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, “Good morning, Lord,” and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, “Good Lord, it’s morning.”

Careful!

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing the old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. “Is there anything breakable in here?” asked the postal clerk.

The lady thought for a moment. “Only the Ten Commandments.”

And finally.....

Somebody just threw a handful of Omega 3 tablets at me!
It’s okay, I only suffered super fish oil injuries.



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Our talk in October, “Monet The Painter & Gardener” by Dr John Hughes was very interesting and enjoyed by members and guests. It was a real insight to the inspiration behind Monet’s paintings, seeing John’s photos of the gardens. We are now all enthusiastic to visit Giverny!

On Wednesday 3rd December 2025 at 7 pm we hold our AGM, Annual Prize Giving and Christmas Get Together. So, if you are thinking of taking up membership why not come along see what we are about, celebrate the achievements of our worthy cup & trophy winners – with a glass or two of Christmas Cheer! Membership is only £10 for the year which includes free entry to our talks, non-members pay £3, discount at local nurseries, savings on our annual seed order and 2 for 1 entry to RHS Gardens. For full details of how to join email cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk

November

Winter is on its way but there is still plenty to do in the garden. Leaves are falling rapidly, and wind and rain are on the increase. Tender plants will need protecting from frost, gales and freezing rains. Move plants into the greenhouse, or into a sheltered spot, but if you can't, it is worth wrapping plants or pots in situ. Remember winter can be a tough time for birds in terms of water and food, so keep supplies well topped up.

RHS - Top Jobs this month

1. Clear up fallen leaves - especially from lawns, ponds and beds
2. Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging
3. Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year
4. Prune roses to prevent wind-rock
5. Plant out winter bedding
6. Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem
7. Insulate outdoor containers from frost - bubble wrap works well
8. Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands around the trunks
9. Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden

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The Friends of Cobham Church present

Don't miss

QUIZ NIGHT



Are you ready for a night of trivia and fun? Join us for our final fundraiser event. Tickets are £10 per person (or £80 for a whole table) which includes our famous cheese sharing board. Bring your own drinks.

**Saturday 8 November
The Meadow Room 7.30pm**

Tickets on sale now at Cobham Community Stores

Contact Kate 07941018897 for more info

FOCC raise funds to maintain the fabric of the village church. Registered charity No 280467

LUDDESDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

7.30pm Monday 17th November at Luddesdown Village Hall.

<http://www.luddesdown-pc.gov.uk/community/luddesdown-parish-council/>

COBHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2025

- 4th November 2025 - St Mary's Church Room 7.30 PM
- 2nd December 2025 – Budget Meeting - Meadow Room 7.30PM

<http://www.cobham-kent-pc.gov.uk/>

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Meopham Library Writing Group will meet again on **Thursday 6th November 2025 at 10am** After the meeting, there will be a 16th Anniversary Lunch at a local restaurant. This month's writing theme is "DREAMLAND", which can be used as a starting point for a poem, short story or an article and there is also a writing challenge.

Anyone who is interested in writing, either as a beginner or a more experienced writer, is warmly invited to join our small, friendly group and new members are always very welcome. Creative writing is a very enjoyable activity, which can be used to record special memories for the family and can also help people who are facing difficult times.

Future meetings will be held on 4th December 2025, 8th January 2026 and 5th February 2026. Please ring **01474 813379** for more information.

Families, Faith and Fun

Sunday Afternoon Club in the St John's Centre:

Stories, music, crafts and
games for children aged 3 – 12
and their adults. 3.00pm.

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



September 14

October 12

November 9 (4.00pm)

Family-Friendly Services in St John's Church

Harvest Thanksgiving

September 28 10.30am

Together with friends from Nurstead,
Cobham and Luddesdown, thanking and
blessing farmers near and far.

Christingle service

December 14 3.00pm

Light in the darkness to support The
Children's Society

Christmas Crib Service

December 24 4.00pm

Celebrating the best story ever!



Wrotham Road, Meopham DA13 1AA



Join us!

COBHAM CHRISTMAS ★ BAZAAR ★

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BUTTIES, MULLED WINE AND MORE...

DECEMBER 6 • 10.30AM-1.30PM

THE MEADOW ROOM
ENTRANCE FEE 50P
CHILDREN FREE

BELL RINGING by Peter Hartley

The little Victorian church at Hatfield Heath, Essex was built in 1859 and its 3 bells, cast by the Whitechapel bell foundry, were installed in the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee of 1897. In 1961 the three bells were melted down to produce a very light ring of 6 bells (tenor 4cwt). The bells are rung inside the south porch so I assume the congregation have to walk round to the north door to enter the church for a service. A celebratory peal was rung in 1961 and I noted from the peal board that in the band of ringers were a Mr. Curzon and a Mr. Rochester.

The ringing room in the Tudor tower at Sawbridgeworth had pinned on the outside of its door a notice reading 'Heavy Metal, nearly 5 tons'. The ring of bells was augmented to 8 in 1870 and the tenor weighs 24cwt. I also rang here eighteen years ago and admired the memorials in the church and enjoyed the swifts racing between the chimney pots. This time the church was locked and the swifts were gone. We last saw our swifts at Cobham many years ago.

Harlow continues to change. Originally in the Diocese of London it was handed over to Rochester in 1848, transferred to the new Diocese of St. Albans in 1877 and to Chelmsford in 1914. St. Mary's, Old Harlow is medieval but suffered a severe fire in 1708. A major restoration was completed in 1873. The central tower was entirely rebuilt to look like a 15th century tower topped by a 13th century spire. The ring of 8 bells (tenor 21cwt) were the gift of a Mr. Walford of Bocking in memory of his wife Emily and were cast by Warner of Cripplegate in 1883.

Having enjoyed the final ring of the day it was time to leave St. Mary's with its ministry team, numerous parochial church councillors and drum kit in the chancel and skirt past Harlow New Town onto the M11 by way of the new Harlow junction 7A. Back at Cobham where, with a mug of soup, I watched a recording of the day's Trooping of the Colour



St John's Meopham with St Mildred's Nurstead Church Services November 2025



- Sunday 2nd Nov 9.45am All Age Worship at St John's
 11.30am Holy Communion at St Mildred's
- Wednesday 5th Nov 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre
- Sunday 9th Nov 10.30am Joint Remembrance Sunday Service
 at St John's
 4.00pm Sunday Afternoon Club at St John's
- Tuesday 11th Nov 10.50am Prayers of Remembrance at Meopham
 War Memorial
- Wednesday 12th Nov 10am Holy Communion at St John's
- Sunday 16th Nov 9.45am Morning Worship at St John's Church
 11.15am Churches Prayer Mtg at St John's Centre
- Wednesday 19th Nov 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre
- Sunday 23rd Nov 9.45am Holy Communion at St John's
 11.30am Family Service at St Mildred's
- Wednesday 26th Nov 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre
- Sunday 30th November 10.30am Holy Communion at St John's Meopham
 for all four churches

**Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street
Church Services during November 2025**



Sunday 2nd November

10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne

Sunday 9th November Remembrance Sunday

10:00am Act of Remembrance, Cobham War Memorial

10:30am Remembrance Service, Cobham

Tuesday 11th November Armistice Day

10:50am Act of Remembrance, Luddesdowne

Sunday 16th November

10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne

Sunday 23rd November

10:30am Holy Communion (BCP), Cobham

Sunday 30th November

10:30am Holy Communion, St John's Meopham
All 4 churches together

Midweek services in Sole Street

St Mary's Church Room, Informal Morning Prayer
9:30am 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th November



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The background of the flyer is a dark grey with a festive Christmas theme. It features several pine branches with white snowflakes and small white lights. Hanging from the branches are several Christmas ornaments: two large striped balls, two smaller patterned balls, and several five-pointed stars. The title 'Christmas Party' is written in a large, white, cursive script font in the center.

Christmas Party

**13 December 2025
2Pm Onwards**

Luddesdown Village Hall

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ST MARY'S CHURCH ROOM
2ND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH at 10.30am

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DATES FOR 2025

13th November

11th December

2026 8th January



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RBLI is completely separate to The Royal British Legion and receives no financial support from the annual poppy appeal. The charity must raise its own funds to deliver care and employability support, and build more homes.

rbli.co.uk
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ZOO By Terry Adlam

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I know that some of you will be getting excited about Bonfire night and I am sure your big people will be very careful when you are watching and enjoying the fireworks; keeping you at a safe distance and following the safety rules for using sparklers. Of course you understand that only adults should deal with firework displays and the lighting of fireworks.

Here are some guidelines to make sure everyone has have a fun time.

1. Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable.
2. Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time.
3. Read /follow the instructions on each firework, using a torch if needed.
4. Light the firework at arm's length with a taper, and stand well back.
5. Keep naked flames, away from fireworks.
6. Never return to a firework once it has been lit.
7. Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.
8. Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.
9. Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.
10. Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.

Like the little mice I will be snuggling up indoors with the radio on because the loud bangs are scary!

Love and licks Paddy



Can you colour in
the pictures ?



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St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, though his only connection with the country is that some of his bones were reputedly transported in the 8th century to Fife and preserved at a church in a place now named St Andrews.

Andrew was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and the very first to bring someone else to Christ - his own brother. Like many fervent Jews at the time Andrew and an unnamed companion had been drawn to the prophet John the Baptist. When one day John pointed out Jesus to Andrew and his friend, and described him as the 'Lamb of God', the two young men assumed that the next stage of their spiritual search was about to unfold. So as Jesus made off, they followed him.

When Jesus turned and asked them what they were 'seeking', all they could come up with was a lame enquiry about his current place of residence: 'where are you staying?'

The reply of Jesus was the most straight-forward invitation anyone can receive: 'Come and see'. So they did, and the results of their response were life changing. For Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus, and soon the little apostolic band who would carry the message of Jesus to the whole world was formed. And right at the front of the column, as it were, was Andrew, the first disciple of Jesus.

Andrew Patron Saint Scotland Fife First Disciple John Baptist Lamb God
Followed Jesus Come See Peter Apostolic Band Message world



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