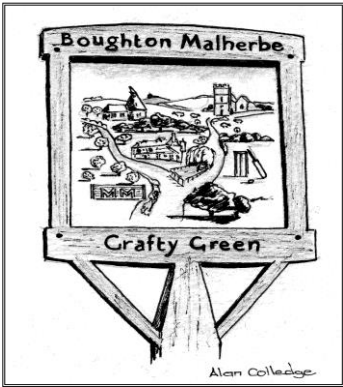


Malherbe Monthly

Number 210
January 2022



Wishing you all a very Happy New Year

Incorporating Liverton Street & Platts Heath

Useful contact names and telephone N^{os}.

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The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!
Anything for the **February** edition should be left in Grafty Green Shop, or contact Mike on 01622 858937 (mfhitchins@btinternet.com) by **20th January**

Front Cover: Nick Eastwood outside Grafty Green shop and Post Office on the last day of trading. End of an Era.

News from St. Nicholas Church

January 2022

Could we ever have imagined that the covid virus would still be dominating our lives? On a good note, many were able to see family members over the Christmas break. Sadly, we were not amongst them, for despite all the testing, vaccines, boosters and precautions, covid struck again, for the third time, with 3 members of one of our family groups.

We were fortunate to have many friends and family keeping in touch and our daily test results were always negative. Despite that, we were acutely aware that many in our situation did not have that support and remained isolated and our prayers went out to them.

This virus is not going away, in whatever form, and we know that the future is in our own hands, not by waiting for diktats from government. We have that knowledge and gift to be able to care for and protect others, by following common sense, healthy guidelines.

We remember especially at this time the gift God gave us at the birth of Jesus, the ultimate gift of someone who cares for and protects this world and its peoples, and we should follow his example.

Reminders

The church porch is open at all times for respite and reflection and hope you have enjoyed the Christmas tree in the churchyard spreading light and hope over the distant views.

The main church building is open for weekly services only and for access to the eco-church shop afterwards.

At other times please contact the churchwardens for a key, their details are elsewhere in the magazine.

Information: There is now permission for the alterations inside the church, making a more friendly and welcoming atmosphere. All the pews will be retained, but there will be some re-arrangement down the side aisle, making a better use of the space for socialising and seating with a refectory style table for general needs for the community too.

Tower repairs have been approved, but still avoid the outside area there until completed.

Morning Prayer from the gardens of Canterbury Cathedral with the Dean continue daily on- line on the diocesan website or Facebook. A helpful time if there are concerns about gathering in church etc.

Celtic Prayers are said at 8.45am-9.15am each Monday in the side chapel. If you have prayer requests please contact Rev. John Huggins or the churchwardens at any time and prayers will be said at Morning Prayer time or in private if you wish.

The Crafty Grafty Christmas Fair was much enjoyed. We would like to thank all the organisers for their work. St.Nicolas Church stall was well supported and the funds raised exceeded £220 pounds. There was a very friendly atmosphere and with doors open and good spacing in the layout and masks being the rule not the exception, visitors and stallholders could feel safe. I must start making things now for next year, my stocks are depleted. Let me know if there are homemade items you might like to see in future on our stall! So good to able to showcase some of the items from the eco-church shop.

Grafty Green shop. We would like to say so many thanks to Hazel, Rob and Nick, as they move on with their building, we hope life will become easier for them all. We will watch with interest.

Services through Advent and Christmas. Many apologies for the confusion about the timings! In future to avoid these issues we will be putting the timings on posters only in the village and on the church noticeboard and not in the magazine.

Fortunately, services have taken place (with restrictions), as usual this season and been much appreciated.

A personal thank-you to Rev.Millie Hart who led the special Crib Service on Christmas Eve at very short notice and to Lily who managed the music so well, and on Christmas Day.

The numbers in the congregation have reduced, as everyone has made their own decisions about their own safety and the safety of others, which is as it should be. In conversations there has been no lack of support and fellowship in the community, and we look forward to times when we can join together in person.

Finale

I am looking out at a very wet and miserable garden, but still a delight to watch the flocks of birds round the feeders. One very special robin comes so close at feeding time and I am hoping he might take from my hand one day. He may be the parent

who nested in a plant pot last year, or even one of the young. But, whoever he is, he/she is very welcome. They certainly seem to need the fat-balls just now.

We wish everyone a Very Happy New Year!

Sally Alexander

Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

Letter from the Chairman of Boughton Malherbe Council

2022/23 Parish Council Budget

The Parish Council has managed to maintain an extremely low budget for many years and has not raised its share of your council tax – known as “The Parish Precept”. In recent years this has become increasingly difficult. The expectations placed on parish councils have increased year on year. As financial constraints restrict the capacity in higher level councils (Maidstone Borough and Kent CC) more expectations are placed on parish councils to ensure their areas are not neglected. Parish Councils now assume greater responsibility for:

- keeping an eye on our highways and suggesting, or funding, improvements and maintenance
- monitoring compliance with planning rules and ensuring enforcement action takes place
- keeping an eye on public rights of way and funding improvements
- monitoring and reporting fly tipping and litter
- taking action when vital community resources are under threat and taking steps to protect them
- maintaining the parish council website and ensuring that the work of the council is more transparent to the public

The volume of correspondence and consultation from higher levels of local government requiring responses also grow year on year.

Councillors are volunteers, and they are dependent on the support provided by the Parish Clerk to deal with this workload. The Clerk is the council’s main resource and expenditure. The working hours of our Clerk have not changed over the years. Our Clerk is employed for 4 hours a week to do all this work which has increased way beyond this allocation. Other Parish Councils, of a similar size to us, have increased

their budget and Clerk hours over recent years to deal with this increased workload. We are now behind other comparable parishes in terms of our resourcing.

We are therefore proposing to increase the parish council budget from **£6324** in 2021/22 to **£8,614** in 2022/23 in order to increase the hours of the Clerk to 7 hours a week. This is still below other similar sized councils, but we are aware that we want to keep the increase in the precept as low as possible.

This budget increase will mean that the parish precept, for an average Band D council tax payer, will increase by £8.25 annually, or 16p a week.

The budget will be discussed and approved by the council on the **24th January** at 7pm in the Village hall and you are invited to attend the meeting where you can comment on this proposed increase in the public session, prior to the councillors considering a draft budget.

Ron Galton, Chairman, Boughton Malherbe Parish Council



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Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council on Monday 6th December 2021, 7.30pm in the village hall

Present: Cllrs R Galton (Chair); R Turner; N. Eastwood; G Kennaird
Clerk Mr Chris Hume
5 members of the public

Cllr Galton opened meeting at 7.30pm

1. **Anybody filming or recording this meeting to declare it.**
2. **Apologies** – received apologies from Cllr Adams
3. **Declarations:**
 - Any lobbying** - none
 - Any interest in items on the Agenda** – Cllr Eastwood regarding item 6
 - Any changes to the register of pecuniary interests** - none
4. **Response to the Maidstone Borough Local Plan Review. Regulation 19 Draft submission** – the draft response was agreed subject to one amendment. Paragraph 3 should be removed and sent separately as a complaint regarding the lack of consultation about the expansion of the garden village. Clerk to submit the response to Maidstone Borough Council.
5. **“Lengthsman” Contractor** – Chris Wheal provided an update on the current condition of hydrants and the importance of keeping them clear from overgrown vegetation. It was agreed that the specification would be amended and an advertisement produced for submission in Malherbe Monthly, the Downs Mail, village Facebook group and the website. A one-year contract will be offered, renewable annually. The Clerk will enquire whether the council’s insurance will cover any liability if the Lengthsman clears vegetation from fire hydrants. The specification will be amended to reflect advice from the insurers.
6. **Grant Request from the Shop Committee** – following receipt of a grant bid from the village shop committee, it was agreed in principle that the council will make a grant to the village shop initiative for the following items:
 - to investigate the practicalities of erecting a timber container of the village green - £500 initial
 - to set up website and email to enhance communications - £200 per year
 - to advise on all aspects of setting up a small village shop - Plunkett Foundation – membership £240
 - to set up legal registration using model rules - £310
 - to hire village hall to gain more community involvement and consultation - £90
 - to fund further posters, questionnaires, and leaflets - printing costs - £400
 - to fund other incidentals - £250

It was agreed that an initial grant will be made immediately to the shop committee for the following items:

1. Plunkett Foundation – membership	£240
2. Set up legal registration using model rules	£310
TOTAL GRANT	£550

Clerk to prepare a letter to the committee setting out the terms of the grant. Once the committee has formally established itself as a legal entity, the remaining grant items will be paid. Subject to a formal agreement incorporating deliverables and reporting back to the council.

7. **2022/23 Budgets** – it was agreed that a draft budget will be prepared based on an increase in the Clerk's contracted hours from 4 to 7 per week. It was agreed that the Lengthsman will be funded from reserves in the first year as a trial period. The Clerk will draft a letter from the Chairman for Malherbe Monthly explaining the reasons for the budget increase and the impact on the precept. The Finance and Staffing Committee will meet separately on the 17th January to consider the draft budget and revised staffing arrangements in detail. The Clerk will circulate a draft budget and amended job description in advance.
8. **Further information** – the Clerk advised that we have not received a response from Arriva regarding the bus damage to the fence. It was agreed that the Clerk will chase this up and, if a response had not been received in two weeks, Gavin Rees will be commissioned to repair the fence and the bill sent to Arriva.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Grafty Green replacement Post Office Services

News from the Boughton Malherbe Parish Council Clerk

We are delighted to let you know that we will be restoring Post Office services to Grafty Green on **Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 12:45- 2.15pm**, and weekly thereafter. The current branch is due to close on Wednesday 29 December 2021 at 11:00 following the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use.

We are pleased to be able to reinstate the service as a Hosted Outreach service whilst we continue to seek a permanent solution. The new service will be operated from Grafty Green Village Hall, Church Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2BA by the postmaster from Headcorn Post Office and will offer a range of Post Office products and services.

Village Hall News

On behalf of the committee, I trust that you all had an enjoyable Christmas and we would like to offer you our best wishes for the New Year and thank you for all your support of the hall last year in what were difficult circumstances.

It seems a long time ago now but in early December our resident quizmaster Richard hosted his annual Christmas Quiz to a sell out crowd. Richard and his elves ensured that a good time was had by all.

We are seeking to strike a balance between the safety of hall users whilst keeping the hall open as much as possible so that we can all as a community enjoy the physical and mental benefits of meeting others and taking part in those many and varied activities that we all enjoy.

We are asking hall users to keep the hall well ventilated when in use, use the hand sanitiser provided when entering the hall, clean down regularly used surfaces such as light switches or door handles at the end of a session or activity and to wear a mask when moving around the hall with the exception that these can be removed if you are undertaking a physical activity. I do hope that these requirements do not affect your enjoyment of the use of the hall and inconvenience you too greatly whilst we navigate our way through this pandemic.

Panto Dick Whittington 4 pm Saturday 29th January 2022

We are keeping the situation under review but unless the situation deteriorates we will again be hosting Gerry Graham's Touring Panto at 4pm on Saturday 29th January and this year they will be performing Dick Whittington. Many of you will remember their excellent performance of Jack and the Beanstalk last time they visited the hall prior to lockdown so we are looking forward to another afternoon of fun and audience participation. Tickets are available either from myself on 07932 112730 or by emailing bromley@ashleylaw.co.uk. The cost will be unchanged at £10 for an adult, £5 for a child or a family ticket for two adults and two children will be £25.

Pop Up Post Office – Tuesday 18th January 12.45pm to 2.15pm

As you know sadly our village Post Office will by the time you read this have closed and firstly I would like to thank Rob and his family for all their hard work and service to the village over the years and to wish them well for the future.

Whilst arrangements are being made to organise a community village shop we have been in discussion with the Royal Mail about the possibility of a temporary Pop-Up Post Office to be held once a week in the Village Hall to provide us all with at least a limited replacement service pending the establishment of the shop.

I am pleased to advise that progress is being made in that Royal Mail are happy with the location, have agreed in principle to a once-a-week service on a Tuesday between 12.45 pm and 2.15pm and subject to a satisfactory test of their equipment and their final sign off this service should be available shortly.

A Royal Mail notice has appeared detailing the start of the service on Tuesday 18th January, matters have become a little complicated and delayed with the staff who are organising it's implementation having contracted COVID and are at the time of writing self isolating. Please bear with us if there is some slippage on the timescales for it's introduction I will endeavour to keep you updated on progress.

Pilates Class Tuesday Mornings at 9.30 am to 10.30 am at the hall

What is Pilates?

Pilates is a hugely effective form of exercise that strengthens the body. It can help to improve your posture, tone your muscles, relieve unwanted stress and tension and reduce back, neck and shoulder pain.

Everyone can benefit from Pilates so if you have over indulged over Christmas and would like to improve your fitness please give Christine who is a fully qualified Pilates Instructor a ring on 07852 602369 to join the class. The cost is £10 per session.

Jon Thompson
Grafty Green Village Hall

Helen Whately

MP for Faversham and Mid Kent

I work for you. If you have a problem you think I can help you with, please contact me or visit me at one of my surgeries

House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA

www.helenwhately.org.uk

Tel: 020 7219 6472; Email: helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

Yoga Classes in Grafty Green Village Hall with Sue Burch

Dates for the new term: -

Wednesday evening 5th January at 7

Thursday morning 6th January at 9.30

Monday morning 10th January 9.30

I have been practicing yoga for approximately 35 years and teaching since 2006. It is an honour to impart my knowledge to my yogis and to see the results of stronger, more flexible bodies. Yoga is also about balancing the mind and the body and to reduce stress.

To join a class or for more information call me on 07803 962339 or email on graftyyoga@gmail.com

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Children's Room Beer Garden

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Nick Eastwood

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Grant Kennaird

Chris Hume, Parish Clerk

- Tel: 07972 630555`

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The Brown Barn, Bull Hill, Lenham Heath, Kent, ME17 2JA (Off the A20)

Grafty Gourmet

This cake is both gluten and dairy free. It has a great moist sticky texture that is very moreish.

Gluten Free Clementine Cake

5 clementines
Vegetable oil for greasing
275g of caster sugar
300g of ground almonds
Seeds from 8-10 green cardamom pods, ground to a powder
1 teaspoon of gluten free baking powder
2 teaspoons of vanilla extract
6 large free-range eggs, lightly beaten
Juice of 1 lemon
1 cinnamon stick

1. Put 3 of the clementines in a pan of water, bring to the boil and simmer for about 2 hours until really tender, adding more water if necessary. Drain and leave to cool a little. Cut in half and pick out any pips, then blend the fruit (yes, skin and flesh) to a pulp in a food processor.
2. Preheat the oven to 180°C (fan oven 160°C). Grease a 23cm springform cake tin, then line the base with baking paper.
3. Put 225g of the caster sugar, the almonds, ground cardamom and baking powder in a large bowl. Stir, then make a well in the centre. Mix the pulped clementine's, vanilla extract and eggs in the well, then mix into the dry ingredients. Pour the mixture into the tin. Transfer to the oven and bake for 50-60 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, squeeze the juice from the remaining 2 clementines into a pan. Add the lemon juice and the remaining 50g of caster sugar. Heat gently until the sugar is dissolved, then add the cinnamon stick and simmer for 3 minutes.
5. Remove the cake from the oven and pierce the top in a few places with a skewer. Drizzle over the citrus syrup, then leave for 1 hour to soak in. Transfer the cake to a wire rack to cool completely.



Lenham Film Club

at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

RED JOAN

Friday January 14th 2022

Performance begins 7.30 pm, doors open 7 pm

Spies, British intelligence – and the incomparable Judi Dench. An irresistible combination. In **Red Joan** (12, 2018) Judi is on the other side of the fence, not running MI6 as in the James Bond films but as a spy for the Soviet Union. Based on the true-life story of Melita Norwood, the KGB's longest serving British spy, Judi plays Joan Stanley, an elderly retired widow who out of the blue is arrested for treason on the grounds that she supplied classified information to the Soviet Union. **Red Joan** is the story of how and why that happened, a story of love, betrayal and personal conviction.

Running time: 1hr 41 minutes.

And, when you've got your breath back from that, you can look forward to 11th February. Same place, slightly earlier time – and we're back with spies in No Time to Die, Daniel Craig's final appearance as James Bond. On March 11th, we're showing Hidden Figures, about the brilliant African American women at NASA who played a pivotal role in early US space travel.

For more information, please check out our website (www.lenhamfilmclub.org), follow us on Facebook (@LenhamFilmClub) or if you'd like to be added to our mailing list, then please contact us at lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com. Perhaps consider becoming a member or just come along on the night!

Admission: members £4, non-members £5

Annual membership £6 (over 16's only); pick up a form at our ticket desk.

Dick Whittington

Dick Whittington (a Gloucester boy in search of fame and fortune) arrives in London to find the streets are NOT paved with Gold after all. Turns out to be a cheap advertising campaign from Cash Converters....

Intrigued by this strange young boy, Alice, the daughter of Alderman FitzWarren, (a ship owner and proprietor of FitzWarrens Stores), offers Dick work and lodgings. He is welcomed by Sarah the Cook and her son Idle Jack. Dick is caught up in a battle between Good, and Evil in the sinister form of King Rat. En route, Dick is befriended by Tommy, a feline with cattitude. The Rat realises help will be needed, and with a little hypnosis, enlists the aid of the Alderman's sea captain, who is transformed from a lovable lunatic into a Maritime Monster, and frames Dick Whittington of theft. Accused of a crime he didn't commit, Dick is cast out, but the dream he has at Highgate Hill convinces him to return and prove his innocence.

The action packed pacey script takes us on a journey beyond the shores of England, with Pirates, shipwrecks, Mermaids and desert Islands to the Palace in Morocco. There are songs, dance routines, special effects, loads of comedy and a generous dollop of audience participation, leading to a breathtaking conflict between Cat and Rat, assuring Whittington Fame and Fortune, and a Happy Ending!

GERRY GRAHAM'S TOURING PANTOS
PRESENTS

Dick Whittington



Grafty Green Village Hall

Saturday 29th January 2022 at 4pm

Family Ticket (2 adults + 2 children) £25 Adult £10 Child £5

Reserve your tickets now!

WRITTEN BY

GERRY GRAHAM

WWW.TOURINGPANTOS.CO.UK



Music Notes for January 2022 – B Hardy

I forecast that for December our local musicians would be back with the usual popular seasonal concerts and indeed there was plenty of local music and in spite of virus worries there were wonderful Christmas performances from all the local groups. The consequence of that however is that they have all gone back to rehearse for their next concerts, and public performances in January are thin in the ground. There are just three items I have found for your attention, and of course their happening will be subject to the virus and other rules applicable at the time.

***Thurs Jan 6th**, 7.30 pm at Maidstone United Reform Church, Week Street. ME14 1LU Maidstone Choral Union have their 12th night celebrations - Epiphany Carols for choir and audience followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Tickets from mcuconertmanager@gmail.com or choir members or at the door.

Sun 9th Jan, 5.30pm is the time of the Canterbury Cathedral Epiphany Carol Service. This is a service, not a concert, but a significant music event and one which many will want to make the effort to attend. There is no charge to enter the cathedral for a service.

***Sat 22nd Jan**, Maidstone Singers will hold a "come and sing" concert at St Martin's Church, Maidstone, ME15 7LP. The programme is Schubert's *G Major Mass* and Chilcott's *A Little Jazz Mass*. Concert is at 6.30pm, open to all, but singers who would like to sing in this event should complete the application on the Maidstone Singers' website and come to the rehearsal at 2.30pm. For tickets, information and details call 01622 737916 or <http://www.themaidsingers.org.uk/>

As the seasonal festivities mean we are going to press a little earlier than usual I can tell you nothing for sure about the radio and TV output for January, but it is certainly planned that the 2022 Vienna Philharmonic New Year's Concert will place on January 1, 2022, under the baton of Daniel Barenboim in the Golden Hall of the Musikverein in Vienna. The publicity says that it will be broadcast around the world as usual, so you can be pretty sure that if it goes ahead as intended you will find it on the TV schedules here. Something to look forward to after Christmas day and boxing day.

Link Word Puzzle - Answers at the back (don't look first!)

Find the missing word?	
1	Jeff _____, Composer of the musical version of 'War of the Worlds'
2	The _____ Birds, Comedy that starred Nerys Hughes
3	_____ Evans, US actor who played Captain America
4	Gerry _____, Singer who had a big hit with 'Night Owl'
5	_____ Girls, Teen comedy starring Lindsay Lohan
6	Melanie _____, The real name of Sporty Spice
7	_____, Pop duo that comprised of Alison Moyet & Vince Clarke
8	Lucy _____, Star of 'Xena the Warrior Princess'
9	The _____ of Wildfell Hall, An Anne Bronte novel
10	Blue _____, Elvis Presley film from 1961

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Question	Sales	Sunlight	Direct
2	Acute	Right	Wide	
3	Curtains	Hair	Work	
4	Court	Triple	Prince	
5	Station	Inner	Test	
6	Tight	Flint	Care	
7	Charity	Goer	Hall	
8	Escape	Margin	Boat	
9	Queen	Sleep	Spot	
10	Project	Branch	Bank	
11	Speed	Carbon	Internet	
12	Human	Horse	Sack	
13	Tower	Alarm	Wise	
14	Green	Cake	Cup	
15	Retail	Aroma	Radio	
16	Action	Petrol	Foot	

News from your local MP – Helen Whatley

Countdown to Christmas

Earlier this month I called into Faversham to mark Small Business Saturday. The Christmas tree and lights were up in the Market Place and the whole town was wonderfully festive. It's that time of year when the clock starts to speed up and we begin to wonder how we can get everything done in time.

While this Christmas can only be better than last year, the spread of the new Omicron variant is a reminder that we are not yet out of the pandemic. The measures announced by the Prime Minister recently are a reflection of that reality.

And while I know that a return to face coverings and working from home will be frustrating for many, these are crucial steps to slow the spread of this new variant and get booster jabs into arms.

December saw the launch of our 10-year plan for social care - giving carers and the people they look after a clear plan for the future. It was a huge privilege to lead this work when I was Care Minister and I'm delighted to see the plan published.

We're also giving greater protection to nature through our Environment Act, which will see new duties on water companies to clean up their act. And we're delivering on our commitment to level up communities across the country, including more money for communities in Kent.

These next few weeks will be challenging. Everyone can help to keep our recovery on track by taking up the offer of getting a booster jab and following the latest guidance.

I wish everyone in Faversham and Mid Kent a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Get your booster jab

As our battle with the virus enters a new phase, it's vital everyone takes up the offer of getting a booster jab.

I got my booster in early December – joining over 600,000 people across Kent in getting a third jab. If you have not yet had your booster, you can book an appointment or find details for walk-in clinics on the Kent and Medway CCG website.

Since our vaccination programme started in December last year, over 3 million jobs have been given out across Kent. Huge thank you to everyone involved in this colossal task

Supporting our High Streets

While the pandemic has been tough for many businesses, the shop owners and traders I've spoken to recently are optimistic about the future

Across the country, we're helping high streets back on their feet after the pandemic with business rates halved for 90 per cent of retail, hospitality, and leisure businesses; training and professional advice through our Help to Grow scheme; and support for employers with our Plan for Jobs.

In Kent alone nearly 3,000 young people have been given work placements through the Kickstart Scheme and the number of people on job seekers support across the county continues to fall.

Cleaning up local water quality

Like many people, I've been shocked by stories of sewage ending up in our local rivers and coastline, and flooding caused by our creaking wastewater network. I put these concerns directly to the CEO of Southern Water, Ian McAulay, in a meeting I arranged at Faversham's Wastewater Treatment Works in November.

Having secured a £2 million investment in the treatment works, I was keen to see how this money will be used to clean up our water locally - including plans to increase capacity at the site. I've called for similar investment at the Harrietsham Wastewater Treatment Works.

Southern Water also committed to working with Kent County Council and local councillors to tackle the repeat local flooding incidents. I'll be keeping a close eye to make sure these commitments turn into action.

Crunch time for Maidstone Local Plan

While I support the main objectives of Maidstone Borough Council's Local Plan, I remain concerned about the proposed developments at Lidsing and Heathlands - which are strongly opposed by local residents.

I've had several recent conversations with Housing Secretary, Michael Gove, about the need to look again at overall housing numbers. We do need new homes, but Kent mustn't be expected to take more than our fair share.

Meanwhile... Covid cases meant that the Meadows Inquiry in Headcorn, which I was due to speak at earlier this month, was postponed until March next year. I share residents' concerns about the delay, and I've written to Housing Minister Chris Pincher to ask how we can make sure the Inquiry goes ahead.

Making our streets safer

There are now record numbers of police in Kent, and the new Maidstone Task Force is making fantastic progress in tackling drugs and violence in Shepway – with 50 vehicles seized and 175 arrests made in the last 12 months.

We're also giving police new powers to tackle drug gangs, and our new 10-year drugs plan will prevent more people from falling into addiction in the first place.

In the New Year, I'll be chairing another meeting in Headcorn for an update on work to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the village.

Grafty Green Gardening Club Program of Events 2022 Our 25th Year

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
11th January	AGM and Alison Marsden	More garden impact for less effort
1 st February	Dr Mick Lynn	Potions, Parasites and Pests
1 st March	Simon Ginnaw/Spring Show	Birds beyond the boughs
5 th April	Fergus Garrett	Succession planting for a long season
3 rd May	6pm Outing to Bilting House, Godmersham, TN25 4HA	
7 th May	10am. Plant Sale, Village green (if wet in the Village Hall)	
20 – 22 May	Weekend away to West Sussex and Hampshire	
7 th June	Outing to Sissinghurst	
5 th July	6pm Garden party in the village	
2 nd August	6pm Outing to Hurst House, Hastingleigh, TN25 5 JD	
6 th September	Katherine Hook/ Autumn Show	Sloe Seduction
4 th October	Steve Edney	Think beyond the flower, plants with good seed heads.
1 st November	Tom La Dell	Brogdale and the National Fruit Collection
6 th December	Practical evening/Social	

The events held in the village hall start at 7.30; outings generally at 6pm at the chosen garden. The Gardening Club welcomes non-members to any of their activities.

On Tuesday January 11th Alison Marsden give us a talk about how to make 'More Garden impact for less effort'. This talk will be immediately preceded by a very short AGM and after the usual Coffee, Teas, Biscuits and a catch up with other members and non- members.

This year the Gardening Club are celebrating our 25th Anniversary. and there is plenty to celebrate as we launch our 2022 Programme packed with interesting talks, Summer outings including the weekend away in Hampshire, a Plant Sale and Spring and Autumn Shows.

'In our Gardens' we can complete winter digging in the Kitchen Garden, and keeping off if the soil is wet, organic matter can be spread and cover the ground with polythene or cloches to enable the soil easily to be raked into seedbeds later.

Take time to enjoy such perfumed beauties as Christmas Box, Skimmia and Witch Hazel and the glory of first Snowdrops. Also, the visual enjoyment of a multitude of Cornus bushes and trees.

It is also a good time to keep those climbers in check with a good prune and plant any trees or shrubs.

A very happy New Year to you all.

Carole Frost - Secretary - Grafty Green Gardening Club

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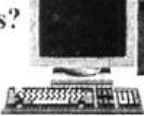
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Christian Message January 2022

Happy New Year!

It seems strange to be writing those words, as it is still November at the time of writing and Christmas is still a few weeks away. Covid -19 will probably come to define the third decade of this century as it casts its shadow into another year. The opening passage of John's Gospel which is read at every Midnight Mass includes the words: **'The light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it'**. In order to have shadow there must also be light. Christians believe that Christ is this light. Despite the darkness of last year, the light of Christ still shines on in hope. Light is a synonym for good in the bible and darkness is a synonym for evil; however, although they are opposites they are not equal. A small candle will always light up a darkened room.

This time last year we had no vaccines, no widespread and community-based testing. Planes were grounded. Here we are another year later and we have so much to be thankful for including a rediscovered sense of community spirit. I imagine that everyone reading this will have their own personal experiences and perspectives to relate to, and there can have been few such unifying phenomena experienced collectively by so many millions of people in the course of history.

Amanda Gorman, a young American poet spoke great words of hope in her powerful poem at the inauguration of Joe Biden as president last January. I share the first line and last lines here:

*'When day comes, we ask ourselves
Where can we find light in this never-ending shade?'*

*For there is always light,
If only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it'. (From: The Hill We Climb).*

I end with three questions:

- Are we brave enough to see and acknowledge that this light is the light of Christ?
- Are we brave enough to be that light to others and share in the hope that Christmas has brought us again?
- Are we brave enough to step out with courage into a new way of being; a beacon of light and love to our communities? I hope so.

With blessings,

Charlotte

Len Valley Benefice January 2022

Everybody is welcome

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint. *Isaiah 40:31*

Sunday 2nd January

9.30am Boughton Malherbe:
Holy Communion (Book of
Common Prayer)

9.30am Ulcombe: Creative
Service

11.00am Harrietsham: Family-
friendly Morning Worship

11.00am Lenham: Holy
Communion

Wednesday 5th January

9.30am Lenham: Holy
Communion (Book of Common
Prayer)

Sunday 9th January

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy
Communion

11.00am Lenham: Holy
Communion

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy
Communion

3.30pm Boughton Malherbe:
Choral Evensong

Lenham: Breakfast Church will be
joining the market on this day.

Sunday 16th January

8.00am Lenham: Holy
Communion (Book of Common
Prayer)

9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy
Communion

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy
Communion

9.30am Lenham: Breakfast
Church

11.00am Lenham: Morning
Worship

11.00am Ulcombe: Holy
Communion

Sunday 23rd January

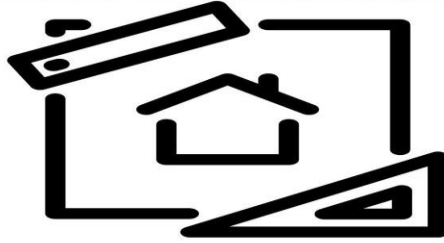
**11.00am Benefice Holy
Communion at Harrietsham**

Sunday 30th January

9.30am Lenham: Shortened
spoken Holy Communion

11.00am Creative Services will take
place in all four of our churches.

*Please see
notice boards for further details
nearer the time.*



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First Aid Support – when **an ambulance has been called using 999** - Interim emergency support (first aid and AED defibrillator), prior to arrival of paramedics / ambulance, may be available (not 24/7) by calling Chris Wheal on 01622 858100 -this is a voluntary 'good Samaritan' facility for residents. It is hoped a SECAMB (ambulance) community first responder scheme may start in future

NHS Medical Helpline	111
Maidstone & Pembury Hospitals	0845 155 1000
William Harvey Hospital	01233 633331
Headcorn Surgery	01622 890294
Lenham Surgery	01622 858341

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Southern Water Foul and Waste Water drainage/Flooding		0330 303 0368
Calor Gas	<i>Emergencies</i>	08457 444999
KCC	<i>Emergencies</i>	03000 41 41 41
	<i>Highways</i>	03000 41 81 81

KCC Community Wardens:

<i>Local warden – Stuart Ellesmere</i>	07969 583923
<i>District Support – Dawn Riach- Brown</i>	07773 397125

Fire	<i>General Enquiries</i>	01622 692121
	<i>Home Safety Visits</i>	0800 923 7000
	<i>KFRS Community Volunteer – Chris Wheal</i>	01622 858100

R.S.P.C.A	<i>Emergencies</i>	0300 1234 999
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Maidstone Borough Community Protection - **01622 602202** – Noise, neighbours, Smoke, Travellers. Environmental Services – **01622 602162** – Fly tipping, Street cleaning, Litter, Bins, dead animals

Answers to the Quiz and Missing Word Puzzle

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Answer
1	Question	Sales	Sunlight	Direct
2	Acute	Right	Wide	Angle
3	Curtains	Hair	Work	Net
4	Court	Triple	Prince	Crown
5	Station	Inner	Test	Tube
6	Tight	Flint	Care	Skin
7	Charity	Goer	Hall	Concert
8	Escape	Margin	Boat	Narrow
9	Queen	Sleep	Spot	Beauty
10	Project	Branch	Bank	Manager
11	Speed	Carbon	Internet	Dating
12	Human	Horse	Sack	Race
13	Tower	Alarm	Wise	Clock
14	Green	Cake	Cup	Tea
15	Retail	Aroma	Radio	Therapy
16	Action	Petrol	Foot	Pump

	Find the missing word?
1	Jeff Wayne , Composer of the musical version of 'War of the Worlds'
2	The Liver Birds , Comedy that starred Nerys Hughes
3	Chris Evans , US actor who played Captain America
4	Gerry Rafferty , Singer who had a big hit with 'Night Owl'
5	Mean Girls , Teen comedy starring Lindsay Lohan
6	Melanie Chisholm , The real name of Sporty Spice
7	Yazoo , Pop duo that comprised of Alison Moyet & Vince Clarke
8	Lucy Lawless , Star of 'Xena the Warrior Princess'
9	The Tenant of Wilfdell Hall, An Anne Bronte novel
10	Blue Hawaii , Elvis Presley film from 1961

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